

Q.1) Consider the following statements about the appointment of CVC:

- 1) He is appointed by the President
- 2) The recommendation of the nominee of the post comes from the Council of Ministers
- 3) Appointment of CVC cannot be challenged in court

Choose the correct answer using the codes below

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
- They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.
- After their tenure, they are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding 'Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities':

1. The Original Constitution did not have any provision for Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.
2. The commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has his head office at Allahabad.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities¹. Later, the States Reorganisation Commission (1953-55) made

a recommendation in this regard. Accordingly, the Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the Constitution.

In pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution, the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957. He is designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

The Commissioner has his headquarters at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh). He has three regional offices at Belgaum (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Each is headed by an Assistant Commissioner.

Q.3) Consider the following statements related to organisation of Panchayats

- 1) A Gram Sabha consists of all the adults i.e. voters living in the area of a Gram Panchayat.
- 2) Gram Sabha is an executive committee but not a legal body.
- 3) Gram Panchayat is the village assembly of Gram Sabha.

Choose the correct codes

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

Q.3) Solution (a)

Explanation:

- The Village Panchayat or Gram Panchayat is the executive committee of Gram Sabha.
- A Gram Sabha or Village Assembly consists of all the adults i.e. voters (persons above the age of 18 years) living in the area of a Gram Panchayat i.e., village or a group of small villages.
- The Gram Sabha has now been recognized as a legal body.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

- 1) Collective responsibility is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government
- 2) The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament
- 3) The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Parliament can remove the ministry from office by passing a vote of no confidence.

Choose the correct codes

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q.4) Solution (a)

Explanation:

- Collective responsibility is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government. The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament in general and to the Lok Sabha in particular (Article 75). They act as a team, and swim and sink together.
- The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry (i.e., council of ministers headed by the prime minister) from office by passing a vote of no confidence.

Q.5) With regard to Finance Commission, consider the following statements

- 1) It is a quasi-judicial body.
- 2) It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier.
- 3) It is required to make recommendations to the Parliament on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states, the respective shares of such proceeds.
- 4) The Constitution envisages the Finance Commission as the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India.

Choose the correct codes from below options:

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

Q.5) Solution (b)

Explanation:

Article 280 provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier. It is required to make recommendations to the President on the following matters:

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

The Constitution envisages the Finance Commission as the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India.

Q.6) Panchayats receive funds from which of the following resources?

- 1) Funds released by State Governments on recommendations of Central Finance Commission
- 2) Funds for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes
- 3) Local body grants as recommended by Central Finance Commission

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.6) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- Self-explanatory – Factual question

Q.7) Sources of Income of Gram Panchayats are:

- 1) taxes on property, land, goods and cattle
- 2) grants-in-aid from the State government only
- 3) land revenue collected by the Panchayats
- 4) tax on extraction of minerals

Choose the correct codes from below options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q.7) Solution (a)

Explanation:

The sources are as follows:

- taxes on property, land, goods and cattle;
- rent collected for facilities like Barat Ghar or any other property of panchayat;
- various types of fines collected from the offenders;
- grants-in-aid from the State government and Union government;

- a part of the land revenue collected by the State government (not collected by the Panchayats) and is given to the Panchayats;
- collecting tax on extraction of minerals is an exclusive power of State government
- donations collected from the villagers for some common cause.

Q.8) Right to Livelihood as part of the Right to Life was established in

- a) A.D.M. Jabalpur Vs S. Shukla 1976
- b) Maneka Gandhi versus Union of India 1978
- c) Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation 1985
- d) Indira Sawhney Vs Union of India 1992

Q.8) Solution (c)

Explanation:

- In A.D.M. Jabalpur Vs S. Shukla 1976, the Supreme Court declared the right to move court under Articles 14, 21 and 22 would remain suspended during the Emergency.
- The Maneka Gandhi Vs Union of India 1978 case caused a huge uproar over the definition of freedom of speech. The court ruled that the procedure must be fair and the law must not violate other fundamental rights.
- In Indira Sawhney Vs Union of India 1992, the Supreme Court upheld the implementation of recommendations made by the Mandal Commission. It also defined the "creamy layer" criteria and reiterated that the quota could not exceed 50 per cent.
- In Olga Tellis vs Bombay Municipal Corporation 1985, the SC observed, "the sweep of the Right to Life, conferred by Article 21 is wide and far reaching. 'Life' means something more than mere animal existence. It does not mean merely that life cannot be extinguished or taken away as, for example, by the imposition and execution of the death sentence, except according to procedure established by law. That is but one aspect of the Right to Life. An equally important facet of that right is the right to livelihood because no person can live without the means of living, that is, the means of livelihood."

Link: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/indiscriminate-land-acquisition-scuttling-right-to-livelihood/article4913615.ece>

Q.9) Which among the following is/are the powers and responsibilities that are delegated to panchayats at the appropriate level?

- 1) Preparation of the economic development plan and social justice plan.

- 2) Implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects given in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- 3) To levy and collect appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

Choose the appropriate answer:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) All of the above

Q.9) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- Self-Explanatory – All the given statements are correct.

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1) The state governments are under the constitutional obligation to adopt the new Panchayati Raj system.
- 2) The compulsory provisions of the act have to be included in the state laws creating the new Panchayati Raj system.
- 3) The voluntary provisions may be included at the discretion of the states.

Which of the above given statement(s) is/are incorrect in regard to Panchayati Raj System of India?

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

Q.10) Solution (d)

Explanation:

- Factual question – All the given statements are correct.

Q.11) The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992, which aims at promoting the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, provides for which of the following?

1. Constitution of District Planning Committees.
2. State Election Commissions to conduct all panchayat elections.
3. Establishment of state Finance Commissions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.11) Solution (c)

District planning committees in India: District Planning Committee (DPC) is the *committee* created as per article 243ZD of the Constitution of India at the *district* level for *planning* at the *district* and below. Article 243ZD was added under 74th Amendment Act. 1992.

Q.12) Which of the following committees were appointed by the government specifically for Panchayati Raj?

- 1. Balwantrai Mehta Committee
- 2. Ashok Mehta Committee
- 3. G V K Rao Committee
- 4. L M Singhvi Committee

Select the code from below:

- a) All of the above
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 4
- d) 3 and 4

Q.12) Solution (c)

(Repeated question from our test series to emphasise on clarity)

Balwant Rai Mehta Committee: In January 1957, the Government of India appointed a committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working.

Ashok Mehta Committee: In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta.

G V K Rao Committee: The Committee on Administrative Arrangement for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1985.

L M Singhvi Committee:

In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee on 'Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development' under the chairmanship of L M Singhvi.

Q.13) Which of the following statements are correct recommendations of the Ashok Mehta Committee?

1. The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system.
2. The panchayati raj institutions should have compulsory powers of taxation to mobilise their own financial resources.
3. Political parties should not participate in panchayati elections.

Select the code from the following:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.13) Solution (a)

- The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system, that is, zila parishad 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.
- Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
- There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.
- The panchayati raj institutions should have compulsory powers of taxation to mobilise their own financial resources.

Q.14) Who of the following personalities came up with the concept of 'Gram Swaraj'?

- a) Madan Mohan Malviya
- b) J P Narayan

- c) Vallab bhai Patel
- d) Mahatma Gandhi

Q.14) Solution (d)

Self explanatory.

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding State Finance Commission:

1. It is appointed by the State Government in every five years.
2. It determines development requirement for the State Government for formulating State Five Year plan.
3. It determines the budgetary requirements of different departments of state.
4. It determines pattern of distribution of state's tax revenue between the state government and local bodies (both rural and urban) and the pattern of grant-in-aid to local bodies.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 4 only
- c) 1 and 4
- d) All of the above

Q.15) Solution (c)

State Finance Commissions has been established in the various states of India so that they can help in improving the financial condition of the various local bodies such as Panchayati raj institutions and municipal bodies that are there in the states.

State Finance Commissions have been set up in the various states of the country according to the guidelines that have been laid down in the Constitution of India, Article 243 (I).

According to this article, the governor of the state shall set up the Finance Commission within the period of one year that begins with the seventy- third amendment act of the Indian Constitution, 1992 and after that at the end of every five years. The Finance Commissions in the States usually comprises of the chairman, member secretary, and other members. State Finance Commissions receive grants from the Finance Commission that is set up by the central government.

Q.16) According to 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the minimum age for contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be—

- a) 18 years
- b) 30 years
- c) 21 years
- d) 25 years

Q.16) Solution (c)

Self explanatory

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the Civil Society Organisations:

- 1. They are sovereign bodies.
- 2. They are voluntary, non-profit making bodies.
- 3. They work in close proximity with people.
- 4. They create awareness; educate and sensitise people on common issues and act as catalysts of social change.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) All of the above
- b) 1,2 and 3
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) 2,3 and 4

Q.17) Solution (d)

Civil Society Organisations are not Sovereign bodies.

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

- 1. A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area.
- 2. A cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.
- 3. It works under the administrative control of the defence ministry of the Central government.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.18) Solution (d)

A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area⁷. It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006—a legislation enacted by the Central government. It works under the administrative control of the defence ministry of the Central government. Thus, unlike the above four types of urban local bodies, which are created and administered by the state government, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.

Q.19) Under which of the following circumstances can President remove the Chairman or any other member of UPSC?

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.
3. If he is, in the opinion of the Supreme Court, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

Select the code from following:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.19) Solution (a)

The Chairman or the member of UPSC can be removed if he is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

Q.20) Which of the following statements correctly defines the term 'Gerrymandering'?

- a) Manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favour one party or class.
- b) Ballot capturing or illegal voting.
- c) Stopping a certain category of people from voting so that one specific party can be benefitted.
- d) None of the above

Q.20) Solution (a)

Self Explanatory.

Q.21) The elements of one of the following faith dominate Sittannavasal painting—identify the dominating faith from the options given below:

- a) Brahmanical
- b) Jainism
- c) Buddhism
- d) Tantric Cult

Q.21) Solution (b)

Sittannavasal Caves represent one of the best cave paintings of early medieval India. These are example of rock-cut architecture based on Jain thought and ideologies. They have a close form of Ajanta and Bagh caves.

These paintings show the extent of the penetration of Jainism in South and also reflects that Jainism was popular in the South during those days.

Q.22) Identify this Solar System object/body that are composed mainly of frozen volatiles such as methane, ammonia and water—

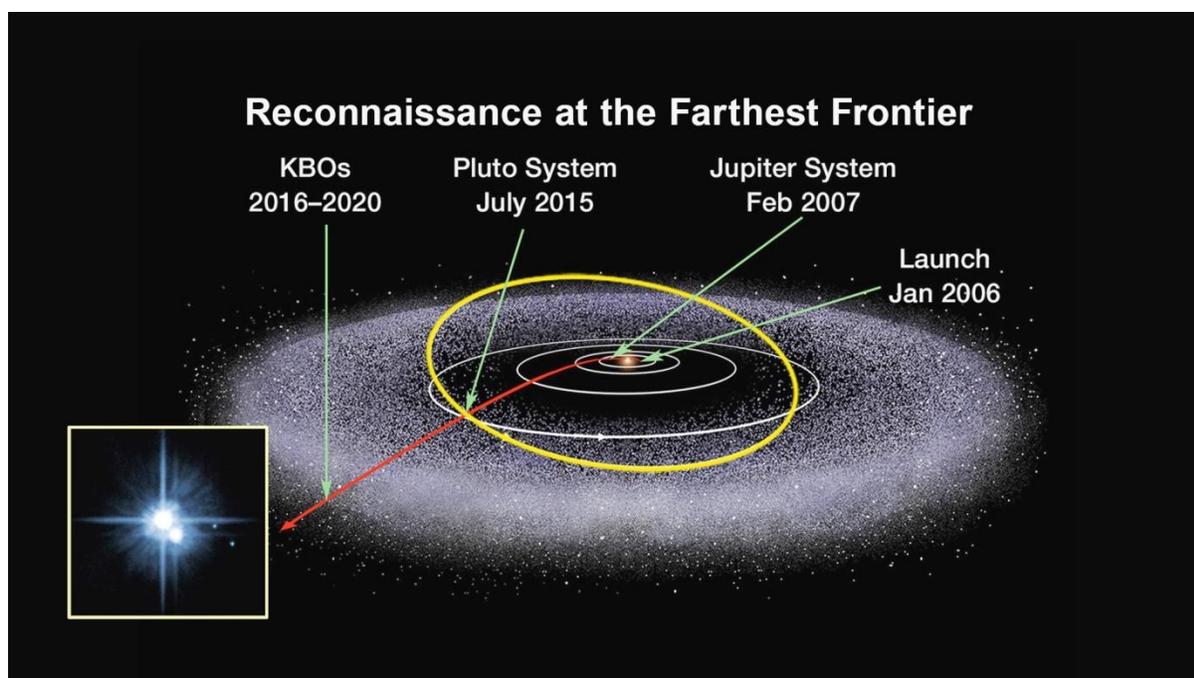
- a) Asteroid
- b) Meteors
- c) Kuiper Belt Object
- d) Satellites of Pluto

Q.22) Solution (c)

- Sometimes called the Edgeworth–Kuiper belt, it is a circumstellar disc in the Solar System beyond the planets, extending from the orbit of Neptune (at 30 AU) to approximately 50 AU from the Sun.

- Home to three officially recognized dwarf planets: Pluto, Haumea, and Makemake

Makemake: 2nd brightest icy dwarf planet after Pluto



*New Horizon's Path

Q.23) Identify the committee set up to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 —

- a) Abhijit Sen Committee
- b) Justice R.V.Easwar Committee
- c) Ashok Mehta Committee
- d) Naresh Chandra Committee

Q.23) Solution (b)

Justice R.V.Easwar Committee

- Abolition of 13 cesses levied by various ministries: To reduce multiplicity of taxes, associated cascading and to reduce cost of collection
- Rationalise Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) provisions for the Income Tax: To improve cash flow position of small tax payers
- Also, suggested several taxpayer-friendly measures to improve the ease of doing business in the country, accelerate process of tax dispute resolutions and reduce litigation.

Abhijit Sen Committee: Was set up to look into the 'Impact of Futures Trading on Commodity Prices'

Ashok Mehta Committee: On PRIs

Naresh Chandra Committee: To review the defence management in the country and make suggestions for implementation of major defence projects

Q.24) The Archaeological Survey of India was established by

- a) Sir William Jones
- b) Lord Cornwallis
- c) James Princep
- d) Alexander Cunningham

Q.24) Solution (d)

Alexander Cunningham: Father of Indian Archaeology

Archaeological Survey of India: Statutory body; works as an attached Office of the Ministry of Culture

Q.25) Identify the tool that allows developing countries to raise tariffs temporarily to deal with import surges or price falls—

- a) Special Drawing Rights
- b) Special Safeguard mechanism
- c) GATT
- d) National Treatment Obligation

Q.25) Solution (b)

[Refer](#)