

Answers

1) B

The Constitution under Article 324 mandates the Election Commission, to conduct elections inter alia to the Parliament and the State Legislatures. Local Body elections are conducted by the State Election Commissions.

The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 5th July 2013 in S. Subramaniam Balaji Vs Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Others directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of election manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties.

After consultation with the Political Parties, the Commission, in the interest of free and fair elections, hereby directs that Political Parties and Candidates while releasing election manifestos for any election to the Parliament or State Legislatures, shall adhere to the following guidelines:

The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.

2) A

The Lilavati Award is an initiative of the technical education regulator, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and it aims to recognise efforts by AICTE-approved institutions to treat women with 'equality and fairness'.

Based on the theme 'Women Empowerment', AICTE finalized the winners from a total of 456 entries who competed across 6 sub themes, which include Women's Health, Self-Defense, Sanitation and Hygiene, Literacy, Women Entrepreneurship, and Legal Awareness.

3) C

DIKSHA is a unique initiative which leverages existing highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures, while keeping teachers at the center. It is built considering the whole teacher's life cycle – from the time student teachers enroll in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) to after they retire as teachers.

It can be accessed after scanning the QR code provided in their NCERT books. Students having access to DIKSHA app will be able to understand concepts in easy and interactive manner.

There are features through which lessons can be revised Parents having access to DIKSHA app in their mobiles can follow classroom activities and clear doubts outside school hours. It is a comprehensive platform for hassle free interaction of all the stakeholders involved.

States, government bodies and even private organisations, can integrate DIKSHA into their respective teacher initiatives based on their goals, needs and capabilities.

4) B

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) was set up by an act of Parliament during 1972.

MPEDA is given the mandate to promote the marine products industry with special reference to exports from the country. It is envisaged that this organization would take all actions to develop and augment the resources required for promoting the exports of “all varieties of fishery products known commercially as shrimp, prawn, lobster, crab, fish, shell-fish, other aquatic animals or plants or part thereof. The Act empowers MPEDA to regulate exports of marine products and take all measures required for ensuring sustained, quality seafood exports from the country.

5) C

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was recently passed in Parliament to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 which provides for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners.

A pregnancy may be terminated within 20 weeks, with the opinion of a registered medical practitioner. Approval of two registered medical practitioners will be required for termination of pregnancies between 20 to 24 weeks.

The upper limit of termination of pregnancy will not apply in cases where such termination is necessary due to the diagnosis of substantial fetal abnormalities. These abnormalities will be diagnosed by a Medical Board. Under the Bill, every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board.

6) B

The Foreigners Act, 1946 is applicable to whole of India and states that a “foreigner” means a person who is not a citizen of India.

Under Section 9 of the act, whether any person is or is not a foreigner or is or is not a foreigner of a particular class or description the onus of proving that such person is not a foreigner or is not a foreigner of such particular class, shall notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 lie upon such person.

7) C

Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles. Hallmarks are thus official marks used in India as a guarantee of purity or fineness of precious metal articles.

In India, at present two precious metals namely gold and silver have been brought under the purview of Hallmarking.

It is being operated by Bureau of Indian Standards through its network of Regional/ Branch Offices all over the country.

The government recently said it is fully prepared to implement mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from June 1, 2021 after the deadline was extended from January 15, 2021 after the jewellers sought more time to implement in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8) A

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States around the Bay of Bengal region.

BIMSTEC is a grouping of seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia: India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan. Myanmar and Thailand are not part of SAARC grouping.

9) C

As per Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, the Exclusive Economic Zone of India is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial waters, and the limit of such zone is two hundred nautical miles from the baseline.

India's limit of the territorial waters is the line every point of which is at a distance of twelve nautical miles from the nearest point of the appropriate baseline.

As per the Act, all foreign ships (other than warships including sub-marines and other underwater vehicles) shall enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial waters, innocent passage being one that is not prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of India.

10) D

11) A

The river Chenab (or Chandra Bhaga) is formed after the two streams the Chandra and the Bhaga merge with each other. The Chandra and the Bhaga originate from the south-west and north-west faces of Barelacha pass respectively in the Himalayan canton of Lahul and Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh.

Chenab does not meet Sutlej in India. It meets with Jhelum and Ravi in Pakistan.

12) D

The 'double mutant' virus that scientists had flagged last month as having a bearing on the spread of the pandemic in India, has a formal scientific classification: B.1.617.

Sixty-one per cent of the COVID-19 samples collected by the Pune-based National Institute of Virology from the state by the premier virology institute between January and March had the double mutation, now classified as the B.1.617 lineage.

13) C

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority was set up as an attached office of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (now Department of Pharmaceuticals since July, 2008) on 1997. It has been entrusted inter-alia, with the following functions:

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995/2013 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/formulations.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.

14) B

15) C

The United Nations Secretary General has called for the first ever UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021 to strategize the actions for positive change in Agri-food systems in the World to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will focus on levers and pathways to shape food systems nationally and globally to accelerate progress in the SDGs.

The term “food system” refers to the constellation of activities involved in producing, processing, transporting and consuming food.

16) A

The EatSmart Cities Challenge aims to motivate Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment supported by institutional, physical, social, and economic infrastructure along with the application of ‘smart’ solutions to combat food related issues.

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS (I/C), Housing and Urban Affairs launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge at an online event recently.

The ‘Eat Right India’ movement initiated by FSSAI under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has gone a long way in creating awareness amongst the people about eating safe, healthy and sustainably. The launch event of EatSmart Cities Challenge today was organized in association with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

17) C

A managed or dirty float is a flexible exchange rate system in which the government or the country’s central bank may occasionally intervene in order to direct the country’s currency value into a certain direction. This is generally done in order to act as a buffer against economic shocks and hence soften its effect in the economy.

A managed float is halfway between a fixed exchange rate and a flexible one as a country can obtain the benefits of a free-floating system but still has the option to intervene and minimize the risks associated with a free-floating currency.

India is having this type of exchange rate system. In this hybrid exchange rate system, the exchange rate is generally determined in the foreign exchange market through the operation of market forces.

But during extreme fluctuations, the central bank under a managed floating exchange rate system (like the RBI) intervenes in the foreign exchange market.

18) A

The Mission 'Aahaar Kranti' is aimed to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet and to understand the importance of accessible to all local fruits and vegetables.

It is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world called 'hunger and diseases in abundance'. Studies estimate that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories that it consumes. However, many in the country are still malnourished. The root cause of this strange phenomenon is a lack of nutritional awareness in all sections of our society.

Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST) have come together to launch the mission with the motto of Uttam Aahaar Uttam Vichaar or 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'.

19) B

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), under Section 12-ccc of the UGC Act of 1956, for assessing and accrediting higher education institutions (HEIs) of the country. It is registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act of 1960, Karnataka Societies Registration Rules of 1961 and is headquartered at Bangalore.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) through a gazette notification dated 19th January 2013, has made it mandatory for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to undergo accreditation.

20) A

Blood clotting, or coagulation, is an important process that prevents excessive bleeding when a blood vessel is injured. Platelets (a type of blood cell) and proteins in blood plasma work together to stop the bleeding by forming a clot over the injury.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a type of clot that forms in a major vein of the leg or, less commonly, in the arms, pelvis, or other large veins in the body.

IQRA IAS