

Q.1) With reference to the election of President in India, consider the following statements:

1. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.
2. Rajya Sabha members elected from Union Territory cannot vote in Presidential election.
3. The decision of Supreme Court is final regarding the disputes in connection with election of the President.
4. An elected Member of Parliament cannot abstain from voting in Presidential election.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 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. A person to be eligible for election as President should fulfil the following qualifications:

- 1) He should be a citizen of India.
- 2) He should have completed 35 years of age.
- 3) He should be **qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.**

He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of the **elected members of both the Houses of Parliament**; the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry. Elected members of Rajya Sabha includes those elected from states and from Union Territories. The 12 nominated members of Rajya Sabha do not take part in the Presidential election.

Statement 3 is correct. All doubts and disputes in connection with election of the President are inquired into and decided by the **Supreme Court whose decision is final**. The election of a person as President cannot be challenged on the ground that the Electoral College was incomplete (i.e., existence of any vacancy among the members of Electoral College).

Statement 4 is incorrect. Political parties **cannot issue whips** for their MPs and MLAs in Presidential election. This clearly means that the legislatures will not be forced to vote in the poll and **can abstain from voting**. They will be free to vote for or not.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-17

<https://www.india.com/news/india/presidential-election-2017-political-parties-cant-issue-whip-says-election-commission-2210933/>

Q.2) With reference to the 'governor', consider the following statements:

1. He is appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal.
2. The office of the governor of a state is an employment under the central government.
3. The minimum age to become the governor of a state is 25 years.
4. Constitution does not allow the appointment of the same person as a governor for more than two states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Governor is appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal. In a way, he is a nominee of the Central government.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As held by the Supreme Court in 1979, the office of governor of a state is not an employment under the Central government. It is an independent constitutional office and is not under the control of or subordinate to the Central government.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Constitution lays down only two qualifications for the appointment of a person as a governor. These are:

He should be a citizen of India.

He should have completed the age of 35 years. (not 25 years)

Statement 4 is incorrect. Usually, there is a governor for each state, but the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states.

Source: Indian Polity 5th Edition M.Laxmikanth; chapter 30 "Governor".

Q.3) With reference to the Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0), consider the following statements:

1. It is launched under the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog.
2. Eligible candidates will get full financial support to launch the product in the market.
3. All graduate students from recognised universities will get training under the programme.

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) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Eligible candidates will receive **mentor support**; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; **manufacturing support**; as well as the **launch support** of the product in the market. However, there is **no full financial support** for candidate for launching his product.

Statement 3 is incorrect. To become eligible for the programme, a student **needs to get identified at Atal Tinkering Lab Marathon** which is a nationwide contest for innovation. Only eligible students will be then mentored by the Atal Incubation Centers.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/atal-innovation-unveils-2nd-edition-of-student-entrepreneurship-programme-120081101742_1.html

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645098>

Q.4) The Centre can give directions to the states in which of the following situations?

1. Compliance with any existing law made by the Parliament which apply in the state.
2. Construction of means of communication by the state.
3. Provision of adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to linguistic minorities group.
4. Execution of the specified schemes for the Scheduled Tribes in the state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct

Option 1 is correct. The executive power of every state is to be exercised in such a way

- 1) as to ensure compliance with the laws made by the Parliament and **any existing law which apply in the state**
- 2) as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of executive power of the Centre in the state

In both the cases, the executive power of the Centre extends to giving of such directions to the state as are necessary for the purpose.

Option 2, 3 and 4 are correct. The Centre is empowered to give directions to the states with regard to the exercise of their executive power in the following matters:

- 1) the **construction and maintenance of means of communication** (declared to be of national or military importance) by the state;
- 2) the measures to be taken for the protection of the railways within the state;
- 3) the provision of **adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education** to children belonging to linguistic minority groups in the state; and
- 4) the **drawing up and execution of the specified schemes** for the welfare of the **Scheduled Tribes** in the state.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-14

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding 'Kitchen Cabinet':

1. Its functions are determined by the cabinet.
2. It helps the Prime Minister in maintaining secrecy in making decisions on important political issues.

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: Kitchen Cabinet is an informal body consists of the Prime Minister and two to four influential colleagues in whom he has faith and with whom he can discuss every problem. **Its functions are not determined by the cabinet.**

Statement 2 is correct: It helps the Prime Minister in maintaining secrecy in making decisions on important political issues.

Knowledge Base:

The cabinet, a small body consisting of the prime minister as its head and some 15 to 20 most important ministers, is the highest decision-making body in the formal sense. However, a still smaller body called the inner Cabinet or Kitchen Cabinet has become a real centre of power. It advises the prime minister on important political and administrative issues and assists him in making critical decisions. This informal body consists of the prime minister and two to four influential colleagues in whom he has faith and with whom he can discuss every problem. It is composed of not only cabinet ministers but also outsiders like friends and family members of the prime minister.

Source: Chapter 20 (page no 20.6) Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth fifth edition

Q.6) With reference to the 'eSanjeevani initiative', which of the following benefits are available?

1. Online medicine delivery
2. Doctor to doctor telemedicine
3. Doctor to patient telemedicine
4. Specialised health services in rural areas

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct

Statement 1 is incorrect. eSanjeevani initiative is online consultancy platform and **will not deliver online medicine** to the patients or costumers.

Statement 2 is correct. eSanjeevaniAB-HWC is a doctor-to-doctor telemedicine platform which is being implemented at Health & Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and by December 2022 it will be made operational at 1,55,000 Health & Wellness Centres across India.

Statement 3 is correct. eSanjeevaniOPD- a doctor to patient telemedicine system has been deployed nationally for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.

Statement 4 is correct. The initiative has helped in providing **specialised health services** in rural and urban areas, especially during the second wave of the pandemic.

Knowledge Base:

The National Telemedicine Service is set up by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The eSanjeevani initiative is also addressing the shortage of doctors and specialists at ground level while reducing the burden on secondary and tertiary level hospitals. In line with the National Digital Health Mission, eSanjeevani is also boosting the digital health ecosystem in the country.

Source: <https://vikaspedia.in/health/health-care-innovations/how-to-use-esanjeevani-opd-portal>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725993>

Q.7) “A larger and greater body should not exercise functions which can be carried out efficiently by one smaller and lesser, but rather the former should support the latter and help to coordinate its activity with the activities of the whole community.”

Which among the following best describes the paragraph?

- a) Principle of subsidiarity
- b) Principle of solidarity
- c) Doctrine of essentiality
- d) Doctrine of eclipse

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Option a is correct. The Principle of Subsidiarity: The principle of subsidiarity holds that a larger and greater body should not exercise functions which can be carried out efficiently by one smaller and lesser, but rather the former should support the latter and help to coordinate its activity with the activities of the whole community.

Option b is incorrect. The Principle of Solidarity: The principle of solidarity is a socio-ethical and political concept which states that it is fair and just that benefits and obligations are justly shared between members of the society.

Option c is incorrect. The Doctrine of Essentiality: In the legal framework, the doctrine of essentiality is a doctrine that has evolved to protect the religious practices that are essential or integral and does not violate any fundamental right. India being a secular country has discrete religious beliefs and to deny any is to violate the freedom of religion.

Option d is incorrect. The Doctrine of Eclipse: It is a doctrinal principle that advocates the concept of fundamental rights being prospective. If any law made by the Legislature is inconsistent with Part III of the Constitution, then that law is invalid and inoperative to the extent of it being overshadowed by the Fundamental Rights is a doctrinal principle that advocates the concept of fundamental rights being prospective. If any law made

by the Legislature is inconsistent with Part III of the Constitution, then that law is invalid and inoperative to the extent of it being overshadowed by the Fundamental Rights.

Source: Indian Polity - For Civil Services and Other State Examinations | 6th Edition Laxmikant

Q.8) Consider the following statements with reference to the impeachment of the President:

1. Members of both the houses of Parliament takes part in the investigation of the charges.
2. Impeachment resolution needs to be passed by 2/3rd of members presents and voting.
3. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha can participate in the impeachment.
4. Impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure in the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The impeachment charges can be initiated by either House of Parliament. These charges should be signed by one-fourth members of the House (that framed the charges). After the impeachment resolution is passed by a majority of **two-thirds of the total membership** of that House, it is sent to the **other House, which should investigate the charges**. The President has the right to appear and to be represented at such investigation. If the other House also sustains the charges and passes the impeachment resolution by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership, then the President stands removed from his office from the date on which the resolution is so passed.

Statement 3 is correct. The **nominated members of either House of Parliament can participate** in the impeachment of the President though they do not participate in his election. Thus, all the members of the Parliament can participate in the impeachment proceedings of the President. Also, the elected members of the legislative assemblies of states and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the impeachment of the President though they participate in his election.

Statement 4 is correct. An impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure in the Parliament.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-17

Q.9) With reference to the Positive Indigenisation List released by the Ministry of Defence, consider the following statements:

1. Items under the list can be purchased from indigenous sources only.
2. Both public and private enterprises are eligible for manufacturing of items under the list.
3. Manufactured items under the list will not be available for export to other countries.

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 negative list of items for defence imports is now renamed as **positive indigenization list**. Through the list government and the armed forces showed trust on the **industry to deliver cutting-edge defence technology** for India's security requirements. Items under the list can be only purchased from indigenous sources.

Statement 2 is correct. Both **public and private enterprises will be eligible** for manufacturing of defence equipment. Active participation of public and private sector will fulfill the twin objectives of achieving **self-reliance and promoting defence exports**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The important goals of this initiative are to boost the domestic defense industry and promote defence exports.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/may/31/india-expands-negative-list-for-defence-imports-with-108-new-items-2310016.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/defence-ministry-notifies-second-negative-import-list/article34690749.ece>

Q.10) The 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992 has given a practical shape to which of the following provision of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Fundamental Rights
- b) Directive Principles of State Policy
- c) Fundamental duties
- d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992 has given a practical shape to **Article 40** of the Constitution which says that, “The State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.” This article forms a part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy**.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant, Chapter 38: Panchayati Raj, Page No. 38.7

Q.11) With reference to the ‘State Cabinet Committees’, consider the following statements:

1. They are set up by the chief minister.
2. Constitution doesn’t provide their number, nomenclature and composition.
3. The decisions of the cabinet committees must be compulsorily approved by the full cabinet.

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.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. They are set up by the chief minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature and composition vary from time to time. The cabinet works through various committees called Cabinet Committees. Committees not only sort out issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the cabinet but also take decisions.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Cabinet committees are all powerful, which means if they take a decision, it is quite final and **does not need the stamp of approval of the full Cabinet**. However, the cabinet can review their decisions if it wants.

Source: Indian Polity 5th Edition M.Laxmikanth; chapter 32 “State Council of Ministers”

Q.12) The ‘Operation Breathing Space’, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- a) United Nations' conservation programme in equatorial forests.
- b) Development of rapid testing kit for COVID-19.
- c) A joint outer space programme between India and Russia.

d) A health programme for people suffering from silicosis.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct

'Operation Breathing Space' is an initiative of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's Defence Ministry to develop four different kinds of rapid testing kit for Covid-19 which can give the result within 30 seconds. It includes a **voice test** that uses artificial intelligence to identify changes in the patient's voice, a **breath analyser test** that requires the patient to blow into a tube and detects the virus using terra-hertz waves, **isothermal testing** that enables identification of the virus in a saliva sample, and a **test using polyamino acids** that seeks to isolate proteins related to COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/trials-for-30-second-covid-19-tests-begin/article32243191.ece>

Q.13) Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitutional provisions for public acts, records and judicial proceedings:

1. Full faith is to be given to judicial proceedings of every state throughout the territory of India.
2. 'Public acts' includes both legislative and executive acts of the government.
3. It requires the courts of a state to enforce the penal laws of another state.
4. Parliament has the power to determine the mode of proof of public records of one state in another state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Under the Constitution, full faith and credit is to be given throughout the territory of India to public acts, records and judicial proceedings of the Centre and every state.

Statement 2 is correct. The expression 'public acts' includes both legislative and executive acts of the government. The expression 'public record' includes any official book, register or record made by a public servant in the discharge of his official duties.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Final judgements and orders of civil courts in any part of India are capable of execution anywhere within India (without the necessity of a fresh suit upon the judgement). The rule applies only to civil judgements and not to criminal judgements. In other words, it **does not require the courts of a state to enforce the penal laws of another state.**

Statement 4 is correct. The manner in which and the conditions under which such acts, records and proceedings are to be proved and their effect determined would be as provided by the laws of Parliament. This means that the general rule mentioned above is subject to the **power of Parliament to lay down the mode of proof as well as the effect of such acts, records and proceedings of one state in another state.**

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-15

Q.14) With reference to the State Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent body constituted by the President.
2. The composition of the commission is determined by the State Legislature concerned.
3. It makes recommendations regarding grants-in-aid to the municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of State.
4. Tolls and fees to be assigned to the Panchayats are outside the purview of SFC.

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

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The State Finance Commission is **not a permanent body**. Under Article 243-I of the Constitution of India, the **Governor** of a state is required to constitute a Finance Commission **every five years**. This is in order to decide the resource allocation between the state government and the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Statement 2 is correct. The **state legislature** may provide for the composition of the commission, the required qualifications of its members and the manner of their selection.

Statement 3 is correct. State Finance Commission review the financial position of municipalities and make recommendation regarding **grants-in-aid to the municipalities** from the Consolidated Fund of State. It also makes recommendations to the governor as to the principles that should govern:

(a) The distribution between the state and the municipalities, the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied by the state.

(b) The determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees that may be assigned to the municipalities.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The recommendations made by the Finance Commission includes the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned as, or appropriated by, the Panchayats.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 (pg no 732, 733)

What is State Finance Commission? - The Financial Express

Q.15) It is a common industrial chemical used mainly for fertilizer. It is also one of the main components in mining explosives. It is not used as an explosive on its own, though it is an oxidizer and makes a fire more intense. Recently it was cited as the cause for an explosion in Lebanon. Because in solid form it can undergo explosive decomposition when heated in a confined space thus government regulations have been imposed on its shipment and storage. The salt mentioned here is

- a) Ammonium nitrate
- b) Ammonium phosphate
- c) Phosphoric acid
- d) Potassium hydroxide

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Option a is correct. Ammonium nitrate is a salt of ammonia and nitric acid, used widely in fertilizers and explosives. The commercial grade contains about 33.5 percent nitrogen, all of which is in forms utilizable by plants; it is the most common nitrogenous component of artificial fertilizers. It is not used as an explosive on its own, rather it is an oxidizer and makes a fire more intense thus, Ammonium nitrate is employed to modify the detonation rate of other explosives, such as nitroglycerin in the so-called ammonia dynamites. Because solid ammonium nitrate can undergo explosive decomposition when heated in a confined space, government regulations have been imposed on its shipment and storage.

Option b is incorrect. Ammonium phosphate is the inorganic compound. Ammonium phosphate is a high source of elemental nitrogen used as an ingredient in certain fertilizers. This is also used in thermoplastic formulations as a flame retardant.

Option c is incorrect. Phosphoric acid is a colorless, odorless crystalline liquid. It gives soft drinks a tangy flavor and prevents the growth of mold and bacteria, which can multiply easily in a sugary solution. Most of soda's acidity also comes from phosphoric acid.

Option d is incorrect. Potassium hydroxide, or caustic potash, is used in a wide variety of industries. Potassium carbonate, potassium phosphates, liquid fertilizers, and potassium soaps and detergents are the main uses. It is used as a pH control agent in the food industry.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/science/ammonium-nitrate>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/05/ammonium-nitrate-what-is-the-chemical-blamed-for-blast-in-lebanese-capital>

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. Gram Sabha comprises of all the adult members (registered as voters) in the Panchayat area.
2. Gram Sabha's role and functions are mentioned in constitution.
3. The chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels are indirectly elected from amongst the elected members.

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) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The 73rd Constitution Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled "The Panchayats". Gram Sabha is a body consisting of all the persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Gram Sabha serves as foundation of the Panchayati Raj, yet it is not among the three tiers of the same. The powers and functions of Gram Sabha are fixed by state legislature by law. Their roles and functions are not mentioned in the Constitution.

Statement 3 is correct. Part IX provides for a 3 tier Panchayat system, which would be constituted in every state at the village level, intermediate level and district level. This provision brought the uniformity in the Panchayati Raj structure in India. However, the states which were having population below 20 Lakh were given an option to not have the intermediate level. All the members of these three levels are elected. Further, the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels are indirectly elected from amongst the elected members. But at the village level, the election of chairperson of Panchayat (Sarpanch) may be direct or indirect as provided by the state in its own Panchayati Raj Act.

Source: Indian Constitution at Work by NCERT; Pg # 183

Q.17) With reference to ordinance making power of President, consider the following statements:

1. It cannot be promulgated when only one of the houses is not in session.
2. The President's satisfaction can be questioned on the ground of malafide.
3. Successive repromulgation of same ordinance without any attempt to get the bills passed amounts to violation of the Constitution.
4. A constitutional amendment can be made through the ordinance route.

Which of the statements given above is/are *incorrect*?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 123 of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament. He can promulgate an ordinance only when both the Houses of Parliament are not in session or when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session. An ordinance can also be issued when only one House is in session because a law needs to be passed by both the Houses and not by one House alone. An ordinance made when both the Houses are in session is void.

Statement 2 is correct. In *Cooper case, (1970)*, the Supreme Court held that the President's satisfaction can be questioned in a court on the ground of malafide.

Statement 3 is correct. In *D.C. Wadhwa case (1987)* the SC ruled that successive repromulgation of ordinances with the same text without any attempt to get the bills passed by the assembly would amount to violation of the Constitution and the ordinance so repromulgated is liable to be struck down. It held that the exceptional power of law-making through ordinance cannot be used as a substitute for the legislative power of the state legislature.

Statement 4 is incorrect. An ordinance like any other legislation, can be retrospective, and may modify or repeal any act of Parliament. However, it cannot be issued to amend the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 417 (Pdf)

Q.18) With reference to Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), consider the following statements:

1. It provides real-time online information on COVID-19 vaccine stocks.

2. It is an indigenously developed technology system in India.
3. It is being implemented in partnership with United Nations Development Programme.

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) d

Exp) Option d is correct

Statement 1 is correct. eVIN system is part of the Covid-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN). It ensures **online real-time information** on vaccine stocks and storage temperature to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

Statement 2 is correct. Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is an **indigenously developed** technology system that **digitizes vaccine stocks** and **monitors the temperature** of the cold chain through a smartphone application.

Statement 3 is correct. Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is being **implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM)** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-evin-and-how-will-it-be-used-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine-7065083/>

Q.19) With reference to pardoning powers of President and Governor, consider the following statements:

1. President can pardon punishment for an offence against Union Laws.
2. Both President and Governor can pardon a sentence by the court-martial.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the: Punishment or sentence is for an **offence against a Union Law**; Punishment or sentence is by a **court martial** (military court); and Sentence is a sentence of **death**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. President can grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial. Governor does not possess any such power.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 685 (Pdf)

Q.20) Which among the following is not a judicial power of the President?

- a) He appoints the Chief Justice and the judges of Supreme Court and high courts.
- b) He can seek advice from the Supreme Court on any question of law.
- c) He decides on questions as to disqualifications of members of the Parliament.
- d) He can grant pardon to the death sentence of any person.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct

The judicial powers and functions of the President are:

Statement a is correct. He appoints the Chief Justice and the judges of Supreme Court and high courts. It is a judicial function of the President.

Statement b is correct. He can seek advice from the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact. However, the advice tendered by the Supreme Court is not binding on the President.

Statement d is correct. He can grant pardon, reprieve, respite and remission of punishment, or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence. The President of India can grant pardons and reprieves from punishment, primarily to rectify judicial errors. It is a judicial function which is performed by executive independent of Judiciary thus an executive power.

Statement c is incorrect. President deciding on questions as to disqualifications of members of the Parliament, in consultation with the Election Commission is the legislative power of President.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 409-411 (Pdf)

Q.21) With reference to Bharat AirFibre Service, consider the following statements:

- 1. It will provide wireless internet connectivity.
- 2. It uses satellite networks to provide last mile internet connectivity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The state-owned telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently launched Bharat AirFibre to help **villages achieve internet connectivity**. Bharat AirFibre service is **wireless**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. It provides high-speed broadband to subscribers of remote areas by bridging the gap of last-mile connectivity through radio waves. it will be using **line-of-sight radio waves** to deploy the Bharat AirFibre and provide call-centre services to the villages.

Knowledge Base: Bharat Air Fibre service will be **launched on the unlicensed spectrum** that has not been licensed to any entity as of now. Also, since this unlicensed spectrum has **very less interference**, the quality of relay is expected to be better for the subscribers in villages where there is very less disturbance for these airwaves.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/bsnl-launches-bharat-airfibre-for-rural-areas-what-is-it-how-it-works-plans-and-more-6236336/>
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/bsnl-launches-bharat-air-fibre-service-for-rural-customers-in-dakshina-kannada/article33996912.ece>

Q.22) With reference to veto powers of President in India, consider the following statements:

1. Absolute veto is withholding of assent to the bill passed by the legislature.
2. Suspensive veto can be overridden by the legislature only with a higher majority.
3. Pocket veto is a veto where no action is taken on the bill passed by the legislature.
4. President of India enjoys only Absolute and Suspensive veto and not Pocket veto.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Absolute veto is withholding of assent to the bill passed by the legislature. It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act. Usually, this veto is exercised in the following two cases:

With respect to private members' bills (i.e., bills introduced by any member of Parliament who is not a minister); and

With respect to the government bills when the cabinet resigns.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Suspensive veto is a veto which can be overridden by the legislature with an ordinary majority (1/2 of the members present and voting). The President exercises this veto when he returns a bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. However, if the bill is passed again by the Parliament with or without amendments and again presented to the President, it is obligatory for the President to give his assent to the bill. It is **Qualified veto** is veto which can be overridden by the legislature with a higher majority (3/4th member present and voting).

Statement 3 is correct. Pocket veto is a veto where no action is taken on the bill passed by the legislature. President neither ratifies nor rejects nor returns the bill, but simply keeps the bill pending for an indefinite period. The President can exercise this veto power as the Constitution does not prescribe any time-limit within which he has to take the decision with respect to a bill presented to him for his assent.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The President of India enjoys three 'Veto', which are absolute veto, suspensive veto and pocket veto. There is no qualified veto in the case of Indian President but American president have it.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 414 (Pdf)

Q.23) With reference to the 'Ward Committees' of the Urban Local Government in India, consider the following statements:

1. Ward refers to the territorial constituencies into which a municipal area is divided.
2. The Constitution mandates the formation of a separate Ward Committee for each ward.
3. Ward Committees can oversee the spending of funds granted to their respective wards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Each municipal area is divided into **territorial constituencies** to be known as wards.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Constitution provides that there shall be constituted Wards Committees, consisting of **one or more Wards**, within the territorial area of a Municipality having a population of three lakhs or more.

Statement 3 is correct. Ward Committees are empowered to form an action plan for their respective wards, oversee decentralisation of processing of municipal waste, help maintain public spaces, and also **oversee spending of funds** granted to the ward. It is mandated under the 74th Constitutional Amendment.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities pg no 730

Q.24) Which of the following are/were locations/examples of famous time capsules in the world?

1. The Century Safe, USA
2. Red Fort, India
3. The Crypt of Civilization in Georgia
4. Voyager Spacecraft by NASA

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Time capsule is a **container of any size or shape**, which **accommodates documents**, photos and artefacts typical of the current era and is buried underground, **for future generations to unearth**. The time capsule **requires special engineering** so that the contents don't decay, even if pulled out after a century.

Option 1 is correct. The "Century Safe" is the world's first planned time capsule was established at Philadelphia Centennial Exposition (USA) in 1876. It was opened and resealed in 1976.

Option 2 is correct. Red Fort time capsule was placed underground in 1972 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was dug out by the subsequent government.

Option 3 is correct. The Crypt of Civilization in Georgia was built around 1940 at Oglethorpe University in Brookhaven, Georgia and is scheduled for opening in the year 8113 AD. It is a project to preserve all human knowledge.

Option 4 is correct. The **Voyager and Voyager II Spacecraft** are currently circling on the edge of our solar system. These capsules were **created by NASA** to be seen by future generations.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/time-capsules-what-they-contain-ayodhya-ram-temple-how-they-are-installed-and-why-6537865/>

<https://journalsofindia.com/time-capsules/>

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to Council of Ministers:

1. They are responsible to the Parliament.
2. The strength of council of ministers cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of Parliament.
3. Only a Member of Parliament can be a Minister.
4. Parliament decides the salary and allowances of the council of ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) option a is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 75 Mentions three things: President appoints PM and other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Ministers hold their office during the pleasure of the President. It also mentions that Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha (not parliament).

Statement 2 is incorrect. They along with the Prime Minister of India form 15% of the total strength of the lower house i.e. Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is incorrect. President can appoint anyone (fulfilling the eligibility) as ministers on the advice of the PM. But he needs to become member of either Lok Sabha or Raj Sabha within 6 months of ministership. A Minister ceased to exist as one if he is not a member of either house of Parliament for six consecutive months

Statement 4 is correct. As per Article 75 of the constitution, Parliament decides the salary and allowances of the council of ministers.

Knowledge Base: It must also be mentioned here that there is one more category of ministers, called parliamentary secretaries. They are the members of the last category of the council of ministers (which is also known as the 'ministry'). They have no department under their control. They are attached to the senior ministers

and assist them in the discharge of their parliamentary duties. However, since 1967, no parliamentary secretaries have been appointed except during the first phase of Rajiv Gandhi Government. At times, the council of ministers may also include a deputy prime minister. The deputy prime ministers are appointed mostly for political reasons.

Source: Indian Polity - For Civil Services and Other State Examinations | 6th Edition Laxmikant

Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to Cabinet Committees in India:

1. The Prime Minister heads all the Cabinet Committees.
2. Cabinet Committee is a Constitutional body.
3. The Cabinet Committees are only advisory bodies and cannot take any decision.
4. Non-Cabinet ministers cannot be included as members of Cabinet Committees.

Which of the statements given above is/are **incorrect**?

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. All Committees except Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by Prime Minister.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence, which means, they are not mentioned in the Indian Constitution. But, the Rules of Business provide for their formation. They are established by the PM as per the exigencies of the time and needs of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Cabinet Committees not only sort out issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, but **also take decisions**. However, the Cabinet can review their decisions.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Non-cabinet ministers can also be included as members. Apart from the ministers in charge of the subjects covered, other senior ministers can also be included as members. Such Committees are usually chaired by the PM. At times, other Cabinet ministers like Home, Finance, etc. can also be the chairperson. But, if the Prime Minister is a member of the committee, then, he or she is the head of the committee.

Source: Indian Polity - For Civil Services and Other State Examinations | 6th Edition Laxmikant

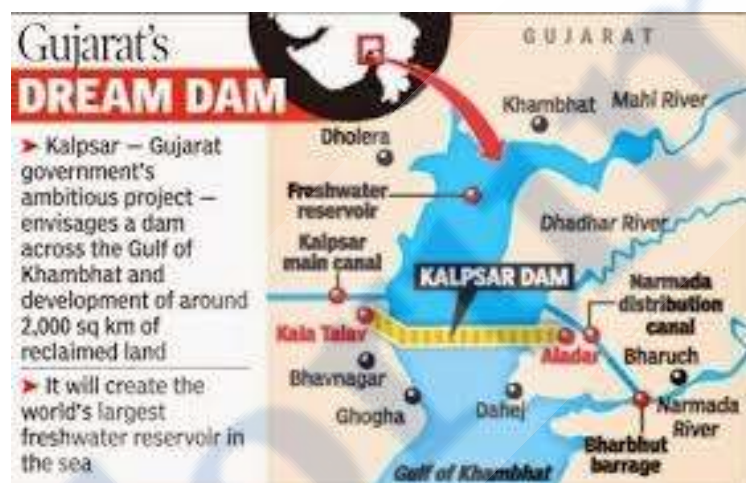
Q.27) Recently Bhadbhut project was inaugurated in Gujarat with an aim to:

- Reduce salinity along the banks of Narmada River.
- Set up largest solar power park in Asia.
- Link drought prone rivers with the Tapi River.
- Largest multi-stage lift irrigation project in India.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The **Bhabhbhut project** in **Bharuch** is meant to **solve freshwater problems** in this region of Gujarat. The barrage to be constructed will stop most of the excess water flowing out of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from reaching the sea and thus create a “sweet water lake” of 600 mcm (million cubic metres) on the river. The **main purpose of the project is also to prevent increasing salinity along the banks of Narmada**. The project is part of the larger **Kalpsar Project**, which entails construction of a 30-km dam across the Gulf of Khambhat between Bharuch and Bhavnagar districts. The reservoir is meant to tap the waters of the Narmada, Mahisagar and Sabarmati. The project also aims to **prevent flooding** in years when rainfall is higher than normal.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/barrage-across-narmada-promise-of-sweet-water-worries-about-hilsa-6558972/>

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996:

- One of its objectives is to preserve the traditions and customs of tribal communities.
- It extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to the Sixth Scheduled Areas.
- All the seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
- The President can nominate some Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at all levels.

Which of the statement given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. One of the objectives of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA Act is to **preserve the traditions and customs** of tribal communities

Other objectives:

- 1) To extend the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the panchayats to the scheduled areas with certain modifications
- 2) To provide self-rule for the bulk of the tribal population
- 3) To have village governance with participatory democracy and to make the gram sabha a nucleus of all activities
- 4) To evolve a suitable administrative framework consistent with traditional practices
- 5) To empower panchayats at the appropriate levels with specific powers conducive to tribal requirements
- 6) To prevent panchayats at the higher level from assuming the powers and authority of panchayats at the lower level of the gram sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect. PESA is a Central legislation that extends the Provisions of the Panchayats, as given in Part IX of the Constitution to the **Fifth Scheduled Areas** with certain modifications and exemptions. These areas have preponderance of tribal population.

The States with Fifth Schedule Areas that are covered under PESA are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Statement 3 is correct. **All seats of Chairpersons** of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the **Scheduled Tribes**.

The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. However, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The **State Government** (and not President) may nominate such Scheduled Tribes which have no representation in the Panchayat at the **intermediate level or the Panchayat at the district level**. But such nomination shall not exceed one-tenth of the total members to be elected in that Panchayat.

Source: Laxmikanth Panchayati Raj pg no 711. 712

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to Governor's power to reserve bills for consideration of the President:

1. All Money Bills, passed by a State Legislative Assembly, can be reserved for the consideration of the President during Financial Emergency.
2. The President must give assent to a bill when it is returned to the State Legislative Assembly and the Assembly passes it again.
3. The governor must reserve a bill, passed by the State Legislative Assembly for consideration of the President, which derogates the power/position of the High Court.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. During Financial Emergency under Article 360, all money bills or other financial bills are reserved for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the State.

Statement 2 is incorrect. When a Bill is returned by the Governor, the House or Houses shall reconsider it accordingly within a period of six months from the date of receipt of such message and, if it is again passed by the House or Houses with or without amendment, and is presented again to the President for his consideration. Then also President may or may not give assent as it is not mentioned in the constitution whether it is obligatory on the part of the President to give his assent to such a bill or not.

Statement 3 is correct. The Article 200 of Constitution says that if the Bill presented to him derogates, in the opinion of Governor, from the powers of the High Court so as to endanger the position which the High court is designed to fill by the Constitution, he is bound to reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President.

Source: Indian Polity - For Civil Services and Other State Examinations | 6th Edition Laxmikant

Q.30) With reference to the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-25, consider the following statements:

1. It has been prepared by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It aims for a community led approach for providing financial literacy.
3. It focuses on developing a 'Code of Conduct' for financial education providers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-2025 document is the second one after the 2013-18 NSFE. It has been prepared by the **National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE)**. It was prepared after wide **consultations** with all the Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA), DFS and other Ministries of Govt. of India and other stakeholders (DFIs, SROs, IBA, NPCI).

Statement 2 is correct. The strategy aims for evolving community led approaches for disseminating financial literacy in a sustainable manner. It also focuses on developing financial Literacy content for school children, teachers, young adults, women, new entrants at workplace/entrepreneurs (MSMEs), senior citizens, persons with disabilities, illiterate people, etc.

Statement 3 is correct. The document recommends adoption of a '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education – **content, capacity, community, communication and collaboration**. It focuses on developing the **capacity of various intermediaries** involved in providing financial literacy and developing a 'Code of Conduct' for financial education providers.

Knowledge Base)

National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) is a Section 8 (Not for Profit) Company promoted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Source: <https://m.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationReportDetails.aspx?UrlPage=&ID=1156>

<https://www.ncfe.org.in/nsfe>

<https://blog.forumias.com/financial-stability-and-development-councilfsdc/>

Q.31) Consider the following statements with reference to Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of Union Territories:

1. Only the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry have the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor.
2. Lieutenant Governor's opinion must be obtained before the Government takes any executive action in the NCT of Delhi.

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. Union territories of Adaman and Nicobar Island, Delhi (NCT), Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry and Ladakh have the office of the Lieutenant governor. On the other hand, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have the office of the Administrator.

Statement 2 is correct. The Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, specifies that all executive action by the government, whether taken on the advice of the Ministers or otherwise, must be taken in the name of the LG. It also adds that the Lt. Governor's opinion shall be obtained before the government takes any executive action based on decisions taken by the Cabinet or any individual minister.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1714828>

Q.32) Which of the following provisions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act are mandatory with respect to Panchayati Raj System?

- 1. Reservation of seats for backward classes.
- 2. Twenty-one years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.
- 3. Granting financial powers to the panchayats.
- 4. Constitution of a fund for crediting all the moneys of the panchayats.
- 5. Giving representation to the Members of Parliament in the Panchayats.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Compulsory (obligatory or mandatory) provisions (features) of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) or the Part IX of the Constitution are:

Compulsory Provisions:

- 1) Organisation of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages.
- 2) Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
- 3) Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
- 4) Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels.
- 5) **21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.**
- 6) Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all the three levels.
- 7) Reservation of one-third seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all the three levels.
- 8) Fixing tenure of five years for panchayats at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat.
- 9) Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting elections to the panchayats.
- 10) Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats.

Voluntary provisions under 73rd Amendment Act includes, among others:

- 1) Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.
- 2) Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
- 3) Providing for constitution of funds for crediting all moneys of the panchayats.
- 4) Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies.

Source: Laxmikanth pg no. 709, 710

Q.33) The recently set up National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will help in the recruitment process for which of the following posts in the Government?

1. Probationary officers in public sector banks.
2. Group B and Group C in Indian Railways.
3. Non-technical posts in Central Government Departments.
4. Group C and D in State Government Departments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The proposed National Recruitment Agency will not be in charge of recruitment of Probationary Officers (PO) in public sector banks.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. National Recruitment Agency is a central recruitment agency established by the Indian Government, that will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for selection to **non-gazetted Group B and Group C** in the Central government and central public sector units.

The **National Recruitment Agency** is meant to streamline the recruitment process on subordinate-rank posts in the government. Initially, it will organise a CET to screen/shortlist candidates for the **Group B and C (non - technical) posts, which are now being conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railways Recruitment Board (SSC) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).**

Statement 4 is incorrect. The proposed NRA will conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the **central government** only (and not for state governments).

Knowledge Base)

Once set up, NRA will work as a preliminary single-window agency to shortlist qualifying candidates from the bulk of applicants and forward the list to SSC, IBPS to hold the mains.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/national-recruitment-agency-nra-government-jobs-6561491/>

Q.34) Consider the following statements with reference to the grants-in-aid to the states:

1. Statutory grants are provided to every state.
2. Discretionary grants can be given for any public purpose, even beyond the legislative competence of the Centre.
3. Constitution also provides for specific grants for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 275 empowers the Parliament to make **statutory grants to the states which are in need of financial assistance and not to every state**. These sums are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India every year. The statutory grants under Article 275 (both general and specific) are given to the states on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Statement 2 is correct. Article 282 empowers both the Centre and the states to make any grants for any public purpose, even if it is not within their respective legislative competence. Under this provision, the Centre makes grants to the states. These grants are also known as discretionary grants, the reason being that the Centre is under no obligation to give these grants and the matter lies within its discretion. These grants have a two-fold purpose: to help the state financially to fulfil plan targets; and to give some leverage to the Centre to influence and coordinate state action to effectuate the national plan.

Statement 3 is correct. Apart from the general provision in statutory grant, the Constitution also provides for specific grants for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in a state or for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in a state including the State of Assam.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-14

Q.35) The idea of ‘Oceanic circle of power’ is related to which of the following subjects?

- a) Harnessing the Geothermal energy of Ocean.
- b) Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of social organization.
- c) Circulation of money in economy.
- d) Regenerating power of lithium-ion Battery.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Oceanic circle describes Gandhi’s vision of social organization. Gandhi believed that for a nonviolent society to achieve a lasting peace, it must be organized in a decentralized way. In Gandhi’s own words:

“Independence must begin at the bottom. Thus, every village will be a republic or panchayat having full powers. It follows, therefore, that every village has to be self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs even to the extent of defending itself against the whole world. It will be trained and prepared to perish in the attempt to defend itself against any onslaught from without.

Thus, ultimately, it is the individual who is the unit. This does not exclude dependence on and willing help from neighbours or from the world. It will be free and voluntary play of mutual forces. Such a society is necessarily

highly cultured in which every man and woman knows what he or she wants and what is more, knows that no one should want anything that others cannot have with equal labour.

In this structure composed of innumerable villages, there will be ever-widening, never-ascending circles. Life will not be a pyramid with the apex sustained by the bottom. But it will be an oceanic circle whose centre will be the individual always ready to perish for the village, the latter ready to perish for the circle of villages, till at last the whole becomes one life composed of individuals, never aggressive in their arrogance, but ever humble, sharing the majesty of the oceanic circle of which they are integral units.

Therefore, the outermost circumference will not wield power to crush the inner circle, but will give strength to all within and derive its own strength from it. I may be taunted with the retort that this is all Utopian and, therefore, not worth a single thought. If Euclid's point, though incapable of being drawn by human agency, has an imperishable value, my picture has its own for mankind to live. Let India live for this true picture, though never realizable in its completeness. We must have a proper picture of what we want before we can have something approaching it. If there ever is to be a republic of every village in India, then I claim verity for my picture in which the last is equal to the first or, in other words, no one is to be the first and none the last." (Harijan, 28-7-1946, p. 236)

Source: <https://mettacenter.org/definitions/gloss-concepts/oceanic-circle/>

Q.36) Consider the following statements:

1. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) in the district is responsible for the preparation of the electoral roll for each Parliamentary constituency.
2. States are mandated to use the voters list prepared by Election Commission of India (ECI) for municipality and panchayat elections to maintain uniformity.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950 lays down the provision for the preparation of the electoral roll. Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is responsible for the preparation of the

electoral roll for each constituency (parliamentary/assembly). An appeal against the order of the ERO during the update of the electoral rolls lies before the District Magistrate.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The State Election Commission supervise municipal and panchayat elections. They are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the ECI. Some state laws allow the State Election Commission to borrow and use the Election Commission's voter's rolls for local body elections. Currently, all states, except Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, adopt ECI's rolls for local body polls.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-common-electoral-role-elections-voters-lists-explained-6574403/>

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Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the 'State Election Commission' (SEC):

1. The tenure of the State Election Commissioner varies from State to State.
2. An election petition related to local body polls must be compulsorily submitted to SEC.
3. It operates under the supervision and control of Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. State Election Commission consists of a state election commissioner to be appointed by the governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall be determined by the governor of the state concerned. Thus, his tenure varies from state to state.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Constitution lays down that no election to any panchayat or municipality is to be questioned except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as provided by the state legislature.

Statement 3 is incorrect. State Election Commission and Election Commission of India operate independently. Although the two authorities have a similar mandate, they are independent of each other and draw powers from different laws.

Source: State election panels: Independent of central EC, with similar powers | Explained News, The Indian Express

Laxmikanth Chapter 36 Panchayati Raj Pg no 705

Q.38) Regarding the application of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 to various regions of India, consider the following statements:

1. The act applies to the Union Territories subject to the modification by the President.
2. It is not applicable to certain specified regions of Manipur and West Bengal.
3. The power to extend the provisions of this act in tribal areas is vested in the respective State Legislature.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 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 provisions of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 are applicable to the Union territories. But the **President can modify its application** through a public notification. The President may direct that they would apply to a Union territory **subject to such exceptions and modifications** as he may specify.

Statement 2 is correct. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 does not apply to the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and certain other areas. These areas include, (a) the scheduled areas and the tribal areas in the states; (b) the **hill areas of Manipur** for which a district council exists; and (c) **Darjeeling district of West Bengal** for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Parliament (and not state government)** may extend the provisions of Panchayati Raj Act to the scheduled areas and tribal areas subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the “Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act”, 1996

Source: Laxmikanth pg no 707

Q.39) The recently launched 'Namath Basai' programme by the Government of Kerala aims:

- a) To deliver food ration at home for elderly people.
- b) To improve nutritional status of women.

- c) To provide education to tribal children in their mother tongue.
- d) To achieve universal vaccination for COVID-19.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Namath Basai is a Kerala government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue. It is implemented by the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK). The SSK has distributed some 50 laptops exclusively for Namath Basai. Hence, it has succeeded in retaining hundreds of tribal children in their online classes by making them feel at home with the language of instruction.

It offers pre-recorded classes through YouTube.

Knowledge Base)

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched as an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/keralas-namath-basai-programme-brings-tribal-children-back-to-school/>
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/namath-basai-brings-tribal-children-back-to-school/article32403908.ece>

Q.40) Which of the following statements is /are correct regarding the relation of Chief Minister and Governor?

1. The Governor is bound to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers in every matter.
2. The Executive power of the State shall be vested in the Chief Minister.
3. The Chief Minister communicates to the Governor, the decisions of the Cabinet.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 163: There shall be a council of ministers with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the governor on the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The executive power of the state shall be vested in the governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officer's subordinate to him in accordance with the Constitution (Article 154).

Statement 3 is correct. Article 167 says that, it shall be the duty of the Chief Minister:

to communicate to the governor of the state all decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation.

Source: Indian Polity - For Civil Services and Other State Examinations | 6th Edition Laxmikant

Q.41) Which of the following powers/functions are available to the Gram Sabha, with respect to a Scheduled Area, under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996?

1. Restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
2. Identification of beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation programmes.
3. Grant of mining lease for major and minor minerals.

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) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 mandates that the State Legislature shall ensure that the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed specifically with the power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or **restrict the sale and consumption** of any intoxicant.

Statement 2 is correct. The Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 provides that every Gram Sabha shall be responsible for the **identification of beneficiaries** under the poverty alleviation and other programmer.

Statement 3 is incorrect. According to the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, the **recommendations of the Gram Sabha** or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease **for minor minerals (and not major minerals)** in the Scheduled Areas.

Source: Laxmikanth pg no 708

Q.42) The BIPOC project, sometimes seen in the news, is:

- a) A gas pipeline project undertaken between Brazil and Paraguay.
- b) A study to monitor the effects of Earth's internal movements.
- c) A science project to map distant galaxies in the universe.
- d) A movement to advance racial justice in North America.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Option d is correct: The BIPOC Project aims to build authentic and lasting solidarity among **Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)**, in order to undo Native invisibility, anti-Blackness, **dismantle white supremacy and advance racial justice. It acknowledges diversity in skin colour, race, and hair.** The term BIPOC is used to highlight the unique relationship to whiteness that Indigenous and Black (African Americans) people have, which shapes the experiences of and relationship to white supremacy for all people of colour within a U.S. context.

Source: <https://www.thebipocproject.org/about-us>

Q.43) Consider the following statements with reference to powers of the President of India and the Governors of states:

1. The actions of the Governor, when using his discretionary powers cannot be challenged in a Court of Law.
2. A Governor cannot summon the House of a state legislature without the aid and advice of the Cabinet.
3. The Constitution has not provided for any discretionary powers for the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The actions of the Governor, when using his discretionary powers are not beyond the scope of judicial review and **can be challenged in a court of law.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. In ordinary situations, the Governor summons the House under Article 174, on the aid and advice of the Cabinet. But, when the Chief Minister appears to have lost the majority and the legislative

members of the House propose a **no-confidence motion** against the Chief Minister, then **the Governor can decide on his or her own on summoning the House.**

Statement 3 is correct. The Constitution envisages the possibility of the governor acting at times in his discretion, **no such possibility has been envisaged for the President.** After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor.

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

1. The first municipal corporation in India was set up at Calcutta.
2. Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870 laid emphasis on financial decentralization.
3. Local self-government became a provincial subject under the Government of India Act of 1919.

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) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The institutions of urban local government originated and developed in modern India during the period of British rule. In 1687-88, the first municipal corporation in India was set up at **Madras**. In 1726, the municipal corporations were set up in Bombay and Calcutta.

Statement 2 is correct. Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralisation visualised the development of local self-government institutions. Lord Ripon's Resolution of 1882 has been hailed as the 'Magna Carta' of local self-government. He is called as the father of local-self-government in India.

Statement 3 is correct. Government of India Act 1919 separated provincial and central subjects. It further divided the provincial subjects into two parts- transferred and reserved. Local Self-government became a transferred subject. Thus, Local self-government became a provincial subject under the Government of India Act 1919.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities pg no 727

Q.45) Which of the following statements regarding the National Cadet Corps (NCC) are correct?

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

2. It officially acts as a second line of defence to the army during an external aggression.

3. It has recently been expanded, to recruit from coastal and border areas.

Select the correct option 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) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: The NCC falls under the purview of the **Ministry of Defence** and is headed by a **Director General of three-star military rank**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a **youth development** movement, and **does not include civilians of all ages**. The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities, with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. The NCC is open to all **regular students of schools and colleges** on a **voluntary** basis. The students have **no liability for active military service**.

The **2nd line** of defence after the army is the **Territorial Army**.

Statement 3 is correct: Recently, the Ministry of Defence has approved the proposal to expand the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in **border and coastal districts**. The expansion of the NCC was announced by the **Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech of 2020**. A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted into the NCC of which **one-third of them will be girls**. The expansion plan would be implemented in partnership with the States.

Knowledge Base)

- 1) The NCC was **formed in 1948** (on the recommendation of **H. N. Kunzru Committee-1946**)
- 2) The NCC cadets receive **basic military training** at various levels and also have academic curriculum basics related to Armed forces and their functioning.
- 3) This program provides **trained manpower for disaster management** and **skill training to youth** for making their career in the armed forces.
- 4) Various training camps, adventure activities and military training camps are an important aspect of NCC training
- 5) NCC cadets have played an important role over the years in **relief efforts** during various emergency situations.
- 6) During the ongoing pandemic, over 60,000 NCC cadets have been deployed for voluntary relief work in coordination with district and state authorities across the country.

7) Restructuring of the NCC was one of the **key recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CoE) headed by Lt Gen DB Shekatkar (Retd)** in 2016.

Source: <https://indiancc.nic.in/>

<https://indiancc.nic.in/frequently-asked-questions/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/defence-minister-approves-proposal-to-expand-ncc-in-173-border-coastal-districts/article32366589.ece>

Q.46) The e-Chhawani portal, launched by the Government, is aimed at:

- a) effective management of the municipal personnel
- b) sharing of information between various urban local bodies
- c) smooth disbursement of state funds to municipalities
- d) providing online municipal services to citizens

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The recently launched e-Chhawani project aims to **provide online municipal services** to more than 20 lakh citizens across 62 Cantonment Boards through a multi-tenancy central platform. Through this portal, online application for renewal of leases, online registration of births and deaths and online application for water and sewerage connection will be very simpler.

Through the portal, the residents of Cantonment areas can register their complaints regarding civic issues and resolve them while sitting at home.

Source: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Defence-Minister-Rajnath-Singh-launches-e-Chhawani-portal&id=409957>

Q.47) With reference to Prime Minister of India, consider the following statements:

1. He/she is the head of the State in Indian parliamentary form of government.
2. In case of death of an incumbent Prime Minister, the council of ministers is automatically dissolved.
3. Person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can be appointed as Prime Minister.

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. In India, President is the head of the State while **Prime Minister is the head of the government**. In the scheme of parliamentary system of government provided by the constitution, the President is the nominal executive authority (de jure executive) and **Prime Minister is the real executive authority** (de facto executive).

Statement 2 is correct. Since the Prime Minister stands at the head of the council of ministers, the **resignation or death of an incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the council of ministers**. On the other hand, the resignation or death of any other minister merely creates a vacancy which the Prime Minister may or may not like to fill.

Statement 3 is correct. Supreme Court held that a person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can be **appointed as Prime Minister for six months**, within which, he should become a member of either House of Parliament; otherwise, he ceases to be the Prime Minister. Constitutionally, the Prime Minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 439 (Pdf)

Q.48) With reference to 'District Planning Committee', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities in the district.
2. Four-fifth of its members are derived from the members of district Panchayats and Municipalities.
3. It is responsible for implementing the flagship schemes of the State Government in the district.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. As per article 243 ZD of 74th Amendment of the Constitution- Every state shall constitute at the district level, a district planning committee to **consolidate the plans** prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

Statement 2 is correct. The 74th Constitutional amendment act lays down that **four-fifths** of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the **district panchayat and**

municipalities in the district from amongst themselves. The representation of these members in the committee should be in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The District Planning Committee is **not an implementing agency**. It is a planning committee. It does not have executive powers.

Source: 2018041274.pdf (s3waas.gov.in)

Laxmikanth Chapter 39 (pg no 732, 733)

Q.49) Consider the following statements with reference to mutual delegation of functions between Centre and states:

1. Centre can delegate both legislative and executive powers to the states.
2. Mutual delegation of administrative functions may be conditional or unconditional.
3. President can delegate executive functions to the states without latter's consent.
4. State Legislature may, with the consent of the Central government, delegate to them any of the executive functions of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The distribution of legislative powers between the Centre and the states are rigid. Consequently, the **Centre cannot delegate its legislative powers to the states** and a single state cannot request the Parliament to make a law on a state subject. Whereas Constitution provides for intergovernmental delegation of executive functions between the Centre and the states.

Statement 2 is correct. The **mutual delegation of administrative functions may be conditional or unconditional.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Constitution also makes a provision for the entrustment of the executive functions of the Centre to a state **without the consent of that state**. But, in this case, the **delegation is by the Parliament and not by the president.**

Statement 4 is incorrect. **Governor** of a state may, with the consent of the Central government, entrust to that government any of the executive functions of the state.

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The State Legislature cannot delegate executive function of the state to the central government.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition Ch 14.

Q.50) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Types of Urban Governments</i>	<i>Objective of set-up</i>
1. Notified Area Committee	It is established to manage and protect the ports and provide civic amenities in port area.
2. Town Area Committee	It is established by the large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers
3. Cantonment Board	It is established for administration for civilian population in an area under military station
4. Township	It is set up for the administration of a small town

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

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Pair 1 is *incorrectly* matched. A notified area committee is created for the administration of two types of areas—a fast developing town due to industrialisation, and a town which does not yet fulfil all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government.

The **port trusts** are established in the port areas like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and so on for two purposes: (a) **to manage and protect the ports; and (b) to provide civic amenities.**

Pair 2 is *incorrectly* matched. A town area committee is set up for the administration of a small town. It is a semi-municipal authority and is entrusted with a limited number of civic functions like drainage, roads, street lighting, and conservancy. It is created by a separate act of a state legislature.

Pair 3 is correctly matched. A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for **civilian population in the cantonment area.** A cantonment area is a delimited area where the military forces and troops are permanently stationed. It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006—a legislation enacted by the Central government. It works under the administrative control of the defence ministry of the Central government.

Pair 4 is *incorrectly* matched. Township is established by the large **public enterprises to provide civic amenities** to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 39 (pg no 739, 740)