



*Drishti IAS Presents...*



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# POLITY

(March 2023 – March 2024)



Multiple  
Choice  
Questions  
and  
Answers

MCQs

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## QUESTIONS

**1.** Consider the following statements about Parliamentary Privileges:

1. Under Article 105, Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the members of the Parliament and their committees.
2. Parliament has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges.
3. Article 180 guarantees the same privileges to the Members of Legislative Assemblies of states.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two Only
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

**2.** Consider the following statements regarding the Environment Protection Charge (EPC):

1. It is a fund used by the Central Board of Pollution Control (CPCB) to provide scientific inputs for improving air quality in Delhi NCR.
2. It is received as per an order of the Supreme Court in M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India Case, 1985.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**3.** Consider the following statements:

1. Article 23 of the Constitution provides that no child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
2. Article 24 prohibits trafficking in human beings, including trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, slavery, or exploitation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**4.** Regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. The MCC is operational from the polling date until the announcement of results.
2. The MCC does not have any statutory backing.
3. Gujarat was the first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**5.** Regarding the President's Rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed when a state fails to comply with directions from the Union government.
2. For the imposition of the President's Rule, Parliamentary approval is necessary in both Houses of Parliament within two months through a special majority.
3. The President's Rule can be extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**6.** Regarding the Simultaneous elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. Recently, the High-level Committee headed by Justice G Rohini has recommended simultaneous elections across India.
2. Simultaneous elections in India were practiced during the initial years after independence.
3. In 2019, only eight states had their assembly elections, along with the Lok Sabha.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**7.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court of India legalized passive euthanasia in Common Cause V/s Union of India Case, 2018, under Article 21 of the Indian constitution.
2. Passive euthanasia involves deliberately using lethal substances or actions to end a person's life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Citizenship in India is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
2. The Citizenship Act, 1955 outlines five ways to acquire Indian citizenship: by birth, descent, registration, naturalization, or through the incorporation of territory into India.

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

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

9. Regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution has prescribed the qualifications of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

10. Regarding the Public Accounts Committee, consider the following statements:

1. Its primary responsibility lies in auditing the reports provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), with the assistance of the CAG during investigations.
2. It consists of a maximum of 22 members, with 15 elected by the Rajya Sabha and up to 7 members from the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

11. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fair Trial Programme (FTP) is a criminal justice initiative based at the National Law University in Delhi.

2. The FTP trains and mentors young professionals, such as lawyers and social workers, to collaborate with the State Legal Services Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

12. Consider the following statements about General Diary:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that a General Diary Entry may be treated as FIR in an appropriate case, where it discloses the commission of a cognisable offence.
2. Section 44 of the Police Act, 1861 empowers the State Government to prescribe the form of the General Diary and the manner in which it shall be maintained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

13. Regarding the Rajya Sabha election, consider the following statements:

1. Representatives of each State to the Rajya Sabha are elected directly by the elected members of their Legislative Assembly.
2. The Constitution of India provides that voting in elections to the Rajya Sabha shall be conducted via an open ballot.
3. The Supreme Court ruled against the inclusion of the None Of The Above (NOTA) option for voters in Rajya Sabha elections.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

14. Regarding personal laws in India, consider the following statements:

1. In accordance with Islamic personal law, men have the legal allowance to practice polygamy, with a maximum limit of six wives.
2. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 lays out guidelines for property inheritance among Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

15. Regarding Lokpal, consider the following statements:

1. The President appoints the chairperson and members of the Lokpal based on recommendations from a Selection Committee chaired by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
2. The Lokpal can consist of a chairperson and eight members, with four being judicial and four non-judicial.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The Interim Budget's purpose is to ensure the continuity of government expenditure and essential services until the new government can present a full-fledged budget after taking office.
2. As per Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the annual financial statement is laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

17. Regarding the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. Part VI of the Constitution deals with the organization and procedures of the Supreme Court of India.
2. Currently, the Supreme Court of India consists of 32 judges including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
3. Consultation with the Chief Justice of India is mandatory for the appointment of any judge other than the Chief Justice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

18. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.
2. The tribal areas within these states are to be administered as Autonomous Districts.
3. For each autonomous district, a District Council is to be constituted, comprising a maximum of 50 members.

How many of the statements above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

19. With reference to the Zero Hour, consider the following statements:

1. Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation and not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.
2. The time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

20. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is responsible for protecting and promoting public health by regulating and supervising food safety and quality in India, operating under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

**Statement-II:** The Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006, consolidates various laws related to food, such as the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Fruit Products Order, 1955, the Meat Food Products Order, 1973, and other acts that were previously handled by different ministries and departments.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.



- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.  
D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

21. Regarding the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is empowered by the UAPA to investigate and prosecute cases nationwide.
2. The conviction rate of individuals arrested under the UAPA exceeds 20%.
3. This act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists without any judicial review.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None of the above

22. With reference to the 'Article 142 of the Indian constitution', consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
2. It is supported by several other provisions, including Article 32 of the constitution.
3. It empowers the Supreme Court to intervene in cases involving public interest, human rights, constitutional values, or fundamental rights.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

23. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body created by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar.

**Statement-II:** In 2023, BCI allowed foreign lawyers and law firms to practice in India unconditionally.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.  
B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.  
D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

24. Regarding the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, consider the following statements:

1. Children aged 6-18 years are entitled to free, compulsory education in local schools.
2. Aided schools must also offer education for free, proportionate to their funding, but not less than 10%.
3. The RTE Act does not apply to minority schools.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

25. Regarding the constitutional provisions related to languages in India, consider the following statements:

1. 22 languages in India have been given the status of classical language.
2. Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages of India.
3. The Indian constitution declares Hindi in Devnagari script as the national language of the Union.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

26. With reference to the Electoral Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. Electoral bonds are money instruments that act as promissory notes or bearer bonds that can be purchased by individuals or companies in India.
2. They are issued specifically for the contribution of funds to the political parties.
3. The SBI is the only bank authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

27. With reference to the Bharat Ratna Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and C. V. Raman.

2. The government has announced that Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna.
3. In terms of Article 17 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name.

How many of the statements above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

28. Which of the following Constitutional Amendment acts provides for the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 census rather than the 1991 census?

- A. 42nd Amendment Act of 1976
- B. 84th Amendment Act of 2001
- C. 85th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2001
- D. 87th Amendment Act of 2003

29. With reference to 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002', consider the following statements :

1. The Act was formulated in response to India's global commitment to the Vienna Convention to combat the menace of money laundering.
2. Money laundering involves making illegally obtained funds appear legitimate or "clean" by integrating them into the financial system.
3. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Enforcement Directorate cannot arrest someone under the PMLA simply for not responding to their queries and summons.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

30. Regarding the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. It consists of a chairperson and five members nominated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
3. CJI can appoint the Secretary to the Committee.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

31. Consider the following pairs:

**Articles of Indian Provisions  
Constitution**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Article 25 | Freedom to manage religious affairs               |
| 2. Article 26 | Freedom of conscience                             |
| 3. Article 28 | Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

32. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** In the case, Prakash Singh v/s Union of India, 2006, the Supreme Court directed to establish the Police Complaint Authority in all the states of India.

**Statement-II:** The National Police Commission (1977-1981) in India made recommendations for police reforms, emphasizing the need for functional autonomy and accountability.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

33. Consider the following statements:

1. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 imposes penalties on public servants for corruption but does not address those abetting corruption.
2. The Companies Act, 2013 sets out provisions which can be interpreted to cover bribery and fraud matters, including offences relating to criminal breach of trust and cheating.



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

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

34. With reference to the 'Sapinda Marriage', consider the following statements:

1. A sapinda marriage is one between individuals who are related to each other within a certain degree of closeness.
2. Sapinda marriages are not defined under the Hindu Marriages Act, 1955.
3. These marriages are prohibited in India unless there is an established custom allowing the same.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

35. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** A question of privilege may be raised in the Parliament only after obtaining the consent of the Chairman/Speaker.

**Statement-II:** The Lok Sabha committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

36. With reference to the Hit-and-Run Law under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. BNS, 2023 stipulates a penalty of up to 10 years in jail for fleeing an accident spot.
2. If the driver reports the incident immediately after the accident, it provides for a punishment of up to five years.

3. It imposes a fine of Rs. 7 lakh for failing to report the incident to a police officer/magistrate.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

37. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Its primary function is to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the central government and the state governments.
3. The 16th Finance Commission has not been tasked with reviewing disaster management financing arrangements under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

38. With reference to "Electoral Bonds Scheme", consider the following statements:

1. The electoral bonds system was introduced in 2017 by way of a Finance bill and it was implemented in 2018.
2. Through an amendment to the Finance Act 2017, the Union government has exempted political parties from disclosing donations received through electoral bonds.
3. This means that voters will not know which individual, company, or organization has funded which party, and to what extent.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

39. Consider the following statements:

1. Fast track courts (FTCs) are specialized courts established with the primary aim of expediting the trial process for cases related to sexual offenses.



2. Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000 to substantially bring down pendency in the district and subordinate courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

40. Regarding All India Judicial Services (AIJS), consider the following statements:

- Article 310 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of AIJS.
- It aims to centralize the recruitment of judges, similar to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) model.
- AIJS would increase the representation and diversity of judges from different regions, genders, castes, and communities, reflecting the social composition of the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. None

41. Consider the following statements:

- Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposes renaming a group previously referred to as "other backward classes" to "social castes".
- Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to nominate ten members from the Kashmiri migrant community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only  
B. 2 Only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

42. Regarding Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- Article 370 was added to the Indian constitution, as a 'temporary provision'.
- It was introduced into the draft constitution by N Gopalswami Ayyangar.
- Article 35A stems from Article 370 and was introduced through a Presidential Order in 1954.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

43. Regarding the Advocate General for State, consider the following statements:

- The Advocate General is the highest legal officer in the state.
- He enjoys voting privileges in the proceedings of the state legislature.
- He does retain the right to speak and participate in state legislature's proceedings.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

44. Which one of the following constitutional amendment acts allowed reservation in promotions, granting 'consequential seniority' to SCs and STs in government roles, effective retrospectively from June 1995?

- A. 77th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1995  
B. 81st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000  
C. 85th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001  
D. 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019

45. With reference to the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, consider the following statements:

- The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee.
- The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.
- The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the Supreme Court Judge.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None





46. With reference to Constitutional & Legislative Provisions related to Trafficking in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 25 of the Indian constitution prohibits human trafficking and begar.
2. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 serves as the primary law aimed at preventing trafficking specifically for commercial sexual exploitation.
3. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 does not provide clear definitions for sexual harassment.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

47. Regarding Advocates Amendment Bill, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It primarily aims to formally include 'touts' into the legal system.
2. Tout refers to a person who procures the employment of a legal practitioner in a legal business in return of payment.
3. Any person who acts as a tout while his name is included in the list of touts will be punished with imprisonment up to three months.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

48. Regarding the disqualification of a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), consider the following statements:

1. If detention takes place under a preventive detention law it will lead to disqualification of the member.
2. Once an MLA is disqualified, the decision can't be reversed even by the courts.
3. The Governor's decision on a member's disqualification is final, but they must seek the Election Commission's opinion before taking action.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

49. Regarding the Post Office Bill (2023), consider the following statements:

1. The Bill specifies procedural safeguards for interception of articles transmitted through India Post.
2. The Bill attempts to make India Post liable for any lapses in postal services
3. The Bill specifies penalties for the unauthorized opening of postal articles by a postal officer.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

50. Regarding the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), consider the following statements:

1. The Dhebar Commission, 1973 established Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a distinct category, comprising tribal communities that exhibit comparatively lower levels of development.
2. Among the 75 listed PVTGs the highest number are found in Nagaland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

51. Consider the following statements:

1. Tribunals were not part of the original constitution.
2. Under Article 323 B, both- the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorized to provide for the establishment of tribunals.
3. A hierarchy of tribunals can be created under article 323A.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

52. Regarding the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 consider the following statements:

1. This Act replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 which was enacted during the British era.
2. The Act provides for the appointment of a Child Marriage Prohibition Officer to prevent child marriages.



Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**53.** Consider the following statements about the Vernacular Press Act, 1878:

1. Vernacular Press Act, 1878 was the first British intervention to regulate the press.
2. Melcalfe repealed the Vernacular Press Act, 1878 and came to be known as the "Liberator of the Indian Press."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**54.** Consider the following statements regarding provisions of Bhartiya Sakshya Adhinyam:

1. Definition of documents includes electronic records alongside traditional writings.
2. Testimony from a qualified individual examining the documents, is now considered secondary evidence.
3. It also permits the electronic provision of oral evidence, enabling witnesses, accused individuals, and victims to testify through electronic means.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**55.** Consider the following statements regarding constitutional provisions for suspension of Members of Parliament:

1. The Speaker can direct a member to withdraw immediately from the House if he finds the member's conduct disorderly.
2. The Speaker can name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair to be suspended from the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**56.** Regarding the Election Commission, consider the following statements:

1. In case of a difference of opinion between the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other election commissioners, the matter is decided by the Chief Election Commissioner.
2. The Constitution has prescribed the legal, educational, administrative, and judicial qualifications of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The Constitution prohibits retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**57.** Consider the following statements regarding the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969:

1. The act provides for the appointment of registrars for local areas to oversee the registration of births within their jurisdictional area.
2. The Act puts a responsibility on institutions such as hospitals, health centres, and nursing homes to report births occurring within their premises to the registrar.
3. The act puts an obligation on citizens to inform the registrar within 30 days of the event occurring in their jurisdiction.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**58.** Consider the following statements:

1. India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar.
2. The longest session of Parliament is the Budget session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

59. Consider the following statements regarding the Electoral Trusts Scheme:

1. An Electoral Trust is a Trust set up by companies with the sole objective to distribute the contributions received by it from other Companies and individuals to the political parties.
2. The scheme was notified by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
3. Only the companies registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 are eligible to make an application for approval as an Electoral Trust.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

60. Regarding the Centre-State relations, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states.
2. Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List.
3. The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects is vested in the states.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. One Only
- B. Two Only
- C. All Three
- D. None

61. Section 497 of IPC classified adultery as a criminal act punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine, or both. In which of the following landmark cases did the Supreme Court unanimously struck down Section 497?

- A. Lily Thomas and Union of India (2013)
- B. Independent Thought v. Union of India (2017)
- C. Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2018)
- D. Lalit Kumar Jain v. Union of India & Ors (2019)

62. Consider the following statements:

1. The SC, in the case of E.V.Chinnaiah vs State Of Andhra Pradesh And Ors, 2004, asserted that only Prime Minister has the authority to create and notify SC and STs lists.

2. Article 16 (4) empowers that the State can make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion in favour of the SCs and STs if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

63. Regarding the bail consider the following statements:

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) differentiates between "bailable" and "non-bailable" offenses.
2. "Anticipatory bail" under Section 438 of the CrPC was established following the 1969 Law Commission Report's suggestion to safeguard personal liberty against arbitrary infringement.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 Only
2. 2 Only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

64. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG), consider the following statements:

1. CAG is an independent authority under the Article 148 of the Constitution of India.
2. The CAG is not eligible for further office either under the Government of India or under any state govt after he has ceased to hold his office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

65. With reference to Special Category Status (SCS), consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution includes a provision for Scheduled Castes (SCS) in the fifth schedule.
2. SCS was first accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland in 1999.
3. There is a difference between SCS and Special Status, which confers enhanced legislative and political rights, while SCS focuses solely on economic and financial rights.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

66. With reference to Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. The right to information is recognized as a legal right but is not considered a fundamental right.
2. Under this act, information to an applicant is to be supplied within 15 days in the normal course.
3. Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, creates an exemption for personal information from disclosure.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

67. With reference to the methods of raising political funding, consider the following statements:

1. In India, donations by corporate bodies are governed under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. Electoral Bonds Scheme serves as a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity.
3. An Electoral Trust under the Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 is set up by companies with the sole objective to distribute the contributions received by it from other Companies and individuals to the political parties.

How many of the statements above are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

68. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2015, notified the decision of the Government of India to celebrate 26 November as 'Constitution Day'.
2. The Constitution of India was handwritten by artists from Shantiniketan under the guidance of Nandalal Bose.
3. The Constitution of India was drafted by a committee of seven members, headed by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

How many of the statements above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

69. Consider the following Conditions regarding Governor's power to reserve the bill for the President's consideration:

1. Bill is against the provisions of the Constitution.
2. Bill is opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy.
3. Bill is against the larger interest of the country.
4. Bill endangers the position of the state high court.

In how many of the above conditions, it becomes obligatory for the Governor to reserve the bill for the consideration of the President?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

70. With reference to Article 311 of the Constitution, consider the following statements :

1. Article 311 (2) says that no person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or an All-India Service or Civil Services of a State shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him.
2. Provisions of Article 311 do not apply to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under any circumstances.
3. Reasonable opportunities of being heard must be provided to civil servants without any exceptions before being penalised under Article 311 of the constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

71. Which of the following Legislative Frameworks in India provide for handling refugees ? :

1. Foreigners Act, 1946
2. Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
3. Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939
4. Citizenship Act, 1955



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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All Four

**72.** With reference to Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), consider the following statements:

1. PRI was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
2. This Act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India.
3. The Act has also added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

**73.** With reference to the Collegium system, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the CJI (Chief Justice of India) and comprises two other senior most judges of the supreme court.
2. A High Court collegium is led by the incumbent Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**74.** With reference to the Caste Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. The origin of the Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of 1881.
2. Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was conducted for the first time in 1931.
3. The Caste Census happens in the backdrop of the Justice Rohini Commission, set up for sub categorisation of OBCs, SCs and STs.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

**75.** Consider the following statements:

1. A patent is a non-statutory right for an invention granted for a limited period of time.
2. If patent protection has been granted within India then it is effective only within the territory of India.
3. To be patentable, it is not necessary for an invention to be capable of industrial application but it must be novel.
4. Once the patent has been granted, a written opposition (against the patent) must be submitted within 12 months of the patent's publication in the Indian Patent Journal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**76.** According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which of the following will be classified as unnatural death in prison?

1. Death due to heart condition
2. Death due to HIV disease
3. Death by a natural calamity like earthquake

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

**77.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution defines hate speech as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons.
2. Section 295A of the IPC deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**78.** With reference to the Central Information Commission (CIC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. As per the amendments made in Right to Information Act, 2005 in 2019, members are not eligible for reappointment.

3. While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**79.** With reference to the Money Bill, consider the following statements:

1. Money Bills must be introduced in the Lok Sabha and cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha (the upper house).
2. The President can either accept or reject a money bill but cannot return it for reconsideration.
3. A provision for Joint sitting is included under the procedure related to the Money bills.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**80.** With reference to Electoral bonds, consider the following statements:

1. The electoral bonds system was introduced in 2019 by way of a Finance bill .
2. Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**81.** Consider the following statements:

1. As per the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 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.
2. The members disqualified under the Anti-defection law can stand for elections from any political party for a seat in the same House.
3. The anti-defection law does not provide a timeframe within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

**82.** Consider the following statements regarding raising questions in Parliament:

1. MPs can submit up to five notices of questions (both oral and written) for a single day.
2. Generally, the notice period for a question is at least 17 days but in case of a short notice question, a notice of less than 8 days is prescribed as the minimum period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**83.** With reference to the Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI), 2022, consider the following statements:

1. Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI), 2022 grants central investigating agencies authority to collect, store, and analyze physical and biological samples such as retina and iris scans of arrested individuals.
2. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is tasked with the responsibility of both enacting the Act and setting up the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
3. The CrPI Act directly mentioned the use of DNA samples and face matching procedures for the purpose of investigation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**84.** With reference to the Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee, consider the following statements:

1. The members of the Committee are appointed by the Speaker for a period of one year.
2. Any person can complain against a Member through another Lok Sabha MP, along with evidence of the alleged misconduct.
3. There is a provision for a half-hour discussion on the report presented by the committee to the speaker regarding the complaint.

How many of the statements above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

85. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** A starred question is asked by an MP and answered orally by the Minister-in-charge.

**Statement-II:** Each MP is allowed to ask one starred question per day. When a question is answered orally, supplementary questions can be asked thereon.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

86. Consider the following statements:

1. Unlike the case with patents, copyright protects the expressions and not the ideas.
2. An injunction refers to when one party attempts to benefit from the reputation established by another in a particular trade or business.
3. In the Cadila Healthcare Limited vs. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited case, 2001 the Supreme Court ruled that passing off is a form of unfair trade competition.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

87. Consider the following statements about the two legal and traditional Hindu law systems:

1. Dayabhaga Law School: It is observed in all parts of India and subdivided into the Benares, the Mithila, the Maharashtra and the Dravida schools.
2. Mitakshara Law School: It is observed in Bengal and Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

88. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sachar Committee report was a comprehensive study of the socio-economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India.
2. Article 29 of the Indian constitution grants the right to preserve the language, script, and culture of any section of citizens residing in different parts of India.
3. The term "minority" is defined under the Article 26 of the Indian Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

89. Consider the following statements:

1. The 102nd Amendment Act of 2018 introduced Articles 338B and 342A in the Constitution.
2. Article 338B deals with the newly established National Commission for Backward Classes.
3. Article 342A empowers the Prime Minister to specify the socially and educationally backward communities in a State.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

90. With reference to the Parliamentary privileges in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Parliamentary privileges are defined in Article 71 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members
3. Under these privileges, the members of Parliament are exempted from any civil liability (but not criminal liability) for any statement made or act done in the course of their duties.



How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**91.** With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It administers elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, panchayats and municipalities in India.
2. Originally, the commission had one election commissioner, but it became a multi-member body after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989.
3. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners.

How many of the statements above are **not** correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

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

1. Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
2. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**93.** Consider the following statements:

1. Hindi Diwas is celebrated on 10th June every year.
2. Hindi is one of the classical languages of India.
3. Article 351 gives power to the Union Government to issue a directive for the development of the Hindi language.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**94.** Consider the following statements:

1. To examine the viability of the "one nation, one election" (ONOE) plan, the Central government established a panel under the direction of former President Ram Nath Kovind.
2. According to Articles 82 (2) and 173 of the Indian Constitution, the terms of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are each set at five years. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**95.** Consider the following statements :

1. Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC).
2. The commission was set up under Article 340 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**96.** With reference to the POCSO Act, 2012, consider the following statements:

1. It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.
2. Under the POCSO Rules, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) imposes mandatory, immediate payment for essential needs.
3. The offence of 'sexual assault' has been defined in explicit terms (with increased minimum punishment) under this act, unlike an abstract definition of 'outraging modesty of a woman' in the Indian Penal Code.

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

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None





97. Consider the following statements:

- Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- The commission was set up under Article 340 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

98. With reference to Select Committee of Parliament, consider the following statements:

- The procedures and rules governing Select Committees are defined within the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament.
- The formation of a Select Committee can be initiated through a motion proposed by the Minister in-charge of the Bill or any member of the Parliament.
- It operates with a quorum of one-third of the total number of members.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

99. Consider the following pairs:

Bail Types	Condition
1. Regular Bail	Given by the Court to release a person who is already under arrest and kept in police custody.
2. Anticipatory Bail	Given when the police or investigating agency fails to file its report/complaint within a certain time frame.
3. Statutory Bail	Granted for a temporary and short period by the Court till the application seeking Anticipatory Bail or Regular Bail.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3

100. Consider the following statement about National Judicial Data Grid:

- This online platform, established as part of the e-Courts Project, serves as a comprehensive database containing orders, judgments, and case information from 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts.
- The data's updating frequency from the connected District and Taluka courts does not occur on a near real-time basis.
- Through web services, every High Court has become a participant in the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), thereby facilitating convenient access for the litigant public.

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

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- 3 Only
- All the above

101. Consider the following statements regarding Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:

- It replaced the Freedom of Information Act 2002.
- It is derived from the Article 19(1) A. of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the freedom of speech and expression.
- It provides for the information to be provided within 24 hours, if it concerns the life or liberty of a person.
- It provides a provision to override the Official Secrets Act of 1923 in case of public interest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All of the above

102. Which of the following constitutional provisions permits the reservation for backward classes in Panchayat by enactment of law?

- Article 234D
- Article 243D
- Article 234T
- Article 243T

103. With reference to the different types of bail in India, consider the following statements:

- Anticipatory bail or Pre-arrest bail is issued only by the High Court.

2. Statutory bail is given when the police or investigating agency fails to file its report/complaint within a certain time frame.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**104.** Consider the following statements:

1. The offence of dacoity with murder is among the certain offences under Indian Penal Code (IPC) for which the offenders can be sentenced to the punishment of death.
2. Article 72 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President of India to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**105.** Consider the following statements:

1. The World Tribal day is celebrated annually on 9th August.
2. Article 335 of the Indian constitution deals with the claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**106.** Consider the following statements regarding the process of adding a community to the List of Scheduled Tribes:

1. The process initiates at the State/UT level where the concerned government recommends the inclusion of a specific community.
2. Once the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has approved the proposal, it is sent to the Registrar General of India (RGI).
3. The corresponding bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, can only be forwarded for President's assent if it has been passed in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

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

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None of the above

**107.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Hate Speech':

1. The Constitution of India prohibits hate speech only on the basis of religion and not on any other basis.
2. States can register Suo Motu FIR on a hate speech incident and there's no requirement of filing a case against the offender.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**108.** Consider the following statements with respect to Freedom of Religion:

1. Article 26 provides religious denominations to own and acquire movable and immovable property.
2. The Constitution prohibits State-run educational institutions to provide any religious instruction.
3. Education Institutions administered by the State but established under any trust can provide religious instructions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 3 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 2 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**109.** Consider the following statements:

1. The MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the casting of votes is completed.
2. It prohibits ministers and other authorities from announcing any financial grants.
3. As per MCC, only voters and authorized party workers are allowed to enter polling booths.

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

- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 3 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

**110.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Article 16' of Indian Constitution:

1. It doesn't prohibit reservation based on the domicile and the residence.
2. It also provides for the reservation in promotion with consequential seniority in favor of SCs and STs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**111.** Consider the following statements regarding Article 142 of Indian Constitution:

1. It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
2. The orders made by the Supreme Court under Article 142 can be enforced across India as per the law made by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**112.** Which of following statements is **not** correct about Mercy Petition?

- A. A mercy petition is a formal request made by someone who has been sentenced to death or imprisonment seeking mercy from the President or the Governor
- B. A convict can present a mercy petition to the President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution of India.
- C. the Governor of a State can't pardon prisoners before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.
- D. The Supreme Court has held that act of mercy is not a right and it can't be claimed.

**113.** Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution of India does not specify as to what disqualifies a person from contesting elections for the Parliament.
2. Vohra Committee, 1983 was constituted to recommend ways in which the criminalisation of politics can be effectively dealt with.

3. In the Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India case (2002), the SC ruled that every candidate contesting an election must disclose both their criminal and financial records.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**114.** With reference to the Union Territories Administration in India, consider the following statements:

1. Part VIII of the Constitution deals with the UTs.
2. UTs in India are administered by the President only.
3. Only UTs of Puducherry and Delhi are provided with a legislative assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**115.** Consider the following statements:

1. In Parayankandiyal v. K. Devi & Others case, the Supreme Court noted that polygamy was not allowed to become a part of Hindu culture due to the influence of religion.
2. In Javed & Others v. State of Haryana & Others case SC observed that Muslim law allows polygamy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**116.** Consider the following statements:

1. Central Government can't extend tenure of the Chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED) beyond a two-year period.
2. The ED has been entrusted with the responsibility of executing the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**117.** Consider the following statement:

1. New Delhi being a union territory, Lieutenant governor (L-G) of Delhi is not bound by advise of council of ministers.
2. Any matter of dispute between L-G and council of minister can be referred to President by L-G.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor

**118.** With reference to the Jallikattu, consider the following statements:

1. Jallikattu was banned by the supreme court through the judgment in the Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja case (2014) on the grounds of cruelty to animals.
2. Jallikattu is a traditional bull-taming sport primarily held as part of the Pongal festival in Tamil Nadu.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**119.** Regarding the prevention of custodial torture in India, consider the following statements:

1. In the last five years, the highest number of custodial deaths has been reported in Gujarat, followed by Maharashtra.
2. Section 2 of the Indian Evidence Act 1872 declares that confessions obtained through threats, promises, or inducements are not admissible in court.
3. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, including the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**120.** Under Article 239AA, the Lieutenant-Governor's (LG) of Delhi can exercise executive power at his/her discretion for which of the following areas?

1. Public order
2. Police
3. Land

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

**121.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Forum shopping':

1. Forum shopping refers to the practice of litigants or lawyers deliberately selecting a particular judge or court where they believe the judgment will be more favorable to their case.
2. The Supreme Court termed forum shopping as a "disreputable practice by the courts" that "has no sanction and paramourty in law".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**122.** According to the Lokur Committee (1965), which of the following are not the essential characteristics for a community to be Identified as a Scheduled Tribe?

- A. Indication of Primitive Traits
- B. Status of Poverty
- C. Shyness of Contact with the Community at Large
- D. Distinctive Culture

**123.** Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Independence of the district judiciary is an integral part of the Constitution's basic structure.
2. Article 233 deals with the appointment of district judges.
3. The district judge is appointed by the chief justice of the high court of the state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**124.** With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, consider the following statements:

1. It was established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights.
2. Only the Chief Justice of India can become a chairman of NHRC.



3. Members can be removed only on charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- 125.** How many among the following is/are not member/s of NITI Aayog's Governing Council?

- 1. Chief Ministers of UTs with legislature
- 2. Lt Governors of UTs without legislature
- 3. Leader of Opposition

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

- 126.** With reference to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), consider the following statements:

- 1. To promote parliamentary dialogue world-wide and works for peace and cooperation among the peoples.
- 2. The headquarter is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 3. India is not a member of IPU.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- 127.** With reference to the Ordinances in Indian Polity, consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 123 grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances.
- 2. An ordinance promulgated by the President has a maximum validity of six months.
- 3. Under article 213, the Governor of a state can also issue ordinances when the state legislative assembly is not in session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- 128.** Consider the following statements:

- 1. The first synchronous census was taken in 1881, by W.C. Plowden, Census Commissioner of India
- 2. The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 3. The Census of India Act of 1948 provides the legal framework for carrying out the Census and mentions its timing or periodicity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- 129.** With reference to the appointment of Supreme Court (SC) judges, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Judges of the SC are appointed under Article 128 of the Constitution.
- 2. A judge of the SC can only be removed from office by an order of the President.
- 3. Any retired judge of the SC can be called back to sit and act as a SC judge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

- 130.** As per ECI, which of the following are the grounds for Derecognition of a Political Party as National party?

- 1. If the party fails to secure at least 6% of the total votes polled in the general election to the LS or the legislative assembly of the state concerned
- 2. If the party fails to hold its organizational elections on time.
- 3. If the party fails to submit its audited accounts to the ECI on time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**131.** Consider the following statements:

1. Competition Commission of India is a statutory body constituted under Competition Act, 2002.
2. The Competition Act, 2002, regulates competition in the Indian market and prohibits anti-competitive practices such as cartels, abuse of dominant market position, and mergers and acquisitions that may have an adverse effect on competition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**132.** Consider the following statements with respect to Lokayukta:

1. In India, the Administrative Reforms Commission, (1966-70), had recommended the creation of the Lokayukta in the states.
2. Rajasthan was the first state that constituted the institution of Lokayukta before passing of Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in 2013.

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

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**133.** Consider the following statements:

1. Preventive detention is when a person is held in police custody only on the basis of a suspicion that they would conduct a criminal act or cause harm to society.
2. Article 20 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**134.** Consider the following statements related to Parliamentary Committees:

1. Departmental Standing Committees can be classified as ad-hoc committees.
2. Joint Parliamentary Committees are constituted as standing committees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**135.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)':

1. TRAI regulates telecom services including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services.
2. TRAI is a statutory body which was established under Telegraph Act, 1885.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**136.** Consider the following statements regarding the National Investigation Agency (NIA):

1. It is a federal agency responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes related to terrorism, insurgency, and other national security matters.
2. The NIA has authority to investigate cases across state boundaries without obtaining prior permission from state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**137.** Consider the following provisions related to Indian Heritage:

1. Article 49 of the Constitution puts an obligation on the State to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest declared by the Parliament to be of national importance.
2. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) 1958 provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2



**138.** Consider the following statements regarding the Ninth Schedule:

1. The Schedule contains a list of central and state laws that cannot be challenged in courts and is outside the purview of judicial scrutiny.
2. Article 31B extends protection to 'classes' of laws, while Article 31A shields specific laws or enactments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**139.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries and the central government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India.
2. Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, empower State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**140.** Consider the following statements:

1. The 74th Amendment Act added Part IX -A and consists of provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.
2. The 74th Amendment Act added the 12th Schedule to the Constitution which contains 18 functional items of Municipalities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**141.** With reference to Mandal Commission recommendations, consider the following statements:

1. OBCs must be provided a reservation of 27% in public sector and government jobs.
2. They should be provided 27% reservation in promotions at all levels of public services.
3. It did not provide for the carry forward rule in case the reserved seats remain unfilled that year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

**142.** Which of the following statements is not true about the Basic Structure Doctrine evolved by the Supreme Court?

- A. The doctrine was first propounded in the landmark case of Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
- B. According to the doctrine, certain features of the Constitution cannot be amended by the Parliament
- C. The doctrine includes the principles of democracy, secularism, federalism, and the rule of law as part of the basic structure
- D. Preamble to the Constitution is not a part of Basic Structure

**143.** Consider the following statements:

1. When a bill is referred to the President by the governor, the President has either to give his assent or withhold his assent to the bill. He can't return the bill.
2. The governor can reserve a bill for the consideration of the President only when the bill abridges the Constitutional powers of the High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**144.** Which of the following statements accurately reflects the Model Code of Conduct?

- A. The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that all political parties must adhere to during an election period.
- B. The Model Code of Conduct only applies to government officials and not political parties.
- C. The Model Code of Conduct is a legally binding document that outlines the punishment for any violations.
- D. The Model Code of Conduct is applicable only during the voting period and not during the pre-election phase.

**145.** Consider the following statements regarding 'Interstate River Water Disputes':

1. The Parliament by passing a law can establish a tribunal to resolve disputes between states with respect to use of river water.
2. Parliament can exclude the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and High Court on the issues of interstate river water disputes.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**146.** With reference to the FIR Provisions under POCSO Act 2012, consider the following statements:

1. Any person who has an apprehension that an offence has been committed shall provide such information to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or the local police.
2. Not reporting or recording an offence can result in up to six months of imprisonment.
3. It is mandatory to file a report on receiving a complaint, including from a child.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**147.** Consider the following statements regarding Indira Sawhney case with reference to providing reservation to Other Backward Classes:

1. In this case, the Supreme court held that the reservation must be in the four walls of 50% cap and can be extended in promotions as well.
2. The carry forward rule (by which unfulfilled vacancies are filled in the upcoming year) was declared null and void.
3. The concept of creamy layer was also introduced by the court to exclude well-off people from the community.

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

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**148.** Consider the following statements regarding National Security Act, 1980:

1. It is a preventive detention law that allows central and state governments to detain any person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.
2. The Act provides for the establishment of a National Security Council which is headed by the defence minister.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**149.** With reference to Inter-State Council (ISC), consider the following statements:

1. It is headed by the Home Minister.
2. The recommendations made by the council are not of binding nature.
3. It was established as a permanent body on the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**150.** Consider the following statements regarding Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023:

1. The Rules are issued under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. The Rules aim to provide guidelines for the sterilization and immunization of stray dogs through Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes.
3. The responsibility of carrying out ABC programmes lies with the respective local bodies, municipalities, municipal corporations, and panchayats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 Only
- B. 2 and 3 Only
- C. 1 and 2 Only
- D. All of the Above





**151.** Consider the following statements regarding LGBTQ rights in India:

1. Same-sex marriages are legally recognized in India.
2. The Supreme Court of India declared Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code unconstitutional.
3. The right to choose a life partner is a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**152.** With reference to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.
2. It is a quasi-judicial body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**153.** Consider the following statements:

1. Extra judicial killing refers to the killing of a person by the state or its agents, without any judicial or legal proceedings.
2. Every person has the right to self-defense under Section-96 of the Indian Penal Code.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**154.** Consider the following statements regarding Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. While ED is a statutory body, CBI lacks statutory status.

2. ED functions under the Ministry of Finance and CBI functions under Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**155.** Which language is not recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India?

- A. Konkani
- B. Kurmali
- C. Santhali
- D. Bodo

**156.** Consider the following statements related to conditions for declaring a party 'National':

1. It is recognised in 4 or more states.
2. If it has won at least 10% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from at least 3 states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**157.** Which of the following is correct about Internet shutoffs in India?

1. Both Central and state governments are empowered to order internet shutdown under Indian telegraph act.
2. An indefinite suspension of internet services would be illegal under Indian law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**158.** Regarding the Punchhi Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The Commission was appointed by the Government of India in 2007.



2. It recommended the formation of a National Integration Council.
3. It recommended a committee to select the governor which comprises the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and the Lok Sabha's speaker only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

**159.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a six-member body.
2. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.
3. The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**160.** With reference to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC).
2. It is responsible for assessing the quality of higher educational institutions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**161.** Which of the following statements regarding the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in India is/are correct?

1. The CrPC provides for both the appointment and the removal of public prosecutors by the state government.
2. The jurisdiction of a criminal court can be determined by the place where the offense was committed, the place where the accused person resides, or the place where the victim resides.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**162.** Regarding the Panchayati Raj Institution, consider the following statements:

1. It was constitutionalised through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, of 1992.
2. It added a new Part-X to the Constitution of India.
3. It also added a new 11th Schedule to the Constitution which contains 29 functional items of the panchayats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**163.** The five criteria (primitive traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness) for declaring a tribe as a Scheduled Tribe were given by which of the following committees?

- A. Lokur Committee 1965
- B. U.N. Dhebar Commission 1960
- C. Xaxa Committee 2014
- D. Bhuria Committee 1991

**164.** With reference to the powers of the Governor under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can call for a floor test only when the Assembly is not in session.
2. The Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
3. The Governor may exercise his own judgment when considering the advice provided by a Chief Minister whose majority is uncertain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

**165.** With reference to Women participation in politics in India, consider the following statements:

1. According to Global Gender Gap Report 2022, India ranks among the top 5 countries in Political Empowerment of Women.
2. All State governments are required to reserve one-fourth of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women in accordance with the 73rd amendment to the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. None of the above

**166.** With reference to the types of Bails in India, consider the following statements:

1. For Regular bail, a person can file an application under Section 437 and 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
2. Interim bail is granted for a temporary and short period by the Court.
3. Anticipatory bail is issued only by the Sessions Court and High Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**167.** Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the declaration of the transfer of tribal land for mining to private parties as invalid?

- A. Third Schedule
- B. Fifth Schedule
- C. Ninth Schedule
- D. Twelfth Schedule

**168.** Which of the following is NOT implicit in Fundamental Rights?

- A. Right to health
- B. Right to strike
- C. Right to fair trial
- D. Right to information

**169.** With reference to Death penalty in India, consider the following statements:

1. A prisoner is protected from the death penalty by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees everyone's fundamental right to life and liberty.
2. Death penalty can be commuted into life imprisonment or pardoned by the President under Article 72 of Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**170.** With reference to the Defamation Law in India, consider the following statements:

1. Defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offense.
2. Criminal provisions of defamation are constitutionally valid and are not in conflict with the right to free speech.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**171.** Consider the following statements:

1. Guillotine was an apparatus introduced in Russia during the Russian Revolution to make capital punishment.
2. In legislative parlance, guillotine means to bunch together and fast-track the passage of financial business.
3. Guillotine is a common procedural exercise in Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only



**172.** Consider the following statements with respect to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967:

1. According to the Act, the central government can designate an organization as a terrorist organization, but it cannot designate individuals as terrorists.
2. The Act has the death penalty and imprisonment as highest punishment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 and 2

**173.** This closure motion is used to curtail debate on a specific matter before the House, and if approved, it ends the discussion immediately and puts the matter to a vote. This Closure Motion is often used when there is limited time available for debate and the House needs to move forward with the legislative process. Which of the following motion is related to the condition described above?

- A. Simple Closure
- B. Closure by Compartments
- C. Kangaroo Closure
- D. Guillotine Closure

**174.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972 defines an "antiquity" as any object or work of art that has been in existence for at least 100 years.
2. In India, the Union List, the State List, and Concurrent List of the Constitution deal with the country's heritage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**175.** With the reference to the Army Court Martial of India, consider the following statements:

1. A court martial is typically composed of military officers who serve as both judge and jury.
2. The President can use his/her powers to pardon, reprieve, respite or remission of punishment or sentence given by a court martial.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**176.** Which of the following statements accurately describes the scope of Article 14 of the Indian Constitution?

- A. Article 14 only prohibits discrimination based on race, caste, religion, gender, or place of birth.
- B. Article 14 guarantees equal protection of the law to all persons within the territory of India, regardless of their status or affiliation.
- C. Article 14 applies only to Indian citizens and not to foreign nationals residing in India.
- D. Article 14 ensures that every person has the right to equal pay for equal work.

**177.** With reference to Administrative Powers of Chief Justice of India, consider the following statements:

1. CJI decides the number of judges that will hear a case in Supreme Court.
2. The Chief Justice exercises the prerogative of allocating cases to particular benches.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**178.** Regarding the protection against self-incrimination, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The protection against self-incrimination applies to both oral and documentary evidence.
2. The protection against self-incrimination does not extend to the compulsory production of material objects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2



## ANSWERS

1. Ans: B

Exp:

- Parliamentary privileges are **special rights, immunities and exemptions** enjoyed by the members of the Parliament and their committees.
  - ◆ These privileges are **defined in Article 105** of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Article 194** guarantees same privileges to the Members of Legislative Assemblies of states. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Under these privileges, the members of Parliament are exempted from any civil liability (but not criminal liability) for any statement made or act done in the course of their duties.
- **Parliament has not made any special law** to exhaustively codify all the privileges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They are based on five sources:
  - ◆ Constitutional provisions
  - ◆ Various laws made by Parliament
  - ◆ Rules of both the Houses
  - ◆ Parliamentary conventions
  - ◆ Judicial interpretations

2. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Environment Protection Charge (EPC) is a fund used by the **Central Board of Pollution Control (CPCB)** to provide scientific inputs for improving air quality in **Delhi NCR. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The CPCB works with other institutions like IIT and NEERI under the EPC fund.
- The EPC is received as per an order of the **Supreme Court (M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India Case, 1985), and for air quality improvement** and related work in Delhi-NCR. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CPCB also receives 25% of the environmental compensation collected by state pollution control boards. It also collects environmental penalties directly from polluters/defaulters in various matters.
  - ◆ In 2016, the **SC (Supreme Court)** imposed an **EPC of 1% on the sale of 2000cc** and above diesel, cars in Delhi and NCR.

3. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 23:**
  - ◆ It prohibits **trafficking in human beings**, including trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, slavery, or exploitation.

- ◆ It recognizes the **inherent dignity and rights of individuals**, ensuring **protection against such practices. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Article 24 of the Constitution:**

- ◆ No child below the age fourteen years shall be employed in work in any factory or mine or engaged in **any other hazardous employment. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976:**

- ◆ The Act extends to the whole of India but is implemented by respective state governments. It provides for an institutional mechanism at the district level in the form of Vigilance Committees.
  - Vigilance committees advise District Magistrate (DM) to ensure the provisions of this act are properly implemented.
- ◆ The State Governments/UTs may confer, on an Executive Magistrate, the powers of a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or second class for the trial of offences under this Act.

4. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Model Code of Conduct (MCC):**

- ◆ The MCC is a **consensus document**. The political parties have themselves agreed to keep their conduct during elections in check and to work within the Code.
- ◆ The MCC is operational from the date on **which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The government **cannot announce any financial grants**, promise construction of roads or other facilities, and make any ad hoc appointments in government or public undertaking during the time the Code is in force.
- ◆ Though the **MCC does not have any statutory backing**, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the EC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced by invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the **Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973, and Representation of Peoples's Act (RPA) 1951.**



- ◆ Kerala was the **first state to adopt a code of conduct for elections**. In 1960, before the Assembly elections in the state, the administration prepared a draft code covering important aspects of electioneering such as processions, political rallies, and speeches. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 356:**
  - ◆ According to Article 356, the President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the **failure of the constitutional machinery**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ President's Rule can be imposed in two situations: when the President receives a report from the state's Governor or is otherwise convinced that the state government cannot function according to the Constitution (**Article 356**), and when a state fails to comply with directions from the Union government (**Article 365**).
  - ◆ **Parliamentary approval is necessary** for imposing the President's Rule, and it should be approved in both Houses of Parliament within two months through a **simple majority**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Initially, the President's Rule is for six months and can be **extended for up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6. Ans: A

Exp:

- In a significant move towards electoral reform, the High-level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, constituted under the chairmanship of **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, former President of India, has proposed simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local bodies in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Simultaneous elections in India, where both the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are elected together, were practised during the initial years after independence in 1952, 1957, and 1962. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, due to various factors such as political instability, early dissolution of State Assemblies, and the need for separate elections to address regional issues, the practice of simultaneous elections gradually faded.

- In 2019, only four States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim) had their assembly elections, along with the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Supreme Court of India **legalized passive euthanasia**, in *Common Cause V/s Union of India Case, 2018*, citing the importance of a 'living will.'
  - ◆ Further, the court emphasized that **dignity in the dying process is integral to the right to life** guaranteed by **Article 21 of the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Active euthanasia involves deliberately using lethal substances** or actions to end a person's life. Whereas, Passive euthanasia occurs when **life-sustaining treatments are withheld or withdrawn**, allowing the patient to die naturally. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

8. Ans: D

Exp:

**Citizenship in India:**

- Citizenship in India is listed in the **Union List** under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution of India, on **26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950**, established categories of people eligible for Indian citizenship.
  - ◆ Under this authority, Parliament enacted the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- It also granted Parliament the authority to regulate additional aspects of citizenship, such as granting and renunciation.
  - ◆ The Act specifies that citizenship may be acquired in India through **five methods**: by birth in India, by descent, through registration, by naturalization (extended residence in India), and by incorporation of territory into India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

9. 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.



- ◆ 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.

- It is **not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.

● **Limitations:**

- ◆ The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**10. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**Public Accounts Committee:**

- Its primary responsibility lies in **auditing the reports** provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), with the assistance of the CAG during investigations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The PAC consists of a maximum of 22 members, with 15 elected by the **Lok Sabha** and up to 7 members from the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Members are chosen annually through proportional representation via a single transferable vote.

**11. Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- The **Supreme Court of India's** acknowledgement in the case of **Satender Kumar Antil vs Central Bureau Of Investigation, 2022**, highlighted the **inefficacy of India's bail system** and its role in **exacerbating the crisis of undertrial incarceration**.
  - ◆ This recognition underscores the pressing need for **reforming bail laws** to address systemic challenges within the **criminal justice system**.
- The Fair Trial Programme (FTP) is a criminal justice initiative based at the National Law University in Delhi. The FTP's goal is to ensure fair trials for undertrial prisoners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The FTP trains and mentors young professionals, such as lawyers and social workers, to collaborate with the State Legal Services Authority. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**12. Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- A General Diary is a **record of all the activities and incidents that take place in a police station** on a daily basis.
- **Section 44 of the Police Act, 1861** empowers the State Government to prescribe the form of the General Diary and the manner in which it shall be maintained. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The General Diary contains various details such as the:
  - ◆ Arrival and departure of police officers
  - ◆ Arrest of persons
  - ◆ Seizure of property
  - ◆ Receipt and disposal of complaints
  - ◆ Any other information that the officer in charge of the police station may consider necessary to record.
- In **CBI v. Tapan Kumar Singh (2003)**, the Supreme Court ruled that a General Diary Entry may be treated as FIR in an appropriate case, where it discloses the commission of a cognisable offence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

**13. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

● **Rajya Sabha Elections:**

- ◆ As per Article 80 of the Constitution, representatives of each State to the Rajya Sabha are elected **indirectly** by the elected members of their Legislative Assembly. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951:**
  - ◆ In order to rein in the MLAs from such cross-voting, an amendment to the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** was carried out in 2003.
  - ◆ **Section 59 of the Act** was amended to **provide that the voting in elections to Rajya Sabha** shall be through an open ballot. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The MLAs of political parties are required to show their ballot paper to the authorised agent of their Party.



● **Shailesh Manubhai Parmar v Election Commission of India Case, 2018:**

- ◆ The Supreme Court denied the **None Of The Above (NOTA)** option to the electors in the Rajya Sabha election. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14. Ans: D

Exp:

- According to **Sharia** or the **Muslim personal law**, men are allowed to practice polygamy that is, they can have more than one wife at the same time, up to a total of **four**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955** had codified laws related to marriage among Hindus.
  - ◆ The **Hindu Succession Act, 1956** which lays out guidelines for property inheritance among Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

15. Ans: B

Exp:

Lokpal:

- The **President** appoints the chairperson and members of the Lokpal based on recommendations from a Selection Committee chaired by the **Prime Minister**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Lokpal can consist of a **chairperson and eight members**, with four being judicial and four non-judicial. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, former Supreme Court Justice **Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar** was appointed as the chairperson of Lokpal. This came nearly two years after the post was vacant.

16. Ans: C

Exp:

Interim Budget:

- An **Interim Budget** is presented by a government that is going through a transition period or is in its last year in office ahead of general elections.
- The purpose of the interim budget is to **ensure the continuity** of government expenditure and essential services until the new government can present a full-fledged budget after taking office. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per **Article 112** of the Indian Constitution, the annual financial statement is laid before both Houses of Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17. Ans: A

Exp:

Supreme Court of India:

- **Constitutional Provisions:** Articles 124 to 147 in **Part V** of the Constitution deal with the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Current Composition:** The Supreme Court of India consists of **34 judges** including the Chief Justice of India, all appointed by the President of India. The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges, leaving it to Parliament to increase this number. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Appointment:** The **President appoints the Chief Justice of India** after consulting with select judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts. Other judges are appointed by the President after consulting with the Chief Justice and additional judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts.
  - ◆ **Consultation with the Chief Justice of India is mandatory** for the appointment of any judge other than the Chief Justice. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

18. Ans: B

Exp:

Sixth Schedule In Constitution of India:

- **Provisions:** It contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** under Article 244(2) of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Objectives:** It aims to safeguard tribal land and resources, **preventing their transfer to non-tribal entities**. It also strives to protect tribal communities from exploitation, ensuring their cultural and social identities are upheld and promoted.
- **Autonomous Districts and Regions:** The tribal areas within these states are to be administered as **Autonomous Districts**.
  - ◆ The Governor is vested with the power to organise, reorganise, and alter the boundaries or names of autonomous districts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **District and Regional Council:** For each autonomous district, a **District Council** is to be constituted, comprising a maximum of **30 members**.





- ◆ Of these, no more than 4 members are nominated by the Governor, while the remainder are elected through adult suffrage. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

19. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Zero Hour** is an **Indian parliamentary innovation**. It is not mentioned in the **parliamentary rules book**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under this, **MPs** can raise matters **without any prior notice**.
- The **zero hour** starts immediately after the **question hour** and lasts until the **agenda for the day** is taken up.
- The time gap between the **question hour** and the **agenda** is known as **zero hour**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

20. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** is responsible for protecting and promoting public health by **regulating** and **supervising food safety** and quality in India, operating under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006**, consolidates various laws related to food, such as the **Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954**, the **Fruit Products Order, 1955**, the **Meat Food Products Order, 1973**, and other acts that were previously handled by different ministries and departments. **Hence, statement 32 is correct.**
- Both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct. Statement 2 is talking about the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 not about the function of FSSAI**.

Hence, option B is correct.

21. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967:**
  - ◆ UAPA is a law that aims to prevent unlawful activities and deal with terrorism. It is also known as the **"Anti-Terror law"**.
  - ◆ The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is empowered by the UAPA to investigate and prosecute cases nationwide. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Under the UAPA, 4,690 persons were arrested between 2018 and 2020, but only **3% were convicted**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ It underwent multiple amendments, in **2004, 2008, 2012, and most recently in 2019**, expanding provisions related to **terrorist financing, cyber-terrorism, individual designation, and property seizure**.

- The 2019 amendment empowers the government to **designate individuals as terrorists** without any **judicial review**, raising concerns about due process of law and the potential for arbitrary designations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. Ans: D

Exp:

- Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing **complete justice** in any case or matter pending before it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ These decrees or orders are enforceable across India's territory, making them significant tools for judicial intervention.
- Article 142 is supported by several other provisions, including **Article 32 (which ensures the right to constitutional remedies)**, **Article 141** (mandating that all courts within India must abide by the Supreme Court's decisions), and **Article 136** (which allows for the Special Leave Petition). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The provision empowers the Supreme Court to intervene in **cases involving public interest, human rights, constitutional values, or fundamental rights**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ This **reinforces the Court's role as a guardian of the constitution** and ensures protection against violations or infringements.

23. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Bar Council of India is a **statutory body** created by Parliament under the **Advocates Act, 1961** to regulate and represent the Indian bar. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- In 2023, **BCI allowed foreign lawyers** and law firms to practice in India but limited them to non-litigious activities like **corporate law and intellectual property matters**. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
  - ◆ They cannot handle property conveyancing or title investigations.
  - ◆ Indian lawyers in foreign firms face the same restrictions.



- Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.

24. Ans: A

Exp:

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

- Children aged 6-14 years are entitled to free, compulsory education in local schools, with enrollment in an age-appropriate class for those above 6 not in school. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Aided schools must also offer education for free, proportionate to their funding, but not less than 25%. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- In 2014, the Supreme Court ruled in the Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust vs Union Of India & Ors that the RTE Act does not apply to minority schools. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

25. Ans: C

Exp:

Key Constitutional Provisions Related to Language in India:

- Eighth Schedule:
  - ◆ The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the official languages of India. It includes 22 languages recognized as official languages.
    - Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
  - ◆ The Eighth Schedule also includes six classical languages currently:
    - Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
  - ◆ Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages of India in Articles 343 to 351. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Language of The Union:
  - ◆ Article 120: Deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
  - ◆ Article 210: Similar to Article 120 but applies to the State Legislature.
  - ◆ Article 343: Declares Hindi in Devnagari script as the official language of the Union. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
  - ◆ Article 344: Establishes a Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language.

26. Ans: D

Exp:

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) struck down the electoral bonds scheme that allows anonymous donations to political parties, citing it as unconstitutional.

- SC asserted that transparency regarding funding to political parties is crucial for informed electoral decisions, affirming that the scheme infringes upon the right to information as enshrined in Article 19(1)(a).
- Electoral Bonds:
  - ◆ Electoral bonds are money instruments that act as promissory notes or bearer bonds that can be purchased by individuals or companies in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
    - They are issued specifically for the contribution of funds to the political parties. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
    - The SBI is the only bank authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
    - The donations made under this scheme enjoyed 100% tax exemption.

27. Ans: A

Exp:

Bharat Ratna:

- The first recipients of the Bharat Ratna were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and C. V. Raman, honoured in 1954. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Recently, the government has announced that Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the nation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In terms of Article 18 (1) of the Constitution, the award cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

28. Ans: D

Exp:

- The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies.
- The 84th Amendment Act, 2001 empowered the government to undertake readjustment and rationalisation of territorial constituencies in the states on the basis of the population figures of 1991 census.
- 85th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001 provided for the reservation in promotion can be applied with



'consequential seniority' for the government servants belonging to the SCs and STs with retrospective effect from June 1995.

- The **87th Amendment Act, 2003** provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and not 1991 census.
- Hence **option D is correct.**

**29. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 is an Indian law enacted in 2002 to prevent money laundering and related offenses.
  - ◆ Money laundering involves **making illegally obtained funds appear legitimate or "clean"** by integrating them into the financial system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was enacted in a 2002 response to India's global commitment (**including the Vienna Convention**) to combat the menace of money laundering. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** is the primary authority responsible for investigating and prosecuting money laundering.
  - ◆ It functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.
  - ◆ Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that the **ED cannot arrest someone** under the PMLA simply for not responding to their queries and summons. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**30. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

**About Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC):**

- The SCLSC was constituted under **Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, to provide "free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society", in cases falling under the top court's jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Section 3A of the Act states that the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** shall constitute the committee.
- The SCLSC consists of a **chairperson and nine members nominated by the CJI**. The Committee, in turn, can appoint officers and other employees as prescribed by the Centre, in consultation with the CJI. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Further, the **CJI can appoint the Secretary to the Committee**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**31. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**State of Freedom of Religion in India:**

- The Indian Constitution's **Articles 25-28 guarantee freedom of religion as a fundamental right**. The Constitution also states that India is a secular state and does not declare any religion as the country's official religion.
  - ◆ **Article 25** -Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **Article 26** -Freedom to manage religious affairs. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **Article 27** - Freedom as to payment of taxes for the promotion of any religion.
  - ◆ **Article 28**- Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Further, **Articles 29 and 30** of the Constitution deal with the protection of the interests of minorities.

**32. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- In the case *Prakash Singh v/s Union of India, 2006*, the Supreme Court directed to **establish the Police Complaint Authority in all the states of India**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The Police Complain Authority is authorized to **investigate matters relating to any kind of misconduct by police of, above, below the rank of Superintendent of Police.**
- The National Police Commission (1977-1981) in India made recommendations for police reforms, emphasizing the **need for functional autonomy and accountability**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

**33. Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** provides for penalties in relation to corruption by **public servants** and also for those who are involved in the abetment of an act of corruption. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Companies Act, 2013** provides for **corporate governance** and prevention of corruption and fraud in the corporate sector. The term 'fraud' has been given a



broad definition and is a criminal offence under the Companies Act. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The **Indian Penal Code, 1860** sets out provisions which can be interpreted to **cover bribery** and fraud matters, including offences relating to criminal breach of trust and cheating.

**34. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**Sapinda Marriage:**

- A sapinda marriage is one between individuals who are related to each other within a certain degree of closeness. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sapinda marriages are defined under **Section 3 of the Hindu Marriage Act, (HMA) 1955**, as two persons are said to be “sapindas” of each other if one is a lineal ascendant of the other in the limits of sapinda relationship, or if they have a common lineal ascendant who is within the limits of sapinda relationship with reference to each of them. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ Section 5(v) of HMA, 1955 prohibits sapinda marriages unless there is an established custom for the same. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**35. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- Parliament and its Committees, along with their members, possess **rights, privileges, and immunities** necessary for efficient functioning. However, these rights are limited to what is essential for parliamentary function, not **exempting members from general societal obligations.**
- ◆ A question of privilege may be raised in the House **only after obtaining the consent** of the Chairman/ Speaker. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Lok Sabha committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

**36. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

**Hit-and-Run Law under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:**

- The hit-and-run provision is part of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, which is set to replace the colonial-era **Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

- ◆ Section 106 (2) of the BNS, 2023 **stipulates a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and a fine for fleeing an accident spot** and failing to report the incident to a police officer or a magistrate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- However, if the driver reports the incident immediately after the accident, they will be charged under Section 106(1) instead of Section 106(2). **Section 106(1) provides for a punishment of up to five years** for causing death by any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Section 106 (2) of the BNS stipulates imprisonment of up to 10 years and a **fine of Rs. 7 lakh for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer/magistrate.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**37. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

- The **Finance Commission of India** is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 280** of the **Indian Constitution.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its primary function is to recommend the **distribution of financial resources** between the central government and the state governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **President of India**, in adherence to **Article 280(1)** of the **Constitution**, has established the **Sixteenth Finance Commission,**
- ◆ The **16th Finance Commission** has been tasked with **reviewing disaster management financing** arrangements under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**38. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

**Electoral Bonds Scheme:**

- The electoral bonds system was introduced in 2017 by way of a Finance bill and it was implemented in 2018. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- They serve as a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity.
- ◆ **Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013:** It was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
  - An Electoral Trust is a Trust set up by companies with the sole objective to **distribute the contributions received by it** from other Companies and individuals to the political parties.



**Exemption From Disclosure Under Electoral Bonds Scheme:**

- Through an amendment to the **Finance Act 2017**, the Union government has exempted political parties from disclosing donations received through **electoral bonds**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This means the voters will not know which individual, company, or organization has funded which party, and to what extent. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- However, in a **representative democracy**, citizens cast their votes for the people who will represent them in Parliament.

**Supreme Court's Observations:**

- Recently, the Supreme Court has instructed the Election Commission of India (ECI) **to provide the recent data on funds** received by political parties through electoral bonds
- The Indian Supreme Court has long held that the **"right to know"**, especially in the context of elections, is an integral part of the **right to freedom of expression (Article 19)** under the **Indian Constitution**.

39. Ans: C

Exp:

**Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs):**

- FTSCs are specialized courts established in India with the primary aim of **expediting the trial process for cases related to sexual offenses**, particularly those involving rape and violations under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The establishment of FTSCs was prompted by the government's recognition of the **alarming frequency of Sexual Offenses** and the prolonged duration of trials in regular courts, which resulted in delayed justice for victims.
- Fast track courts (FTCs) were first recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission in 2000" to substantially bring down, if not eliminate, pendency in the district and subordinate courts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

40. Ans: B

Exp:

**All India Judicial Services (AIJS):**

- **Article 312 of the Constitution** provides for the establishment of AIJS, similar to central civil services, upon a resolution by the **Rajya Sabha supported by at least two-thirds of its members**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- AIJS aims to centralize the recruitment of judges, similar to the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) model**, assigning successful candidates to states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Originating from **Law Commission reports in 1958 and 1978**, AIJS seeks to address structural issues like varying pay, faster vacancy filling, and standardized nationwide training.
- AIJS would increase the representation and diversity of judges from different regions, genders, castes, and communities, reflecting the **social composition of the country**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

41. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:**
  - ◆ It seeks to amend **Section 2 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004**.
  - ◆ The amendment Bill suggests a change in the nomenclature of a section of people who were earlier described as **"weak and underprivileged classes (social castes)"** to **"other backward classes"**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023:**
  - ◆ It seeks to amend the **2019 Act** and provide representation in the Legislative Assembly to the **Kashmiri Migrants and displaced persons** from the PoK.
  - ◆ It seeks to **nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrant community**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ This bill proposes **to increase** the total number of **seats** in the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly from **107 to 114**.

42. Ans: C

Exp:

Recently, The **Supreme Court** gave its verdict on the Union government's **2019 move to amend Article 370 of the Constitution**. The abrogation had ended the **special status** conferred to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. **The court held the Constitutional order that revoked Article 370 as valid.**

- On 17th October 1949, Article 370 was added to the Indian constitution, as a **'temporary provision'**, which exempted Jammu & Kashmir, permitting it to draft its own Constitution and restricting the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- It was introduced into the draft constitution by N Gopalaswami Ayyangar as Article 306 A. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 35A** stems from Article 370 and was introduced through a Presidential Order in 1954, on the recommendation of the J&K Constituent Assembly. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Article 35A empowers the Jammu & Kashmir legislature to define the **permanent residents of the state, and their special rights and privileges.**

43. Ans: B

Exp:

- **About Advocate General :**
  - ◆ **Under Article 165** of the Constitution of India the **Governor of each State shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court to be Advocate General for the State.**
  - ◆ **The Advocate General** is the **Highest legal officer** in the state in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ He possesses the **complete authority** to present himself in any court within the state.
  - ◆ He **lacks voting privileges** in the proceedings of the **state legislature** or any committees initiated by the state legislature. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ However, he does retain the **right to speak and participate** in these proceedings. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

44. Ans: C

Exp:

- **77<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1995:** The Indra Sawhney verdict had held there would be reservation only in initial appointments and not promotions.
  - ◆ However, addition of the article 16(4A) to the Constitution, **empowered the state to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to SC/ST employees**, if the state feels they are not adequately represented.
- **81<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000:** It introduced **Article 16(4B)**, which says unfilled SC/ST quota of a particular year, when carried forward to the next year, will be treated separately and not clubbed with the regular vacancies of that year.
- **85<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001:** It provided for the **reservation in promotion that can be applied with 'consequential seniority'** for the government servants belonging to the SCs and STs with retrospective effect from June 1995.

- **103<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the Constitution (2019): 10% reservation for EWS** (Economically Weaker Section).
- Hence, **option C is correct.**

45. Ans: A

Exp:

The **Rajya Sabha** recently approved the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023**, which outlines the procedures for appointing the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (EC).**

Key Features :

- The **Bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.**
- It addresses the appointment, salary, and removal of the CEC and ECs.
  - ◆ **Appointment Process:**
    - The CEC and ECs will be **appointed by the President** upon the recommendation of a **Selection Committee. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
    - The Selection Committee will consist of the **Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition/leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - Recommendations of the Selection Committee will be valid **even when there is a vacancy in this Committee.**
  - **Changes in Salary and Conditions:**
    - ◆ The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the **Cabinet Secretary.**
    - Under the 1991 Act, it was equivalent to the salary of a **Supreme Court Judge. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

46. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Constitutional & Legislative Provisions Related to Trafficking in India:**
  - ◆ **Constitutional Prohibition: Article 23** prohibits **human trafficking and begar (forced labor without payment).** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** This legislation serves as the primary law aimed at preventing trafficking specifically for commercial sexual exploitation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**



- ◆ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** Enacted on 14th November 2012, this act is dedicated to shielding children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

- It provides **clear definitions** for various forms of sexual abuse, encompassing penetrative and non-penetrative assaults, as well as sexual harassment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

47. Ans: B

Exp:

Recently, the Advocates Amendment Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

- Its purpose was to **weed out 'touts'** from the legal system. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Tout refers to a person who:**
  - ◆ Either proposes to **procure** or **procures** the employment of a legal practitioner in a legal business in return of any payment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Preparation of lists:**
  - ◆ The authorities empowered to **frame and publish the list of touts** may order **subordinate courts** to hold an inquiry into the conduct of persons alleged or suspected to be touts.
- **Penalty:**
  - ◆ Any person who acts as a tout while his name is included in the list of touts will be punished with imprisonment up to **three months**, a fine up to **Rs 500**, or **both**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

48. Ans: A

Exp:

**Disqualification of a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA):**

- The **detention of a person under a preventive detention law** is **not a disqualification**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **disqualification can be reversed** if a higher court grants a stay on the conviction or decides the appeal in favour of the convicted lawmaker. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Governor's decision on a member's disqualification is final**, but they must seek the Election Commission's opinion before taking action. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

49. Ans: D

Exp:

**Key Highlights of The Post Office Bill, 2023:**

- **Post officers can "intercept" any item:** The Bill allows the **Centre** to empower any officer to **"intercept, open or detain any item"** in the interest of **state security, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, public safety, or contravention of other laws**
  - ◆ **Criticism:** The Bill **does not specify procedural safeguards** for **interception** of articles transmitted through India Post. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Post Office exempt from liability:** The bill exempts the **Post Office** and its **officer** from **"any liability by reason of any loss, mis-delivery, delay, or damage** in course of any service provided by the Post Office except such liability as may be prescribed.
  - ◆ **Criticism:** The **Bill exempts India Post** from **liability for lapses** in postal services. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Removal of Offenses and Penalties:**
  - ◆ The Bill **removes all penalties and offenses** under the **1898 Act**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

50. Ans: A

Exp:

**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):**

- In India, tribal population makes up for **8.6% of the total population**.
- **PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.** Due to this factor, **more developed and assertive tribal groups** take a major chunk of the tribal development funds because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In **1973**, the **Dhebar Commission** created **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, who are **less developed among the tribal groups**. In 2006, the **Government of India** renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the **highest number are found in Odisha**. **Hence 2 is not correct.**

51. Ans: A

Exp:

**Tribunals:**

- A 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.

● **Constitutional Provisions:**

◆ Tribunals were **not part of the original constitution**, it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1976**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Article 323-A** deals with Administrative Tribunals.
- **Article 323-B** deals with tribunals for other matters.

◆ Under **Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorized** to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to the following matters:

- Taxation
- Foreign exchange, import and export
- Industrial and labour
- Land reforms
- Ceiling on urban property
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures
- Food stuff
- Rent and tenancy rights

**Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ **Articles 323 A and 323 B** differ in the following three aspects:

- While Article 323 A contemplates the establishment of tribunals for public service matters only, Article 323 B contemplates the establishment of tribunals for certain other matters (mentioned above).
- While tribunals under Article 323 A can be established only by Parliament, tribunals under Article 323 B can be established both by Parliament and state legislatures with respect to matters falling within their legislative competence.
- **Under Article 323 A**, only one tribunal for the Centre and one for each state or two or more states may be established. **There is no question of the hierarchy of tribunals**, whereas under Article 323 B a hierarchy of tribunals may be created. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**52. Ans: C**

**Exp:**

**Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006:**

- This Act **replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929** which was enacted during the British era. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **defines a child** to mean a male below 21 years and female below 18 years.
- It **envisages preventing child marriage** with punishments of rigorous imprisonment for **two years and/ or fine of Rs. 1 lakh.**
- The Act also **provides for the appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer** whose duties are to prevent child marriages and spread awareness regarding the same. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**53. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

**Pre-Independence Legislations Related to Press Regulation:**

- **Censorship under Lord Wellesley (1799):** Enacted due to French invasion fears, imposing strict wartime press controls, including pre-censorship.
  - ◆ Relaxed later by **Lord Hastings** in 1818, removing pre-censorship.
- **Licensing Regulations by John Adams (1823):** Instituted penalties for starting or operating a press without a license, later extended to cover various publications.
  - ◆ Primarily targeted Indian language newspapers or those led by Indians, leading to the cessation of **Rammohan Roy's Mirat-ul-Akbar.**
- **Press Act of 1835 (Metcalf Act):** Repealed the restrictive 1823 ordinance, earning Metcalfe the title "Liberator of the Indian press." **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Mandated precise declarations by printers/publishers about their premises and allowed cessation as required.
- **Licensing Act during the 1857 Revolt:** Imposed further licensing restrictions due to the 1857 emergency.
  - ◆ Augmented existing registration procedures, granting the government power to halt the circulation of any printed material.
- **Vernacular Press Act, 1878:** Designed to regulate the vernacular press, suppress seditious writing, and prevent discord among different communities.
  - ◆ Required printers and publishers of vernacular newspapers to sign a bond refraining from disseminating **anti-government or divisive content.**



- ◆ Decisions made by the magistrate were final without any avenue for appeal in court.
- ◆ Clearly, this was not the first British Intervention to regulate the Indian Press. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Newspaper (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908:** Empowered magistrates to seize press properties publishing objectionable content inciting violence or murder.
  - ◆ **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a militant nationalist leader, faced sedition charges** and was transported to Mandalay, sparking widespread protests and strikes.
- **Indian Press Act, 1910:** Local governments could demand security at registration, penalize offending newspapers, and require free copies for scrutiny.
  - ◆ Impeded press freedom by imposing stringent regulations similar to those in the Vernacular Press Act.

54. Ans: C

Exp:

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSB2) replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (IEA). It retains most provisions of the IEA including those on confessions, relevancy of facts, and burden of proof. However, it introduces significant alterations including:

**Documentary Evidence:**

- ◆ **Definition Expansion:** The BSB2 broadens the definition of documents to include electronic records alongside traditional writings, maps, and caricatures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Primary and Secondary Evidence:** Primary evidence retains its status, encompassing original documents, electronic records, and video recordings.
  - Oral and written admissions, along with testimony from a qualified individual examining the documents, are now **considered secondary evidence. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Oral Evidence:** The BSB2 **permits electronic provision of oral evidence**, enabling witnesses, accused individuals, and victims to testify through electronic means. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

55. Ans: D

Exp:

**Rules under which the Presiding Officer can suspend MPs:**

- **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha :**
  - ◆ Rule 373: **Rules The Speaker can direct a member to withdraw immediately from the House if he finds the member's conduct disorderly.**
    - Members so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day's sitting.
  - ◆ Rule 374: **The Speaker can name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair** or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof.
    - And the **member so named will be suspended from the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.**
    - A member suspended under this rule shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House."
- It needs to be noted that **these rules are not constitutional provisions** and are delineated under Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**

56. Ans: D

Exp:

**Election Commission:**

- The **chief election commissioner** and the **two other election commissioners** have **equal powers** and receive **equal salary, allowances, and other perquisites**, which are similar to **those of a judge of the Supreme Court.**
- In case of a **difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner** and/or two other election commissioners, the matter is decided by the **Commission by majority. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Though the constitution has sought to **safeguard and ensure the independence** and impartiality of the Election Commission, **some flaws** can be noted, viz.,
  - ◆ The Constitution has **not prescribed the qualifications** (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ 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 3 is not correct.**

57. Ans: B

Exp:

#### Major Provisions Related to Registration of Births in India

- **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969:**
  - ◆ **Registrar Appointments:** Registrars are appointed for local areas **under Section 7 of the RBD Act, 1969** to oversee the registration of births within their jurisdictional area. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - These registrars can be individuals **affiliated with various entities like municipalities, Panchayats, government health institutions, or other local authorities designated by the State Government.**
  - ◆ **Institutional Responsibilities:** Under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, institutions such as **hospitals, health centres, maternity or nursing homes are responsible for reporting births** occurring within their premises to the registrar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Citizen's Obligations:** In the case of births, citizens are required to inform the **registrar within 21 days of the event occurring in their jurisdiction.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

58. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Winter Session of Parliament will begin on December 4, 2023 as per the announcement of the Union government.
  - ◆ This will also be the first full session to be held in the new Parliament building.
- **India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar.** By convention (i.e. not provided by the Constitution), Parliament meets for three sessions in a year. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The **longest, Budget Session** (1st session), starts towards the end of January, and concludes by the end of April or first week of May. The session has a recess so that Parliamentary Committees can discuss the budgetary proposals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The second session is the three-week Monsoon Session, which usually begins in July and finishes in August.
  - ◆ Third session is the Winter Session.

59. Ans: A

Exp:

#### Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013

- Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 was notified by the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- An Electoral Trust is a Trust set up by companies with the **sole objective to distribute the contributions received** by it from other Companies and individuals **to the political parties.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Only the **companies registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956** are eligible to make an application for approval as an Electoral Trust. The electoral trusts have to **apply for renewal every three financial years.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- The scheme lays down a procedure for grant of approval to an electoral trust which will receive voluntary contributions and distribute the same to the political parties.
- The provisions related to the electoral trust are under **Income-tax Act, 1961 and Income tax rules-1962.**

60. Ans: B

Exp:

#### Centre-State Relations:

- The Constitution provides for a **three-fold distribution** of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states, viz., **List-I (the Union List), List-II (the State List) and List-III (the Concurrent List)** in the **Seventh Schedule.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws** with respect to any of the **matters enumerated in the Concurrent List.** This list has **at present 52 subjects** (originally 473 subjects) like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, labour welfare, economic and social planning, drugs, newspapers, books and printing press, and others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The power to make laws with respect to **residuary subjects** (i.e., the matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists) is **vested in the Parliament.** This residuary power of legislation **includes the power to levy residuary taxes.** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

61. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Adultery** is the voluntary act of engaging in sexual relations by a married individual (man or woman) with someone other than their spouse.



- Before 2018, the **Indian Penal Code included Section 497, which classified adultery as a criminal act** punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine, or both.
  - ◆ Notably, only men could face penalties under Section 497, while women were exempt from prosecution.
  - ◆ This ran counter to the broader definition of adultery encompassing both genders engaging in voluntary sexual relations outside marriage.
- **In a landmark case, *Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2018)*, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down Section 497.**
  - ◆ The ruling highlighted discrimination and constitutional violations, asserting Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Indian constitution, protecting equality, non-discrimination, and life and liberty, respectively.
- Hence, option C is correct.

62. Ans: B

Exp:

Sub-Categorisation Within Castes:

- **About:**
  - ◆ Sub-categorisation within castes refers to the process of **creating sub-groups within the existing categories** of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for reservation and affirmative action.
  - ◆ Sub-categorisation aims to address the **intra-category inequalities** and ensure a **more equitable distribution of benefits** and opportunities among the most deprived and marginalized sections of society.
- **Legality of Sub-Categorisation:**
  - ◆ **Historical Attempts:**
    - States like Punjab, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu have attempted sub-categorization, facing legal challenges that have reached the Supreme Court.
  - ◆ **Constitutional Dilemma:**
    - The Supreme Court of India, in the case of *E.V.Chinnaiiah vs State Of Andhra Pradesh And Ors, 2004*, asserted that **only Parliament has the authority to create** and notify SC and Scheduled Tribes (STs) lists. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- However, in another case of *State of Punjab and Others versus Davinder Singh and Others, 2020* judgment, a five-judge Bench ruled that States could decide on the quantum of benefits in the lists of SCs/STs already notified without “tinkering” with them.
- The contradiction between the 2004 and 2020 judgments has led to the 2020 judgment being referred to a larger Bench.
  - ◆ There is a constitutional mandate and a judicial endorsement for sub-categorisation within castes, as **Article 16 (4) of the Constitution** empowers that the State can make any provision for **reservation in matters of promotion in favour of the SCs and STs** if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

63. Ans: C

Exp:

Bail:

- The **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** differentiates between “bailable” and “non-bailable” offenses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It also defines **three kinds of bail** that can be granted — regular bail under **Sections 437 and 439**; **interim bail or short-term bail** which is given when regular or anticipatory bail application is pending before the court; and **anticipatory or pre-arrest bail**.
- The provision for “anticipatory bail” was introduced under **Section 438 of the CrPC** after the **41st Law Commission Report in 1969** recommended the need for a measure that **protects against arbitrary violation** of one’s **personal liberty**, such as when politicians detain their opponents in false cases. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Anticipatory bail **can be granted under Section 438**, when “any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a non-bailable offence”. It can be granted **by the High Court or the Court of Session**, under this section, **for non-bailable offenses** for which one anticipates arrest, even if the actual arrest has not happened or the FIR has not been registered.



64. Ans: C

Exp:

**Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG):**

- CAG is an **independent authority** under the Constitution of India.
  - ◆ **Article 148** provides for an independent office of the CAG. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Other Provisions Related to CAG include:** Articles 149-151 (Duties & Powers, Form of Accounts of the Union and the States and Audit Reports), Article 279 (calculation of net proceeds, etc.) and Third Schedule (Oath or Affirmation) and Sixth Schedule (Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram).
- He is the **head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of Public purse.**
- It is the **institution through which the accountability of the government and other public authorities** (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.
- The Comptroller and Auditor-General **shall not be eligible for further office** either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

65. Ans: B

Exp :

- SCS is a classification given by the **Centre to assist the development of states that face geographical and socio-economic** disadvantages.
  - ◆ The **Constitution** does not make a provision for SCS and this classification was later done on the recommendations of the **5th Finance Commission in 1969. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Status was first accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland in 1969. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ SCS is different from **Special status which imparts enhanced legislative and political rights**, while SCS deals with only economic and financial aspects. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

66. Ans: A

Exp:

- **About Right to Information Act, 2005:**
  - ◆ Enacted in 2005, the RTI Act is a legislative framework granting Indian citizens access to information held by public authorities.

- ◆ Its foundation lies in **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution**, ensuring freedom of speech and expression.

- The act replaced the Freedom of Information Act 2002.

- **Constitutional Backing:**

- ◆ Derived from Article 19(1)(a), the **RTI Act** is considered a **fundamental right**, as established in the **Raj Narain vs. State of Uttar Pradesh case.**

- ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Time Period and Exemptions:**

- ◆ In normal course, information to an applicant is to be supplied **within 30 days**, or 48 hours if related to life or liberty.

- ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Recently, section 44 (3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 modified Section 8 (1)(j) of the RTI Act, **creating an exemption for all personal information from disclosure** and removing the previously established exceptions that permitted the release of such information.

- ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

67. Ans: A

Exp:

**Political Funding - Methods of Raising Political Funding:**

- **Individual Persons: Section 29B of RPA** allows political parties to receive donations from individual persons while allowing taxpayers to claim a 100% deduction
- **State/Public Funding:** Here, the government provides funds to parties for election related purposes. State Funding is of two types:
  - ◆ **Direct Funding:** The government provides funds directly to the political parties. However, direct funding is prohibited in India.
  - ◆ **Indirect Funding:** It includes other methods except direct funding, like **free access to media, free access to public places for rallies, free or subsidized transport facilities.** It is allowed in India in a regulated manner.
- **Corporate Funding:** In India, **donations by corporate bodies** are governed under section 182 of the Companies Act, 2013. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Electoral Bonds Scheme:** The electoral bonds system was introduced in 2017 by way of a Finance bill and it was implemented in 2018.

- ◆ They serve as a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013:** It was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

- ◆ An Electoral Trust is a Trust set up by companies with the sole objective to **distribute the contributions received by it** from other Companies and individuals to the political parties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

68. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Constitution Day, also known as **National Law Day** or **Samvidhan Diwas**, is celebrated in India on **26<sup>th</sup> November every year** to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, notified the decision of the Government of India to celebrate **26 November as 'Constitution Day'**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution of India is the **longest-written constitution** of any sovereign country in the world.
  - ◆ Originally, the Constitution of India was written in **English and Hindi.**
- The Constitution of India was handwritten by **Prem Behari Narain Raizada** in a calligraphy font, and each page was decorated by artists from Shantiniketan under the guidance of Nandalal Bose. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The framing of the Constitution took over 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the **Government of India Act, 1935.**
- The Constitution of India declares India a **sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic** and assures its citizens justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavours to promote **fraternity.**
- The Constitution of India was drafted by a **committee of seven members**, headed by **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**, who is regarded as the **father of the Indian Constitution.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Constitution of India was **inspired by various other constitutions**, such as the US Constitution, the UK Constitution, the Irish Constitution, the French Constitution, the Canadian Constitution, the Australian Constitution, and the Japanese Constitution.

69. Ans: A

Exp:

- Governor may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president. The reservation is **obligatory where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court.** However, the governor **can also reserve the bill** if it is of the following nature **(not obligatory):**
  - ◆ Against the provisions of the Constitution
  - ◆ Opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
  - ◆ Against the larger interest of the country
  - ◆ Of grave national importance
  - ◆ Deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

70. Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 311 (2) says that no person who is a **member of a civil service of the Union** or an **all-India service** or a **civil service** of a State or holds a **civil post under the Union or a State** shall be **dismissed or removed** or reduced in rank **except after an inquiry** in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, the **Jammu & Kashmir government** has terminated four employees, on grounds of being deemed a "threat to the security of the state."
  - ◆ The terminations were executed under Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Exceptions to Article 311 (2):**
  - ◆ 2(a) where a person is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the ground of conduct which has led to his **conviction on a criminal charge.**
  - ◆ 2(b) The authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that, for some reason, which must be recorded in writing by that authority, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such an inquiry; or
  - ◆ 2(c) In cases where the President or the Governor, as applicable, is convinced that, in the **interest of the security of the State**, it is not expedient to conduct an inquiry, such an inquiry may be deemed unnecessary. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

71. Ans: D

Exp:

- India treats all foreigners whether **illegal immigrants, refugees/asylum seekers** or those overstaying visa permits under
  - ◆ **Foreigners Act of 1946:** Under Section 3, the central government is empowered to detect, detain and deport illegal foreign nationals. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920:** Under Section 5, authorities can remove an illegal foreigner by force under Article 258(1) of the Constitution of India. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Registration of Foreigners Act of 1939:** Under this, there is a mandatory requirement under which all foreign nationals (excluding overseas citizens of India) visiting India on a **long-term visa (more than 180 days)** are required to register themselves with a Registration Officer within 14 days of arriving in India. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Citizenship Act, 1955:** It provided provisions for renunciation, termination, and deprivation of citizenship.
    - Further, **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA)** seeks to provide citizenship to Hindu, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, and Buddhist immigrants persecuted in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

72. Ans: A

Exp:

**Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI):**

- Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) is a system of rural local self-government in India.
- PRI was constitutionalized through the **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** to build democracy at the grassroots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from **Articles 243 to 243 O**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In addition, the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

73. Ans: D

Exp:

**Collegium System :**

- The SC collegium is headed by the **CJI (Chief Justice of India)** and comprises **four other senior most judges** of the court. **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. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

74. Ans: D

Exp:

**Census and Caste Census In India:**

- **Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC)** was conducted for the first time in 1931.
- SECC is meant to canvas every Indian family, both in rural and urban India, and ask about their economic status etc. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Origin of the Census** in India goes back to the colonial exercise of **1881**.
- **Census** has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, delimitation exercise, etc. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Justice Rohini Commission, which has been examining the question of **sub-categorisation of OBCs only since 2017**, submitted its report and recommendations are not yet made public. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

75. Ans: B

Exp:

- **A Patent is a statutory right** for an invention granted for a **limited period of time** to the patentee by the Government, in exchange of full disclosure of invention for excluding others, from making, using, selling, importing the patented product or process for producing that product for those purposes without his consent. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Patent protection is a territorial right and **therefore it is effective only within the territory of India**. There is no concept of global patent. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Patentability Criteria for an Invention:**
    - It should be novel.
    - Must involve an inventive step (technical advancement)
    - **Capable of industrial application**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



- **Opposition Against Grant of a Patent :**

- ◆ The Indian Patent Act, 1970 allows the public to file objections against patents at two stages: Pre-grant opposition and Post-grant opposition.
- ◆ Pre-grant opposition: Any person can file a pre-grant opposition in writing after the patent application's publication but before it's grant. Complete specifications are needed, not just the abstract.
- ◆ **Post-grant opposition:** Once the patent has been granted, a written opposition can be filed after publication, and it **must be submitted to the Controller within 12 months of the patent's publication** in the Indian Patent Journal. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

76. Ans: B

Exp:

- Prison Deaths are labelled as Natural or Unnatural by the Prison Statistics India report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) every year.
- **Natural Deaths** account for ageing and illness. Illness has been further sub-categorized into **diseases such as heart conditions, HIV, tuberculosis, and cancer**, among others.
  - ◆ As the prison population swells, recorded natural deaths have increased from 1,424 in 2016 to 1,879 in 2021.
- **Unnatural Deaths are more diverse in classification, profiled as,**
  - ◆ Suicide (due to hanging, poisoning, self-inflicted injury, drug overdose, electrocution, etc.)
  - ◆ Death due to inmates
  - ◆ Death due to assault by outside elements
  - ◆ Death due to firing
  - ◆ Death due to negligence or excesses
  - ◆ **Accidental deaths (natural calamities like earthquakes, snakebites, drowning, accidental fall, burn injury, drug/alcohol consumption, etc.**
- Among the given options, only death by a natural calamity like earthquake can be categorised as an unnatural prison death. **Hence, option B is correct.**

77. Ans: B

Exp:

**Hate Speech**

- **About:**
  - ◆ In the **267th Report** of the **Law Commission of India**, hate speech is stated as **an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons** defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.

- The Constitution doesn't specify Hate Speech. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Legal Position of Hate Speech in India:**

- ◆ **Indian Penal Code:**

- **Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC:**
- Punish acts that cause enmity and hatred between groups.
  - **Section 295A of the IPC:**
- Deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the **religious feelings of a class of persons**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Sections 505(1) and 505(2):**
- Make the **publication and circulation of content** that may cause ill will or hatred between different groups an offence.

78. Ans: A

Exp:

**Central Information Commission (CIC):**

- **Established:** The CIC was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**. **It is not a constitutional body**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Members:** The Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner** and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- **Appointment:** They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Tenure:** 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. They are **not eligible for reappointment (as per the amendments made in RTI Act, 2005 in 2019)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Power and Functions of CIC:**
  - ◆ It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person regarding information requested under RTI, 2005.
  - ◆ The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (**suo-moto power**).
  - ◆ While inquiring, the Commission has the **powers of a civil court** in respect of summoning, requiring documents etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



79. Ans: B

Exp:

Money Bill:

- **Definition:**
  - ◆ A Money Bill is a financial legislation that contains provisions exclusively related to revenue, taxation, government expenditures, and borrowing.
- **Constitutional Basis:**
  - ◆ **Article 110(1)**, a Bill is deemed to be a money Bill if it deals only with matters specified in **Article 110 (1) (a) to (g)** — taxation, borrowing by the government, and appropriation of money from the **Consolidated Fund of India**, among others.
    - Article 110(1)(g) adds that **“any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in Articles 110(1)(a)-(f)” can also be a Money Bill.**
  - ◆ Article 110 (3) of the Constitution, “If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the **Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.**
- **Procedure:**
  - ◆ Money Bills must be introduced in the Lok Sabha and cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha (the upper house). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations on a Money Bill but does not have the power to amend or reject it.
  - ◆ President can either accept or reject a money bill but **cannot return it for reconsideration. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ There is **no provision for Joint sitting. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

80. Ans: D

Exp:

- The electoral bonds system was **introduced in 2017** by way of a Finance bill and it was **implemented in 2018**. They serve as a means for individuals and entities to make donations to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Only the political parties registered under **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951** and have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bond. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

81. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **anti-defection law** punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) for leaving one party for another.
- Parliament added it to the Constitution as the Tenth Schedule in 1985 in order 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 the disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
  - ◆ 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 penalise political parties for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators.
- As per the 1985 Act, a ‘defection’ by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a ‘merger’.
  - ◆ But the **91<sup>st</sup> 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. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The members disqualified under the law **can stand for elections from any political party** for a seat in the same House. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 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. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

82. Ans: A

Exp:

- The procedure for raising questions is governed by Rules 32 to 54 of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” and Directions 10 to 18 of the “Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha”.
  - ◆ To ask a question, an MP has to first give a notice addressed to the lower house’s Secretary-General, intimating their intention to ask a question.





- MPs can submit up to **five notices of questions (both oral and written) for a single day**. Notices exceeding this limit are considered for subsequent days within the same session. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Typically, the notice period for a question is **not less than 15 days**.
  - ◆ However, for a short notice question, a notice of **less than 10 days** is prescribed as the minimum period. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

83. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Criminal Procedure Identification Act (CrPI), 2022** grants **police** and **central investigating agencies** authority to **collect, store, and analyze physical and biological samples** such as **retina and iris scans of arrested individuals**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This legislative move aimed to enhance **law enforcement capabilities** and ushered in a new era in **criminal identification and data management**.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** is tasked with the responsibility of both enacting the Act and setting up the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **NCRB** played a **pivotal role** in guiding **police officials** on the **proper protocol for recording** these measurements.
- The **CrPI Act** did not directly mention **DNA sample collection** and **face matching procedures**, but the **NCRB** conveyed plans to implement these measures in discussions with **State police officials**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

84. Ans: C

Exp:

Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee:

- **About:**
  - ◆ The members of the Ethics Committee are appointed by the **Speaker for a period of one year**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Procedure for Complaints:**
  - ◆ Any person can **complain against a Member** through another Lok Sabha MP, along with **evidence of the alleged misconduct**, and an affidavit stating that the complaint is not "false, frivolous, or vexatious". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - If the Member himself complains, the affidavit is not needed.

- ◆ The Speaker can refer to the Committee **any complaint against an MP**.
- ◆ The Committee does not entertain complaints based only on media reports or on matters that are sub judice. The Committee makes a **Prima Facie inquiry before deciding to examine** a complaint. It makes its recommendations after evaluating the complaint.
- ◆ The Committee presents its report to the Speaker, who asks the House if the report should be taken up for consideration.
  - There is also a **provision for a half-hour discussion** on the report. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

85. Ans: A

Exp:

- A **starred question** is asked by a **Member of Parliament** and answered orally by the **Minister-in-charge**. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Each **Member of Parliament** is allowed to ask one starred question per day. When a question is answered orally, supplementary questions can be asked thereon. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

Hence, statement II is the correct explanation of statement I.

86. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Copyright:**
  - ◆ The **Copyright Act of 1957** aims to **safeguard these creative works** as the intellectual property of their creators.
    - ◆ Unlike the case with patents, **copyright protects the expressions and not the ideas**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - ◆ Copyright owners have the **right to take legal action** against infringers, including seeking remedies such as **injunctions, damages, and accounts**.
- **Injunction:**
  - ◆ An **injunction is a court order** that typically directs someone to stop a particular action. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ However, **obtaining an injunction is not a guarantee** that all instances of misuse will be rectified immediately, as enforcing it can be challenging.



● **Passing Off:**

- ◆ In the *Cadila Healthcare Limited vs. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited case, 2001* the Supreme Court ruled that **passing off is a form of unfair trade** competition through which one party attempts to benefit from the reputation established by another in a particular trade or business. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**87. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

- The Mitakshara Law is a **legal and traditional Hindu law system** that primarily governs the rules of inheritance and property rights among members of a **Hindu Undivided Family (HUF)**.
  - ◆ It is one of the two major schools of Hindu law, the other being the **Dayabhaga school**.
- The Mitakshara law of succession applies to the entire country **except West Bengal and Assam**.
- **Hence, both statements 1 & 2 are not correct.**

Schools of Hindu Laws	
Mitakshara Law School	Dayabhaga Law School
The term Mitakshara is derived from the name of a commentary written by Vijnaneswara, on the Yajnavalkya Smriti.	The term Dayabhaga is derived from a similarly named text written by Jimutavahana.
It is observed in all parts of India and subdivided into the Benares, the Mithila, the Maharashtra and the Dravida schools.	It is observed in Bengal and Assam.
A son, by birth acquires an interest in the ancestral property of the joint family.	A son has no automatic ownership right by birth but acquires it on death of his father.
All the members enjoy coparcenary rights during the father's lifetime.	Sons do not enjoy coparcenary rights when the father is alive.
A coparcener's share is not defined and cannot be disposed of.	The share of each coparcener is defined and can be disposed of.
A wife cannot demand partition but has the right to a share in any partition between her husband and her sons.	Here, the same right does not exist for the women because the sons cannot demand partition as the father is the absolute owner.

**88. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- **Religious minorities in India**, including **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians**, constitute a substantial portion of the population, making up approximately **20%**.
  - ◆ The **Sachar Committee's report in 2006** highlighted these disparities, placing Muslims behind several other groups in development indicators. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The term "**minority**" is not defined in the **Indian Constitution**. However, the Constitution recognizes only religious and linguistic minorities. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**89. Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**102<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 2018:**

- It introduced **Articles 338B and 342A** in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 338B **deals with the newly established National Commission for Backward Classes**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 342A **empowers the President** to specify the socially and educationally backward communities in a State. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ It says that it is for the Parliament to include a community in the Central List for socially and backward classes for grant of reservation benefits.

**90. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

**Parliamentary Privileges:**

- Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These privileges are defined in **Article 105 of the Indian Constitution**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Under these privileges, the members of Parliament are exempted from any civil liability (but not criminal liability) for any statement made or act done in the course of their duties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



91. Ans: A

Exp:

### The Election Commission of India (ECI)

#### Establishment and Role:

- ◆ The ECI was established on **January 25, 1950**, in accordance with the Indian Constitution.
- ◆ It is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for overseeing and managing both Union and State election processes in India.
- ◆ The commission's secretariat is based in **New Delhi**.
- ◆ The ECI administers elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India. It also oversees the elections for the offices of the President and Vice President of India.
- ◆ It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Structure of the ECI:**
  - ◆ Originally, the commission had one election commissioner, but it became a **multi-member body after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
    - The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **two Election Commissioners (ECs)** make up the Election Commission of India.
- The CEC and ECs have the same powers and salaries as a Supreme Court judge.
  - ◆ At the state level, the Chief Electoral Officer, typically an IAS rank officer, supports the election commission in its duties.
- **Appointment and Tenure of Commissioners:**
  - ◆ The President of India appoints the CEC and Election Commissioners. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ They serve fixed terms of 6 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- **Removal of Commissioners:**
  - ◆ Commissioners **can resign voluntarily or be removed before their term expires**.
  - ◆ The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament.

92. Ans: C

Exp:

#### Delimitation Commission:

- 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 correct**.
- The Delimitation Commission is **appointed by the President of India** and works in **collaboration** with the **Election Commission of India**. The commission's main task is to **redraw the boundaries based on a recent census**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

93. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Hindi Diwas**, celebrated annually on **14<sup>th</sup> September**, holds immense **historical significance** as it commemorates the **adoption of Hindi as one of India's official languages**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
  - ◆ **World Hindi Day** is observed on **10 January**. It commemorates the anniversary of the first **World Hindi Conference** held in **Nagpur on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1975**.
- Its roots extend back to the **early days of India's struggle for independence** when a group of committed Hindi scholars and activists formed the **Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (Hindi Literary Conference)** in **1918** to champion Hindi as a national language.
- The turning point arrived on **14<sup>th</sup> September, 1949**, when the Constituent Assembly of India officially **embraced Hindi as the nation's official language**, envisioning it as a unifying element among India's diverse linguistic and cultural regions.
  - ◆ Today, Hindi stands as **one of the two official languages of the Union government along with English** and is one of the **22 scheduled languages of India**.
  - ◆ **Article 351** pertains to '**Directive for development of the Hindi language**'. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ **Hindi is not a classical language**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

94. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Central government set up a panel headed by former **President Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of the 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) plan**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Not Aligned with Federalism:**



- Article 83(2) and Article 172 of the Indian Constitution stipulate that the tenure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies respectively, will **last for five years unless dissolved earlier** and there can be circumstances, as in Article 356, wherein assemblies can be dissolved earlier. Therefore, the ONOE plan raises serious issues of feasibility if the Central or State government collapses mid-tenure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

95. Ans: C

Exp:

- Justice G. The Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups submitted its long-awaited report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment after nearly six years of work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The details of the recommendations have not been made public yet, and the government is expected to deliberate on the report before any implementation.
- The commission was **set up on 2nd October, 2017 under Article 340** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

96. Ans: A

Exp:

POCSO Act:

- **About:**
  - ◆ **POCSO Act** came into effect on 14th November 2012 which was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The aim of this special law is to address **offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse** of children, which were either not specifically defined or in adequately penalised.
  - ◆ The Act defines a **child as any person below the age of 18 years**. The Act provides **punishment as per the gravity of offence**.
- **Features:**
  - ◆ **Gender-Neutral Nature:**
    - The Act recognizes that both girls and boys can be victims of sexual abuse and that such abuse is a **crime regardless of the gender** of the victim.
  - ◆ **Explicit Definition of Terms:**
    - The storage of child pornography material has been **made a new offence**.
    - Further, **the offence of 'sexual assault' has been defined in explicit terms (with**

**increased minimum punishment**) unlike an abstract definition of 'outraging modesty of a woman' in the **Indian Penal Code**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **POCSO Rules 2020:**

- ◆ **Interim Compensation and Special Relief**

- Rule-9 of the POCSO Rules allows the **Special Court to order interim compensation** for the child's needs related to relief or rehabilitation after the FIR's registration. This compensation is adjusted against the final compensation, if any.

- ◆ **Immediate Payment of Special Relief:**

- Under the POCSO Rules, the **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** may **recommend immediate payment for essential needs (not mandatory)** like food, clothes, and transportation, using funds from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), or funds maintained under the **Juvenile Justice Act 2015**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The payment must be made within a week of receiving the CWC's recommendation.

97. Ans: C

Exp:

- Justice G. The Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups submitted its long-awaited report to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment after nearly six years of work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The details of the recommendations have not been made public yet, and the government is expected to deliberate on the report before any implementation.
- The commission was **set up on 2nd October, 2017 under Article 340** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

98. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Select Committees:**

- ◆ Select Committees are a category of **ad hoc or temporary committees** established with the specific purpose of examining and scrutinizing particular Bills.
  - Its membership is limited to **MPs from one House**.
  - These committees are dissolved **once their designated task has been fulfilled**.



- ◆ Although temporary, the procedures and rules governing Select Committees are **well-defined within the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Formation of Select Committees:**
  - ◆ The formation of a Select Committee can be initiated through a **motion proposed by the Minister in-charge of the Bill** or any member of the Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This proposal is then presented to the House for adoption. If adopted, the **Committee is formed to consider and report** on the referred Bill.
- **Quorum:**
  - ◆ The composition of a Select Committee varies depending on its purpose. It operates with a quorum **of one-third of the total number of members. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

99. Ans: A

Exp:

- 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.
- **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, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **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.
  - ◆ **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 CrPc, 1973. It is issued only by the Sessions Court and High Court. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
    - 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.
- ◆ **Statutory Bail:** The remedy of statutory bail, also known as **default bail**, is distinct from bail obtained in the **ordinary procedure under CrPC Sections 437, 438, and 439.** As the name implies, statutory bail is **given when the police or investigating agency fails to file its report/complaint** within a certain time frame. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

100. Ans: B

Exp:

- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** is a database of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts created as an online platform under the e-Courts Project.
  - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Data is updated on a near real-time basis by the connected District and Taluka courts. It provides data relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country.
  - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- All High Courts have also joined the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) through web services, providing easy access facility to the litigant public.
  - ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Through the e-Courts services platform using elastic search technology, currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.58 crore cases and more than 22.56 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts as on date. Case data is available on NJDG for both civil and criminal cases with the ability to perform drill-down analysis based on the age of the case as well as the State and District.

101. Ans: B

Exp:

**Right to Information (RTI) Act**

- **About:**
  - ◆ The **Right to Information (RTI) Act** is a legislative framework that empowers Indian citizens to **access information held by public authorities.** Enacted in **2005**, the act aims to promote **transparency, accountability, and participation in government processes.**



○ It replaced the **Freedom of Information Act 2002**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

◆ According to Section 22 of RTI Act, the provisions of this Act will be **effective regardless of any contradictions with the Official Secrets Act of 1923**, existing laws, or any agreements established through laws other than this Act. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

● **Constitutional Backing:**

◆ The RTI Act is derived from the **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India**, which guarantees the freedom of speech and expression. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

○ In **Raj Narain vs the State of Uttar Pradesh case**, the Supreme Court ruled that Right to information will be treated as a fundamental right under article 19.

● **Time period:**

◆ In normal course, **information to an applicant is to be supplied within 30 days** from the receipt of application by the public authority.

◆ If information sought concerns the **life or liberty of a person**, it shall be supplied **within 48 hours**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

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

102. Ans: B

Exp:

● In the five-judge Constitution Bench decision in **K. Krishnamurthy (Dr.) v. Union of India (2010)**, the SC interpreted **Article 243D(6)** and Article 243T(6), which permit reservation by **enactment of law for backward classes in panchayat** and municipal bodies respectively.

● Hence, **option B is correct**.

103. Ans: B

Exp:

● **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**.

◆ **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.

◆ **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 CrPC, 1973. It is issued only by the Sessions Court and High Court. Hence, **statement 1 is not 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.

◆ **Statutory Bail:** The remedy of statutory bail, also known as **default bail**, is distinct from bail obtained in the **ordinary procedure under CrPC Sections 437, 438, and 439**. As the name implies, statutory bail is **given when the police or investigating agency fails to file its report/complaint** within a certain time frame. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

104. Ans: C

Exp:

● **Capital Punishment stands for the most severe form of punishment**. It is the punishment which is awarded for the most heinous and grievous crimes against humanity.

◆ **Certain offenses under Indian Penal Code**, for which the offenders can be sentenced to punishment of death are:

○ Murder (Section 302)

○ **Dacoity with murder** (Section 396)

○ Criminal Conspiracy (Section 120B)

○ Waging war against the Government of India or attempting to do so (Section 121)

○ Abatement of mutiny (Section 132) and others.

◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

● The term **death penalty is sometimes used interchangeably with capital punishment**, though **imposition of the penalty is not always followed by execution**, it can be commuted into life imprisonment or pardoned by the President under Article 72 of Indian Constitution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.



105. Ans: C

Exp:

World Tribal Day:

- The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, also known as **World Tribal Day**, is observed annually on **August 9**, as per a resolution by the **UN General Assembly** in December 1994. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The theme of World Tribal Day in 2023 is **"Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."**

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 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.
- **Article 46**- Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and other weaker sections.
- **Article 335**: Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **5 and 6 Schedule**: Administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

106. Ans: A

Exp:

Process of Adding a Community to the ST List:

- The **process initiates at the State or Union Territory level**, where the **concerned government or administration recommends the inclusion** of a specific community. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The proposal is sent to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs for examination and further deliberations.
- After this, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through its own deliberations, examines the proposal, and sends it to the Registrar General of India (RGI).
  - ◆ **Once approved by the RGI, the proposal is sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**, following which the proposal is sent back to the Union government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The inclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes list **takes effect only after the President assents** to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled

Tribes) Order, 1950, **following its passage in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

107. Ans: B

Exp:

Hate Speech:

- Hate speech in India refers to any form of expression that is intended to promote hatred, enmity, or disharmony among individuals.
- The Constitution of India prohibits hate speech on various grounds, including religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth, among others. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Supreme Court of India has directed all states to **Suo motu register FIRs on hate speech incidents and initiate legal proceedings against the offenders without waiting for a complaint to be filed. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

108. Ans: D

Exp:

**Article 26 (Freedom to manage religious affairs)**

This Article provides that every religious denomination has the following rights, subject to morality, health, and public order.

- The right to form and maintain institutions for religious and charitable intents.
- The right to manage its affairs in the matter of religion.
- The right to acquire immovable and movable property. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The right to administer such property according to the law.

**Article 28 (Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions)**

This article permits educational institutions that are maintained by religious groups to disseminate religious instruction.

- This provides that no religious instruction shall be provided in State-run educational institutions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Educational institutions administered by the State but that were established under any endowment or trust which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institutions are exempt from the above clause (that no religious instruction shall be provided). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Any person who attends any educational institution recognized by the State or receiving State aid shall not be required to participate in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution, or also attend

any religious worship in such institutions unless he/she has given consent for the same. In the case of minors, the guardians should have given consent for the same.

109. Ans: B

Exp:

What is MCC?

- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the ECI to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections.
- It helps EC in keeping with the mandate it has been given under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, which gives it the **power to supervise** and **conduct** free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- The MCC is operational from the date on **which the election schedule is announced until the date of the result announcement**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

MCC for Political Parties and Candidates:

Polling Day:

- ◆ Only voters and those with a valid pass from the EC are allowed to enter polling booths. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- ◆ All authorized party workers at **polling booths should be given suitable badges or identity cards**.
  - Identity slips supplied by them to voters **shall be on plain (white) paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party**.
- **Party in Power:**
  - ◆ The MCC incorporated certain restrictions in 1979, regulating the conduct of the party in power. **Ministers must not combine official visits with election work or use official machinery for the same**.
  - ◆ The party **must avoid advertising at the cost of the public exchequer** or using official mass media for publicity on achievements to improve chances of victory in the elections.
  - ◆ From the time elections are announced by the Commission, the **ministers and other authorities must not announce any financial grants**, or promise any construction of roads, provision of drinking water, etc. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

110. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 16(1)**: There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.

- **Article 16(2)**: No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- **Article 16(4A)**: Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion, with consequential seniority, to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

111. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 142: Enforcement of decrees and orders of Supreme Court and unless as to discovery, etc**
- (1) The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction **may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or orders so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament** and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe.

Hence, **both the statements are correct**.

112. Ans: C

Exp:

Mercy Petition:

About:

- ◆ A mercy petition is a formal request made by someone who has been sentenced to death or imprisonment **seeking mercy from the President or the Governor**, as the case may be.
  - The idea of Mercy Petition is followed in many countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India.
- **Constitutional Framework:**
  - ◆ As per the Constitutional framework in India, **mercy petition to the President is the last constitutional resort a convict can take** when he is sentenced by the court of law. A convict can present a mercy petition to the President of India under **Article 72** of the Constitution of India.





- ◆ Similarly, the **power to grant pardon is conferred upon the Governors of States under Article 161** of the Constitution of India.
  - **Article 72:**
- 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 offense:
  - ◆ In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial;
  - ◆ In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends;
  - ◆ In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.
  - **Article 161:**
- It provides that the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, **remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law** relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.
  - ◆ The **SC in 2021** held that the **Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including death row ones**, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence. **Hence, option c is not correct.**
- **Grounds for filing Mercy Petition:**
  - ◆ The act of mercy is **not the right of the prisoner**. He cannot claim it.
  - ◆ The mercy or clemency is **granted on the grounds based on his health, physical or mental fitness**, his family financial conditions as he is the only sole earner of bread or butter or not.

113. Ans: D

Exp:

#### Legal Aspects of Disqualification of Criminal Candidates:

- In this regard, **Indian Constitution does not specify as to what disqualifies a person from contesting elections for the Parliament**, Legislative assembly or any other legislature. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Representation of Peoples Act 1951** mentions the criteria for disqualifying a person for contesting an election of the legislature.
  - ◆ **Section 8 of the act** provides for **disqualification on conviction for certain offences**, according to which an **individual punished with a jail term of more than two years** cannot stand in an election for six years after **the jail term has ended.**

- ◆ However, the law **does not bar individuals who have criminal cases pending against them from contesting elections** therefore the disqualification of candidates with criminal cases **depends on their conviction in these cases.**

#### Initiatives/Recommendations Against Criminalisation of Politics:

- In 1983, **Vohra Committee on Criminalisation of Politics** was constituted with an objective to identify the extent of the political-criminal nexus and to recommend ways in which the criminalisation of politics can be effectively dealt with. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **244th report (2014)** submitted by the **Law Commission** dealt with the need to curb the trend of criminal politicians in **legislature posing serious consequences to democracy and secularism.**
  - ◆ The Law Commission **recommended disqualification of people against whom charges have been framed** at least one year before the date of scrutiny of nominations for an offence punishable with a sentence of five years or more.
- In 2017, the Union government started a scheme to **establish 12 special courts for a year to fast track the trial of criminal cases against MPs and MLAs.**
  - ◆ The apex court has since then issued many directions, including asking the Centre to **set up a monitoring committee to examine reasons** for delay of investigation in these cases.

#### SC Judgements Regarding Criminalization of Politics:

- **Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India (2002):**
  - ◆ In 2002, the SC ruled that every **candidate contesting election has to declare his criminal and financial records** along with educational qualifications. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Ramesh Dalal vs. Union of India (2005):**
  - ◆ In 2005, the SC had ruled that a sitting MP or MLA will be disqualified from contesting the election if convicted and **sentenced for imprisonment for two years or more** by a court of law.
- **Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013):**
  - ◆ The SC has declared that any member of parliament or state legislative assembly who is convicted of a crime and sentenced to a **prison term of two years or more would be disqualified** from holding office.

- **Manoj Narula v. Union of India (2014):**

- ◆ The Delhi HC held that a person **cannot be disqualified** from contesting elections merely because they have been charged **with a criminal offense**.
- ◆ However, the court also held that political parties **must not field candidates who have a criminal background**.

- **Public Interest Foundation v. Union of India (2019):**

- ◆ The SC has ordered political parties to **publish the criminal records of their candidates** on their websites, social media handles, and newspapers.
- ◆ The court also directed the ECI to create a framework to ensure that the **information on candidates' criminal records was disseminated effectively**.

114. Ans: C

Exp:

UTs Administered in India:

Part VIII (Articles 239 to 241) of the Constitution deals with the Union Territories. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- UTs in India are administered by the **President through an administrator appointed** by him/her. The administrator is not elected but rather a **representative of the President**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
  - ◆ In some UTs, such as Delhi and Puducherry, the administrator holds significant powers, including the ability to make laws and regulations for the UT.
  - ◆ In other UTs, such as Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the administrator's powers are limited to providing advice to the elected government.
- The judiciary in UTs is also governed by the Constitution and the laws made by the Parliament. However, in some UTs, such as Delhi, the **High Court has wider powers than** in other UTs.
- The Union Territories of **Puducherry (in 1963), Delhi (in 1992) and Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 (yet to be constituted)** are provided with a **legislative assembly and a Council of Ministers** headed by a Chief Minister. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

115. Ans: C

Exp:

Judicial Perspectives Related to Polygamy:

- **Parayankandiyal v. K. Devi & Others (1996):**
  - ◆ The **Supreme Court (SC)** concluded that monogamous relationships were the **standard**

**and ideology of Hindu society**, which scorned and condemned a second marriage.

- ◆ Polygamy was not allowed to become a part of Hindu culture due to the influence of religion. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **State of Bombay v. Narasu Appa Mali (1951):**

- ◆ The Bombay High Court ruled that the **Bombay (Prevention of Hindu Bigamy Marriage) Act, 1946 was not discriminatory**.
- ◆ The SC ruled that a state legislature has the authority to enact measures for public welfare and reforms, even if it **violates the Hindu religion or custom**.

- **Javed & Others v. State of Haryana & Others (2003):**

- ◆ The SC decided that under Article 25 freedom is **subjected to social harmony, dignity, and wellness**.
- ◆ Muslim law allows for the marriage of four women, but it is not compulsory.
- ◆ This will not be violating religious practice to not marry four women. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

116. Ans: B

Exp:

Enforcement Directorate

- Recently, the Centre has informed the **Supreme Court (SC)** that the tenure of the **Chief of Enforcement Directorate (ED)** will not continue in office beyond November 2023.
- In November 2021, the **President of India** issued two ordinances allowing the tenure of the **Director of the ED** to be extended from two years to up to five years, with the possibility of three annual extensions.
- This move was upheld by the SC, which allowed the extension of ED Chief but only in **rare and exceptional cases** for a short period.
  - ◆ The SC stated that there is no restriction on the Central Government's power to appoint the ED beyond a two-year period. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The ED is a **multi-disciplinary organization** mandated with investigation of offences of **money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws**.
  - It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):** Following the recommendations of the **FATF India** enacted PMLA.



- ◆ The ED has been entrusted with the responsibility of executing the provisions of PMLA 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 2 is correct.

117. Ans: B

Exp:

- Article 239AA 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. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Also, Article 239AA, empowers the L-G to refer a difference of opinion on 'any matter' with the Council of Ministers to the President. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

118. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Supreme Court banned Jallikattu through a judgment in May 2014 in the Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja case on the grounds of cruelty to animals. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Jallikattu is considered both a religious and cultural event in Tamil Nadu, celebrated by people regardless of their caste or creed.
- Jallikattu is a traditional bull-taming sport that originated in the state of Tamil Nadu and is primarily held as part of the Pongal festival, a harvest festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

119. Ans: D

Exp:

- In the last five years, the highest number of custodial deaths (80) has been reported in Gujarat, followed by Maharashtra (76), Uttar Pradesh (41), Tamil Nadu (40) and Bihar (38). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Section 24 Indian Evidence Act, 1872 declares that all the confessions made by the accused by succumbing to the threat, promise or inducement of investigating agencies would not be admissible in the court of law. This Section primarily works for preventing the accused to give confessions against his will. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman

or degrading treatment or punishment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

120. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the Supreme Court, while considering the Delhi government's plea against the Lieutenant-Governor's (LG) appointment of Aldermen, observed that granting the LG the authority to nominate MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) members could destabilize the Elected Civic Body.
  - ◆ The Additional Solicitor General, representing LG claimed that the latter has an active role in the nomination of aldermen based on the law.
  - ◆ However, the SC stated that by giving this power to the L-G, it could potentially destabilize the democratically elected MCD, as they would have voting power.
- The SC has clarified that the L-G does not have extensive executive powers in the national capital, which operates under a unique "Asymmetric Federal Model" of governance.
  - ◆ The court specified that the L-G can exercise executive power at their discretion only in three specific areas, under Article 239AA(3)(a):
    - Public order
    - Police
    - Land in Delhi
- Hence, option C is correct.

121. Ans: C

Exp:

- Forum shopping refers to the practice of litigants or lawyers deliberately selecting a particular judge or court where they believe the judgment will be more favorable to their case. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It circumvents the normal course of justice and can lead to an imbalance in the workload of courts.
- The Supreme Court termed forum shopping as a "disreputable practice by the courts" that "has no sanction and paramountcy in law" in Vijay Kumar Ghai vs. State of W.B. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

122. Ans: B

Exp:

- According to Lokur Committee (1965), the essential characteristics are:
  - Indication of Primitive Traits
  - Distinctive Culture
  - Shyness of Contact with the Community at Large



- Geographical Isolation
- Backwardness

Hence, option B is correct.

123. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Supreme Court of India** has emphasized the crucial role of the **district judiciary** in **upholding justice and declared its independence as an integral part of the Constitution's basic structure. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 233 deals with the appointment of district judges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The district judge is appointed by the **state governor on the advice of the chief justice of the high court of the state.** In addition to the district judge, there may be a small number of additional district judges and assistant district judges as per the workload. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

124. Ans: B

Exp:

**National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India:**

About:

- ◆ NHRC of India is an **independent statutory body established on 12th October, 1993** as per provisions of **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, later amended in 2006.
- ◆ It is the watchdog of human rights in India, i.e. the **rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed** by Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- ◆ 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 on 20 December, 1993. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Composition:**
  - ◆ **Key Members:** It is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson, five full-time Members and seven deemed Members.
    - A person who has been the **Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court** can become a chairman. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Appointment:** The chairperson 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.

- ◆ **Tenure:** The chairperson and members hold office for a **term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier.
  - The President can remove the chairman or any member from the office under some circumstances.
- ◆ **Removal:** They can be removed only on charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity, if proved by an inquiry conducted by a Supreme Court Judge. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Divisions:** The Commission also has five Specialized Divisions i.e. Law Division, Investigation Division, Policy Research & Programmes Division, Training Division and Administration Division.

125. 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.
- **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
- NITI Aayog's Governing Council does not comprise of the leader of the opposition. Therefore, only one of the given options is incorrect.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

126. Ans: A

Exp:

**Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):**

- **About:**
  - ◆ IPU is an **international organisation** of national parliaments. It was established in **1889 in Paris.**
  - ◆ It works with **close co-operation** with the **United Nation (UN)**, regional parliamentary organisations,

international intergovernmental organisations and **non-governmental organisations** for the arbitration of conflict.

- ◆ It is a **unique platform** for observing political opinions and trends around the world.

● **Aim:**

- ◆ To **promote parliamentary dialogue** world-wide and works for peace and cooperation among the peoples. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ To **promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation** among its members.

● **Slogan:**

- ◆ For democracy. For everyone

● **Functions:**

- ◆ Promoting parliamentary action by addressing international concerns in **six main areas**:
  - Representative democracy.
  - Peace and security.
  - **Sustainable development.**
  - Human rights and humanitarian law.
  - Women in politics.
  - Education, science, and culture.

● **Members:**

- ◆ 179 Members and 14 Associate Members.
- ◆ India is a member. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

● **Headquarters:**

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

127. Ans: B

Exp:

**Ordinances in Indian Polity:**

- **Article 123 of the Constitution of India grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances** when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session, in urgent situations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Hence, it is not possible for the ordinances to be issued by Parliament.
  - ◆ When an ordinance is promulgated but the **legislative session is yet to commence, the ordinance remains in effect as law.** It has the same force and effect as an **Act of the legislature.**
    - But it requires subsequent **ratification by Parliament within six weeks of its reassembly.**

- ◆ An ordinance promulgated by the President has a maximum **validity of six months and six weeks** from the date of its promulgation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The **Governor of a state can also issue ordinances under Article 213** of the Constitution of India, when the state legislative assembly is not in session. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- If the two Houses start their sessions on different dates, the later date is considered (Articles 123 and 213).

128. Ans: A

Exp:

- **The inaugural synchronous census took place in 1881, led by W.C. Plowden, who served as the Census Commissioner of India at the time.** This marked the beginning of a tradition where censuses have been consistently conducted every ten years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The crucial task of conducting the **decennial Census is entrusted to the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, which operates under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs.** They play a pivotal role in ensuring the accurate and timely collection of demographic data throughout the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Census of India Act of 1948 serves as the legal foundation for carrying out the census process. While this legislation outlines the necessary procedures and guidelines, **it does not explicitly specify the exact timing or periodicity of the census, leaving that decision to be determined within the broader framework of the act.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

129. Ans: B

Exp:

**Supreme Court Judges Appointed:**

- **Appointment:**
  - ◆ The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the **President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
    - The President consults with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts to make informed appointments.



● **Post-retirement Restrictions:**

- ◆ After retirement, a judge of the Supreme Court is **prohibited from practicing law in any court in India** or pleading before any government authority.
- ◆ As per **Article 128 of Indian Constitution**, any **retired judge** of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a **Supreme Court judge** by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Removal:**

- ◆ A judge of the Supreme Court can **only be removed** from office by an order of the **President**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The removal process requires an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a special majority i.e., a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than **two-thirds of the members present and voting**.
- ◆ The grounds for removal are **proven misbehaviour or incapacity**.
- ◆ Parliament has the authority to regulate the procedure for presenting the address and investigating and proving the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge.
- ◆ Once appointed, judges can serve until the age of 65 and cannot be removed during their tenure except for proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

130. Ans: D

Exp:

- Derecognition refers to the withdrawal of recognition of a political party by the ECI.
  - ◆ Such parties are simply declared as **registered-unrecognized parties**.
- The **ECI has the power to derecognize a political party** if it violates the provisions of the Indian Constitution or the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- **Grounds for Derecognition of a Political Party as National party (as per ECI):**
  - ◆ If the party fails to secure at least 6% of the total votes polled in the general election to the LS or the legislative assembly of the state concerned, and if it fails to have at **least 4 MPs elected in the last LS polls (also, it doesn't win 1 seat in the LS from the same state.);** or **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ If it has **won at least 2% of the total seats in the LS** from at least 3 states.

- ◆ If it fails to secure **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**.
- ◆ If the party fails to submit its audited accounts to the ECI on time. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ If the party fails to hold its organizational elections on time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

131. Ans: C

Exp:

- Competition Commission of India is a **statutory body** constituted under Competition Act, 2002. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Competition Act, 2002, **regulates competition in the Indian market and prohibits anti-competitive practices such as cartels**, abuse of dominant market position, and mergers and acquisitions that may have an adverse effect on competition. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

132. Ans: B

Exp:

- In India, the **Administrative Reforms Commission**, (1966-70), had recommended the creation of the Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta in the states. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Before the passing of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in 2013, several states in India passed laws for creating the Institution of 'Lokayukta'.
- **Maharashtra** was **first** in this respect with its Lokayukta body established in 1971. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

133. Ans: A

Exp:

- Preventive detention is when a person is held in police custody only on the basis of a suspicion that they would conduct a criminal act or cause harm to society.
- The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 22** grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
- Article 22 has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

134. Ans: D

Exp:

- A **parliamentary committee** means a committee that:
  - ◆ Is **appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker / Chairman**.



- ◆ Works under the **direction of the Speaker / Chairman.**
- ◆ Presents its **report to the House or to the Speaker / Chairman.**
- ◆ Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha.
- **Types:**
  - ◆ **Standing Committees:**
- Permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis.
- Standing Committees can be classified into the following six categories:
- Financial Committees
- **Departmental Standing Committees.**
- Committees to Enquire
- Committees to Scrutinise and Control
- Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House
- House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Ad Hoc Committees:**
- Temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them. E.g. **Joint Parliamentary Committee.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

135. Ans: A

Exp:

- TRAI **regulates telecom services** including **fixation/ revision of tariffs** for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also aims to provide a fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) **was established** on 20th February, 1997 **by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

136. Ans: C

Exp:

- The NIA is a **federal agency of the Indian government** responsible for **investigating** and prosecuting **crimes related to Terrorism, Insurgency,** and other **national security matters.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Federal agencies in a country typically have jurisdiction over matters that affect the country as a whole, rather than just individual states or provinces.

- It was **established in 2009** following the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008, under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008,** operates **under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019 was passed in July 2019, amending the NIA Act, 2008.
- The NIA has the power to take over investigations of terrorism-related cases from state police forces and other agencies. It also **has the authority to investigate cases across state boundaries without obtaining prior permission from state governments.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

137. Ans: C

Exp:

- Article 49 (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Constitution puts an obligation on the State to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest declared by the Parliament to be of national importance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) 1958 provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

138. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws that cannot be challenged in courts and was added by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
- However, in **Waman Rao v. Union of India (1981)** the SC ruled that, "those amendments which were made in the constitution before **24th April 1973** (date on which judgment in Keshavananda Bharati was delivered) are valid and constitutional but **those which were made after the stated date are open to being challenged** on the ground of constitutionality. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws,** while **Article 31B shields specific laws** or enactments. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

139. Ans: C

Exp:

- The entry at serial **No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India** mandates the **state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries.**



- The entry at serial **No. 54 of List I (Central List)** mandate the central government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ).
- In pursuance to this **Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act of 1957** was framed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Section 23C of Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, State Governments are empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

140. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Urban local governments** were constitutionalized through the **74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act** during the regime of **P.V. Narsimha Rao's government** in 1992. It came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1993.
- It added **Part IX -A** and consists of provisions from **Articles 243-P to 243-ZG**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- In addition, the act also added the **12<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution**. It contains **18 functional items of Municipalities**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

141. Ans: D

Exp:

**Recommendations of Mandal Commission:**

- OBCs must be provided a reservation of 27% in public sector and government jobs.
- They should be provided with the same 27% reservation in promotions at all levels of public services.
- **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The reserved quota, if unfilled, should be carried forward for a period of 3 years. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Reservations to be made in PSUs, banks, private sector undertakings receiving government grants, colleges, and universities.

142. Ans: D

Exp:

- While discussing the Powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution, the Supreme Court in **Keshavananda Bharti vs State of Kerala (1973)** case held that the Parliament has the power to amend any part of the Constitution to the extent it doesn't violate the very Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- The court didn't specify what exactly constitutes the Basic Structure, but it kept on evolving the idea on case-to-case basis and kept on adding new provisions to the doctrine. Through various judgements it held

provisions like Judicial review, Secularism, Democracy, Rule of Law, federalism etc are the part of the Basic structure. **In Keshavananda Bharti case Preamble was declared as a part of the constitution** and In **SR Bommai vs Union of India** case it held that Preamble indicates the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

- **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**

143. Ans: D

Exp:

**Governor's Powers over State Bills:**

- **Article 200:**

- ◆ Article 200 of the Indian Constitution outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent, who **may either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President.**
- ◆ The Governor may also return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration by the House or Houses.

- **Article 201:**

- ◆ It states that when a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the President, the **President may assent to or withhold assent** from the Bill.
- ◆ The **President may also direct the Governor to return the Bill** to the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State for reconsideration. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president. The reservation is obligatory where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court. However, the governor can also reserve the bill if it is of the following nature:
  - Against the provisions of the Constitution
  - Opposed to the DPSP
  - Against the larger interest of the country
  - Of grave national importance
- ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

144. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India to ensure that political parties, candidates, and their supporters conduct themselves in an orderly and peaceful manner during the election period. The code applies to all political parties and candidates who are contesting in the election. **Hence, option a is the correct answer.**



- The purpose of the code is to maintain a level playing field, prevent the use of muscle power or money power, and promote free and fair elections. The Model Code of Conduct is not a legally binding document. However, any violation of the code can result in penalties or disqualification from the election.

145. Ans: D

Exp:

Inter-State River Disputes Tribunal:

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ◆ According to **Article 262**, in case of disputes relating to waters:
    - **Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication** of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter-State River or river valley. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - Parliament may, by law, provide **that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction** in respect of any such dispute or complaint as mentioned above. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

146. Ans: D

Exp:

FIR Provisions under POCSO Act 2012:

- **Section 19** of the Act states that any person who has an apprehension that an offence under POCSO Act has been committed **shall provide such information to the Special Juvenile Police Unit** or the local police. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The section also requires the registration of an FIR in writing.
  - ◆ **Section 21** of the Act even states that not reporting or recording an offence **can result in up to six months of imprisonment, a fine, or both.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Act, therefore, also makes it mandatory** for a report to be filed on receiving a complaint, including from a child. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

147. Ans: C

Exp:

Supreme Court judgement in Indira Sawhney Case

- In this case the Supreme Court held the 27% reservations for OBCs as constitutionally valid but with certain conditions:

- ◆ The court held that the reservation must be in the four walls of 50% cap and should not be extended in promotions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The concept of creamy layer was also introduced by the court to exclude well-off people from the community. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The carry forward rule (by which unfulfilled vacancies are filled in the upcoming year) should not breach 50% ceiling. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

148. Ans: B

Exp:

National Security Act, 1980:

- The NSA is a preventive detention law enacted in 1980 to maintain public order and national security.
- The **NSA empowers the Centre or a State government** to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The government can also **detain a person** to prevent him from **disrupting public order or for maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.**
- The act also provides for the constitution of a National Security Council which is headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

149. Ans: B

Exp:

Inter-State Council:

- **Background:**
  - ◆ As part of the **process of reviewing the working of the existing arrangements** between the Union and the States, the Government constituted a commission in 1988 under the Chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria.
  - ◆ One of the **important recommendations of Sarkaria Commission** was for establishing a permanent **Inter-State Council** as an independent national forum for consultation with a mandate well defined in accordance with **Article 263 of the Constitution of India.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **About:**
  - ◆ 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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



- ◆ It also **makes recommendations for better coordination of policy** and action on these subjects, and deliberations on matters of general interest to the states, which may be referred to it by its chairman.

- **Composition:**

- ◆ **Prime Minister – Chairman**
- ◆ Chief Ministers of all States – Members
- ◆ Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly – Members
- ◆ Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister – Members
- ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

150. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Rules are issued under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Rules aim to provide guidelines for the **sterilisation and immunization of stray dogs** through **Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility of carrying out ABC programmes lies with the respective **local bodies, municipalities, municipal corporations, and panchayats**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

151. Ans: B

Exp:

- Although the Supreme Court in **Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018)** case **decriminalized homosexuality** under Sec 377 of IPC, **but same sex marriages are yet to get legal status in India**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
- In **Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India, 2018**, The Supreme Court struck down the **Sec 377 of IPC** to the extent it criminalized homosexuality. It was also opined that there cannot be discrimination in law based on sexual orientation and gender. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- In various judgements such as **Lata Singh vs State of UP, Safin Jahan vs Ashokan and Shakti Vahini vs Union of India** cases have held that choosing a life partner is a Fundamental Right under Article 21. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

152. Ans: B

Exp:

**National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLT):**

- The NCLAT was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the **orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ NCLT is a **quasi-judicial body** that adjudicates issues relating to companies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also the appellate tribunal for orders passed by the **NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**, and for orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC.
- Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an **appeal to the Supreme Court**.

153. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About:**
  - ◆ Extra judicial killing refers to the killing of a person by the **state or its agents, without any judicial or legal proceedings**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - This means that the person is killed without a **trial, due process, or any legal justification**.
  - ◆ Extra judicial killing can take various forms, such as **extrajudicial executions, summary executions, and enforced disappearances**. These acts are illegal and violate human rights and the rule of law.
  - ◆ They are often carried out by **law enforcement agencies or security forces** in the name of maintaining law and order or **combating terrorism**.
- **Rights of Police:**
  - ◆ The police can use force, including lethal force, in self-defense or to maintain peace and order.
  - ◆ Every person has the right to self-defense under **Section-96 of the Indian Penal Code**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - **Section-46 of the Criminal Procedure Code** allows the police to use force, including lethal force, to arrest someone accused of a serious crime.

154. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **ED and CBI in India are not statutory bodies** and are instead governed by executive orders. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- This makes them more susceptible to political interference by the government of the day.
- ED functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.
- CBI functions under the superintendence of the Department of Personnel, **Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

155. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Konkani**: Konkani is one of the **22 languages recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India**. It is an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in the Konkan region of India.
- **Santhali**: Santhali is one of the 22 languages recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is an **Austroasiatic language spoken primarily in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha**.
- **Bodo**: Bodo is one of the 22 languages recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is a **Tibeto-Burman language spoken by the Bodo people of northeastern India**.
- **Kurmali**: Kurmali language is a language spoken by the Kurmi community, primarily in the Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha. **It is currently not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**.
- Therefore, **option B is correct**.

156. Ans: A

Exp:

**National Party**

- As the name suggests, it has a **nationwide presence as opposed to a regional party** that is restricted to only a particular state or region.
- **Conditions for Declaring a Party 'National'**:
  - ◆ As per the ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook, a political party would be considered a national party if:
    - It is **'recognised' in four or more states; or. Hence, statement 1 is correct**.
    - If its **candidates have secured at least 6% of total valid votes in** at least 4 states (in latest Lok Sabha or Assembly elections) and the party has at least 4 MPs in the last LS polls; or
    - If it has **won at least 2% of the total seats in the LS from at least 3 states**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

157. Ans: C

Exp:

- Internet shutdown orders are governed under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
  - ◆ The 2017 Rules provide for temporary shutdown of telecom services in a region on grounds of public emergency and give **senior bureaucrats from the Home Ministry at the central and state levels the power to order shutdowns**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In *Anuradha Bhasin vs Union of India (2020)*, the **Supreme Court ruled that an indefinite suspension of internet services would be illegal under Indian law and that orders for internet shutdown must satisfy the tests of necessity and proportionality**. Hence **Statement 2 is correct**.

158. 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.**

159. 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.**

160. Ans: C

Exp:

- Established in 1994, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), is an autonomous body under the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** responsible for assessing the quality of **higher educational institutions** in India. Hence, **statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Through a multi-layered assessment process, it **awards grades ranging from A++ to C** based on parameters such as **curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, research and financial well-being**

161. 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.**

162. Ans: C

Exp:

**About the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:**

- Panchayati Raj Institution was constitutionalised through the 73<sup>rd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution and contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**



163. Ans: A

Exp:

- The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments, which are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
  - ◆ This is followed by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' approval before the list is sent to the Cabinet to bring in the appropriate amendment to Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- The **Lokur Committee (1965)** was set up to look into criteria for defining Schedule Tribes.
  - ◆ The Committee recommended five criteria for identification, namely;
    - Primitive traits
    - Distinct culture
    - Geographical isolation
    - Shyness of contact with the community at large
    - Backwardness
- Hence, option A is correct.

164. 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.**

165. Ans: D

Exp:

- According to Global Gender Gap Report 2022, Political Empowerment (**Percentage of Women in Parliament and in Ministerial Positions**) India ranks **48th out of 146.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution** allow all State governments to set aside **one-third of the seats** in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women as well as one-third of the **chairperson positions in urban local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions** at all levels. Of these seats, **one-third are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

166. 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.**

167. Ans: B

Exp:

- Under the Fifth Schedule, the Governor may by public notification, direct that any particular Act of Parliament or of the Legislature of the State shall or shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or any part thereof in the State.
- Thus, under the Fifth Schedule, transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining can be declared null and void.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

168. Ans: B

Exp:

- Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.
- Supreme court in Menaka case (1978) held that the 'right to life' as embodied in Article 21 is not merely confined to animal existence or survival but it includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity and all those aspects of life which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete and worth living.
- In the subsequent cases, it has declared the following rights as part of Article 21 among others:
  - ◆ Right to live with human dignity.
  - ◆ Right to decent environment including pollution free water and air and protection against hazardous industries.
  - ◆ Right to livelihood.
  - ◆ Right to privacy.
  - ◆ Right to shelter.
  - ◆ **Right to health.**
  - ◆ Right to free education up to 14 years of age.
  - ◆ Right to free legal aid.
  - ◆ **Right to fair trial**
  - ◆ **Right to information** etc.
  - ◆ Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under article 19 includes (among others) Right to demonstration or picketing but **not right to strike.** **Hence option B is correct.**

169. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 21** of the Indian Constitution ensures the **Fundamental Right to life and liberty for all persons.** It adds no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty **except according to procedure established by law.**
  - ◆ This has been legally construed to mean **if there is a procedure, which is fair and valid, then the state by framing a law can deprive a person of his life. Hence Statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to **Article 72** of the Indian Constitution, the President may **commute a person's sentence or pardon them in cases where the punishment was the death penalty. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

170. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Defamation Law in India:**
  - ◆ **Article 19 of the Constitution** grants freedom of speech to its citizens. However, Article 19(2) has imposed certain **reasonable exemptions to this freedom such as - Contempt of Court, defamation and incitement to an offense.**
  - ◆ In India, defamation can **both be a civil wrong and a criminal offense**, depending on the objective they seek to achieve. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - **A Civil Wrong** sees a wrong being redressed with monetary compensation, while a criminal law seeks to punish a **wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit** such acts, with a jail term.
    - In a Criminal Offense, defamation has to be **established beyond reasonable doubt** but in a civil defamation suit, damages can be awarded based on probabilities.
- **Free Speech v/s Defamation laws:**
  - ◆ It is argued that the defamation laws are a violation of **Fundamental Rights** guaranteed under **Article 19 of the constitution.**
    - The Supreme Court has ruled that the criminal provisions of defamation are **constitutionally valid and are not in conflict with the right to free speech. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The SC has also held that it is valid to treat **defamation as a public wrong** and that criminal defamation is **not a disproportionate restriction on free speech**, because protection of **reputation is a fundamental right** as well as a human right.



- ◆ The Court relied on the judgments of other countries and reaffirmed the right to reputation as a part of the **right to life under Article 21**.
  - Using the principle of 'balancing of fundamental rights', the court held that the right to freedom and speech and expression cannot be "allowed so much room that even reputation of an individual which is a constituent of Article 21 would have no entry into that area".

**171. Ans: B**

**Exp:**

- The term **guillotine** originally referred to an apparatus designed for **executions by beheading**.
  - It was introduced in **France during the French Revolution** to make **capital punishment** more reliable and less painful. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- In legislative parlance, **guillotine means to bunch together** and fast-track the **passage of financial business**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a common **procedural exercise in Lok Sabha** during the Budget Session. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

**172. Ans : B**

**Exp:**

**About UAPA:**

- Unlawful Activities prevention Act is **aimed at prevention of unlawful activities association in India** and was passed in 1967.
- Under the Act, the **central government may designate an organization as a terrorist organization if it:**
  - (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism,
  - (ii) prepares for terrorism,
  - (iii) promotes terrorism, or
  - (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- The Act **additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists** on the same grounds. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It has **death penalty and imprisonment as highest punishment**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It **empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate** cases in addition to those conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above.

**173. Ans: D**

**Exp:**

**Closure Motion:**

It is a motion moved by a member to cut short the debate on a matter before the House. If the motion is approved by the House, debate is stopped forthwith and the matter is put to vote.

**There are four kinds of closure motions:**

- **Simple Closure:** It is one when a member moves that the 'matter having been sufficiently discussed be now put to vote'.
- **Closure by Compartments:** In this case, the clauses of a bill or a lengthy resolution are grouped into parts before the commencement of the debate. The debate covers the part as a whole and the entire part is put to vote.
- **Kangaroo Closure:** Under this type, only important clauses are taken up for debate and voting and the intervening clauses are skipped over and taken as passed.
- **Guillotine Closure:** It is one when the undiscussed clauses of a bill or a resolution are also put to vote along with the discussed ones due to want of time (as the time allotted for the discussion is over). **Hence, option D is correct.**

**174. Ans: C**

**Exp:**

**Antiquity:**

- **About:**
  - ◆ The **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act of 1972**, which came into effect on April 1, 1976, defines an "antiquity" as **any object or work of art that has been in existence for at least 100 years**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - This includes coins, sculptures, paintings, epigraphs, detached articles, and other items that reflect science, art, literature, religion, customs, morals, or politics from a bygone era.
  - ◆ For "manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value", this duration is "not less than 75 years."
- **Protection Initiative:**
  - ◆ In India, Item-67 of the **Union List**, Item-12 of the **State List**, and Item-40 of the **Concurrent List of the Constitution** deal with the country's heritage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



- ◆ Before Independence, the **Antiquities (Export Control) Act** was passed in April 1947 to ensure that no antiquity could be exported without a license.
- ◆ The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act** was enacted in 1958 to protect ancient monuments and archaeological sites from destruction and misuse.

175. Ans: C

Exp:

- A court martial is typically composed of military officers who serve as both judge and jury. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The President of India, under Article 72 of the Constitution, can use his/her powers to pardon, relieve, respite or remission of punishment or sentence given by a court martial. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The legal provisions related to court martial in India are primarily governed by three laws:
  - ◆ **The Army Act, 1950:** applies to members of the Indian Army.
  - ◆ **The Navy Act, 1957:** applies to members of the Indian Navy.
  - ◆ **The Air Force Act, 1950:** applies to members of the Indian Air Force.
- **Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007**
  - ◆ This act established the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT).
    - AFT is a quasi-judicial body in India that deals with service-related matters of armed forces personnel.
    - It has jurisdiction over disputes and appeals arising out of service matters, including court martial proceedings.

176. Ans: B

Exp:

- **About article 14 Equality Before Law:**
  - ◆ Article 14 of the Indian Constitution enshrines the principle of equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, caste, religion, gender, or place of birth. **However, its scope is much broader than just these factors.**
  - ◆ Article 14 guarantees equal protection of the law to **all persons within the territory of India, regardless of their status or affiliation.** This means that all individuals, whether **citizens or foreigners** are entitled to the same protection and benefit of the law. The provision is applicable

to **both natural persons and legal entities like companies or associations.**

- ◆ In essence, Article 14 ensures that the law is enforced impartially and that there is no discrimination in its application. It is an essential provision that upholds the **basic principles of justice and fairness in Indian society.** Hence, **option B is correct.**

177. Ans: C

Exp:

- It is common to refer to the office as *primus inter pares* – first amongst equals.
- 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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CJI also decides the number of judges that will hear a case. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Thus, he can influence the result by simply choosing judges that he thinks may favour a particular outcome.
- Such administrative powers can be exercised without collegial consensus, and without any stated reasons.

178. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Constitutional Provisions related to self-incrimination:**
  - ◆ Article **20** grants protection against arbitrary and excessive punishment to an accused person, whether citizen or foreigner or legal person like a company or a corporation. It contains three provisions in that direction:
    - ◆ It contains provisions related to **No ex-post-facto law, No double jeopardy, No self-incrimination.**
    - ◆ **No self-incrimination: No person** accused of any offence **shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.**
    - ◆ The protection against self-incrimination **extends to both oral evidence and documentary evidence.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
    - ◆ However, it **does not extend to** compulsory production of material objects, Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
      - compulsion to give thumb impression, specimen signature, blood specimens, and
      - compulsory exhibition of the body.
      - Further, it extends **only to criminal proceedings** and **not to civil proceedings** or proceedings which are not of criminal nature.