GS Foundation 2027 (Test Solution)

(Nov T30, Jan T24, Mar T16, Apr T10)

Q1. Which of the following defence exercises are conducted between India and the USA?

1. Yudh Abhyas
2. Cope India
3. Dharma Guardian
4. Maitree
5. Surya Kiran

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

A. Only two

B. Only three

C. Only four

D. All five

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Yudh Abhyas** – **India–USA Army exercise.** Held since 2004, focuses on counter-terrorism, jungle & urban warfare. One of the longest-running bilateral army exercises between the two nations.
- **Cope India** – **India–USA Air Force exercise.** Focuses on air combat tactics and interoperability between the Indian Air Force and US Air Force.
- **Dharma Guardian** – **India–Japan.** Annual army exercise held since 2018, focuses on counter-terrorism operations in jungle and urban environments.
- **Maitree** – **India–Thailand.** Bilateral army exercise meaning "Friendship", focuses on counter-insurgency and jungle warfare.
- **Surya Kiran** – **India–Nepal.** Meaning "Sun Ray", this biannual army exercise focuses on high-altitude mountain warfare and disaster relief operations.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q2. Which of the following best describes BECA signed between India and the United States?

A. An agreement that enables reciprocal access to each other's military bases for logistics support, refuelling, and replenishment.

B. An agreement that facilitates secure and encrypted communication and interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries.

C. An agreement that promotes joint research, development, and transfer of advanced defence technologies between the two countries.

D. An agreement for sharing geospatial intelligence, maps, and satellite data to enhance the accuracy of military operations.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct: LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement)**, signed in 2016. It allows the armed forces of India and the US to access each other's designated military facilities for logistics support, including refuelling, replenishment, repairs, and maintenance.
- **Option B is not correct: COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement)**, signed in 2018. It enables the use of secure communication equipment and encrypted information-sharing between the two militaries.
- **Option C is not correct: DTTI (Defence Technology and Trade Initiative)**. It is a bilateral framework aimed at enhancing defence technology cooperation and co-development. It is **not** one of the four foundational defence agreements.
- **Option D is correct: BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)**, signed in 2020. It facilitates the exchange of geospatial intelligence, including satellite imagery, nautical and aeronautical charts, and other mapping data, thereby improving the accuracy of navigation, targeting, and military operations.

Hence, option D is correct.

Additional Info:

The four foundational defence agreements between India and the United States are:

- **GSOMIA (2002):** Sharing and protection of classified military information.
- **LEMOA (2016):** Logistics support.
- **COMCASA (2018):** Secure military communications.
- **BECA (2020):** Geospatial intelligence sharing.

Q3. Consider the following initiatives in the context of India–US relations:

Initiative	Purpose
1. US–India COMPACT	Military Partnership, Commerce & Technology.
2. TRUST	Geospatial Intelligence cooperation.
3. ASIA	Defence industrial cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
4. INDUS Innovation	To advance industry and academic collaborations in emerging sectors.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

A. 1, 3 and 4 only

B. 1 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Announced in 2025, COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) provides a comprehensive framework to strengthen cooperation in defence, commerce, technology, energy security, and strategic partnerships.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) is not related to geospatial intelligence cooperation. It is the rebranded Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), aimed at enhancing collaboration among the government, industry, and academia in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies, biotechnology, space, energy, and advanced defence technologies. Geospatial intelligence sharing is covered under the BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Launched in 2025, ASIA (Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance) seeks to strengthen defence industrial cooperation by promoting co-development, co-production, and scaling of autonomous systems in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** INDUS Innovation is an innovation bridge between India and the United States that promotes industry–academia collaboration in emerging sectors through joint research, innovation, and commercialization.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q4. Which of the following U.S. defence platforms are already part of India's military inventory?

1. Stryker Infantry Combat Vehicles
2. C-130J Super Hercules
3. Chinook helicopters
4. P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

A. 1, 2 and 4 only
B. 2, 3 and 4 only
C. 1, 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Stryker Infantry Combat Vehicles — Not inducted.** These are **not** currently part of India's military inventory. While there have been ongoing discussions and reports regarding the potential joint production of Stryker vehicles between India and the U.S. to enhance infantry mobility, no formal procurement or induction into service has been finalized as of June 2026.
- **C-130J Super Hercules — Already in inventory.** India operates C-130J-30 Super Hercules tactical airlift aircraft, procured from the US under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route. These are operated by a dedicated IAF squadron and are used for special operations, transport to forward and high-altitude airbases, and humanitarian missions.

- **Chinook helicopters — Already in inventory.** India has inducted the CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopters from Boeing, used by the IAF for transporting heavy equipment, artillery, and troops, particularly in mountainous and high-altitude regions.
- **P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft — Already in inventory.** The Indian Navy operates the P-8I Poseidon, a variant of the Boeing P-8A developed specifically for India, used for anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance, and reconnaissance.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding India-USA trade relations:

1. USA became India's largest trading partner in FY 2026
2. Mission 500 aims to enhance bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2040.
3. Bilateral trade between India and USA has crossed $100 billion.

Which of the above statements are **NOT** correct?

A. 2 and 3 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** USA was India's **largest** trading partner till **FY25**. In **FY26**, USA became India's **2nd largest** trading partner.
    - In FY2026, **China regained the position of India's largest trading partner**, with bilateral trade exceeding that of the USA.
- **Statement 2 is not correct: Mission 500** was announced during the India–USA summit in **February 2025**. Its objective is to **increase bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030**, **not 2040**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India–USA bilateral trade has **already crossed USD 100 billion**. In fact, it reached around **USD 130+ billion in FY 2024-25** and has continued to grow.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the GE F414 engine:

1. It is an afterburning turbofan engine selected to power the LCA Tejas Mk-2.
2. It is the same engine that powers the LCA Tejas Mk-1 and Mk-1A variants.
3. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **GE F414-INS6** has been selected to power the **LCA Tejas Mk-2**. It is an **afterburning turbofan engine** in the 22,000-pound (98 kN) thrust class.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The **LCA Tejas Mk-1** and **Mk-1A** are powered by the **GE F404-IN20** engine, **not** the GE F414. The F414 is a more powerful engine, providing about **35% more thrust** than the F404.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The **GE F414** is manufactured by **General Electric Aerospace (United States)**. **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** manufactures the **Tejas aircraft**, but it does **not** manufacture the GE F414 engine.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q7. Consider the following international groupings:

1. G-20
2. QUAD
3. SCO
4. IMEEC
5. G-77
6. AUKUS

How many of the above groupings have both India and the United States as members/signatories?

A. Only three

B. Only four

C. Only five

D. All six

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **G-20:** The G-20 is an international forum of 19 countries plus the European Union and the African Union. **Both India and the USA are members.**
- **QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue):** Its main purpose is to ensure an open, stable, and inclusive Indo-Pacific Region. Members are **India, USA**, Japan, and Australia.
- **IMEEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor): India** and the **USA** are among the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding, along with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Germany, and Italy.
- **SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization):** India is a member; the **USA is not.**
- **G-77:** India is a member; the **USA is not.**
- **AUKUS:** Consists only of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (not India).

Hence, option A is correct.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the strategic dynamics between India, the US, and China:

Statement I:

India relies on advanced US intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to deter China.

Statement II:

The US views India as an essential democratic counterweight to contain Beijing's regional hegemony.

Statement III:

India's massive economic dependence on China for Pharma APIs and critical electronics represents a core strategic vulnerability.

Which of the following analytical relationships between these statements is correct?

A. Statement II entirely contradicts the reality of Statement I.

B. Statement I and Statement III together suggest that India has zero defence capabilities of its own.

C. Statement III limits or complicates India's capacity to act fully on the shared objectives implied by Statement I and Statement II.

D. Statement II extends Statement III by showing that the US provides India with raw Pharma

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Relationship A is not correct: Statement II does not contradict Statement I**, instead, they complement each other. The core of the modern India-US defence relationship rests on a mutual strategic interest in balancing a rising and increasingly assertive China. While India relies on advanced US **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities** to manage its immediate military and border threats, the United States views India as a critical **democratic counterweight** to deter Beijing's hegemony in the broader Indo-Pacific.
- **Relationship B is not correct: Utilizing foreign intelligence or experiencing specific supply chain bottlenecks does not mean a nation possesses zero defence capabilities of its own**. While India utilizes advanced US systems to enhance its theater awareness, it simultaneously maintains an immense independent military architecture, invests heavily in **indigenous defences capabilities**, and is actively pursuing domestic manufacturing reforms to jumpstart its own defence industrial base through technology transfers like the **GE-414 fighter jet engines**.
- **Relationship C is correct:** Even as India and the US pursue deeper security cooperation as implied by Statements I and II, India's massive **economic asymmetry with China**—specifically its **critical dependence on Beijing** for **Pharma APIs, electronics, and critical minerals**—acts as a **severe vulnerability.** This economic leverage can be weaponized by Beijing during a border escalation, thereby complicating and limiting New Delhi's freedom of action and its capacity to align fully with American geopolitical priorities in the region. It forces India to maintain a cautious stance, creating a gap between shared military desires and practical economic vulnerabilities.
- **Relationship D is not correct: Statement II focuses purely on maritime and continental geopolitical positioning,** whereas the **US position on raw pharmaceutical inputs is an entirely unrelated trade domain.** The United States **does not supply India** with **raw Pharma APIs**, rather, the **United States has historically raised concerns** regarding India's own **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) standards** within the pharmaceutical and emerging technology sectors, while experiencing a major trade deficit in general bilateral trade.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q9. Which space mission carried the first Indian astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS)?

A. NISAR Mission

B. Artemis Accord Mission

C. Yudh Abhyas Mission

D. Axiom-4 Mission

Answer: D

Explanation:

Axiom-4 Mission:

- Under the expanding umbrella of **India-US space collaboration**, the **Axiom-4 mission** stands out as a historic milestone by carrying the **first Indian astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS)**. This milestone is part of a multi-layered high-tech engagement between the two nations.
- Other notable initiatives within this bilateral space architecture include the **NISAR mission**, which features one of the largest **synthetic aperture radars** to be deployed in space, and India becoming a signatory to the **Artemis Accords**. Conversely, **Yudh Abhyas** is an active land-based **joint military exercise** between the Indian and US armies rather than a space mission

Hence, option D is correct.

Q10. Match the following:

Defence Equipment Name	Type of Weaponry / System
P. Harpoon	I. Anti-tank Guided Missile
Q. Javelin	II. Anti-ship Missile
R. M777	III. Howitzers

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

A. P-I, Q-II, R-III

B. P-III, Q-I, R-II

C. P-II, Q-I, R-III

D. P-II, Q-III, R-I

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Harpoon - Anti-ship Missile:** The **Harpoon** is a premier all-weather, over-the-horizon **anti-ship missile** system designed to target surface vessels effectively. The **Javelin** is a highly versatile, man-portable **anti-tank guided missile** featuring fire-and-forget technology to neutralize armoured vehicles. The **M777** is a lightweight towed **howitzer** artillery piece that provides critical long-range firepower support to ground forces.
- **Javelin - Anti-tank Guided Missile: Javelin** represents a vital point of engagement under cooperative defence manufacturing frameworks as a premier **anti-tank guided missile**. Moving beyond a transactional buyer-seller relationship, India initiated plans to pursue structured arrangements to both procure and co-produce these specific anti-armour weapon systems domestically. This initiative aligns directly with India's long-term defence indigenization ambitions and high-tech co-development objectives.

- **M777 – Howitzers: M777** functions as a highly mobile, modern artillery asset categorized under field **howitzers**. This combat platform has been successfully integrated into India's land defence inventory to enhance regional firepower capabilities. The acquisition of these **specialized artillery systems** highlights the depth of bilateral technology sharing and forms part of the hardware baseline supporting deeper operational coordination.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding Preamble:

1. It has been amended only once by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
2. Any changes made in the Preamble are not considered as an amendment under Article 368 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Preamble has been **amended only once so far, in 1976, by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act,** which has added three new words–**Socialist, Secular and Integrity**–to the Preamble.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Supreme Court in **Keshvanand Bharati case** held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution. **The Court held that the Preamble can be amended under Article 368**, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic structure'.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q12. Consider the following statements with reference to the Article 12 of the Indian Constitution:

1. The term 'State' includes the Government and Parliament of India as well as the Government and Legislature of each State.
2. Local authorities such as Municipalities and Panchayats are included within the meaning of 'State'.
3. Only bodies created directly through a statute of Parliament can be treated as 'other authorities' under Article 12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 2 and 3 only

B. 3 only

C. 1 and 2 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under **Article 12 of the Constitution**, the term **"State"** includes the **Government of India and Parliament of India** as well as the **Government and Legislature of each State**. This forms the core institutional component of the State for the purpose of Part III, meaning Fundamental Rights can be enforced against actions of these bodies. The inclusion ensures that both **Union and State level legislative and executive organs** are accountable for respecting Fundamental Rights, thereby expanding constitutional control over public power.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Local authorities**, such as **Municipalities, Panchayats, District Boards, and similar local self-government institutions**, are expressly included within the definition of **"State" under Article 12**. These bodies, though operating at the grassroots level, exercise **statutory and public functions**, and therefore their actions are subject to Fundamental Rights scrutiny. Their inclusion ensures that constitutional protections extend beyond central and state governments to decentralized governance institutions as well.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** In constitutional interpretation, **"other authorities" are not limited only to bodies created directly by Parliamentary statute**. Instead, this category is **broader** and includes entities that may be created under **statutes of State legislatures, executive orders, delegated legislation,** or even bodies that are under the **deep and pervasive control of the government or perform public functions**. Judicial interpretation, particularly through cases like **Ajay Hasia v. Khalid Mujib**, has expanded this scope significantly to ensure that bodies exercising **public or governmental functions** do not escape Fundamental Rights obligations merely due to their form of creation.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q13. With reference to the idea of 'Secularism' in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian model of secularism guarantees a complete separation between the state and religion.

2. The term 'secularism' is clearly defined in the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The **Indian State protects all religions but does not favour one at the expense of others,** nor does it adopt any religion as the State religion. Hence, the Indian model of secularism **does not guarantee a complete separation between the State and religion.**
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The **term secular has not been precisely defined in the Constitution,** as it is considered an elastic term that is difficult to define rigidly and is perhaps best left undefined. However, several features of the Constitution strongly reflect the spirit of secularism. At the time of the Constitution's framing, the concept of secularism was not explicitly mentioned. However, the Indian Constitution includes several provisions—such as those in Part III (Articles 14, 15, 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30), Part IV (Article 44), and Part IVA (Clause (e))—that reflect the presence and essence of secularism.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q14. Consider the following statements with reference to the Legal rights:

1. Rights place obligation upon the state in terms of what the state must do.
2. Rights place constraints upon the state actions in terms of what it must not do.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: Rights place obligations upon the state in terms of what the state must do.** It reflects the positive rights perspective. **Positive rights require the state to take action to provide certain goods or services to its citizens.**
    - **For Example -** Right to education, the right to healthcare, and the right to social security. These rights **create a legal obligation on the state to take steps to fulfill them.**
- **Statement 2 is correct: Rights place constraints upon the state actions in terms of what it must not do.** It reflects the negative rights perspective. **Negative rights limit the state's interference in certain areas of individuals' lives.**
    - **For Example -** Right to freedom of speech, the right to freedom of religion, and the right to privacy. These rights **create a legal obligation on the state to refrain from certain actions that would infringe upon these rights.**

Hence, option C is correct.

Q15. Which of the following are included as 'Basic structure' of the Constitution through the various Supreme Court judgements?

1. Republic nature of the Indian polity
2. Welfare state
3. Freedom and dignity of the individual
4. Sovereignty of Parliament
5. Free and fair elections

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1, 3 and 5 only

B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

C. 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: B

Explanation:

In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973),** the Supreme Court laid down a **new doctrine** of the **'basic structure'** (or 'basic features') of the Constitution. It ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

However, the Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. **From the various judgements, the following have emerged as 'basic features' of the Constitution:**

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Sovereign, democratic and **republican nature** of the Indian polity
- **Secular** character of the Constitution
- Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
- Federal character of the Constitution
- Unity and integrity of the nation
- **Welfare state** (socio-economic justice)
- Judicial review
- **Freedom and dignity of the individual**
- Parliamentary system
- Rule of law
- Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
- Principle of equality
- **Free and fair elections**
- Independence of Judiciary
- **Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution** (not sovereignty of the Parliament)

Hence, option B is correct.

Q16. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The experience gained by Indians in the working of the legislative institutions created by British proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions.

Statement-II:

The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement-I is correct: The experience gained by Indians in working with the legislative institutions created by the British** proved valuable in setting up their own independent institutions. This is because these experiences **provided Indians with a practical understanding of how legislative systems functioned,** the challenges they faced, and the potential improvements that could be made.
    - **For example,** the experience gained in the provincial legislatures set up under the Government of India Act, 1935, helped Indians develop skills in drafting laws, debating legislation, and holding governments accountable.
- **Statement-II is correct: The Indian Constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws** like the Government of India Act, 1935. This was **not simply a matter of copying, but rather a process of adapting and modifying existing structures to fit the needs of an independent India.**
    - **For example,** the Indian Parliament adopted a Westminster-style bicameral system with a Lok Sabha (lower house) and a Rajya Sabha (upper house), similar to the House of Commons and House of Lords in the UK. However, the Indian Constitution also made significant changes, such as granting the Lok Sabha more power than the Rajya Sabha.
- Therefore, the experience gained by Indians working with British institutions provided valuable context and understanding for the choices made in drafting the Indian Constitution, which adopted and adapted elements from those colonial laws.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q17. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Constitution:

1. The Indian Constitution is inspired by various sources, including the American Bill of Rights and the Irish Constitution.
2. The Directive Principles of State Policy are legally enforceable in Indian courts.
3. The Indian Constitution is both rigid and flexible, allowing for amendment through different procedures.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Indian Constitution draws from a wide range of sources.** For example, the **Fundamental Rights are inspired by the American Bill of Rights,** while the **Directive Principles of State Policy are influenced by the Irish Constitution.** This reflects the framers' intent to incorporate the best features of other constitutions while tailoring them to India's unique needs and aspirations.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP),** outlined in Part IV of the Constitution, are **not legally enforceable by the courts.** They serve as **guidelines for the government** in framing laws and policies aimed at achieving social and economic goals. **While they are fundamental in governance, they do not have the same legal standing as Fundamental Rights,** which are justiciable.
- **Statement 3 is correct: The Indian Constitution is known for being both rigid and flexible.** It is rigid because **certain provisions, such as those affecting federalism or the Fundamental Rights, require a special procedure** for amendment, involving a two-thirds majority in Parliament and ratification by at least half of the state legislatures. It is **flexible because other provisions can be amended by a simple majority** in Parliament, allowing the Constitution to evolve with changing needs and circumstances.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q18. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The separation of powers doctrine in the Indian Constitution prevents the concentration of power in any single organ of the state.

Statement-II:

The Indian Constitution establishes a federal structure with a unitary bias favouring central authority.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement-I is correct:** The Indian Constitution incorporates the **doctrine of separation of powers** by **dividing the functions and powers** among the three organs of the state: **the Legislature, the Executive,** and **the Judiciary.** This separation is intended to **prevent any one organ from exercising unchecked power, ensuring a system of checks and balances.**
- **Statement-II is correct**: The Indian Constitution establishes a **federal system,** where powers are divided between the Union (central government) and state governments. However, it also includes **several provisions that give the central government more control, especially in times of emergency, which reflects a unitary bias.**
    - Examples include the **central control over residuary powers, emergency provisions,** and the central government's ability to dismiss state governments under certain circumstances.
- **While both statements are correct, Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

Hence, option B is correct.

Q19. Which of the following is/are the reasons behind the Constituent Assembly adopting Parliamentary System of government for India?

1. The preference for more responsibility than stability.
2. Need of strict separation of power between legislature and executive in an infant democracy.

Choose the correct answer from the codes provided below:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Parliamentary system **offers more responsible executive.** But it is less stable as the government may fall if it loses majority in the legislature.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Parliamentary system **doesn't offer strict separation of power** between the legislature and executive. It comes in presidential system.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q20. Consider the following statements with reference to the Functions of the Constitution:

1. It allows for basic minimal coordination amongst members of society.
2. It ensures that good people come to power.
3. It set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.
4. It enables the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It **allows for basic minimal coordination amongst members of society.** This is because a **constitution establishes a framework of rules and laws that everyone must follow,** which helps to create stability and predictability in society.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Constitution is responsible for the framework of distribution of power and **not for the personal integrity of the people who occupy the positions of power.** While some constitutions may establish

mechanisms for electing or selecting leaders, **there's no guarantee that these mechanisms will always result in the selection of "good" people.**

- **Statement 3 is correct: Constitutions often include provisions that protect the rights and freedoms of citizens by placing limits on governmental power.** These limits can take the form of specific rights enumerated in the constitution, **such as freedom of speech or protection against unreasonable searches and seizures,** as well as structural limitations on governmental authority, such as checks and balances between branches of government.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** A constitution enables the government to fulfil society's aspirations and create conditions for a just society by **establishing fundamental principles, structuring governmental powers to prevent abuse, protecting rights and freedoms, and providing mechanisms for change.**

Hence, option C is correct.

Q21. Consider the following situation:

"A child named Rohan was born in India on 15 August 1990. At the time of his birth, his father was an Indian citizen, while his mother held foreign citizenship and was residing in India on a valid long-term visa."

Based on the situation, what is Rohan's citizenship status by birth?

A. Not a citizen, since both parents must be Indian citizens.

B. A citizen by birth, since either parent being an Indian citizen was sufficient in that period.

C. A citizen only after registration as an OCI.

D. A citizen only if he renounces his mother's foreign citizenship.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- A child born in India on **15 August 1990** falls under the citizenship-by-birth framework applicable from **1 July 1987 to before 3 December 2004**.
- During this period, the **legal requirement for acquiring citizenship by birth** was relaxed compared to earlier provisions, and a child born in India would be considered a citizen if **either of the parents was an Indian citizen at the time of birth**.
- In the given situation, **Rohan's father is an Indian citizen,** while his mother holds foreign citizenship but is legally residing in India. Since the condition of **at least one parent being an Indian citizen is satisfied**, Rohan automatically acquires **citizenship by birth** under the Citizenship Act framework for that period.
- The fact that the mother is a foreign national or that she is residing in India on a valid visa does not affect this determination. Therefore, **Rohan is a citizen by birth at the time of his birth itself**, and no additional requirement such as registration or OCI status is applicable.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q22. Consider the following cases:

1. Berubari Union Case (1960)
2. Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
3. LIC of India Case (1995)

In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court rule that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution?

A. 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** In the **Berubari Union 16 case (1960),** the Supreme Court said that the Preamble shows the general purposes behind the several provisions in the Constitution, and is thus a key to the minds of the makers of the Constitution. Further, where the terms used in any article are ambiguous or capable of more than one meaning, some assistance at interpretation may be taken from the objectives enshrined in the Preamble. Despite this recognition of the significance of the Preamble, the Supreme Court specifically opined that **Preamble** is **not a part of the Constitution.**
- **Statement 2 is correct: Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973**) case established the **doctrine of basic structure,** which asserts that while Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, it cannot alter its basic structure.
    - **The Preamble** was recognized as **a part of this basic structure, and the Constitution.**
- **Statement 3 is correct**: In **LIC of India Case (1995)**, the Supreme Court reiterated the importance of the Preamble and its relevance in understanding the spirit and philosophy underlying the Constitution. The Supreme Court again held that the **Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.**

Hence, option C is correct.

Q23. Consider the following statements with reference to loss of citizenship:

1. Renunciation is a voluntary act by a citizen of full age and capacity.
2. Termination occurs automatically upon voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship.
3. Deprivation can be ordered by Government even where citizenship was acquired by birth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: Renunciation** refers to the **voluntary surrender of Indian citizenship** by an individual. Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, only a **citizen of India who is of full age and capacity** can renounce citizenship. This means the individual must have attained **majority** and be **legally competent** to make such a decision. A declaration of renunciation is made voluntarily, and upon its registration by the prescribed authority, the individual ceases to be an Indian citizen. An important consequence is that the **minor child** of such a person also loses Indian citizenship, although the child has the **right to resume Indian citizenship after attaining majority** by following the prescribed procedure. The law also provides that **renunciation may be restricted during a war** if the Government considers it against the national interest.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Termination** is another mode of loss of Indian citizenship provided under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**. It operates **automatically** when an Indian citizen **voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country**. This provision is based on the constitutional principle embodied in **Article 9**, under which a person who voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign State cannot continue to be an Indian citizen. Since **India does not permit dual citizenship in the full constitutional sense**, voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship results in the **automatic termination** of Indian citizenship without requiring a separate order from the Government. However, the Act recognizes that the application of termination provisions **may not operate in the same manner during war situations**, allowing the Government to deal with such cases differently if required.
- **Statement 3 is not correct: Deprivation** refers to the **compulsory removal of Indian citizenship by the Government** under specified circumstances. However, this power **mainly applies to persons who acquired Indian citizenship through registration or naturalisation** (not to those who are citizens by birth). The Government may order deprivation if citizenship was **obtained by fraud**, if the person has shown **disloyalty to the Constitution**, has **unlawfully communicated with an enemy during war**, has been **sentenced to imprisonment for two years within five years of naturalisation**, or has been **ordinarily resident outside India for seven continuous years**, subject to prescribed exceptions.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q24. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Right to Equality' under the Indian Constitution:

1. Principle of equality before the law does not involve the idea of absolute equality for all.
2. Principle of equal protection of the laws empowers the State to classify people for legitimate purposes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: The principle of equality before the law,** under **Article 14** of the Indian Constitution, ensures that **no individual is above the law** and that all persons are subject to the ordinary legal system, regardless of their status or rank.

- However, it **does not advocate for absolute equality among individuals.** The idea of equality here implies **similarity in legal treatment, not identical circumstances for everyone.** This means that while all individuals are equal before the law, it acknowledges that people may differ in various respects, and therefore, the notion of absolute or complete equality is neither practical nor intended.

- **Statement 2 is correct: The principle of equal protection of the laws** allows the **State to treat people differently under certain circumstances, as long as the classification is reasonable and based on substantial differences.** This empowers the State to make distinctions among groups for legitimate purposes, such as to promote social or economic welfare, and create a more equitable society. However, this classification must not be arbitrary and should serve a valid purpose. Thus, reasonable classification is permitted, while class legislation, which discriminates arbitrarily, is not allowed. This ensures that **likes are treated alike, but the State can address inequalities by treating unequals differently where necessary.**

Hence, option C is correct.

Q25. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Basic Structure Doctrine, in Indian Context?

1. It is an innovation of Supreme Court of India and similar concept finds no mention in other constitutions and judicial orders around the world.
2. In Waman Rao Case, Supreme Court declared that the doctrine will apply to constitutional amendments enacted on and after April 24, 1973.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The **origins of the basic structure** doctrine are found in the **German Constitution** which, **after the Nazi regime,** was amended to protect some basic laws. Learning from that experience, the new German Constitution introduced substantive limits on Parliament's powers to amend certain parts of the Constitution which it considered **'basic law'.**

- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the case of **Waman Rao v. Union of India (1981),** the Supreme Court held that the **Basic Structure Doctrine applies to all constitutional amendments, including those enacted after the Kesavananda Bharati case.** However, the Court limited the retrospective application of the doctrine to amendments enacted on and after **April 24, 1973,** which was the date of the **Kesavananda Bharati judgment.** This means that any amendments enacted before April 24, 1973, are not subject to the Basic Structure Doctrine.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q26. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Under Article 9 of the Constitution, a person who voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign State ceases to be a citizen of India.

Statement II:

India does not permit dual citizenship in the full constitutional sense.

Statement III:

The Citizenship Act, 1955 provides for various modes of acquiring Indian citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement II provides the constitutional rationale underlying Statement I.
2. Statement III extends the constitutional framework referred to in Statement I by providing the statutory mechanism relating to citizenship.
3. Statement III contradicts Statement I.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

A. 2 and 3 only

B. 1 only

C. 1, 2 and 3

D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Relationship 1 is correct: Statement II** expresses the constitutional principle that **India does not recognize dual citizenship in the full constitutional sense**, whereas **Statement I** reflect the legal consequence flowing from that principle. Since the Constitution does not permit an individual to simultaneously enjoy the complete constitutional citizenship of India and another country, **Article 9** provides that a person who **voluntarily acquires the citizenship of a foreign State ceases to be an Indian citizen**. Thus, Statement II explains the underlying constitutional philosophy behind Article 9, while Statement I give effect to that philosophy in a specific legal situation. **Therefore, Statement II serves as the constitutional rationale for Statement I.**
- **Relationship 2 is correct: Statement I** deal with a constitutional provision contained in **Article 9**, which lays down the principle regarding the loss of Indian citizenship upon voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship. However, the Constitution itself does not comprehensively regulate all matters relating to citizenship after its commencement. Instead, **Article 11** empowers **Parliament to enact laws on acquisition, termination, and all other citizenship-related matters.** Exercising this power, Parliament enacted the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, which provides the detailed statutory framework governing the **acquisition, termination, and deprivation of citizenship**, along with other procedural aspects. Therefore, **Statement III complements and extends the constitutional framework by providing the legislative mechanism for implementing citizenship laws**, rather than replacing or conflicting with the constitutional provisions.
- **Relationship 3 is not correct: Statement I** lay down a constitutional rule under **Article 9**, while **Statement III** refers to the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, which was enacted by Parliament to regulate citizenship matters after the

commencement of the Constitution. The Act operates **within the constitutional framework** established **by Articles 5 to 11** and derives its authority from **Article 11**. **Instead of contradicting Article 9, the Act supplements it by prescribing detailed legal provisions** concerning **acquisition, termination, and other aspects of citizenship**. Thus, the constitutional provision and the statutory law are **complementary** (not contradictory).

Hence, option D is correct.

Q27. Which one of the following categories of Fundamental Rights incorporates protection against untouchability as a form of discrimination?

A. Right against Exploitation

B. Right to freedom

C. Right to constitutional remedies

D. Right to equality

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Protection against untouchability** as a form of discrimination is incorporated under **Article 17** of the Indian Constitution, which is part of the **Right to Equality (Articles 14-18).** Article 17 specifically abolishes "untouchability" and forbids its practice in any form, making it punishable under the law.

Additional Info:

- **Right against Exploitation** (Option A) deals with the prohibition of human trafficking and forced labor **(Articles 23-24).**
- **Right to Freedom** (Option B) includes freedoms such as speech, assembly, association, movement, and more **(Articles 19-22).**
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies** (Option C) ensures the right to approach courts to enforce Fundamental Rights **(Article 32).**

Hence, option D is correct.

Q28. Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the Indian model of Secularism?

1. Deals with the religious freedom of individuals as well as minority communities.
2. Supports the idea of mutual exclusion of the State and the religion.
3. Equal focus on removing intra-religious and inter-religious domination.
4. Compatible with the idea of state-supported religious reform.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 and 4 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Constitution guarantees the **right to freedom of religion** under **Articles 25 to 28.**
    - **Article 25** states that **all individuals are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion.** This article encompasses both religious beliefs (doctrines) and practices (rituals). Article 25 ensures the rights of individuals.
    - **Article 26** secures the **rights of religious denominations and their sections. Indian secularism addresses not only the religious freedom of individuals but also that of minority communities.** It allows individuals to choose and practice their religion, and it ensures that religious minorities can preserve their culture and maintain their educational institutions.
- **Statement 2 is not correct: The Western model of secularism,** particularly the **American model,** is based on the **principle of mutual exclusion: the State does not interfere in religious affairs, and religion does not interfere in state affairs.** Accordingly, the State cannot support any religious institution, including financially supporting educational institutions run by religious communities.
    - **However, this mutual exclusion of religion and State is not a defining feature of Indian secularism.** In India, the secular state maintains a principled distance from religion to foster peace among communities and may intervene to protect the rights of specific communities. **Indian secularism does not emphasize a strict separation between the State and religion.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Indian secularism developed uniquely by blending the existing religious diversity in society with Western ideas. This led to an **equal emphasis on addressing both intra-religious and inter-religious domination.** Indian secularism actively **opposes the oppression of Dalits and women within Hinduism,** the **discrimination against women in Indian Islam and Christianity,** and the potential threats from the majority community to the rights of minority religious communities.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Indian secularism **accommodates and supports state-led religious reforms.** For instance, the Indian Constitution prohibits **untouchability.** Additionally, the Indian State has implemented various laws to abolish **child marriage** and remove the stigma associated with **inter-caste marriages** as sanctioned by Hinduism.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q29. *"An administrative department in a state government relies on a long-standing departmental circular issued in 1985 to allocate specific welfare benefits. A newly appointed director reviews the circular and observes that its criteria create an arbitrary distinction that violates the equality guarantee under Article 14. The department's senior staff advises against modifying the criteria, arguing that the circular has the force of customary usage, has been followed seamlessly for decades, and maintains high administrative convenience."*

Based on the constitutional principles and core doctrines of Article 13, which of the following represents the most appropriate institutional action for the director?

A. Continue applying the circular without modification, as its historical lineage and proven administrative convenience override potential conflicts with qualified rights.

B. Invoke the Doctrine of Eclipse to keep the discriminatory sections active exclusively for current beneficiaries, while quietly applying a revised rule only to future applicants.

C. Suspend the entire welfare scheme permanently, as the presence of a single unconstitutional clause under Article 13 automatically rendering the whole regulatory framework dead-ab-initio.

D. Acknowledge that any circular, rule, or usage having the force of law is void to the extent of its inconsistency with Part III, and immediately initiate institutional steps to align the department's criteria with Article 14.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct: Article 13** declares that any **law** inconsistent with **Fundamental Rights** becomes **void to the extent of such inconsistency**. The meaning of "law" under Article 13 is broad and includes **rules, orders, notifications, delegated legislation, customs, and usages having the force of law**. Therefore, the fact that the departmental circular has been followed for several decades or provides administrative convenience does not give it constitutional validity if it violates **Article 14**, which guarantees **equality before the law** and prohibits arbitrary State action. Administrative convenience or long-standing practice cannot override **Fundamental Rights**, and any discriminatory criterion must yield to the constitutional mandate.
- **Option B is not correct:** The Doctrine of Eclipse is applicable only to **pre-Constitution laws** that become inconsistent with **Fundamental Rights** after the Constitution came into force. Such laws are **not treated as dead but remain eclipsed or dormant and may revive if the constitutional inconsistency** is subsequently removed. However, this doctrine does not authorize an administrative authority to selectively continue enforcing unconstitutional provisions for one group while applying revised standards to another. Moreover, the scenario involves a **departmental circular issued in 1985**, which is a **post-Constitution** instrument. Therefore, the Doctrine of Eclipse has no application in this situation.
- **Option C is not correct:** Under **Article 13**, read with the **Doctrine of Severability**, only the portion of the law or executive instrument that is inconsistent with **Fundamental Rights** becomes void, provided the valid and invalid parts are separable. The remaining constitutional provisions can continue to operate independently. Therefore, there is no constitutional requirement to permanently suspend the entire welfare scheme merely because one eligibility criterion violates **Article 14**. The expression **"dead ab initio"** is also inconsistent with the constitutional approach adopted under Article 13.
- **Option D is correct:** The expression **"law"** includes **rules, orders, notifications, customs, usages having the force of law, and delegated legislation**. If any such law is inconsistent with **Part III**, it becomes **void to the extent of its inconsistency**, not because of its age or administrative utility, but because **Fundamental Rights enjoy constitutional supremacy** over ordinary legal instruments. Since the departmental circular creates an **arbitrary classification** inconsistent with **Article 14**, the director is constitutionally obliged to recognize its invalidity to that extent and initiate appropriate administrative measures to bring the eligibility criteria into conformity with the guarantee of **equality before law**. This approach also reflects the principle of **Judicial Review**, under which unconstitutional laws or executive actions cannot be permitted to operate in violation of **Fundamental Rights**.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q30. Consider the following statements with reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019:

1. It provides a special pathway to Indian citizenship for certain migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.
2. The Act covers six specified religious communities, including Muslims, who entered India on or before 31 December 2014.
3. The provisions of the Act do not apply to areas covered under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 introduces a **special and relaxed pathway for granting Indian citizenship** to migrants belonging to **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians** who came from **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh** and entered India on or before **31 December 2014**. This provision is designed to provide relief to specific persecuted minority communities from these three countries by allowing them a **reduced burden of naturalisation requirements**, thereby making them eligible for Indian citizenship under relaxed conditions.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Act explicitly covers six religious communities—**Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**—from the specified neighbouring countries, but it **does not include Muslims** within its ambit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 are subject to certain territorial exclusions. In particular, the Act **does not apply to areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and regions governed by the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system**. These exemptions were incorporated to protect the demographic and cultural sensitivities of protected tribal and indigenous regions.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q31. With reference to Article 13 of the Constitution, match the following doctrines with their correct descriptions:

Doctrine	Description
P. Doctrine of Judicial Review	1. Pre-Constitution law inconsistent with Fundamental Rights is not dead but remains in an inoperative state
Q. Doctrine of Severability	2. Courts have the power to examine the constitutional validity of laws violating Fundamental Rights
R. Doctrine of Eclipse	3. Only the unconstitutional part of a law is removed while the valid portion continues to operate

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

A. P-3, Q-1, R-2

B. P-2, Q-1, R-3

C. P-1, Q-3, R-2

D. P-2, Q-3, R-1

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **The Doctrine of Judicial Review** refers to the **power of the judiciary to examine the constitutional validity of laws** and actions of the legislature or executive when they are alleged to violate **Fundamental Rights**. This power ensures that any law inconsistent with constitutional provisions can be declared void by the courts.
- **The Doctrine of Severability** means that when a **law is found to be partly unconstitutional, only the unconstitutional portion is removed**, while the **valid and constitutional portion continues to remain in force** if it is separable from the invalid part. This principle ensures that an entire law is not struck down unnecessarily when only a segment violates Fundamental Rights.
- **The Doctrine of Eclipse** applies mainly to **pre-Constitution laws that are inconsistent with Fundamental Rights.** Such laws are not completely dead but become **inoperative or dormant**, meaning they remain overshadowed by Fundamental Rights. If the constitutional inconsistency is later removed, the law can become operative again.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q32. Consider the following evidence:

1. Article 15(4), inserted by the First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951, enables the State to make special provisions for the advancement of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
2. Article 15(5), inserted by the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2005, empowers the State to provide for their admission in educational institutions, including private institutions, while excluding minority educational institutions.
3. Article 15(6), inserted by the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, enables reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in educational institutions.

Which one of the following inferences can be most reasonably drawn from the above evidence?

A. The scope of Article 15 has been progressively expanded through constitutional amendments to enable special provisions for different categories of beneficiaries in education.

B. Every constitutional amendment relating to Article 15 has enlarged reservation uniformly for all sections of society.

C. Article 15 originally prohibited the State from making any special provision for disadvantaged sections.

D. All clauses inserted into Article 15 apply identically to every educational institution without exception.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Option A is correct: Article 15(4)**, inserted by the **First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951**, empowered the State to make special provisions for the advancement of **SEBCs, SCs and STs**. **Article 15(5)**, added through the **93rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2005**, further broadened the scope by allowing reservations in **government, private aided and private unaided educational institutions**, while specifically **excluding minority educational institutions**. Later, **Article 15(6)**, introduced by the **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019**, extended affirmative action to **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** by permitting **reservation up to 10%** in educational institutions. Taken together, these constitutional developments reflect a **progressive expansion of Article 15**, with each amendment enlarging the State's capacity to promote **substantive equality in education** for different categories of beneficiaries.
- **Option B is not correct:** The amendments under **Article 15** have **not created a uniform reservation policy applicable to all sections of society**. Instead, each amendment targets **specific categories of beneficiaries** based on distinct constitutional objectives. **Article 15(4)** focuses on **SEBCs, SCs and STs** owing to their **social and educational backwardness**, whereas **Article 15(6)** specifically addresses **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** based on **economic disadvantage**. Similarly, **Article 15(5)** is confined to **educational admissions** and even contains an **explicit exception for minority educational institutions**. Thus, the amendments demonstrate **targeted affirmative action**, not a uniform enlargement of reservation for every section of society.
- **Option C is not correct:** The evidence merely establishes that **Article 15(4)** was inserted through the **First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951**, following the **Champakam Dorairajan v. State of Madras (1951)** judgment, to provide a constitutional basis for special provisions for **SEBCs, SCs and STs**. However, the evidence does **not establish** that the original Article 15 contained an express prohibition against such measures. Inferring that the Constitution originally **prohibited** all special provisions goes beyond what can reasonably be concluded from the given evidence.
- **Option D is not correct:** The evidence itself identifies an important **constitutional exception**. While **Article 15(5)** extends reservation provisions to **government institutions, private aided institutions and private unaided institutions**, it **explicitly excludes minority educational institutions**. This demonstrates that the inserted clauses

do **not operate identically across every educational institution**. Moreover, **Article 15(4)** is a broader enabling provision for the advancement of specified classes and is not confined solely to educational admissions, whereas **Article 15(6)** specifically concerns **EWS reservation in educational institutions**.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q33. Which one of the following has been explicitly recognized by the Supreme Court as a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution?

A. The absolute primacy of the Directive Principles over the Fundamental Rights.

B. The balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.

C. The irrevocable immunity of all constitutional amendments from judicial review.

D. The complete exclusion of the Executive from the process of judicial appointments.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Supreme Court** has explicitly recognized the **balance between Fundamental Rights (FRs) and the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)** as an essential component of the **Basic Structure of the Constitution**.
- This principle was reaffirmed in the **Minerva Mills Case (1980)**, where the Court held that neither **Fundamental Rights** nor **Directive Principles** should enjoy absolute supremacy over the other.
- Instead, the Constitution seeks to maintain a **harmonious balance** between the two, ensuring that **individual liberties** are protected while simultaneously advancing the **social and economic justice** envisioned in the Directive Principles.
- The Court also ruled that **limited amending power** and **judicial review** are integral parts of the Basic Structure, thereby preventing Parliament from altering the Constitution's core identity.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q34. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

After the 24th Constitutional Amendment, a constitutional amendment is not treated as ordinary law under Article 13.

Statement II:

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment held that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is subject to the Basic Structure doctrine.

Which one of the following best describes the relationship between the above statements?

A. Statement II contradicts Statement I by restoring constitutional amendments to the scope of Article 13.

B. Statement II makes Statement I redundant by declaring all constitutional amendments unconstitutional.

C. Statement II reinforces Statement I by clarifying that although constitutional amendments are outside the scope of ordinary law under Article 13, they remain subject to the Basic Structure limitation.

D. Statement I implies that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is unlimited.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct:** Statement I correctly reflects the constitutional position that **after the 24th Constitutional Amendment**, a **constitutional amendment is not treated as "law" under Article 13**. This amendment was enacted to ensure that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under **Article 368** is distinct from the ordinary legislative power covered by Article 13. Statement II, based on the **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)** judgment, does not bring constitutional amendments back within the scope of Article 13. Instead, it introduces an entirely different limitation by holding that while Parliament possesses the power to amend any part of the Constitution, it **cannot alter or destroy its Basic Structure**.
- **Option B is not correct:** The **Kesavananda Bharati judgment** did **not declare all constitutional amendments unconstitutional**. On the contrary, the judgment **affirmed Parliament's power to amend the Constitution**, including **Fundamental Rights**, while simultaneously imposing a constitutional limitation through the **Basic Structure doctrine**. Only those amendments that damage or destroy the Basic Structure may be struck down. Therefore, Statement II neither makes Statement I redundant nor invalidates all constitutional amendments. Instead, it establishes a constitutional balance by preserving Parliament's amending power while preventing its misuse.
- **Option C is correct: Statement I** explains the legal position that, following the **24th Constitutional Amendment**, a **constitutional amendment is not regarded as ordinary law under Article 13**, meaning it cannot be challenged merely on the ground that it violates Fundamental Rights like an ordinary statute. **Statement II** adds an important constitutional qualification established by the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, namely that Parliament's amending power is **not unlimited** and is constrained by the **Basic Structure doctrine**. Thus, although constitutional amendments are outside the ambit of **Article 13**, they remain subject to judicial review if they violate the Constitution's **Basic Structure**. Statement II therefore **reinforces and clarifies** Statement I by explaining the constitutional safeguard that continues to operate despite the exclusion from Article 13.
- **Option D is not correct:** While the **24th Constitutional Amendment** clarified that constitutional amendments are not ordinary laws under Article 13, the **Kesavananda Bharati judgment** subsequently established that Parliament's power under **Article 368** is **limited by the Basic Structure doctrine**. Consequently, **Parliament cannot amend the Constitution in a manner that destroys or abrogates its essential features.** Therefore, Statement I does **not** imply unlimited constituent power; its scope is constitutionally qualified by Statement II.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q35. Consider the following statements with reference to the exceptions to Equality before law:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term of office.
2. No member of the Legislature of a state shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof.
3. Foreign sovereigns (rulers), ambassadors and diplomats enjoy immunity from criminal and civil proceedings.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Answer: C

Explanation:

The rule of equality before law is not absolute and there are **constitutional and other exceptions to it.**

- **Statement 1 is correct: Article 361 of the Indian Constitution** grants **immunity** to the **President and Governors** from **criminal and civil proceedings** during their term in office. This aims to ensure they can discharge their duties without fear of legal action.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Article 194 of the Indian Constitution** provides **members of the Legislature of a state** with **immunity from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by them in the Legislature or any committee thereof.** This is essential for ensuring the independence of legislative debates and preventing members from being harassed for expressing their views or performing their duties as legislators.
- **Statement 3 is correct: Foreign sovereigns, ambassadors, and diplomats enjoy immunity under international law, which India recognizes.** This facilitates diplomatic relations and protects representatives from undue legal hassles.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q36. The Ninth Schedule, along with Articles 31A and 31B, was inserted into the Constitution of India through which of the following amendment?

A. Seventeenth Constitutional Amendment Act, 1964

B. Twenty-Fourth Constitutional Amendment Act, 1971

C. Forty-Second Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976

D. First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951

Answer: D

Explanation:

First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951:

- The **Ninth Schedule**, along with **Article 31A and Article 31B**, was introduced through the **First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951**, primarily to protect land reform legislation from being struck down on the grounds of violation of Fundamental Rights.
- This amendment was a direct response to early judicial scrutiny of agrarian reforms and aimed to place certain laws beyond the scope of judicial review.
- The **Ninth Schedule** was specifically created to immunize laws inserted into it from being challenged under **Article 13**, thereby strengthening the State's ability to implement socio-economic reforms.
- The Supreme Court in **Shankari Prasad (1951)** upheld this amendment, holding that constitutional amendments are **not "law"** under **Article 13** and therefore cannot be invalidated on Fundamental Rights grounds.
- This marked an early phase in the evolution of Parliament's broad amending powers, later refined through landmark cases like **Golaknath (1967)** and **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, which ultimately led to the doctrine of **Basic Structure** limiting unlimited constitutional amendment power.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q37. Which of the following is **NOT** an exception mentioned under Article 15 of the Constitution?

A. State can make special provision for women and children.

B. State can make special provision for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.

C. State can make special provision for the advancement of economically weaker section of citizens.

D. Parliament can prescribe residence as a condition for certain employment or appointment in a state/UT.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Options A, B, and C** all are mentioned as exception in the **Article 15** of the constitution for the **welfare of weaker section of the society.** Option C was added by the recent constitutional amendment (103rd).
- **Option D:** Parliament can prescribe residence as a condition for certain employment or appointment in a state/UT is mentioned in the **Article 16(3) (not under Article 15)**.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q38. Match the following:

Case	Background/Petitioner Context
P. Kameshwar Singh Case	1. Challenge to the provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 concerning land reforms and abolition of zamindari.
Q. Kesavananda Bharati Case	2. A religious head from Kerala challenged land reform laws affecting the property of a mutt.
R. Golaknath Case	3. Constitutional challenge involving the First, Fourth and Seventeenth Constitutional Amendments affecting Fundamental Rights.
S. Minerva Mills Case	4. Challenge to certain provisions of the Forty-Second Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 relating to Parliament's amending power.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. P–2, Q–1, R–4, S–3

B. P–1, Q–2, R–3, S–4

C. P–1, Q–3, R–2, S–4

D. P–3, Q–2, R–1, S–4

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Kameshwar Singh Case** arose from a challenge to the **Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950**, which sought to abolish the **zamindari system** by acquiring large landed estates and transferring their control to the State. The principal constitutional issue was whether the Act violated **Article 14 (Right to Equality)**, **Article 19(1)(f) (Right to Property, as it then existed)**, and **Article 31 (Compulsory Acquisition of Property)**. The **Supreme Court** broadly upheld the objective of **land reforms**, recognizing that the acquisition served a **public purpose**, although it struck down certain provisions as **discriminatory**. The case marked an early constitutional conflict between **property rights**, **equality**, and the State's pursuit of **social and economic justice**, eventually leading to constitutional protection for agrarian reform laws through **Articles 31A and 31B**.

- The **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)** originated when **Kesavananda Bharati**, the head of a **religious mutt (monastery) in Kerala**, challenged the validity of **land reform laws** that affected the property owned by the mutt. During the proceedings, the Court also examined the constitutional validity of the **24th and 25th Constitutional Amendments**, making the case one of the most significant constitutional litigations in India. The **13-judge Constitution Bench**, the largest ever constituted by the Supreme Court, held that while **Parliament has the power to amend any provision of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights**, it **cannot alter, damage, or destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution**. This landmark judgment established the **Basic Structure Doctrine**, which continues to act as a constitutional limitation on Parliament's amending power.
- The **Golaknath Case (1967)** involved a constitutional challenge to the **First, Fourth, and Seventeenth Constitutional Amendments**, all of which had implications for **Fundamental Rights**, particularly those relating to property. The petitioners questioned whether **Parliament possessed the authority to amend Fundamental Rights**, whether a **constitutional amendment constituted "law" under Article 13**, and whether **Article 368 merely prescribed the procedure for amendment or also conferred the power to amend**. By a narrow **6:5 majority**, the Supreme Court ruled that **Parliament could not amend Fundamental Rights**, holding that constitutional amendments fell within the meaning of **"law" under Article 13** and that **Article 368 provided only the procedure for amendment**. However, by applying the doctrine of **prospective overruling**, the Court ensured that previous constitutional amendments remained valid while restricting future amendments affecting Fundamental Rights.
- The **Minerva Mills Case (1980)** concerned a challenge to certain provisions of the **Forty-Second Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, particularly **Article 368 clauses (4) and (5)**, which sought to make **Parliament's amending power virtually unlimited** and place constitutional amendments beyond **judicial review**. The Supreme Court reaffirmed the principles laid down in **Kesavananda Bharati**, holding that **limited amending power itself forms part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution**. It further declared that **judicial review** and the **balance between Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)** are also essential features of the Basic Structure. Consequently, the Court ruled that **Parliament cannot convert its limited constitutional amending power into an unlimited one**, thereby reinforcing constitutional supremacy and preserving the system of checks and balances.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q39. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The State can impose a progressive income tax structure where individuals with higher incomes are taxed at higher rates.

Statement-II:

The concept of Equal Protection of Laws under Article 14 ensures that unequals can be treated differently if a valid and reasonable classification exists.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement-I is correct:** The State is empowered to design a **progressive taxation system**, including **income tax structures where higher income groups are taxed at higher rates**. This reflects the constitutional principle of **substantive equality**, which allows differential treatment based on economic capacity to achieve **social and economic justice**. Such a tax system does not violate equality because it is not based on arbitrary discrimination but on a rational economic classification aimed at reducing inequality and ensuring distributive justice within the framework of a welfare-oriented constitutional order.
- **Statement-II is correct: Article 14 (Right to Equality)** does not mandate absolute uniformity. Instead, it permits **reasonable classification**, meaning that **unequals can be treated differently if there exists an intelligible differentia and a rational nexus with the objective sought to be achieved**. This doctrine ensures that equality is not mechanical but contextual, allowing the State to differentiate between individuals or groups based on valid criteria such as income, social status, or economic capacity, provided the classification is not arbitrary or discriminatory in nature.
- **Statement-II is the correct explanation of Statement-I** because the constitutional acceptance of **reasonable classification under Article 14** provides the doctrinal foundation for implementing a **progressive taxation system**. Since the Constitution permits differential treatment of unequals when it is based on a valid and rational classification, a progressive tax structure—where higher income groups are taxed at higher rates—becomes constitutionally valid.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q40. Which of the following Constitutional Amendment Act was enacted to give effect to the India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement involving the exchange and transfer of enclaves and territories?

A. 36th Constitutional Amendment Act

B. 9th Constitutional Amendment Act

C. 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act

D. 100th Constitutional Amendment Act

Answer: D

Explanation:

100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015:

- The **India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), 2015** was implemented through the **100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015**, which enabled the **exchange of enclaves and adverse possessions between India and Bangladesh**.
- This agreement resolved long-standing boundary issues by transferring territories in a mutually agreed manner, ensuring clearer and more practical border demarcation. The amendment made necessary changes in the **First Schedule of the Constitution**, reflecting territorial adjustments between the two countries.
- The earlier constitutional amendment often confused with territorial adjustments is the **9th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1960**, which was related to the **transfer of Berubari Union to Pakistan**, and was based on the principle that **cession of Indian territory to a foreign country requires a constitutional amendment under Article 368**.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q41. *"Mr. Vikram Malhotra, a prominent technocrat of Indian origin permanently settled in London, successfully registers himself as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to maintain an enduring connection with his homeland."*

Which of the following privileges or actions is Mr. Vikram Malhotra legally entitled to exercise or avail of?

A. Vote in Indian parliamentary elections.

B. Hold a constitutional office in India.

C. Avail a multiple-entry lifelong visa to visit India.

D. Purchase agricultural land in India without restriction.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct:** An **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cardholder is **not a citizen of India in the full constitutional sense** and therefore **does not enjoy political rights reserved exclusively for Indian citizens.** The **right to vote** in parliamentary or state elections is one such political right. Since voting reflects participation in the democratic governance of the country, it is restricted to persons who possess full Indian citizenship.
- **Option B is not correct: OCI status** provides certain facilities and privileges, but it **does not confer eligibility for positions that are constitutionally reserved for Indian citizens.** Constitutional offices require complete allegiance to the Indian State and are therefore restricted to citizens of India. Since an OCI cardholder retains only a special overseas status and not full citizenship, such a person **cannot occupy constitutional posts in the country.**
- **Option C is correct:** One of the most significant benefits associated with **OCI status** is the grant of a **multiple-entry lifelong visa for visiting India.** This facility enables OCI cardholders to travel to and from India without the need to repeatedly apply for visas. The provision is intended to facilitate long-term engagement and easier mobility for persons of Indian origin living abroad while maintaining a continuing connection with India.
- **Option D is not correct:** Although OCI cardholders enjoy **parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in several specified economic, financial and educational matters**, their property rights are not unrestricted. An OCI cardholder **cannot normally purchase agricultural land or plantation property** in India. This restriction distinguishes OCI status from full citizenship and limits ownership in certain categories of immovable property considered sensitive from a policy perspective.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q42. Consider the following statements with reference to an 'Illegal Migrant' under the Citizenship Act, 1955:

1. A foreigner who enters India with valid travel documents but overstays beyond the permitted period is classified as an illegal migrant.
2. Any foreigner who is classified as an illegal migrant is barred from applying for citizenship through the modes of Registration or Naturalisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, an **illegal migrant** is a foreigner who either enters India **without valid passport or travel documents** or enters with **valid documents but remains in the country beyond the permitted period**. Thus, illegality is not confined only to the manner of entry, it can also arise due to **overstaying after the expiry of the authorized period of stay**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Citizenship Act, 1955** specifically provides that **citizenship by Registration** is available only to certain eligible categories of persons **who are not illegal migrants**. Similarly, **citizenship by Naturalisation** can be sought only by a foreigner **who is not an illegal migrant** and who fulfills the prescribed conditions relating to residence, good character, knowledge of an **Eighth Schedule** language, intention to reside in India, and taking an **oath of allegiance**.

Hence, option C is correct.

Q43. Which of the following Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India is available to both citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens)?

A. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15)

B. Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21)

C. Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16)

D. Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29)

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct: Article 15** prohibits the State from discriminating on grounds of **religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth**, but this protection is specifically guaranteed to **citizens of India only**. The constitutional language of Article 15 is limited to **"no citizen shall be discriminated against,"** which clearly excludes foreigners from its ambit. Therefore, even though it is a strong equality provision, it **does not extend its protection to non-citizens, including foreigners.**
- **Option B is correct: Article 21** guarantees that no person shall be deprived of **life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law**. The use of the term **"person"** instead of "citizen" is constitutionally significant, as it makes this right available to **all individuals within the territory of India**, including **citizens, foreigners, and stateless persons**, except in limited circumstances such as enemy aliens during wartime where certain procedural restrictions may apply. This broad phrasing makes Article 21 one of the most expansive fundamental rights under the Constitution.
- **Option C is not correct: Article 16** ensures equality of opportunity in matters of **public employment under the State**, but this right is expressly confined to **citizens of India**. The provision uses the expression **"no citizen shall be discriminated against or be ineligible,"** which clearly limits its **applicability to citizens alone.** Consequently, foreigners do not have any constitutional claim under Article 16 for employment in public services.
- **Option D is not correct: Article 29** protects the interests of **minority groups in India** by safeguarding their **language, script, and culture**, but this right is also restricted to **citizens forming a minority group within India**. The provision is designed to preserve cultural diversity among Indian citizens and **does not extend its protection to foreigners or non-citizens** residing in India. Hence, its scope is fundamentally linked to citizenship status.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q44. Which of the following core legal principles is signified by the phrase "Lex is Rex" under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution?

A. The law is King / Supremacy of law

B. The King is the law

C. The Executive is above the law

D. Legislative supremacy over the Constitution

Answer: A

Explanation:

<u>The law is King / Supremacy of law</u>:

- The phrase **"Lex is Rex"** literally means **"Law is King"**, and it symbolises the foundational constitutional principle of **Rule of Law**, which is embedded in the spirit of **Article 14 of the Indian Constitution**.
- **Article 14** guarantees **equality before law and equal protection of laws**, which collectively reject arbitrary governance and affirm that **no individual or authority is above the law**.
- In this sense, sovereignty does not lie with any ruler or institution but with the **law itself**, making the legal framework supreme over all actions of the State.
- This principle directly negates the idea of **monarchical or executive supremacy**, where a ruler could act above legal constraints.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q45. With reference to the scope and interpretation of Article 15 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 15(1) may be invoked by any person within the territory of India against discriminatory actions of the State.
2. The use of the term "only" in Article 15 implies that discrimination is not entirely prohibited where religion or sex is not the sole basis of classification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Under the Indian constitutional architecture, the protective umbrella of **Article 15(1)** is not universally extended to any person residing within the country. Instead, it is a textually restricted fundamental right that **applies only to citizens** of India. While **Article 14** ensures equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to **any person within the territory of India**—regardless of nationality—the non-discrimination mandate under **Article 15 explicitly uses** the term **"citizen,"** thereby excluding foreign nationals or non-citizens from its direct application. Consequently, an individual must possess Indian citizenship to validly invoke judicial remedies for an alleged violation under this specific clause

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The strategic placement of the qualifier **"only"** in Article 15 serves as a crucial parameter for judicial interpretation. By stating that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen *only* on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them, the provision signifies that **discrimination based purely or solely on these criteria is prohibited**. This constitutional phrasing implies that if a classification is grounded on a combination of factors—where a prohibited ground (such as sex or religion) is interlinked with an independent, valid justification (such as special physical requirements, administrative convenience, or socio-economic criteria)—it does not automatically constitute a violation of Article 15. Therefore, **discrimination based on mixed grounds** is not entirely barred, provided it satisfies the test of reasonable classification under the broader principle of equality.

Hence, option B is correct.

Q46. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Most Fundamental Rights operate against the State and are subject to reasonable restrictions.

Statement II:

Certain Fundamental Rights are enforceable against both the State and private individuals.

Statement III:

The scope of Fundamental Rights extends beyond merely limiting State action in certain specified situations.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement II qualifies the general proposition stated in Statement I.
2. Statement II provides a basis for Statement III.
3. Statements I and II together indicate that the operation of Fundamental Rights is not uniform across all rights.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Relationship 1 is correct: Statement I** lays down the **general rule** regarding the operation of **Fundamental Rights**: **most Fundamental Rights are enforceable against the State** and are **subject to reasonable restrictions**. However, this is not an absolute proposition applicable to every Fundamental Right. **Statement II** introduces an important **exception** by identifying **Articles 15(2), 17, 23 and 24**, which are enforceable **not only against the State but also against private individuals**. Thus, Statement II **qualifies** the broader proposition in Statement I by demonstrating that while the general operation of Fundamental Rights is directed against **State action**, the Constitution deliberately extends the reach of certain rights to regulate **private social exploitation and discriminatory practices** as well. Therefore, Statement II serves as a **qualification** or **exception** to the general principle stated in Statement I.

- **Relationship 2 is correct: Statement III** concludes that the **scope of Fundamental Rights is wider than merely restricting State action in certain specified situations**. This conclusion logically follows from **Statement II**, which establishes that **Articles 15(2), 17, 23 and 24** impose obligations not only on the State but also on **private individuals**. Since these rights regulate private conduct relating to **access to public places, abolition of untouchability, prohibition of trafficking, forced labour, and child labour in hazardous employment**, they demonstrate that the constitutional protection of Fundamental Rights is not confined exclusively to controlling governmental action. Consequently, Statement II provides the **constitutional basis** for the broader inference drawn in Statement III that the operation of Fundamental Rights extends beyond the traditional **State-versus-individual** relationship in specific constitutionally identified circumstances.
- **Relationship 3 is correct:** When read together, **Statements I and II** reveal that the Constitution adopts a **differentiated approach** towards the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. **Statement I** establishes the **general constitutional framework**, under which **most Fundamental Rights operate against the State** and remain subject to **reasonable restrictions**. **Statement II** supplements this framework by identifying a limited category of rights that also operate against **private individuals**. This comparison makes it evident that the **mode of enforcement**, **persons against whom rights can be claimed**, and the **constitutional objectives served by different rights** are not identical across Part III. Some rights primarily function as restraints on **State power**, while others are designed to eliminate **private discrimination and social exploitation**. Therefore, the two statements together correctly establish that the **operation of Fundamental Rights is not uniform across all rights.**

Hence, option D is correct.

Q47. *"Suppose the Parliament of India passes a Constitutional Amendment Bill under Article 368 after complying with all the procedural requirements prescribed for constitutional amendments, including obtaining the necessary special majority and ratification wherever required. The amendment seeks to replace India's federal system with a completely unitary form of government."*

Which one of the following is the most appropriate conclusion in light of the principles laid down by the Supreme Court?

A. The amendment would be valid because Article 368 empowers Parliament to amend any provision of the Constitution after following the prescribed procedure.

B. The amendment would be valid because the federal character of the Constitution has not been recognized as a component of the Basic Structure in the cases discussed.

C. The amendment would be invalid only if it affects Fundamental Rights in addition to the federal structure.

D. The amendment would be invalid because, although Parliament has wide powers under Article 368, it cannot alter or destroy the federal character, which forms part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court's jurisprudence on constitutional amendments, especially after **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)** and reinforced in **Minerva Mills (1980)**, clearly establishes that while Parliament has **wide amending powers under Article 368**, this power is **not unlimited**.
- It is subject to the **Basic Structure Doctrine**, which protects the essential identity of the Constitution. One of the expressly recognised components of the Basic Structure is the **federal character of the Constitution**, along with democracy, rule of law, judicial review, and separation of powers.

- Therefore, any constitutional amendment that seeks to replace India's **federal system with a completely unitary structure** would amount to altering and destroying a core constitutional feature, which is impermissible. Hence, even if all procedural requirements under Article 368 are satisfied, such an amendment would be **invalid for violating the Basic Structure of the Constitution**, particularly its **federalism principle**.
- **Option (A) is incorrect** because procedural compliance alone does not validate an amendment.
- **Option (B) is incorrect** since **federalism is explicitly recognised as part of the Basic Structure**.
- **Option (C) is also incorrect** because Basic Structure violations are independent of Fundamental Rights concerns; an amendment can be invalid even without affecting Fundamental Rights.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q48. Consider the following statements with reference to the judicial evolution of Parliament's amending power under Article 368:

1. In the Sajjan Singh Case (1965), the Supreme Court departed from its earlier view in Shankari Prasad Case and held that Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights.
2. In the Golaknath Case (1967), by a narrow 6:5 majority, the Supreme Court held that Fundamental Rights occupy a transcendental position beyond the reach of Parliament's amending power.
3. The Golaknath judgment interpreted Article 368 as laying down only the procedure for constitutional amendment and not conferring substantive power to amend the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 1, 2 and 3

D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** In the **Sajjan Singh Case (1965)**, **the Supreme Court did not depart from *Shankari Prasad*,** instead, it **followed the earlier ruling** and **reaffirmed that Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution,** including **Fundamental Rights** under Article 368. The Court upheld the validity of the Seventeenth Constitutional Amendment and maintained that constitutional amendments are not "law" under **Article 13**, though some judges expressed doubts about the unlimited nature of amending power.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the **Golaknath Case (1967)**, by a **6:5 majority**, the Supreme Court held that **Fundamental Rights occupy a transcendental position** in the Constitution and are placed beyond the reach of Parliament's amending power. The Court fundamentally changed its earlier position and ruled that Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights under Article 368. This marked a significant judicial shift where Fundamental Rights were treated as having a superior constitutional status that cannot be diluted through constitutional amendments.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In the same **Golaknath judgment**, the Supreme Court interpreted **Article 368 as merely procedural**, meaning it only laid down the **procedure for amendment** and did not itself confer substantive power to amend the Constitution. The Court reasoned that substantive authority to amend must be derived from elsewhere and held that amendments affecting Fundamental Rights would fall within the scope of **"law" under**

Article 13, thereby making them subject to judicial invalidation. This interpretation was central to restricting Parliament's amending power prior to the 24th Constitutional Amendment.

Hence, option D is correct.

Q49. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

In most democracies, the basic rights of the citizen are written down in the constitution which is not easily amendable.

Statement-II:

Some rights need to be placed higher than the government so that the government cannot violate them.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement-I is correct:** In most democracies, the **basic rights of citizens are written down in the constitution,** which is typically designed to be **more difficult to amend compared to regular laws.** This serves **to protect these fundamental rights from being easily changed by temporary majorities or the whims of the government.**
- **Statement-II is correct:** The core purpose of having **written rights in a constitution which is difficult to amend, is to ensure that the government cannot infringe upon or violate these rights arbitrarily.** Placing fundamental rights in the constitution makes them more secure and less susceptible to changes based on the political will of the government.

Hence, option A is correct.

Q50. *"A Municipal Corporation is reviewing a bye-law enacted in 1948 regulating the allocation of market spaces. It finds that one of the provisions is discriminatory and inconsistent with the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. The municipal council seeks to know whether the entire bye-law must be discarded, or whether the rest of the market allocation rules can continue to operate."*

In the light of the core doctrines under Article 13 of the Indian Constitution, which of the following is the most appropriate course of action?

A. Scrap the entire 1948 regulation immediately because pre-constitutional laws cannot be salvaged.

B. Treat the entire bye-law as eclipsed under the Doctrine of Eclipse, rendering all its provisions temporarily inoperative until amended.

C. Treat the bye-law as an amendment so that it can bypass Article 13 entirely.

D. Apply the Doctrine of Severability to isolate and declare void only the discriminatory clause, allowing the rest of the market allocation rules to remain active.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Option A is not correct: Article 13** does not provide that every **pre-Constitution law** inconsistent with **Fundamental Rights** automatically becomes wholly invalid. Instead, such laws become **void only to the extent of inconsistency**. Furthermore, the **Doctrine of Severability** permits the valid portions of the law to survive if they are capable of operating independently of the unconstitutional provision. Therefore, merely because the bye-law was enacted in **1948 does not mean the entire regulation must be discarded.** Only the discriminatory provision requires constitutional scrutiny, while the remaining provisions may continue to remain effective.
- **Option A is not correct:** The **Doctrine of Eclipse** applies specifically to **pre-Constitution laws** that become **inconsistent with Fundamental Rights.** However, the doctrine **does not render the entire law inoperative merely because one provision conflicts with the Constitution.** Instead, **only the inconsistent portion is considered eclipsed**, meaning that it becomes temporarily unenforceable against those enjoying the Fundamental Rights while the remaining valid provisions continue to operate. Moreover, where the unconstitutional provision can be separated from the rest of the legislation, the **Doctrine of Severability** provides the more appropriate constitutional solution. Since the question concerns a single discriminatory clause that can be isolated, applying the Doctrine of Eclipse to the entire bye-law would be an incorrect and unnecessarily broad approach.
- **Option C is not correct:** A bye-law is a form of **law** within the meaning of **Article 13** and is fully subject to judicial scrutiny for consistency with Fundamental Rights. Only **Constitutional Amendments**, after the **24th Constitutional Amendment**, are not treated as ordinary laws under Article 13. Even then, they remain subject to the **Basic Structure Doctrine**. A municipal bye-law does not enjoy such immunity and cannot bypass Article 13 by being treated as a constitutional amendment. Therefore, the discriminatory provision remains open to constitutional challenge.
- **Option D is correct: The Doctrine of Severability** ensures that when **only a particular part of a law violates** the **Fundamental Rights, only that offending portion is declared void,** while the **remaining provisions continue to operate** if they are **independent and workable**. The objective is to preserve the valid legislative intent as far as possible rather than unnecessarily invalidating the entire enactment. Since the market allocation rules can continue to function without the discriminatory clause, only that clause should be struck down, making this the most constitutionally appropriate course of action.

Hence, option D is correct.