

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

8th to 14th Nov, 2021

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. NITI Aayog was established through executive resolution.
2. NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government 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

ANS: C

Explanation: NITI Aayog, like that of the Planning Commission, was also created by an executive resolution of the Government of India (i.e., Union Cabinet). Hence, it is also neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.

- In other words, it is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body (i.e., not created by the Constitution) and a non-statutory body (not created by an Act of the Parliament).
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- While designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Human Rights Commission is a non constitutional body.
2. The commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country.

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body.

- It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- The commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country, that is, the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) With reference to the National Human Rights Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The chairperson of the commission should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

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2. The chairperson and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of appointment committee.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.

- The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and three persons (out of which atleast one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- 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 Central home minister.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) With reference to the functions of National Human Rights Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation.
- 2. To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.
- 3. To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The functions of the Commission are:

- To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, either suo motu or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court.
- To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.
- To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- To review the factors including acts of terrorism that inhibits the enjoyment of human rights and recommend remedial measures.

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- To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) With reference to the Central Information Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was constituted through under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).
2. It consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than five Information Commissioners.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005.

- It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is not a constitutional body.
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. The Commission, when constituted initially, had five commissioners including the Chief Information Commissioner.
- At present (2019), the Commission has six Information Commissioners apart from the Chief Information Commissioner.
- 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) The Central Vigilance Commission was established under the recommendation of which of the following?

- a) Punchi Commission
- b) Venkata Chellaih Committee
- c) Santhanam Committee
- d) Second ARC commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.

- It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
- Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-64).

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Which of the following agency would take up the case against corruption under Whistle Blower Resolution?

- a) Central Vigilance Commission
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation
- c) Crime Investigation Department of Concerned state
- d) National Human Rights Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to receive and act on complaints or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers under the “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI), which is popularly known as “Whistle Blowers” Resolution.

The Commission is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) With Reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office.
- The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following country created first Ombudsman Institution?

- a) Australia
- b) New Zealand
- c) Sweden
- d) Norway

ANS: C

Explanation: The institution of Ombudsman was first created in Sweden in 1809.

- ‘Ombud’ is a Swedish term and refers to a person who acts as the representative or spokesman of another person.
- According to Donald C. Rowat, Ombudsman refers to “an officer appointed by the legislature to handle complaints against administrative and judicial action.”

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act were passed in which of the following year?

- a) 2010
- b) 2011
- c) 2012

d) 2013

ANS: D

Explanation: The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.

- These institutions are statutory bodies without any constitutional status.
- They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Polity

Q.1) “Article 324” of the Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Tribunals
- b) Finance and Suits
- c) Elections
- d) Tribal Languages

ANS: C

Explanation: Articles 324 to 329 in Part XV of the Constitution make the following provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) The Election Commission has the power of superintendence, direction and conduct of elections. Which of the following bodies/personalities is/are comes under the mandate of Election Commission?

- 1. The Parliament
- 2. The President
- 3. Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 324) provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

The power of superintendence, direction and conduct of elections to the Parliament, the state legislatures, the office of the President and the office of the Vice-President is vested in the Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

- 1. There is to be only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.
- 2. Any person can claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste or sex or any of them.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: There is to be only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.

- Thus, the Constitution has abolished the system of communal representation and separate electorates which led to the partition of the country.

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- No person is to be ineligible for inclusion in the electoral roll on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.
- Further, no person can claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste or sex or any of them.
- Thus, the Constitution has accorded equality to every citizen in the matter of electoral franchise.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) “Article 323B” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Special officer for Linguistic minorities
- b) Tribunal for the adjudication of election disputes
- c) Central Administrative Tribunal
- d) Interstate Council

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 323B empowers the appropriate legislature (Parliament or state legislature) to establish a tribunal for the adjudication of election disputes.

It also provides for the exclusion of the jurisdiction of all courts (except the special leave appeal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court) in such disputes.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) With reference to the time of elections, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Elections for the Lok Sabha and every state Legislative Assembly have to take place every five years, unless called earlier.
2. The Central Cabinet can dissolve Lok Sabha and call a General Election before five years is up.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Elections for the Lok Sabha and every state Legislative Assembly have to take place every five years, unless called earlier.

The President can dissolve Lok Sabha and call a General Election before five years is up, if the Government can no longer command the confidence of the Lok Sabha, and if there is no alternative government available to take over.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) With reference to the schedule of elections, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Constitution states that there can be no longer than one year between the last session of the dissolved Lok Sabha and the recalling of the new House.
2. The formal process for the elections starts with the issuance of election notification.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: When the five-year limit is up, or the legislature has been dissolved and new elections have been called, the Election Commission puts into effect the machinery for holding an election.

- The Constitution states that there can be no longer than six months between the last session of the dissolved Lok Sabha and the recalling of the new House, so elections have to be concluded before then.
- The formal process for the elections starts with the Notification or Notifications calling upon the electorate to elect Members of a House.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) The official campaign of elections ends before in how many hours?

- 12 hours
- 24 hours
- 48 hours
- 72 hours

ANS: C

Explanation: The official campaign lasts at least two weeks from the drawing up of the list of nominated candidates, and officially ends 48 hours before polling closes.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Model code lays down broad guidelines as to how the political parties and candidates should conduct themselves during the election campaign.
2. Model code of Conduct is prepared by judicial system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: During the election campaign, the political parties and contesting candidates are expected to abide by a Model Code of Conduct evolved by the Election Commission on the basis of a consensus among political parties.

- The model code lays down broad guidelines as to how the political parties and candidates should conduct themselves during the election campaign.
- It is intended to maintain the election campaign on healthy lines, avoid clashes and conflicts between political parties or their supporters and to ensure peace and order during the campaign period and thereafter, until the results are declared.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) With reference to the voting procedure, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Polling stations should be within the distance of five kilometers of the voter.
2. Each polling station is open for at least twelve hours on the day of the election.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: Voting is by secret ballot. Polling stations are usually set up in public institutions, such as schools and community halls.

- To enable as many electors as possible to vote, the officials of the Election Commission try to ensure that there is a polling station within two kilometers of every voter, and that no polling stations should have to deal with more than 1500 voters.
- Each polling station is open for at least eight hours on the day of the election.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) With reference to the election petitions, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Only candidate can file an election petition if he or she thinks there has been malpractice during the election.

2. An election petition is not an ordinary civil suit.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Any elector or candidate can file an election petition if he or she thinks there has been malpractice during the election.

- An election petition is not an ordinary civil suit, but treated as a contest in which the whole constituency is involved.
- Election petitions are tried by the High Court of the state involved, and if upheld can even lead to the restaging of the election in that constituency.

Source: Laxmikanth

Polity

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Open Government Data Platform India:

1. It is used to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by Government of India Ministries/ Departments for public use.
2. It is a joint initiative of Government of India and Singapore Government.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India - data.gov.in - is a platform for supporting Open Data initiative of Government of India.

- The portal is intended to be used by Government of India Ministries/ Departments their organizations to publish datasets, documents, services, tools and applications collected by them for public use.
- It intends to increase transparency in the functioning of Government and also open avenues for many more innovative uses of Government Data to give different perspective.
- The Open Government Data Platform India is a joint initiative of Government of India and US Government.
- Open Government Data Platform India is also packaged as a product and made available in open source for implementation by countries globally.

Source: Mygov.com

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. e-Pramaan provides a simple, convenient and secure way for the users to access government services via internet/mobile.
2. e-Pramaan is a National e-Authentication service offered by DeitY.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: e-Pramaan is a National e-Authentication service offered by DeitY.

- e-Pramaan provides a simple, convenient and secure way for the users to access government services via internet/mobile as well as for the government to assess the authenticity of the users.
- e-Pramaan builds up confidence and trust in online transactions and encourages the use of the e-services as a channel for service delivery.

Source: Press Information Bureau

Q.3) Which of the following is the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Assam
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

ANS: A

Explanation: Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya launched 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017', at a national convention in Shillong.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS):

1. It is a web based application created by the Department of Legal Affairs.
2. It is applicable to civil cases only.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) is a web based application created by the Department of Legal Affairs under the Ministry of Law and Justice.

- The idea is to make the legal data available at one single point and streamline the procedure of litigation matters conducted on behalf of Union of India.
- It is in line with Digital India to digitalize the details of court cases and bring various stakeholders on a single platform.
- At present it is applicable to civil cases only.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) "COMMIT (Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training)" is developed by Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) with the help of which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) UNESCO
- c) World Trade Organization
- d) United Nations Development Programme

ANS: D

Explanation: COMMIT (Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training) is developed by DoPT in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) for State Government officials.
- The objective of this training programme is to improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis.

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- Advantage of COMMIT is that it is cost effective and has the potential to cover about 3.3 lakh officials annually, compared to 10,000 officials under existing 12-Day Induction Training Programme (ITP).

Source: Press Information Bureau

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission:

1. It was established under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
2. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of 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

ANS: D

Explanation: The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), India is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

Its head office is in New Delhi. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the “Law Commission of India”:

1. It is a non - statutory body.
2. It is constituted for every three years.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.

- The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is re-constituted every three years.
- The tenure of twenty-first Law Commission of India was upto 31st August, 2018.
- The various Law Commissions have been able to make important contribution towards the progressive development and codification of Law of the country.
- The Law Commission has so far submitted 277 reports.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT):

1. It exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants.
2. It is guided by the principles of natural justice.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.

- At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow.
- These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts.
- The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.
- However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
- The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice.
- These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach. Only a nominal fee of 50 is to be paid by the applicant. The applicant may appear either in person or through a lawyer.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following pension scheme (s) is/are NOT run by the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)?

1. National Pension System (NPS)
 2. Atal Pension Yojana
 3. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority Act was passed on 19th September, 2013 and the same was notified on 1st February, 2014.

- PFRDA is regulating NPS, subscribed by employees of Govt. of India, State Governments and by employees of private institutions/organizations & unorganized sectors.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a pension scheme launched by Government of India and run by PFRDA is focused on the unorganized sector workers.
- Under the APY, minimum guaranteed pension of Rs. 1,000/- or 2,000/- or 3,000/- or 4,000 or 5,000/- per month will start after attaining the age of 60 years depending on the contributions by the subscribers for their chosen pension amount.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) The “eShakti” initiative, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Self Help Groups (SHG)
- b) Women Contingent force to deal with girl child trafficking
- c) Merit scholarship for girls
- d) Women Scientist programme

ANS: A

Explanation: eShakti or Digitization of SHGs is an initiative of Micro Credit and Innovations Department of NABARD in line with our Hon'ble PM statement, 'we move with the dream of electronic digital India.'

- Digital India is an Rs 1.13-lakh crore initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments and the people of India and to ensure effective governance. It is to "transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy".
- Keeping in view the Government of India's mission for creating a digital India, NABARD launched a project for digitization of all Self Help Group (SHG) in the country.
- The project is being implemented in 250 districts across the country.

Source: Indian Express

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Q.1) The right to information movement in India began with which of the following movement?

- a) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) movement
- b) Appiko movement
- c) Chipko movement
- d) Narmada Bachao Andholan (NBA)

ANS: A

Explanation: The right to information movement in India began with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) movement to bring in transparency in village accounts through the demand for minimum wages in rural India.

False entries in wage rolls were a sign of increasing corruption in the system, which encouraged MKSS to demand official information recorded in government files.

Source: <http://www.legalservicesindia.com/article/444/Right-To-Information.html>

Q.2) “Information is the currency of democracy” – was described by which of the following?

- a) John Marshall
- b) Adam Smith
- c) David Ricardo
- d) Thomas Jefferson

ANS: D

Explanation: According to Thomas Jefferson “Information is the currency of democracy,” and critical to the emergence and development of a vibrant civil society.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.3) Section 12(5) of Right to Information Act is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Maintain and proactively disclose information
- b) Public Authorities
- c) Prescribes simple procedure for securing information
- d) Qualifications of Commissioners of RTI

ANS: D

Explanation: Section 12 (5) of the RTI Act states that the commissioners be selected from among “persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.”

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/the-rti-act-has-been-systematically-assaulted-by-successive-governments-to-blunt-its-efficacy/>.

Q.4) With reference to the recent amendments to Right to Information bill, 2019, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The term of the central Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners will be prescribed by Central Government.
2. The salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be such as may be determined by the Parliament.

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Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

Table 1: Comparison of the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Provision	RTI Act, 2005	RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019
Term	The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years.	The Bill removes this provision and states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.
Quantum of Salary	The salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.	The Bill removes these provisions and states that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.
Deductions in Salary	The Act states that at the time of the appointment of the CIC and ICs (at the central and state level), if they are receiving pension or any other retirement benefits for previous government service, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to the pension. Previous government service includes service under: (i) the central government, (ii) state government, (iii) corporation established under a central or state law, and (iv) company owned or controlled by the central or state government.	The Bill removes these provisions.

Source: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-right-to-information-amendment-bill-2019>

Q.5) The term Principle of Non-Refoulement often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Economic offender
- b) Refugees
- c) Right to property
- d) Right to Information

ANS: B

Explanation: Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle of international law.

It prohibits states from forcibly returning refugees to conditions that caused them to flee their homes in the first place, where they would be likely in danger of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Source: Press Information Bureau

Q.6) The “Global Social Mobility Index” is released by which of the following International Institution?

- a) Asian Development Bank

- b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) World Bank

ANS: C

Explanation: India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum, while Denmark has topped the charts.

The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score that seeks to measure parameters necessary for creating societies where every person has the same opportunity to fulfill his potential in life irrespective of socioeconomic background.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/india-ranks-low-at-76th-place-on-global-social-mobility-index/>

Q.7) The Corruption Perception Index is released by which of the following?

- a) Tax Justice Network
- b) World Bank
- c) Transparency International
- d) World Economic Forum

ANS: C

Explanation: The Corruption Perceptions Index is released by the Transparency International annually.

- The latest edition is the Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 which was released in January 2020.
- The index includes the ranks of the 180 countries or territories based on the perceived levels of public sector corruption.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) “Sevottam model” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Public Service Delivery
- b) Corruption
- c) Code of Ethics for public servants
- d) Sustainable Development Goals

ANS: A

Explanation: Sevottam Model is a model proposed by 2nd ARC (Administrative Reforms Commission) for public Service Delivery.

- The word, Sevottam, is a combination of two Hindi words: ‘Seva’ (service) and ‘Uttam’ (excellence).
- Sevottam Model is now regarded as a standard model for providing services in citizen centric governance.
- The model is developed by rectifying the drawbacks in the earlier mechanisms of public service delivery like Citizen Charters (CC), and is gradually adopted by various departments under Central and State government.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) The task of coordination, formulation, and operationalization of citizen’s charters are done by?

- a) Department of Justice and Legal affairs

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- b) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
- c) Department of Personnel
- d) Department of Social Welfare

ANS: B

Explanation: The task of coordination, formulation, and operationalization of citizen's charters are done by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.10) The "Gender Social Norms Index" is released by which of the following institution?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme
- b) UNESCO
- c) WEF
- d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

ANS: D

Explanation: Nine in 10 people are prejudiced against women, such as thinking university education is more important for men or that men deserve jobs more if work is scarce, the United Nations said.

More than a quarter of men and women also think it is justified for a husband to beat his wife, found the Gender Social Norms Index by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), designed to measure how social beliefs obstruct gender equality.

Source: The Hindu

Polity

Q.1) Which of the following was the first state to pass legislation on Social Audit?

- a) Kerala
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tripura
- d) Meghalaya

ANS: D

Explanation: In April 2017, Meghalaya became the first State in the country to pass social audit legislation, the Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act.

This Act mandated social audits across 21 schemes and 11 departments.

Source: The Hindu

Q.2) Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under which of the following act?

- a) Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010
- b) Societies Registration Act, 1860
- c) Foreign Investment regulation Act, 1988
- d) Competition Commission of India Act, 2002

ANS: A

Explanation: Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act which is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Acts ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organizations are required to register themselves every five years.

Source: The Hindu

Q.3) Under which of the following act/acts Non – Governmental Organizations is/are registered?

1. Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860
2. Religious Endowments Act, 1863
3. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: NGOs are groups of ordinary citizens that are involved in a wide range of activities that may have charitable, social, political, religious or other interests.

- NGOs are helpful in implementing government schemes at the grassroots.
- In India, NGOs can be registered under a plethora of Acts such as the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, Religious Endowments Act, 1863, Indian Trusts Act, etc.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.4) The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Project was launched by which of the following?

- a) Indian Banks Bureau
- b) Regional Rural Banks
- c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- d) Micro Finance Institutions

ANS: C

Explanation: The SHG Bank Linkage Project launched by NABARD in 1992 has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project.

NABARD along with RBI permitted SHGs to have a savings account in banks from the year of 1993. This action gave a considerable boost to the SHG movement and paved the way for the SHG-Bank linkage program.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.5) "Kudumbashree" programme often seen in news is associated with which of the following state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

ANS: B

Explanation: Kudumbashree was launched in Kerala in 1998 to wipe out absolute poverty through community action.

- It is the largest women empowering project in the country.
- It has three components i.e., microcredit, entrepreneurship and empowerment.
- It has three tier structure - neighborhood groups (SHG), area development society (15-20 SHGs) and Community development society (federation of all groups).
- Kudumbashree is a government agency that has a budget and staff paid by the government. The three tiers are also managed by unpaid volunteers.

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

1. The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age.
2. It is a gender neutral law.
3. It recognizes consensual sexual acts among children or between a child and an adult.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: To deal with child sexual abuse cases, the Government has brought in a special law, namely, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Act has come into force with effect from 14th November, 2012 along with the Rules framed there under.

Provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

- The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be “aggravated” under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor
- It also seeks to establish Special Courts for speedy trial of such offences. The Act stipulates that a case of Child Sexual Abuse must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.
- It also provides for relief and rehabilitation of the child, as soon as the complaint is made. The Special Juvenile Police Unit or the local police are also required to report the matter to the Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours of recording the complaint, for long term rehabilitation of the child.
- It is gender neutral law, wherein the law takes cognizance of sexual crimes committed against both girls and boys under the age of 18 years.
- It does not recognize consensual sexual acts among children or between a child and an adult. Prosecutes any person (including a child) for engaging in a sexual act with a child irrespective of whether the latter consented to it.

Source: <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-protection-of-children-from-sexual-offences-amendment-bill>.

Q.7) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

Government to Consumer (G2C) initiative	State
1. e-Seva	: Andhra Pradesh
2. Friends	: Haryana
3. Lok-mitra project	: Punjab

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: A key component of e-governance is to provide governments with a citizen-friendly face. Naturally, G2C (government-to-citizens) is an important element of all e-governance projects.

- FirstGov in the US, e-Envoy of the UK, e-Taiwan, e-Citizen in Singapore, e-Korea, e-Malaysia, Victoria Online in Australia and Government Online in Canada are award-winning G2C services in the world.
- Closer home, e-Seva in Andhra Pradesh, Friends in Kerala, Sukhmani centres in Punjab, the Lok-Mitra project in Rajasthan, Coimbatore-Online in Tamil Nadu and BangaloreOne in Karnataka are some of the pioneering G2C initiatives in India.

Source: The Hindu

Q.8) The Time to Care report (Wealth Inequality), sometimes in news was released by which of the following?

- a) Oxfam International

- b) UNESCO
- c) World Bank
- d) UNDP

ANS: A

Explanation: India's richest 1% hold more than four-times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget.

- Releasing the study Time to Care, ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), rights group Oxfam also said the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 per cent of the planet's population.
- The report flagged that global inequality is shockingly entrenched and vast and the number of billionaires has doubled in the last decade, despite their combined wealth having declined in the last year.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) The "Empowered Action Group (EAG) States" often seen in news, which of the following states are under EAG?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Jharkhand
4. Madhya Pradesh
5. Chhattisgarh
6. Rajasthan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

ANS: D

Explanation: India's MMR has declined from 130 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016 to 122 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-2017 as per the recently released Sample Registration System (SRS) 2015-2017 bulletin for MMR. A decline of 8 points (6.2%) has been observed.

- The bulletin categorizes the country into three groups: Empowered Action Group (EAG), Southern States and other states.
- The following states are comes under EAG are Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Which of the following are the criteria for declaring any area as a "Scheduled Area" under the Fifth Schedule?

1. Preponderance of tribal population.
2. Compactness and reasonable size of the area.
3. Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighboring areas.
4. A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only

- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

ANS: A

Explanation: As per the Constitutional provision under Article 244 (1) of the Constitution of India, the 'Scheduled Areas' are defined as 'such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas' – as per paragraph 6(1) of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The criteria for declaring any area as a "Scheduled Area" under the Fifth Schedule are:

- Preponderance of tribal population,
- Compactness and reasonable size of the area,
- A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and
- Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighboring areas.

These criteria are not spelt out in the Constitution of India but have become well established. Accordingly, since the year 1950 to 2007 Constitutional Order relating to Scheduled Areas has been notified.

Source: Ministry of Tribal Welfare

Polity

Q.1) With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It Provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural unskilled labour.
2. Mandatory Social Audit for MGNREGA works.
3. 50:50 division of scheme allocation between wage and material.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has the following objectives:

Provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural unskilled labour

Increase economic security

Decrease migration of labour from rural to urban areas

Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.

At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women.

Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought. Unemployment allowance is borne by the state governments.

A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery are allowed.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.2) With reference to the PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA (GRAMEEN), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was launched in 2018.
2. Beneficiaries are identified through Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data.
3. Funds under PMAY-G are given in a single installment, directly into the bank account of beneficiary.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Prime Minister had given a clarion call of "Housing for All by 2022", for which a flagship programme of PMAY-G was launched on 20th November, 2016. So far 1.14 crore houses have already been built across the country under the programme.

Identification of beneficiaries done using information from Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) subject to 13-point exclusion criteria.

The list will be presented to Gram Sabha to identify beneficiaries who have been assisted before or who have become ineligible due to other reasons.

Inspection and uploading of geo referenced photographs will be done through a mobile app.

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Each beneficiary is given 100% grant of Rs.1.20 lakh (in plain areas) and Rs. 1.30 lakh (in Hilly States/North Eastern States/Difficult areas/UT of J&K and Ladakh/IAP/LWE districts) with a sharing ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State.

Beneficiaries can also avail loan upto Rs. 7000 from financial institutions.

Funds for all these houses constructed under PMAY-G are given by way of 4 installments directly into the bank account of the beneficiary after verification of various stages of construction through Geotagged photographs.

The beneficiaries are provided support of unskilled labour wages for 90/95 person days under MGNREGS and assistance of Rs. 12,000 for construction of toilets through Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin, or any other dedicated source of funding.

Source: Governance in India by Laxmikanth

Q.3) The “Recognition of Prior Learning” is the component of which of the following scheme?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- b) Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme
- c) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- d) National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana

ANS: C

Explanation: PMKVY is a Skill Certification Scheme that aims to encourage the youth population of the country to take up training which is Industry- Relevant and builds them in Skill Development.

The scheme was launched with an intention to provide secure livelihoods for the individuals participating in the training.

PMKVY will also certify the previous learning experiences or skills of the individuals under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/skill-development/best-practices-on-skill-development/recognition-of-prior-learning>.

Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

List : Subject

- 1. Union List : Electricity
- 2. State List : Regulation of mines and mineral development
- 3. Concurrent List : Public health

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Public health and sanitation, Regulation of mines and mineral development comes under State list. Electricity is in Concurrent list.

Source: Laxmikanth

Polity – Governance – Public Policy

Q.5) Ayushman Sahakar, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country was launched by which of the following?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- b) Ministry of Finance

- c) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- d) Ministry of Home Affairs

ANS: A

Explanation: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Ayushman Sahakar, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

It is a scheme of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for financial assistance to cooperatives on holistic healthcare infrastructure, education and services.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage>.

Q.6) Which of the following is/are functional items of "Twelfth Schedule"?

- 1. Planning for economic and social development.
- 2. Fire services.
- 3. Fisheries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: List of 18 items covered under the Twelfth Schedule of the Indian Constitution are as follows;

Regulation of land use and construction of land buildings.

Urban planning including the town planning.

Planning for economic and social development Urban poverty alleviation Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes Fire services Public health sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management Slum improvement and up-gradation Safeguarding the interests of the weaker sections of society, including the physically handicapped and mentally unsound Urban forestry, protection of environment and promotion of ecological aspects Construction of roads and bridges Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens and playgrounds Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects Burials and burials grounds, cremation and cremation grounds and electric crematoriums Cattle ponds, prevention of cruelty to animals Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries Public amenities including street lighting, parking spaces, bus stops and public conveniences Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA):

- 1. It is a non-profit, Non Banking Financing Company (NBFC).
- 2. All Centrally Funded Educational Institutions in Higher Education, School Education and Medical Education sectors are eligible to avail of loans through HEFA.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: HEFA has been set up on 31st May 2017 by the Central Government as a non-profit, Non Banking Financing Company (NBFC).

HEFA was established to mobilize extra-budgetary resources for building crucial infrastructure in the higher educational institutions under Central Government.

The Government has approved the authorised equity capital expansion of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to Rs. 10,000 crore, with Government equity of Rs. 6000 crore.

An amount corresponding to 10% of the Government equity would be contributed by the partner institution, Canara Bank.

All Centrally Funded Educational Institutions in Higher Education, School Education and Medical Education sectors are eligible to avail of loans through HEFA.

Source: <https://hefa.co.in/about-us/>

Q.8) Which of the following is/are functional items of “Eleventh Schedule”?

1. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.
2. Food processing industries.
3. Cattle ponds, prevention of cruelty to animals.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Eleventh Schedule It contains the following 29 functional items placed within the purview of panchayats: Agriculture, including agricultural extension Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry Fisheries Social forestry and farm forestry Minor forest produce Small-scale industries, including food processing industries Khadi, village and cottage industries Rural housing Drinking water Fuel and fodder Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY):

1. Scheme was launched by Ministry of Rural Development in 2014.
2. Scheme aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Government has informed that around 4.39 lakh candidates have been trained during 2018-19 and 2019-20 under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalaya Yojana (DDU-GKY). It was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) as a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Scheme aim is to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) The “Section 124-A” of Indian Penal Code is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Privacy
- b) Domestic abuse
- c) Sedition
- d) Extra marital affairs

ANS: C

Explanation: The section 124-A deals with the offence of sedition, a term that covers speech or writing, or any form of visible representation, which brings the government into hatred or contempt, or excites disaffection towards the government, or attempts to do so. It is punishable with three years in prison or a life term. “Disaffection”, it says, includes disloyalty and feelings of enmity.

However, it also says expressing disapproval of government measures or actions, with a view to getting them changed by lawful means, without promoting hatred or disaffection or contempt towards the government will not come under this section.

Sedition was introduced in the penal code in 1870; a decade after the Indian Penal Code came into force. It was a colonial law directed against strong criticism of the British administration.

Its most famous victims included Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi called it “the prince among the political sections of the IPC designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen”.

Two high courts had found it unconstitutional after Independence, as it violated the freedom of speech and expression. The Constitution was amended to include ‘public order’ as one of the ‘reasonable restrictions’ on which free speech could be abridged by law.

Thereafter, the Supreme Court, in Kedar Nath Singh v. State of Bihar (1962) upheld its validity. At the same time, it limited its application to acts that involve “intention or tendency to create disorder” or incitement to violence.

Thus, even strongly worded remarks, as long as they do not excite disloyalty and enmity, or incite violence, are not offences under this section.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/its-time-to-define-limits-of-sedition-says-sc/>

Revision

Q.1) With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a multi-member body consists of chairman and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
2. They are appointed by President of India under his hand and seal.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.

They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) The Special Police Establishment is often seen in news is associated with which of the following?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation
- b) National Crime Records Bureau
- c) National Investigation Agency
- d) Central Vigilance Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office.
- The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding State Information Commission:

1. Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than five State Information Commissioners.
2. They are appointed by President 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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than Ten State Information Commissioners.

- They are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Chief Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and a State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.
- They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established after the Kargil war to gather intelligence throughout India.
2. The director – general of NIA is appointed by President.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted in 2009 under the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (NIA Act).

- It is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country.
- The NIA is headed by a Director-General. He is appointed by the central government.
- His powers are similar to the powers exercisable by a Director-General of Police in respect of the police force in a state.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Who among the following is the ex – office chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority?

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Home Minister
- d) Niti Aayog Vice Chairman

ANS: A

Explanation: The NDMA consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding nine.

- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA. The other members are nominated by the chairperson of the NDMA.
- The chairperson of the NDMA designates one of the members as the vice-chairperson of the NDMA.
- The vice-chairperson has the status of a Cabinet Minister while the other members have the status of a Minister of State.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) “Articles 82 and 170” of Indian constitution are related to which of the following?

- a) Readjustment of territorial constituencies
- b) Prime minister and Chief Minister
- c) President and Governor

d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution of India provide for readjustment and the division of each State into territorial constituencies (Parliamentary constituencies and Assembly constituencies) on the basis of the 2001 census by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may, by law, determine.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) “Vohra Committee” was associated with which of the following?

- a) States re – organization
- b) Nexus between Crime and Politics
- c) Local governance
- d) e – Governance

ANS: B

Explanation: The various committees and commissions which have examined our electoral system, election machinery as well as election process and suggested reforms are mentioned here.

- Joint Parliamentary Committee on Amendments to Election Laws (1971–72).
- Tarkunde Committee was appointed in 1974 by Jaya Prakash Narayan (JP) during his “Total Revolution” movement. This unofficial committee submitted its report in 1975.
- Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990)
- Vohra Committee on the Nexus between Crime and Politics (1993)
- Election Commission of India Recommendations on Electoral Reforms (1998).
- Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections (1998)

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following state is NOT part of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

ANS: C

Explanation: Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as ‘scheduled areas’ and ‘tribal areas’.

- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on the other hand, deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following Article (s) of Indian Constitution is/are deals with the reservation in services/posts?

1. Article 19
2. Article 46
3. Article 335

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The relevant Articles of the Constitution which govern the entire reservation set up are the following:

- Article 16(4): Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.
- Article 46: The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- Article 335: The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

1. It is wholly owned government of India undertaking.
2. NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
3. It is the nodal agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation(NSKFDC), A wholly owned Govt. of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/o SJ&E) was set up on 24th January 1997 as a Company "Not for Profit" under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956.

- NSKFDC is in operation since October, 1997, as an Apex Corporation for the all round socio-economic upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis, Scavengers and their dependants throughout India, through various loan and non-loan based schemes.
- Apart from operating various loan and non-loan based schemes for the upliftment of the target group, NSKFDC is playing a vital role in elimination of manual scavenging - the worst surviving symbol of untouchability.
- NSKFDC has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Central Sector Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Source: The Hindu