

Q.1) With reference to the Secular character of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements is *incorrect*?

- a) All citizens are equally entitled to liberty of belief, faith and worship.
- b) All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- c) All people are equally required to pay taxes for the promotion of their religion.
- d) The State shall not deny any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

The Constitution of India stands for a secular state. Hence, it does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State. **The following provisions of the Constitution reveal the secular character of the Indian State:**

- 1) The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976.
- 2) **The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship. Hence, option a is correct.**
- 3) **The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws (Article 14). Hence, option d is correct.**
- 4) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion (Article 15).
- 5) Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public employment (Article 16).
- 6) All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion (Article 25).
- 7) Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs (Article 26).
- 8) **No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion (Article 27). Hence, option c is incorrect.**
- 9) No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution maintained by the State (Article 28).
- 10) Any section of the citizens shall have the right to conserve its distinct language, script or culture (Article 29).
- 11) **All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice (Article 30). Hence, option b is correct.**

Source: Laxmikant Making of Constitution

Q.2) With reference to the Government of India Act of 1935, consider the following statements:

1. The Act established India as a federation of the British provinces and princely states.
2. The Act introduced bicameralism in the British provinces.
3. The Act designated the Governor-General of India as a nominal head of the State.

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists. Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, **the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.**

Statement 2 is correct. The Act introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Indian Independence Act of 1947 (and not the GoI Act, 1935) designated the Governor-General of India and the provincial governors as constitutional (nominal) heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective council of ministers in all matters.

Knowledge Base:

Major Provisions of Government of India Act of 1935:

- 1) It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation.
- 2) It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place.
- 3) It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre.
- 4) It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces.
- 5) It extended franchise. About 10 per cent of the total population got the voting right.
- 6) It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India.
- 7) It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.

Source: Laxmikanth Historical Background

Q.3) With reference to the Geographical Indications (GI) tags, consider the following pairs:

<i>Geographical Indications</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Telia Rumal	Karnataka
2. Arumbavur Wood Carving	Kerala
3. Thanjavur Netti	Tamil Nadu
4. Sohrai – Khovar Painting	Odisha

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

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Pair 1 is *incorrectly* matched: Telia Rumal: Telangana

Telia Rumal involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white. Puttapaka in Nalgonda is the centre for the Puttapaka Telia Rumal.

Uniqueness: It can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as the very quality of the Rumal would be lost.

Significance: It is usually offered at the dargah of Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan.

Pair 2 is *incorrectly* matched: Arumbavur Wood Carving: Tamil Nadu

Arumbavur wood carvings are sculptures primarily made out of the wooden logs of Mango, Lingam tree, Indian Ash tree, Rosewood, Neem tree. The wood supply comes from the Pachamalai Hills along the Trichy – Perambalur boundary and the Thanjavur – Kumbakonam zone. Arumbavur is a Town Panchayat at Veppanthattai Taluk in Perambalur district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Its work revolves around idols and deities, temple chariots and temple cars, door panels of houses, pooja rooms and temples, decorative figures and pooja mandapam.

Uniqueness: The entire design carved is made out of a single block of wood given that a single error could damage the entire piece.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Thanjavur Netti: Tamil Nadu

Thanjavur Netti Works/Thanjavur Pith Work is **made from Netti (pith) from a marshy plant** called as Aeschynomene Aspera. **The pith work models are delicate to handle and are usually preserved inside glass boxes.** The notable works include Brihadeeswara Temple, Hindu Idols, door hangings and decorative pieces. The government has also recognised the pith work industry as one of the major handicraft symbols.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: Sohrai Khovar Painting: Jharkhand

It is a traditional and ritualistic **mural painting** practised by local tribal women in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. It is mostly practised during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours available in the region. Traditionally painted on partitions of mud home. The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography.

Knowledge Base:

A GI tag is a sign used on goods that have a specific Geographical Indications tag origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are specific to that origin. The tag can be awarded for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine, handicrafts, and industrial products.

A GI tag is a part of the intellectual property rights that comes under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.

Source: https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/GI_Application_Register_10-09-2019.pdf

<https://blog.forumias.com/telia-rumal/>

<https://blog.forumias.com/gi-tag-for-thanjavur-netti-and-arumbavur-wood-carving/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gi-tag-to-manipur-black-rice-gorakhpur-terracotta/article31475958.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kashmir-saffron-gets-gi-tag/article31484569.ece>

Q.4) Match the certain parts of the basic structure of the constitution of India with the Supreme Court cases in which they have been declared as such for the first time.

<i>Cases</i>	<i>Features that are part of the Basis Structure</i>
1. Minerva Mills vs Union of India, 1980	A. Federalism

2. Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, 1992	B. Judicial review
3. Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu and Ors, 1992	C. Rule of law
4. S. R. Bommai vs Union of India, 1994	D. Free and fair elections

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-D
- b) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A
- c) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D
- d) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Pair 1-B is correctly matched.

The Supreme Court in the *Minerva Mills* case (1980) upheld that judicial review is one of the ‘basic features’ of the Constitution.

Pair 2-C is correctly matched.

In *Indira Sawhney vs. Union of India*, 1992, ‘Rule of law’ was added to the basic features.

The court said that the criteria for a group to qualify for reservation is “social and educational backwardness”.

It reiterated the 50% limit to vertical quotas reasoning that it was needed to ensure “efficiency” in administration. However, the court said that this 50% limit will apply unless in “exceptional circumstances”.

Pair 3-D is correctly matched.

In *Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu*, 1992, ‘Free and fair elections’ was added to the basic features.

The principal question before the Supreme Court in the case was whether the powerful role given to the Speaker under the Tenth Schedule violated the doctrine of Basic Structure.

In this case the court upheld the sweeping discretion available to the Speaker in deciding cases of disqualification of MLAs.

Pair 4-A is correctly matched.

In S.R Bommai vs Union of India, 1994, federalism, unity and integrity of India, secularism, socialism, social justice and judicial review were reiterated as basic features of the Constitution.

Source: M Laxmikanth, Indian polity, 6th edition, 11.2, 11.4

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/karnataka-crisis-what-was-scs-kihoto-hollohan-order-of-1992-what-is-the-role-of-speaker-5834547/>

[https://blog.forumias.com/answered-tracing-the-evolution-of-basic-structure-doctrine-in-india-highlights-its-salient-](https://blog.forumias.com/answered-tracing-the-evolution-of-basic-structure-doctrine-in-india-highlights-its-salient-features/#:~:text=Minerva%20Mills%20Case%3A%20Under%20Minerva,the%20Kesavananda%20Bharati%20Case%20Judgement)

[features/#:~:text=Minerva%20Mills%20Case%3A%20Under%20Minerva,the%20Kesavananda%20Bharati%20Case%20Judgement](https://blog.forumias.com/answered-tracing-the-evolution-of-basic-structure-doctrine-in-india-highlights-its-salient-features/#:~:text=Minerva%20Mills%20Case%3A%20Under%20Minerva,the%20Kesavananda%20Bharati%20Case%20Judgement)

Q.5) Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Independence Act of 1947:

1. The Act made the Constituent Assembly of India a fully sovereign body.
2. It made the Constituent Assembly the first Parliament of free India.
3. The office of the Governor-General of India was abolished by the Act.

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

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Independence Act of 1947 made the Constituent Assembly a fully sovereign body, which could frame any Constitution it pleased. The act empowered the Assembly to abrogate or alter any law made by the British Parliament in relation to India.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act also made the Assembly a legislative body. In other words, two separate functions were assigned to the Assembly, that is, making of the Constitution for free India and enacting of ordinary laws for the country. Thus, the Assembly became the first Parliament of free India (Dominion Legislature).

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Act abolished the office of viceroy, but provided for a Governor-General, who was to be appointed by the British King on the advice of the dominion cabinet. His Majesty's Government in Britain was to have no responsibility with respect to the Government of India.

Source: Laxmikanth- Historical background

Q.6) With reference to Earth's magnetosphere, consider the following statements:

1. The ionosphere is part of the magnetosphere.
2. Magnetic field in the Earth is generated by the convective motion of charged, molten iron in the inner core.
3. The outer boundary of Earth's confined geomagnetic field is called the Magnetosheath.
4. The magnetosphere protects the atmosphere from erosion by the solar wind.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) a

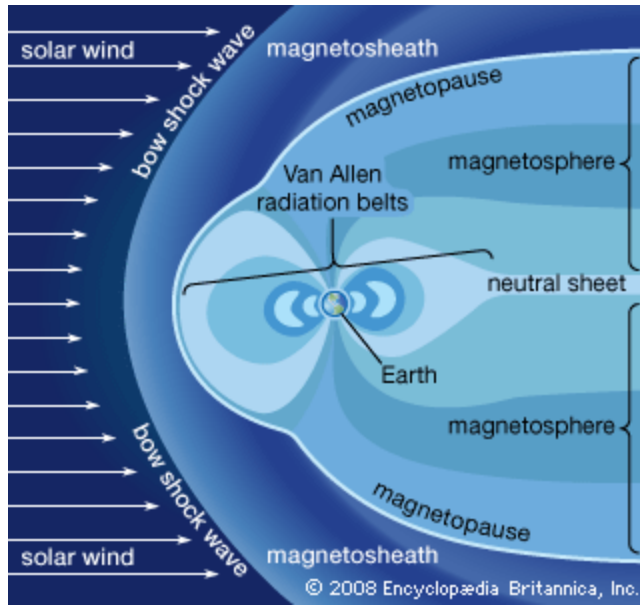
Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: A magnetosphere is that area of space, around a planet, that is controlled by the planet's magnetic field. The lower boundary of a planetary magnetosphere begins from that part of the atmosphere where ionized constituents play an important role in the dynamics of the upper atmosphere. For Earth, this boundary is located at ~100 km where the ionosphere begins (ionospheres are formed by the Sun's ultraviolet radiation). The ionosphere is therefore part of the magnetosphere.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Earth's magnetosphere is part of a dynamic, interconnected system that responds to solar, planetary, and interstellar conditions. It is generated by the convective motion of charged, molten iron, far below the surface in Earth's outer core. Constant bombardment by the solar wind compresses the sun-facing side of our magnetic field.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The shape of the Earth's magnetosphere is the direct result of being blasted by solar wind. A supersonic shock wave is created sunward of Earth called the **Bow Shock**.

Most of the solar wind particles are heated and slowed at the bow shock and detour around the Earth in the **Magnetosheath**. The outer boundary of Earth's confined geomagnetic field is called the **Magnetopause**. 1000 times Earth's radius; its exact length is not known. This extension of the magnetosphere is known as the **Magnetotail**.



Statement 4 is correct: Earth's magnetosphere has played a crucial role in our planet's habitability. **The magnetosphere shields our home planet from solar and cosmic particle radiation, as well as erosion of the atmosphere by the solar wind - the constant flow of charged particles streaming off the sun.**

Knowledge Base:

The magnetosphere is important because it shields us from interplanetary space weather. Charged particles cannot easily cross the lines of a magnetic field. The result is that most of the particles in the incoming solar wind are deflected around the earth by the earth's magnetic field.

Auroras are perhaps the most spectacular manifestations of the complex interaction of the solar wind with the outer atmosphere. The energetic electrons and protons responsible for an aurora are directed by the solar wind along magnetic fields into Earth's magnetosphere.

The solar wind also carries with it interplanetary magnetic field, or IMF, which is a magnetic field from the sun. The IMF can influence solar weather by disrupting the earth's magnetosphere. The earth's magnetic field and the IMF connect at the polar caps, and it's here that energy and particles can and do enter the magnetosphere. If the incoming IMF points south, its interconnection with the earth's magnetic field becomes especially strong. The effect is like widening a hole—suddenly more energy and particles enter the magnetosphere. Auroras intensify, and geomagnetic storms become likely. For this reason, scientists pay careful attention to not only the strength but also the orientation of incoming magnetic fields from the sun. South-pointing magnetic fields can spell trouble, while north-pointing fields usually coincide with calmer conditions.

Source: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sunearth/multimedia/magnetosphere.html

<https://science.nasa.gov/heliophysics/focus-areas/magnetosphere-ionosphere>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/magnetosphere>

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/spaceweather/magneto.html#:~:text=The%20magnetosphere%20is%20important%20because,by%20the%20earth's%20magnetic%20field>

Q.7) Consider the following pairs of committees of the Constituent Assembly and their chairpersons:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>
1. Union Constitution Committee	B.R. Ambedkar
2. Rules of Procedure Committee	Rajendra Prasad
3. Committee for Negotiating with States	Sardar Patel
4. Union Powers Committee	Jawaharlal Nehru

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

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The Constituent Assembly had appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Some of the important committees were as follow -

- 1) **Union Powers Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru**
- 2) **Union Constitution Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru**
- 3) Provincial Constitution Committee – Sardar Patel
- 4) Drafting Committee – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- 5) Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas – Sardar Patel.
- 6) **Rules of Procedure Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad**

7) States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) – Jawaharlal Nehru

8) Steering Committee – Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Source: Laxmikant Making of Constitution

Q.8) Consider the following statements with reference to the composition of Constituent Assembly:

1. The representatives of princely states were nominated by their respective legislative assemblies.
2. Provinces and Princely states were allotted seats with respect to their strategic and economic 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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan. **The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states** and not nominated by their legislative assemblies. The representatives of provinces, on the other hand, were elected by members of that provincial legislative assembly.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Each province and princely state (or group of states in case of small states) were to be **allotted seats in proportion to their respective population**. Roughly, one seat was to be allotted for every million population.

Source: Laxmikant – Making of the Constitution

Q.9) Recently, there occurred a leakage of Styrene gas at a polymer plant in Andhra Pradesh. What are the concerns associated with the release/exposure of/to this gas?

1. Styrene is highly flammable and releases a poisonous gas when burnt.
2. Styrene is a possible human carcinogen.
3. Inhaling it, even for a short period can cause respiratory problems.

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Styrene is highly flammable and releases a poisonous gas when burnt. Styrene is a colorless, flammable liquid, which has a sweet odor and is highly volatile. Styrene is widely used to make plastics and rubber, which are used to manufacture a variety of products, such as insulation, pipes, automobile parts, printing cartridges, food containers, and carpet backing.

Statement 2 is correct. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Toxicology Program (NTP) listed styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" in the Report on Carcinogens, Twelfth Edition, released on June 10, 2011. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has determined that styrene is a possible carcinogen.

Statement 3 is correct. Inhaling it for a short period of time causes irritation in the eye, respiratory problems, nausea, unsteady gait, loss of consciousness and gastrointestinal effects. Also, studies have shown that it produces lung cancer in rodents.

Kb) Other concerns:

Acute exposure to styrene in humans results in respiratory effects, such as mucous membrane irritation, eye irritation, and gastrointestinal effects.

Tests involving acute exposure of rats and mice have shown styrene to have low to moderate toxicity by inhalation and oral exposure.

Chronic exposure to styrene in humans results in effects on the CNS (Central Nervous System), with symptoms such as headache, fatigue, weakness, depression, CNS dysfunction (reaction time, memory, visuomotor speed and accuracy, intellectual function), and hearing loss, peripheral neuropathy, minor effects on some kidney enzyme functions and the blood.

Styrene was the gas responsible for the Visakhapatnam gas leak, an industrial accident that occurred at the LG Polymers chemical plant on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam. **Styrene is the main raw material used for synthesis of polystyrene.** It is also used in the manufacturing of fiberglass, rubber, and latex. It is also found in vehicle exhaust, cigarette smoke, and in natural foods like fruits and vegetables.

Source) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/what-is-styrene-the-chemical-compound-that-led-to-vizag-gas-leak/articleshow/75593882.cms>

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/styrene/index.cfm#:~:text=Human%20Studies%3A%20The%20limited%20evidence,of%20workers%20exposed%20to%20styrene.>

Q.10) With reference to the 'Indian Council Act of 1861', consider the following statements:

1. The Act restored the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.
2. It separated the legislative and executive functions of the central government, for the first time.
3. The Act provided for issuance of ordinance by the Viceroy during an emergency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Councils Act of 1861 initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It thus reversed the centralising tendency that started from the Regulating Act of 1773 and reached its climax under the Charter Act of 1833. This policy of legislative devolution resulted in the grant of almost complete internal autonomy to the provinces in 1937.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It was the Charter Act of 1853 (and not the Indian Councils Act of 1861) which, for the first time, separated the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's council. It provided for addition of six new members called legislative councillors to the council. This council, which came to be known as the Indian (Central) Legislative Council, functioned as a mini-parliament.

Statement 3 is correct. The Indian Councils Act of 1861 empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances, without the concurrence of the legislative council, during an emergency. The life of such an ordinance was six months.

Knowledge Base)

Other important provisions of the Indian Councils Act of 1861:

- 1) It made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It provided that the viceroy should nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council.
- 2) It also provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Punjab, which were established in 1862, 1866 and 1897 respectively.
- 3) It empowered the Viceroy to make rules and orders for the more convenient transaction of business in the council. It also gave a recognition to the 'portfolio' system, introduced by Lord Canning in 1859.

Source: Laxmikanth- Historical Background

Q.11) Consider the following statements with reference to the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. It made changes in fundamental rights, fundamental duties and directive principles of state policy of the Constitution.
2. Parliament is empowered to legislate with respect to multi-state cooperative societies under the act.

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) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. It made the right to form co-operative societies a **fundamental right** under Article 19. It included a new **directive principle of state policy** on promotion of cooperative societies (under Article 43-B). However, it **did not add any new provision to fundamental duties**.

Statement 2 is correct. It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled as “The Cooperative Societies” (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT). It **empowers the Parliament in respect of multi-state cooperative societies and the state legislatures in respect of other co-operative societies to make the appropriate law**.

Source: Laxmikant- Making of Constitution

Q.12) What is/are the major threat(s) to the survival of the population of ‘Indian Pangolin’?

1. Hunted for its meat.
2. Entanglement in fishing nets.
3. Use of its scales for medicinal purposes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Pangolins are scaly ant eater mammals of the order Pholidota. They have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin and they are the only known mammals with this feature. Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin and the Chinese Pangolin are found in India. Indian Pangolin is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East region. It is listed as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List.

Major threats to the population of Indian Pangolin includes:

Hunting and poaching for local consumptive use (e.g., as a protein source and traditional medicine)

Smuggled for its scales as it is believed that scales possess magic or charms and have medicinal properties.

Heavy Deforestation of their Habitat.

There is now greater evidence of its inclusion in illicit international trade, in particular its scales, from both India and Pakistan, with Myanmar and China comprising the most likely, final destinations. Seizure reports from the country suggest that between 2009 and 2013, over 3,000 pangolins were hunted. Media reports state that during the period, approximately 5,000 kg of pangolin scales were confiscated in 25 seizures. Inadequate information on population and distribution further accentuates the threats arising from hunting and poaching.

Q.13) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Indian Constitutional Feature</i>	<i>Sources</i>
1. Appointment of state governors by the Centre	Irish Constitution
2. Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament	Australian Constitution
3. Procedure established by Law	Japanese Constitution
4. Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice	Soviet Constitution

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

a) 1 and 3 only

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched. Irish Constitution (Source)- Directive Principles of State Policy, nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and method of election of president.

Canadian Constitution (Source)- Federation with a strong Centre, vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, appointment of state governors by the Centre, and advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

Pair 2 is correctly matched. Australian Constitution (Source)- Concurrent List, freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse, and joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament

Pair 3 is correctly matched. Japanese Constitution- Procedure established by Law.

Pair 4 is correctly matched. Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia) - Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social economic and political) in the Preamble.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.14) Among which of the following groups are all languages included under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

- a) Nepali, Marathi, Gujarati and Rajasthani
- b) Nepali, Urdu, Konkani, and Rajasthani
- c) Konkani, English, Marathi and Punjabi
- d) Nepali, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Options a, b and c are incorrect. **English** is the language which is the official language of a state but is still **not recognized in the 8th schedule** of the Constitution of India. Similarly, **Rajasthani language is still not included in the 8th scheduled** of the Constitution. Recently the Government of Rajasthan has approached the Centre for its inclusion into the 8th Schedule.

Option d is correct. The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies 22 languages (originally 14 languages). These are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), **Gujarati**, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, **Marathi**, **Nepali**, Odia, **Punjabi**, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and

Urdu. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992; and Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 1096 (Pdf)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/lok-sabha-elections/trying-to-get-rajasthani-included-in-eighth-schedule-of-constitution-bikaner-mp/story-LHzvylzNwGlwrX33rIA2TO.html>

Q.15) With reference to classification of cyclones by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), consider the following statements:

1. The IMD classifies cyclones on the basis of the maximum sustained surface wind speed only.
2. Very Severe Cyclonic Storm has wind speed more than 1000 kmph.
3. Cyclone Tauktae, developed in the Bay of Bengal, was classified as a 'very severe cyclonic storm'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies cyclones on the basis of the maximum sustained surface wind speed they generate. Wind speed is usually a function of the difference in pressure between the low-pressure eye and the areas outside it.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)'s criterion to classify the cyclones is based upon the method adopted by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The classification is:

Type of Disturbances (and Associated Wind Speed in the Circulation):

- 1) **Firstly, Low-pressure Area:** Wind Speed less than 17 knots (<31 kmph)
- 2) **Secondly, Depression:** 17 to 27 knots (31 to 49 kmph)
- 3) **Thirdly, Deep Depression:** 28 to 33 knots (50 to 61 kmph)
- 4) **Fourthly, Cyclonic storm:** 34 to 47 knots (62 to 88 kmph)
- 5) **Fifthly, Severe Cyclonic Storm:** 48 to 63 knots (89 to 118 kmph)
- 6) **Sixthly, Very Severe Cyclonic Storm:** 64 to 119 knots (119 to 221 kmph)
- 7) **Seventhly, Super Cyclonic Storm:** 119 knots and above (221 kmph and above).

Statement 3 is incorrect: Cyclone Tauktae (pronounced Tau-Te), classified as a **very severe cyclonic storm** (VSCS) but it developed in the **Arabian Sea**.

Cyclone Tauktae (pronounced Tau-Te) hit southern Gujarat of the country. Cyclone Tauktae's name was suggested by Myanmar. Tauktae means a highly vocal lizard gecko.

Knowledge Base: Cyclone Yaas has been classified as a very severe cyclone. Cyclone Yaas is the first cyclonic storm to develop over the Bay of Bengal in 2021. Cyclone Yaas crossed the northern Odisha coast around 20 km south of Balasore at its peak intensity as a very severe cyclonic storm.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/cyclone-tauktae-expected-to-hit-gujarat/>

[https://blog.forumias.com/disaster-news/cyclones-news-and-](https://blog.forumias.com/disaster-news/cyclones-news-and-updates/#:~:text=Firstly%2C%20Low%2Dpressure%20Area%3A,17%20knots%20(%3C31%20kmph)&text=Thir)

[updates/#:~:text=Firstly%2C%20Low%2Dpressure%20Area%3A,17%20knots%20\(%3C31%20kmph\)&text=Thir](https://blog.forumias.com/disaster-news/cyclones-news-and-updates/#:~:text=Firstly%2C%20Low%2Dpressure%20Area%3A,17%20knots%20(%3C31%20kmph)&text=Thir)
[dly%2C%20Deep%20Depression%3A%2028%20to,knots%20\(89%20to%20118%20kmph\)https://www.deccanherald.com/national/expained-how-imd-categorises-cyclones-989000.html](https://www.deccanherald.com/national/expained-how-imd-categorises-cyclones-989000.html)

Q.16) With reference to the Preamble of the Constitution, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of Justice?

- a) It means providing unrestrained freedom for the development of individual personalities.
- b) It means providing special privileges to people from the weaker sections.
- c) It means equal treatment of all citizens without any social, economic and political distinction.
- d) It means promotion of harmony and brotherhood amongst all the people of India.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Justice means **equal treatment of all citizens without any social, economic and political distinction**. Social justice denotes the equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction based on caste, colour, race, religion, sex. Economic justice denotes the non-discrimination between people on the basis of economic factors. It involves the elimination of glaring inequalities in wealth, income and property. Political justice implies that all citizens should have equal political rights, equal access to all political offices and equal voice in the government.

Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/keps104.pdf>

Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 124 (Pdf)

Q.17) Which one of the following statements correctly describes the term 'socialism' with Indian characteristics?

- a) It involves the nationalization of all key industries.

- b) It means complete state ownership of material resources of the nation.
- c) It is a 'state socialism' where the government plays major role.
- d) It provides for individual freedom with centralized-social control of the economy.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct

Options a, b and c are incorrect. Communistic socialism is also known as 'state socialism'. Communistic socialism involves the nationalization of all means of production and distribution and the abolition of private property.

Option d is correct. The Indian brand of socialism is a 'democratic socialism' which is a blend of Marxism and Gandhism where both public and private sectors co-exist. Democratic socialism aims to end poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. Jawaharlal Nehru described democratic socialism as one, which will be based on political liberty, equality and tolerance. Under democratic socialism we could maintain individual freedom and initiative with centralized-social control and planning of the economic life of the people.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 121 (Pdf)

<https://www.indianbarassociation.org/socialism-and-its-interpretation-by-the-indian-judiciary/>

Q.18) Which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Schedule V of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?

- a) The State Government may declare any wild animal as vermin.
- b) The hunted wildlife is declared as government property.
- c) Currently only Common crow, Fruit bats, Mice & Rats are placed in this Schedule.
- d) Wild animals can be declared as vermin if they have become diseased beyond recovery.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement a is *incorrect*: The Central Government may, by notification, declare any wild animal other than those specified in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II to be **vermin** for any area and for such period as may be specified therein and so long as such notification is in force, such wild animal shall be deemed to have been included in **Schedule V**. Vermin means wild mammals and birds which are harmful to crops, farm animals or which carry disease.

Statement b is **correct**: The hunted wildlife is declared as government property and it imposes restrictions on how these carcasses must be disposed of. For this purpose, the hunter has to apply for a license to the District

Forest Officer who will allow a hunter to shoot during a specific season and restricted area. Any infringement can lead to cancellation of the hunting license.

Statement c is correct: Currently, some animals like the **common crow, fruit bats, mice and rats have been listed as vermin in Schedule V of WPA.**

Statement d is correct: In India, wild animals can be **declared as vermin** if they have become (i) **dangerous to human life or property** (including standing crops on any land). (ii) **become disabled or diseased as to be beyond recovery.**

Source: https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1972-53_0.pdf

<https://blog.forumias.com/wildlife-protection-act-1972-2/>

Q.19) This term from the Constitution indicates that India has an elected head of the state. It supports vesting of political sovereignty in the people of the country. It also indicates the absence of any privileged class and all public offices being opened to every citizen without any discrimination.

Which of the following terms best defines this attribute of India as a Nation-State?

- a) Equality
- b) Republic
- c) Parliamentary Democracy
- d) Liberty

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Option a is incorrect. The term ‘equality’ means the **absence of special privileges to any section of the society**, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. The provision embraces three dimensions of equality—civic, political and economic.

Option b is correct. The term ‘republic’ in our Preamble indicates that India has an **elected head called the president**. He is elected indirectly for a fixed period of five years. A republic also means two more things: one, **vesting of political sovereignty in the people** and not in a single individual like a king; second, the **absence of any privileged class** and hence all public offices being opened to every citizen without any discrimination.

Option c is incorrect. **Democracy** is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that is, **possession of supreme power by the people**. The Indian Constitution provides for **representative parliamentary democracy** under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and actions. Universal adult franchise,

periodic elections, rule of law, independence of judiciary, and absence of discrimination on certain grounds are the manifestations of the democratic character of the Indian polity.

Option d is incorrect. The word ‘sovereign’ implies that India is **neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation**, but an independent state. There is no authority above it, and it is free to conduct its own affairs (both internal and external).

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 121-125 (Pdf)

Q.20) With reference to the Preamble of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) As a sovereign state, India cannot cede a part of its territory in favour of a foreign state.
- b) In Indian democratic system supreme power is vested in the parliament.
- c) Liberty ensures the absence of special privileges to any section of society.
- d) In India, the ideal of fraternity is to secure the unity and integrity of the nation.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Option a is incorrect. **Sovereign state means** India can either acquire a foreign territory or **cede a part of its territory in favour of a foreign state**. The word ‘sovereign’ implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation, but an independent state.

Option b is incorrect. Indian democratic system, as stipulated in the Preamble, is based on the doctrine of popular sovereignty, that is, **possession of supreme power by the people (and not by the parliament)**.

Option c is incorrect. The term ‘equality’, in the preamble, means the absence of special privileges to any section of society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity

Option d is correct. **Fraternity** means a sense of brotherhood. The Constitution promotes this feeling of fraternity by the system of single citizenship. The Preamble declares that fraternity must assure two things– **the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation**.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 119-120 (Pdf)

Q.21) With reference to the findings of The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, which of the following statement is **incorrect**?

- a) It is released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- b) The rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during the period of 1990–2020.
- c) The largest proportion of the world's forests are tropical in nature.
- d) The area of naturally regenerating forests has increased since 1990.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Option a is correct: The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The report presents a comprehensive view of the world's forests and the ways in which the resource is changing.

Option b is correct: It found out that the rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during the period of 1990–2020. During the last decade Forest area has increased in Asia, Oceania and Europe while the highest rate of net forest losses was recorded in Africa followed by South America.

Option c is correct: The largest proportions of the world's forests are tropical (45%), followed by boreal, temperate and subtropical.

Option d is incorrect: Ninety-three percent of the forest area worldwide is composed of naturally regenerating forests and 7 percent is planted. The area of naturally regenerating forests has decreased since 1990 (at a declining rate of loss), but the area of planted forests has increased by 123 million ha.

Knowledge Base)

It is based on the assessment of more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period of 1990–2020.

Key takeaways:

- 1) **Total forest area:** The world's total forest area is 4.06 billion hectares (bha) which is 31% of the total land area.
- 2) **Countries with Highest Forest cover:** Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, United States of America and China constituted more than 54% of the world's forests.
- 3) **Plantation Forests:** The highest percent of plantation forests were in South America while the lowest were in Europe.

FAO:

- 1) It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- 2) **Aim:** To achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- 3) **Reports:**

- Global Food Price Index
- State of the World's Forests report.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/forests/deforestation-rate-globally-declined-between-2015-and-2020-fao-report-71107>

<http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/2020/en/>

Q.22) Consider the following statements:

1. A country is a 'federation of states' when it is the result of an agreement among the states.
2. States which come together as a 'Union', does not have a right to secede from the federation.

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

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. A country is called 'federation of states' when it is the **result of an agreement among the states**. According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, countries like USA is 'federation of states' because the federation is the result of an agreement among the states.

Statement 2 is correct. States which come together as a 'Union', does not have right secede from the federation. Article 1 describes India, that is, Bharat as a 'Union of States' rather than a 'Federation of States'. The Indian federation is a Union because it is indestructible. India is an integral whole and divided into different states only for the convenience of administration.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 134-135 (Pdf)

Q.23) Consider the following statements with regard to the 15th Finance Commission:

1. The Finance Commission is a temporary quasi-judicial body.
2. The share of states in the Centre's divisible pool of taxes has decreased.
3. It introduced demographic performance as new criteria for devolution of funds to the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 280 provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier. So, it is a temporary body.

Statement 2 is correct: The share of states in the Centre's taxes is recommended to be decreased from 42% during the 2015-20 period to 41% for 2020-21. The 1% decrease is to provide for the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from the resources of the central government.

Statement 3 is correct: The Demographic Performance criterion has been introduced to reward efforts made by states in controlling their population.

Knowledge Base: The Finance Commission is required to make recommendations to the President on the following matters:

- 1) The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states, the respective shares of such proceeds.
- 2) The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre (i.e., out of the Consolidated Fund of India).
- 3) The measures needed to augment the Consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the State Finance Commission.
- 4) Any other matter referred to it by the President in the interests of sound finance.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/fifteenth-finance-commission/>

Q.24) What are the benefits of Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) method?

1. It requires less labour and reduces input cost.
2. The seed requirement for DSR is lower as compared to normal transplanting.
3. It reduces methane emissions due to a shorter flooding period and decreased soil disturbance.

Select the correct answer given below using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: Direct seeded crops require less labor and tend to mature faster than transplanted crops. DSR can help reduce water consumption by as much as 35 per cent, according to the 2011 study in Advances in Agronomy. It also stated that **DSR can reduce labour needs by 60 per cent and the cost of production by \$30-51 per ha.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The seed requirement for DSR is **high**, 8-10 kg/acre, compared to 4-5 kg/acre in transplanting.

Statement 3 is correct: DSR reduces methane emissions due to a **shorter flooding period and decreased soil disturbance compared to transplanting rice seedlings.** The study found that methane emissions were reduced by 6 per cent to 92 per cent in the DSR method, depending on the type of variant used.

Knowledge Base)

Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR): In DSR, the pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine. There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method. Farmers have to only **level their land** and given one pre-sowing irrigation. **Laser land levelling is compulsory** in DSR. This is not so in transplanting. In DSR as flooding of fields is not done during sowing, **chemical herbicides are used to kill weeds.** The sowing needs to be done timely so that the plants have come out properly before the monsoon rains arrive.

Transplanting Method: In transplanting for the first three weeks or so, the plants have to be irrigated almost daily to maintain a water depth of 4-5 cm. Water prevents growth of weeds by denying them oxygen in the submerged stage, whereas the soft '**aerenchyma tissues**' in paddy plants allow air to penetrate through their roots. Water, thus, acts as an herbicide for paddy.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/back-to-basics-covid-19-labour-crunch-brings-direct-seeding-of-paddy-in-focus-72280>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/labour-short-can-direct-seeding-be-alternative-to-paddy-transplanting-6408653/>

Q.25) With reference to special provisions for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution empowers the parliament to make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the union territory.
2. Under Article 371-H, the Administrator of Lakshadweep has a special responsibility for law and order in the state.

3. A person who is not a native of the island cannot enter the island without a permit issued by the competent authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 240 in the Constitution of India provides the **President of India (and not parliament)** the power to make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Union territory of -

- (a) the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
- (b) **Lakshadweep;**
- (c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli;
- (d) Daman and Diu;
- (e) Pondicherry.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under **Article 371-H**, the special provisions are made for **Arunachal Pradesh (not for Lakshadweep)**, where the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh has a special **responsibility for law and order in the state**. In the discharge of this responsibility, the Governor, after consulting the Council of Ministers, exercises his individual judgement and his decision is final.

Statement 3 is correct. According to **the Laccadive Minicoy Islands (Restrictions on Entry and Residence) Rule, 1967**, no person who is not a native of the island shall enter or reside in or attempt to enter or reside in the islands except under and in accordance with a permit issued by the competent authority.

Source) <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1823046/>

Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 869-875 (Pdf)

Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 805 (Pdf)

<https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s358238e9ae2dd305d79c2ebc8c1883422/uploads/2018/05/2018050467.pdf>

Q.26) With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Act, migrants from all neighbouring countries are eligible for citizenship of India.
2. It decreases the requirement of citizenship by naturalization to 5 years of residence for the eligible migrants.

3. The Act does not apply to areas included in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA)**, amended the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian illegal migrants **from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan only, eligible for citizenship of India**. Thus, the Act intends to make it easier for persecuted people from India's neighbouring countries to become citizens of India.

Statement 2 is correct. The Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 **relaxes** the requirement of **naturalization from 11 years to 5 years** as a specific condition for applicants belonging to these six religions.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **Citizenship Amendment Act 2019** adds that the provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants **will not apply to the tribal areas** of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, **as included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**. These tribal areas include Karbi Anglong (in Assam), Garo Hills (in Meghalaya), Chakma District (in Mizoram), and Tripura Tribal Areas District. It will **also not apply to the areas under the Inner Line Permit** under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873.

Source) <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-citizenship-amendment-bill-2019>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/et-explains/citizenship-amendment-bill-what-does-it-do-and-why-is-it-seen-as-a-problem/articleshow/72436995.cms>

Q.27) With reference to Sunspots, consider the following statements:

- 1. Sunspots are caused by disturbances in the Sun's magnetic field welling up to the corona.
- 2. During sunspot maximums, the Earth sees an increase in the Northern and Southern Lights.

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) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Sunspots are dark, planet-sized regions that appear on the "surface" of the Sun. Sunspots are "dark" because they are cooler than their surroundings. Sunspots are caused by disturbances in the Sun's magnetic field welling up to the photosphere, the Sun's visible "surface". The powerful magnetic fields in the vicinity of sunspots produce active regions on the Sun, which in turn frequently spawn disturbances such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs). Because sunspots are associated with solar activity, space weather forecasters track these features in order to help predict outbursts of "solar storms".

Statement 2 is correct: If sunspots are active, more solar flares will result creating an increase in geomagnetic storm activity for Earth. Therefore, during sunspot maximums, the Earth will see an increase in the Northern and Southern Lights and a possible disruption in radio transmissions and power grids. The storms can even change polarity in satellites which can damage sophisticated electronics. Therefore, scientists will often time preposition satellites to a different orientation to protect them from increased solar radiation when a strong solar flare or coronal mass ejection has occurred.

Times of maximum sunspot activity are associated with a very slight increase in the energy output from the sun. Ultraviolet radiation increases dramatically during high sunspot activity, which can have a large effect on the Earth's atmosphere.

Knowledge Base:

Sunspots tend to occur in pairs that have magnetic fields pointing in opposite directions.

The Solar Cycle: Sunspots increase and decrease through an average cycle of 11 years. Dating back to 1749, we have experienced 23 full solar cycles where the number of sunspots has gone from a minimum, to a maximum and back to the next minimum, through approximate 11-year cycles. We are now well into the 24th cycle.

One interesting aspect of solar cycles is that the sun went through a period of near zero sunspot activity from about 1645 to 1715. This period of sunspot minima is called the **Maunder Minimum**. The "Little Ice Age" occurred over parts of Earth during the Maunder Minimum.

Source: <https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/sun-space-weather/sunspots>

<https://www.weather.gov/fsd/sunspots>

Q.28) With reference to the National Population Register (NPR) and Census, consider the following statements:

1. The Census is conducted under the Census Act 1948 whereas NPR is created under the provisions of the Citizenship Act.
2. The NPR will have only demographic information and no biometric data of individuals will be collected.

3. NPR database is used for better targeting of the benefits and services under the government schemes.
4. All information collected under the Census is confidential and will not be shared with any Government or private agency.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Census is a statutory exercise** conducted under the provisions of the **Census Act 1948** and Rules made there under. On the other hand, the **NPR** is being created under the provisions of the **Citizenship Act and Rules**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NPR database would **contain demographic as well as biometric particulars**. The NPR would have the data of every person enumerated during the Census operations irrespective of age. **It would also have the biometric data** and UID Number of every person of age 15 years and above. National Identity Cards will be given in a phased manner to all usual residents by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

Statement 3 is correct. The NPR is a comprehensive identity database that **helps in better targeting of the benefits and services** under the Government schemes/programmes, improve planning and help strengthen security of the country.

Statement 4 is correct. All information collected under the Census is **confidential and will not be shared with any agency - Government or private**. Certain information collected under the NPR will be published in the local areas for public scrutiny and invitation of objections. After the NPR has been finalized, the database will be used only within the Government.

Source: <https://censusindia.gov.in/2011-faq/faq-public.html#A>

Q.29) The Indian Citizenship of an individual will be compulsorily terminated by the Central government if:

1. A citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud.
2. A citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India.
3. A citizen has been found guilty of instigating communal violence.
4. Within five years after registration, a citizen has been imprisoned in any country for two years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct

The Citizenship Act (1955) prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination and deprivation. Deprivation is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if -

- (a) the citizen has **obtained the citizenship by fraud;**
- (b) the citizen has shown **disloyalty to the Constitution of India;**
- (c) the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war;
- (d) the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been **imprisoned in any country for two years;** and
- (e) the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously.

Source) Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 164 (Pdf)

Q.30) Consider the following statements about different types of Covid-19 tests:

1. RT-PCR test detects the virus's genetic material and diagnoses active corona virus infection.
2. The Negative results in Rapid antigen test need to be confirmed with a RT-PCR test.
3. Antibody test is a serological test which shows if somebody has been infected by corona virus in past or not.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. RT-PCR test is a diagnostic test, that detect the virus's genetic material and diagnoses active corona virus infection. RTPCR stands for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction. It is also

known as Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction. This is a molecular test which looks for the genetic material of the virus. Currently, diagnosis of active infection is done with the RT-PCR test, the gold standard.

Statement 2 is correct. A negative result in Rapid Antigen test may occur if the concentration of antigen in a specimen is below the detection limit of the test, therefore a negative test result does not eliminate the possibility of SARS-CoV-2 infection, and should be confirmed by COVID 19 RT PCR.

Statement 3 is correct. Antibody tests detect antibodies produced by the body's immune system in response to SARS-CoV-2. It is a serology tests which can tell whether or not you have had the viral infection in the past. However, antibody tests are not the preferred tests to diagnose current infections because Antibodies don't show up for about 1 to 2 weeks after you first become sick so antibody tests could miss some early infections. Antibodies are also known as immunoglobulins (Ig).

Q.31) Among the following candidates, who will acquire Indian Citizenship?

- a) A non-domiciled person born in India after 15 august 1947 but before 26 January 1950.
- b) A person of Indian origin (PIO) residing in India for 5 years before making application for registration.
- c) A person who is married to a citizen of India without residing in India.
- d) A PIO who came to Assam before January 1, 1966 from Bangladesh.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct

Statement a is incorrect. A person born in India on or after January 26, 1950 but before July 1, 1987 will be a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his parents.

Statement b is incorrect. A person can acquire the citizenship of India by registration if that person is a person of Indian origin who is ordinarily resident in India for seven years before making an application for registration.

Statement c is incorrect. A person can acquire a citizenship of India by registration if that person is married to a citizen of India and is ordinarily resident in India for seven years before making an application for registration.

Statement d is correct. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, added the special provision that- all persons of Indian origin who came to Assam before the January 1, 1966 from Bangladesh and who have been ordinarily residents in Assam since the date of their entry into Assam shall be deemed to be citizens of India as from the January 1, 1966.

Source) Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 161-164 (Pdf)

Q.32) The Constitution of India follows the Principle of Integrated Judiciary, which means

- a) A single system of courts enforces both the central as well as state laws.
- b) The Supreme Court has power to punish for contempt of lower courts.
- c) All judges of courts in India are appointed by the President of India.
- d) The Supreme Court is the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct

Option a is correct: Integrated judiciary means that a single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the State laws. The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the state high courts below it. This **single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the state laws.**

In US, there is a **double system of courts** whereby the **federal laws are enforced by the federal judiciary** and the state laws by the state judiciary.

Source) Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 311 (Pdf)

Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 611 (Pdf)

Q.33) The ‘Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services’ agreement was recently seen in news in the context of India’s relations with:

- a) Russia
- b) Japan
- c) Australia
- d) France

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

India and Japan have signed the **mutual logistics agreement** called the “**Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement**”. The agreement allows the militaries of the two countries to use each other’s bases and facilities for **repair and replenishment of supplies.**

This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.

The agreement will also enhance the interoperability between the Armed Force of India and Japan. It thereby increases the bilateral defence engagements under the Special Strategic & Global Partnership between the two countries.

India has already signed similar logistics agreements with the US, Australia, France and Singapore.

Source) <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1652911>

Q.34) Which among the following is a Federal Feature of the Indian Constitution?

- a) States are not indestructible.
- b) Unequal representation of States in Rajya Sabha.
- c) Bicameral Legislature.
- d) Integrated Audit Machinery.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement a is incorrect. States being not indestructible is the unitary feature of the constitution. The states in India have no right to territorial integrity. The Parliament can by unilateral action change the area, boundaries or name of any state. Hence, the Indian Federation is “an indestructible Union of destructible states”.

Statement b is incorrect. No equality of state representation in Rajya Sabha is the unitary feature of the constitution. The states are given representation in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population. Hence, the membership varies from 1 to 31.

Statement c is correct. Bicameralism is the federal feature of the constitution. The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of Indian Federation, while the Lok Sabha represents the people of India as a whole. The Rajya Sabha (even though a less powerful chamber) is required to maintain the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre.

Statement d is incorrect. Integrated Audit Machinery is the unitary feature of the constitution. The office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India restricts the financial autonomy of the states. He audits the accounts of not only the Central government but also those of the states. But his appointment and removal are done by the president without consulting the states.

Source) Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 308 (Pdf)

Q.35) On which of the following subjects, both the Parliament and State legislature can ordinarily make laws?

1. Drugs
2. Management of disasters
3. Public Health
4. Education
5. Labour welfare

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Subjects 1, 4 and 5 are 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 47 subjects) like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, **labour welfare**, economic and social planning, **drugs and poisons**, newspapers, books and printing press, and others. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is, (a) **education**, (b) forests, (c) weights and measures, (d) protection of wild animals and birds, and (e) administration of justice.

Subject 2 is incorrect. Management of disasters is currently not included in any list of 7th schedule. So, only Parliament can make laws on such matter. Parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or State List.

National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution recommended Management of disasters and emergencies (both natural and manmade) should be included in the List III (Concurrent List) of the Seventh Schedule.

Subject 3 is incorrect. Public health is a part of state list and **only state legislature** have right to make laws on such subjects. The State list has at present 61 subjects (originally 66 subjects) like public order, police, public health and sanitation, agriculture, prisons, local government, fisheries, markets, theaters, gambling and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 318, 1290 (Pdf)

Q.36) Which of the following statements regarding Consol Bonds is/are correct?

1. It is a fixed income bond with no maturity date.
2. It is often issued by banks to raise Additional Tier-I (AT-I) capital.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: Also known as **perpetual bond**, it is a **fixed income security with no maturity date**. Instead, they offer to pay their buyers a coupon or interest at a fixed date for perpetuity. Most bonds generally have a maturity date at which the purchaser receives back the principal and the entirety of interest.

Statement 2 is correct: Basel Norms require banks to maintain a cushion of capital to guard against bank failure. This includes different classes of capital, like Tier-I, Additional Tier-I, Tier-II, etc. Banks issue bonds in the market to raise this capital from retail investors. One such type of bond instrument is Consol/ Perpetual bond, e.g. Yes Bank.

Knowledge Base)

- These are **quasi-debt** instruments.
- The price of a such a bond is the coupon amount divided by a constant discount rate.
- Since they have no maturity date, investors can get their investment back only by selling them in the secondary debt market unless the issuer calls the bonds back, i.e., redeems them.
- These bonds **pay a steady stream of interest** payments forever.
- These bonds **cannot be redeemed at issuer's discretion**.
- These were first issued by governments during World War I to finance the economy. These have been suggested by some as a means to tide over economic difficulties due to COVID 19.

Source) <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-war-like-state-and-a-bond-to-the-rescue/article31521062.ece>

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/perpetualbond.asp>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/invest/investing-in-perpetual-bonds-be-ready-for-these-risks/what-are-perpetual-atl-bonds/slideshow/74591906.cms>

Q.37) In India, under which of the following circumstances can Parliament make Legislations on State subjects?

1. When Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by 2/3rd of the members present.
2. When a proclamation of National Emergency is in operation.
3. When a State passes a resolution to that effect.
4. To give effect to international agreements, treaties and conventions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Parliament can make laws on the subjects enumerated in the State List if the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws on that matter. **Such a resolution must be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.**

Statement 2 is correct. The Parliament can make laws on the subjects enumerated in the State List when a **proclamation of National Emergency is in operation.** Such laws become inoperative on the expiration of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Parliament can make laws on the subjects enumerated in the State List **when two or more states make a joint request to the Parliament.** A law so enacted applies only to those states which have passed the resolutions.

Statement 4 is correct. The Parliament can make laws on the subjects enumerated in the State List **to give effect to international agreements, treaties and conventions.**

Knowledge Base:

The Constitution also empowers the Parliament to make laws on the subjects enumerated in the State List when **President's Rule** is in operation in the state.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 679 (Pdf)

Q.38) It is obligatory for the Governor of the State to reserve a bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President if:

1. It endangers the position of the state High Court.
2. It opposes the Directive Principles of State Policy.

3. It is against the larger interest of the country.
4. It deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Governors of the State can reserve the bills passed by the State legislatures for the consideration of the president under different circumstances. **When the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state high court, in such case reservation of the bill is obligatory.**

Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. In addition, the governor can (not obligatory) also reserve the bill if it is of the following nature:

- 1) Violates the provisions of the Constitution.
- 2) Opposes the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- 3) Against the larger interest of the country.
- 4) Is of grave national importance.
- 5) Dealing with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A the Constitution.

Source) Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 679 (Pdf)

Q.39) Which of the following statements regarding the *Sal Forest Tortoise*, seen in news recently, is/ are correct?

1. It has been classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.
2. Its habitat is widely distributed over South Asia and Southeast Asia.
3. It faces threat from hunting for food and poaching.

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: The Sal Forest Tortoise is classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN. It is listed in **Appendix II** of CITES.

Statement 2 is correct: It is widely distributed over **eastern** as well as **northern India** and **Southeast Asia**.

Statement 3 is correct: The foremost threat has been the intensive **collection** almost throughout its entire range for trade to East Asia for **subsistence consumption** throughout its range. **Deliberate hunting** also occurs.

It is also poached for **international pet trade**. However, the impact of trade as pets is minimal compared to the volume of trade for food.

Knowledge Base:

Recent News:

- 1) A recent study by ecologists in the Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun), finds that over 90% of the potential distribution of the Sal Forest tortoise falls outside the current protected area's network.
- 2) The study covers parts of India with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.
- 3) The study also found that 29% of the predicted distribution of the species falls within high occurrence fire zones.
- 4) According to the IUCN, the population of the species may have fallen by about 80% in the last three generations (90 years).

About the Species:

- Sal Forest Tortoise is also known as the **elongated tortoise** (*Indotestudo elongata*).
- Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: **Schedule IV**

Source: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/10824/152051190>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/sal-forest-tortoise-habitat-stretches-over-unprotected-areas/article31544837.ece>

https://www.wwf.org.kh/projects_and_reports2/endangered_species/reptiles/elongated_tortoise/

Q.40) Consider the following statements with respect to the creation of OBC, SC and ST list:

1. President can specify the castes or tribes to be included in SC/ST list after consultation with the governor of the state.
2. State government can prepare their own list of Other Backward Classes.
3. Any inclusion/exclusion in case of SC/ST list or OBC list can be done only by the way of Presidential notification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Constitution does not specify the castes or tribes which are to be called the SCs or the STs. It leaves to the **President the power to specify as to what castes or tribes in each state and union territory are to be treated as the SCs and STs.** Thus, the lists of the SCs or STs vary from state to state and union territory to union territory. In case of the states, the **President issues the notification after consulting the governor of the state concerned.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The constitution has not specified the classes of citizens who are to be called the socially and educationally backward classes, also known as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). **The 102nd Amendment Act of 2018 empowered the President to specify the socially and educationally backward classes in relation to a state or union territory.** In case of a state, the President **issues the notification after consultation with the governor of the state concerned.**

The Supreme Court on May 5, 2021 ruled that after a constitutional amendment in 2018, **state governments have no power to draw up their own lists of backward classes** and that they must rely on the Centre to include or exclude any community for granting reservation.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Any inclusion or exclusion of any caste or tribe from Presidential notification **can be done only by the Parliament** and not by a subsequent Presidential notification. Similarly, **any inclusion in or exclusion from the Central List of socially and educationally backward classes** specified in a Presidential notification **can be done only by the Parliament** and not by a subsequent Presidential notification.

Source: Indian Polity, M.Laxmikanth, Chapter-68

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/states-have-no-power-to-draw-up-own-lists-of-backward-classes-sc-101620240638571.html>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-rejects-centre-s-plea-to-review-backward-class-list-ruling-101625162798258.html>

Q.41) With reference to the GST Council, consider the following statements:

1. The council is a statutory body to decide issues relating to Goods and Services Tax.
2. The council is headed by the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

3. The vote of the Central Government has the weightage of one third of the total votes cast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The GST council is a Constitutional body constituted by the President of India under Article 279A. The GST Council which will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States to decide issues relating to Goods and Services Tax.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Its members include - Union Finance Minister – Chairperson, the Union Minister of State, in-charge of Revenue of finance – Member, the Minister In-charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government – Members.

Statement 3 is correct. In accordance with the principles, the vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

Source: <http://www.gstcouncil.gov.in/gst-council>

Q.42) Which of the following statements regarding Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention (BTWC) is correct?

- a) It is the first international treaty banning an entire class of weapons.
- b) It came into force in 2018 after half of the parties to it have ratified.
- c) The United Nations Security Council is implementing body of the convention.
- d) There is no review conference held so far to review the convention's implementation.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement a is correct: The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, or acquisition of biological and toxin weapons, and mandates the elimination of existing weapons, weapons production material, and delivery means. This treaty was the first multilateral

agreement banning an entire class of weapons. It was later followed by treaties like the Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997, etc banning other unethical forms of weapons.

Statement b is incorrect: The treaty was opened for signature on 10 April 1972. It entered into force in 1975.

Statement c is incorrect: There is **no implementation body** of the BTWC, allowing for blatant violations as seen in the past.

Statement d is incorrect: There is a review conference **every five years** to review the **convention's implementation and establish confidence-building measures.**

Knowledge Base)

- The treaty prohibits the development, stockpile, production, or transfer of biological agents and toxins of "types and quantities" that have no justification for protective or peaceful use.
- Furthermore, the treaty bans the development of weapons, equipment, or delivery systems to disseminate such agents or toxins. Should a state possess any agent, toxin, or delivery system for them, they have nine months from entry into force of the treaty to destroy their stockpiles, or divert them for peaceful use.
- States may also submit complaints to the UNSCR should they believe another state is violating the treaty.

However, there is no implementation body of the BTWC.

Source) <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/convention-prohibition-development-production-and-stockpiling-bacteriological-biological-and-toxin-weapons-btwc/>
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons/>
<https://idsa.in/backgrounder/BTWC>

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding the State Disaster Response Fund:

1. The central government contributes 90% of the SDRF allocation to all the states.
2. 10% of the funds can be used by the state governments to provide relief in local disasters.
3. The fund is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India every year.

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under Disaster Management Act, 2005 on the basis of the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission**. The Centre contributes **75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States** and Union Territories and **90% for special category States** (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).

Statement 2 is correct. A State Government may use up to **10% of the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief** to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be ‘disasters’ **within the local context** and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement 3 is correct. SDRF is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief. It is **audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year**.

Source) <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-releases-sdrf-instalment-in-advance-due-to-covid-19-surge/article34456034.ece>

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20State%20Disaster%20Response%20Fund%20%28SDRF%29.pdf>

Q.44) Consider the following statements in the context of the Autonomous District Council:

1. Autonomous district councils have the powers to levy taxes and fees.
2. The jurisdiction of autonomous councils is subject to the jurisdiction of the concerned 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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Councils have also been endowed with wide civil and criminal judicial powers, for example establishing village courts etc. They **have powers to levy taxes, fees and tolls on; building and land, animals, vehicles, boats, entry of goods** into the area, roads, ferries, bridges, employment and income and general taxes for the maintenance of schools and roads.

Statement 2 is correct. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** as per Article 244. The Governor is

empowered to increase or decrease the areas or change the names of the autonomous districts. The jurisdiction of these councils is subject to the **jurisdiction of the concerned High Court**.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, Chapter-41

Q.45) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Mission/Operation</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
1. Vande Bharat Mission	Repatriation of Indian citizens from abroad
2. Mission Sagar	Extraction of Rare Earth metals from Indian Ocean
3. Operation Samudra Setu	Protection of Indian-flagged vessels

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

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Pair 1 is correctly matched. Vande Bharat Mission was launched to repatriate stranded Indians in many countries due to Covid-19 pandemic through operation of a number of flights.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched. Mission Sagar is India's initiative to deliver Covid-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean Littoral states. It was launched by the government to provide medical assistance teams, medicines and essential food items related to Covid-19 to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched. Operation Samudra Setu (Sea Bridge) is an operation of Indian Navy to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Source) May 2020 EPIC Magazine.

Q.46) With reference to the states' borrowing power, consider the following statements:

1. The states need to obtain the Centre's consent to borrow only if it is indebted to the Centre over a previous loan.
2. Loan given by Central government to a particular state is charged on the consolidated fund of that state.
3. At present, the states can borrow up to 5% of their gross state domestic product (GSDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Article 293(3) of the Constitution requires states to obtain the Centre's consent in order to borrow in case the state is indebted to the Centre over a previous loan. Article 293 (3) says that a State may not without the consent of the Government of India raise any loan if there is still outstanding any part of a loan which has been made to the State by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government, or in respect of which a guarantee has been given by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Central government can make loans to any state or give guarantees in respect of loans raised by any state. Any sums required for the purpose of making such loans are to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India

Statement 3 is correct. The Centre increased the borrowing limit of states to 5% of gross state domestic product (GSDP) in 2020-21 from 3%. However, incremental borrowing beyond 3.5% of GSDP will be linked to reforms undertaken by the states, including universalisation of 'One Nation, One Ration card,' ease of doing business and power distribution reforms, besides steps recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

Source) <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/centre-raises-borrowing-limit-of-states-from-3-pc-of-gsdp-to-5-pc-in-fy21/articleshow/75785946.cms#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20The%20Centre%20increased,lakh%20crore%20available%20to%20them.>

Q.47) Consider the following pairs in context of interstate river water disputes:

<i>River Water Disputes</i>	<i>States Involved</i>
1. Mahadayi Water Disputes	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
2. Krishna Water Disputes	Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
3. Mahanadi Water Disputes	Odisha and Chhattisgarh

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

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct

Pairs 1 and 3 are correctly matched.

River Water Disputes

- 1) Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II (2004)
- 2) Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (2018)
- 3) Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (2010)
- 4) Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal (1986)
- 5) Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (2010)

States Involved

- Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra
- Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra
- Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
- Andhra Pradesh & Odisha.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, Chapter-15

Q.48) Consider the following statements in the context of Doctrine of Colourable Legislation:

- 1. It holds that the union and state legislatures should not encroach upon each other's domain.
- 2. The courts will look into the object of the law and not motives of the legislatures while deciding on its validity.

3. State legislature is barred from re-enacting the same law if the statute is found to be invalid due to legislative incompetence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The doctrine of colourable legislation is based on the maxim that what one cannot do directly, that cannot be done indirectly. It is **applied when the state legislatures have transgressed their power as mentioned in the Constitution while enacting a law.** It is also characterized as a fraud on the Constitution because no legislature can violate the Constitution by employing an indirect method.

The **doctrine of Pith and Substance** holds that the union and state legislatures should not encroach upon each other's domain.

Statement 2 is correct. The court will look into the true nature and character of the legislation and for that its **object, purpose or design to make law on a subject is relevant and not its motive.** If the law enacted by the legislature is found in substance and in reality, beyond the competence of the legislature enacting it, it will be ultra vires and void, even though it apparently purports to be within the competence of the legislature enacting it. It is the **substance of the Act that is material and not merely the form or outward appearance.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. Further, if a statute is found to be invalid on the ground of legislative incompetence, it **does not permanently inhibit the legislature from re-enacting the same if the power to do so is properly traced and established.** In such a situation, it cannot be said that subsequent legislation is merely a colourable legislation or a camouflage to re-enact the invalidated previous legislation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/an-act-of-colourable-legislation/article34218227.ece>

<http://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-2600-union-and-state-legislature-distribution-of-legislative-powers.html>

Q.49) Which of the following were the outcomes of the Kesavananda Bharti Case?

- 1. Basic structure of the Constitution was defined which cannot be amended by the Parliament.
- 2. Both the provisions of Article 31C were declared unconstitutional and invalid.
- 3. The amendment that removed the fundamental right to property was upheld.

4. Preamble was held to be part of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Kesavananda Bharati challenged the Kerala land reforms legislation in 1970 under **Article 26**, which imposed restrictions on the management of religious property. The landmark judgement was delivered on 24th April 1973.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Supreme Court held that any provision of the Indian Constitution can be amended by the Parliament in order to fulfil its socio-economic obligations that were guaranteed to the citizens as given in the Preamble, provided that such amendment did not change the Constitution's basic structure. No law can impinge on the basic structure. However, **what constitutes basic structure was not defined.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court declared the below **second provision of Article 31C as unconstitutional and invalid** on the ground that judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution and hence, cannot be taken away. However, the **first provision of Article 31C was held to be constitutional and valid.**

Article 31C, as inserted by the 25th Amendment Act of 1971, contained the following two provisions:

- (a) No law that seeks to implement the socialistic directive principles specified in Article 39(b) or (c) shall be void on the ground of contravention of the fundamental rights conferred by Article 14 (equality before law and equal protection of laws) or Article 19 (protection of six rights in respect of speech, assembly, movement, etc.)
- (b) No law containing a declaration that it is for giving effect to such policy shall be questioned in any court on the ground that it does not give effect to such a policy.

Statement 3 is correct. Despite the ruling that Parliament cannot breach fundamental rights, the court **upheld the amendment that removed the fundamental right to property.**

Statement 4 is correct. In this case, the Supreme Court rejected the earlier opinion and held that **Preamble is a part of the Constitution.** It observed that the Preamble is of extreme importance and the Constitution should be read and interpreted in the light of the grand and noble vision expressed in the Preamble.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kesavananda-bharati-case-basic-structure-of-the-constitution-supreme-court-6585110/>

Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, Chapter-3, 4, 7 and 11

Q.50) The term Voluntary National Review (VNR), sometimes seen in news, is related to:

- a) Implementation of the priorities under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- b) Progress of the commitments made under the Paris Agreement.
- c) Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 Agenda.
- d) None of the (a), (b) or (c) above is correct.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a comprehensive account of the adoption and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 Agenda in India. In July 2020, NITI Aayog has presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020. The title of the report was 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local'.

NITI Aayog has the mandate of overseeing the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national level.

Kb) United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). It is responsible for the organization's policy on sustainable development. It adopts negotiated declarations, reviews commitment and the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It meets annually since 2016 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Source) <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1638261>