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Compiled by Arvind KrS

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PRELIMS RESEARCH | GS PAPER 1 | INDIAN POLITY

UPSC Prelims Research: Indian Polity 2026

All 11 Indian Polity questions of UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026, General Studies Paper 1, with the correct answer and an explanation of every option.

Q. Mr. X, a senior officer, was overseeing a critical vaccination programme during a pandemic. He found that a private service provider responsible for vaccine distribution was compromising on quality to make profits. Despite immense pressure to manage the issue due to vested interests, he raised his voice based on the principles of public administration which he learnt during various training programmes attended across his career. He reported the issue to the appropriate vigilance authority and halted the contract to ensure citizen welfare.

Which one among the following principles of public administration was most strongly demonstrated by Mr. X's actions?

(a) Esprit de corps
(b) Equity
(c) Accountability
(d) Delegation

Answer: (c) Accountability

Accountability in public administration

- **Accountability** means that a public official is **answerable for the use of public power and resources** and for the **results** of the programmes under his or her charge, to superiors, oversight bodies, the legislature and ultimately to **citizens**.
- Mr. X's actions show accountability on several levels:
  - He took **responsibility for the outcome** of the vaccination programme (quality vaccines reaching citizens), not merely for following procedure.
  - He **reported the wrongdoing to the vigilance authority**, the proper channel of answerability, instead of hiding or settling it informally.

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- He **halted the contract** to protect **public welfare** and public money, resisting **vested interests**. This also reflects **integrity** and **courage of conviction**, which support accountability.

Why the other options are not the best fit

- **Esprit de corps** (one of **Henri Fayol's 14 principles of management**) means **team spirit and harmony** within an organisation. Mr. X acted against a contractor and vested interests; his conduct is about answerability, not team morale.
- **Equity** means **fair and just treatment** of all, with special care for the disadvantaged (also a Fayol principle). The case is about quality failure and corruption, not unequal treatment of citizens or employees.
- **Delegation** means **assigning authority and tasks to subordinates** while retaining overall responsibility. Mr. X did not delegate anything; he acted directly.

Q. In a multi-ethnic district where both economic competition and historical grievances frequently led to community tensions, a flashpoint has arisen with a Government decision to allocate land for a waste management facility near a tribal hamlet, sparking protests by the tribal community, which claimed that the land was sacred and critical to their cultural identity. At the same time, urban residents and local industries supported the project, citing severe solid waste challenges and health concerns due to lack of a proper disposal site. The conflict has escalated with road blockades, social media campaigns, and allegations of police excesses. As a responsible Government official, you are tasked with resolving the situation through mediation, ensuring a sustainable outcome that balances environmental needs, tribal rights, and urban public health.

Consider the following statements with reference to the above:

1. A successful conflict resolution process must begin with acknowledging the cultural concerns of the protesting tribal community before discussing technical alternatives.

2. The Government should move ahead with the project without delay to address urban health concerns, which outweigh the sentiments of a small group.

3. Creating a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform- including tribal leaders, environmental experts, and municipal representatives – to build mutual understanding and help de-escalate tensions.

4. Conducting an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and sharing findings transparently with both sides to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

Which of the statements given above would contribute to the resolution process?

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

> **Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only**

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Principles of conflict resolution through mediation

- **Statement 1 contributes**: mediation begins with **acknowledging the grievance** of the aggrieved party. Recognising that the land is **sacred and central to tribal identity** builds trust, lowers hostility and makes the community willing to discuss technical options (alternative sites, design changes, buffer zones).
    - It also respects the constitutional and legal framework protecting tribal interests: **Article 46** (promotion of the interests of the weaker sections, especially SCs and STs), the **Fifth Schedule** where applicable, the **Forest Rights Act, 2006** (community rights over traditional and cultural sites) and the **PESA Act, 1996** (consent of the Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas). The Supreme Court's **Niyamgiri judgment (2013)** recognised the role of Gram Sabhas in protecting religious and cultural rights of tribals.
- **Statement 2 does not contribute**: pushing the project **without dialogue** treats the issue as a simple majority-versus-minority calculation and dismisses the tribal community as 'a small group'. It would **escalate** the conflict, deepen historical grievances and may violate legal safeguards. Urban health matters, but a **sustainable** outcome needs consent, not coercion.
- **Statement 3 contributes**: a **multi-stakeholder dialogue platform** brings tribal leaders, experts and municipal representatives to one table. This is the core of **participatory and consensus-based governance**, it **de-escalates** tension and allows joint problem solving.
- **Statement 4 contributes**: an **independent ESIA** with **transparent sharing of findings** replaces rumours and suspicion with **evidence**. It helps both sides judge the real environmental, health and cultural impact and the merits of alternatives.
- Ethical values involved: **empathy and compassion** towards the weaker section, **impartiality** between groups, **transparency**, **rule of law** and **sustainable development** (balancing environment, rights and public health).

Q. Ms. X is a mid-level civil service official working in the urban development department of a major city. Recently, she was involved in approving a contract for a public infrastructure project a new community park. During the approval process, she received a piece of confidential information indicating that one of the shortlisted contractors had a history of poor workmanship and allegations of corruption in other cities, though nothing had been legally proven. The Head of the Department, Mr. Y, advised her not to disclose this information to the project committee or the public because it could delay the project and damage the city's reputation. However, Ms. X believed that withholding such information compromised transparency and public trust.

What amongst the following should Ms. X do now?

1. Immediately disclose the information to the project committee and the public

2. Recommend removing the contractor from the shortlist to protect the project's integrity

3. Propose a 'limited disclosure' to an oversight committee, while keeping the information confidential from the public for the time being

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 3 only

Balancing transparency, confidentiality and fairness

- Ms. X faces a conflict between **transparency and public trust** on one side, and **confidentiality, due process and fairness to the contractor** on the other. Her superior's advice to hide the information altogether is not acceptable, because it puts **reputation and speed above integrity** in the use of public money.
- **Option 3 is the appropriate course:** a **limited disclosure to an oversight committee** (for example, the vigilance or tender evaluation committee) ensures that those who decide the contract know the **material risk**, can **verify** the allegations, and can seek clarifications or additional safeguards (performance guarantees, closer quality checks).
  - It keeps the information **confidential from the public** until it is verified, which protects the contractor from **reputational damage based on unproven allegations** and respects the **presumption of innocence**.
  - It follows proper **institutional channels**, consistent with the **Central Vigilance Commission's** guidance on transparency in public procurement and with the principle that information is shared on a **need-to-know** basis.
- **Option 1 is inappropriate**: immediately disclosing **confidential, unverified** information to the **public** may breach official confidentiality, invite **defamation** claims and prejudge the contractor without due process.
- **Option 2 is inappropriate:** recommending **removal from the shortlist** on the basis of allegations that are **not legally proven** would be **arbitrary**, could violate the **equality and non-arbitrariness** principle of **Article 14** in public procurement, and could be challenged in court. The decision should follow verification by the competent committee.
- Values reflected: **integrity, transparency, objectivity, fairness, accountability** and **courage** to differ with a superior through proper channels.

Q. X was addressing a seminar on the meaning of the term 'law' as provided under Article 13, Part III of the Constitution of India. X explained that the meaning of the term 'law' in the Constitution of India was very comprehensive. It included ordinances, orders and even rules and regulations. Y pointed out that the term 'law' in Article 13 also included custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law, to which X was not convinced.

Based on the above, select the correct conclusion from the options given below:

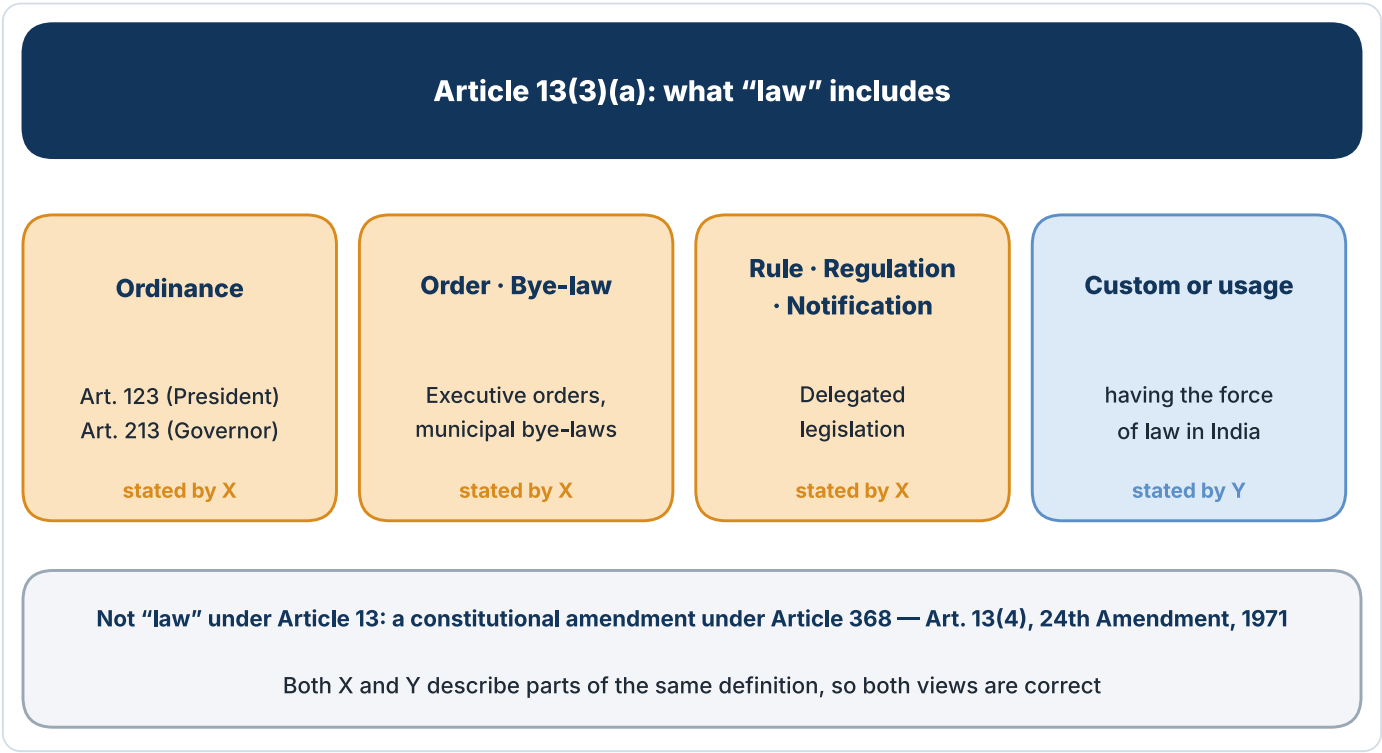
(a) X is correct in the interpretation of law, including the view on non-inclusion of custom.
(b) The view of Y that 'law' included custom is not correct.

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(c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
(d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.

Answer: (c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.

Article 13: Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the Fundamental Rights



What "law" includes under Article 13(3)(a)

- **Article 13** makes the Fundamental Rights **justiciable**. It declares that any law that is inconsistent with or takes away a Fundamental Right is **void to the extent of the inconsistency**. It is the textual basis of **judicial review** of laws on the ground of violation of Part III.
- **Article 13(1)**: all **pre-constitutional laws** in force before 26 January 1950 are void to the extent they are inconsistent with Part III (**doctrine of eclipse** applies to them).
- **Article 13(2)**: the State shall not make any law that takes away or abridges the Fundamental Rights; a **post-constitutional law** made in contravention is **void ab initio** to that extent.
- **Article 13(3)(a)** gives the **wide definition of 'law'**: it **includes any Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law**.
  - So 'law' under Article 13 covers not only **Acts of Parliament and State Legislatures** but also **delegated legislation** (orders, bye-laws, rules, regulations, notifications), **Ordinances** (temporary laws made by the President or Governor) and **non-legislative sources** such as **custom or usage** that has the force of law.
  - **Article 13(3)(b)**: 'laws in force' include laws passed by a competent legislature before the commencement of the Constitution and not previously repealed.
- **Article 13(4)** (added by the **24th Amendment Act, 1971**): nothing in Article 13 applies to an **amendment of the Constitution made under Article 368**. In **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)** the Supreme Court upheld this, but held that an amendment can still be struck down if it violates the **basic structure**.

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Evaluating the views of X and Y

- **View of X is correct as far as it goes**: X said that 'law' is very comprehensive and includes **ordinances, orders, rules and regulations**. All four are expressly listed in Article 13(3)(a).
- **View of Y is correct**: Y added that 'law' also includes **custom or usage having the force of law**. This too is expressly listed in Article 13(3)(a). Hence a custom that violates a Fundamental Right (for example, a discriminatory customary practice) can be declared void.
- X's doubt about custom is only his reaction to Y, not part of the definition X gave. Both statements of the definition, that of X and that of Y, match the constitutional text, so **option (c)** is the correct conclusion.

Why the other options are incorrect

- **Option (a)** is incorrect because it treats X's **non-inclusion of custom** as correct. Custom or usage is clearly included in Article 13(3)(a).
- **Option (b)** is incorrect because Y's view that 'law' includes custom is exactly what the Constitution says.
- **Option (d)** is incorrect because X's explanation that 'law' includes ordinances, orders, rules and regulations is also correct, so it is not only Y who is right.

Included in 'law' under Article 13(3)(a)	Example
Ordinance	Ordinance promulgated by the President (Art. 123) or a Governor (Art. 213)
Order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification	Rules framed under an Act; municipal bye-laws; government notifications
Custom or usage having the force of law	A customary practice that is enforced as law in a region or community
Not included (Art. 13(4))	A constitutional amendment under Article 368 (tested only on the basic structure)

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India:

1. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Constitution of India will be officially called the 'Constitution of India'.

2. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935 stand repealed.

3. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that mentions 26th January, 1950 as the date of the commencement of the Constitution of India.

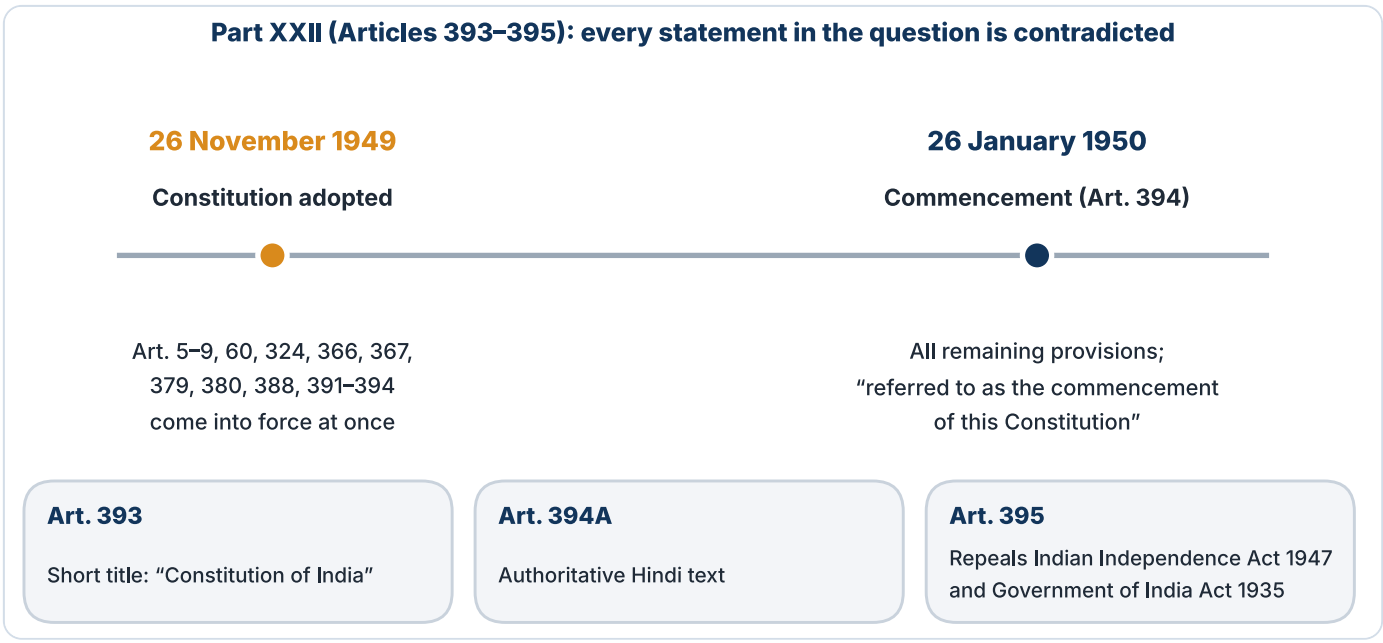
Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

(a) All three statements are correct.
(b) There is no correct statement.
(c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
(d) There is only one correct statement.

> **Answer: (b) There is no correct statement.**

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Part XXII: Short Title, Commencement, Authoritative Text in Hindi and Repeals



Part XXII: Articles 393 to 395 and the two dates

- **Part XXII (Articles 393 to 395)** is the last Part of the Constitution. It deals with the name of the Constitution, the date it came into force, the authoritative Hindi text and the repeal of earlier enactments.
- **Article 393 (Short title):** "**This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India.**" Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- **Article 394 (Commencement):** Article 394 itself and Articles **5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393** came into force **at once, on 26 November 1949**. The **remaining provisions came into force on 26 January 1950**, "which day is referred to in this Constitution as the **commencement of this Constitution**". Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.
  - 26 January was chosen because on that day in **1930** the Indian National Congress had observed **Purna Swaraj Day**, following the Lahore Session resolution of December 1929.
- **Article 394A (Authoritative text in Hindi)**: added by the **58th Amendment Act, 1987**. The President is to publish the Hindi translation of the Constitution, which becomes its authoritative text in Hindi.
- **Article 395 (Repeals)**: "The **Indian Independence Act, 1947**, and the **Government of India Act, 1935**, together with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act, but not including the Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949, are hereby **repealed**." Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
  - By repealing the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the framers broke the **legal continuity** with the British Parliament, so that the Constitution derives its authority from the people of India and not from a British statute (**autochthony**).
- Since all three statements are incorrect, there is **no correct statement**.

Article	Provision	Statement it disproves
393	Short title: "Constitution of India"	Statement 1
394	Commencement: some Articles on 26 Nov 1949; the rest on 26 Jan 1950	Statement 3
394A	Authoritative text in Hindi (58th Amendment, 1987)	-
395	Repeal of the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the GoI Act, 1935	Statement 2

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Q. Which of the following statements with regard to the persons with disabilities in India is/are correct?

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2016, mandates reservation in education and employment, places a legal duty on Governments to ensure accessibility and non-discrimination.

2. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan focuses on achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across three key domains built infrastructure, transport systems and information and communication technology.

3. The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) is a public sector organisation set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a not-for-profit company to promote entrepreneurship among Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016

- The **RPwD Act, 2016** replaced the **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**. It was enacted to give effect to the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, which India ratified in **2007**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- Key features:
  - The number of recognised disabilities was raised from **7 to 21**, including acid attack victims, Parkinson's disease, thalassaemia, haemophilia, sickle cell disease, autism spectrum disorder and specific learning disabilities. The Central Government can add more.
  - **Benchmark disability**: a person with **not less than 40%** of a specified disability.
  - **Reservation in government jobs** raised from 3% to **4%** for persons with benchmark disabilities, and **not less than 5%** of seats in government and government-aided **higher educational institutions**.
  - Every child with benchmark disability between **6 and 18 years** has the right to **free education**.
  - **Duty of accessibility**: the appropriate Government must make **public buildings, transport and information and communication technology accessible** within the time limits laid down.
  - **Non-discrimination**: no person with disability shall be discriminated against on the ground of disability; establishments cannot dispense with or reduce the rank of an employee who acquires a disability during service.
  - **Institutions**: a **Chief Commissioner** and **State Commissioners** for Persons with Disabilities act as regulators and grievance redressal agencies; **Special Courts** in each district try offences under the Act.

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Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)

- Launched on **3 December 2015** (International Day of Persons with Disabilities) by the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is a nationwide campaign for **universal accessibility**, organised around **three verticals**: **built environment** (government buildings, public spaces), **transportation system** (airports, railway stations, buses) and **information and communication technology (ICT) ecosystem** (government websites, public documents, sign language interpreters for TV). Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)

- The NDFDC was set up on **24 January 1997** by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Government of India, as a **company not for profit** (under **Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956**, now Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). It now works under the **DEPwD**.
- It provides **concessional loans** for **self-employment, skill development and higher education** of persons with disabilities, mainly through **State Channelising Agencies** and banks.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the NDFDC was **not set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs**. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs only administers the Companies Act under which such companies are registered; the administrative ministry of the NDFDC is the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

Q. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India:

1. Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

2. Some tribes of India are entitled to exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes.

3. The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

(a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
(b) There are two correct statements, that are statements 1 and 3.
(c) There is only one correct statement.
(d) All three statements are correct.

> **Answer: (a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.**

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Fifth and Sixth Schedules

- **Article 244(1)** and the **Fifth Schedule** deal with the administration and control of **Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes** in any State **other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. At present Scheduled Areas exist in **ten States**: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
  - The **Governor** reports to the President on the administration of Scheduled Areas, and the State has a **Tribes Advisory Council** of up to 20 members, three-fourths of whom are ST members of the State Legislative Assembly.



Fifth Schedule States and Sixth Schedule States

- **Article 244(2)** and **Article 275(1)**, with the **Sixth Schedule**, provide for the administration of **Tribal Areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** through **Autonomous District Councils** and Regional Councils with legislative, executive, judicial and financial powers.
- So the tribal areas of these four States are governed by the **Sixth Schedule**, not the Fifth Schedule. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.

Income Tax exemption for Scheduled Tribes

- Under **Section 10(26) of the Income-tax Act, 1961**, income of a **member of a Scheduled Tribe** residing in specified tribal areas of **Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim** and the **Union Territory of Ladakh** is exempt from income tax, if the income **arises from sources in those areas** or is by way of **dividend or interest on securities**.
  - The exemption is not available to all tribes everywhere; it depends on **residence** and the **source** of income. Hence '**some tribes**' on '**certain incomes**': **statement 2 is correct**.
  - The **Sikkim** exemption is in Section 10(26AAA) and covers individuals domiciled in Sikkim.

Reservation for SC and ST women in Panchayats

- **Article 243D(1)**: seats are reserved for the **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes** in every Panchayat in proportion to their population.
- **Article 243D(2)**: **not less than one-third** of the seats reserved under clause (1) shall be **reserved for women belonging to the SCs or the STs**.

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- **Article 243D(3)**: not less than one-third of the total seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat (including the seats reserved for SC and ST women) shall be reserved for women. **Article 243D(4)** applies similar reservation to the offices of **Chairpersons**.
- So the Constitution itself provides reservation for SC and ST women in Panchayats. Hence **statement 3 is correct**. Article 243T makes the same provision for **Municipalities**.

Statement	Provision	Verdict
1	Tribal Areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram: Sixth Schedule (Art. 244(2))	Incorrect
2	Section 10(26), Income-tax Act: ST members in specified NE areas and Ladakh	Correct
3	Article 243D(2): one-third of SC/ST seats for SC/ST women	Correct

---

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the Parliament of India:

1. Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires an oral answer in the House.

2. Starred questions are those to which a Member desires a written answer.

3. No supplementary question can be asked on an unstarred question.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

(a) All the three statements are correct.
(b) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
(c) There is only one correct statement.
(d) There is no correct statement.

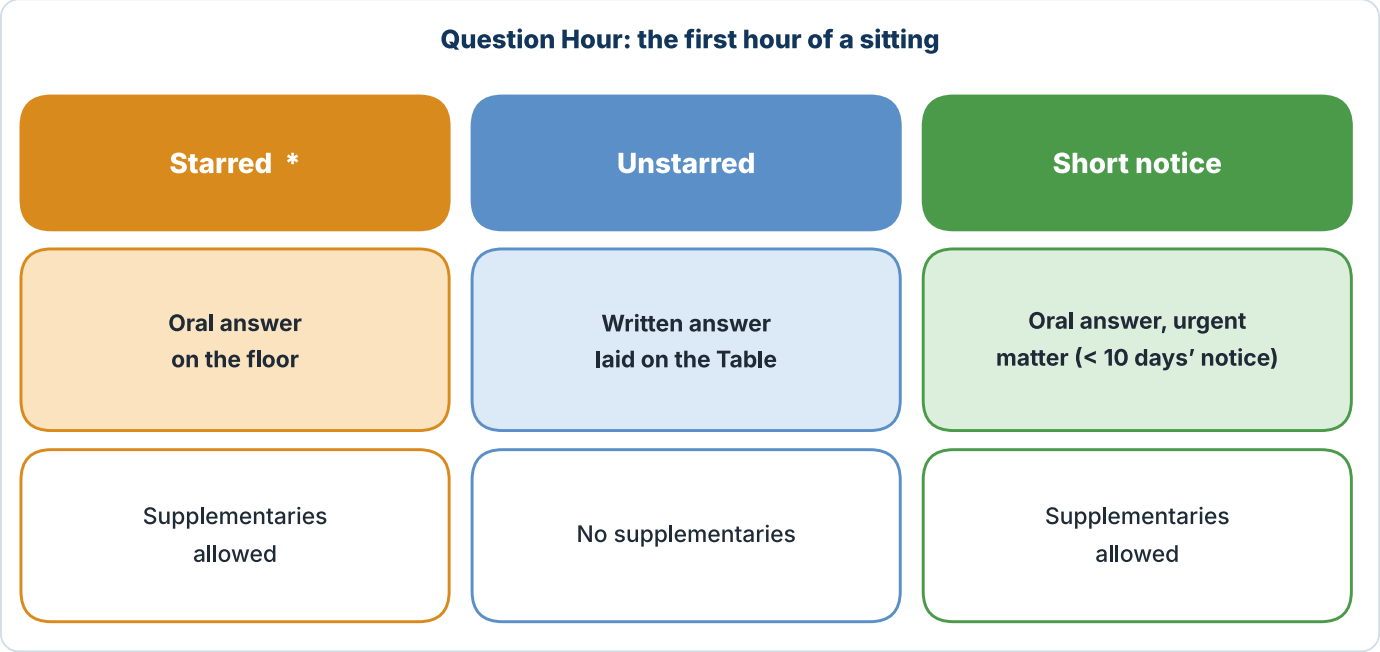
> **Answer: (c) There is only one correct statement.**

Question Hour

- The **first hour of every sitting** of both Houses of Parliament is normally the **Question Hour**. Members ask questions and Ministers answer them, which is a key instrument of **executive accountability to Parliament**. The rules are in the **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha** (Rules 32 to 54) and the corresponding Rajya Sabha rules.
- Kinds of questions:
  - **Starred question**: distinguished by an **asterisk**. The Member wants an **oral answer** on the floor of the House, and **supplementary questions can be asked** on it. In Lok Sabha up to **20 starred questions** are listed for oral answer each day.
  - **Unstarred question**: the Member wants a **written answer**, which is laid on the Table of the House. **No supplementary questions** can be asked. Up to **230 unstarred questions** can be listed for a day in Lok Sabha.
  - **Short notice question**: asked on a matter of **urgent public importance** with **less than 10 days' notice**; it is answered **orally** and supplementaries may follow. Its admission depends on the Speaker and the Minister's readiness to answer.

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- **Question to a private Member**: addressed to a Member who is not a Minister, on a Bill, resolution or other matter for which that Member is responsible.



Kinds of questions in Parliament

Evaluating the statements

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**: an unstarred question gets a **written** answer, not an oral one.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**: a starred question gets an **oral** answer, not a written one. Statements 1 and 2 have interchanged the two definitions.
- **Statement 3 is correct**: since an unstarred question is answered in writing, **no supplementary question** can arise from it.

Type	Mark	Answer	Supplementaries
Starred	Asterisk (*)	Oral, in the House	Allowed
Unstarred	None	Written, laid on the Table	Not allowed
Short notice	-	Oral (urgent matter, less than 10 days' notice)	Allowed

---

Q. Consider the following statements about the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Parliament of India:

1. Although members of this Committee are elected from both Houses of Parliament, the Chairperson of this Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

2. Twenty members are elected by the Rajya Sabha and ten members by the Lok Sabha.

3. No Minister, except for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, is eligible to be a member of this Committee.

4. Members are elected for a fixed term of two years from the date they enter their office.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

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(a) There are four correct statements.
(b) There is only one correct statement, that is statement 2.
(c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 1.
(d) There is no correct statement.

> **Answer: (d) There is no correct statement.**

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- It is a **joint committee** of Parliament, first constituted in **1968** (in the Fourth Lok Sabha), replacing the separate committees on the welfare of SCs and STs. It works under the **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha** (Rules 331B to 331N).
- **Composition**: **30 members**: **20 from the Lok Sabha** and **10 from the Rajya Sabha**, elected every year from among their members according to **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote**. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect** (the numbers are reversed).
- **Chairperson**: appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** from among the members of the Committee, because it is a Lok Sabha-led joint committee. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- **Ministers**: **a Minister is not eligible to be elected** to the Committee, and if a member becomes a Minister he or she ceases to be a member. There is no exception for the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.
- **Term**: members hold office for **one year**, since the Committee is constituted afresh every year. Hence **statement 4 is incorrect**.
- **Functions**:
  - To examine the **reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes** and the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**.
  - To examine the **measures taken by the Union Government** (including in Union Territories) for the welfare of SCs and STs, and to report on them.
  - To examine the working of **welfare programmes** and the **representation of SCs and STs in services and posts** under the Union, public sector undertakings and statutory bodies.

Feature	Correct position	Statement
Chairperson	Appointed by the Speaker, Lok Sabha	1: Incorrect
Members	30: 20 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha	2: Incorrect
Ministers	No Minister can be a member	3: Incorrect
Term	One year	4: Incorrect

Q. Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct?

1. A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of a cognizable/non-cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.

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2. The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.

3. Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.

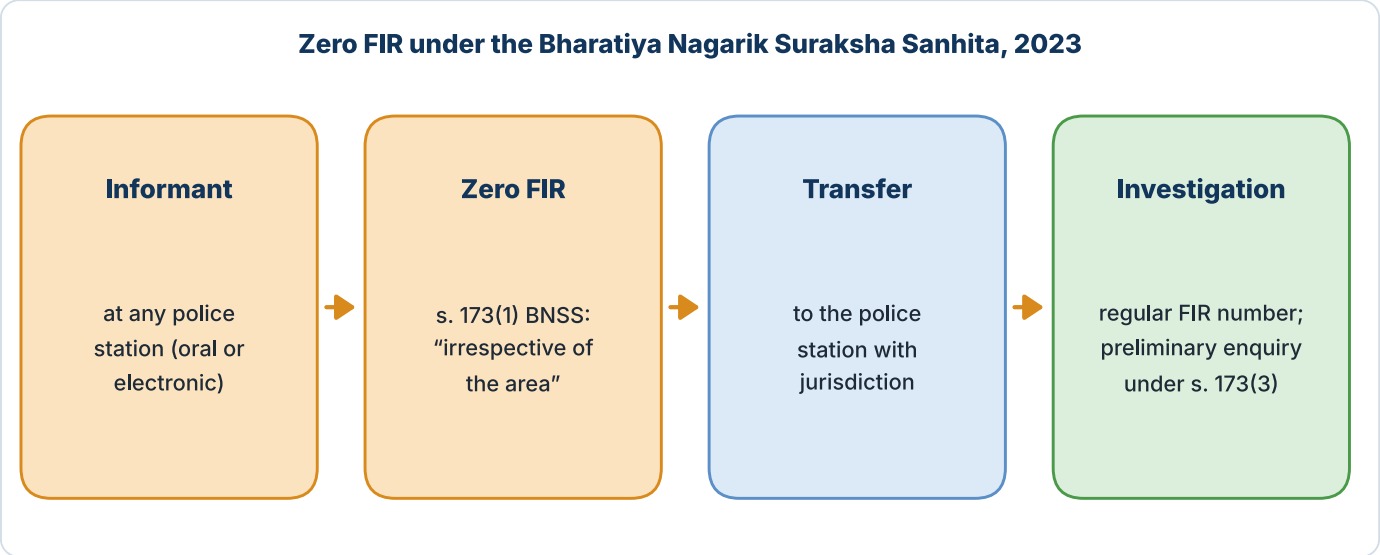
Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 1 only

Zero FIR under the BNSS, 2023

- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** replaced the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** from **1 July 2024**. **Section 173** of the BNSS (corresponding to Section 154 CrPC) deals with information in cognizable cases.
- **Section 173(1)**: every information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence, **irrespective of the area where the offence is committed**, may be given **orally or by electronic communication** to the officer in charge of a police station. This gives **statutory recognition to the Zero FIR**, which earlier existed only through court rulings and the **Justice Verma Committee (2013)** recommendations.
- 'Zero' refers to the fact that the FIR is first registered **without a regular serial number** (as number zero). It is then **transferred to the police station having jurisdiction**, which registers it under its own number and investigates.
- **Purpose**: a victim, especially in cases of crimes against women and children, should not be turned away on the ground of jurisdiction, and **no time is lost** in recording the offence and preserving evidence.



How a Zero FIR moves to the competent police station

Evaluating the statements

- **Statement 1 is correct**: the very purpose of a Zero FIR is that it can be lodged at **any police station**, even if the offence was committed outside its territorial jurisdiction. (Strictly, an FIR is registered for

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cognizable offences; for non-cognizable offences only an entry is made in the daily diary under Section 174 BNSS.)

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** the **preliminary enquiry** under **Section 173(3)** BNSS (for cognizable offences punishable with **3 years or more but less than 7 years**, with the prior permission of an officer **not below the rank of DSP**, to be completed within **14 days**) is a power of the police station that **investigates the case**. The police station that records a Zero FIR only registers it and **transfers it** to the competent police station; it does not conduct the enquiry.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: information may be given **orally or electronically**; electronic communication is an **option, not an obligation**. Under **Section 173(1)(ii)**, information given electronically must be **signed by the informant within three days** to be taken on record.

Feature	Zero FIR (Section 173(1) BNSS)
Where	Any police station, irrespective of where the offence occurred
Mode	Oral or electronic (e-FIR), at the informant's choice
Next step	Transferred to the police station with jurisdiction for investigation
Preliminary enquiry (s. 173(3))	By the investigating station, with DSP's permission, within 14 days

---

Q. Which of the following statements with respect to the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is/are correct?

1. The period of its implementation is 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2026.

2. The key objective of the Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. The share of the Central funding for the Revamped RGSA is 100% for all States and Union Territories.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

> **Answer: (b) 2 only**

Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

- The **RGSA** was first launched in **2018** (from 2018-19 to 2021-22) by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The **Union Cabinet approved the Revamped RGSA on 13 April 2022** for implementation from **1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026** (2022-23 to 2025-26), co-terminus with the **15th Finance Commission** period. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.

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- **Objective**: to **develop the governance capabilities of PRIs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through the **Localisation of SDGs (LSDGs)**, with focus on **nine themes.** Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
  - The nine LSDG themes: (1) Poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods village, (2) Healthy village, (3) Child-friendly village, (4) Water-sufficient village, (5) Clean and green village, (6) Self-sufficient infrastructure in village, (7) Socially just and socially secured village, (8) Village with good governance, (9) Women-friendly village.
- Main activities: **capacity building and training** of elected representatives and functionaries, **Panchayat Bhawans** and Common Service Centres, **e-governance** (e-GramSwaraj), **Panchayat Development Index**, and support to **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)**.



Revamped RGSA: period and funding pattern

Funding pattern

- The scheme has **Central components** and **State components**.
  - **Central components** (such as national-level technical assistance, e-Panchayat mission mode project, incentivisation of Panchayats) are **fully funded by the Centre**.
  - **State components** are shared in the ratio **60:40** between the Centre and States, **90:10** for the **North-Eastern and Himalayan States** and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and **100% Central share** for the **other Union Territories**.
- Since the Central share is not 100% for all States, **statement 3 is incorrect**.

Category	Centre : State share (State components)
General States	60 : 40
North-Eastern and Himalayan States, UT of J&K	90 : 10
Other Union Territories	100 : 0
Central components	100% Central

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Q. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

(a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.

(b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.

(c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.

(d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

Answer: (c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.

Right to Privacy:

- Generally understood that privacy is synonymous with the right to be let alone.
- The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India** in 2017 that – **Right to Privacy is a fundamental** and inalienable right and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/ she makes.
- The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under **Article 21** and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.
- **Restrictions (as stated in the Judgement):**
  - The right may be restricted only by state action that passes each of the three tests:
    - First, such state action must have a legislative mandate,
    - Second, it must be pursuing a legitimate state purpose, and
    - Third, it must be proportionate i.e., such state action- both in its nature and extent, must be necessary in a democratic society and the action ought to be the least intrusive of the available alternatives to accomplish the ends.

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- **Step taken by Government**: Acknowledging the importance of privacy, the Government has presented the **personal Data Protection Bill 2019** in the Parliament.

Q. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct?

(a) A bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions relating to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of any tax.

(b) A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.

(c) A Money Bill is concerned with the **appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India**.

(d) A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.

> **Answer: (c) A Money Bill is concerned with the appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.**

Notes:

- In India, a Money Bill is a type of legislation that relates to the **appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India**, which is the main fund of the government.
- Money Bills are typically **related to financial matters** such as taxation, public expenditure, and public debt. Article 110 of the constitution deals with Money Bill in India.
- According to the Constitution of India, a bill is considered a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:
  - The **imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation** of any tax.
  - The regulation of the **borrowing** of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.
  - The **custody of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund** of India, the payment of money into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund.
  - The **appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India**.
  - The declaring of any expenditure to be **expenditure charged** on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure.
  - The **receipt of money** on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money.
  - Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.
- A money bill **cannot be introduced in Rajya Sabha.**
- **Rajya Sabha can neither reject a Money Bill nor amend it**
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha decides whether the Bill is a Money Bill or not. Also, the Speaker's decision shall be deemed to be final.
- A Money Bill may only be introduced in Lok Sabha, on the recommendation of the President.
- It must be passed in Lok Sabha by a **simple majority**.

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- It may be sent to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations, which Lok Sabha may reject if it chooses to.
- If such recommendations are not given within 14 days, it will be deemed to be passed by Parliament.

FEATURES	MONEY BILL	FINANCIAL BILL
Article	Article 110	Article 117
Definition	A bill that exclusively deals with financial matters such as the imposition or alteration of taxes, borrowing of money by the government, and expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund of India.	A bill that deals with **financial matters but is not limited to the subjects covered by a money bill**.
Introduction	Can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha	Can be **introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha**
Examples	The Finance Bill, The Appropriation Bill	The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, The Companies (Amendment) Bill

Q. With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The value of the **vote of each MLA** varies from State to State.
2. The value of the **vote of MPs** of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Notes:

- The **electoral college of President of India consists of elected members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies of the states, and the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.**
- The elections are conducted and overseen by the **Election Commission (EC)** of India.
- He is elected indirectly by the principle of Proportional Representation by means of Single Transferable Vote.
- Under **Article 324** of the Constitution of India, the authority to conduct elections to the Office of President is vested in the Election Commission of India.
- The **value of votes of MLAs would differ from State to State** as it is **based on population** criterion and population of each state is different.
    - As per the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act 2001, currently, the population of States is taken from the figures of the 1971 Census. This will change when the figures of the Census taken after the year 2026 are published.

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- The **value of each MLA's vote is determined by dividing the population of the State by the number of MLAs** in its legislative Assembly, and the **quotient achieved is further divided by 1000.**
  - Uttar Pradesh for instance, **has the highest vote value for each of its MLAs, at 208. The value of one MLA's vote in Maharashtra is 175,** while that in Arunachal Pradesh is just 8.
- However, the **value of votes of all MPs is the same** whether in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.
  - The **fixed value of each vote by an MP of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha is 700.**
- **Related Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 54:** Election of President
  - **Article 55**: Manner of election of President.
  - **Article 56** :Term of office of President
  - **Article 57:** Eligibility for re-election.
  - **Article 58**: Qualifications for election as President

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
2. Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office **immediately**.

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

> **Answer: (a) 1 only**

Notes:

- A member holding office as **Speaker or Deputy Speaker** of the Legislative Assembly –
  - **(a) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Assembly;**
  - (b) may at any time by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, and if such member is the Deputy Speaker, to the Speaker, **resign his office**; and
  - (c) maybe removed from his office by a **resolution of the Legislative Assembly** passed by a majority of all the then members of the Assembly:
- Whenever the Legislative Assembly is **dissolved**, the Speaker shall not vacate his office **until immediately before the first meeting of the Assembly after the dissolution**.

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Q. Which one of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

(a) If there are more laws, there is less liberty.

(b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.

(c) If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people.

(d) If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.

Answer: (b) If there are no laws, there is no liberty.

Notes:

- Absence of all restraints on an individual is defined as liberty. **John Locke** wrote that "**the end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom**."
  - **Where there is no Law, there is no Freedom**. For Liberty is to be free from restraint and violence from others which cannot be, where there is no Law.
- Since individuals live together in a society, complete absence of restraints would be neither possible nor desirable. It has been very aptly said that your liberty to swing your arm ends there where my nose begins. **For liberty to be enjoyed by everyone, it should have reasonable restraints**. The freedom of many requires restraint of law on the freedom of some.
- Liberty Means freedom of thought, expression and action. However It does not mean freedom to do anything that one desires or likes. If that were to be permitted then a large number of people will not be able to enjoy their freedom.
- Therefore, freedoms are defined in such a manner that every person will enjoy her freedom without threatening freedom of others and without endangering the law and order situation. So if there are no laws then there will be chaos and no individual can enjoy his/her liberty.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. No **criminal proceedings** shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

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Notes:

- **According to Article 361**:
  - **No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.**
  - No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President, or the Governor of a State, shall issue from any court during his term of office.
- **According to Article 158**:
  - The Governor shall not be a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any State specified in the First Schedule, and if a member of either House of Parliament or of a House of the Legislature of any such State is appointed Governor, he shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as Governor.
  - The Governor shall not hold any other office of profit.
  - The Governor shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residences and shall be also entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such emoluments, allowances and privileges as are specified in the Second Schedule.
  - **The emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office.**

Q. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law"?

1. Limitation of powers
2. Equality before law
3. **People's responsibility** to the Government
4. Liberty and civil rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

> **Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 4 only**

Notes:

- **It is the government that is responsible to the people and not the vice versa.**
- The term "rule of law" is originated from England and India has adopted the concept.
- The basic features of **Rule of Law** as per Dicey:
  - Law does not recognize any special rights for any individual or group of individuals.
  - **Law does not recognize any distinction between one individual and the other on the basis of religion, race, sex, etc.**

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- None is punished without proper trial.
- All will be tried by the same court under the same law.
- **Rule of Law is to safeguard and advance the political and civil rights of the individual in a free society.**
- **The rule of law does not give scope to absolute and arbitrary powers to the executive.**

Q. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular State, then

(a) the Assembly of the State is automatically dissolved.

(b) the powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.

(c) Article 19 is suspended in that State.

(d) the President can make laws relating to that State.

> **Answer: (b) the powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.**

President Rule (Article 356):

- President rule is imposed in a state **if the state government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.**
- Proclamation of President's Rule **must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.**
- The approval takes place through a **simple majority.**
- Initially, the President's rule is valid for six months and it **can be extended for a maximum period of three years** with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.
- It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
- In case of failure of constitutional machinery, the state legislature is **suspended** and the **executive authority of the state is assumed by the president** in whole or in part.
- **President by proclamation can declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament.**

Q. With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation?

(a) Committee on Government Assurances

(b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation

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(c) Rules Committee

(d) Business Advisory Committee

Answer: (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation

Committee on Subordinate Legislation:

- The **Committee on Subordinate Legislation** constituted in **1953** examines and reports to the House whether **the powers to make rules, regulations, bye-laws, schemes, or other statutory instruments** conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised.
- In **both the Houses**, the committee consists of **15 members**.
- The Chairman of the Committee is **appointed by the Speaker or Chairman among its members**.
  - Chairman has only a casting vote in discussions.
- Provided that if the Deputy Chairman is a member of the Committee, he shall be appointed Chairman of the Committee.
- In order to constitute a meeting of the Committee, **the quorum shall be five.**
- The Committee shall have the power to require the attendance of persons or the production of papers or records if such a course is considered necessary for the discharge of its duties.
- **Functions:**
  - Whenever a rule, regulation, order or by-law is referred to the committee its looks for the following:
    - Whether the order is in accordance with the constitution.
    - Whether the order contains tax imposition.
    - Whether the order bars the jurisdiction of the Court.
    - Whether it involves any expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, etc.
- **Report:**
  - The Committee Chairman submits a report to the **Council of Ministers.**

Committees to Scrutinize and Control

There are **six types of these committees** which are given below:

- **Committee on Government Assurance** – Whenever a minister makes any promise, or assure, or take any undertaking in Lok Sabha; this committee examines the extent of such promises, assurances and undertakings carried through by him/her. It has 15 members in Lok Sabha and 10 members in Rajya Sabha
- **Committee on Subordinate Legislation** – It examines whether the executives are exercising well, their powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament or conferred by the Constitution. In both the houses, it comprises 15 people
- **Committee on Papers laid on the table** – When ministers lay any paper on the table, this committee scrutinizes the credibility of the paper and if that paper complies with the provision of the constitution. It has 15 members in Lok Sabha and 10 in Rajya Sabha.
- **Committee on Welfare of SCs & STs** – It consists of 30 members. 20 are taken from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. Reports of National Commission for SCs and National Commission for STs are considered by this committee

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- **Committee on Empowerment of women** – The report of National Commission for women is considered by this committee.
- **Joint Committee on Offices of Profit** – This committee examines the composition and character of committees and other bodies appointed by the Central, state and union territory governments and recommends whether persons holding these offices should be disqualified from being elected as members of Parliament or not.

Committees relating to the day-to-day business of the house

There are **four types of this committee** mentioned below:

- **Business Advisory Committee** – It regulates the time-table of the house.
- **Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions** – It classifies bills and allocates time for the discussion on bills and resolutions introduced by private members
- **Rules Committee** – If there is any need of amendment in the rules of the house, this committee makes a proposal
- **Committee on Absence of Members** – All the leave applications, applied by the member of the houses are taken up by this committee

---

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down **by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.**
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in a accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly **under the State Governments.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

> **Answer: (b) 2 only**

Notes:

- In accordance with the provisions of **sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**, the **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down the minimum qualifications** for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in class I to VIII, vide its Notification dated August 23, 2010.
- One of the essential qualifications for a person to be **eligible for appointment as a teacher in any of the primary schools** is that **he/she should pass the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)** which will be conducted by the appropriate Government.

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- From the **mid-1960s to 1993**, the **number of Teacher Education Institutions(TEIs) in India went up** from about 1,200 to about 1,500. After the **NCTE was set up**, the **number of TEIs** exploded to about 16,000 by 2011, of which **over 90% are private**. So in India, **more than 90% of teacher education institutions are private institutes.**

Right to Education Act

- Every child between the **ages of 6 to 14 years has the right to free and compulsory education**.
  - This is stated as per the **86th Constitution Amendment Act via Article 21A.** The Right to Education Act seeks to give effect to this amendment
- The government schools shall provide free education to all the children and the schools will be managed by School Management Committees (SMC). **Private schools shall admit at least 25% of the children in their schools without any fee.**
  - The **National Commission for Elementary Education** shall be constituted to monitor all aspects of elementary education including quality.
- **Main Features of Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:**
  - **Free and compulsory education to all children of India in the 6 to 14 age group.**
  - No child shall be held back, expelled or required **to pass a board examination** until the completion of elementary education.
  - If a child above 6 years of age has not been admitted in any school or could not complete his or her elementary education, then he or she shall be admitted in a class appropriate to his or her age. However, if a case may be where a child is directly admitted in the class appropriate to his or her age, then, in order to be at par with others, he or she shall have a **right to receive special training** within such time limits as may be prescribed. Provided further that a child so admitted to elementary education shall be entitled to **free education till the completion of elementary education even after 14 years.**
  - **Proof of age for admission:** For the purpose of admission to elementary education, the age of a child shall be **determined on the basis of the birth certificate** issued in accordance with the Provisions of Birth. Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1856, or on the basis of such other document as may be prescribed. **No child shall be denied admission in a school for lack of age proof.**
  - A child who completes elementary education shall be awarded a **certificate**.
  - Call need to be taken for a fixed student–teacher ratio.
  - **Twenty-five per cent reservation for economically disadvantaged communities** in admission to Class I in all private schools is to be done.
  - Improvement in the quality of education is important.
  - School teachers will need adequate professional degree within five years or else will lose job.
  - School infrastructure (where there is a problem) need to be improved in every 3 years, else recognition will be cancelled.
  - **Financial burden will be shared between the state and the central government.**

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Q. Consider the following statements:

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the **Swatantra Party**.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the **first time in 1969**.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a **minimum of 75 members**, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Notes:

- The **Indian general election of 1951–52**, held from 25 October 1951 to 21 February 1952, was the **first election to the Lok Sabha** since India became independent in August 1947.
  - The **Indian National Congress (INC)** won a landslide victory, **winning 364 of the 489 seats** and 45% of the total votes polled.
  - Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the country.
  - The **Communist Party of India (CPI)** came **second** with **16 seats**.
- In **1969**, an official **leader of the opposition** was **recognized for the first time**. However, it was given **statutory recognition in 1977**.
- The **leader of the largest opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House** is recognized as the **leader of Opposition in that House.**
  - The 10% of the total strength of the House is **55 seats** in the Lok Sabha. This is as per the **Mavalakar Rule**. G V Mavalankar was the first Speaker of Lok Sabha.
  - Leader of Opposition is a **statutory position** that is defined in the 1977 Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act.

Significance of Leader Of Opposition:

- The "**shadow prime minister" or the "alternative prime minister**" are terms used to describe him. If the current administration is toppled or is unable to get a majority in the house of parliament, he also offers a backup administration.
- The **absence of such a Leader of the Opposition will weaken the democratic spirit since the opposition** will be unable to present a united front in opposition to the ruling party.
- By offering the administration constructive critique, he also contributes significantly to the government's functioning in terms of **policy and legislative actions.**
- He also offers a different perspective and aids in the representation of one that differs from the government's.

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- The opposition leader, among other things, also **keeps an eye out for violations of minorities' rights and calls for debates** when the government tries to evade parliamentary scrutiny.
- He is essential in **ensuring impartiality and bipartisanship** in the nominations made to institutions that promote accountability and openness.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament of India **can place** a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule **cannot be examined by any court** and no judgement can be made on it.

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

> **Answer: (a) 1 only**

Notes:

- The **Ninth Schedule** was added to the Constitution by the **first amendment in 1951** along with **Article 31-B** with a view to providing a "protective umbrella" to land reform laws to save them from being challenged in courts on the ground of violation of fundamental rights.
  - The **SC upheld the validity of Article 31-B** and **Parliament's power to place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule.**
- The **Supreme Court** has said that **laws placed in the Ninth Schedule** are **open to judicial scrutiny** and that such laws do not enjoy blanket protection.
  - **Waman Rao v. Union of India (1981):** In this significant decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the **amendments made after 24th April 1973** in Ninth Schedule can be challenged on the grounds of constitutionality.
  - The landmark ruling in **IR Coelho versus State of Tamil Nadu**, 2007, the Supreme Court of India ruled that all laws (including those in the Ninth Schedule) would be **open to Judicial Review if they violated the basic structure of the constitution.**
  - Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule **after the Kesavananda Bharati judgment** on **April 24, 1973**, when it propounded the "basic structure" doctrine, **were open to judicial review**.

Q. "Rule of Law Index" is released by which of the following?

(a) Amnesty International

(b) International Court of Justice

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(c) The office of UN Commissioner for Human Rights

(d) World Justice Project

Answer: (d) World Justice Project

Notes:

- The **Rule of Law Index (ROLI)** is released by the **World Justice Project (WJP)**, a US-based civil society group.
- It rates countries based on **accountability of executives and respect for fundamental rights of people.**
- The index is prepared by e**xamining these four principles through eight factors:** constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.
- **India has been ranked 77th out of 140 countries in 2022 by the World Justice Project (WJP)**

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