

TOPICS:

- Administration of Special Areas – Scheduled and Tribal Areas
- Federal System
- Central State Relations
- Inter-State relations

PRELIMS MCQ's:

Q.1) Consider the following statements

1. The term Federation is not mentioned in the constitution.
2. The Indian federal system is based on the American model
3. In Keshvananda Bharati case the Supreme Court laid down that the Constitution is federal and characterised federalism as its 'basic feature'

Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

- The term '**federation**' has **nowhere been used in the Constitution**. Instead, *Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'*. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- According to Dr B R Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' to indicate two things: (i) the Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American federation; and (ii) the states have no right to secede from the federation. The federation is union because it is indestructible.
- The **Indian federal system is based on the 'Canadian model'** and not on the 'American model'. The 'Canadian model' differs fundamentally from the 'American model' in so far as it establishes a very strong centre. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- The Indian federation resembles the Canadian federation (i) in its formation (i.e., by way of disintegration); (ii) in its preference to the term 'Union' (the Canadian

federation is also called a 'Union'); and (iii) in its centralising tendency (i.e., vesting more powers in the centre vis-a-vis the states).

- In **Bommai case (1994)**, the Supreme Court laid down that the Constitution is federal and characterised federalism as its 'basic feature'. It observed: "The fact that under the scheme of our Constitution, greater power is conferred upon the Centre vis-a-vis the states does not mean that the states are mere appendages of the Centre. The states have an independent constitutional existence. They are not satellites or agents of the Centre. Within the sphere allotted to them, the states are supreme. The fact that during emergency and in certain other eventualities their powers are overridden or invaded by the Centre is not destructive of the essential federal feature of the Constitution. They are exceptions and the exceptions are not a rule. Let it be said that the federalism in the Indian Constitution is not a matter of administrative convenience, but one of principle—the outcome of our own process and a recognition of the ground realities"

Source: Chapter-13 "Federal System" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.2) According to Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956

1. The Act empowers the Parliament to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to inter-state river waters
2. The decision of the tribunal set-up would be final and binding on the parties to the dispute

Select the correct code

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

Q.2) Solution (b)

- The Inter-State Water Disputes Act empowers the **Central government** (NOT Parliament) to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
- The **decision of the tribunal would be final and binding** on the parties to the dispute. Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act.

Inter-State water disputes

Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It makes two provisions:

- (i) Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- (ii) Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.

Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted two laws [the River Boards Act (1956) and the Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)]. The River Boards Act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of inter-state river and river valleys. A river board is established by the Central government on the request of the state governments concerned to advise them.

Source: Chapter-15 “Inter-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.3) With regard to Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements

1. The Governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts
2. Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of both elected and nominated members

Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

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. The rationality behind the special arrangements in respect of only these four states lies in the following:

“The tribes in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have not assimilated much the life and ways of the other people in these states. These areas have hitherto been anthropological specimens. The tribal people in other parts of India have more or less adopted the culture of the majority of the people in whose midst they live. The tribes in Assam,

Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, on the other hand, still have their roots in their own culture, customs and civilization.

These areas are, therefore, treated differently by the Constitution and sizeable amount of autonomy has been given to these people for self-government

The various features of administration contained in the Sixth Schedule are as follows:

1. The tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been constituted as autonomous districts⁴. But, they do not fall outside the executive authority of the state concerned.

2. **The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.**

3. If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.

4. **Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.** The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor. Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.

5. The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.

6. 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.

7. The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But, such regulations require the assent of the governor.

8. The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.

9. The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions⁵.

10. 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: Chapter-37 “Scheduled and Tribal Areas” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.4) Consider the following statements

1. Under Article 263, the Parliament can at any time establish a Inter-State council to serve the public interest
2. The Inter-State Council was established under the recommendation of Sarkaria Commission

Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?

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

Q.4) Solution (b)

Inter-State Councils

Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, **the President** can establish such a council if **at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment**. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure.

Even though the president is empowered to define the duties of an inter-state council, Article 263 specifies the duties that can be assigned to it in the following manner:

- enquiring into and advising upon disputes which may arise between states;
- investigating and discussing subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest; and
- making recommendations upon any such subject, and particularly for the better co-ordination of policy and action on it.

The **Sarkaria Commission** on Centre-State Relations (1983–87) made a strong case for the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. It

recommended that in order to differentiate the Inter-State Council from other bodies established under the same Article 263, it must be called as the Inter-Governmental Council.

In pursuance of the above recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, the Janata Dal Government headed by V. P. Singh established the Inter-State Council in 1990. 5 It consists of the following members:

- (i) Prime minister as the Chairman
- (ii) Chief ministers of all the states
- (iii) Chief ministers of union territories having legislative assemblies
- (iv) Administrators of union territories not having legislative assemblies
- (v) Governors of States under President's rule
- (vi) Six Central cabinet ministers, including the home minister, to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Five Ministers of Cabinet rank / Minister of State (independent charge) nominated by the Chairman of the Council (i.e., Prime Minister) are permanent invitees to the Council.

The council is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, Centre–state and Centre–union territories relations.

Do read the below article-

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/HCyw491QuV6gOydcMIVuO/FAQ-on-the-inter-state-council-meeting.html>

Source: Chapter-15 “Inter-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.5) Which of the following statement[s] is/are correct with regard to Zonal Councils?

1. The Zonal Councils are statutory bodies.
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is associated with the idea of creation of Zonal Councils for National Integration
3. The Prime Minister acts as the common chairman of the six Zonal Councils

Select the correct code:

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.5) Solution (a)

- The **idea of creation** of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit **Jawahar Lal Nehru** in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Re-organisation Commission, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganised may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council 'to develop the habit of cooperative working' among these States.
- The Zonal Councils are the **statutory** (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, **States Reorganisation Act of 1956**. The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- They are only deliberative and advisory bodies.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ZONAL COUNCILS

- Chairman - The Union **Home Minister** is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- Vice Chairman - The **Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation**, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- Members- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
- Advisers- One person nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCILS

Each Zonal Council is an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter.

In particular, a Zonal Council may discuss, and make recommendations with regard to:

- any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
- any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport; and
- any matter connected with, or arising out of, the re-organisation of the States under the States Reorganisation Act.

Do Read-

http://mha.nic.in/zonal_council

Source: Chapter-15 “Inter-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.6) Which of the following is/are Federal features of the Constitution of India?

1. Bicameral Legislature
2. Written Constitution
3. President's Veto over State Bills
4. Supremacy of the Constitution
5. Parliament's Authority over State List

Select the correct code

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

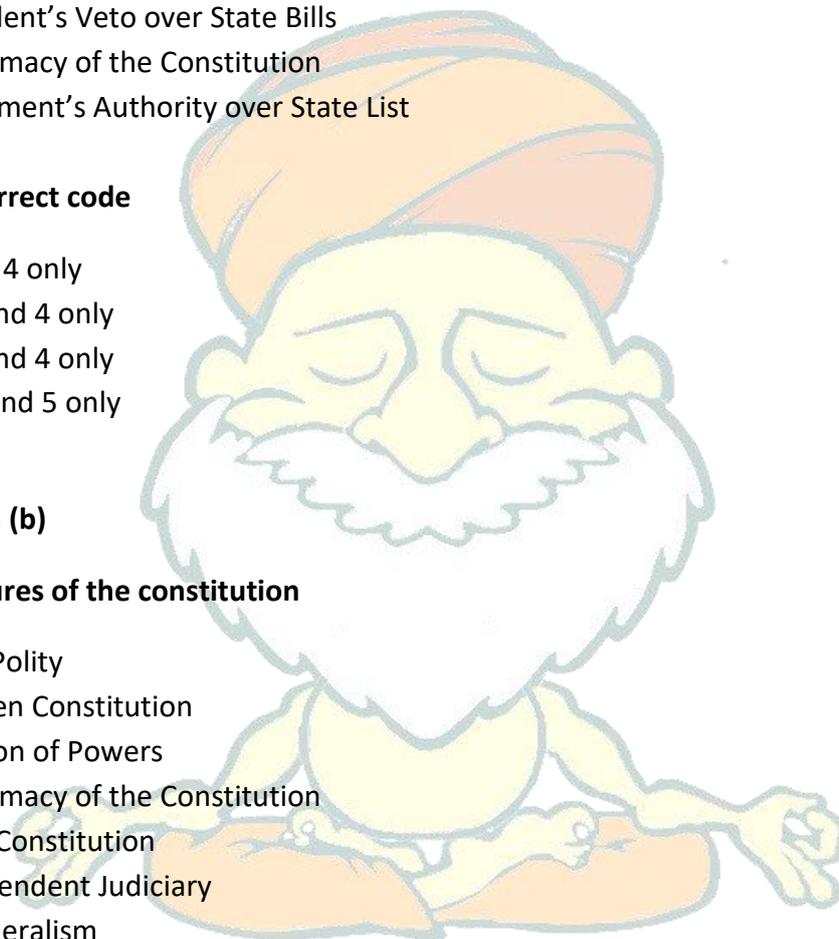
Q.6) Solution (b)

Federal features of the constitution

1. Dual Polity
2. Written Constitution
3. Division of Powers
4. Supremacy of the Constitution
5. Rigid Constitution
6. Independent Judiciary
7. Bicameralism

Unitary features of the constitution

1. Strong Centre
2. States Not Indestructible
3. Single Constitution
4. Flexibility of the Constitution
5. No Equality of State Representation
6. Emergency Provisions



7. Single Citizenship
8. Integrated Judiciary
9. All-India Services
10. Integrated Audit Machinery
11. Parliament's Authority Over State List
12. Appointment of Governor
13. Integrated Election Machinery
14. Veto Over State Bills

Source: Chapter-13 "Federal System" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.7) With regard to 5th Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements

1. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council
2. The Governor is empowered to make regulations for the peace and good government of a scheduled area after consulting the tribes advisory council

Select the correct code:

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

Administration of scheduled areas

'The scheduled areas are treated differently from the other areas in the country because they are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backward, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition. Therefore, the whole of the normal administrative machinery operating in a state is not extended to the scheduled areas and the Central government has somewhat greater responsibility for these areas'.

The various features of administration contained in the Fifth Schedule are as follows:

1. Declaration of Scheduled Areas: The president 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.
2. Executive Power of State and Centre: The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein. 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. The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas.

3. Tribes Advisory Council: Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly. A similar council can also be established in a state having scheduled tribes but not scheduled areas therein, if the president so directs.

4. Law applicable to Scheduled Areas: 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.** Such regulations may prohibit or restrict the transfer of land by or among members of the scheduled tribes, regulate the allotment of land to members of the scheduled tribes and regulate the business of money-lending in relation to the scheduled tribes. Also, a regulation may repeal or amend any act of Parliament or the state legislature, which is applicable to a scheduled area. **But, all such regulations require the assent of the president.**

The Constitution requires **the president** to appoint a commission to report on the administration of the scheduled areas and the welfare of the scheduled tribes in the states. He can appoint such a commission at any time but compulsorily after ten years of the commencement of the Constitution. Hence, a commission was appointed in 1960. It was headed by U N Dhebar and submitted its report in 1961. After four decades, the second commission was appointed in 2002 under the chairmanship of Dilip Singh Bhuria.

Source: Chapter-37 "Scheduled and Tribal Areas" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.8) With regard to Inter-State Council, established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements

1. It looks into issues between Central Government and Union Territories
2. It is not a permanent constitutional body for coordination between the states and union government
3. Prime Minister is the chairman of the council

Choose the correct code

- a) 3 Only

- b) 1 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.8) Solution (d)

The **Inter-State Council** is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, Centre–state and Centre–union territories relations.

The Council is a recommendatory body to investigate and discuss subjects, in which some or all of the states or the union government have a common interest, recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action, matters of general interest to the states. **Article 263** of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.

The inter-state council is not a permanent constitutional body for coordination between the states and union government. It can be established 'at any time' if it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of such a council.

Do read the below article-

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/HCyw491QuV6gOydcMIVuO/FAQ-on-the-inter-state-council-meeting.html>

Source: Chapter-15 "Inter-State Relations" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.9) The Constitution of India contains "Full Faith and Credit" clause, to make sure that the public acts and public records of one state may be recognised in another state.

With regard to the above statement, consider the following

1. Public Acts includes both legislative and executive acts of the government.
2. Public record can include any official book, register or record made by a public servant in the discharge of his official duties.

Which of the above statement[s] is/are correct?

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

Q.9) Solution (c)**Public acts, Records and Judicial proceedings**

Under the Constitution, the jurisdiction of each state is confined to its own territory. Hence, it is possible that the acts and records of one state may not be recognised in another state. To remove any such difficulty, the Constitution contains the “Full Faith and Credit” clause which lays down the following:

(i) Full faith and credit is to be given throughout the territory of India to public acts, records and judicial proceedings of the Centre and every state. **The expression ‘public acts’ includes both legislative and executive acts of the government. The expression ‘public record’ includes any official book, register or record made by a public servant in the discharge of his official duties.**

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

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

Source: Chapter-15 “Inter-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.10) Which of the following states have scheduled areas?

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Gujarat
3. Karnataka
4. Maharashtra
5. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct code

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

Q.10) Solution (b)

- At present **9 states of India** have scheduled areas. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Source: Chapter-37 “Scheduled and Tribal Areas” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.11) Consider the following statements

1. Laws of the Parliament are applicable to the Indian citizens and their property in any part of the world
2. The Parliament can make laws on any matter in the State List for implementing the international treaties or agreements

Select the correct code

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

Q.11) Solution (c)

Centre's control over state legislation.

1. Territorial Extent of Central and State Legislation -The Constitution defines the territorial limits of the legislative powers vested in the Centre and the states in the following way:

(i) The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India. The territory of India includes the states, the union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India.

(ii) A state legislature can make laws for the whole or any part of the state. The laws made by a state legislature are not applicable outside the state, except when there is a sufficient nexus between the state and the object.

(iii) The Parliament alone can make 'extra-territorial legislation'. Thus, **the laws of the Parliament are also applicable to the Indian citizens and their property in any part of the world.**

To Implement **International Agreements- The Parliament can make laws on any matter in the State List for implementing the international treaties, agreements** or conventions. This provision enables the Central government to fulfil its international obligations and commitments.

Some examples of laws enacted under the above provision are United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947; Geneva Convention Act, 1960; Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982 and legislations relating to environment and TRIPS.

Source: Chapter-14 “Centre-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.12) The Constitution of India provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and State. Which of the following subjects fall under concurrent list?

1. Education
2. Public Health
3. Labour Welfare
4. Economic and Social planning
5. Prisons
6. Forests

Select the correct code

- a) 1, 3, and 6
- b) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 3, 4 and 6
- d) 1, 3, 4, and 6

Q.12) Solution (d)

Source: Chapter-14 “Centre-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.13) The Parliament can make any law for whole or any part of India for implementing international treaties

- a) without the consent of any State
- b) with the consent of all the States
- c) with the consent of the majority of States
- d) with the consent of the States concerned

Q.13) Solution (a)

To Implement **International Agreements- The Parliament can make laws on any matter in the State List for implementing the international treaties, agreements or conventions.** This provision enables the Central government to fulfil its international obligations and commitments.

Some examples of laws enacted under the above provision are United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947; Geneva Convention Act, 1960; Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982 and legislations relating to environment and TRIPS.

Source: Chapter-14 “Centre-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.14) The service tax you pay for availing insurance in India is a

- a) tax imposed, collected and appropriated by the Central Government.
- b) tax imposed by the Central Government but collected and appropriated by the State Government
- c) tax imposed by the State Government but collected by the Central Government
- d) tax imposed by the Centre Government but collected and appropriated both by Centre and State Government

Q.14) Solution (d)

The 88th Amendment has added a new **Article 268-A** dealing **with service tax**. It also added a new subject in the Union List – entry 92-C (taxes on services). **Service tax is levied by the centre but collected and appropriated by both the centre and the states.**

Taxes Levied and Collected and Retained by the **States - These are the taxes belonging to the states exclusively.** They are enumerated in the state list and are 20 in number. These are: (i) land revenue; (ii) taxes on agricultural income, succession and estate duties in respect of agricultural land; (iii) taxes on lands and buildings, on mineral rights, on animals and boats, on road vehicles, on luxuries, on entertainments, and on gambling; (iv) excise duties on alcoholic liquors for human consumption and narcotics; (v) taxes on the entry of goods into a local area, on advertisements (except newspapers), on consumption or sale of electricity, and on goods and passengers carried by road or on inland waterways; (vi) taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments not exceeding Rs. 2,500 per annum; (vii) capitation taxes; (viii) **tolls**; (ix) stamp duty on documents (except those specified in the Union List); (x) sales tax (other than newspaper); and (xi) fees on the matters enumerated in the State List (except court fees).

Source: Chapter-14 “Centre-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.15) Which of the following is *not correct*?

- a) A cess is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose
- b) Surcharge collected by the government can be used for any purpose
- c) The money collected out of Cess goes to the Consolidated fund of India
- d) None

Q.15) Solution (d)

A cess imposed by the central government is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose. Generally, cess is expected to be levied till the time the government gets enough money for that purpose. For example, a cess for financing primary education – the education cess (which is imposed on all central government taxes) is to be spent only for financing primary education (SSA) and not for any other purposes. *Likewise, money collected from the newly introduced Krishi Kalyan Cess is to be used for funding agri development initiatives.*

A common feature of both surcharge and cess is that the centre need not share it with states. Following are the difference between the usual taxes, surcharge and cess.

1. The usual taxes goes to the consolidated fund of India and can be spend for any purposes.
2. **Surcharge** also goes to the consolidated fund of India and **can be spent for any purposes.**
3. **Cess goes to Consolidated Fund of India** but can be spend only for the specific purposes. *For example-* the fuel cess collected from people first goes to CFI. Then appropriation Bill is passed in the parliament and money collected from the fuel cess is transferred to the Central Road fund.

The main difference between **surcharge and cess** is that despite they are not shareable with state governments, surcharge can be kept with the CFI and spent like any other taxes, the cess should be kept as a separate fund after allocating to CFI and can be spent only for a specific purpose. This means cess can be spent only for the specific purpose for which it is created. If the purpose for which the cess is created is fulfilled, it should be eliminated.

As per Article 270 of the Constitution, cesses imposed by the Parliament for earmarked purposes **need not be shared with state governments**. The proceeds are retained exclusively with the Union government, which should ideally be used for their stated purpose.

If there is an unspent amount, it is simply carried forward for use in the following year. While the Centre has to mandatorily share the revenue from other taxes with the States, it gets to retain the entire kitty with a cess.

Do read-

<http://www.indianeconomy.net/splclassroom/249/what-is-a-cess-how-it-differs-from-surcharge/>

<http://pmjandhanyojana.co.in/surcharge-vs-cess/>

Source: Chapter-14 “Centre-State Relations” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) & Current Affairs links provided above

Q.16) Consider the following statements

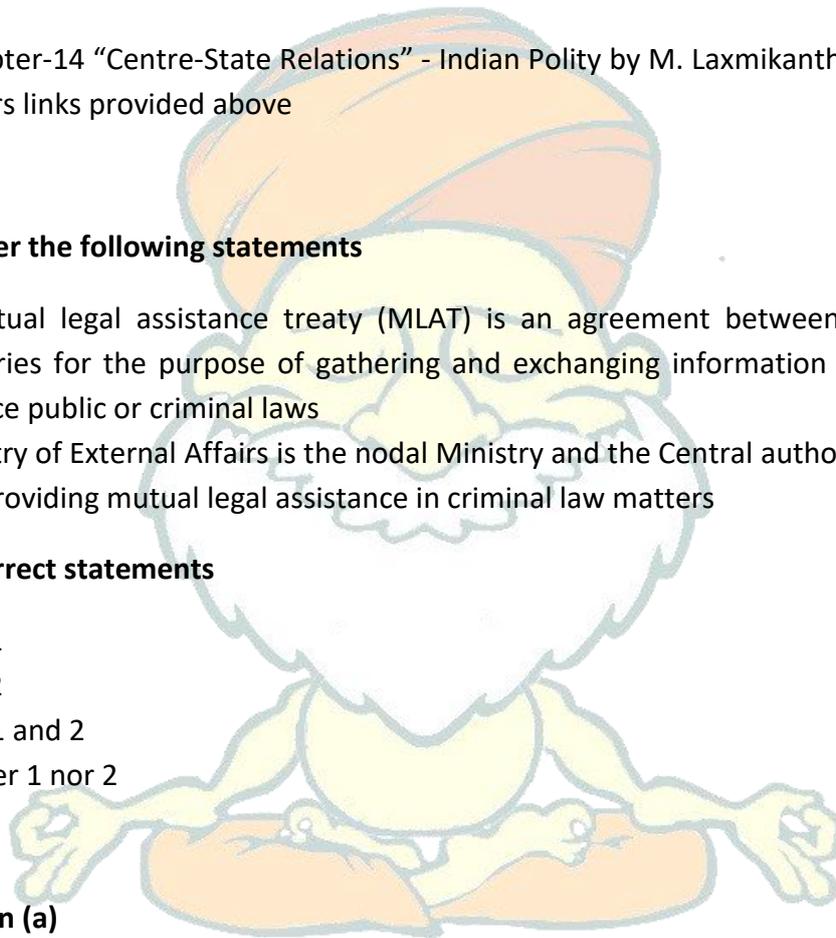
1. A mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information in an effort to enforce public or criminal laws
2. Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal Ministry and the Central authority for seeking and providing mutual legal assistance in criminal law matters

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

A mutual legal assistance treaty is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information in an effort to enforce public or criminal laws. This assistance may take the form of examining and identifying people, places and things, custodial transfers, and providing assistance with the immobilisation of the instruments of criminal activity. According to MEA website, India has signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with 39 countries and is trying to sign this treaty with more developed countries.



As per the Allocation of Business Rules of the Government of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry and the Central authority for seeking and providing mutual legal assistance in criminal law matters. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) receives all such requests, examines them and takes appropriate action. (Internal Security-II (IS-II) Division handles this subject in the Ministry of Home Affairs.) The Ministry of External Affairs may be involved in this process when such requests are routed through diplomatic channels by these Ministries.

The difference between the two categories of countries is that the country having an MLAT with India has an obligation to consider serving the documents, whereas the non-MLAT countries do not have any obligation to consider such a request.

The Ministry of Home Affairs does not undertake service of non-bailable warrants of arrest. The service of non-bailable arrest warrants amounts to the extradition of the individual. Requests for extradition are based on legal principles and procedures contained in Extradition Treaties negotiated with the foreign country concerned. Such requests are to be forwarded in the prescribed format to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Q.17) Consider the following statements about National Productivity Council (NPC)

1. It is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
2. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (c)

NPC is a National level autonomous organization under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

It is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization with equal representation from employers' & workers' organizations and Government, apart from technical & professional institutions and other interests. NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member.

Q.18) Consider the following statements about 'Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health'

1. It is supported by World Health Organisation (WHO), UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF)
2. India Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are the only Asian countries to be a part of this network

Select the correct statements

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

Q.18) Solution (a)

The nine countries are India, Bangladesh, A Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Through the new 'Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health', supported by World Health Organisation (WHO), UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners, the countries will work to improve the quality of care mothers and babies receive in their health facilities.

Global health network focused on improving the quality of care for new mothers and babies and strengthen national efforts to end preventable deaths of pregnant women and newborns by 2030.

The Network aims to strengthen national efforts to end preventable deaths by 2030, as envisioned by the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. Countries will do that by strengthening capacity and motivation of health professional to plan and manage quality improvement, improving data collection and increasing access to medicines, supplies, equipment and clean water.

Q.19) Consider the following statements about Middle Income Group Scheme

1. It is a self-supporting scheme which provides legal services to litigants whose gross income does not exceed ₹60,000 per month or ₹7.5 lakh per annum in the Supreme Court only

2. The members of the governing body include the Chief Justice of India as patron-in-chief, the Attorney General as ex-officio vice-president, the Solicitor General as honorary secretary

Select the correct statements

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

Q.19) Solution (c)

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has introduced the Middle Income Group Scheme. It is a self-supporting scheme which provides legal services to the middle income group citizens i.e. citizens whose gross income is not exceeding Rs.60, 000 per month or Rs. 7, 50, 000 per annum.

The members of the governing body to whom the management of the Society is entrusted as required under Section 2 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as applicable to the National Capital Territory of Delhi includes Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief, Attorney General for India as Ex-officio Vice-President, Solicitor General of India as Honorary Secretary and other senior advocates of the Apex Court as its members.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Supreme-Court-makes-legal-services-affordable/article17314346.ece>

Q.20) "Lectures from Colombo to Almora" is based on the experiences of which one of the following?

- a) Annie Besant
- b) Ramkrishna Paramhansa
- c) Swami Vivekanand
- d) Veer Savarkar

Q.20) Solution (c)

"Lectures from Colombo to Almora" is a collection of 29 speeches of 'Swami Vivekananda' right from his first public address given in Colombo on Jan 15th, 1897, after coming back from his triumphant visit to America.

Q.21) In context with the business and banking, what is CRAR?

- a) Credit to Risk Asset Ratio
- b) Capital to Risk Asset Ratio
- c) Credit to Risk Assessment Ratio
- d) Credit Rate Asset Ratio

Q.21) Solution (b)

The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is a measure of a bank's capital. It is expressed as a percentage of a bank's risk weighted credit exposures.

Also known as capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), it is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world. Two types of capital are measured: tier one capital, which can absorb losses without a bank being required to cease trading, and tier two capital, which can absorb losses in the event of a winding-up and so provides a lesser degree of protection to depositors.

Also known as "Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)."

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/Don%E2%80%99t-speak-don%E2%80%99t-tell/article17117912.ece>

Q.22) 'Gyan Sangam' is concerned with

- a) Water Sharing
- b) Banks
- c) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- d) Observer Research Foundation

Q.22) Solution (b)

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Banks%E2%80%99-%E2%80%98Gyan-Sangam%E2%80%99-to-discuss-digitisation-consolidation-at-PSBs/article17117836.ece>

Q.23) "Northwest Africa 7635" is a

- a) A coastal road along Mauritiana, Morocco, Algeria and Libya
- b) A meteorite, discovered in Algeria

- c) A free trade agreement between Maghreb countries
- d) None of the above

Q.23) Solution (b)

It is a 6.9-ounce (about 200gm) meteorite, discovered in Algeria, Africa, in 2012, that has given scientists unprecedented insight into volcanic activity on Mars.

The largest volcano in the solar system, Olympus Mons, is found on this planet.

However, by analysing the chemical composition, “Northwest Africa 7635”, scientists at the University of Purdue, U.S., learnt this week that Mars had a single volcano that continuously erupted for 2 billion years.

Martian volcanoes can grow to such enormous proportions because Mars, unlike Earth, doesn't have plate tectonics that constantly shuffle the surface. So a volcano, like the one that birthed NWA 7635, can plume — the process by which hot magma from the earth surfaces upward — for billions of years.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/Demystifying-Science-%E2%80%94-February-5-2017/article17194910.ece>

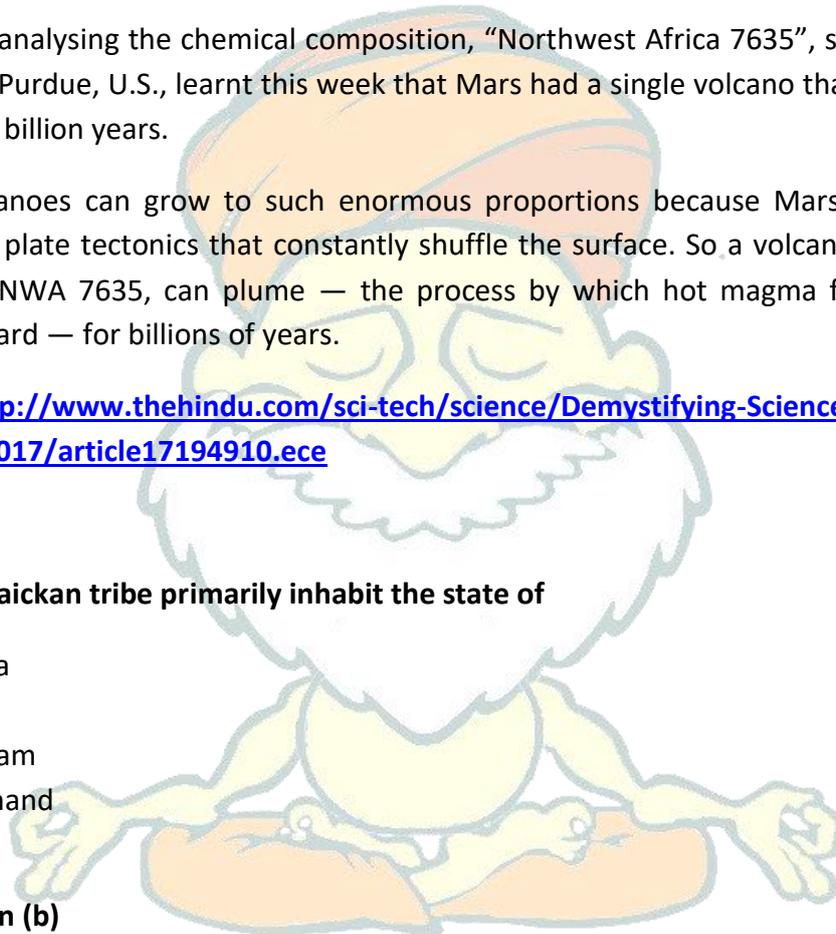
Q.24) Cholanaickan tribe primarily inhabit the state of

- a) Odisha
- b) Kerala
- c) Mizoram
- d) Jharkhand

Q.24) Solution (b)

The Cholanaickans are an ethnic group of India. They primarily inhabit the southern Kerala State, especially Silent Valley National Park, and are one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes of the region. The Cholanaickans speak the Cholanaickan language, which belongs to the Dravidian family.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/Tribe-offers-clues-to-hidden-wonders-of-medicinal-plant/article17195140.ece>



Q.25) The term 'oil zipper' is concerned with

- a) Remediation of oily sludge and oil spills
- b) Under-sea oil exploration
- c) Genetically engineered high biofuel yielding maize variety
- d) Technology to control the accidentally caused flames from oil wells

Q.25) Solution (a)

The new technique of using the bacteria to get rid of oil spill has been called "Oil Zapping". Oil Zapping is a bio-remediation technique involving the use of 'oil zapping' bacteria.

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/chennai-oil-spill-an-expert-explains-how-best-to-clean-it-up/story-VBzBgWGMWaUxbHgUMM8DXP.html>

