

Q.1) Regarding the All-India Services, which one of the following statements is *incorrect*?

- a) The Central government obtains the services of officers under tenure system.
- b) Rajya Sabha has the power to authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services.
- c) The salaries and pensions of these officers are met only by the states.
- d) These services are controlled exclusively by the Central government.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The **All-India Services Act of 1951** authorised the Central government to make rules in consultation with the state governments for the regulation of recruitment and service conditions of the members of all-India services.

**Option a is correct.** The members of All-India Services are **recruited and trained by the Union government** but are assigned to different states for work. They **serve the Central government on deputation** under the well-known **tenure system** and after completing their fixed tenure they go back to their respective states.

**Option b is correct.** Under **Article 312** of the Constitution, **Rajya Sabha** can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states.

**Option c is correct.** Irrespective of their division among different states, each of these all-India services form a single service with common rights and status and uniform scales of pay throughout the country. **Their salaries and pensions are met by the states.**

**Option d is incorrect.** The all-India services are **controlled jointly by the Central and state governments.** The ultimate control lies with the Central government while the immediate control is vested in the state governments. Any disciplinary action (imposition of penalties) against these officers can only be taken by the Central government.

Knowledge Base:

**Importance of All-India Services:**

- 1) Maintaining high standard of administration in the Centre as well as in the states.
- 2) Help to ensure uniformity of the administrative system throughout the country.
- 3) Facilitate liaison, cooperation, coordination and joint action on the issues of common interest between the Centre and the states.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-66

Q.2) Which of the following safeguards have been guaranteed by the Constitution for the impartial functioning of UPSC?

1. Removal procedure of a member of UPSC is same as the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court.

2. Entire expenses including pensions are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The Chairman and members are eligible for re-appointment.
4. Conditions of service of the chairman cannot be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the UPSC.

**Option 1 is incorrect.** The removal procedure is not similar to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court. The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the President only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. The President can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC from the office under the following circumstances:

- 1) If he is adjudged an insolvent (that is, has gone bankrupt)
- 2) If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
- 3) If he is, in the opinion of the president, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

**Option 2 is correct.** The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to vote of Parliament.

**Option 3 is incorrect.** The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state. However, a member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state.

**Option 4 is correct.** The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-43

**Q.3)** In the context of retrospective taxation, consider the following statements:

1. It is a policy of taxing an income earned in the past.

2. Recently Indian government has won an international arbitration case against Cairn, on this issue.
3. India is the only country in the world which taxes companies retrospectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) option a is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct. Retrospective taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.** Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes.

**Statement 2 is incorrect, The Indian government has lost an international arbitration case to energy giant Cairn Plc over the retrospective levy of taxes, and has been asked to pay damages worth ₹ 8000 crore to the UK firm.** This is the second setback for Indian government related to retrospective taxation after it lost the arbitration case against Vodafone.

**Statement 3 is incorrect, Apart from India, many countries including the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies.**

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/india-lost-retrospective-taxation-case-to-cairn/>

**Q.4)** Consider the following statements with respect to Joint Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commission:

1. While SPSC is a constitutional body, a JSPSC is a statutory body.
2. The members of a JSPSC are appointed by the President while the members of a SPSC are appointed by the Governor.
3. While the members of a JSPSC are removed by the President, the members of a SPSC can be removed by the Governor of respective states.
4. A JSPSC presents its annual performance report to the President whereas the SPSC presents a report on its performance annually to the Governor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 2 and 3 only

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct.** The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states. While the **UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution**, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.

Thus, a **JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body.**

**Statement 2 is correct.** The **chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the President.** They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier. A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state. The **Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission** but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor. The **chairman and members of a SPSC are appointed by the Governor.**

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The **chairman and members of a JSPSC can be suspended or removed by the President.** They can also resign from their offices at any time by submitting their resignation letters to the President. Similarly, the **chairman and members of a SPSC can be removed only by the president (and not by the governor).** However, they can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the governor.

**Statement 4 is incorrect.** A JSPSC **presents its annual performance report to each of the concerned state governors.** Each governor places the report before the state legislature. The SPSC presents a report on its performance annually to the Governor. The governor places this report before both the Houses of the state legislature, along with a memorandum explaining the cases where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-44

**Q.5)** With reference to the anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:

1. A member of a House becomes disqualified if he votes against any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party.
2. An independent member of a House may be disqualified if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months.
3. The nominated member becomes disqualified if he joins any political party soon after being elected.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct

The **52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 1985** provided for the disqualification of the members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection from one political party to another. It added the **Tenth Schedule** to the Constitution. This act is often referred to as the ‘**anti-defection law**’.

**Statement 1 is correct.** A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House

- 1) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- 2) if he **votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party** and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
- 3) Becomes disqualified means liable to be disqualified though the disqualification is not immediate, but he/she can be disqualified.

**Statement 2 is correct.** An **independent member of a House** (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes **disqualified** to remain a member of the House **if he joins any political party after such election**. Thus, even if he/she joins a political party **after the expiry of 6 months, he/she will be liable to be disqualified**.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** A **nominated member of a House becomes disqualified** for being a member of the House **if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months** from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-76

**Q.6)** Which of the following goods are covered under the GST Compensation Cess?

- 1. Pan masala.
- 2. Unmanufactured tobacco featuring a brand name.
- 3. Coal.
- 4. Aerated waters.



5. Motor vehicles of engine capacity not exceeding 1500 cc.

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans) d**

**Exp) option d is correct.**

**GST Compensation Cess** is levied under Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act 2017.

**Chart Showing goods under the GST (compensation to states) Act 2017.**

**Goods**

**Pan masala**

**Unmanufactured tobacco (with lime tube) – featuring a brand name**

**Unmanufactured tobacco (without lime tube) – with a brand name**

Branded tobacco refuse

Cheroots and Cigar

Cigarillos

Cigarettes containing tobacco excluding filter cigarettes, of length not more than 65mm

Cigarettes containing tobacco apart from filter cigarettes, of length more than 65mm and up to 75mm

Branded 'hookah' or 'gudaku' tobacco

Chewing tobacco (without lime tube)

Chewing tobacco (with lime tube)

Pan masala (gutkha) containing tobacco

All goods, excluding pan masala containing tobacco 'gutkha', with the brand name

All goods, excluding pan masala containing tobacco 'gutkha', not bearing a brand name

**Coal**, ovoid's, briquettes, and similar solid fuels manufactured from lignite, coal, whether or not agglomerated, excluding jet, peat (including peat litter), whether or not agglomerated

**Aerated waters**

Motor cars and other motor vehicles (including station wagons and racing cars) principally designed for the transport of persons (excluding motor vehicles for the transport of 10 or more persons, including the driver)

Petrol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or compressed natural gas (CNG) driven motor vehicles of engine capacity not exceeding 1200cc and of length not exceeding 4000mm.

Diesel driven motor vehicles of engine capacity not exceeding 1500cc and of length not exceeding 4000mm.

**Motor vehicles of engine capacity not exceeding 1500 cc**

Motor vehicles of engine capacity over 1500cc, popularly known as Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) including utility vehicles.

Source: <https://taxguru.in/goods-and-service-tax/gst-compensation-cess.html>

**Q.7)** Which among the following is/are **not** the benefits of anti-defection law?

1. Provided distinction between an independent member and a nominated member.
2. Facilitates democratic realignment of parties in the legislature.
3. Gives constitutional recognition to the existence of political parties.
4. Differentiates between dissent and defection.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Option 2 and 3 are correct.** The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is designed to **prevent the evil or mischief of political defections** motivated by the lure of office or material benefits or other similar considerations. The following can be cited as the advantages of the anti-defection law:

- 1) Provides for greater stability in the body politic by checking the propensity of legislators to change parties.
- 2) Facilitates **democratic realignment of parties** in the legislature by way of merger of parties.
- 3) Reduces corruption at the political level as well as non- developmental expenditure incurred on irregular elections.
- 4) Gives, for the first time, a clear-cut **constitutional recognition to the existence of political parties.**

**Option 1 and 4 are incorrect.** The anti-defection law **does not make a differentiation between dissent and defection.** It curbs the legislator's right to dissent and freedom of conscience. Its **discrimination** between an **independent member and a nominated member is illogical.** If the former joins a party, he is disqualified while the latter is allowed to do the same. It also does not provide for the expulsion of a legislator from his party for his activities outside the legislature.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-76

**Q.8)** Consider the following terms for the purpose of Article 296 of the Constitution:

1. Escheat means property found without any owner.
2. Lapse refers to termination of rights through failure to follow appropriate procedures.
3. Bona vacantia refers to the death of a person intestate without any heir.
4. In case of escheat and bona vacantia, the property accrues to the government, whereas in case of lapse an extended timeline is provided to the owner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) b**

**Exp) Option b is correct.**

- 1) **Escheat means death of a person intestate without any heir.**
- 2) Lapse means termination of rights through disuse or failure to follow appropriate procedures.
- 3) **Bona vacantia refers to the property found without any owner.**

Any property in India that would have accrued to King of England or ruler of Indian state (princely) by escheat, lapse or bona vacantia for want of a rightful owner, would now vest in the state if the property is situated there, and in the Union, in any other case. **In all these three cases, the property accrues to the government as there is no rightful owner (claimant).**

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-67

**Q.9)** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21?

1. It refers to insurers that are considered to be too big to fail.
2. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the only recognized D-SIIs.
3. In order to make them competitive, they are subjected to reduced regulatory measures.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans) c

Exp) option c is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct**, Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter-connectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system. Therefore, the continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy. Thus, they are considered to be “too big or too important to fail”. To identify such insurers and put them to enhanced monitoring mechanism, IRDAI has developed a methodology for identification and supervision of D-SIIs. The parameters, as per the methodology, include.

- 1) Size of operations in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management.
- 2) Global activities across more than one jurisdiction.
- 3) lack of substitutability of their products and/or operations; and
- 4) interconnectedness through counterparty exposure and macro-economic exposure.

**Statement 2 is incorrect**, IRDAI has recognised Three insurers- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance Co** as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21.

**Statement 3 is incorrect**. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are ‘too big or too important to fail’ (TBTF). This perception and the perceived expectation of government support may amplify risk taking, reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions, and increase the possibility of distress in future. These considerations require that D-SIIs should be **subjected to additional regulatory measures** to deal with the systemic risks and moral hazard issues.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/irdai-identifies-lic-gic-new-india-assurance-systemically-important-insurers/article32697788.ece>

**Q.10)** Consider the following statements with respect to the rights and resources of the government:

1. All underwater resources within the territorial waters comes under the jurisdiction of the coastal states.
2. The Union Government has jurisdiction over all underwater resources in the contiguous zone.

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 and 2 is correct.** All lands, minerals and other things of value under the waters of the ocean within the territorial waters of India, the continental shelf of India and the exclusive economic zone of India vests in the Union. Hence, a state near the ocean cannot claim jurisdiction over these things. India's territorial waters extend to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the appropriate base line. Similarly, India's exclusive economic zone extends up to 200 nautical miles.

**The contiguous zone** of India is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial waters and extends to a distance of **twenty-four nautical miles** from the base line.

**Knowledge Base.** All property and assets that were vested in the Dominion of India or a province or an Indian princely state, before the commencement of the present Constitution, became vested in the Union or the corresponding state. Similarly, all rights, liabilities and obligations of the government of the dominion of India or a province or an Indian state would now be the rights, liabilities and obligations of the Government of India or the corresponding state.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-67

**Q.11)** With reference to the suits related to the Governments in India, consider the following statements:

1. The political party which forms the government is the legal entity for purposes of suits and proceedings.
2. The contractual liability of the Union government is same as that of an individual.
3. The Union government can be sued for the civil wrongs in case of both sovereign and non-sovereign functions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** Article 300 of the Constitution deals with the suits by or against the Government in India. It lays down that the Government of India may sue or be sued by the name of the Union of India and government of a state may sue or be sued by the name of that state. Thus, the **Union of India and states are legal entities** (juristic personalities) for purposes of suits and proceedings, **not the Political party in power.**

**Statement 2 is correct.** The President or the Governor is not personally liable in respect of any contract executed in his name. Similarly, the officer executing the contract is also not personally liable. Now, this immunity is purely personal and does not immunize the government from a contractual liability, **making the government suable in contracts. This means that the contractual liability of the Union government and the state governments is the same as that of an individual** under the ordinary law of contract.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The government (Union or states) in India can be sued for torts (civil wrongs) committed by its officials only in the exercise of its non-sovereign functions but not in the sovereign functions like administering justice, constructing a military road, commandeering goods during war, etc.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-67

**Q.12)** Consider the following statement with respect to the Djibouti Code of conduct:

1. It is a regional maritime security cooperation agreement.
2. It is aimed at containing terrorism in the Gulf region.
3. India is the member of Djibouti Code of conduct.
4. The Jeddah Agreement is the revised version of Djibouti Code of Conduct.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct,** Djibouti Code of Conduct is a **regional maritime security cooperation agreement.** The conduct was established in 2009.

**Statement 2 is incorrect,** It is aimed at **repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships** in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

**Statement 3 is incorrect,** It consists of **20 member states surrounding the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, East Coast of Africa and Indian Ocean Region.** The member countries include- Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Oman, Comoros, Jordan, Djibouti, Maldives, Kenya, Somalia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Seychelles, Yemen, UAE (United Arab Emirates), and United Republic of Tanzania.

**India became an observer state under the grouping recently.** The other observers include- Norway, Japan, UK, US.

**Statement 4 is correct. The Jeddah Agreement is the revised Djibouti Code of Conduct.** Under which the countries have agreed to work together to build national and regional capacity so as to address maritime security issues. The agreement impinges on the Blue Economy that will support the sustainable economic growth, employment, food security, prosperity, maritime security and stability in the region.

Source: [https://www.mea.gov.in/press-](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32977/India+joins+the+Djibouti+Code+of+Conduct+as+Observer)

[releases.htm?dtl/32977/India+joins+the+Djibouti+Code+of+Conduct+as+Observer](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32977/India+joins+the+Djibouti+Code+of+Conduct+as+Observer)

<https://dcoc.org/about-us/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-joins-djibouti-code-of-conduct-enhances-indian-ocean-outreach/articleshow/78153310.cms>

**Q.13)** Consider the following statements with respect to the provisions of anti-defection law in India:

1. Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.
2. The courts cannot review disqualification proceedings until final decision is made.
3. The law does not specify a time-period for decision to be made on a disqualification plea.
4. A Member of Parliament is automatically disqualified after his or her expulsion from the party.

Which of the statements given above is/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) b**

**Exp)** Option b is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be **decided by the presiding officer of the House**. Originally, the act provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court. However, **in Kihoto Hollohan case (1993), the Supreme Court declared this provision as unconstitutional**. It held that the presiding officer, while deciding a question under the Tenth Schedule, function as a tribunal. Hence, his decision like that of any other tribunal, is subject to judicial review. It had said that the **scope of judicial review would be confined to jurisdictional errors** that is infirmities based on violation of constitutional mandate, mala fide actions and non-compliance with rules of natural justice.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Supreme Court in the **Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillu and Others** has said that **judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman**. Also,

no interference would be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings. The only exception for any interlocutory interference is being cases of interlocutory disqualifications or suspensions which may have grave, immediate and irreversible repercussions and consequences.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House. However, the **law does not specify a time-period** for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea.

**Statement 4 is incorrect.** A Member of Parliament or assembly **cannot be automatically disqualified after his or her expulsion from the party** but may invite action by the Speaker for any overt act. The law states that a member elected or nominated by a political party **continues to be under its control even after expulsion**. As per the interpretation of the anti-defection law by the Supreme Court in **G Vishwanathan case in 1996**, a member elected or nominated by a political party continues to be under its control even after his or her expulsion.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-76

**Q.14)** With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent constitutional body.
2. The Constitution has provided for Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other Election Commissioners (ECs).
3. Chief Election Commissioner holds a veto in case of difference of opinion amongst the members of the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The Election Commission is a **permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India** directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country. **Article 324 of the Constitution** provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of President of India and the office of Vice-President of India shall be vested in the election commission.



**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and **such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.** The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the President

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The CEC doesn't hold any veto in case of disagreements. The chief election commissioner and the two other election commissioners have equal powers. In **case of difference of opinion** amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other election commissioners, the **matter is decided by the Commission by majority.**

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-42

**Q.15)** Consider the following statements with respect to Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA):

1. It is a forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
2. Only Asian Countries can become its members.
3. One of its objectives is to prevent proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct,** Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards **promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.** It was Established in 1999 and has Secretariat in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** For becoming a member of CICA, **a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia (not necessarily only Asian Country)** Fifteen states meeting this criterion signed the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and became founding members of CICA. Presently CICA has twenty-seven Member States accounting for nearly ninety percent of the territory and population of Asia.

**Statement 3 is correct,** Objectives of CICA are:

- 1) enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting **peace, security and stability in Asia;**

- 2) eradicate the menace of **terrorism** in all its forms and manifestations;
- 3) combat **illicit drug production and trafficking**;
- 4) promote **trade and economic cooperation** for the prosperity and stability in Asia;
- 5) cooperation on all issues relating to **environment**;
- 6) prevention of proliferation and eventual elimination of **weapons of mass destruction**;
- 7) develop measures to address **humanitarian issues**;
- 8) promote **mutual respect, understanding and tolerance** in the relations among civilizations;
- 9) facilitate implementation of **Confidence Building Measures** among Member States.

Source: <https://www.s-cica.org/>

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31438/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_the_5th_CICA_Summit_Meeting_in_Dushanbe_June_1415_2019)

[releases.htm?dtl/31438/Visit\\_of\\_External\\_Affairs\\_Minister\\_to\\_the\\_5th\\_CICA\\_Summit\\_Meeting\\_in\\_Dushanbe\\_June\\_1415\\_2019](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31438/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_the_5th_CICA_Summit_Meeting_in_Dushanbe_June_1415_2019)

**Q.16)** Consider the following statements with respect to the constitutional safeguards provided to the Election Commission of India:

1. Chief Election Commissioner can be removed by the President through a resolution passed by a simple majority in both the Houses.
2. An election commissioner can be removed from office on the recommendation of the Chief election commissioner.
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from re-appointment by the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct**

Article 324 of the Constitution has made the provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the Election Commission.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The chief election commissioner is provided with the security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. In

other words, he can be removed by the President on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Any other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.

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

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-42

**Q.17)** Which among the following is **not** the function of the Election Commission of India?

- a) Act as a court for settling disputes related to allotment of election symbols to political parties.
- b) Appoint officers for inquiring into disputes relating to electoral arrangements.
- c) Advise the governor regarding disqualifications matters of the members of state legislature.
- d) Superintendence of all elections-related matter to a Municipal Corporation.

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct**

**Statement in a, b, c is correct.** The powers and functions of the Election Commission with regard to elections to the Parliament, state legislatures and offices of President and Vice-President are:

- 1) To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
- 2) To grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.
- 3) To act as a court for settling disputes related to granting of recognition to political parties and allotment of election symbols to them.
- 4) To appoint officers for inquiring into disputes relating to electoral arrangements.
- 5) To determine the code of conduct to be observed by the parties and the candidates at the time of elections.
- 6) To advise the president on matters relating to the disqualifications of the members of Parliament.
- 7) To advise the governor on matters relating to the disqualifications of the members of state legislature.
- 8) To advise the president whether elections can be held in a state under President's rule in order to extend the period of emergency after one year.

**Statement d is incorrect.** The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities shall be vested in the state election commission. The state legislature may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the municipalities.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-42

**Q.18)** Which of the statements given below best describes ‘Modern Grand Solar Minimum’ that has recently been in news?

- The period of least solar activity in the 11-year solar cycle of the Sun.
- The period of increased numbers of sunspots and the solar irradiance output.
- The period of decreased solar activity that will last from 2020 to 2053.
- The decrease in solar activity from 1645 to 1710 which was a part of the Little Ice Age.

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement a is incorrect:** Solar minimum is the period of least solar activity in the 11-year solar cycle of the Sun. During this time, sunspot and solar flare activity diminishes.

**Statement b is incorrect:** Solar maximum or solar max is a regular period of greatest Sun activity during the 11-year solar cycle. During solar maximum, large numbers of sunspots appear, and the solar irradiance output grows.

**Statement c is correct:** Modern Grand Solar Minimum is the period of decreased solar activity is that will last from 2020 to 2053. According to the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA), 71% of the Sun had no Sun spots in 2020 through September 21, 2020 as compared to 77% in 2019. The number of sunspots is directly proportional to solar activity. Less Sunspots mean less solar activity.

**Statement d is incorrect:** Maunder Minimum was an event that occurred from 1645 CE to 1710 CE. That period is a part of the Little Ice Age (from 1300 to around 1850), when Earth went through a series of elongated cold periods. This likely occurred because the total solar irradiance was reduced by 0.2 that led to a decrease of the average terrestrial temperature measured mainly in the Northern hemisphere in Europe by 1.0–1.5°C.

**Knowledge Base:** Impact of Modern Grand Solar Minimum:

- The surface temperatures on Earth may go down during the Modern Grand Solar Minimum due to a 70% reduction in solar magnetic activity.
- Decreased solar activity has complex impacts on the abundance of ozone in the Earth’s atmosphere.
- A variation in solar irradiance leads to heating of the upper layer of the Earth’s atmosphere and influences the transport of solar energy towards the planet’s surface.

- 4) The sun's magnetic field shields the Earth from harmful cosmic and galactic rays. In the absence of the shielding more rays will reach the Earth and form high clouds in the atmosphere leading to the cooling.
- 5) It also affects the climatic cycles of Earth such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).
- 6) Such an extreme weakening of solar activity could cause massive reductions in crop yields in some regions.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/cold-comfort-the-sun-is-cooling-doesn-t-mean-there-ll-be-no-global-warming-73488>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7575229/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-84830-5>

**Q.19)** Consider the following statements regarding the National Security Advisor of India.

1. He acts as the chief adviser to the Defence Minister of India.
2. The office was created under the National Security Act, 1980.
3. He is selected by a high-powered committee comprising of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.
4. At present, the National Security Advisor enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** He acts as the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national security policy and international affairs.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The National Security act was promulgated in 1980 which provided for preventive detention in certain cases. On the other hand, the National Security Advisor is the senior official of the government of India. The post was created in 1998.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** NSA is appointed by the Appointments committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister.

**Statement 4 is correct.** In June, 2019 NSA was elevated to the rank of Cabinet Minister. Earlier, the NSA enjoyed the status of the Minister of State (MoS).



Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/afghan-nsa-says-he-speaks-with-ajith-doval-in-backdrop-of-biden-s-announcement-of-troop-withdrawal-11618580571003.html>

**Q.20)** Which among the following is **not** the function of the Union Public Service Commission?

- a) Serving any need of the state with the approval of the President
- b) Recommending reservations of appointments in favour of any backward class of citizens
- c) Assisting the states in operating joint recruitment schemes
- d) Consulting on principles to be followed in making transfers from one service to another.

**Ans) b**

**Exp) Option b is correct.**

**Statement a is correct.** The UPSC serves all or any of the needs of a state on the request of the state governor and with the approval of the President of India.

**Statement b is incorrect.** The UPSC is **not** consulted while making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens or while taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.

**Statement c is correct.** The UPSC assists the states (if requested by two or more states to do so) in framing and operating schemes of joint recruitment for any services for which candidates possessing special qualifications are required.

**Statement d is correct.** The UPSC is consulted on the following matters related to personnel management:

- 1) All matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil service and for civil posts.
- 2) The principles to be followed in making appointments to civil services and posts and in making promotions and transfers from one service to another.

Source: Indian Polity, M. Laxmikanth, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Chapter-43

**Q.21)** What is the purpose of the NASA's Sonification project?

- a) Probing the outer corona of the Sun.
- b) To hear background noise present in the vast expanse between star systems.
- c) To study the cosmic microwave background spectrum at lower frequencies.
- d) Converting astronomical images into audio.

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement a is incorrect:** Parker Solar is NASA's robotic spacecraft to probe the outer corona of the Sun. It is part of NASA's Living with a Star Program.

**Statement b is incorrect:** Instruments aboard NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft have detected a faint monotonous hum caused by the constant vibrations of the small amounts of gas found in the near-emptiness of interstellar space. It essentially represents the **background noise present in the vast expanse between star systems**. These vibrations, called **persistent plasma waves**, were identified at radio frequencies.

**Statement c is incorrect:** The Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Diffuse Emission (ARCADE) was built by the NASA to extend the **study of the cosmic microwave background spectrum at lower frequencies**. The mission's science goals — as ARCADE floated high above Earth's atmosphere, free of interference from our planet — were to find heat from the first generation of stars, search for particle physics relics from the Big Bang and observe the formation of the first stars and galaxies.

**Statement d is correct:** NASA's Chandra X-Ray Center (CXC) has unveiled a new 'sonification' project that **transforms data from astronomical images into audio**. Data sonification refers to the use of sound values to represent real data. Simply put, it is the auditory version of data visualisation. In NASA's recent Chandra project, data is represented using a number of musical notes. The birth of a star, a cloud of dust or even a black hole can now be 'heard' as a high- or low-pitched sound.

Knowledge Base:

NASA's distant telescopes in space collect inherently digital data, in the form of ones and zeroes, before converting them into images. The images are essentially visual representations of light and radiation of different wavelengths in space, that can't be seen by the human eye.

The Chandra project has created a celestial concert of sorts by translating the same data into sound. Pitch and volume are used to denote the brightness and position of a celestial object or phenomenon.

Sonification projects like this allow audiences — including visually-impaired communities — to experience space through data.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-nasas-sonification-project-that-turns-astronomical-images-into-music-6609057/>

<https://chandra.harvard.edu/photo/2020/sonify/>

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/faraway-nasa-probe-detects-eerie-hum-interstellar-space-2021-05-11/>

<https://www.space.com/space-roar-loudest-sound-in-the-universe.html>

**Q.22)** Which of the following actions can be taken by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes?

1. It can Suo-motu investigate into the atrocities conducted on scheduled castes.
2. It is the final authority for inclusion or exclusion of any caste in scheduled list.
3. It has the power to punish for the wrongdoings done to scheduled castes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has **power to investigate Suo-motu** into the atrocities conducted on scheduled castes. The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Commission only recommends and is not the final authority for inclusion or exclusion of any caste in scheduled list. Under **article 341 President** with respect to any State or Union Territory, by public notification **specify the castes, races or tribes as Scheduled Castes** in relation to that State or Union Territory. Under article 341(2), the Parliament of India by law can include or exclude a group from the list of the Scheduled Castes.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** Commission itself does not have the power to punish for the wrongdoings done to scheduled castes. However, the Commission ensures by **monitoring and issuing instruction** to the concerned authorities, whether Police assists the courts in bringing forward witnesses and see that the culprits are suitably punished by the courts.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/ncsc-conducts-suo-motu-probe/article28231003.ece>

<https://dopt.gov.in/sites/default/files/ch-11.pdf>

<https://ncst.nic.in/content/power-commission>

**Q.23)** What are the powers and functions of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

1. The Central and State governments are required to consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the STs.

2. It can summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India.
3. It has the power to decide the Minimum Support Price of the minor forest produce in scheduled areas.
4. Forest Rights Act, 2006 is being implemented by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct.** The Central government and the state governments are **required to consult the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes** on all major policy matters affecting the STs.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has **all the powers of a civil court**. It can **summon and enforce the attendance of any person from any part of India** and examine him on oath.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** **Pricing Cell constituted under Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has the power to **decide for the Minimum Support Price** of the minor forest produce. The Ministry has provided flexibility to States to fix MSP upto 10% higher or lower than MSP declared by the Government.

**Statement 4 is incorrect.** The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 is implemented by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**. It recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 939 (Pdf)

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1627631>

<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/iipa>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1620612>

**Q.24)** They are similar to tropical cyclones that tend to move from west to east rather than east to west. It occurs more in colder waters and the cores of these storms are also cold. They are becoming more frequent owing to climate change.

Which of the following phenomenon is described in the above paragraph?

- a) Hurricane
- b) Typhoon

- c) Medicane
- d) Wave cyclone

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct:

**Tropical storms in the Mediterranean Sea are known as ‘Medicanes’ or ‘Mediterranean Hurricanes’.** Medicanes are similar to tropical cyclones such as hurricanes and typhoons, but **tend to move from west to east rather than east to west.** Like tropical storms, medicanes have a symmetric structure, a warm core, a clearly visible eye, and winds of at least tropical-storm strength. Medicanes are typically smaller in diameter and have lower wind speeds than true tropical cyclones. Medicanes **occur more in colder waters** than tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons. Hence, the **cores of these storms are also cold**, as compared to the warm cores of tropical cyclones.

Medicanes might **become more frequent owing to global warming due to anthropogenic climate change.** This might also mean an increased threat from these storms for already vulnerable populations living in North Africa, possibly triggering human migration.

Source: <https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/content/noaa-20-spots-rare-mediterranean-hurricane-storm>  
<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2017/11/21/what-we-know-about-medicanes-hurricane-like-storms-in-the-mediterranean/>

**Q.25)** With reference to the 102nd Constitution Amendment Act of 2018, consider the following statements:

1. It conferred constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
2. It empowered State Governments to identify ‘socially and educationally backward’ (SEBC) classes within their respective territories.

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.** National Commission for BC is a constitutional body under article 338-B. It was **initially constituted as a statutory body** by The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 but the **102nd**



**Amendment Act of 2018 conferred a constitutional status** on the Commission. For this purpose, the amendment inserted a new Article 338-B in the constitution. Hence, the Commission ceased to be a statutory body and became a constitutional body.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Supreme Court has recently ruled that after the passage of the 102nd Constitution Amendment Act in 2018, the **States do not have any power to identify** ‘socially and educationally backward’ (SEBC) classes. Only the President can publish a list of backward classes in relation to each State and that only Parliament can make inclusions or exclusions in it.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Amendment added Article 342A, under which the President shall notify a list of SEBCs in relation to each State and Union Territory, in consultation with Governors of the respective States. Once this ‘Central List’ is notified, only Parliament could make inclusions or exclusions in the list by law.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 940 (Pdf)

<https://www.indianlawsinfo.com/home/section/3779/article-342a-in-the-constitution-of-india/socially-and-educationally-backward-classes>.

**Q.26)** Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution mentions that the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities must belong to linguistic minority community.
2. In India, the linguistic minorities are determined nationally.
3. The Constitution provides a detailed definition of linguistic minorities.

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

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

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** There is no condition prescribed in the Constitution that the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities must belong to linguistic minority community only.

The **Constitution does not specify the qualifications**, tenure, salaries and allowances, service conditions and procedure for removal of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** In the case of TA Pai Foundation and Others vs State of Karnataka, the Supreme Court held that the status of linguistic minority is to be **determined in the context of states and not India as a whole**.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** Neither the constitution nor any piece of legislation defines linguistic minority. In 1971, in the case of DAV College etc. v/s State of Punjab, the Supreme Court of India defined a linguistic minority as a minority that at least has a spoken language, regardless of having a script or not.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 940 (Pdf)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2019/02/21/linguistic-minorities-in-india-the-entrenched-legal-and-educational-obstacles-they-face/>

**Q.27)** Consider the following statements with reference to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 (FCRA):

1. It is mandatory for all NGOs to register themselves under the FCRA.
2. The Foreign contribution can be received in any Scheduled Commercial bank.
3. Political parties are prohibited from receiving any foreign contribution.

Which of the following statements are *incorrect*?

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

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** The FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect internal security. **The FCRA is applicable to all associations, groups and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations.** It is mandatory for all such NGOs to register themselves under the FCRA. All such NGOs would have to operate accounts in either nationalised or private banks which have core banking facilities to allow security agencies access on a real time basis.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Foreign contribution must be received only in an account designated by the bank as “FCRA account” in such branch of the State Bank of India, New Delhi, as notified by the central government. No funds other than the foreign contribution should be received or deposited in this account. The person may open another FCRA account in any scheduled bank of their choice for keeping or utilising the received contribution.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Under the Act, certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution. These include: **election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.** The 2020 Amendment adds **public servants** (as defined

under the Indian Penal Code) to this list. Public servant includes any person who is in service or pays of the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-hindu-explains-what-is-foreign-contribution-regulation-act-and-how-does-it-control-donations/article32590504.ece>

<https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-foreign-contribution-regulation-amendment-bill-2020>

**Q.28)** With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), consider the following statements:

1. He/she holds his office during the pleasure of the President.
2. He/she is not eligible for further office under the Government.
3. The finance minister represents the CAG in the parliament.
4. He/she can audit the accounts of local bodies on request of the Governor.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) b**

**Exp) Option b is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** Comptroller and Auditor General of India is **provided with the security of tenure**. He can be removed by the president only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution. Thus, he **does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president**, though he is appointed by him.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Comptroller and Auditor General of India is **not eligible for further office**, either under the Government of India or of any state, after he ceases to hold his office.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** No minister or the government can represent the CAG in Parliament (both Houses) and **no minister can be called upon to take any responsibility** for any actions done by him.

**Statement 4 is correct.** CAG can **audit the accounts of local bodies** and other authority when requested by the President or Governor.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 953 (Pdf)

**Q.29)** Consider the following statements with respect to Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and Controller General of Accounts (CGA):

1. Both CAG and the CGA are independent bodies which functions autonomously.
2. CAG audits the finances of the Government whereas CGA is the accounting adviser to the Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) b**

**Exp) Option b is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** CAG is an independent body while the CGA is under the Department of Expenditure in Finance Ministry.

The CAG is a constitutional body under article 148 whereas CGA is not a constitutional body. The Allocation of Business Rules 1961 mentions the duties and responsibilities of the CGA.

**Statement 2 is correct.** CAG audits the government's finances whereas CGA is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.

Knowledge Base: CGA is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System. The Office of CGA prepares monthly and annual analysis of expenditure, revenues, borrowings and various fiscal indicators for the Union Government.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 950 (Pdf)

[https://doe.gov.in/page\\_cga](https://doe.gov.in/page_cga)

**Q.30)** With reference to the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF), consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to provide a clear roadmap for the urban India towards combating climate change.
2. The Framework attempts to address both the mitigation as well as the adaptation sides.
3. It focuses on creation of 'Climate Smart Cities Alliance' to foster collaborative effort at both the national and local level.

Which of the statements given above 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.** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has initiated the “Climate SMART Cities Assessment Framework” 2.0. The objective is to provide a clear roadmap for the cities and in effect, urban India as a whole, towards combating Climate Change while planning their actions, including investments.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Climate SMART Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 incentivizes holistic, climate responsive development in the 100 Smart Cities under the Smart City Mission. The Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework has 28 indicators across 5 sectors, namely, (i) Energy and Green Buildings; (ii) Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity; (iii) Mobility and Air Quality; (vi) Water Management and (v) Waste Management. Hence, it attempts to address both the mitigation and adaptation sides.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Combating climate change is neither simple, nor can it be the responsibility or ability of one organization. Hence, the mission envisages creation of a ‘ClimateSmart Cities Alliance’ to foster collaborative effort at all levels of Government and among all stakeholders for successful climate action.

Knowledge Base:

The Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is supporting the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in implementation of CSCAF. This is a first-of-its-kind public assessment framework on climate-relevant parameters.

Source: <https://www.niua.org/csc/general-faqs.html>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1653293>

<https://www.niua.org/csc/national-csc-alliance-cities.html>

**Q.31)** Which among the following government institutions is directly audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)?

- a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission  
b) Central Warehousing Corporation  
c) Food Corporation of India  
d) Reserve Bank of India

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**



Some corporations are **audited totally and directly by the CAG**, for example, Damodar Valley Corporation, **Oil and Natural Gas Commission**, Air India, Indian Airlines Corporation, and others.

**Option b is incorrect.** Some other corporations are **audited by private professional auditors** who are appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the CAG. If necessary, the CAG can conduct supplementary audit. The examples are, **Central Warehousing Corporation**, Industrial Finance Corporation, and others.

**Options c and d are incorrect.** Some corporations are **totally subjected to private audit**. Their audit is done exclusively by private professional auditors and the CAG does not come into the picture at all. They submit their annual reports and accounts directly to the Parliament. Examples of such corporations are Life Insurance Corporation of India, **Reserve Bank of India**, State Bank of India and **Food Corporation of India**.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 957 (Pdf)

**Q.32)** With reference to the Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. He has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.
2. He has the right to vote in those Parliamentary committees of which he is a member.
3. He is debarred from private practice while he is working for the Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct.** Attorney General in the performance of his official duties, has the **right of audience in all courts in the territory of India**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Attorney General has the **right to speak and to take part in the proceedings** of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, but **without a right to vote**. He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of Parliament.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** Attorney General is not a fulltime counsel for the Government. He does not fall in the category of government servants thus he is **not debarred from private legal practice**.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 963 (Pdf)

Q.33) The Reserve Bank of India purchases government bonds in the primary market and prints more money to finance this debt. This exercise leads to an increase in total money supply in the economy to finance the spending needs of the government. This process has the risk of increasing unproductive spending and may lead to higher inflation.

Which of the following terms is best described in the above paragraph?

- a) Quantitative easing
- b) Open market operations
- c) Monetisation of deficit
- d) Operation twist

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

**Option a is incorrect.** Quantitative easing involves the use of printed money by central banks to buy government bonds. Here Central Bank indirectly buy government bonds in the secondary market. Here the government has to pay back for the assets that the central bank buys.

**Option b is incorrect.** OMOs (Open Market Operations) are carried out only in the secondary market.

**Option c is correct.** Direct monetization of deficit refers to a scenario where a central bank prints currency to the tune of accommodating massive deficit spending by the government. RBI does so by **purchasing government securities directly in the primary market**. The exercise leads to an **increase in total money supply in the system**, and hence inflation, as RBI creates fresh money to purchase the bonds. RBI's monetising of the government's fiscal deficit may give rise to unproductive spending and may lead to higher inflation.

**Option d is correct.** Simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under OMOs is popularly known as Operation Twist. It involves buying long-end debt while selling short-tenor bonds to keep borrowing costs down.

**Knowledge Base:**

Monetization of the deficit used to be automatic only until 1997, when it was later decided to end this practice by entrusting RBI to conduct such. However, an escape clause in the 2017 amendment of the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act) act permits such direct monetisation under special circumstances.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/what-can-the-government-do-to-restart-indias-ailing-economy/what-the-rbi-says/slideshow/75444871.cms>

<https://www.business-standard.com/about/what-is-monetised-deficit>

<https://www.thestreet.com/economonitor/financial-markets/monitization-fiscal-deficits>

[https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/rbi-to-conduct-operation-twist-on-thursday-to-manage-yield-curve-](https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/rbi-to-conduct-operation-twist-on-thursday-to-manage-yield-curve-101610547489229.html#:~:text=(Mint%20Photo)-,RBI%20to%20conduct%20Operation%20Twist%20on%20Thursday%20to%20manage%20yield,to%20keep%20borrowing%20costs%20down.)

101610547489229.html#:~:text=(Mint%20Photo)-,RBI%20to%20conduct%20Operation%20Twist%20on%20Thursday%20to%20manage%20yield,to%20keep%20borrowing%20costs%20down.

**Q.34)** Which of the following statements regarding the Law Commission of India is *incorrect*?

- It is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
- It can undertake Suo-motu review of the existing laws.
- The recommendations of the commission are not binding on the government.
- The Union Minister of Law and Justice is the ex-officio Chairperson of the commission.

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Option a is correct.** The Law Commission of India is a **non-constitutional, non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time. It is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India.

**Option b is correct.** The Law Commission can **suo-motu or on the reference of the government, undertake research in law and review of existing laws** in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations.

**Option c is correct.** It is an advisory body to the government and its recommendations are **not binding** upon the government.

**Option d is incorrect.** The Union Minister of Law and Justice is **not the ex-officio Chairman** of the commission. Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry are the ex-officio members of the commission.



**Knowledge Base:** The tenure of the Commission is three year and is usually re-constituted after every three years.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 961-964 (Pdf)

**Q.35)** With reference to the Co-operative Societies in India, consider the following statements:

1. The right to form co-operative societies is a fundamental right.
2. The ‘co-operative societies’ come under the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of State legislatures in their own states.
3. Provisions of part IX-B of the Constitution are not applicable to Multi-State Co-Operative Societies.

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) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct**

**Statement 1 is correct.** The right to form co-operative societies is a **fundamental right**. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies through following provisions:

- 1) It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right
- 2) It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of co-operative societies
- 3) It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled “The Co-operative Societies”

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Supreme court recently held that the **co-operative societies come under the “exclusive legislative power” of State legislatures**. The item “Cooperative Societies” is a State Subject in the 7th Schedule.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The provisions of **Part IX-B shall apply to the multi-state co-operative societies subject to the modification** that any reference to the “State Legislature”, “State Act” or “State Government” shall be construed as a reference to “Parliament”, “Central Act” or “Central Government” respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 1084 (Pdf)

<https://swaritadvisors.com/multi-state-co-operative-society-registration>

**Q.36)** Which of the following are purposes for holding foreign exchange reserves by a country?

1. To prevent undervaluation of the country’s currency.
2. To meet its external obligations.
3. To maintain liquidity in case of an economic crisis.
4. To contain crisis arising out of foreign capital outflows.

5. To fund infrastructural sector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**All statements are correct.**

Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies. These reserves are used to back liabilities and influence monetary policy.

A country could use its foreign exchange reserves for any of the following purposes:

- 1) Countries use their foreign exchange reserves to keep the value of their currencies at a desirable level and **prevent undervaluation of the country's currency.**
- 2) To **maintain liquidity in case of an economic crisis.**
- 3) To provide confidence. The central bank **assures foreign investors** that it's ready to take action to protect their investments. It will also prevent a sudden flight to safety and loss of capital for the country. In that way, a strong position in foreign currency reserves can prevent economic crises caused when an event triggers a flight to safety.
- 4) To make sure a country will **meet its external obligations.** These include international payment obligations, including sovereign and commercial debts. They also include financing of imports and the ability to absorb any unexpected capital movements.
- 5) Some countries use their reserves to **fund sectors, such as infrastructure.** China, for instance, has used part of its forex reserves for recapitalizing some of its state-owned banks.
- 6) Most central banks want to boost returns without compromising safety. They hold dollar denominated interest-bearing investments.

**Knowledge Base:**

In the case of India, forex reserves include dollars, gold, and the International Monetary Fund's quota for Special Drawing Rights.

Source: <https://www.thebalance.com/foreign-exchange-reserves-3306258>

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/foreign-exchange-reserves.asp>



Q.37) Regarding the National Human Rights Commission, consider the following statements:

1. A member of the commission can be removed on the ground of 'proved misbehavior or incapacity'.
2. It can inquire into a matter of human rights violations only within one year of its occurrence.
3. It is not allowed to inquire into violations of human rights suo motu.

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) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

**Statement 1 is correct.** The president can remove the chairperson or any member of The National Human Rights Commission on the ground of **proved misbehavior or incapacity**. However, in these cases, the president has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an inquiry. If the Supreme Court, after the inquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, then the president can remove the chairperson or a member.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The commission is **not empowered to inquire** into any matter **after the expiry of one year** from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed. In other words, it can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** It can **inquire into any violation of human rights either suo motu** or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court.

Source: Laxmikanth Indian polity 6th edition page 996-1000 (Pdf)

Q.38) Which of the following are the limitation of the 'National Human Rights Commission' in India?

1. It is a recommendatory body to the government.
2. It lacks independent investigative machinery.
3. It lacks jurisdiction over violation in case of armed forces.
4. The Commission cannot recommend monetary relief to victims.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Limitations of National Human Right Commission are

- 1) **Only a recommendatory body:** NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions. This lack of authority to ensure compliance can lead to outright rejection of its decision too.
- 2) **Investigation:** It does not have independent investigative machinery. Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, human rights commissions cannot investigate an event if the complaint was made more than one year after the incident. Therefore, a large number of genuine grievances go unaddressed.
- 3) **Armed forces: Commission can't investigate the violation in case of armed forces and has to rely on the report of the Centre.**
- 4) **Incapacity to award relief: It can only ask the authority to approach the higher Courts to provide relief to the victims.** The concerned authority has to implement its recommendations within one month or communicate reasons for not complying.

Statement 4 is incorrect.

**NHRC can recommend monetary relief to be paid by the government.** Government can outrightly reject recommendation of NHRC or there is partial compliance to these recommendations.

On NHRC recommendations recently the Government of Jharkhand paid ₹ 1 lakh in a case of death on allegations of starvation.

Source: National Human Rights Commission -ForumIAS Blog

**Q.39)** Which of the following pairs of international agreements and countries India has signed them with are correctly matched?

<i>Agreement signed by India</i>	<i>Associated Country</i>
1. Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement	Canada
2. Industrial Security Agreement	USA
3. Reciprocal Exchange of	Russia

Logistics	
Agreement	

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- 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.**

**Pair 1 is incorrectly matched.** The **Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)** has been signed with **Japan in 2020**. It is a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies. India has similar agreements with the USA, Australia, France, Oman and Singapore.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched.** The **Industrial Security Agreement (ISA)** has been signed with the **USA** at the **US-India 2+2** intercession meet in **2019**. ISA agreement allows sharing of classified information from the US government and US companies with the Indian private sector. The ISA will give a boost to the Indian private sector looking for a greater role in defence manufacturing.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched.** **Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)** has been signed with **Russia in 2019**. It is an arrangement that will allow access to India and Russia to each other's military facilities for supplies and fuel, expanding the logistics support and operational turnaround of the Indian military.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-russia-to-conclude-mutual-logistics-agreement/article29881623.ece>

<https://idsa.in/idsacomments/military-logistics-agreements-rthomas-261119>

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/india-and-japan-cement-defence-ties-ink-landmark-acsa-pact-india-to-get-access-to-djibouti-in-africa/2079896/>

**Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding State Human Rights Commission:**

1. It is established by the respective state legislature.
2. Only a retired Chief Justice of a High Court can become its chairperson.
3. Members of the State Human Rights Commission are recommended by a committee headed by the Chief Minister.
4. The members of the State Human Rights Commission can be removed only by the President of India.

Which of the following statements given above are correct?

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

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 provides for the creation of not only the National Human Rights Commission but also a State Human Rights Commission at the state level. They are not created by separate state legislation.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Under the original Act, the chairperson of a SHRC is a person who has been a Chief Justice of a High Court. The amendment of 2019 changed this to provide that a person who has been Chief Justice or Judge of a High Court will be chairperson of a SHRC.

**Statement 3 is correct.** The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of a committee consisting of the chief minister as its head, the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the state home minister and the leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

**Statement 4 is correct.** Although the chairperson and members of a State Human Rights Commission are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the President (and not by the governor). The President can remove them on the same grounds and in the same manner as he can remove the chairperson or a member of the National Human Rights Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 54 State Human Rights Commission Pg no 846, 847

**Q.41)** Consider the following statements regarding 'Central Information Commission':

1. The tenure of Chief Information Commissioner is fixed for a term of 5 years.
2. The salary and allowances of the Chief Information Commissioner are similar to those of the Chief Election Commissioner.
3. President can remove the Chief Information Commissioner from the office if he/she is adjudged an insolvent.

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

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

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** Earlier under Right to Information Act, 2005, the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner hold office for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

However, The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 changed this provision and **states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.**

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Earlier under Right to Information Act, 2005, the salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner were similar to those of the Chief Election Commissioner.

**However, The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 changed these provisions to state that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.**

**Statement 3 is correct.** The President can remove the Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner from the office under the following circumstances : (a) **if he is adjudged an insolvent**; or (b) if he has been convicted of an offence which (in the opinion of the President) involves a moral turpitude; or (c) if he engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or (d) if he is (in the opinion of the President) unfit to continue in office due to infirmity of mind or body; or (e) if he has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his official functions.

Source: Laxmikanth CIC pg no 851

The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (prsindia.org)

What has changed in RTI Act? -ForumIAS Blog

**Q.42)** The term *Track 1.5 Diplomacy/ Dialogue* is often seen in the news with reference to India's foreign policy.

Which of the following statements regarding Track 1.5 diplomacy is/are correct?

1. It refers to a dialogue for resolving conflicts with the participation of non-official actors only.
2. The national governments are not officially involved in organising such meetings.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans) b



Exp) Option b is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** It is a situation where dialogues to resolve conflicts take place with **the participation of both official diplomats and non-official actors** like influential academic, religious, and NGO leaders and other civil society actors. For ex. Delhi Dialogue.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Although **not organized under the auspices of the national government**, its results and proposals for policy directions are given due weight and consideration by nation's official diplomacy.

Knowledge Base:

- The term “diplomacy” refers to interaction between nation-states. However, scholars have delineated several levels of diplomacy - Track 1, Track 2, Track 3, and most recently, an innovation, Track 1.5
- **Track 1 Diplomacy - Official discussions** typically involving high-level political and military leaders and focusing on cease-fires, peace talks, and treaties and other agreements. Heads of states meet, have hi-tea, discuss issues and release joint statements etc.
- **Track 2 Diplomacy - Unofficial dialogue** and problem-solving activities aimed at building relationships and encouraging new thinking that can inform the official process. It includes academicians, actors, musicians, sportspersons, etc.
- **Track 3 Diplomacy - People-to-people diplomacy** undertaken by individuals and private groups. Sports Tournaments, Music Concerts, etc attended by people.

Source: [https://mea.gov.in/press-](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32180/11th+Delhi+Dialogue+6th+Indian+Ocean+Dialogue+and+associated+events+December+13+2019)

[releases.htm?dtl/32180/11th+Delhi+Dialogue+6th+Indian+Ocean+Dialogue+and+associated+events+December+13+2019](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32180/11th+Delhi+Dialogue+6th+Indian+Ocean+Dialogue+and+associated+events+December+13+2019)

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/countdown-to-greater-india-canada-convergence/article33097142.ece>

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/rise-of-the-minilaterals-examining-the-india-france-australia-trilateral/>

**Q.43)** Consider the following statements regarding ‘Powers and functions of Central Information Commission’:

1. It can order inquiry into any matter on reasonable grounds.
2. It can order to compensate the complainant for any loss.
3. It has the powers of a civil court in respect of matter of receiving evidence on affidavit.

Which of the following statements given above 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.** The Commission can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power).

**Statement 2 is correct.** In appropriate cases the Commission may order the public authority to compensate the complainant. It has the power to compensate the complainant for any loss or other detriment suffered by him.

**Statement 3 is correct.** While inquiring, the Commission has the powers of a civil court in respect of the following matters: (a) summoning and enforcing attendance of persons and compelling them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or things; (b) requiring the discovery and inspection of documents; (c) receiving evidence on affidavit; (d) requisitioning any public record from any court or office; (e) issuing summons for examination of witnesses or documents; and (f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

Source: FAQ | Central Information Commission (cic.gov.in)

Laxmikanth Chapter 55 Central Information Commission pg no 852

**Q.44)** With reference to ‘Central Vigilance Commission’, consider the following statements:

1. The jurisdiction of Central Vigilance Commission extends to the officials of state services.
2. In corruption cases, the CVC exercise superintendence over the functioning of CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation).

Which of the following 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 jurisdiction of the CVC extends to the following:

- 1) Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and Group A officers of the Central Government.
- 2) Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public Sector Banks.
- 3) Officers in Grade D and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI, among others.

**The jurisdiction of CVC does not extend to the officials of state government.**

**Statement 2 is correct.** The functions of the CVC include to exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI) insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 57 CVC pg 864

Functions and powers of the Central Vigilance Commission Under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 | Central Vigilance Commission | Government of India (cvc.gov.in)

Jurisdiction | Central Vigilance Commission | Government of India (cvc.gov.in)

**Q.45)** Which of the following statements regarding *Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana* is/ are correct?

1. It is an unemployment benefit available to workers covered under Employee State Insurance scheme.
2. It can be availed each time a worker is rendered unemployed in his/her lifetime.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Ans) a**

**Exp) Option a is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** In this scheme, unemployment benefit is paid to the workers covered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme. The employee should have completed two years of insurable employment and has contributed not less than 78 days in each of the four consecutive contribution periods (reduced to 3 consecutive periods) immediately preceding to the claim of the relief.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** It can only be claimed once in a lifetime. Repeated instances of unemployment throughout the lifetime of the worker are not covered for benefits under this scheme.

**Knowledge Base:** The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is administered by a corporate body called the ESI Corporation. The Corporation is the highest policy making and decision taking authority under the ESI Act and oversees the functioning of the Scheme. The Union Minister of Labour and Employment is its chairperson.

Source: <https://www.esic.nic.in/abvky><https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/atal-beemit-vyakti-kalyan-yojana>

**Q.46)** Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. It is a statutory organisation set up under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. The Director of CBI is appointed by President with due consultation with Chief Justice of India.

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

- 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 incorrect.** The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962-1964). The CBI is **not a statutory body**. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Later, it was **transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office**. The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946) and made the following changes with respect to the composition of the CBI:

**The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.**

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 58 CBI pg no 870, 871

About Us ([cbi.gov.in](http://cbi.gov.in))

**Q.47)** Consider the following statements regarding 'Office of Lokpal' in India:

1. Lokpal and Lokayuktas are constitutional authorities.
2. It is mandatory to have half of its members from the judiciary.
3. Prime Minister of India is excluded from the jurisdiction of the Lokpal.
4. It doesn't have suo-motu powers to investigate any public servant in India.

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

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

d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** Lokpal is a statutory institution (not a constitutional institution) under Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) that seeks to provide a uniform vigilance and anti-corruption road map for the nation.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The Lokpal to consist of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government.

**Statement 4 is correct.** The following are the drawbacks (shortcomings) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:

- 1) Lokpal cannot suo motu proceed against any public servant.
- 2) Emphasis on form of complaint rather than substance.
- 3) Heavy punishment for false and frivolous complaints against public servants may deter complaints being filed to Lokpal.
- 4) Anonymous complaints not allowed – Can't just make a complaint on plain paper and drop it in a box with supporting documents.
- 5) Legal assistance to public servant against whom complaint is filed.
- 6) Limitation period of 7 years to file complaints.
- 7) Very non-transparent procedure for dealing with complaints against the PM.

Source: Laxmikanth Lokpal 883, 884, 885

LOKPAL

**Q.48)** Consider the following statements regarding 'Lokayukta':

1. He/She is appointed by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court of the state.
2. He/she should be a retired Chief Justice of the respective state High court.
3. He/she can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Governor of the state.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None of the above



Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The lokayukta and upalokayukta are appointed by the governor of the state. While appointing, the governor in most of the states consults (a) the chief justice of the state high court, and (b) the leader of Opposition in the state legislative assembly.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 states that- **Every State shall establish a body to be known as the Lokayukta for the State, if not so established, constituted or appointed, by a law made by the State Legislature.**

**Hence, the qualification for the post of Lokayukta is left with state legislation.**

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 do not provide the removal procedure of Lokayukta and leave this detail to state legislation. Normally, once appointed, Lokayukta cannot be dismissed nor transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 59 Lokpal and Lokayukta pg no 885  
act-2013.pdf (lokalpal.gov.in)

**Q.49)** In the context of 'Fifth Schedule' of Indian Constitution consider the following statements:

1. Parliament is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area.
2. The executive power of the state is not applicable to the schedule areas.
3. Tribal Advisory Council can be established in a Non-scheduled area.
4. Governor can direct the application of any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature to a scheduled area in the state.

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

- a) 1, 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.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The President (not Parliament) is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas. But the governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the president regarding the administration of such areas, annually or whenever so required by the president.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribe's advisory council (TAC) to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. **A similar council can also be established in a state having scheduled tribes but not scheduled areas therein, if the president so directs.**

Fifth Schedule to the Constitution, TAC has been established in states having Scheduled Areas namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana. Besides, two other States viz, **Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, have also set up TAC.**

**Statement 4 is correct.** The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. He can also make regulations for the peace and good government of a scheduled area after consulting the tribes advisory council.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter no 41 Scheduled and Tribal Areas pg 758

**Q.50)** Consider the following statements:

1. Sixth Schedule of the constitution deals with the tribal areas in the state of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
2. Village Council in tribal areas are formed to provide civil administration in the areas under their jurisdiction.
3. Governor of Assam has the power to direct the application of any act of the Parliament in tribal areas.
4. Governor can appoint a commission to examine on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts.

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

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

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Constitution, under Sixth Schedule, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.

**Statement 3 is correct.** The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. The power of direction, in this regard, lies either with the president or governor. Thus, **in the case of Assam, it lies with the Governor, both in respect of acts of Parliament or state legislature.** In the case of Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, it lies with the president in respect of acts of Parliament and governor in respect of acts of state legislature.

**Statement 4 is correct.** The governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter no 41 Scheduled and Tribal Areas pg 760