Polity & Governance

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Q1.

With reference to the writ jurisdiction of constitutional courts in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 226 empowers High Courts to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights as well as for other purposes.
2. The Supreme Court can issue writs under Article 32 for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
3. High Courts cannot examine challenges to administrative or municipal actions involving demolition of structures.
4. The availability of an alternative legal remedy is generally a relevant consideration for High Courts, but it is not an absolute bar to exercising writ jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above 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) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 226 gives High Courts wider writ jurisdiction, covering Fundamental Rights and other legal purposes.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 32 empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs for enforcing Fundamental Rights and is itself a Fundamental Right.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** High Courts can examine the legality of administrative and municipal actions, including demolition orders, through their writ jurisdiction.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** High Courts ordinarily consider whether an alternative remedy is available, but exceptions may arise in cases involving violation of Fundamental Rights, natural justice or lack of jurisdiction.

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Q2.

With reference to India's cultural and religious connections with Nepal, consider the following pairs:

Cultural site / Tradition	Associated significance
1. Pashupatinath Temple	Kathmandu, Nepal
2. Janakpur	Associated with Sita in the Ramayana tradition
3. Lumbini	Birthplace of Gautama Buddha
4. Muktinath	Located in the Terai plains of Nepal

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option C — Only three

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Only three pairs are correctly matched

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** Pashupatinath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located in Kathmandu and is an important pilgrimage site for Hindus.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Janakpur is traditionally associated with King Janaka and Sita, making it an important centre of the Ramayana tradition.
3. **Pair 3 is correct:** Lumbini, in present-day Nepal, is recognised as the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.
4. **Pair 4 is incorrect:** Muktinath is situated in the Himalayan region of Mustang, not in the Terai plains.

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Q3.

With reference to the constitutional and administrative framework of Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission is a constitutional body.
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board is responsible for recruitment to various non-gazetted posts under the Union Territory administration.
3. The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir is appointed by the President of India.
4. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir exercises executive powers independently of the Lieutenant Governor in all matters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 1, 2 and 3 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission is a constitutional body established under the applicable provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, read with the constitutional framework.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The J&K Services Selection Board conducts recruitment for various non-gazetted posts in government departments and institutions under its jurisdiction.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Article 239, the President appoints an Administrator for a Union Territory; in Jammu and Kashmir, this office is designated as Lieutenant Governor.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Executive authority in Jammu and Kashmir is distributed according to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The Council of Ministers exercises powers within its prescribed domain, subject to the Lieutenant Governor's statutory authority and specified exceptions.

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Q4.

With reference to international commercial arbitration and the UNCITRAL Model Law, consider the following statements:

1. The principle of competence-competence recognises the arbitral tribunal's authority to rule on its own jurisdiction.
2. The principle of separability treats an arbitration clause as legally independent of the main contract.
3. The New York Convention, 1958, requires courts to enforce every arbitral award without recognising any grounds for refusal.
4. Anti-arbitration injunctions restrain parties from commencing or continuing arbitration proceedings.

Which of the statements given above 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) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Competence-competence empowers an arbitral tribunal to decide objections concerning its own jurisdiction. Article 16 of the UNCITRAL Model Law recognises this principle.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Separability means that an arbitration clause is treated as independent of the underlying contract, so invalidity of the main contract does not automatically invalidate the arbitration agreement.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Article V of the New York Convention provides limited grounds on which recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards may be refused.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** An anti-arbitration injunction is a judicial order restraining a party from initiating or continuing arbitration proceedings.

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Q5.

With reference to maritime security and naval warfare, consider the following statements:

1. Unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) can be used to conduct maritime surveillance and attacks against naval vessels.
2. The Mediterranean Sea is connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Gibraltar.
3. The Black Sea is connected to the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Hormuz.
4. Maritime chokepoints are strategically important because disruptions can affect international trade and energy transportation.

Which of the statements given above 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) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Unmanned surface vehicles operate on water without onboard human crews and can perform surveillance, reconnaissance and offensive missions.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Strait of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Black Sea connects to the Mediterranean through the Turkish Straits system, comprising the Bosporus, Sea of Marmara and Dardanelles. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Strategic maritime chokepoints carry substantial commercial and energy traffic, making them important for global economic and military security.

Q6.

With reference to food safety regulation in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. FSSAI functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. An independent laboratory report automatically overrides the findings of FSSAI in a food safety dispute.
4. Food business operators are required to comply with prescribed food safety standards irrespective of their own internal quality assessments.

Which of the statements given above 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) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** FSSAI is a statutory authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to regulate and supervise food safety.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** FSSAI functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Independent laboratory findings may serve as evidence, but they do not automatically invalidate regulatory findings. Their evidentiary value depends on applicable procedures and standards.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Food business operators must comply with legally prescribed safety and quality standards, regardless of their internal assessments.

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Q7.

Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional protection of property rights in India:

1. Article 300A protects the right to property as a constitutional right.
2. The State can deprive a person of property through executive action even in the absence of legal authority.
3. The right to property is no longer a Fundamental Right under the Constitution of India.
4. State action concerning property must conform to applicable legal provisions and constitutional principles.

Which of the statements given above 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) — 1, 3 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 300A provides constitutional protection against deprivation of property except by authority of law.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Executive action alone cannot deprive a person of property without legal authority.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The 44th Constitutional Amendment, 1978, removed the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Government action affecting property must comply with applicable laws and constitutional requirements, including protection against arbitrary state action.

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Q8.

With reference to urban local government elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provided constitutional status to urban local bodies.
2. The Mayor or Chairperson of a municipality is necessarily elected through direct elections in every state.
3. The State Election Commission is responsible for the superintendence, direction and control of municipal elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 1 and 3 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 introduced Part IX-A and constitutional recognition for urban local bodies.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 243R provides for the composition of municipalities, but the method of electing the Chairperson is determined by state legislation. It is not necessarily direct in every state.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Article 243ZA, the State Election Commission supervises, directs and controls the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of municipal elections.

Q9.

Consider the following factors that can influence the international price of gold:

1. A depreciation of the US dollar can make gold relatively cheaper for holders of other currencies.
2. A decline in US Treasury yields can reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-interest-bearing gold.
3. Increased geopolitical uncertainty can strengthen the safe-haven demand for gold.
4. Central-bank purchases of gold can influence its global demand.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four statements

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** A weaker US dollar generally makes dollar-denominated gold cheaper for buyers using other currencies,

potentially increasing demand.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Gold does not generate interest. Lower Treasury yields reduce the relative opportunity cost of holding gold.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Geopolitical and financial uncertainty can increase gold's attractiveness as a safe-haven asset.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Central-bank purchases contribute to global gold demand and can influence market prices.

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Q10.

With reference to AI agents and the evolving AI ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. AI agents can be designed to perform multi-step tasks with a degree of autonomy.
2. An always-on AI agent may continue working in the background between user interactions, subject to its permissions and configuration.
3. AI agents and conventional chatbots are identical because both can only respond to individual user prompts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 and 2 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** AI agents can plan and execute multi-step tasks, interact with connected tools and work towards specified goals.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Always-on AI agents, such as OpenAI's Dots, can continue making progress between conversations using their assigned capabilities and connected applications.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Conventional chatbots primarily respond to user prompts, whereas AI agents can perform multi-step tasks with greater autonomy.

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