Polity & Governance

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Q1.

With reference to constitutional safeguards for tribal communities in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 244 provides for the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
2. The Fifth Schedule provides for Tribal Advisory Councils in states having Scheduled Areas.
3. The Sixth Schedule provides for Autonomous District Councils in certain tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
4. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is a statutory body established under an ordinary Act of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 244 provides the constitutional framework for administering tribal areas under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fifth Schedule provides for Tribal Advisory Councils to advise on tribal welfare and advancement.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The Sixth Schedule provides for autonomous governance institutions in specified tribal areas of four northeastern states.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The NCST is a constitutional body established under Article 338A.

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Q2.

With reference to the creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs), consider the following statements:

1. The creamy layer principle excludes socially advanced sections of OBCs from reservation benefits.
2. The Supreme Court has held that the creamy layer principle is applicable only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. The Supreme Court's March 2026 ruling on excluding salary and agricultural income from creamy layer calculations has been clarified to operate prospectively.
4. The creamy layer principle is intended to ensure that reservation benefits reach the relatively disadvantaged sections within OBCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The creamy layer excludes relatively advanced OBC sections from reservation benefits.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The creamy layer principle is applied to OBC reservations, not exclusively to SCs and STs.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** According to the supplied article, the March 2026 ruling will apply prospectively, protecting completed selections.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The principle seeks to distribute reservation benefits among relatively disadvantaged OBC groups.

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Q3.

With reference to the acquisition of private property by the State in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 300A provides that no person shall be deprived of property except by authority of law.
2. The Right to Property is currently a Fundamental Right under Part III of the Constitution.
3. Compulsory acquisition of private property must satisfy applicable legal requirements, including the requirement of public purpose.
4. The doctrine of colourable exercise of power prevents a legislature or executive authority from doing indirectly what it cannot do directly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 3 and 4 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 300A protects individuals against deprivation of property without legal authority.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Right to Property is a constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Compulsory acquisition must comply with applicable law and public-purpose requirements.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Colourable exercise of power means using authority indirectly to achieve an impermissible objective.

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Q4.

With reference to judicial review of government decisions relating to public recruitment examinations in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws.
2. Courts can examine government decisions concerning recruitment examinations if they are arbitrary or violate constitutional principles.
3. Cancellation of an entire examination is the only legally permissible response to allegations of irregularities.
4. The principles of natural justice and protection of bona fide candidates are relevant considerations in recruitment-related disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 2 and 4 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of laws.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Judicial review can examine arbitrary or unconstitutional administrative decisions.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Authorities may adopt proportionate alternatives, such as re-evaluation, where legally appropriate.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Fair procedure must consider natural justice and the interests of candidates not involved in irregularities.

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Q5.

With reference to the formation and stability of governments in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has a constitutional provision for a Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
2. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.
3. A government may lose its majority if a sufficient number of supporting legislators withdraw their support.
4. The resignation of individual legislators automatically results in the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 1 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 provides for a Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Lieutenant Governor appoints the Chief Minister under the applicable statutory framework.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Withdrawal of legislative support can affect a government's majority in the Assembly.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Individual resignations do not automatically dissolve the Assembly or bring down the government.

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Q6.

With reference to contempt of court in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 129 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to punish for contempt of itself.
2. Article 215 empowers every High Court to punish for contempt of itself.
3. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 recognises both civil and criminal contempt.
4. Fair criticism of judicial decisions, made in good faith, necessarily amounts to criminal contempt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 1 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 129 recognises the Supreme Court as a court of record with contempt powers.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 215 grants every High Court the status and powers of a court of record.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The 1971 Act classifies contempt as civil or criminal.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Fair criticism made in good faith is protected under the statutory exceptions to criminal contempt.

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Q7.

With reference to inter-State river water disputes and the sharing of hydroelectric benefits in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 262 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to provide for adjudication of disputes relating to the use, distribution or control of waters of inter-State rivers.
2. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides for the constitution of tribunals to adjudicate inter-State river water disputes.
3. The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction whatsoever in any matter connected with inter-State river water disputes.
4. Hydropower projects on inter-State rivers may raise issues concerning the sharing of electricity and benefits among the concerned States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1, 2 and 4 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option A — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 262 empowers Parliament to legislate on the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The 1956 Act provides for tribunals to resolve specified inter-State river water disputes.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Article 262 permits Parliament to exclude the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over such disputes, but this does not exclude every related matter.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Inter-State hydropower projects can involve agreements or legal arrangements for sharing electricity and project benefits.

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Q8.

With reference to contempt of court and the constitutional position of the Supreme Court in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court is a court of record under Article 129 of the Constitution.
2. Article 129 empowers the Supreme Court to punish for contempt of itself.
3. The power to punish for contempt of court is available only to the Supreme Court and not to High Courts.
4. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, distinguishes between civil contempt and criminal contempt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 129 recognises the Supreme Court as a court of record.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 129 empowers the Supreme Court to punish contempt of itself.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** High Courts also possess contempt powers under Article 215.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The 1971 Act defines both civil and criminal contempt.

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Q9.

With reference to India's immigration and citizenship framework, consider the following statements:

1. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides a special eligibility route for specified religious communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
2. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 covers Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from the three specified countries.
3. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 automatically grants Indian citizenship to every person belonging to these six communities.
4. The Foreigners Act, 1946 provides the legal framework for regulating the entry, presence and departure of foreigners in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The CAA, 2019 creates a special citizenship eligibility provision for specified migrants.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** It covers six specified religious communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Citizenship is not automatic; applicants must satisfy the prescribed legal conditions and procedure.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The Foreigners Act, 1946 regulates foreigners' entry, stay and departure.

Q10.

With reference to delimitation and gerrymandering, consider the following statements:

1. Gerrymandering refers to manipulating electoral constituency boundaries to gain political advantage.
2. In India, delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies is governed by constitutional provisions and laws enacted by Parliament.
3. The Election Commission of India independently determines and redraws all constituency boundaries without a separate delimitation authority.
4. Article 329(a) of the Indian Constitution restricts judicial interference in laws relating to delimitation of constituencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Gerrymandering manipulates electoral boundaries for partisan advantage.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Delimitation in India follows constitutional provisions and parliamentary legislation.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Delimitation is undertaken by a Delimitation Commission constituted under parliamentary law.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Article 329(a) bars courts from questioning the validity of laws relating to delimitation.

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