

PTS 2022| B2| Test 2 - Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

In a parliamentary system, the prime minister is the head of government. Most parliamentary systems have a president or a monarch who is the nominal Head of state. In such a system, the role of president or monarch is primarily ceremonial and prime minister along with the cabinet wields effective power. The parliamentary executive derives its authority from parliament. The Council of Ministers is dependent on the support of the majority in the legislature. This also means that the Council of Ministers may be removed at any time and a new Council of Ministers will have to be put in place.

Source: NCERT Class 11- Constitution at Work – Chapter 4 83,84, 85

Q.2)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. There are powers that only the Lok Sabha exercises. The **Rajya Sabha cannot initiate**, reject or amend **money bills**. (Logic - In a democracy, the people are the final authority. So, their representatives should have the crucial powers of removing a government and controlling the finances).

Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect. The powers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are **co-equal** in matters of passing of ordinary bills, **constitutional amendments**, and **impeaching the President** and removing the Vice President.

Statement 4 is correct. The Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha. Therefore, **only Lok Sabha** can remove it through no confidence motion.

Knowledge Base: Special powers of the Rajya Sabha

- It can alone initiate the procedure for removal of Vice President.
- It can give the Union parliament power to make laws on matters included in the State list.
- Any matter that affects the States must be referred to it for its consent and approval.
- Creation of a new All India services.

Source: NCERT Class 11 – Indian Constitution at Work – Chapter 5 Legislature 109, 110

Q.3)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can also be appointed as a **minister**. But, within six months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of Parliament, otherwise, he ceases to be a minister

Statement 2 is correct. The **Council of Ministers cannot exist without the Prime Minister**. The Council comes into existence only after the Prime Minister has taken the oath of office. The death or resignation of the Prime Minister automatically brings about the dissolution of the Council of Ministers but the demise, dismissal or resignation of a minister only creates a ministerial vacancy

Statement 3 is correct. The principle of collective responsibility indicates that if a minister does not agree with a policy or decision of the cabinet, he or she must **either accept the decision or resign**. It is binding on all ministers to pursue or agree to a policy for which there is collective responsibility.

Knowledge Base: The most important feature of parliamentary executive is that the executive is routinely under the control and supervision of the legislature. The principle of collective responsibility ensures this. Collective

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responsibility is based on the principle of the solidarity of the cabinet. It implies that a vote of no confidence even against a single minister leads to the resignation of the entire Council of Ministers.

Source: NCERT Class II- Constitution at Work – Chapter 4 91,92

Q.4)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution prescribed a **3 tier structure** of Panchayati Raj Institutions (**Village->Block->District levels**) throughout the country to bring some uniformity. However this is **not mandatory throughout the nation**. In **smaller states, with a population less than 20 lakhs**, the State may **choose not to** create Panchayats at the **intermediate** (block) level.

Statement 2 is correct: When a Panchayat is **dissolved before** completing its term of **mandated 5 years**, a **new Panchayat** is constituted in its place (if the remaining term is more than 6 months). Such a Panchayat continues only for the period that the original Panchayat would have existed - it **does not enjoy a full term of 5 years**. This is **different** from the re-elections in the case of **Centre or State**, where the new legislatures **enjoy a full term of 5 years**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Constitution mandates creation of Gram Sabha in every village. It is a body consisting of all people registered in the electoral rolls of that area. This means that

- Anybody **over 18 years** of age can be a part of Gram Sabha.
- The above condition alone is not sufficient. The person **needs to be a registered voter** in the electoral rolls of that area.

A minimum age of **21 years** is mandatory for **fighting a Panchayat election as a candidate**. This is in contrast to Lok Sabha & state legislative assemblies (25 years) and Rajya Sabha (30 years).

Source: NCERT Class 11th Indian Constitution at Work, Ch-8; Polity by Laxmikanth, Ch-38

Q.5)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. UN Human Rights Council was created by the United Nations **General Assembly** on 15 March 2006 by resolution **60/251**. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It aims to promote and protect human rights around the globe. Apart from that, the UNHRC also investigate alleged human rights violations in countries.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot. **Members of the Council** serve for a period of **three years** and are **not eligible** for immediate re-election after serving **two consecutive terms**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The council passes **non-binding resolutions and recommendations** by majority vote. The UNHRC resolutions are **not legally binding but carry moral significance**.

Source: OHCHR | UPR UPR

OHCHR | HRC Membership of the Human Rights Council

OHCHR | HRC Welcome to the Human Rights Council

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)|ForumIAS Blog

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Q.6)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: Public Accounts Committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. At present, it consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The chairman of the committee is appointed from amongst its members **by the Speaker**. Until 1966 - '67, the chairman of the committee belonged to the ruling party. However, since 1967 a **convention** has developed whereby the chairman of the committee is selected **invariably from the Opposition**.

Statement 3 is correct: Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

Knowledge Base:

Excess grant - It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year. It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year.

PAC - The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of **proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it. The term of office of the members is one year. A **minister cannot be elected** as a member of the committee.

Source:

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth – 6th Edition – chapter 23 - Parliamentary Committees

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/covid-19-allow-public-accounts-committee-to-discuss-vaccination-policy-says-adhir/article34553186.ece>

Q.7)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the PESA Act 1996, **every village shall have a Gram Sabha** consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level. Further every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct. Under the act, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall **not be less than one-half of the total number of seats**. The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. Under the act, all seats of **Chairpersons** of Panchayats at **all levels** shall be **reserved** for the **Scheduled Tribes**. Further, the state government may nominate such Scheduled Tribes which have no representation in the Panchayat at the intermediate level or the Panchayat at the district level.

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.8)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct

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Pair 1 is correct. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommends for the establishment of a **three-tier Panchayati raj** system—gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.

Pair 2 is correct. Ashok Mehta Committee recommends the establishment of **the two-tier** system in place of the three-tier system of Pancha Raj. Zila parishad would be at the district level, and below it, the Mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000. A district should be the first point for decentralisation under popular supervision below the state level.

Pair 3 is correct. L M Singhvi committee recommended that Panchayati Raj institutions should be constitutionally recognized, protected and preserved.

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.9)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct

Statement 1 is incorrect. If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he should exercise his option for one of the seats. Otherwise, both seats become vacant. Under Sec 33(7) of RPA, 1951, an individual can contest from two parliamentary constituencies but, if elected from both, he has to **resign one seat within 14 days** of the declaration of the result, failing which both his seats shall fall vacant.

Statement 2 is correct. If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his **seat in the first House becomes vacant**. For example, if a sitting Rajya Sabha member contests and wins a Lok Sabha election, his seat in the Upper House becomes automatically vacant on the date he is declared elected to Lok Sabha. The same applies to a Lok Sabha member who contests an election to Rajya Sabha. [Sec 69 read with Sec 67A, RPA 1951]

Source: M Laxmikath Polity. Chapter 22. Parliament

Q.10)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Open Societies Pact was adopted at the end of an outreach session titled ‘Building Back Together—Open Societies and Economies’ by the **G-7 countries**, and India, South Korea, Australia and South Africa. Its aim is to **reaffirm and encourage the values of “freedom of expression, both online and offline**, as a freedom that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression”.

It refers to “politically motivated internet shutdowns” as one of the threats to freedom and democracy. It affirms “human rights for all, both online and offline, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other HR instruments, and opposition to any form of discrimination, so that everyone can participate fully and equally in society”.

Source: G7 and Guest Countries: 2021 Open Societies Statement (mea.gov.in)

Q.11)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to the procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 of the Constitution, there is **no requirement of prior approval** of the president.

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Statement 2 is correct: Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is **no provision for holding a joint sitting** of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the amendment bill.

Statement 3 is correct: The constitutional amendment bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The president must give his assent to the constitutional bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.

Knowledge Base:

Some other provision under the article 368 for the amending procedure are:

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
- The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.

Source: Indian Polity – M Laxmikanth – 6th edition – chapter 10 - Amendment of the Constitution

Q.12)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the Rules of Lok Sabha, the 'Leader of the House' means the prime minister, if he is a member of the Lok Sabha. However, if he belongs to Rajya Sabha then he nominates member of the Lok Sabha as Leader of the House in the house. For example, when I.K. Gujral was the Prime Minister, he belongs to Rajya Sabha. Thus, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Railways was nominated as the Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha.

Statement 2 is correct. Leader of the Opposition is entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister. He is the leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House. His main functions are to provide a constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government. The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded statutory recognition in 1977.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The office of 'whip', is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government. He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader. He is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in favour of or against a particular issue. He regulates and monitors their behaviour in the Parliament. There is no statutory recognition to the Office of whip.

Source: M Laxmikanth Polity. Chapter 22. Parliament

https://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/practice_procedure/oppo.asp

Q.13)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct

Statement 1 is correct. An adjournment of the house suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks. The power of adjournment lies with the presiding officer of the House.

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Statement 2 is incorrect. **Adjournment sine die** means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an **indefinite period** (not one month). In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

Statement 3 is correct. **Prorogation** means the **end of a session as well as of sitting**. It is done by the president of India. It also does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House. However, all pending notices (other than those for introducing bills) lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session.

Source: M Laxmikanth Polity. Chapter 22. Parliament

Q.14)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The charged expenditure is **non-votable** by the Parliament, that is, it **can only be discussed** by the Parliament.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Only the Pensions of the judges of High court are charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.** The salaries and allowances of the Judges of the High Court are charged upon the **Consolidated Fund of the State**.

Salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court are charged upon Consolidated Fund of India.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 22 Parliament, Charged Expenditure

Q.15)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)** was initiated in 2011. The entire survey was conducted through **electronic mode and a dedicated portal** <http://aishe.gov.in> was developed for this purpose, thus making the exercise completely paperless by **Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education**.

Statement 2 is correct. The survey covers public as well as private institutions of Higher Education in the country, registered with AISHE portal. Institutions are categorized in 3 broad Categories; **University, College and Stand-Alone Institutions**.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **The highest share of foreign students** comes from the neighbouring countries, of which **Nepal is 28.1% of the total**. It was followed by Afghanistan 9.1%, Bangladesh 4.6%, Bhutan 3.8%, and Sudan 3.6%.

Knowledge Base:

Key Findings of the Report:

- **Highest Number of Colleges:** The top 8 States in terms of the highest number of colleges in India are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- **Total Student Enrolment:** **During the last five years** from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in student enrolment. **Uttar Pradesh** has the highest student enrolment in India. It has 49.1% male and 50.9% female students.
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio:** **The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** has increased by a minuscule 0.8% in 2019-20.
- **Enrolment of Girls:** **There** has been an overall increase of over 18% in female enrolment in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

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- **Gender Parity Index: Gender Parity Index (GPI)** in Higher Education improved a bit. In 2019-20, it was 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19.
- **Teacher Pupil Ratio:** Total Number of Teachers stands at 15 lakhs comprising 57.5% male and 42.5% female.

Source: aisheng.pdf (education.gov.in)

All India Survey on Higher Education(AISHE) 2019-20-ForumIAS Blog

Q.16)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement a is correct. During a national emergency, the Centre becomes entitled to give executive directions to a state on 'any' matter. Thus, the state governments are brought under the complete control of the Centre, though they are **not suspended**.

Statement b is correct. During a national emergency, the Parliament becomes empowered to **make laws on any subject** mentioned in the State List. Thus, the normal distribution of the legislative powers between the Centre and states is suspended, though the state Legislatures are not suspended.

Statement c is correct. The laws made by Parliament on the state subjects during a National Emergency become **inoperative six months after the emergency** has ceased to operate.

Statement d is incorrect. While a proclamation of national emergency is in operation, the **President can modify** the constitutional **distribution of revenues between the centre and the states**. This means that the president can either reduce or cancel the transfer of finances from Centre to the states. Such modification continues till the end of the financial year in which the Emergency ceases to operate.

Source: M. Laxmikanth Chapter 16 Emergency Provisions

Q.17)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect.

The Contingency Fund of India is held by the **finance secretary in the ministry of Finance** (not Cabinet secretary) on behalf of the president.

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The Constitution authorised the **Parliament** to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which **amounts determined by law** are paid from time to time. Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the contingency fund of India Act in 1950. This fund is placed at the disposal of the president, and **he can make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditure pending its authorisation by the Parliament**. The corpus of the Contingency Fund as **authorized by Parliament** presently stands at ` 500 crore.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 22 Parliament

[https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2019-20\(I\)/ub2019-20/keybud/keybud2019.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2019-20(I)/ub2019-20/keybud/keybud2019.pdf)

https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1950-49_0.pdf

Q.18)

Ans) d

Exp) option d is correct

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Statement 1 is incorrect: Parliamentary privileges are **special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members**. They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions. Without these privileges, the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Constitution has also **extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees**. These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers. The parliamentary privileges **do not extend to the president** who is also an integral part of the Parliament.

Statement 3 is correct: It **can punish members as well as outsiders** for breach of its privileges or its contempt by reprimand, admonition or imprisonment (also suspension or expulsion, in case of members).

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikant

Q.19)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The President acquires the following extraordinary powers when the President's Rule is imposed in a state:

Statement a is correct. The President can **take up the functions of the state government and powers vested in the governor** or any other executive authority in the state.

Statement b is incorrect. A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority continues to be operative even after the President's Rule. This means that the period for which such a law remains in force is not coterminous with the duration of the proclamation. But it **can be repealed or altered or re-enacted** by the state legislature.

Statement c is correct. The President can declare that the powers of the state legislature are to be **exercised by the Parliament**.

Statement d is correct. The President can take all other necessary steps including the **suspension** of the constitutional provisions relating to **any authority** in the state.

Source: M. Laxmikanth Chapter 16 Emergency Provisions

Q.20)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **Fast Radio Bursts** are bright bursts of **radio waves** (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields). They are spotted in various and distant parts of the universe as well as in our own galaxy. However, their **origins are still unknown**, and their appearance is highly unpredictable. Magnetars could be the source of some fast radio bursts (FRBs).

Statement 2 is correct. These **Fast Radio Bursts** events generate as much energy in a thousandth of a second as the Sun does in a year. Because these transient radio pulses **disappear in much less than the blink of an eye**, researchers have had a hard time tracking down where they come from, much less determining what kind of object or objects is causing them. Therefore, most of the time, astronomers don't know exactly where to look.

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Unlike many radio sources, the signal from a **Fast Radio burst** is detected in a short period of time with enough strength to stand out from the noise floor. The burst usually appears as a **single spike of energy** without any change in its strength over time.

Source: "CHIME telescope" detects numerous "Fast Radio Bursts"-ForumIAS Blog

Hubble Tracks Down Fast Radio Bursts to Galaxies' Spiral Arms | NASA

Fast Radio Bursts | COSMOS (swin.edu.au)

How 535 new fast radio bursts can help answer deep questions about the universe (downtoearth.org.in)

Q.21)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Under the Constitution, a person shall be disqualified for being elected as a member of state Legislature, **if he/she holds any office of profit under the Union or state government** (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by Parliament).

Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the RPA (1951), a person is disqualified if he/she has been convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years. **But, the detention of a person under a preventive detention law does not lead to disqualification.**

Statement 3 is correct. Under the constitution, a person is disqualified if he/she is an **undischarged insolvent.**

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/answeredon-what-grounds-a-peoples-representative-can-be-disqualified-under-the-representation-of-people-act-1951-also-mention-the-remedies-available-to-such-person-against-his-disqualific/>

<https://blog.forumias.com/answered-discuss-various-provisions-of-disqualifications-under-representation-of-peoples-act-do-you-think-these-provisions-has-helped-in-decriminalising-indian-politics/>

Lakshmikant

:

Indian

Polity

Q.22)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct

Statement 1 is correct. When a money bill is reserved by governor for consideration of president, the president can either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of state legislature. There is **no mention in constitution** for how long can president withhold the bill. Hence, President can withhold his assent for indefinite period as he/she wants.

Statement 2 is incorrect. When a bill is reserved by the governor for the consideration of the President, the President may either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the House or Houses of the state legislature. When a bill is so returned, the House or Houses have to reconsider it **within a period of six months.**

Statement 3 is correct. If the bill is presented again to the presidential assent after it is passed by the House or Houses with or without amendments. It is not obligatory for the president to give his assent to such bill. This means **state legislature cannot over-ride the veto power of the president.** The constitution doesn't provide any time limit in which president has to give his/her assent. This is what we call as **Pocket veto** with respect to state legislation.

Source: LAXMIKANT

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Q.23)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Article 74 provides for a council of ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Acts have made the advice binding on the President.

Statement 2 is correct. The nature of advice tendered by ministers to the President cannot be enquired by any court. This provision emphasises the intimate and the confidential relationship between the President and the ministers.

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 20 Central Council of Ministers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_74_of_the_Constitution_of_India

Q.24)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

President lays the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Union Public Service Commission, Finance Commission, Special Officer for linguistic minorities and others, before the Parliament.

- **1. Union Public Service Commission:** The UPSC presents, annually, to the president a report on its performance. The President places this report before both the Houses of Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the cases where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance.
- **2. Comptroller and Auditor General of India** submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to President, who shall, in turn, place them before both the Houses of Parliament (Article 151).
- **3. Finance Commission:** The commission submits its report to the president. He lays it before both the Houses of Parliament along with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken on its recommendations.
- **4. Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities:** At the Central level, the Commissioner falls under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Hence, he submits the annual reports or other reports to the President through the Union Minority Affairs Minister.
- **5. National Human Rights Commission:** The commission submits its annual or special reports to the Central government and to the state government concerned. These reports are laid before the respective legislatures, along with a memorandum of action taken on the recommendations of the commission and the reasons for non-acceptance of any of such recommendations.

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikant

Q.25)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched. EnVision is a European Space Agency (ESA)-led mission. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is working as a contributor. The mission will carry instruments to study the Venus atmosphere and surface. Also, to monitor trace gases in the atmosphere, and analyze the surface composition of Venus.

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Pair 2 is *incorrectly* matched. OSIRIS-REx stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer. **The mission was launched** in 2016. It was the first U.S. mission to successfully collect a sample from an asteroid. It aims to travel to a near-Earth asteroid named Bennu and bring a small sample back to Earth for study.

Pair 3 is correctly matched. New Shepard is a reusable rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line – the internationally recognized boundary of space. Amazon founder and billionaire Jeff Bezos's space company named Blue Origin has concluded the online auction for the first seat on the New Shepard rocket system. It is a **rocket system meant to take tourists to space**.

Source: "EnVision Mission" to Venus by ESA -ForumIAS Blog

What is the New Shepard rocket system? -ForumIAS Blog

Space Technology : news and updates -ForumIAS Blog

Q.26)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*: The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha (**and not Parliament**). This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

Statement 2 is *incorrect*: The salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament. A minister gets the salary and allowances that are payable to a member of Parliament.

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikant

Q.27)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*. In *Cooper v. Union of India case*, (1970), the Supreme Court held that the decision of the President to issue an ordinance can be questioned in a court on the ground of malafide. This means that the decision of the President can be questioned in a court on the ground that the President has prorogued one House or both Houses of Parliament deliberately with a view to promulgate an ordinance on a controversial subject, so as to bypass the parliamentary decision and thereby circumventing the authority of the Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct. The President can promulgate an ordinance only when both the Houses of Parliament are not in session or when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session. An ordinance can also be issued when only one House is in session because a law can be passed by both the Houses and not by one House alone. An ordinance made when both the Houses are in session is void.

Knowledge Base:

Article 123(1) states that if at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinance as the circumstances appear to him to require.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – President.

Q.28)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

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Statement 1 is correct. To be eligible for election as Vice-President, a person should fulfil the following qualifications:

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have completed 35 years of age.
- He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Statement 2 is correct. The resolution to remove Vice President from the office can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha. A formal impeachment is not required for his removal. He can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Vice President.

Q.29)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct

Statement 1 is incorrect. All insults or intimidations to persons belonging to Dalit or tribal communities **will not be an offence** under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Supreme Court said in a judgment. An insult or intimidation to a person will be an offence under the Act only when such insult or intimidation is on account of victim belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. The court said the insult should be specifically intended to humiliate the victim for his caste.

Statement 2 is correct. The 2018 amendments in the SC ST Act provided that there would be **no provision of anticipatory bail**. The Supreme Court had earlier removed the restrictions on granting anticipatory bail. The government reversed the judgement through an amendment in SC/ST act. However, the Supreme Court made an exception and said courts could still grant pre-arrest bail in cases where there was no prima facie evidence warranting arrest.

‘Bail’ is “the release of a person from legal custody. An ordinary bail is granted to a person who is under arrest. While in anticipatory bail, a person is directed to be released on bail even before the arrest is made.

Statement 3 is correct. Under the act there is **no requirement for a preliminary inquiry** before filing an FIR. A new **section – 18A** was introduced through amendment in SC/ST act in 2018, which laid down that there was no requirement for a preliminary inquiry before filing an FIR.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/insults-to-sc-st-person-made-within-four-walls-of-house-not-offence-sc-6967821/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/no-anticipatory-bail-under-sc/st-anti-atrocities-act/articleshow/74127074.cms?from=mdr>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/supreme-court-upholds-constitutional-validity-of-sc/st-amendment-act-2018/articleshow/74057863.cms>

Q.30)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

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Statement 1 is correct. The **principal sources of rare earth elements** are bastnaesite (a fluorocarbonate which occurs in carbonatites and related igneous rocks), xenotime (yttrium phosphate) commonly found in **mineral sand deposits**, loparite which occurs in **alkaline igneous rocks** and monazite (a phosphate).

Statement 2 is incorrect. A number of rare earth minerals contain thorium and uranium in variable amounts, but they **do not constitute essential components in the composition of the minerals**. In India, Rare earth compounds are freely exportable, but rare earths phosphates (Monazite), which contain uranium and thorium are prescribed substance.

Statement 3 is correct. Rare earth materials are utilised in a wide range of critical products enabling many emerging green energy technologies, high tech applications and defence systems such as hybrid cars, plug-in-hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), the latest generation of efficient wind power turbines, computer disc drives, missile guidance systems, etc. **Mixed rare earth products are used as catalysts in petroleum refining and fluid cracking.**

Statement 4 is incorrect. India Rare Earth Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, and KMML, a Kerala State Government Undertaking, are actively engaged in mining and processing of beach sand minerals from placer deposits. IREL produced around **956 tonnes rare earths to meet domestic requirement.**

Source: Rare Earths-2017.pmd (ibm.gov.in)

About us - IREL (India) Limited

Q.31)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Article 360 empowers Union govt to take control over state govt on every financial matter deal by a state.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within **two months** from the date of its issue.

However, if the proclamation of Financial Emergency is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been **dissolved** or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of two months without approving the proclamation, then the **proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting** of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, **provided the Rajya Sabha has in the meantime approved it.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency **continues indefinitely till it is revoked.** This implies two things:

- 1) there is **no maximum period** prescribed for its operation; and
- 2) **repeated parliamentary approval is not required** for its continuation.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A resolution approving the proclamation of financial emergency can be passed by either House of Parliament **only by a simple majority**, that is, a **majority** of the members of that house **present and voting.**

Source: Indian Polity; Lakshmikanth

Q.32)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct

Statement a, b and c are correct. President of India is an **integral part** of the Parliament. This is because a **bill** passed by both the Houses of Parliament cannot become law without the **President's assent**. He also performs

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certain functions relating to the proceedings of the Parliament, for example, he **summons and pro-rogues both the Houses**, **dissolves** the Lok Sabha, addresses both the Houses, **issues ordinances** when they are not in session. **Statement d is incorrect.** Election of president **does not account** for making him **integral part** of Parliament. Under Article 54 President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

Source: M Laxmikath Polity. Chapter 22. Parliament

Q.33)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Option c is correct. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.

Option a and b is incorrect. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha) **lapses**.

Option d is incorrect. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha **lapses**.

Knowledge Base: Other conditions

A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.

A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.

A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Parliament.

Q.34)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Adjournment Motion involves an element of censure against the government and hence **Rajya Sabha is not permitted** to make use of this device.

Adjournment Motion is introduced to draw attention of the House to a definite **matter of urgent public importance** and **needs the support of 50 members** to be admitted.

As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.

Statement 2 is correct. The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions:

- 1) It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance;
- 2) It should not cover more than one matter;
- 3) It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms;
- 4) **It should not raise a question of privilege;**
- 5) It should **not** revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session;
- 6) It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by court; and
- 7) It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for **not less than two hours and thirty minutes**.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Parliament.

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Q.35)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Government of India has launched its ambitious Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) with an intention to **develop technologies to harness the living and non-living resources from the deep-oceans**. Deep Ocean Mission aims to **explore the deep ocean for resources**. Also, for sustainable use of ocean resources, it **aims to develop deep-sea technologies**.

Statement 2 is correct. Deep Ocean Mission will be implemented through **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. The mission will be implemented over a period of 5 years (starting from 2021) in a phased manner. Its 1st phase will be of 3 years.

Statement 3 is correct. The Deep Ocean Mission consists of the **development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining and Manned Submersible**. A **manned submersible** will be developed to carry **three people** to a depth of **6000 metres** in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools. For mining Polymetallic Nodules from 6000 m depth in the central Indian Ocean, **an Integrated Mining System** will also be developed.

Source: "Deep Ocean Mission" Approved by Cabinet-ForumIAS Blog

Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) | Centre For Marine Living Resources & Ecology (cmlre.gov.in)

Q.36)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

A **Financial Bill (I)** is a bill that contains not only any or all the matters mentioned in Article 110, but also other matters of general legislation. For example, **a bill that contains a borrowing clause, but does not exclusively deal with borrowing**. In two respects, a financial bill (I) is similar to a money bill—(a) both of them **can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha**, and (b) both of them can be introduced only **on the recommendation of the president**. In all other respects, a financial bill (I) is governed by the same legislative procedure applicable to an ordinary bill. Hence, **it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha**. When the bill is presented to the President, he can either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses.

Source: Laxmikant Parliament

Q.37)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect.

President can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill. It must be noted here that the **provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills under Article 117 of the Constitution only and not to money bills (money bill is also a type of financial bill) or Constitutional amendment bills**. In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately. Thus, joint sitting is not applicable to all types of financial bill. Rather it is applicable to ordinary bill, Financial bill-I (under article 117 (1)) and Financial bill-II (under article 117 (3)) only.

Statement 2 is correct.

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If the bill (under dispute) has already lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, **no joint sitting can be summoned**. But the joint sitting can be held if the Lok Sabha is dissolved after the President has notified his intention to summon such a sitting (as the bill does not lapse in this case). After the President notifies his intention to summon a joint sitting of the two Houses, none of the Houses can proceed further with the bill.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

The **Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting** of the two Houses and the **Deputy Speaker, in his absence**. If the Deputy Speaker is also absent from a joint sitting, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides. If he is also absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the joint sitting, presides over the meeting. It is **clear that the Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside over a joint sitting as he is not a member of either House of Parliament**.

Statement 4 is incorrect.

Since 1950, the provision regarding the joint sitting of the two Houses has been **invoked only thrice**. The **bills that have been passed at joint sittings** are: 1. Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1960. 2. Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977. 3. Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002

Source: Laxmikanth 6th edition, Chapter 22, Parliament, Joint Sitting of Parliament'

Q.38)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Doctrine of Pleasure under the Indian Constitution is based on a common law rule. In England, a servant of the Crown holds office during the pleasure of the Crown and he can be dismissed from the service of Crown at pleasure.

Though doctrine of pleasure is accepted in India as it has developed in England, it has not been completely accepted in India and are provided with safeguards.

- **Article 75:** The Council of Ministers shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**.
- **Article 76:** The Attorney-General shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**, and shall receive such remuneration as the President may determine.
- **Article 156:** The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. The Governor shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**.
- **239AA. Special provisions with respect to Delhi:** The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President and other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and the Ministers shall hold office during the **pleasure of the President**.
- **Article 310:** Every person who is a member of a **defence service or of a civil service** of the Union or of an **all-India service** or holds any post connected with defence or any civil post under the Union holds office during the **pleasure of the President**.

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. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

Source: https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/COI_1.pdf

Laxmikanth Pg 895 Chief Election Commission

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Q.39)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statements 3 and 4 are correct.

The provisions of Forty-Second Amendment Act, 1976:

- Added three new words (i.e., socialist, secular and integrity) in the Preamble.
- Added Fundamental Duties by the citizens (new Part IV A).
- Made the President bound by the advice of the Cabinet.
- **Provided for administrative tribunals** and tribunals for other matters (Added Part XIV A).
- Froze the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies on the basis of 1971 census till 2001.
- Made the constitutional amendments beyond judicial scrutiny.
- Curtailed the power of judicial review and writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and high courts.
- Raised the tenure of Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies from 5 to 6 years.
- Provided that the laws made for the implementation of Directive Principles cannot be declared invalid by the courts on the ground of violation of some Fundamental Rights.
- Empowered the Parliament to make laws to deal with antinational activities and such laws are to take precedence over Fundamental Rights.
- Added three new Directive Principles viz., equal justice and free-legal aid, participation of workers in the management of industries and protection of environment, forests and wild life.
- Facilitated the proclamation of national emergency in a part of territory of India.
- Extended the one-time duration of the President's rule in a state from 6 months to one year.
- Empowered the Centre to deploy its armed forces in any state to deal with a grave situation of law and order.
- **Shifted five subjects from the state list to the concurrent list**, viz, education, forests, protection of wild animals and birds, weights and measures and administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.
- Did away with the requirement of quorum in the Parliament and the state legislatures.
- Empowered the Parliament to decide from time to time the rights and privileges of its members and committees.
- Provided for the creation of the All-India Judicial Service.
- Shortened the procedure for disciplinary action by taking away the right of a civil servant to make representation at the second stage after the inquiry (i.e., on the penalty proposed).

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **Forty-Fourth Amendment Act, 1978** deleted the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights and made it only a legal right.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Thirty-Eighth Amendment Act, 1975** made the declaration of emergency by the president nonjusticiable

Q.40)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The Ministry of Culture (MoC) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 'Cooperation in Development of **National Maritime Heritage Complex** (NMHC) at **Lothal, Gujarat**.

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National Maritime Heritage Complex, a world-class facility is to be developed in the vicinity of the ASI site of Lothal, located about 80 kms away from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. NMHC would be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times would be showcased and an edutainment approach using the latest technology would be adopted to spread awareness about India's maritime heritage.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1727640>

Q.41)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **President (and not Governor)** is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The issuance of ordinance is not a discretionary power of the Governor. He can do so only on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers of the concerned state.

Statement 3 is correct. When an ordinary bill is presented to the Governor, he may return the bill for reconsideration of the House or Houses. If the bill is passed by the House or Houses again with or without amendments and presented to the governor for his assent, the governor must give his assent to the bill. Thus, the governor enjoys a 'suspensive veto' under his discretion.

Statement 4 is correct. Governor of a state can recommend the imposition of constitutional emergency in a state to the president. During the period of President's rule in a state, the governor enjoys extensive executive powers as an agent of the President.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Governor.

Q.42)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Article 75 of the Constitution says that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president. However, this does not imply that the president is free to appoint any one as the Prime Minister. In accordance with the conventions of the parliamentary system of government, the President has to appoint the **leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha** as the Prime Minister.

Option b, c and d are incorrect. It is not necessary that the prime minister must be a leader of the party which has secured largest share of votes in elections; or leader chosen by majority of members of Parliament; or leader of the largest party in the Rajya Sabha.

Knowledge Base: In case of hung Parliament, the President may exercise his personal discretion in the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister. In such a situation, the President usually appoints the leader of the largest party or coalition in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister and asks him to seek a vote of confidence in the House.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Prime Minister.

Q.43)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The abolition of octroi made **property tax** as the single largest source of own revenue for Urban Local Bodies. However, the tax collections are low, due to wide exemptions, undervaluation of property

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and incomplete land registers. According to a study by ICRIER, **property tax contributes to around 20 per cent** on an average to total revenues of ULBs in India

Statement 2 is correct. Urban local bodies impose various cesses like library cess, **education cess**, beggary cess and so on.

Statement 3 is correct. The revenue from the local taxes also includes entertainment tax, taxes on advertisements, professional tax, **water tax**, tax on animals, lighting tax, pilgrim tax, market tax, toll on new bridges, octroi and so on.

Statement 4 is correct. Under non tax revenues, user charges are collected for services such as water supply, **sewerage and solid waste management** are the other sources of own revenue. The collection efficiency of these charges is very low, and a large part of these services are non-billed and non-accounted for.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/time-to-strengthen-urban-local-body-revenues/article31858448.ece>

<https://openbudgetsindia.org/budget-basics/municipal-budget.html>

Q.44)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is correct: The Britishers brought with them the modern concept of urban local governance and municipal corporations. The **first** municipal corporation in India was set up in **Madras in 1687-88**.

Statement 2 is correct: Lord Ripon (Viceroy of India, 1880-84) introduced a **resolution outlining the formation and transfer of certain functions (like water supply, sanitation, etc) to local bodies** throughout British India, which is why he is known as the '**Father of Local Self Government in India**'. His resolution on this subject is called the '**Magna Carta of Local Self Government in India**'. Most other Governor Generals tended to favour policies to keep governance centralised, unlike Ripon.

Statement 3 is correct: The subject of Local Governance was handled by a directly elected responsible Minister, under the Government of India Act, 1919. It was a transferred subject in the Dyarchy system being implemented in the states. After that under the provincial autonomy scheme introduced by **the Government of India Act of 1935**, local self-government was declared a provincial subject

Knowledge Base: Municipal Corporations were set up in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.

Source: Polity by Laxmikanth, 5th edition, Ch-39

Q.45)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. **Green Hydrogen** is the clean hydrogen generated by using renewable energy such as solar power and wind energy. Green hydrogen is produced via **the electrolysis of water**. All you need to produce large amounts of hydrogen is water, a big electrolyzer, and large supplies of electricity. If the electricity comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar or hydro, then the hydrogen is effectively green.

Statement 2 is correct. One of the advantages of Green Hydrogen is its sustainability. Green Hydrogen does not emit polluting gases either during combustion or during production. It can be transformed into electricity or synthetic gas and used for domestic, commercial, industrial or mobility purposes.

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Statement 3 is correct. Green hydrogen can be used in industry and **can be stored in existing gas pipelines to power household appliances**. It can transport renewable energy when converted into a carrier such as ammonia, a zero-carbon fuel for shipping, for example. Hydrogen is used to power hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Source: Green Hydrogen: Potential, Issues and Solutions - Explained, pointwise -ForumIAS Blog

What is Green Hydrogen and its importance - Iberdrola

So, What Exactly Is Green Hydrogen? | Greentech Media

Q.46)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Settlement of a **boundary** dispute **does not require** a Constitutional Amendment. In 1969, the Supreme Court ruled that the settlement of a boundary dispute between India and another country can be done by **executive action** as it does not involve cession of Indian territory to a foreign country.

Option a is incorrect. Abolition or creation of **legislative councils** in states can be done by **amending** the Constitution by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament. But it is outside the scope of Article 368.

Option b is incorrect. Salaries and allowances of the **members of Parliament** can be done by **amending** the Constitution by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament. But it is outside the scope of Article 368.

Option d is incorrect. Indian **territory** can be **ceded to a foreign state** only by **amending** the Constitution under Article 368. The Supreme Court held that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a state does not cover cession of Indian territory to a foreign country.

Knowledge Base: The Constitution can be amended in three ways:

(a) Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament. Option a and b are its example. These amendments are not deemed to be amendments of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.

(b) Amendment by special majority of the Parliament.

(c) Amendment by special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – Union and Territory, Amendment of the Constitution.

Q.47)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Indirect elections to the post of **chairperson** of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels is a **mandatory** provision under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

Voluntary Provisions are as follows-

1) Endowing the Gram Sabha with powers and functions at the village level. **Statement 2 is correct.**

2) Determining the manner of election of the chairperson of the village panchayat.

3) Giving representation to the chairpersons of the village panchayats in the intermediate panchayats or in the case of a state not having intermediate panchayats, in the district panchayats.

4) Giving representation to the chairpersons of the intermediate panchayats in the district panchayats. **Statement**

4 is correct.

5) Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies. **Statement 3 is correct.**

6) Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.

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- 7) Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government (in brief, making them autonomous bodies).
- 8) Devolution of powers and responsibilities upon panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice; and to perform some or all of the 29 functions listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- 9) Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
- 10) Assigning to a panchayat the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied and collected by the state government.
- 11) Making the grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state.
- 12) Providing for constitution of funds for crediting all moneys of the panchayats

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth chapter 38 Panchayati Raj

Q.48)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The governor can reserve the bill for the consideration of President in the following cases-

- When the bill endangers the position of state high court. Option 1 is correct
- When the bill is against the provisions of the Constitution.
- When the bill is against the larger interest of the country. Option 3 is correct.
- When the bill is opposed to directive principles of state policy. Both article 39(b) and 39(c) of the Constitutions are under the directive principles of state policy. Option 4 is correct.
- When the bill is of grave national importance.
- When the bill deals with the compulsory acquisition of property under article 31 A of the Constitution. Option 2 is correct.

Source: Laxmikanth revised edition chapter-30 page- 30.6

Q.49)

Ans) b

Exp) option b is correct

Statement 1 is incorrect: Consultative committees are attached to various ministries / departments of the Central Government. They consist of members of both the Houses of Parliament. The Minister / Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.

Statement 2 is correct: These committees are constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The guidelines regarding the composition, functions and procedures of these committees are formulated by this Ministry. The Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings both during the session and the inter-session period of Parliament.

Knowledge Base: The membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties. The maximum membership of a committee is 30 and the minimum is 10. These committees are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted, after General Elections for the Lok Sabha. In other words, these committees shall stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and shall be reconstituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha

Source: Indian Polity- M Laxmikanth – 6th edition – Chapter 23 - Parliamentary Committees

Q.50)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Gain-of-function research involves deliberately **altering an organism** in the lab, altering a gene, or **introducing a mutation** in a pathogen to study its transmissibility, virulence and immunogenicity.

Loss-of-function research involves inactivating mutations, resulting in a significant loss of original function, or no function to the pathogen.

Statement 2 is correct. Gain-of-function studies aims to enhance viral yield and immunogenicity required for vaccine development. It is believed that this allows researchers to study potential therapies, vaccine possibilities and ways to control the disease better in future.

Source: Explained | What is gain-of-function research? - The Hindu