

**Q.1) The provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. Which of the following provisions can be amended this way?**

1. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
2. Representation of states in Parliament.
3. Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
4. Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

**Q.1) Solution (a)**

Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.

The following provisions can be amended in this way:

- Election of the President and its manner.
- Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
- Supreme Court and high courts.
- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself)

A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368.

These provisions include:

- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Union territories.

- Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas.

**Do you know?**

The Constitution can be amended in three ways:

- Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament,
- Amendment by special majority of the Parliament, and
- Amendment by special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.

**THINK!**

- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.

**Q.2) Supreme court in Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) laid down a new doctrine of the 'basic structure' ('basic features') of the Constitution. Consider the following statements about basic structure of constitution.**

1. The Supreme Court in the Minerva Mills case (1980) defined what constitutes basic structure.
2. Welfare state is a component of basic structure.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

The Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. From the various judgements, the following have emerged as 'basic features' of the Constitution or elements / components / ingredients of the 'basic structure' of the constitution:

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity
- Secular character of the Constitution
- Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
- Federal character of the Constitution
- Unity and integrity of the nation
- Welfare state (socio-economic justice)

- Judicial review
- Freedom and dignity of the individual
- Parliamentary system
- Rule of law
- Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- Principle of equality
- Free and fair elections
- Independence of Judiciary
- Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
- Effective access to justice
- Principles (or essence) underlying fundamental rights.
- Powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141 and 142
- Powers of the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227

**Do you know?**

- In Indira Nehru Gandhi case (1975) (popularly known as the Election Case) supreme court declared that 'Government of laws and not of men' (i.e., Rule of Law) as basic structure of constitution.

**THINK!**

- I.R. Coelho Case (2007) (popularly known as IX Schedule Case).

**Q.3) In India the Parliament is not supreme (sovereign body) and enjoys limited and restricted powers. Which of the following features are responsible for this limitation on Parliament?**

1. Written Constitution.
2. Federal system.
3. Judicial review.
4. Fundamental rights.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

**Q.3) Solution (d)**

The doctrine of '**sovereignty of Parliament**' is associated with the British Parliament. Sovereignty means the **supreme power** within the State. That supreme power in Great Britain lies with the Parliament. There are no 'legal' restrictions on its authority and jurisdiction.

The Indian Parliament, on the other hand, cannot be regarded as a sovereign body in the similar sense as there are 'legal' restrictions on its authority and jurisdiction. The factors that limit the sovereignty of Indian Parliament are: **written Constitution, federal system, judicial review and fundamental rights.**

**Do you know?**

- 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future ministerial office. There is no such institution in India.

**THINK!**

- Kitchen Cabinet.

**Q.4) The President can be removed from office by a process of impeachment for 'violation of the Constitution'. Consider the following statements.**

1. Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the Constitution'.
2. Constitution does not provide the procedure for impeachment of president and left the Parliament to frame a law.
3. Parliament enacted President Act 1950 for the impeachment of President.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.4) Solution (a)**

The President can be removed from office by a process of impeachment for 'violation of the Constitution'. However, the Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the Constitution'.

Since Constitution provides the mode and ground for removing the President, he cannot be removed otherwise than by impeachment, **in accordance with the terms of articles 56 and 61.**

**Do you know?**

- The nominated members of either House of Parliament can participate in the impeachment of the President though they do not participate in his election; the nominated members of either House of Parliament can participate in the impeachment of the President though they do not participate in his election;

**THINK!**

- Vice President.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements about the amendment of constitution.**

1. For amendments which affect the federal provisions of the constitution, the state legislatures can also initiate the amendment.
2. Amendments regarding abolition or creation of legislative councils in states requires special majority.
3. President's recommendation is required in case of amendments relating to Fifth Schedule.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.5) Solution (d)**

An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.

A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:

- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.
- Quorum in Parliament.
- Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.
- Rules of procedure in Parliament.
- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.

- Use of English language in Parliament.
- Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.
- Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.
- Use of official language.
- Citizenship—acquisition and termination.
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Union territories.
- Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas.

There is no provision regarding the- President's recommendation is required in case of amendments relating to Fifth Schedule.

#### Do you know?

- Amendment of constitution signifies 'Reconciliation of written Constitution with Parliamentary Sovereignty'.

#### THINK!

- Unitary features of the parliament.

**Q.6) Which of the following amendments affected the executive authority of the President?**

1. 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.
2. 44<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.
3. 91<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.
4. 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act.

**Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.**

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

#### Q.6) Solution (a)

Article 74 was amended by **the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976** to the effect that the President **shall**, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with the advice rendered by the council of ministers.

**The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978** further added a proviso to this(74th) article to the effect that the President **may require** the council of ministers to **reconsider**

**such advice** and the president shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.

The **91st Amendment** to the Constitution is related to, limiting the size of the Council of Ministers at the Centre and the States to no more than 15 per cent of the numbers in the Lok Sabha or the State Legislature respectively.

Spurred by the **Unnikrishnan judgment** and a public demand to enforce the right to education, successive governments from 1993 worked towards bringing a constitutional amendment to make education a fundamental right. That led to **the 86th amendment** in December 2002.

### Do you know?

- The Supreme court held that 'wherever the Constitution requires the satisfaction of the President, the satisfaction is not the personal satisfaction of the President, but it is the satisfaction of the council of ministers with whose aid and on whose advice the President exercises his powers and functions'.

### THINK!

- Collective responsibility.

### Q.7) Who among the below is qualified to be appointed as Attorney General?

1. He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years.
2. He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years.
3. He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

### Q.7) Solution (d)

The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.

A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:

1. He should be a citizen of India.



2. (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or (b) He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or (c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

**Do you know?**

- In the performance of his official duties, the Attorney General has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.

**THINK!**

- Advocate General.

**Q.8) Which of the following statements about the cabinet committees are *incorrect*?**

1. They are setup by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha
2. No minister can be part of these committees
3. They are not mentioned in the Constitution

**Select the code from following:**

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

**Q.8) Solution (a)**

**Note:** The question is asking for Incorrect statements.

**Cabinet Committees**

The Cabinet Committee are organizations which are instrumental in reducing the workload of the Cabinet. They are formed under **Transaction of Business Rules (TBR), 1961**. These committees are extra-constitutional in nature and are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution.

**Types and Composition of Cabinet Committees**

1. **Standing Cabinet Committee**



- These are permanent in nature with a specific job. These are specified in the First Schedule of TBR
- The Cabinet Ministers are called its 'members' while the people without the rank of Cabinet Committee are called 'special invitees'.

## 2. Ad-hoc Cabinet Committee

- These are temporary in nature and are formed time to time to deal with specific tasks.

The composition of a Cabinet Committee **varies from 3 to 8 people**. Even Ministers who are not the part of the Cabinet can be added to a Cabinet Committee. Usually, each cabinet committee has at least one Cabinet Minister. The members of the Cabinet Committee can be from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

### Recent Cabinet Committees

#### 1. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

- This committee is responsible for all appointments of higher ranks in the Central Secretariat, Public Enterprises, Public Enterprises and Financial Institutions.

#### 2. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation(CCA)

- This Committee is responsible for the allotment of accommodation for various top positions in the Government of India.

#### 3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

- This committee deals with the activities pertaining to the economics of the country.

#### 4. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs(CCPA)

- This committee looks into the matters related to the progress of government business in the Parliament of India.

#### 5. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA)

- This committee is responsible for all issues related to domestic and foreign affairs.

#### 6. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- This is one of the most important committees in India, it looks into the matters of defense expenditures and National Security.

**THINK!**

- Parliamentary Committees

**Q.9) Which of the following amendments are correctly matched?**

1. 89th Amendment Act - The National Commission for SC and ST was bifurcated
2. 61st Amendment Act – Reduce age of voting from 21 years to 18 years
3. 92nd Amendment Act – Changed anti-defection laws
4. 69th Amendment Act – Establishment of legislative assembly and council of ministers for Federal National Capital of Delhi

**Select the code from following:**

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

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

**91<sup>st</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 2003**

91st Amendment Act - Restrict the size of council of ministers to 15% of legislative members & to strengthen Anti Defection laws

Prior to January 1, 2004 (effective date of 91st Amendment of the Constitution) the Prime Minister had discretion to appoint any number in his council of ministers. But the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Act in 2003 made a drastic change in curbing such power of the Prime Minister.

This Amendment added clause (1A) in this Article which made a specific provision that, the total number of Ministers, including Prime Minister, in no case can exceed 15 per cent of the total number of Lok Sabha members.

The Prime Minister can induct into his ministry a person who is not a member of either House of Parliament. However, a minister who for a period of six consecutive months is not a member of either House of Parliament shall at the expiration of that period cease to be one.

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Constitution Amendment Bill:**

1. It cannot be initiated in State Legislatures.
2. It cannot be initiated by a Private member in Parliament.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q.10) Solution (a)**

#### **Procedure of Constitution Amendment**

As per the procedure laid out by article 368 for amendment of the Constitution, an amendment can be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill in either House of Parliament. The Bill must then be passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting. There is no provision for a joint sitting in case of disagreement between the two Houses. Total membership in this context has been defined to mean the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of any vacancies or absentees on any account vide Explanation to Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

The Bill, passed by the required majority, is then presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill. If the amendment seeks to make any change in any of the provisions mentioned in the proviso to article 368, it must be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States. These provisions relate to certain matters concerning the federal structure or of common interest to both the Union and the States viz., the election of the President (articles 54 and 55); the extent of the executive power of the Union and the States (articles 73 and 162); the High Courts for Union territories (article 241); The Union Judiciary and the High Courts in the States (Chapter IV of Part V and Chapter V of Part VI); the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States (Chapter I of Part XI and Seventh Schedule); the representation of States in Parliament; and the provision for amendment of the Constitution laid down in article 368. Ratification is done by a resolution passed by the State Legislatures. There is no specific time limit for the ratification of an amending Bill by the State Legislatures. However, the resolutions ratifying the proposed

amendment must be passed before the amending Bill is presented to the President for his assent.

**Note:** Any member of the House can initiate the Constitution Amendment Bill. It can be done only in the Parliament and not in State Legislature.

**THINK!**

- Joint Sitting
- Position of President in Constitution Amendment Bill

**Q.11) Indian President has got the power of 'Absolute Veto' i.e. he can withhold his assent to the bill passed by the Parliament. In which of the following cases can he use 'Absolute Veto'?**

1. With respect to Private Members' bill
2. With respect to the government bill when the cabinet has resigned.
3. With respect to the bill making changes in the name and boundary of a state.
4. With respect to a Constitutional Amendment Bill.

**Select the code from below:**

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

**Q.11) Solution (a)**

**Veto Power of Indian President:**

The veto power enjoyed by the executive in modern states can be classified into the following four types:

1. Absolute veto, that is, withholding of assent to the bill passed by the legislature.
2. Qualified veto, which can be overridden by the legislature with a higher majority.
3. Suspensive veto, which can be over ridden by the legislature with an ordinary majority.
4. Pocket veto, that is, taking no action on the bill passed by the legislature.

Of the above four, the President of India is vested with three—absolute veto, suspensive veto and pocket veto. There is no qualified veto in the case of Indian President; it is possessed by the American President.

**Absolute Veto**

It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act. Usually, this veto is exercised in the following two cases:

- (a) With respect to private members' bills (ie, bills introduced by any member of Parliament who is not a minister); and
- (b) With respect to the government bills when the cabinet resigns (after the passage of the bills but before the assent by the President) and the new cabinet advises the President not to give his assent to such bills.

**Do you know?**

In 1954, President Dr Rajendra Prasad withheld his assent to the PEPSU Appropriation Bill. The bill was passed by the Parliament when the President's Rule was in operation in the state of PEPSU. But, when the bill was presented to the President for his assent, the President's Rule was revoked.

Again in 1991, President R Venkataraman withheld his assent to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill. The bill was passed by the Parliament (on the last day before dissolution of Lok Sabha) without obtaining the previous recommendation of the President.

**THINK!**

- Money Bill
- Qualified Veto

**Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the Ordinance making power of President:**

1. An ordinance can be promulgated even if one house is in session.
2. If no action is taken by the parliament, the maximum life of an ordinance is six months and six weeks.
3. If the ordinance is approved by both the houses, it becomes an Act.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

- d) All of the above

**Q.12) Solution (d)**

**Ordinance making Power of President:**

He can promulgate an ordinance only when both the Houses of Parliament are not in session or when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session. An ordinance can also be issued when only one House is in session because a law can be passed by both the Houses and not by one House alone. An ordinance made when both the Houses are in session is void. Thus, the power of the President to legislate by ordinance is not a parallel power of legislation.

Every ordinance issued by the President during the recess of Parliament must be laid before both the Houses of Parliament when it reassembles. If the ordinance is approved by both the Houses, it becomes an act. If Parliament takes no action at all, the ordinance ceases to operate on the expiry of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament. The ordinance may also cease to operate even earlier than the prescribed six weeks, if both the Houses of Parliament pass resolutions disapproving it. If the Houses of Parliament are summoned to reassemble on different dates, the period of six weeks is calculated from the later of those dates. This means that the maximum life of an ordinance can be six months and six weeks, in case of non-approval by the Parliament (six months being the maximum gap between the two sessions of Parliament). If an ordinance is allowed to lapse without being placed before Parliament, then the acts done and completed under it, before it ceases to operate, remain fully valid and effective.

**THINK!**

- Legislative power of President on State Subjects

**Q.13) Which of the following constitutes the electoral college of Vice – President?**

1. Elected and nominated members of the Parliament.
2. Elected members of the State Legislatures
3. Elected members of Union territories of Delhi and Pondicherry

**Select the code from following:**

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

**Q.13) Solution (a)****Electoral College of Vice President**

The Vice-President, like the president, is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament. Thus, this Electoral College is different from the Electoral College for the election of the President in the following two respects:

1. It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of president, only elected members).
2. It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included).

**THINK!**

- Electoral College of President
- Indirect Elections in India

**Q.14) The Vice President of India can be removed by a resolution passed in Rajya Sabha by an absolute majority. According to constitution on what grounds can he be removed?**

- a) Violation of Constitution
- b) Discharged insolvent
- c) If he loses majority in Rajya Sabha
- d) None of the above

**Q.14) Solution (d)****TERM OF OFFICE**

The Vice-President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, he can resign from his office at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President. He can also be removed from the office before completion of his term. A formal impeachment is not required for his removal. He can be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by an absolute majority (ie, a majority of the total members of the House) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. But, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days' advance notice has been given. Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal.

The Vice-President can hold office beyond his term of five years until his successor assumes charge. He is also eligible for re-election to that office. He may be elected for any number of terms.



**THINK!**

- Impeachment of President
- Different between Vice President of India and America

**Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to Constitutional Amendment Bill:**

1. Such bill can be introduced by a private member, but require prior permission of the president.
2. There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament if there is a deadlock over the passage of such bill.
3. President cannot withhold his assent to such bill, he can only return the bill for reconsideration.

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

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

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

The procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 is as follows:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
2. The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.
3. The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
4. Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
5. If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
6. After duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.

7. The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
8. After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

**Q.16) Consider the below statements and identify the appropriate Constitutional Amendment Act which made the following changes in the constitution –**

1. It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right.
2. It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of co-operative societies.
3. It added a new Part IX-B in the constitution, entitled as "The Co-operative societies".

**Choose correct answer:**

- a) Ninety-Seventh Amendment Act, 2011
- b) Ninety-First Amendment Act, 2003
- c) Ninety-Fourth Amendment Act, 2006
- d) Eighty-Sixth Amendment Act, 2002

**Q.16) Solution (a)**

Ninety-Seventh Amendment Act, 2011 - Gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies.

In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:

1. It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right (Article 19).
2. It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of co-operative societies (Article 43-B).
3. It added a new Part IX-B in the constitution which is entitled as "The Co-operative societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).

**Q.17) The case of dispute in the presidential election is referred to**

- a) Chief Election Commissioner
- b) Supreme Court
- c) Parliament
- d) None of these

**Q.17) Solution (b)**

All doubts and disputes in connection with election of the President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision is final. The election of a person as President cannot be challenged on the ground that the electoral college was incomplete (ie, existence of any vacancy among the members of electoral college). If the election of a person as President is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him before the date of such declaration of the Supreme Court are not invalidated and continue to remain in force.

**Q.18) Consider the following statements with respect to vacancy in the President's office is going to be caused by the expiration of the term of the sitting President**

1. An election to fill the vacancy must be held before the expiration of the term.
2. In case of any delay in conducting the election of new President by any reason, the Vice-President gets an opportunity to act as President or to discharge the functions of the President.
3. In case the office of Vice-President is vacant, the Chief Justice of India (or if his office is also vacant, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court available) acts as the President or discharges the functions of the President.

**Choose the correct statement/s from below options:**

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

**Q.18) Solution (a)**

When the vacancy in the President's office is going to be caused by the expiration of the term of the sitting President, an election to fill the vacancy must be held before the expiration of the term.

In case of any delay in conducting the election of new President by any reason, the outgoing President continues to hold office (beyond his term of five years) until his successor assumes charge. This is provided by the Constitution in order to prevent an 'interregnum'. In this situation, the Vice-President does not get the opportunity to act as President or to discharge the functions of the President.

If the office falls vacant by resignation, removal, death or otherwise, then election to fill the vacancy should be held within six months from the date of the occurrence of such a

vacancy. The newly elected President remains in office for a full term of five years from the date he assumes charge of his office.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, removal, death or otherwise, the Vice-President acts as the President until a new President is elected. Further, when the sitting President is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-President discharges his functions until the President resumes his office.

In case the office of Vice-President is vacant, the Chief Justice of India (or if his office is also vacant, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court available) acts as the President or discharges the functions of the President.

**Q.19) Which among the following type of bills require prior recommendation or permission of the President to be introduced in the Parliament?**

1. a bill involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India
2. a bill for the alteration of boundaries of states
3. a bill for the creation of a new state

**Choose the appropriate answer:**

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

**Q.19) Solution (d)**

All the given bills – i.e., a bill involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, or a bill for the alteration of boundaries of states or creation of a new state – requires prior recommendation or permission from the President to be introduced in the Parliament.

**Do you know?**

- Money bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with President's prior recommendation.

**Q.20) Which among the following are correct with regard to Council of Ministers and Cabinet?**

1. Council of Ministers does not meet, as a body, to transact government business. It has no collective functions.

2. Cabinet meets, as a body, frequently and usually once in a week to deliberate and take decisions regarding the transaction of government business. Thus, it has collective functions.
3. Council of Ministers enforces the collective responsibility of the council of ministers to the Lower House of Parliament.
4. Cabinet is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Parliament.

**Choose the correct code from below options:**

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

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

Council of Ministers does not meet, as a body, to transact government business. It has no collective functions.

Cabinet meets, as a body, frequently and usually once in a week to deliberate and take decisions regarding the transaction of government business. Thus, it has collective functions.

Cabinet enforces the collective responsibility of the council of ministers to the Lower House of Parliament.

Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Parliament.

**Q.21) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are created by the Parliament on the Prime Minister.
2. Each of the Ministries is assigned to a Minister by the Prime Minister on the advice of the Cabinet Secretary.

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

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

**Q.21) Solution (d)**

The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

The business of the Government of India are transacted in the ministries/departments, secretariats and offices (referred to as "Department") as per the distribution of subjects specified in these Rules.

Each of the Ministry (ies) will be assigned to a Minister by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Each department will be generally under the charge of a Secretary to assist the Minister on policy matters and general administration.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements about 'Article 244A of the Indian Constitution'**

1. It provides for an autonomous state for certain tribal areas in Assam with its own legislature and council of ministers
2. It was inserted by the Twenty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.22) Solution (c)**

The Twenty-second Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as The Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969, inserted new article 244A in the Constitution to empower Parliament to enact a law for constituting an autonomous State within the State of Assam and also to provide the autonomous State with Legislature or a Council of Ministers or both with such powers and functions as may be defined by that law.

**Source (Do go through the editorial):**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/a-gorkhaland-west-bengal-could-live-with-darjeeling-protests-4726753/>

**Q.23) The term 'ISDS' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of trade. It refers to**

- a) Individual companies suing countries for alleged discriminatory practices
- b) Curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies
- c) Exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies
- d) Lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

**Q.23) Solution (a)**

Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which investors can sue countries for alleged discriminatory practices.

While ISDS is often associated with international arbitration under the rules of ICSID (the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank), it often takes place under the auspices of international arbitral tribunals governed by different rules or institutions, such as the London Court of International Arbitration, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre or the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

If an investor from one country (the "home state") invests in another country (the "host state"), both of which have agreed to ISDS, and the host state violates the rights granted to the investor under the treaty, then that investor may bring the matter before an arbitral tribunal.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/the-art-of-the-free-trade-agreement/article18733830.ece>

**Q.24) Consider the following statements about 'Portugal'**

- 1. It is the westernmost country of mainland Europe
- 2. It borders the Catalonia region of Spain
- 3. Tyrrhenian Sea is to the west of Portugal

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.24) Solution (a)**



It is a sovereign state located mostly on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe. It is the westernmost country of mainland Europe, being bordered to the west and south by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by Spain.

Its territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira, both autonomous regions with their own regional governments.

The Catalonia region is in north-eastern Spain.

Tyrrhenian Sea is part of the Mediterranean Sea off the western coast of Italy.



### THINK!

- Iberian Peninsula

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/narendra-modi-three-nation-tour-portugal-netherlands-usa/article19139448.ece>

**Q.25) With reference to 'The Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC)', consider following statements.**

1. It is an initiative of the European Union
2. 'Scientists without Borders' is led by the GSIAC
3. It is headquartered in Geneva

**Which of the following statements are *incorrect*?**

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

**Q.25) Solution (d)****The Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC)**

Malaysia is positioning itself to be a scientifically advanced nation pursuing socio-economic transformation and inclusive growth by 2020. Among the critical strategic thrusts in achieving this aspiration is advancing and mainstreaming Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at all levels and in all sectors while enhancing strategic international alliances. Recognizing the need to intensify domestic and international networks for research collaboration, strategic partnerships and business relationships, the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) was established and convened for the first time on 17 May 2011 in New York.

The GSIAC is chaired by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, The secretary is the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia with the support from Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) as the secretariat. The council consists of selected Malaysian Ministers, national and global corporate leaders, Nobel Laureates, eminent global academicians and researchers. The council meets once a year to deliberate on strategic and futurist matters that will benefit Malaysia in the long run.

'Scientists Without Borders' is a global partnership, led by the New York Academy of Sciences.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/a-job-at-hand/article9716989.ece>

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

1. The Indian Antarctic Program is under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. India has acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System and it has consulting status reserving the right to make a territorial claim

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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

**Q.26) Solution (a)**

The Indian Antarctic Program is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional program under the control of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

India officially acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System on 1 August 1983. On 12 September 1983, the country became the fifteenth Consultative Member of the Antarctic Treaty.

India's Status – Party with consulting status.

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude. The treaty entered into force in 1961 and currently has 53 parties. The treaty sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation and bans military activity on the continent. The treaty was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War. Since September 2004, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquarters has been located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**THINK!**

- Dakshin Gangotri
- Maitri
- Bharati

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/a-law-this-time-for-antarctica/article19128630.ece>