

Q.1) Which of the following is not a compulsory provision of 73rd amendment of the constitution?

- a) Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level
- b) Reservation of one-third seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all the three levels.
- c) Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels.
- d) Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats.

Q.1) Solution (a)

Compulsory Provisions

- Organisation of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages.
- Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
- Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
- Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels.
- 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.
- Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all the three levels.
- Reservation of one-third seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all the three levels.
- Fixing tenure of five years for panchayats at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat.
- Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting elections to the panchayats.
- Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats.

Voluntary Provisions

- 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.
- Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.

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- Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government (in brief, making them autonomous bodies).
- 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.
- Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

Q.2) What does Hague Code of Conduct represents?

- a) Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation which are capable of delivering Weapons of Mass Destruction
- b) Civil aspects of International child abduction
- c) Amendment of the Warsaw Convention
- d) International registration of industrial designs

Q.2) Solution (a)

The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), was established on 25 November 2002 as an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

The HCOC is the result of international efforts to regulate access to ballistic missiles which can potentially deliver weapons of mass destruction. The HCOC is the only multilateral code in the area of disarmament which has been adopted over the last years. It is the only normative instrument to verify the spread of ballistic missiles. The HCOC does not ban ballistic missiles, but it does call for restraint in their production, testing, and export.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding 'Karewas':

1. Karewas are found in the Western Ghats
2. They are famous for areca nut and litchi production.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

Karewa soils are the lacustrine deposits in the Kashmir valleys and Bhadarwah valley. The fine silt, clay, and boulder gravels are the composition of Karewa soil. They are characterized with the fossils. These soils are mainly devoted to the cultivation of saffron, almonds, apple, walnut etc.

Q.4) Which of the following Biosphere reserves in India is the latest addition under UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves?

- a) Achnakmar Amarkantak
- b) Agasthamalai
- c) Nandadevi
- d) Khangchendzonga

Q.4) Solution (d)

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/khangchendzonga-biosphere-reserve-enters-unesco-list/article24659847.ece>

Q.5) Bangkok Agreement, which was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP, has been rechristened as –

- a) ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)
- b) BIMSTEC
- c) Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
- d) BBIN Corridor

Q.5) Solution (c)

Bangkok Agreement, signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP, has been rechristened as Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA). It is a preferential tariff arrangement that aims at promoting intra-regional trade through exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.

APTA has six members namely Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka. ESCAP functions as the secretariat for the Agreement.