

1. c

- Statement 1 is correct: A panel survey of 260 farm households which were surveyed in 2018-19 and 2019-20, found that natural farming reduced the dependence on credit, freeing many farmers from exploitative and interlinked input and credit markets.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Organic farming is more about certification, while natural farming is a gradual process. But there is relative flexibility in natural farming for adoption. This makes it easier for small farmers to transition.
- 3 is correct: Natural farming not just creates cost savings for farmers, but also ensures higher carbon fixation into the soil, which can mitigate climate change.

2. a

- Statement 1 is correct: Coal emits nearly twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas and about 60% more than oil, on a kilogram-to-kilogram comparison.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: As of February 2022, the installed capacity for coal-based power generation across the country accounts for about 51.5% of power from all sources. Renewable power accounted for 27% and Natural gas as fuel accounted for 6.3%.

3. d

Both are correct.

- Unicorns are privately held, venture-capital backed startups that have reached a value of \$1 billion. • The valuation of unicorns is not expressly linked to their current financial performance, but largely based on their growth potential as perceived by investors and venture capitalists who have taken part in various funding rounds.
- American venture capitalist Aileen Lee is credited with coining the term “Unicorn” in 2013.

4. B

PARAM ANANTA, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer has been commissioned at IIT Gandhinagar. PARAM PORUL, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer was inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

5. c

Both statements are correct. $GDP = GVA + \text{Tax revenue} - \text{subsidies}$ earned by the government — subsidies provided by the government. For instance, if the government earned more from taxes than it spent on subsidies, GDP will be higher than GVA. But if the government provided subsidies in excess of its tax revenues, the absolute level of GVA would be higher than that of GDP. Hence, simply put, GDP provides the demand side of the economy and GVA the supply side.

6. D

The advantages of Liquid Nano Urea over Conventional Urea Higher Efficiency: While conventional urea has an efficiency of about 25%, the efficiency of liquid nano urea can be as high as 85-90%. Gets Directly absorbed by plant: Conventional urea fails to have the desired impact on crops as it is often applied incorrectly and the nitrogen in it is vaporized or lost as a gas. On the other hand, liquid nano urea is sprayed directly on the leaves and gets absorbed by the plant. Higher Shelf Life: Liquid nano urea has a shelf life of a year and farmers need not be worried about “caking” when it comes in contact with moisture. No Burden of Urea Subsidy: Liquid nano urea produced by IFFCO comes in a half-litre bottle priced at Rs 240, and carries no burden of subsidy currently. By contrast, a farmer pays around Rs 300 for a 50-kg bag of heavily subsidized urea.

7. a

- Statement 1 is correct: The Aadhaar Act forbids sharing Core Biometric Information (such as finger print, iris scan, among other biometric attributes) for any purpose other than Aadhaar number generation and authentication.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: AePS is a facility that lets one perform banking transactions like cash withdrawal and fund transfer. These transactions are done through a mini-ATM carried by a banking correspondent. For an AePS transaction, all you need is a person's Aadhaar number, bank name and fingerprints.

8. a

- Statement 1 is correct: The G20 does not have permanent offices or employees.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Finance Channel covers meetings between finance ministers and central bank governors, as well as meetings of their second lines and working groups on financial issues. The Sherpa channel covers non-financial issues.

9. D

The Government is preparing to translocate the first batch of eight Cheetah's from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh soon after the situation linked to the current third wave of Covid-19 becomes normal, Further, the government has also launched the 'Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India' under which 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years.

10. D

Hydrogen-powered vehicles have the following advantages: Less Refuelling Time: They can be refuelled like a conventional combustion engine vehicle at a hydrogen station. Refuelling time for the car is five minutes and can run 600 kilometres on a full tank. Smaller Battery: The electric battery in Mirai is 30 times smaller than what conventional electric vehicles use. Faster Charging: They are a lot faster in charging compared to charging a large battery to its full range.

11. a

Eco-Sensitive Zones:

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas in India notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) around protected areas such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- The objective of declaring an area as ESZ is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- ESZs also act as the buffer zones from areas of high protection to areas accorded relatively milder protection.
- It is to be noted that though Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones", the government uses section 3(2)(v) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 to declare ESZs and EFAs.

12. d

By surfing through a VPN, users can mask a large proportion of personal data, obfuscate location, and conceal surfing patterns. This makes them useful to people with many different use-cases. For instance: They can be used by the following - - Human rights activists who don't wish to be tracked by hostile regimes - Corporates seeking end-to-end encryption for communications. Also, in the WFH era, corporates routinely give a geographically widespread set of employees secure log-ins tied to a single VPN-based location - People who wish to access geo-blocked websites, and content. VPNs allow users to communicate privately, and to access websites that autocrats block. For instance: Russia, Iran and China block and ban VPNs, and hand out jail-time and fines for anybody caught using them. - People who wish to access online banking services only available to residents of a given country - Those who simply wish to protect their data - People who want to access Netflix or Amazon Prime content from, let's say, Mexico, while sitting in Delhi. VPN providers offer combinations of privacy, and data security. Most keep no logs of users, and maintain as little user-data as possible.

13. A

Statement 3 is incorrect: ONDC does not eliminate the middlemen like small retailers, instead it provides a way to them, to get discovered online. It is an open model where consumers can potentially discover any seller, product or service nearby, using any ONDC compatible application or platform, thus increasing freedom of choice for consumers. Consumer can thus choose a nearby retailer for the faster delivery.

14. d

All statements are correct.

- Conservation status: o Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. o IUCN status: It is listed as “vulnerable (VU)” under IUCN red list o CITES status: The fishing cat is included on CITES Appendix II • Habitat– It prefers wetland ecosystem and traditionally found in the South and Southeast Asia’s rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Irrawaddy and Chao Phraya.
- The fishing cat is etched on the 900-year-old Angkor Wat complex in Cambodia and captured on relics of the Khmer empire, which flourished between the 9th and 15th centuries on the mighty Mekong’s floodplains.

15. A

Statement 1 is correct: eVTOL Aircraft is one that uses electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically. Most eVTOLs also use what is called distributed electric propulsion technology, which means integrating a complex propulsion system with the airframe.

Statement 2 is incorrect: eVTOL has following challenges, a) Ensuring safety in case of a power plant or rotor failure, b) Aircraft protection from cyberattacks is another area of focus and c) Navigation and flight safety.

16. a

- Statement 1 is correct: The share of Persian Gulf countries in India’s crude imports has remained at around 60% over the last 15 years.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: India has the world’s largest diaspora population.

17. c

- Statement 1 is correct: Single men are not allowed.
- Statement 2 is correct: Only a close relative of the couple can be a surrogate mother, one who is able to provide a medical fitness certificate. She should have been married, with a child of her own, and must be between 25 and 35 years, but can be a surrogate mother only once.

18. a

- Statement 1 is correct: Technically, a bad bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) or an Asset Management Company (AMC) that takes over the bad loans of commercial banks, manages them and finally recovers the money over a period of time.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits, but helps commercial banks clean up their balance sheets and resolve bad loans.

19. c

- Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Copyright Act makes a distinction between commercial and non-commercial infringement.
- Statement 2 is correct: Unlike trademark law, it is not mandatory under the Copyright Act to register copyrights as a necessary precondition in order to enforce the same.

20. C

- Statement 1 is correct: Direct-to-Mobile’(D2M) Broadcasting technology allows broadcast of video and other forms of multimedia content directly to mobile phones, without needing an active internet connection.

- Statement 2 is correct: One of the advantages of D2M technology is that it can enable telecom service providers to offload video traffic from their mobile network onto the broadcast network thus helping them to decongest valuable mobile spectrum. This will also improve usage of mobile spectrum and free up bandwidth which will help reduce call drops, increase data speeds etc.

21. B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Non-compliance of IT Rules will not lead to a ban of Organization. Even if the platforms don't comply with these rules, the platforms can continue operations in India, but they can't seek safe harbour protections in the case of a suit. Statement 2 is correct: Social Media Intermediaries need to adhere to IT rules in order to be eligible for safe harbour protections mentioned in Section 79 of India's IT Act. Safe harbour protections are very important for platforms that deal with user-generated content. These protections ensure that the platform cannot be sued for a post, message etc shared by a user using its services.

22. a

Statement 1 is correct: It conducts regular peer-reviewed evaluations called Mutual Evaluations (ME) of countries to check their performance on standards prescribed by it. The reviews are carried out by FATF and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), which then release Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs). Statement 2 is incorrect: For Grey list countries, the FAT does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to consider the risks such countries possess.

- For countries under Black list, the FATF calls on members and non-members to apply enhanced due diligence. In the most serious cases, members are told to apply countermeasures such as sanctions on the listed countries.

23. c

- Of the total annual recruits, 25 per cent will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission.

- The recruitment will be done on "all India, all class" recruitment to the services (from any caste, region, class or religious background). Currently, recruitment is based on 'regiment system' based on region and caste bases.

24. C

LaMDA is short for 'Language Model for Dialogue Applications'. It is Google's modern conversational agent enabled with a neural network capable of deep learning. Recently, Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA) was engaged to test for bias/hate speech. The tester claimed that the updated software is now sentient. He argues that consent from the software must be obtained before experiments are run on it. But, Google and many tech experts have dismissed the comment.

25. a

- Statement 1 is correct: The government, under the IT Act 2000, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: Created in January 2014, the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure.

26. C

27. b

Statement 1 is incorrect. A sizable part of plastics lands up in garbage dumps, where it can stay for hundreds of years, emitting toxic fumes to pollute the air. Traces of plastic toxicants are often found even in cooked or processed foods packed in substandard plastic containers.

Statement 2 is correct. As many as about 170 countries, which participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in March last, pledged to do away with hazardous plastic by 2030. In fact, about 80 of them have carried out

their commitments by imposing a complete or partial ban on the production, trade, possession, and use of plastic material not conforming to the prescribed standards. About 30 of them are small and developing countries of Africa and Asia.

28. B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Typhoid fever is a life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*. Typhoid fever can be treated with antibiotics. Statement 2 is correct: It is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Once *Salmonella Typhi* bacteria are eaten or drunk, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream.

29. A

Statement 1 is correct: Azooxanthellate corals are a group of hard corals. They do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons. Statement 2 is incorrect: They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species being reported from depths between 200 meters and 1,000 meters. They are also reported from shallow waters, unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.

30. b

The Special Drawing Right (SDR) is an interest-bearing international reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement other reserve assets of member countries. The SDR is based on a basket of international currencies comprising the U.S. dollar, Japanese yen, euro, pound sterling and Chinese Renminbi. It is not a currency, nor a claim on the IMF, but is potentially a claim on freely usable currencies of IMF members. The value of the SDR is not directly determined by supply and demand in the market, but is set daily by the IMF on the basis of market exchange rates between the currencies included in the SDR basket. It can be held and used by member countries, the IMF, and certain designated official entities called "prescribed holders"—but it cannot be held, for example, by private entities or individuals. Its status as a reserve asset derives from the commitments of members to hold, accept, and honor obligations denominated in SDR.

31. a)

The Government reviews the price situation regularly and has taken number of measures from time to time to stabilize prices of food items.

These include:

1. Banning the export of inflated food item.
2. Imposition of stock limit to prevent hoarding.
3. Easing of restrictions on imports, facilitating imports at integrated check-posts, issuance of licenses for imports and reduction in import duties. This has resulted in cooling of prices.

32. d)

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is headquartered in Beijing.
- It commenced operations in January 2016.
- It is a development bank with a mission to improve the economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- India is the second largest shareholder in AIIB after China and is also the largest recipient of funds from the multilateral agency.
- Membership in AIIB shall be open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.
- Unlike other MDBs (multilateral development bank), the AIIB allows for non-sovereign entities to apply for AIIB membership, assuming their home country is a member. AIIB Project Preparation Special Fund:
 - Established in June 2016, the Project Preparation Special Fund (Special Fund) is a multi-donor facility with the primary purpose of supporting eligible AIIB members—especially low-income members—prepare bankable infrastructure projects AIIB may finance.
 - The Special Fund provides technical assistance grants for preparing bankable infrastructure projects. Through these grants, clients can hire experts and consultants to carry out the required preparation work.

33. D

Statements 2 and 4 are correct: Downsizing of bureaucracy as well as selling offloading of the shares of public sector undertaking directly contributes to reduction in fiscal deficit. Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect: Privatisation of higher educational institutions may improve the situation but its impact may not be effective in reduction of fiscal deficit. Without knowing the destination and the effect of FDI inflows, it is difficult to determine its actual impact on the fiscal deficit.

34. d)

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had recently recovered 14.63 MT of Red Sanders. Intelligence was developed by DRI that red sanders logs were concealed in an export consignment declared to contain "assorted toiletries", for being smuggled out of the country. Accordingly, Operation Rakth Chandan was launched and close surveillance was kept on the suspect export consignment. Red Sanders is a flora-species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Eastern Ghats region of Andhra Pradesh and fall under 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Red Sanders is also listed in Appendix-II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES). Its rich hue and therapeutic properties are responsible for its high demand across Asia, particularly China, for use in cosmetics, medicinal products and high-end furniture/woodcraft. The export of Red Sanders from India is prohibited as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

35. B

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is not an indigenous species but was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an ornamental aquatic plant from South America. Statement 2 is correct: The plant is a good phytoremediation species, suggesting it has the ability to trap and remove toxic metabolites and harmful heavy metals from water. But more research needs to be conducted to find a suitable use for the notorious weed. Statement 3 is correct: Water hyacinth is considered invasive because it grows rapidly and can form thick layers over the water. These mats shade out the other aquatic plants. Eventually, these shaded plants die and decay. The decaying process depletes the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water. As oxygen levels decline, many fish are unable to survive. Often the waters below water hyacinth masses become devoid of life.

36. C

Environmental groups in Karnataka have criticised the project to link the Bedti and Varada rivers in Karnataka, calling it unscientific and a waste of public money. The Bedti-Varada project was envisaged in 1992 to supply drinking water. The plan aims to link the Bedti, a river flowing west into the Arabian Sea, with the Varada, a tributary of the Tungabhadra River, which flows into the Krishna, which in turn flows into the Bay of Bengal.

37. d

Together, the group of following 17 elements is known as Rare Earth Element scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium and lutetium.

38. d

Option 1 is correct. together with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), UNIDO provided energy efficiency advisory services to 695 MSMEs in 23 clusters covering brass, ceramic, dairy, foundry and hand tool sectors. Option 2 is correct. India's ambitious "Make in India" campaign aims to catapult the country up the manufacturing value chain to position itself as a global manufacturing hub. Initiatives such as the production linked incentives (PLI) schemes and the recently launched zero effect zero defect (ZED) certification are helping to promote and boost MSMEs. Option 3 is correct. Government initiatives such as the Digital Saksham and the interlinking of the Udyam, e-Shram, National Career Service (NCS), and Atmanirbhar Skilled EmployeeEmployer Mapping (ASEEM) portals show the promise of targeted digitalisation schemes or MSMEs.

39. B

Carbon Bombs are “an oil or gas project that will result in at least a billion tonnes of CO2 emissions over its lifetime.” In total, around 195 such projects have been identified the world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India. They will collectively overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the Paris Agreement of 2015.

40. A

Statement 1 is correct: This law is an exception to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions of 312 and 313 and sets out the rules of how and when a medical abortion can be carried out. Statement 2 is incorrect: Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, abortion is permitted after medical opinion under stipulated circumstances. The 2021 Act increased the upper limit of the gestation period to which a woman can seek a medical abortion to 24 weeks from 20 weeks permitted in the 1971 Act. But this renewed upper limit can only be exercised in specific cases.

41. (d)

Explanation:

☑ For about 100 years, from the middle of the eighth century to the middle of the ninth century, the Pala rulers dominated eastern India.

☑ For some time, their control extended upto Benaras (Varanasi).

☑ Their power is attested to by an Arab merchant, Sulaiman, who visited India in the middle of the ninth century and wrote an account of it.

☑ He calls the Pala kingdom ‘Ruhma’, (or Dharma, short for Dharmapala), and says that the Pala ruler was at war with his neighbours, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas, but his troops were more numerous than his adversaries.

☑ Information about the Palas is also provided to us by the Tibetan chronicles, although these were written in the seventeenth century.

☑ According to these, the Pala rulers were great patrons of Buddhist learning and religion. The Nalanda University, which had been famous all over the eastern world, was revived by Dharmapala and 200 villages were set apart for meeting its expenses.

☑ He also founded the Vikramasila University, which became second only to Nalanda in fame

☑ The Pala rulers also had close cultural relations with Tibet.

☑ The noted Buddhist scholars, Santarakshita and Dipankara (called Atisa), were invited to Tibet and they introduced a new form of Buddhism there.

☑ As a result, many Tibetan Buddhists flocked to the Universities of Nalanda and Vikramasila for study.

☑ Although the Palas were the supporters of Buddhism, they also extended their patronage to Saivism and Vaishnavism. They gave grants to large numbers of Brahmans from north India, who flocked to Bengal.

42. C

☑ Al- Masudi, a native of Baghdad, who visited Gujarat in 915–16, testifies to the great power and prestige of the Pratihara rulers and the vastness of their empire. He calls the Gurjara Pratihara kingdom ‘al-Juzr’ (a corrupt form of Gurjara), and the king ‘Baura’, probably a mispronunciation of Adivaraha, the title used by Bhoja, although Bhoja had died by that time.

☑ During the eighth and the ninth centuries, many Indian scholars went with embassies to the court of the Caliph at Baghdad. These scholars introduced Indian sciences, especially mathematics, algebra and medicine to the Arab world.

☑ The Pratiharas were the patrons of learning and literature. The great Sanskrit poet and dramatist, Rajashekhar, lived at the court of Mahipala, a grandson of Bhoja. The Pratiharas also embellished Kanauj with many fine buildings and temples.

43. (d)

Explanation:

- ☒ The Rashtrakuta kingdom was founded by Dantidurga, who set up his capital at Manyakheta, or Malkhed, near modern Sholapur. The Rashtrakutas soon dominated the entire area of northern Maharashtra.
- ☒ The Rashtrakuta rulers were tolerant in their religious views and patronized not only Saivism and Vaishnavism, but Jainism as well.
- ☒ The famous rock cut temple of Siva at Ellora was built by one of the Rashtrakuta kings, Krishna I, in the ninth century
- ☒ Amoghavarsha is said to have been a Jain, but he also patronized other faiths.

44. (d)

Explanation:

Rajaraja 1 invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern part to his empire. These moves were partly motivated by his desire to bring the trade with the South-east Asian countries under his control.

Rajaraja 1 marked his victories by erecting a number of Siva and Vishnu temples in the Dravidian styles at various places. The Chola rulers adopted the practice of having inscriptions written on the walls of these temples, giving a historical narrative of their victories.

45. (d)

Explanation:

Ilutmish was a great statesman. He received the Mansur, the letter of recognition, from the Abbasid Caliph in 1229, by which he became the legal sovereign ruler of India. Later, he nominated his daughter Raziya as his successor.

Thus, the hereditary succession to the Delhi Sultanate was initiated by Ilutmish. He patronized many scholars and a number of Sufi saints came to India during his reign. Minhaj-us-Siraj, Taj-ud-din., Nizam-ul-mulk Muhammad Janaidi, Malik Qutb-ud-din Hasan and Fakhru'l-Mulk Isami were his contemporary scholars who added grandeur to his court. Apart from completing the construction of Qutb Minar at Delhi, the tallest stone tower in India (238 ft.), he built a magnificent mosque at Ajmer.

Ilutmish introduced the Arabic coinage into India and the Silver Tanka weighing 175 grams became a standard coin in medieval India. The Silver Tanka remained the basis of the modern Rupee. Ilutmish had also created a new class of ruling elite of 40 powerful military leaders, the Forty.

46. (a)

Explanation:

Razia Sultan was a daughter of Ilutmish and served for a brief period of 3 years. Chahalgani under her rule was a group of 40 Turkish chiefs. This institution was already in place prior to Razia Sultan and continued after her. These chiefs were very powerful in influencing the role of a ruler.

She discarded the female apparel and started holding court with her face unveiled. She even hunted and led the army in war. This was against the Islamic traditions.

NOTE : Chahalgani was the system of nobels introduced by Ilutmish in India during Mamluk rule

47. (c)

The Successor of Ali Adil Shah, Ibrahim Adil Shah II, ascended the throne at the age of nine. He was very solicitous to the poor and had the title of 'Abla Baba', or the 'Friend of the Poor'. He was deeply interested in music and composed a book called Kitab-i-Nauras, in which songs were set to various musical modes or Ragas.

He built a new capital, Nauraspur, in which a large number of musicians were invited to settle. In his songs, he freely invoked the goddess of music and learning, Saraswati.

Due to his broad approach he came to be called 'Jagat Guru'. He accorded patronage to all, including Hindu saints and temples.

This included grants to Pandharpur, the centre of the worship of Vithoba, which became the centre of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra. The broad, tolerant policy followed by Ibrahim Adil Shah II was continued under his successors.

48. (a)

Explanation:

Golconda was the intellectual resort of literary men. Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, a contemporary of Akbar, was very fond of literature and architecture. The Sultan was not only a great patron of art and literature, but was a poet of no mean order.

He wrote in Dakhini Urdu, Persian and Telugu, and has left an extensive Diwan or collection. He was the first to introduce a secular note in poetry. Apart from the praise of God and the Prophet, he wrote about nature, love and the social life of his day.

The growth of Urdu in its Dakhini form was a significant development during the period. The successors of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, and many other poets and writers of the time adopted Urdu as a literary language. In addition to Persian, these writers drew on Hindi and Telugu for forms, idioms and themes, as well as vocabulary.

Urdu was patronized at the Bijapuri court also. The poet laureate Nusrati, who flourished during the middle of the seventeenth century, wrote a romantic tale about Prince Manohar, ruler of Kanak Nagar, and Madhu Malati. From the Deccan, Urdu came to north India in the eighteenth century.

49. (d)

Explanation:

The title of Sher Khan was given to him by his patron for killing a tiger (Sher). Sher Shah restored the old imperial road, called the Grand Trunk Road, from river Indus in the west to Sonargaon in Bengal. For the convenience of the travellers, Sher Shah built a Sarai at a distance of every two Kos (about 8 km) on these roads. Separate lodgings for the Hindus and the Muslims were provided in these Sarais. The currency reforms of Sher Shah also helped in the growth of commerce and handicrafts. He struck fine coins of gold, silver and copper of uniform standard, in place of the earlier debased coins of mixed metal.

Sher Shah was not a bigot in the religious sphere, as is evident from his social and economic policy. He did not, however, initiate any new liberal policies. Jizyah continued to be collected from the Hindus, while his nobility was drawn almost exclusively from the Afghans.

He set up a strong army in order to administer his vast empire. Every soldier had his descriptive roll (Chehra) recorded and his horse branded with the imperial sign so that the horses of inferior quality may not be substituted. He seems to have borrowed this system, known as the Dagh (branding) system, from the military reforms of Alauddin Khalji.

He apparently continued the central machinery of administration, which had been developed during the Sultanate period.

His excessive centralization of authority in his hands was a source of weakness and its harmful effects became apparent when a masterful sovereign like him ceased to sit on the throne.

NOTE : Alauddin Khalji introduced the Dagh (branding) system.

50. (a)

Explanation:

Rajendra I assumed the title of Gangaikondachola (the Chola who conquered the Ganga). He built a new capital near the mouth of the Kaveri River

and called it Gangaikondacholapuram (the city of the Chola who conquered the Ganga).

Rajaraja and Rajendra I marked their victories by erecting a number of Siva and Vishnu temples at various places. The most famous of these was the Brihadishwara temple at Tanjore, which was completed in 1010. More remarkable exploits in the time of Rajendra I were the naval expeditions against the revived Sri Vijaya Empire. The Sri Vijaya Empire,

which had been revived in the 10th century, extended over the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands, and controlled the overseas trade route to China.

51. (d)

Explanation:

Trade and commerce flourished in the Chola Empire and there were some gigantic trade guilds which traded with Java and Sumatra. The Cholas also paid attention to irrigation. The Kaveri River and other rivers were used for the purpose. Many tanks for irrigation were built. Some of the Chola rulers carried out an elaborate survey of land in order to fix the government's share of the land revenue. In addition to land tax, the Chola rulers drew their income from tolls on trade, taxes on professions, and also from the plunder of the neighbouring territories.

52. (b)

Explanation:

In 1689, Sambhaji was surprised at his secret hide-out at Sangameshwar by a Mughal force. He was paraded before Aurangzeb and executed as a rebel and an infidel. In 1703, Aurangzeb opened negotiations with the Marathas. He was prepared to release Shahu, the son of Sambhaji, who had been captured at Satara along with his mother. Shahu had been treated well. He had been given the title of raja and the mansab of 7000/7000.

Aurangzeb was prepared to grant to Shahu, Shivaji's swarajya and the right of sardeshmukhi over the Deccan, thus recognising his special position. Over 70 Maratha sardars actually assembled to receive Shahu. But Aurangzeb cancelled the arrangements at the last minute, being uncertain about the intentions of the Marathas. Some of the nobles were of the opinion that Aurangzeb should return to north India, leaving to others the task of mopping-up operations against the Marathas. Earlier, there was an opinion which, it appears, had the support of the heir-apparent, Shah Alam, that the task of ruling over Karnataka should be left to the vassal rulers of Bijapur and Golconda.

Aurangzeb rejected all these suggestions, and imprisoned Shah Alam for daring to negotiate with the Deccani rulers. Convinced that the Maratha power had been crushed after 1690, Aurangzeb, concentrated on annexing to the empire the rich and extensive Karnataka tract. He unduly extended his lines of communications which became vulnerable to Maratha attacks. This resulted in his failure to provide a sound administration to Bijapur which was the hub of Maratha activities.

53. (a)

Explanation:

In 1669, the Jats of the Mathura region broke out in rebellion under the leadership of a local zamindar, Gokla. The rebellion spread rapidly among the peasants of the area, and Aurangzeb decided to march in person from Delhi to quell it. In a stiff battle the Jats were defeated. Gokla was captured and executed.

In 1685, there was a second uprising of the Jats under the leadership of Rajaram. The Jats were better organised this time and adopted the methods of guerrilla warfare, combining it with plunder.

Conflict with the Afghan tribesmen had taken place during the reign of Shah Jahan also. These conflicts were partly economic and partly political and religious. With little means of livelihood in the rugged mountains, the Afghans had no option but to prey on the caravans or to enrol in the Mughal armies. Their fierce love of freedom made service in the Mughal armies difficult.

During the decade following the conquest of Gujarat, Akbar found time to look at the administrative problems of the empire. The system of administration elaborated by Sher Shah had fallen into confusion after the death of Islam Shah. Akbar, therefore, had to start afresh.

One of the most important problems facing Akbar was the system of land revenue administration. Sher Shah had instituted a system by which the cultivated area was measured and a crop rate (ray) was drawn up, fixing the dues of the peasant crop-wise on the basis of the productivity of land. This schedule was converted every year into a central schedule of prices.

Akbar adopted Sher Shah's system. But it was soon found that the fixing of a central schedule of prices often led to considerable delays, and resulted in great hardships to the peasantry since the prices fixed were generally those prevailing at the imperial court, and were higher than those in the countryside. The peasants, therefore, had to part with a larger share of their produce.

At first, Akbar reverted to a system of annual assessment. The qanungos, who were hereditary holders of land as well as local officials conversant with local conditions, were ordered to report on the actual produce, state of cultivation, local prices, etc. But in many areas the qanungos were dishonest and concealed the real produce. Annual assessments also resulted in great difficulty for the peasants and for the state.

After returning from Gujarat (1573), Akbar paid personal attention to the land revenue system. Officials called karoris were appointed all over north India. They were responsible for the collection of a crore of dams, and also checked the facts and figures supplied by the qanungos. On the basis of the information provided by them regarding the actual produce, local prices, productivity, etc., in 1580, Akbar instituted a new system called the dahsala.

Under this system, the average produce of different crops as well as the average prices prevailing over the last ten (dah) years were calculated. One-third of the average produce was the state share. The state demand was, however, stated in cash. This was done by converting the state share into money on the basis of a schedule of average prices over the past ten years. Thus, the produce of a bigha of land under share was given in maunds. But on the basis of average prices, the state demand was fixed in rupees per bigha.

Later, a further improvement was made. Not only were local prices taken into account, parganas having the same type of productivity were grouped into separate assessment circles. Thus, the peasant was required to pay on the basis of local productivity as well as local prices.

There were a number of advantages of this system. As soon as the area sown by the peasant had been measured by means of the bamboos linked with iron rings, the peasants as well as the state knew what the dues were.

The peasant was given remission in the land revenue if crops failed on account of drought, floods, etc. The system of measurement and the assessment based upon it is called the zabti system. Akbar introduced this system in the area from Lahore to Allahabad, and in Malwa and Gujarat. The dahsala system was a further development of the zabti system.

54. d) Maratha administration

55. c) Zil-i-ilahi

56. (b)

Explanation:

The utility of the Preamble is as follows:

- It contains the enacting clause which brings the Constitution into force.
- It indicates the source of Constitution.
- It declares the basic type of Government and polity, which is sought to be established in the country.
- It serves as a challenge to the people to adhere to the ideals enshrined in it.
- By itself, it is not enforceable in a court of Law, yet it states the objects and aids legal interpretation of the Constitution, where the language is ambiguous. However, the Preamble cannot override the express provisions of an Act.

57. (d)

Explanation:

The power to acquire or cede territory is not expressly conferred by the Constitution. Articles 1 to 4 of the Constitution do not confer power on the Union to acquire or cede a territory.

The power to acquire new territories is an attribute of sovereignty.

The power to cede Indian Territory to a foreign state is outside the scope of the Parliamentary legislation and

for that a Constitutional Amendment under Article 368 is needed (In re: The Berubari Case).

58. (c)

Explanation:

Constitutionalism recognises the need for government, but insists upon limitations being placed upon the government powers. It envisages checks and balances, and puts the powers of legislature and executive under some restraint, otherwise it would jeopardize freedom of the people and lead to an authoritarian, oppressive government.

It is the antithesis of arbitrary power.

59. (a)

Explanation:

The essence of federalism is the distribution of the power of the states among its coordinate bodies. Each is organized and controlled by the Constitution.

The term 'Union of States' (Article 1) and not Federation is used in the Constitution. Also, the units have no right to cede.

60. (c)

Explanation:

The features of the Regulating Act, 1773, were as follows:

1. It designated the Governor of Bengal as the 'Governor General of Bengal' and created an Executive Council of 4 members to assist him. The first such Governor General was Lord Warren Hastings.
2. It made the Governors of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies subordinate to the Governor General of Bengal, unlike earlier, when the 3 Presidencies were independent of one another.
3. It provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774), comprising one Chief Justice and 3 other judges.
4. It prohibited the servants of the Company from engaging in any private trade, or accepting presents or bribes from the 'natives'.
5. It strengthened the control of the British Government over the Company, by requiring the Court of Directors (the governing body of the Company) to report on its revenue, civil and military affairs in India.

61. (c)

Explanation:

The features of Charter Act, 1793 were as follows:

1. It extended the overriding power given to Lord Cornwallis over his council, to all future Governor-Generals and Governors of Presidencies.
2. It gave the Governor-General more powers and control over the governments of the subordinate Presidencies of Bombay and Madras.
3. It extended the trade monopoly of the Company in India for another period of twenty years.
4. It provided that the Commander-in-Chief was not to be a member of the Governor-General's council, unless he was so appointed.
5. It laid down that the members of the Board of Control and their staff were, henceforth, to be paid out of the Indian revenues.

62. (c)

Explanation:

All people are biased by their situations, so how can people agree on a “social contract” to govern how the world should work.

Philosopher John Rawls suggests that we should imagine we sit behind a veil of ignorance that keeps us from knowing who we are and identifying with our personal circumstances. By being ignorant of our circumstances, we can more objectively consider how societies should operate.

Two primary principles supplement Rawls’ veil of ignorance: the liberty principle and the difference principle. According to the liberty principle, the social contract should try to ensure that everyone enjoys the maximum liberty possible without intruding upon the freedom of others. According to the difference principle, the social contract should guarantee that everyone an equal opportunity to prosper. In other words, if there are any social or economic differences in the social contract, they should help those who are the worst off. And, any advantages in the contract should be available to everyone. So, according to Rawls, approaching tough issues through a veil of ignorance and applying these principles can help us decide more fairly how the rules of society should be structured. And fairness, as Rawls and many others believe, is the essence of justice.

63. (b)

Explanation:

The features of the Indian Councils Act of 1892 were as follows –

1. It increased the number of additional (non-official) members in the Central and the Provincial Legislative Councils, but maintained the official majority in them.
2. It increased the functions of the Legislative Councils and gave them the power of discussing the Budget and addressing questions to the executive.
3. It provided for the nomination of some non-official members of the (a) Central Legislative Council by the Viceroy, on the recommendation of the Provincial Legislative Councils and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; and (b) that of the Provincial Legislative Councils by the Governors, on the recommendation of the District Boards, Municipalities, Universities, Trade Associations, Zamindars and Chambers.

The Act made a limited and indirect provision for the use of election in filling up some of the non-official seats, both in the Central and the Provincial Legislative Councils. The word “election” was, however, not used in the Act. The process was described as nomination made on the recommendation of certain bodies.

64. (b)

Explanation:

1. Jawaharlal Nehru: Vice President of the Executive Council External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Home, Information and Broadcasting.
3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Food and Agriculture
4. Dr. John Mathai: Industries and Supplies
5. Jagjivan Ram: Labour
6. Sardar Baldev Singh: Defence
7. C.H. Bhabha: Works, Mines and Power
8. Liaquat Ali Khan: Finance
9. Abdur Rab Nishtar: Posts and Air
10. Asaf Ali: Railways and Transport

65. a)

It was in 1934 that the idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was put forward for the first time by M.N. Roy, a pioneer of Communist Movement in India. In 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially demanded a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of India. In 1938, Jawaharlal Nehru, on behalf the INC, declared that 'the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference, by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise'. The demand was finally accepted in principle by the British Government, in what is known as the 'August Offer' of 1940. In 1942, Sir Stafford Cripps, a Member of the Cabinet, came to India with a draft proposal of the British Government on the framing of an independent Constitution to be adopted after World War II. The Cripps Proposals were rejected by the Muslim League, which wanted India to be divided into 2 autonomous states, with 2 separate Constituent Assemblies. Finally, a Cabinet Mission was sent to India. While it rejected the idea of 2 Constituent Assemblies, it put forth a scheme for the Constituent Assembly which more or less satisfied the Muslim League.

66. (c)

Explanation:

If, in a society, deep and persistent divisions exist between those who enjoy greater wealth and property, and the power which goes with such ownership, and those who are excluded and deprived, we would say that social justice is lacking there. Thus, a society would be considered unjust if the differences between the rich and the poor are so great that they seem to be living in different worlds altogether, and if the relatively deprived have no chance at all to improve their condition, however hard they may work.

Part IV of the Constitution provides for certain Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) for the state to make policies to avoid injustice done to the society as a whole. Based on the above statements, 'Uniform Civil Code' and 'separation of judiciary from executive' do not serve the purpose of social justice.

Social Justice can also be understood through Articles 39(b) and 39(c) in particular, apart from other provisions of the DPSP.

Article 39 - Certain principles of the policy to be followed by the State — The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing:

(b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good.

(c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.

67. (d)

Explanation:

The Original Constitution divided the territory of India into 3 categories:

1. Part A
2. Part B
3. Part C

Also, there was no concept of the Union Territories in the original Constitution.

The 7th Constitutional Amendment, 1956 paved way for major changes in the Constitution. The 3 categories of states (A, B and C) were dissolved. All States were brought at the same footing. Also, at the same time, the concept of Union Territories was evolved and enshrined in the Constitution.

68. (b)

Explanation:

1. Elephant was adopted as the symbol(seal) of the Constituent Assembly.
2. Sir B.N. Rau was appointed as the constitutional advisor (Legal advisor) to the Constituent Assembly.
3. H.V.R. Iyengar was the Secretary to the Constituent Assembly.
4. S.N. Mukerjee was the chief draftsman of the constitution in the Constituent Assembly.
5. Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution. The original constitution was handwritten by him in a flowing italic style.

69. (a)

Explanation:

Direct Democracy – Direct democracy or pure democracy is a form of democracy where citizens participate directly in the decision-making process through voting – for example referendum on any issue. The decision for BREXIT was taken by the government of UK based on voting by the citizens.

Tools of Direct Democracy:

1. Recall: Citizens can vote remove an elected official before the end of their term.
2. Referendum: Citizens can vote on important policy decisions.
3. Plebiscite: A vote by which the people of an entire country or district express an opinion for or against a proposal especially on a choice of government or ruler
4. Initiative: Citizens have the ability to propose INDIRECT or REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY Representative democracy, also known as indirect democracy is a type of democracy founded on the principle of elected persons representing a group of people, as opposed to direct democracy. Elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are example of Indirect Democracy. Whereas decision taken by Gram Sabha is an example of direct democracy.

Substantive Democracy: Democracy is classified into modern states as procedural democracy and substantive democracy. Procedural democracy is concerned with procedural aspects of democracy such as elections and representation.

Substantive democracy is concerned with political idealism and deals with effectiveness of democracy. Substantive democracy is viewed in the light of its diffusions in various sectors of society, redistributive justice, human capabilities and entitlements (education, health, infrastructure, etc.), social capital, associated factors of trust, values, and norms, civil society, human rights, and governance.

70. (d)

Explanation:

The statements given above do not talk about the Fundamental Duties in particular; they are about the duties in general.

☑ And hence, even before the enactment of the 42nd Amendment Act, the citizens had legal duties, like payment of taxes, abiding by laws etc.

☑ Further, we have a legal duty to pay our taxes, to refrain from committing violence against our fellow-citizens and to follow other laws that the Parliament has enacted.

☑ Such laws have existed since the enactment of the Indian Constitution and even before.

☑ Breach of these legal duties triggers financial consequences (fines), or even jail.

☑ Non-performance of only those duties is not punishable by law for which the law has been codified by the Parliament.

☑ At any given time, therefore, we are already following a host of duties, which guide and constrain how we may behave. This is the price that must be paid for living in a society, and it is a price that nobody, at least, in principle, objects to paying.

71. (b)

Explanation:

According to Article 51 A, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement; and
- (k) to provide opportunities for the education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

72. (b)

Explanation:

The Doctrine of Eclipse states that any law which is inconsistent with the Fundamental Rights is not invalid. It is not totally dead, but overshadowed by the Fundamental Right. The inconsistency (conflict) can be removed by a Constitutional Amendment. The Amendment to the relevant Fundamental Right will remove the eclipse and the entire law becomes valid.

Article 13 states that any law, which was made before the commencement of the Constitution, must be consistent with Part III of the Indian Constitution.

If any statute, which is inconsistent with the provisions provided under Part III of the Indian Constitution, such statute shall become void.

At the same time, such statute shall not be treated as dead, but will be in the moribund condition, until and unless it is abolished by the Parliament.

73. (b)

Explanation:

The Fundamental Rights that are available to both the citizens and the foreigners are:

- ☑ Equality before law and equal protection of laws (Article 14).
- ☑ Protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20).
- ☑ Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21).
- ☑ Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (Article 22).
- ☑ Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23).

74. (b)

Explanation:

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution –

1. Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.
2. Nothing in this Article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law —
 - (a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;

(b) providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

The wearing and carrying of Kirpans shall be deemed to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion. In sub-clause (b) of clause (2), the reference to Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly.

75. (a)

Explanation:

The Seventy-Fourth Amendment Act, 1992 – Granted constitutional status and protection to the urban local bodies. For this purpose, the Amendment has added a new Part IX-A, entitled as “the Municipalities” and a new Twelfth Schedule, containing 18 functional items of the Municipalities.

All the members of a Municipality shall be elected directly by the people of the municipal area. For this purpose, each municipal area shall be divided into territorial constituencies, to be known as wards.

The State Legislature may provide the manner of election of the Chairperson of a Municipality. It may also provide for the representation of the following persons in a Municipality:

1. Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration, without the right to vote in the meetings of the Municipality.
2. The members of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly representing constituencies, that comprise wholly or partly the municipal area.
3. The members of the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council registered as electors within the municipal area.
4. The Chairpersons of the Committees (other than the Wards Committees).

76. (b)

Explanation:

The One Hundred and Third Amendment Act, 2019 –

1. Empowered the state to make any special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens.
2. Allowed the state to make a provision for the reservation of upto 10% of seats for such sections in admission to the educational institutions, including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the state, except the minority educational institutions. This reservation of upto 10% would be in addition to the existing reservations.
3. Permitted the state to make a provision for the reservation of upto 10% of appointments or posts in favour of such sections. This reservation of upto 10% would be in addition to the existing reservation.

The One Hundred and Second Amendment Act, 2018: Empowered the President to specify the socially and educationally backward classes in relation to a state or a Union Territory.

77. (c)

Explanation:

The Fundamental Rights, which are justiciable in nature, are incorporated in Part III and the Directive Principles, which are non-justiciable in nature, are incorporated in Part IV of the Constitution. Though the Directive Principles are non-justiciable, the Constitution (Article 37) makes it clear that ‘these Principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws’.

The framers of the Constitution made the Directive Principles non-justiciable and legally non-enforceable because:

1. The country did not possess sufficient financial resources to implement them.
2. The presence of vast diversity and backwardness in the country would stand in the way of their implementation.
3. The newly born independent Indian State with its many pre-occupations might be crushed under the burden unless it was free to decide the order, the time, the place and the mode of fulfilling them.

78. (b)

Explanation:

Distinction between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles:

1. The Fundamental Rights are negative, as they prohibit the State from doing certain things and the Directive Principles are positive, as they require the State to do certain things.
2. The Fundamental Rights are justiciable, i.e., they are legally enforceable by the courts in case of their violation and the Directive Principles are non-justiciable, i.e., they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation.
3. The Fundamental Rights aim at establishing political democracy in the country and the Directive Principles aim at establishing social and economic democracy in the country.
4. The Fundamental Rights have legal sanctions and the Directive Principles have moral and political sanctions.
5. The Fundamental Rights promote the welfare of the individual. Hence, they are personal and individualistic and the Directive Principles promote the welfare of the community. Hence, they are societarian and socialistic.
6. The Fundamental Rights do not require any legislation for their implementation. They are automatically enforced and the Directive Principles require legislation for their implementation. They are not automatically enforced.
7. The courts are bound to declare a law violative of any of the Fundamental Rights as unconstitutional and invalid. The courts cannot declare a law violative of any of the Directive Principles as unconstitutional and invalid. However, they can uphold the validity of a law on the ground that it was enacted to give effect to a Directive.

79. (c)

Explanation:

The Directive Principles are significant and useful in the following ways –

1. They are like an 'Instrument of Instructions' or general recommendations addressed to all authorities in the Indian Union.
2. They have helped the courts in exercising their power of judicial review, i.e., the power to determine the constitutional validity of a law.
3. They form the dominating background to all State actions, legislative or executive, and also a guide to the courts in some respects.
4. They amplify the Preamble, which solemnly resolves to secure to all citizens of India justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.
5. They are supplementary to the Fundamental Rights of the citizens. They are intended to fill in the vacuum in Part III by providing for social and economic rights.

80. (c)

Explanation:

The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a Special Majority of the Parliament, i.e., a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House, present and voting. The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House, irrespective of the fact whether there are vacancies or absentees. The provisions, which can be amended by this way, include: (i) Fundamental Rights; and (ii) Directive Principles of State Policy.

By Special Majority of the Parliament and the Consent of the State – The following provisions can be amended in this way:

1. Election of the President and its manner.
2. Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
3. The Supreme Court and the High Courts.
4. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
5. Goods and Services Tax Council.
6. Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.

81. (d)

Explanation:

Abolition of Titles – Article 18 abolishes titles and makes 4 provisions in that regard:

- (a) It prohibits the state from conferring any title (except a military or academic distinction) on anybody, whether a citizen or a foreigner.
- (b) It prohibits a citizen of India from accepting any title from any foreign state.
- (c) A foreigner holding any office of profit or trust under the state cannot accept any title from any foreign state without the consent of the President.
- (d) No citizen or foreigner holding any office of profit or trust under the state is to accept any present, emolument or office from or under any foreign state without the consent of the President.

82. (d)

Explanation:

The Supreme Court has original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction. Its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more States on the other or between two or more States, if and insofar as the dispute involves any question (whether of law or of fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends. In addition, Article 32 of the Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari to enforce them.

The Supreme Court has been conferred with power to direct transfer of any civil or criminal case from one State High Court to another State High Court or from a Court subordinate to another State High Court.

The Supreme Court, if satisfied that cases involving the same or substantially the same questions of law are pending before it and one or more High Courts or before two or more High Courts and that such questions are substantial questions of general importance, may withdraw a case or cases pending before the High Court or High Courts and dispose of all such cases itself.

Under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, International Commercial Arbitration can also be initiated in the Supreme Court.

83. (c)

Explanation:

The appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can be invoked by a certificate granted by the High Court concerned under Article 132(1), 133(1) or 134 of the Constitution in respect of any judgement, decree or final order of a High Court in both civil and criminal cases, involving substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Appeals also lie to the Supreme Court in civil matters if the High Court concerned certifies: (a) that the case involves a substantial question of law of general importance, and (b) that, in the opinion of the High Court, the said question needs to be decided by the Supreme Court. In criminal cases, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court if the High Court (a) has on appeal reversed an order of acquittal of an accused person and sentenced him to death or to imprisonment for life or for a period of not less than 10 years, or (b) has withdrawn for trial before itself any case from any Court subordinate to its authority and has in such trial convicted the accused and sentenced him to death or to imprisonment for life or for a period of not less than 10 years, or (c) certified that the case is a fit one for appeal to the Supreme Court. Parliament is authorized to confer on the Supreme Court any further powers to entertain and hear appeals from any judgement, final order or sentence in a criminal proceeding of a High Court.

The Supreme Court has also a very wide appellate jurisdiction over all Courts and Tribunals in India in as much as it may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any Court or Tribunal in the territory of India.

84. (d)

Explanation:

NALSA along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are

settled / compromised amicably.

Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.

If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award, but they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.

There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat. If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties.

The persons deciding the cases in the Lok Adalats are called the Members of the Lok Adalats, they have the role of statutory conciliators only and do not have any judicial role; therefore, they can only persuade the parties to come to a conclusion for settling the dispute outside the court in the Lok Adalat and shall not pressurize any of the parties to compromise or settle cases or matters either directly or indirectly.

The Lok Adalat shall not decide the matter so referred at its own instance, instead the same would be decided on the basis of the compromise or settlement between the parties. The members shall assist the parties in an independent and impartial manner in their attempt to reach amicable settlement of their dispute.

85. (a)

Explanation:

The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states, viz., List-I (the Union List), List-II (the State List) and List-III (the Concurrent List) in the Seventh Schedule:

(i) The Parliament has exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Union List. This List has at present 98 subjects (originally 971 subjects), like defence, banking, foreign affairs, currency, atomic energy, insurance, communication, inter-state trade and commerce, census, audit and so on.

(ii) The State Legislature has "in normal circumstances" exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List.

This has at present 59 subjects (originally 662 subjects), like public order, police, public health and sanitation, agriculture, prisons, local government, fisheries, markets, theatres, gambling and so on.

(iii) Both, the Parliament and the State Legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List.

This List has at present 52 subjects (originally 473 subjects), like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, labour welfare, economic and social planning, drugs, newspapers, books and printing press, and others.

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred 5 subjects to the Concurrent List from the State List, i.e., (a) education, (b) forests, (c) weights and measures, (d) protection of wild animals and birds and (e) administration of justice; constitution and organization of all courts, except the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

86. (b)

Explanation:

In the US, only the powers of the Federal Government are enumerated in the Constitution and the residuary powers are left to the states. The Australian Constitution followed the American pattern of single enumeration of powers. In Canada, on the other hand, there is a double enumeration – Federal and Provincial, and the residuary powers are vested in the Centre.

The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for a three-fold enumeration, viz., federal, provincial and concurrent. The present Constitution follows the scheme of this Act, but with one difference, i.e., under this Act, the residuary powers were given neither to the Federal Legislature nor to the Provincial Legislature but to the Governor General of India. In this respect, India follows the Canadian precedent. The Constitution expressly secures the

predominance of the Union List over the State List and the Concurrent List and that of the Concurrent List over the State List. Thus, in case of overlapping between the Union List and the State List, the former should prevail. In case of overlapping between the Union List and the Concurrent List, it is again the former which should prevail. Where there is a conflict between the Concurrent List and the State List, it is the former that should prevail.

In case of a conflict between the Central law and the state law on a subject enumerated in the Concurrent List, the Central law prevails over the state law. But, there is an exception. If the state law has been reserved for the consideration of the President and has received his assent, then the state law prevails in that state. But, it would still be competent for the Parliament to override such a law by subsequently making a law on the same matter.

87. (d)

Explanation:

Besides the Parliament's power to legislate directly on the State Subjects under exceptional situations, the Constitution empowers the Centre to exercise control over the state's legislative matters in the following ways:

(i) The Governor can reserve certain types of Bills passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President. The President enjoys absolute veto over them.

(ii) Bills on certain matters enumerated in the State List can be introduced in the State Legislature only with the previous sanction of the President. (e.g., the Bills imposing restrictions on the freedom of trade and commerce).

(iii) The Centre can direct the states to reserve Money Bills and other Financial Bills passed by the State Legislature for the President's consideration during a financial emergency.

88. (b)

Explanation:

Though India has a dual polity, there is no dual system of administration of justice. The Constitution, on the other hand, established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the State High Courts below it. This single system of courts enforces both the Central laws, as well as the state laws. This is done to eliminate diversities in the remedial procedure.

The judges of a State High Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state. They can also be transferred and removed by the President. The Parliament can establish a common High Court for two or more states. e.g., Maharashtra and Goa, or Punjab and Haryana have a common High Court.

89. (b)

Explanation:

Relations between the Centre and the states during Emergencies –

(i) During the operation of a national emergency (under Article 352), the Centre becomes entitled to give executive directions to a state on 'any' matter. Thus, the state governments are brought under the complete control of the Centre, though they are not suspended.

(ii) When the President's Rule is imposed in a state (under Article 356), the President can assume to himself the functions of the state government and the powers vested in the Governor or any other executive authority in the state.

(iii) During the operation of a financial emergency (under Article 360), the Centre can direct the states to observe canons of financial propriety and can give other necessary directions, including the reduction of salaries of persons serving in the state.

90. (b)

Explanation:

Article 312 of the Constitution authorizes the Parliament to create new All-India Services on the basis of a Rajya Sabha resolution to that effect. These Services are controlled jointly by the Centre and the states. The ultimate control lies with the Central Government, while the immediate control vests with the state governments.

Each of these All-India Services, irrespective of their division among different states, form a single service with common rights and status, and uniform scales of pay throughout the country.

Though the All-India Services violate the principle of federalism under the Constitution by restricting the autonomy and patronage of the states, they are supported on the ground that (i) they help in maintaining high standard of administration in the Centre, as well as in the states; (ii) they help to ensure uniformity of the administrative system throughout the country; and (iii) they facilitate liaison, co-operation, co-ordination and joint action on the issues of common interest between the Centre and the states.

91. a)

Ar 74 : There shall be a Council of Ministers with the PM at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. However, the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration. The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.

The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President. They shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister.

Usually, the members of the Parliament, either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, are appointed as ministers. A person who is not a member of either House of the Parliament can also be appointed as a minister. But, within 6 months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of the Parliament; otherwise, he ceases to be a minister. A minister who is a member of one House of the Parliament has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of the other House also, but he can vote only in the House of which he is a member.

92. (d)

Explanation:

☑ The Governor is neither directly elected by the people nor indirectly elected by a specially constituted electoral college as is the case with the President.

☑ He is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. In a way, he is a nominee of the Central Government.

☑ But, as held by the Supreme Court in 1979, the office of the Governor of a state is not an employment under the Central Government.

☑ It is an independent constitutional office and is not under the control of or subordinate to the Central Government.

☑ The Draft Constitution provided for the direct election of the Governor on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

But the Constituent Assembly opted for the present system of appointment of the Governor by the President.

☑ The Constitution lays down only two qualifications for the appointment of a person as a Governor:

1. He should be a citizen of India.

2. He should have completed the age of 35 years.

☑ Additionally, two conventions have also developed in this regard over the years.

☑ First, he should be an outsider, i.e., he should not belong to the state where he is appointed, so that he is free from the local politics.

☑ Second, while appointing the Governor, the President is required to consult the Chief Minister of the state concerned, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured.

93. d) The oath of the office to the Governor is administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned state High Court and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available.

☑ Every person discharging the functions of the Governor also undertakes the similar oath or affirmation.

☑ The Governor enjoys personal immunity from legal liability for his official acts.

- ☒ During his term of office, he is immune from any criminal proceedings, even in respect of his personal acts.
- ☒ He cannot be arrested or imprisoned.
- ☒ However, after giving two months' notice, civil proceedings can be instituted against him during his term of office in respect of his personal acts.

94. (d)

Explanation:

- ☒ The President can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute a death sentence.
- ☒ He is the only authority to pardon a death sentence.
- ☒ The Governor cannot pardon a death sentence.
- ☒ Even if a state law prescribes for death sentence, the power to grant pardon lies with the President and not the Governor.
- ☒ But, the Governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence.
- ☒ The President can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a Central Law.
- ☒ The Governor can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a state law.

95. (b)

Explanation:

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

1. It consists of both the elected and the nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of the President, only the elected members).
2. It does not include the members of the State Legislative Assemblies (in the case of the President, the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies are included).

The manner of election is the same in both the cases. Thus, the Vice-President's election, like that of the President's election, is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot.

All doubts and disputes in connection with the election of the Vice-President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court, whose decision is final.

Note: The original Constitution provided that the Vice-President would be elected by the two Houses of the Parliament assembled at a joint meeting. This cumbersome procedure was done away by the 11th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1961

96. (d)

Explanation:

- ☒ Money Bills can be introduced in the State Legislature only with the Governor's prior recommendation.
- ☒ No demand for a grant can be made except on his recommendation.
- ☒ He can make advances out of the Contingency Fund of the state to meet any unforeseen expenditure.

97. (b)

Explanation:

The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal:

Set-up in: 2010

States involved: Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra

98. (d)

Explanation:

The Punchhi Commission made several recommendations with respect to the Office of the Governor. Some of them are:

- ☑ The Governor should be a person from outside the state and should not be intimately connected with the politics of the state.
- ☑ The Governors should be given a fixed tenure of 5 years and their removal should not be at the sweet will of the Government at the Centre.
- ☑ The procedure laid down for the impeachment of the President can be made applicable for the impeachment of the Governors as well.
- ☑ The convention of the Governors acting as the Chancellors of the Universities and holding other statutory positions should be done away with. His role should be confined to the Constitutional provisions only.

99. (b)

Explanation:

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees – Each of the Standing Committees constituted shall consist of not more than 31 members, 21 members to be nominated by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Lok Sabha and 10 members to be nominated by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha.

The term of the office of the members of the Committees shall not exceed one year.

The Chairpersons of the Committees, as specified in Part I of the Fifth Schedule (Committees in the Rajya Sabha), shall be appointed by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha; and Chairpersons of the Committees as specified in Part II (Committees in the Lok Sabha) of the said Schedule shall be appointed by the Speaker, from amongst the members of the committees.

Quorum requirement – The quorum to constitute a sitting of a Committee shall be, as near as may be, one-third of the total number of the members of the Committee. If at any time fixed for any sitting of the Committee, or if at any time during any such sitting, there is no quorum, the Chairperson of the Committee shall either suspend the sitting until there is a quorum or adjourn the sitting to some future day.

The following procedure shall be followed by each of the Standing Committees in their consideration of the Demands for Grants and making a report thereon to the Houses: (a) After the general discussion on the Budget in the Houses is over, the Houses shall be adjourned for a fixed period; (b) The Committees shall consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries during the aforesaid period; (c) The Committees shall make their report within the period and shall not ask for more time; (d) The Demands for Grants shall be considered by the House in the light of the reports of the Committees; and (e) There shall be a separate report on the Demands for Grants of each Ministry.

100. (a)

Explanation:

The strength of the Estimates Committee is larger than the Public Accounts committee

The Estimates Committee –

1. The Committee shall consist of not more than 30 members, who shall be elected by the House every year from amongst its members, according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote: Provided that a Minister shall not be elected a member of the Committee, and if a member, after election to the Committee, is appointed a Minister, such member shall cease to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

2. The term of the office of the members of the Committee shall not exceed one year.

There shall be a Committee on Estimates for the examination of such of the estimates as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker. The functions of the Committee shall be –

- (a) To report what economies, improvements in organization, efficiency or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates, may be effected;
- (b) To suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration;

- (c) To examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and
- (d) To suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to the Parliament.

Note: The Estimates Committee is a committee of selected members of parliament, constituted by the Lok Sabha, for the purpose of scrutinising the functioning of government ministries and departments in terms of expenditure and utilisation of funds.



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