

Q.1) Which of the following committee was first to recommend constitutional status for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI)?

- a) G V K Rao Committee
- b) L M Singhvi Committee
- c) Ashok Mehta Committee
- d) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee

Q.1) Solution (c)

In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on Panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining Panchayati raj system in the country. **This committee was first to recommend the constitutional status for PRI.**

Do you know?

- **Gadgil Committee** became the **basis for drafting an amendment bill** aimed at conferring the constitutional status and protection to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

THINK!

- Ashok Mehta committee

Q.2) Consider the following recommendations about L M Singhvi Committee.

1. It recommended establishment of Nyaya Panchayats.
2. The judicial tribunals should be established in each state to adjudicate controversies about election to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on 'Revitalization of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development' under the chairmanship of L M Singhvi. It made the following recommendations.

- The Panchayati Raj institutions should be constitutionally recognized, protected and preserved. For this purpose, a new chapter should be added in the Constitution of India. This will make their identity and integrity reasonably and substantially inviolate. It also suggested constitutional provisions to ensure regular, free and fair elections to the Panchayati Raj bodies.
- **Nyaya Panchayats should be established for a cluster of villages.**
- The villages should be reorganized to make Gram Panchayats more viable. It also emphasised the importance of the Gram Sabha and called it as the embodiment of direct democracy.
- The Village Panchayats should have more financial resources.
- **The judicial tribunals should be established in each state to adjudicate controversies** about election to the Panchayati Raj institutions, their dissolution and other matters related to their functioning

Do you know?

- **Thungon Committee** was first to recommend a **state finance commission** should be set-up in each state. It would lay down the criteria and guidelines for the devolution of finances to the Panchayati Raj institutions

THINK!

- Gadgil committee recommendations.

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the significance of 73rd Constitutional amendment act?

1. The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution.
2. The act gives a constitutional status to the Panchayati raj institutions.
3. The act has brought PRIs under the purview of the justiciable part of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.3) Solution (a)**Significance of 73RD AMENDMENT ACT OF 1992**

This act has added a **new Part-IX to the Constitution of India**. This part is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. In addition, the act has also added a **new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution**. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.

The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which says that, "The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government." This article forms a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

The act gives a constitutional status to the panchayati raj institutions. It has brought them **under the purview of the justiciable part of the Constitution**. In other words, the state governments are under constitutional obligation to adopt the new panchayati raj system in accordance with the provisions of the act.

Do you know?

- The 73rd constitutional amendment act is a significant landmark in the evolution of grassroot democratic institutions in the country. **It transfers the representative democracy into participatory democracy**. It is a revolutionary concept to build democracy at the grassroot level in the country

THINK!

- Compulsory and voluntary provisions of 73rd CAA.

Q.4) Which of the following are the authorities of Municipal Corporation?

1. Council
2. Standing committee
3. Commissioner

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Municipal corporations are created for the administration of big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and others. They are established in the states by the acts of the concerned state legislatures, and in the union territories by the acts of the Parliament of India.

A municipal corporation has three authorities, namely, the council, the standing committees and the commissioner.

The Council is the deliberative and legislative wing of the corporation. It consists of the Councilors directly elected by the people, as well as a few nominated persons having knowledge or experience of municipal administration.

The standing committees are created to facilitate the working of the council, which is too large in size. They deal with public works, education, health, taxation, finance and so on. They take decisions in their fields.

The municipal commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the decisions taken by the council and its standing committees. Thus, he is the chief executive authority of the corporation.

Do you know?

- A notified area committee is created for the administration of two types of areas—a fast developing town due to industrialization, and a town which does not yet fulfil all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government. **It is neither an elected body nor a statutory body.**

THINK!

- Town area committee
- Cantonment board

Q.5) Which of the following are the Special Purpose Agency set up to undertake designated activities or specific functions that 'legitimately' belong to the domain of municipal corporations or municipalities or other local urban governments?

1. Town improvement trusts.
2. Urban development authorities.
3. Water supply and sewerage boards.
4. Housing boards.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q.5) Solution (d)

Special Purpose Agency

In addition to these seven area-based urban bodies (or multipurpose agencies), the states have set up certain agencies to undertake designated activities or specific functions that 'legitimately' belong to the domain of municipal corporations or municipalities or other local urban governments. In other words, these are function-based and not area-based. They are known as 'single purpose', 'uni-purpose' or 'special purpose' agencies or 'functional local bodies'. Some such bodies are:

- Town improvement trusts.
- Urban development authorities.
- Water supply and sewerage boards.
- Housing boards.
- Pollution control boards.
- Electricity supply boards.
- City transport boards.

Do you know?

There are five sources of income of the urban local bodies. These are as follows:

- Tax revenue
- Non-tax revenue
- Grants
- Devolution
- Loans

THINK!

- CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

1. The role of CAG is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
2. The Estimates Committee examines audit reports of CAG.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.6) Solution (a)

The role of CAG is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration. The accountability of the executive (i.e., council of ministers) to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the CAG. The CAG is an agent of the Parliament and conducts audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, he is responsible only to the Parliament.

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.**

Do you know?

- The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are **charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India**. Thus, they are not subject to the vote of Parliament.

THINK!

- Attorney General of India

Q.7) Consider the following statements.

1. The linguistic minorities are determined on a state-wise basis.
2. Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities is appointed by a committee headed by Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.7) Solution (a)

The Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the Constitution. This article contains the following provisions:

There should be a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. **He is to be appointed by the President of India.**

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.

A linguistic minority is a group of people whose mother tongue is different from that of the majority in the state or part of a state. **Thus, the linguistic minorities are determined on a state-wise basis.**

Do you know?

- At the Central level, the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities falls under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Hence, he submits the annual reports or other reports to the President through the Union Minority Affairs Minister.

THINK!

- Advocate General of states

Q.8) Who was the Prime Minister of India when Local Self Governments were made constitutional?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) V P Singh
- d) P V Narasimha Rao

Q.8) Solution (d)

73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act passed in 1992, when P V Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister of India.

Q.9) Which of the following statements are correct regarding reservation of seats in Panchayat?

1. 1/3rd seats are reserved for SCs and STs in every Panchayat.
2. The state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.
3. 1/3rd seats are reserved for women.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.9) Solution (b)**Reservation of Seats**

The act provides for the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in every panchayat (i.e., at all the three levels) in proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area. Further, the state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.

The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging the SCs and STs). Further, not less than one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.

The act also authorises the legislature of a state to make any provision for reservation of seats in any panchayat or offices of chairperson in the panchayat at any level in favour of backward classes.

Q.10) Which of the following statements are correct regarding State Finance Commission?

1. It recommends the distribution of proceeds of taxes between State and Panchayat.
2. It recommends for Grants in Aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State.
3. It recommends for Grants in Aid to Cooperative Societies in the State.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.10) Solution (a)

State Finance Commission

The governor of a state shall, after every five years, constitute a finance commission to review the financial position of the panchayats. It shall make the following recommendations to the Governor:

1. The principles that should govern:

(a) The distribution between the state and the panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied by the state.

(b) The determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees that may be assigned to the panchayats.

(c) The grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state.

2. The measures needed to improve the financial position of the panchayats.

3. Any other matter referred to it by the governor in the interests of sound finance of the panchayats.

Note: There is no devolution of funds to Cooperative Societies from the State Finance Commission. Cooperatives Societies are not covered under 73rd Constitution Amendment Act.

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. 73rd CAA made it mandatory for all the states to have Panchayati raj system except Jammu and Kashmir.

2. The Parliament has enacted the 'Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act', 1996 (PESA) to enact the Panchayati Raj in scheduled areas.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.11) Solution (b)

Exempted States and Areas

The 73rd CA act does not apply to the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and certain other areas. These areas include,

- (a) the scheduled areas and the tribal areas in the states;
- (b) the hill area of Manipur for which a district council exists; and
- (c) Darjeeling district of West Bengal for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists.

However, the Parliament may extend the provisions of this Part to the scheduled areas subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the 'Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act', 1996 (PESA).

Q.12) Which of the following is not a Voluntary Provision for States under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

- 1. Giving representation to members of the Parliament at different levels in Panchayat
- 2. Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.
- 3. Granting financial powers to the pachayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.
- 4. To perform some or all of the 29 functions listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Select the code form below:

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

- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above are voluntary provisions

Q.12) Solution (d)**Voluntary Provisions of 73rd CAA**

1. Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies.
2. Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.
3. Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government (in brief, making them autonomous bodies).
4. Devolution of powers and responsibilities upon panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice; and to perform some or all of the 29 functions listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
5. Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

Q.13) Which of the following statements are correct regarding District Planning Committee?

1. It is constituted to consolidate the plans made by Panchayats and Municipalities and make a common plan for the district.
2. Four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

District Planning Committee

Every state shall constitute at the district level, a district planning committee to consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. The state legislature may make provisions with respect to the following:

1. The composition of such committees;
2. The manner of election of members of such committees;
3. The functions of such committees in relation to district planning; and
4. The manner of the election of the chairpersons of such committees.

The act lays down that four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities in the district from amongst themselves. The representation of these members in the committee should be in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district.

The chairperson of such committee shall forward the development plan to the state government.

Q.14) Township is a type of urban government that is established by a large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Townships?

1. The enterprise appoints a town administrator to look after the administration of the township.
2. Administrator of a township is assisted by a council with half elected and half nominated members.

Select the code from following:

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

Q.14) Solution (a)

Township

This type of urban government is established by the large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant. The enterprise appoints a town administrator to look after the administration of the township. He is assisted by some engineers and other technical and non-technical staff. Thus, the township form of urban government has no elected members. In fact, it is an extension of the bureaucratic structure of the enterprises.

Q.15) Consider the following statements in accordance to Duration of panchayats:

1. Every panchayat shall continue for 5 yrs from the date of its 1st meeting.
2. It can be dissolved earlier in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution.
3. In case, it is dissolved earlier, elections must take place within 6 month of its dissolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.15) Solution (b)

Duration of panchayats

- Every panchayat shall continue for 5 yrs from the date of its 1st meeting.
- It can be dissolved earlier in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the state legislature (not Constitution, hence statement 2 is wrong).
- In case, it is dissolved earlier, elections must take place within 6 month of its dissolution.

Q.16) Consider the below statements and choose the correct one/s from the code given below:

1. The subject of 'Local Government' is mentioned in the State List under the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution.

2. State has to take steps to organize Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self government.

Code:

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

Q.16) Solution (b)

The subject of 'Local Government' is mentioned in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. (not in Eleventh and Twelfth Schedule, hence statement 1 is wrong)

Article 40 of the Constitution, under Directive Principles (DPSP), says that the state shall take steps to organize Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Q.17) Which one of the following statements with respect to Local Government in India, is correct?

- a) 33% of the seats in local bodies are reserved for women.
- b) According to the Indian Constitution, the local government is not an independent tier in the Federal system
- c) The grants-in-aid to Panchayats are from Consolidated fund of India.
- d) The state election commission may endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.

Q.17) Solution (a)

Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is wrong the local government is an independent tier in the Federal system

Statement 3 is wrong. The grants in aid to Panchayats are from Consolidated fund of State (not India).

Statement 4 is wrong. The state legislature may endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. Such a scheme may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to (a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice; (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to the 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Q.18) Consider the following statements in regard to local governments:

1. Mahatma Gandhi had strongly pleaded for decentralisation of economic and political power as strengthening village panchayats was a means of effective decentralization.
2. Mahatma Gandhi is known as Father of Local Self Government in India.

Which of the above given statement(s) is/are *incorrect*?

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

Q.18) Solution (b)

Lord Ripon is known to have granted the Indians first taste of freedom by introducing the Local Self Government in 1882. His scheme of local self government developed the Municipal institutions which had been growing up in the country ever since India was occupied by the British Crown. He led a series of enactments in which larger powers of the Local self government were given to the rural and urban bodies and the elective people received some wider rights.

Lord Ripon is known as Father of Local Self Government in India. This was not enacted by any act, it was a resolution that was passed in 1882.

Q.19) Which one among the below given bodies is not a statutory body?

- a) National Commission for SCs/STs
- b) National Commission for Women
- c) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- d) National Commission for Backward Classes

Q.19) Solution (a)

National Commission for Schedules Castes (SCs) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) are constitutional bodies in the sense that they are directly established by Article 338 and Article 338-A of the Constitution respectively.

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.

Q.20) Which among the following is set up by the legislation enacted by the Central Government?

- a) Municipality
- b) Notified Area Committee
- c) Cantonment Board
- d) Town Area Committee

Q.20) Solution (c)

A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for civilian population in the cantonment area.

It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006—a legislation enacted by the Central government. It works under the administrative control of the defence ministry of the Central government.

Thus, unlike the other four types of urban local bodies (i.e., Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Notified Area Committee and Town Area Committee) which are created and administered by the state government, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.

Q.21) Which among the below given statement(s) is/are correct about Panchayat system in India?

1. The provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas and Sixth Schedule areas.
2. PESA was enacted to extend the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to Scheduled Areas and Tribal areas.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.21) Solution (a)

The provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas. However, the Parliament may extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify.

Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the "Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.

PESA, as the name says the extension is with regard to Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule Areas) and not Tribal areas (under Sixth Schedule)

Q.22) Recently constituted N Gopalaswami Committee is associated with

- a) Institute of National Importance
- b) Institutes of Eminence
- c) National Education Policy
- d) Restructuring and Strengthening of the Technical Education

Q.22) Solution (b)

N Gopalaswami has been appointed chairperson of the empowered expert committee (EEC) that will be the final authority to select 20 "institutes of eminence".

Q.23) Which of the following statements about United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is/are correct?

1. It is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict
2. UNRWA provides aid only in Palestine and Lebanon
3. It allows refugee status to be inherited by descendants

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

- Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.
- In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2017.
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.
- UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.
- The Agency's services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.
- Aid is provided in five areas of operation: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; aid for Palestinian refugees outside these five areas is provided by UNHCR.

UNRWA & UNHCR

- UNRWA is the only agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR.
- Formed in 1950, UNHCR is the main UN refugee agency, which is responsible for aiding other refugees all over the world.

- Unlike UNRWA, UNHCR has a specific mandate to aid its refugees to eliminate their refugee status by local integration in current country, resettlement in a third country or repatriation when possible.
- Both UNRWA and UNHCR allow refugee status to be inherited by descendants.

Do You Know?

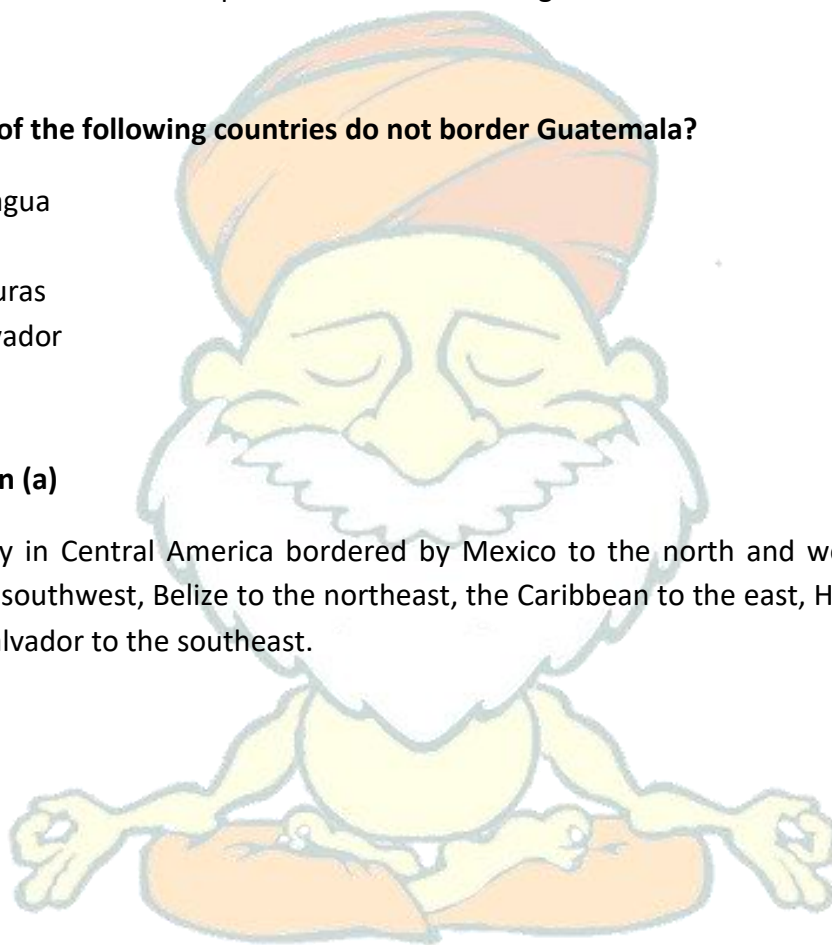
- India pledged \$1.25 million humanitarian assistance to UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) in 2016.
- India's support to UNRWA is in contrast to U.S. policy to the organisation as President Donald Trump has announced slashing of American funds to UNRWA.

Q.23) Which of the following countries do not border Guatemala?

- a) Nicaragua
- b) Belize
- c) Honduras
- d) El Salvador

Q.23) Solution (a)

It is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, Belize to the northeast, the Caribbean to the east, Honduras to the east and El Salvador to the southeast.





Q.24) Consider the following statements about Coal Bed Methane (CBM)

1. It is a sour gas
2. It is high amount of hydrogen sulphide
3. It is explored and exploited under the provisions of OIL Fields (Regulation & Development) Act 1948

Select the INCORRECT statements

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

Q.24) Solution (a)

Coal Bed Methane (CBM)

- It is a clean energy source extracted from coal seams.
- It refers to methane adsorbed into the solid matrix of the coal.
- It is called 'sweet gas' because of its lack of hydrogen sulphide.
- The presence of this gas is well known from its occurrence in underground coal mining, where it presents a serious safety risk.

- Coalbed methane is distinct from a typical sandstone or other conventional gas reservoir, as the methane is stored within the coal by a process called adsorption.
- The methane is in a near-liquid state, lining the inside of pores within the coal (called the matrix).
- The open fractures in the coal (called the cleats) can also contain free gas or can be saturated with water.
- CBM being Natural Gas is explored and exploited under the provisions of OIL Fields (Regulation & Development) Act 1948 (ORD Act 1948) and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules 1959 (P&NG Rules 1959) administered by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG).

In a bid to incentivize production, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had approved a new policy

- The new policy allows contractors to sell CBM at arm's length price in the domestic market.
- The contractor, while discovering the market price for arm's length sales, has to ensure a fully transparent and competitive process for sale of CBM with the objective that the best possible price is realized for the gas without any restrictive commercial practices

Do You Know?

- Sour Gas is a natural gas or any other gas that has significant amounts of H₂S
- Sweet Gas is a natural gas that doesn't contain Hydrogen Sulphide [H₂S] or significant quantities of CO₂

THINK

- Acid Gas

Q.25) Consider the following statements about 'Global 200'

1. It is the list of ecoregions identified by IUCN
2. A conservation status is assigned to each ecoregion in the Global 200: critical or endangered; vulnerable; and relatively stable or intact

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (b)

The Global 200 is the list of ecoregions identified by WWF, the global conservation organization, as priorities for conservation. According to WWF, an ecoregion is defined as a "relatively large unit of land or water containing a characteristic set of natural communities that share a large majority of their species dynamics, and environmental conditions". So, for example, based on their levels of endemism, Madagascar gets multiple listings, ancient Lake Baikal gets one, and the North American Great Lakes get none.

The WWF assigns a conservation status to each ecoregion in the Global 200: critical or endangered; vulnerable; and relatively stable or intact. Over half of the ecoregions in the Global 200 are rated endangered.

Read More - <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/global-200>

