

TOPICS:

- Constitutional Bodies
- Non-Constitutional Bodies
- Tribunals

PRELIMS MCQ's:

Q.1) The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and service matters of public servants belonging to

1. civilian employees of defence services
2. officers of the Supreme Court
3. all-India services
4. secretarial staff of the Parliament
5. state government employees

Select the correct code

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

Q.1) Solution (a)

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states. At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow. These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts.

The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it. Its jurisdiction extends to the **all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.** However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

State Administrative Tribunals -The Administrative Tribunals Act of 1985 empowers the Central government to establish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) on specific request of the concerned state governments. So far (2013), the SATs have been set up in the nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. However, the Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh Tribunals have since been abolished. The Kerala Administrative Tribunal was set up with effect from 26th August, 2010.

Like the CAT, the **SATs exercise original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of state government employees.**

Source: Chapter-60 “Tribunals” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.2) With reference to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which of the following statement is *not true*?

- a) The President determines the composition of Union Public Service Commission
- b) The jurisdiction of UPSC can be extended by the Parliament
- c) The UPSC is not consulted while making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens
- d) The members of UPSC can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to their Chairman

Q.2) Solution (d)

1. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. It is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution. Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC.

COMPOSITION

The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India. The **Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition.** Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman. Further, no qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership except that one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the government of a state. The Constitution also authorises the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **However, they can relinquish their**

offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the president. They can also be removed before the expiry of their term by the president in the manner as provided in the Constitution.

2. The Supreme Court has held that if the government fails to consult UPSC in the matters (mentioned above), the aggrieved public servant has no remedy in a court. In other words, the court held that any irregularity in consultation with the UPSC or acting without consultation does not invalidate the decision of the government. Thus, the provision is directory and not mandatory. Similarly, the court held that a selection by the UPSC does not confer any right to the post upon the candidate. However, the government is to act fairly and without arbitrariness or malafides.

The additional functions relating to the services of the Union can be conferred on UPSC by the Parliament. It can also place the personnel system of any authority, corporate body or public institution within the jurisdiction of the UPSC. Hence **the jurisdiction of UPSC can be extended by an act made by the Parliament.**

3. ROLE

The Constitution visualises the UPSC to be the 'watch-dog of merit system' in India. It is concerned with the recruitment to the all-India services and Central services—group A and group B and advises the government, when consulted, on promotion and disciplinary matters. It is not concerned with the classification of services, pay and service conditions, cadre management, training, and so on. **These matters are handled by the Department of Personnel and Training**—one of the three departments of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions⁵. Therefore, **UPSC is only a central recruiting agency while the Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.**

The role of UPSC is not only limited, but also recommendations made by it are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is upto the Union government to accept or reject that advise. The only safeguard is the answerability of the government to the Parliament for departing from the recommendation of the Commission. Further, the government can also make rules which regulate the scope of the advisory functions of UPSC⁶.

The emergence of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in 1964 affected the role of UPSC in disciplinary matters. **This is because both are consulted by the government while taking disciplinary action against a civil servant.** The problem arises when the two bodies tender conflicting advise.

However, the UPSC, being an independent constitutional body, has an edge over the CVC, which is created by an executive resolution of the Government of India and conferred a statutory status in October 2003.

LIMITATIONS

The following matters are kept outside the functional jurisdiction of the UPSC. In other words, the

UPSC is not consulted on the following matters:

- (a) While making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.
- (b) While taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.
- (c) With regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals,
posts of the highest diplomatic nature and a bulk of group C and group D services.
- (d) With regard to the selection for temporary or officiating appointment to a post if the person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.

The president can exclude posts, services and matters from the purview of the UPSC. The Constitution states that the president, in respect to the all-India services and Central services and posts may make regulations specifying the matters in which, it shall not be necessary for UPSC to be consulted. But all such regulations made by the president shall be laid before each House of Parliament for at least 14 days. The Parliament can amend or repeal them.

Source: Chapter-39 “Union Public Service Commission” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.3) With regard to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which of the following statement is *incorrect*?

- a) The commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the occurrence of violation of human rights
- b) It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim

- c) NHRC does not have suo motu powers to look into violation of human rights
- d) It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.

Q.3) Solution (c)

The Functions of the Commission are:

- (a) **To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, either suo motu or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court.**
- (b) To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- (c) To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.
- (d) To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- (e) To review the factors including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend remedial measures.
- (f) To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.
- (g) To undertake and promote research in the field of human rights.
- (h) To spread human rights literacy among the people and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights.
- (i) To encourage the efforts of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field of human rights.
- (j) To undertake such other functions as it may consider necessary for the promotion of human rights.

Working of the commission:

The commission's headquarters is at Delhi and it can also establish offices at other places in India. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. **It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.** It may call for information or report from the Central and state governments or any other authority subordinate thereto.

The commission has its own nucleus of investigating staff for investigation into complaints of human rights violations. Besides, it is empowered to utilise the services of any officer or investigation agency of the Central government or any state government for the purpose. It has also established effective cooperation with the NGOs with first-hand information about human rights violations.

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

Role of the commission:

From the above, it is clear that the functions of the commission are mainly recommendatory in nature. **It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.** Notably, its recommendations are not binding on the concerned government or authority. But, it should be informed about the action taken on its recommendations within one month. In this context, a former member of the Commission observed: 'The government cannot wash away the recommendations made by the Commission. The commission's role may be recommendatory, advisory, yet the Government considers the cases forwarded by it. It is, therefore, improper to say that the commission is powerless. It enjoys great material authority and no government can ignore its recommendation'.

Moreover, the commission has limited role, powers and jurisdiction with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces. In this sphere, the commission may seek a report from the Central government and make its recommendations. The Central government should inform the Commission of the action taken on the recommendations within three months. 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: Chapter-50 "National Human Rights Commission" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.4) With reference to Election Commission of India, consider the following

1. The President has the power to increase/decrease the number of election commissioners in the Election Commission
2. In case of difference of opinion between the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners, the matter is decided by the Chief Election Commissioner

3. The Election commission conducts elections to the office of the President and Vice-President

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

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 3 Only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Q.4) Solution (b)

The Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country. **Article 324** of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of **elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission**. Thus, the Election Commission is an all-India body in the sense that it is common to both the Central government and the state governments.

It must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State

Election Commission

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It must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

COMPOSITION

Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of election commission:

1. **The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.**
2. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
3. When any other election commissioner is so appointed, the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
4. The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission.
5. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the president. Since its inception in 1950 and till 15 October 1989, the election commission functioned as a single member body consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner. On 16 October 1989, the president appointed two more election commissioners to cope with the increased work of the election commission on account of lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 years. Thereafter, the Election Commission functioned as a multimember body consisting of three election commissioners. However, the two posts of election commissioners were abolished in January 1990 and the Election Commission was reverted to the earlier position. Again in October 1993, the president appointed two more election commissioners. Since then and till today, the Election Commission has been functioning as a multi-member body consisting of three election commissioners.

The chief election commissioner and the two other election commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites, which are similar to those of a judge of the Supreme Court. **In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner and/or two other election commissioners, the matter is decided by the Commission by majority.**

They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They can resign at any time or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.

Source: Chapter-38 “Election Commission” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.5) In India, which of the following is/are not considered as Constitutional bodies?

1. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
2. National Commission for Minorities
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities

5. Advocate General of the State

Select the correct code

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

Q.5) Solution (a)

The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (ST's)** is a **constitutional body** in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338 of the Constitution. On the other hand, the other national commissions like the National Commission for Women (1992), the National Commission for Minorities (1993), the National Commission for Backward Classes (1993), the National Human Rights Commission (1993) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2007) are **statutory bodies** in the sense that they are established by acts of the Parliament

Constitutional provisions - Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the **Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities**. 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 Constitution². This article contains the following provisions:

1. There should be a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. He is to be appointed by the President of India.
2. It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution. He would report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct. The President should place all such reports before each House of Parliament and send to the governments of the states concerned.

It must be noted here that the Constitution does not specify the qualifications, tenure, salaries and allowances, service conditions and procedure for removal of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

Commissioner for linguistic minorities -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 **Constitution (Article 165)** has provided for the office of the **advocate general for the states**. He is the highest law officer in the state. Thus he corresponds to the Attorney General of India.

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) – Constitutional & Non-Constitutional Bodies

Q.6) Central Administrative Tribunal(CAT) was setup to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the aggrieved public servants. With regard to CAT, which of the following statements is *incorrect*?

- a) Provisions for establishment of Tribunals in India was provided by 42nd Amendment Act of 1976
- b) Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 authorises the Parliament to establish one Central administrative tribunal and the state administrative tribunals
- c) CAT is guided by the principles of natural justice not by procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908
- d) An aggrieved public servant cannot approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT, without first going to the concerned High court

Q.6) Solution (b)

The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS - Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities. In other words, Article 323 A enables the Parliament to take out the adjudication of disputes relating to service matters from the civil courts and the high courts and place it before the administrative tribunals.

In pursuance of Article 323 A, the Parliament has passed the **Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985. The act authorises the Central government to establish one Central administrative tribunal and the state administrative tribunals.** This act opened a new chapter in the sphere of providing speedy and inexpensive justice to the aggrieved public servants.

The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is **guided by the principles of natural justice**. These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach. Only a nominal fee of `50 is to be paid by the applicant. The applicant may appear either in person or through a lawyer.

Originally, appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts. However, in the Chandra Kumar case² (1997), the Supreme Court declared this restriction on the jurisdiction of the high courts as unconstitutional, holding that judicial review is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It laid down that appeals against the orders of the CAT shall lie before the division bench of the concerned high court. Consequently, now it is not possible for **an aggrieved public servant to approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT, without first going to the concerned high court.**

Source: Chapter-60 "Tribunals" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.7) According to the Constitution of India, it is the duty of the President of India to cause to be laid before the Parliament which of the following?

1. The Recommendations of the Union Finance Commission
2. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee
3. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
4. The Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes
5. The Report of the Central Vigilance Commission

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Q.7) Solution (d)

1. 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.

Till 1960, the Commission also suggested the amounts paid to the States of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in lieu of assignment of any share of the net proceeds in each year of export duty on jute and jute products. These grants were to be given for a temporary period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution.

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.

The Constitution envisages the Finance Commission as the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India. However, its role in the Centre–state fiscal relations has been undermined by the emergence of the planning commission, a non-constitutional and non-statutory body.

2. The Report of the **Public Accounts Committee** - PAC lays down report in parliament on its own (President doesn't come in picture)

The PAC is a committee of selected members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the auditing of the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India.

The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and 7 from Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament. The term of office of the members is one year. The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition. Earlier, it was headed by a member of the ruling party. **Its chief function is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament.** CAG assists the committee during the course of investigation. None of the 22 members shall be a minister in the government.

PAC examines the three audit reports of CAG submitted to President - audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts and audit report on public undertakings. It examines the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union

government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. While doing this examination, it tries to ensure that money disbursed to various ministries was used for the purpose for which it was given; and this money was used as per rules and regulations. It also examines the accounts of the public service corporations {except those public undertakings which have been allotted to committee on public undertakings}, and other such bodies whose accounts are audited by CAG.

3. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

The CAG submits three audit reports to the President—audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts, and audit report on public undertakings. The President lays these reports before both the Houses of Parliament. After this, the Public Accounts Committee examines them and reports its findings to the Parliament.

The appropriation accounts compare the actual expenditure with the expenditure sanctioned by the Parliament through the Appropriation Act, while the finance accounts show the annual receipts and disbursements of the Union government.

4. The **National Commission for Scheduled Castes** presents an **annual report** to the president. It can also submit a report as and when it thinks necessary. The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations.

The President also forwards any report of the Commission pertaining to a state government to the state governor. The governor places it before the state legislature, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations.

5. Central Vigilance Commission

The CVC is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. Recently, in September 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC. In 2004, the Government of India authorised the CVC as the “Designated Agency” to receive written complaints for disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office and recommend appropriate action.

The CVC is conceived to be the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organisations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.

WORKING

The CVC conducts its proceedings at its headquarters (New Delhi). It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character. It may call for information or report from the Central government or its authorities so as to enable it to exercise general supervision over the vigilance and anti-corruption work in them.

The CVC, on receipt of the report of the inquiry undertaken by any agency on a reference made by it, advises the Central government or its authorities as to the further course of action. The Central government or its authorities shall consider the advice of the CVC and take appropriate action.

However, where the Central government or any of its authorities does not agree with the advice of the CVC, it shall communicate the reasons (to be recorded in writing) to the CVC. The CVC has to present annually to the **President a report** on its performance. **The President places this report before each House of Parliament.**

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) – Constitutional & Non-Constitutional Bodies

Q.8) Consider the following

1. Union Public Service Commission is the central personnel agency in India
2. Both Central Vigilance Commission and Union Public Service Commission can be consulted by the government while taking disciplinary action against a civil servant

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.8) Solution (b)

ROLE of UPSC

The Constitution visualises the UPSC to be the 'watch-dog of merit system' in India. It is concerned with the recruitment to the all-India services and Central services—group A and group B and advises the government, when consulted, on promotion and disciplinary matters. It is not concerned with the classification of services, pay and service conditions, cadre management, training, and so on. These matters are handled by the Department of Personnel and Training—one of the three departments of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Therefore, **UPSC is only a central recruiting agency while the Department of Personnel and Training is the central personnel agency in India.**

The role of UPSC is not only limited, but also recommendations made by it are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is upto the Union government to accept or reject that advise. The only safeguard is the answerability of the government to the Parliament for departing from the recommendation of the Commission. Further, the government can also make rules which regulate the scope of the advisory functions of UPSC.

The emergence of **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** in 1964 affected the role of **UPSC** in disciplinary matters. This is because **both are consulted by the government while taking disciplinary action against a civil servant.** The problem arises when the two bodies tender conflicting advise. However, the UPSC, being an independent constitutional body, has an edge over the CVC, which is created by an executive resolution of the Government of India and conferred a statutory status in October 2003.

Source: Chapter-39 "Union Public Service Commission" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.9) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is required to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards of

1. Other Backward Classes
2. Anglo-Indian Community
3. Scheduled Tribes
4. Scheduled Castes

Select the correct code

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

Q.9) Solution (d)

National Commission for Scheduled Castes- The functions of the Commission are:

- (a) **To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the SCs and to evaluate their working;**
- (b) To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs;
- (c) To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of the SCs
and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or a state;
- (d) To present to the President, annually and at such other times as it may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
- (e) To make recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or a state for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the SCs; and
- (f) To discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the SCs as the president may specify.

Powers of the commission - The Commission is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
- (e) issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) any other matter which the President may determine.

The Central government and the state governments are required to consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the SCs. **The Commission is also required to discharge similar functions with regard to the other backward classes (OBCs) and the Anglo-Indian Community as it does with respect to the SCs.** In other words, the Commission has to investigate all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the OBCs and the Anglo-Indian Community and report to the President upon their working.

Source: Chapter-42 “National Commission for Scheduled Castes” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.10) In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency.
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.10) Solution (c)

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) – Article 148

1st Statement is wrong:

Effects of National Emergency

A proclamation of Emergency has drastic and wide ranging effects on the political system. These consequences can be grouped into three categories:

1. Effect on the Centre–state relations,
2. Effect on the life of the Lok Sabha and State assembly, and
3. Effect on the Fundamental Rights.

Effect on the Centre–state Relations While a proclamation of Emergency is in force, the normal fabric of the Centre–state relations undergoes a basic change. This can be studied under three heads, namely, executive, legislative and financial.

(a) Executive During a national emergency, the executive power of the Centre extends to directing any state regarding the manner in which its executive power is to be exercised. In normal times, the Centre can give executive directions to a state only on certain specified matters. However, 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.

(b) Legislative During a national emergency, the Parliament becomes empowered to make laws on any subject mentioned in the State List. Although the legislative power of a state legislature is not suspended, it becomes subject to the overriding power of the Parliament. Thus, the normal distribution of the legislative powers between the Centre and states is suspended, though the state Legislatures are not suspended. In brief, the Constitution becomes unitary rather than federal. The laws made by Parliament on the state subjects during a National Emergency become inoperative six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. Notably, while a proclamation of national emergency is in operation, the President can issue ordinances on the state subjects also, if the Parliament is not in session.

Further, the Parliament can confer powers and impose duties upon the Centre or its officers and authorities in respect of matters outside the Union List, in order to carry out the laws made by it under its extended jurisdiction as a result of the proclamation of a National Emergency.

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 provided that the two consequences mentioned above (executive and legislative) extends not only to a state where the Emergency is in operation but also to any other state.

(c) **Financial** - 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. Also, every such order of the President has to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament.

Financial emergency- Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

Effects of Financial Emergency -The consequences of the proclamation of a Financial Emergency are as follows:

1. The executive authority of the Centre extends (a) to directing any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as are specified by it; and (b) to directions as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.

2. Any such direction may include a provision requiring (a) the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state; and (b) the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed

by the legislature of the state.

3. **The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances** of (a) all or

any class of persons serving the Union; and (b) the judges of the Supreme Court and the high

court. Thus, **during the operation of a financial emergency, the Centre acquires full control over the states in financial matters.**

2nd Statement is correct - The CAG submits three audit reports to the President—**audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts, and audit report on public undertakings.** The President lays these reports before both the Houses of Parliament. After this, the Public Accounts Committee examines them and reports its findings to the Parliament.

The appropriation accounts compare the actual expenditure with the expenditure sanctioned by the Parliament through the Appropriation Act, while the finance accounts show the annual receipts and disbursements of the Union government.

PAC examines the three audit reports of CAG submitted to President - audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts and audit report on public undertakings. It examines the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. While doing this examination, it tries to ensure that money disbursed to various ministries was used for the purpose for which it was given; and this money was used as per rules and regulations. It also examines the accounts of the public service corporations {except those public undertakings which have been allotted to committee on public undertakings}, and other such bodies whose accounts are audited by CAG.

3rd Statement is correct – CAG reports on 2G Spectrum, Coal Gate Scam, Fodder Scam etc.

In these cases, the information from CAG reports was used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finance.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the allotment of 2G Spectrum licences, that was tabled in the Lok Sabha, had held former Telecom Minister A Raja responsible on many fronts for violating guidelines, indulging in favouritism and costing the government Rs. 1.76 lakh crores by mishandling the allocation of the 2G spectrum in 2008.

Former telecom minister A. Raja was arrested by the CBI (in 2011) for his alleged role in the 2G spectrum scam. The CBI was learnt to have also arrested former telecom secretary Siddhartha Behura and Raja's former personal secretary R.K. Chandolia. Raja, a DMK MP, had to resign as telecom minister in November (2010) after the CAG report on the 2G spectrum allocations indicted him and invited an onslaught on the UPA government from the BJP-led Opposition.

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/2g-spectrum-scam-some-highlights-of-cag-report-439416>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/2g-scam-former-telecom-minister-a-raja-arrested-by-cbi/1/128468.html>

CAG draft report nails Raja role in 2G scam-

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/CAG-draft-report-nails-Raja-role-in-2G-scam/articleshow/6458465.cms>

4th Statement is wrong - He audits the receipts and expenditure of the following:

- (a) All bodies and authorities substantially financed from the Central or state revenues;
- (b) Government companies; and
- (c) Other corporations and bodies, when so required by related laws.

CAG AND CORPORATIONS

The role of CAG in the auditing of public corporations is limited. Broadly speaking, his relationship

with the public corporations falls into the following three categories:

(i) Some corporations are audited totally and directly by the CAG, for example, Damodar Valley

Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Air India, Indian Airlines Corporation, and others.

(ii) Some other corporations are audited by private professional auditors who are appointed by

the Central Government in consultation with the CAG. If necessary, the CAG can conduct supplementary audit. The examples are, Central Warehousing Corporation, Industrial Finance

Corporation, and others.

(iii) Some other corporations are totally subjected to private audit. In other words, **their audit is**

done exclusively by private professional auditors and the CAG does not come into the picture

at all. They submit their annual reports and accounts directly to the Parliament. Examples of

such corporations are Life Insurance Corporation of India, Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of India, Food Corporation of India, and others.

The role of the CAG in the auditing of Government companies is also limited. They are audited by

private auditors who are appointed by the Government on the advice of the CAG. The CAG can also

undertake supplementary audit or test audit of such companies.

In 1968, an Audit Board was established as a part of the office of CAG to associate outside specialists and experts to handle the technical aspects of audit of specialised enterprises like engineering, iron and steel, chemicals and so on. This board was established on the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission of India. It consists of a Chairman and two members appointed by the CAG.

Source: Chapter-45 “Comptroller and Auditor General” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) & Current Affairs

Q.11) Consider the following

1. A State Human Rights Commission can inquire into violation of human rights only in respect of subjects mentioned in the State List and the Concurrent List of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution
2. The chairperson and members of a State Human Rights Commission are appointed and removed by the Governor

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.11) Solution (d)

The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 provides for the creation of not only the National Human Rights Commission but also a State Human Rights Commission at the state level. Accordingly, twenty three states have constituted the State Human Rights Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications.

A State Human Rights Commission can inquire into violation of human rights only in respect of subjects mentioned in the State List (List-II) and the Concurrent List (List-III) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. However, if any such case is already being inquired into by the National Human Rights Commission or any other Statutory Commission, then the State Human Rights Commission does not inquire into that case.

Composition of the commission :

The State Human Rights Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and two members. The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice of a High Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of a High Court or a District Judge in the state with a minimum of seven years experience as District Judge and a person having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.

The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of a committee consisting of the chief minister as its head, the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the state home minister and the leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly. In the case of a state having Legislative Council, the chairman of the Council and the leader of the opposition in the Council would also be the members of the committee. Further, a sitting judge of a High Court or a sitting District Judge can be appointed only after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned state.

The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. After their tenure, the chairperson and members are not eligible for further employment under a state government or the Central government. **Although the chairperson and members of a State Human Rights Commission are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the President (and not by the governor).** The President can remove them on the same grounds and in the same manner as he can remove the chairperson or a member of the National Human Rights Commission. Thus, he can remove the chairperson or a member under the following circumstances:

- (a) If he is adjudged an insolvent; or
- (b) If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
- (c) If he is unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or
- (d) If he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
- (e) If he is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence.

In addition to these, the president can also remove the chairperson or a member on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. However, in these cases, the President has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an inquiry. If the Supreme Court, after the

inquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, then the President can remove the chairperson or a member.

The salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the chairman or a member are determined by the state government. But, they cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. All the above provisions are aimed at securing autonomy, independence and impartiality in the functioning of the Commission.

Source: Chapter-40 “State Public Service Commission” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.12) Which of the following institutions/bodies have powers of a Civil Court?

1. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
2. National Human Rights Commission
3. Comptroller and auditor general of India
4. Central Information Commission
5. Central Vigilance Commission

Choose the correct code

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

Q.12) Solution (d)

1. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

The Commission is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, **has all the powers of a civil court** trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisitioning any public record from any court or office;

- (e) issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) any other matter which the President may determine.

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

2. WORKING OF THE COMMISSION - **National Human Rights Commission**

The commission's headquarters is at Delhi and it can also establish offices at other places in India. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. **It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.** It may call for information or report from the Central and state governments or any other authority subordinate thereto.

3. No powers of Civil court has been conferred on Comptroller and auditor general of India.

In order to carry out his wide audit mandate in an unfettered manner the Act provides for:

Article 149 empowered Parliament to prescribe the duties & powers of the CAG and in regard to it, Parliament enacted CAG Act. Only legal position that the act lays down is - it is the duty of audit: to ascertain that the money, which has been disbursed was legally available for the service or purpose on which it has applied and it has to ascertain whether there was a proper authority to spend the money. However, what happens when a public official spends money which is not legally available or it is in violation of above laid down rules, the Act is silent about it. There are no provisions, such as powers to summon the concerned officers before it for evidence on oath nor any powers to initiate action under civil code or penal code.

4. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS - **Central Information Commission**

The powers and functions of the Central Information Commission are:

A. It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person:

- (a) who has not been able to submit an information request because of non-appointment of a Public Information Officer;
- (b) who has been refused information that was requested;
- (c) who has not received response to his information request within the specified time limits;
- (d) who thinks the fees charged are unreasonable;
- (e) who thinks information given is incomplete, misleading or false; and

(f) any other matter relating to obtaining information.

B. The Commission can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-moto power).

C. While inquiring, the **Commission has the powers of a civil court.**

5. WORKING - The **Central Vigilance Commission**

CVC conducts its proceedings at its headquarters (New Delhi). It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. **It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.** It may call for information or report from the Central government or its authorities so as to enable it to exercise general supervision over the vigilance and anti-corruption work in them.

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) – Constitutional & Non-Constitutional Bodies

Q.13) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) being the main investigating agency of the Central Government, plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration. With regard to CBI, consider the following

1. The CBI is not a statutory body
2. Establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption
3. Upholding human rights, protecting the environment, arts, antiques and heritage of our civilisation is one of the focus areas of CBI

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

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

Q.13) Solution (d)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and **now it enjoys the**

status of an attached office. The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.

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

The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission.

MOTTO, MISSION AND VISION OF CBI

Motto: Industry, Impartiality and Integrity

Mission: To uphold the Constitution of India and law of the land through in-depth investigation and successful prosecution of offences; to provide leadership and direction to police forces and to act as the nodal agency for enhancing inter-state and international cooperation in law enforcement

Vision: Based on its motto, mission and the need to develop professionalism, transparency, adaptability to change and use of science and technology in its working, the CBI will focus on

1. Combating corruption in public life, curbing economic and violent crimes through meticulous investigation and prosecution
2. Evolving effective systems and procedures for successful investigation and prosecution of cases in various law courts
3. Helping fight cyber and high technology crime
4. Creating a healthy work environment that encourages team-building, free communication and mutual trust
5. Supporting state police organisations and law enforcement agencies in national and international cooperation, particularly relating to enquiries and investigation of cases
6. Playing a lead role in the war against national and transnational organised crime
7. **Upholding human rights, protecting the environment, arts, antiques and heritage of our civilisation**
8. Developing a scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform
9. Striving for excellence and professionalism in all spheres of functioning so that the organisation rises to high levels of endeavor and achievement.

The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission.

Source: Chapter-55 “Central Bureau of Investigation” - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.14) Match the following

National Commissions/Body	Ministry
1. Inter-State Council	- Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Central Information Commission	- Ministry of Personnel
3. Central Bureau of Investigation	- Ministry of Home Affairs
4. National Human Rights Commission	- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.14) Solution (a)

1. The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** , functioning under Deptt. of Personnel, **Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India**, is the premier investigating police agency in India.

CBI is the domestic intelligence and security service of India, which simultaneously serves as the nation's prime federal law enforcement agency. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. The CBI is overseen by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the Federal government, headed by a Cabinet Minister who reports directly to the Prime Minister.

2. **Article 263-Inter State council** is a constitutional body set up on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India by a Presidential Order dated 28th May, 1990 on recommendation of Sarkaria Commission. Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Inter-state Council. Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories having Legislative Assemblies, Administrators of Union Territories not

having Legislative Assemblies, Governors of States under President's rule and six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers, nominated by the Chairman of the Council, are members of the Council. Five Ministers of Cabinet rank nominated by the Chairman of the Council are permanent invitees to the Council. Inter State council comes under **Ministry of Home Affairs**

3. The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** set up under the Right to Information Act is the authorised body, established in 2005, under the Government of India to act upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer due to either the officer not have been appointed, or because the respective Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer refused to receive the application for information under the RTI Act

Central Information Commission (CIC) comes under **Ministry of Personnel**

4. **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** - The Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is an autonomous public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA). The NHRC is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) comes under **Ministry of Home Affairs**

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition) Page No. 52.3 & Government websites

Q.15) With regard to Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC), consider the following

1. JSPSC is a statutory body
2. A JSPSC presents its annual performance report to the President
3. The number of members of a JSPSC and their conditions of service are determined by the President

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

- a) 1 Only
- b) 1 and 3 Only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Q.15) Solution (b)

JOINT STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states. While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned. Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body. The two states of Punjab and Haryana had a JSPSC for a short period, after the creation of Haryana out of Punjab in 1966.

The chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the president. They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier. They can be suspended or removed by the president. They can also resign from their offices at any time by submitting their resignation letters to the president.

The number of members of a JSPSC and their conditions of service are determined by the president.

A JSPSC presents its annual performance report to each of the concerned state governors. Each governor places the report before the state legislature.

The UPSC can also serve the needs of a state on the request of the state governor and with the approval of the president. As provided by the Government of India Act of 1919, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 and entrusted with the task of recruiting civil servants. The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.

Source: Chapter-40 "State Public Service Commission" - Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth (4th Edition)

Q.16) Which of the following countries is not a member of Eurasian Economic Union

- a) Armenia
- b) Belarus
- c) Georgia
- d) Kazakhstan

Q.16) Solution (c)

The Eurasian Economic Union is an international organization for regional economic integration. It has international legal personality and is established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union.

The EAEU provides for free movement of goods, services, capital and labor, pursues coordinated, harmonized and single policy in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union.

The Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union are the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.

The Union is being created to comprehensively upgrade, raise the competitiveness of and cooperation between the national economies, and to promote stable development in order to raise the living standards of the nations of the Member-States.

Q.17) Consider the following statements about Council of Europe

1. All the members of Council of Europe are members of European Union
2. United States, Japan and China have observer status with the Council of Europe

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (d)

It is an international organisation whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy, rule of law in Europe and promote European culture.

The Council of Europe is a separate organisation from the 28-member EU. No country has joined the EU without first joining the Council of Europe. All the members of EU are members of Council of Europe.

China does not have observer status.

Members - <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/47-members-states>

Q.18) Consider the following statements about Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK)

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. Shantushti strategy under JSK involves private sector gynaecologist and vasectomy surgeons to conduct operation in PPP mode
3. Prerna strategy recognizes and awards couples who had broken the stereotype of early marriage and early childbirth

Select the correct statements

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

Q.18) Solution (d)

The Government of India had set up a National Population Stabilization Fund (NPSF) in the year 2004-05 with a one-time grant of Rs.100 crore in the form of a corpus fund. This is now known as Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK). To empower the NPSF, Government of India has set up Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK). This is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. JSK can take all the policy related decisions. It can raise contributions from organisations and individuals that support population stabilisation. JSK implements two schemes, namely, Santushti and Prerna.

The details of schemes, funds allocated, released etc. are as follows:

SANTUSHTI STRATEGY

- Santushti is a strategy of Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) for the highly populated states of India viz Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Odisha.
- Under this strategy, Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh, invites private sector gynaecologists and vasectomy surgeons to conduct sterilization operations in Public Private Partnership mode.

PRERNA STRATEGY

- In order to help push up the age of marriage of girls and space the birth of children in the interest of health of young mothers and infants, Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilization Fund) has launched PRERNA, a Responsible Parenthood Strategy in seven focus states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

- The strategy recognizes and awards couples who have broken the stereotype of early marriage, early childbirth and repeated child birth and have helped change the mindsets of the community.

Q.19) Gazoldoba Barrage is located in which of the following states?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Sikkim
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Assam

Q.19) Solution (a)

India built a barrage at the Gazaldoba point on the Teesta. The then Bangladesh government did not raise its voice against this. Now they are facing the consequence of the barrage, as India closes all the gates of the Gazaldoba barrage during lean period.

Q.20) Togalu Gombeyaata is a puppet show unique to

- a) Odisha
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

Q.20) Solution (d)

Togalu Gombeyaata is a puppet show unique to the state of Karnataka. It is a play of leather dolls in the native language of Kannada and it is a form of shadow puppetry.

Q.21) Consider the following statements about Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR)

1. It refers to the additional capital required to generate additional output
2. A country with a higher ICOR is better than a country with a lower ICOR

Select the correct statements

- a) Only 1

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

Q.21) Solution (a)

Incremental Capital Output Ratio – ICOR

What is it?

- Any additional investment required to increase output is termed as incremental capital output ratio (ICOR).
- ICOR basically refers to the additional capital required to generate additional output.
- If the 10% additional capital is required to push the overall output by a percent, the ICOR will be 10. Lower the ICOR, the better it is. ICOR reflects how efficiently capital is being used to generate additional output.
- Furthermore, if country ICOR was 5 last year, this implies that Country has become more efficient in its use of capital (Current year ICOR being 3). So a country with ICOR of 3 is better than a country with ICOR of 5.

Factors affecting ICOR

- ICOR is a catch-all expression which is determined by a variety of factors including technology, skill of manpower, managerial competence and also macroeconomic policies.
- Thus delays in the completion of projects, lack of complementary investments in related sectors and the non-availability of critical inputs can all lead to a rise in ICOR.

Harrod-Domar framework - the calculation of ICOR is based on certain assumptions

- there is no diminishing return to capital
- there is no lag between investment and production
- there is full capacity utilization

Some critics of ICOR have suggested that its uses are restricted as there is a limit to how efficient countries can become as their processes become increasingly advanced. For example, a developing country can theoretically increase its GDP by a greater margin with a set amount of resources than its developed counterpart can. This is because the developed country is already operating with the highest level of technology and infrastructure. Any further improvements would have to come from more costly research and development, whereas the developing country can implement existing technology to improve its situation.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/sharpen-the-focus-on-growth/article17763234.ece>

Q.22) Recently the Chinese diplomats have been using the famous traveller Hiuen Tsang's legacy to rekindle 'cooperation' between India and China. Consider the following statements with regard to Hiuen Tsang

1. He was known as 'Prince of Pilgrims'
2. He travelled India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II

Choose the appropriate code

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

Q.22) Solution (a)

Hiuen Tsang (also Xuanzang, Hsuan Tsang) was the celebrated Chinese traveler who visited India in Ancient Times. He has been described therefore as the "Prince of Pilgrims."

His visit to India was an important event of the reign of Harshavardhana. India is much indebted to this Chinese traveller for the valuable accounts he left behind with many details of political, religious, economic, social conditions of those days.

Harsha (c. 590–648), also known as Harshavardhana, was an Indian emperor who ruled North India from 606 to 648 from his capital Kannauj. He was the founder and ruler of the Empire of Harsha. Harshavardhana was the last Hindu emperor of united North India.

Harsha is widely believed to be the author of three Sanskrit plays Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadarsik

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/china-keen-to-discover-sites-mentioned-by-hiuen-tsang-116110401356_1.html

Q.23) _____ is the nodal agency to facilitate digital transition of residential townships across the country.

- a) Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd
- b) Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC)

- c) Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited
- d) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd

Q.23) Solution (b)

The NITI Aayog has appointed the State-owned Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) as the nodal agency to facilitate digital transition of residential townships across the country.

After demonetisation, GNFC's township in Bharuch was the first residential colony to adopt digital modes of payments. The firm's digital drive was headed by its information technology division (n) Code Solutions.

After the demonetisation, the GNFC had launched a drive to ensure that fertilizers and other products in its outlets were booked and sold using digital payment options, like credit or debit cards, e-wallets, and net banking channels.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/gnfc-to-facilitate-digital-transition-of-residential-townships/article18073034.ece>

