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QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements about Quad Grouping:

1. Quad Group is a closed group consisting of India, Australia, Japan & USA.
2. Japan pioneered the initiative in 2007 as a coalition of maritime democracies.
3. First Quad talks were held in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. Recently, 45th G-7 Summit was held at:

- (a) Italy
- (b) Japan
- (c) Germany
- (d) France

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in India:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is responsible for the imposition of AFSPA in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh after their reorganization.
2. Presently it is applicable in the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Based on the recommendations of MM Punchhi Commission, what is the correct sequence which the Governor should follow to call upon parties to form government?

1. Pre-poll alliance or coalition having majority

2. Party or combination of parties which commands the widest support in the legislative assembly
3. Post-electoral coalition with all partners
4. Group of parties which had pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1-2-4-3
- (b) 2-4-1-3
- (c) 2-1-4-3
- (d) 2-1-3-4

5. Consider the following statements regarding the election process in Sri Lanka:

1. Sri Lanka operates under a semi-presidential system.
2. Both Indian and Sri Lankan Presidents are elected for 5 year term.
3. Prime Minister recommends the federal cabinet drawn from the Parliament.
4. Unlike India, President of Sri Lanka is both head of state and head of government.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. Operation Sadbhavana is:

- (a) An army initiative to undertake welfare and development projects in the Northeast.
- (b) A social responsibility initiative by the army in Jammu Kashmir.
- (c) A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s answer to the Naxal problem.
- (d) An operation by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian citizens from Yemen Island of Socotra.

7. Consider the following statements:
1. Operation Madad was a rescue and relief operation in flood hit Kerala launched by Indian Army.
 2. Operation Sahyog was launched by Indian Navy to assist the victims of earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. NISHTHA, recently seen in news is:

- (a) A scholarship Scheme for encouraging economically weaker differently abled students to pursue technical education at Diploma and Degree levels.
- (b) A capacity building programme for Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training.
- (c) A registration portal for new start-ups related to green projects.
- (d) A mobile application which serves as a single window for information regarding passenger amenities available at the railway stations.

9. Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that was in news recently deals with:

- (a) It empowers Election Commission to remove any disqualification prescribed by statutory rule for reasons to be recorded.
- (b) Electoral rolls to be issued to political parties.
- (c) Code of conduct.
- (d) Funding to contestants.

10. With reference to Fast Track Courts in India, consider the following statements:

1. Fast Track Courts were established in India on the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission in 2000.
2. These are special kind of courts which have exclusive jurisdiction over a particular category of law.
3. Retired judges are eligible for selection in fast track courts.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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ANSWER HINTS

Answer Key

Q. 1 (a)	Q. 3 (a)	Q. 5 (d)	Q. 7 (d)	Q. 9 (a)
Q. 2 (d)	Q. 4 (c)	Q. 6 (b)	Q. 8 (b)	Q. 10 (d)

1. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** First Quad talks were held in **2015 in Manila, Philippines.**

Supplementary notes:

Quad Grouping

- Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral also known as Quad Group is a closed group consisting of **India, Australia, Japan & USA.**
- **Japan pioneered the initiative in 2007** as a coalition of maritime democracies.
- **First Official quad talks** were held in **Manila, Philippines in 2017**
- Securing a **rules-based global order, liberal trading system and freedom of navigation** are believed to be the guiding principles.
- It aims to **contain a rising China** and its “predatory” economic and trade policies.
- The purpose is also to provide **alternative debt financing** for countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Report on stability was recently launched by four think tanks from the Quad countries at the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF).
- The report was published by Quadripartite Commission on Indian Ocean Regional Security, which put out a series of 20 policy recommendations for stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- It recommended that the four countries should work to **oppose the establishment of permanent Chinese military bases in the IOR.**

2. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** Recently, 45th G-7 Summit was held in **France.**

Supplementary notes:

45th G-7 Summit

- Recently, India has been invited as a guest to attend the **45th Summit of G-7 held at Biarritz, France** though India is not a member of the G-7 grouping.

G-7 Grouping

- The Group of Seven (G-7) is a forum of the seven countries with the world’s largest developed economies—France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada—whose government leaders meet annually on international economic and monetary issues.
- The group was previously known as the G8 and counted Russia among its members, but Russia has been excluded since annexing the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in early 2014.

3. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Only 3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh namely Tirap, Changlang and Longding are covered under the AFSPA.

Supplementary notes:

Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)

- The AFSPA 1958 came into force in the context of increasing violence in the North-eastern States decades ago, which the State governments found difficult to control.
- AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- AFSPA is in force in Jammu & Kashmir since July 5, 1990.
- Earlier, before the State of J&K was bifurcated and downgraded it was the MHA or the Governor that was the designated authority for notifying the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990.
- Cabinet Secretariat in November 2019 notified rules reasserting the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as the authority that would decide on the imposition of AFSPA in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.**
- Other areas where AFSPA is operational include **entire States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (except Imphal Municipal area), three districts namely Tirap, Changlang and Longding of Arunachal Pradesh** and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations in the districts of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the State of Assam.

4. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correct:** The correct sequence is:
 2. Party or combination of parties which commands the widest support in the legislative assembly
 1. Pre-poll alliance or coalition having majority
 3. Post-electoral coalition with all partners
 4. Group of parties which had pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number

Supplementary notes:

Governor and his role in case of Hung Assembly:

- On the question of Governor’s role in appointment of Chief Minister in the case of a hung assembly, it is necessary to lay down certain clear guidelines to be followed as Constitutional conventions. These guidelines recommended by M M Punchhi Commission are as follows:

- The **party or combination of parties which commands the widest support in the Legislative Assembly** should be called upon to form the Government.
- If there is a **pre-poll alliance or coalition**, it should be treated as one political party and if such coalition, the leader of such coalition shall be called by the Governor to form the Government.
- In case no party or pre-poll coalition has a clear majority, the Governor should select the Chief Minister in the order of preference indicated here.
 - The **group of parties which had pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number**
 - The largest single party staking a claim to form the government with the support of others
 - A **post-electoral coalition with all partners** joining the government
 - A post-electoral alliance with some parties joining the government and the remaining including independents supporting the government from outside
- In the S R Bommai case, a nine-judge Bench had underlined the significance of a floor test when there are claims by two political groups.

5. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:

Sri Lanka – election process

- Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka’s former wartime defence chief, has been elected as president of Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka’s government **operates under a semi-presidential system**, where the president holds widespread executive authority but governs in partnership with a prime minister he appoints from amongst the members of Parliament.
- **Prime Minister recommends the federal cabinet drawn from the Parliament.**
- Sri Lanka has unicameral government
- **The president is both head of state and head of government**

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- **President is elected for a 5 year term and is eligible for second term.**
- The Sri Lankan president is elected using a form of instant-runoff voting. Voters can rank up to three candidates, and if no candidate wins a majority in the first round of voting, second and third preferences from ballots whose first preference candidate has been eliminated are used to determine the winner.

6. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Operation Sadbhavana

- **Army has undertaken many Military Civic Action programmes aimed at ‘Wining the Hearts and Minds’ of the people in J&K and North Eastern States, as part of a strategy for conflict resolution.**
- **In Jammu and Kashmir and the North East, the projects are being implemented under Operation SADBHAVANA.** Similar activities are also being undertaken as part of Operation SAMARITAN in the North East.
- Operation Sadbhavana was launched by the army in 1998 in rural areas of Jammu & Kashmir where terrorists and anti-national elements had wrought havoc by large scale destruction of government property and public assets like schools, bridges, electricity supply system etc. causing severe hardships to locals.
- The focus of Operation Sadbhavana has been on Quality Education, Women and Youth Empowerment, Infrastructure Development and Health and Veterinary Care. Educational / Motivational Tours outside J&K are undertaken to expose the rich heritage and progress of India for the students, youth and opinion makers. In addition, basic needs like ‘Water Supply Schemes’, ‘Electrification’ and ‘Animal Husbandry’ in far flung areas is given priority while planning projects based on a participative model involving the local people, their elected representatives and civil administration.

7. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Indian Navy launched Operation Madad, a major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indian Army also has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.

Supplementary notes:

Operation Madad and Operation Sahyog

- **Indian Navy has launched Operation Madad, major rescue and relief operation in flood-hit Kerala.** It was launched to assist the state administration and undertake disaster relief operations due to unprecedented flooding in many parts of Kerala following incessant rainfall and release of excess water from Idukki and other dams.
- **Indian Army also has launched Operation Sahyog to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.**
- Under Operation Sahyog the army pushed its men and machinery into disaster relief and rescue operations at Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki after incessant rain and landslides hit various northern districts of the state.
- Both operations will support rescue and relief efforts of civil administration and National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF).

8. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

NISHTHA

- National Mission to **improve learning outcomes at the elementary level through an Integrated Teacher Training Programme called NISHTHA is launched by The Department of School Education and Literacy under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha in 2109-20.**
- NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for “Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training”.
- It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.

- NISHTHA is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.
- The basic objective of this massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. The initiative is first of its kind wherein standardized training modules are developed at national level for all States and UTs.
- This integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at the elementary level in all Government schools, faculty members of State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as Block Resource Coordinators and Cluster Resource Coordinators in all States and UTs.
- Training will be conducted directly by 33120 Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and State Resource Persons (SRP) identified by the State and UTs, who will in turn be trained by 120 National Resource Persons identified from National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Non-Government Organisations.
- The prominent features of this integrated programme are activity based modules including educational games and quizzes, Social-emotional learning, motivational interactions, team building, preparation for school based assessment, in-built continuous feedback mechanism, online monitoring and support system, training need and impact analysis (Pre and Post training).

9. Correct Option (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Section 11 of RPA, 1951 and related news

- **Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang was barred by law from contesting elections for six years in 2016 for graft charges.**
- He had been sentenced to one year imprisonment for misappropriation of

funds in the procurement of cows when he was state Animal Husbandry Minister under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. However, the section under which he was convicted had been omitted in an amendment in 2018. He completed the one-year sentence on August 10, 2018.

- After completing his one-year prison term in 2018 his disqualification was sharply **reduced to just a year and a month by the Election Commission of India (ECI) recently.**
- **EC cited Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which empowers it to remove/reduce disqualification prescribed by statutory rule for reasons to be recorded.**
- The EC justified its decision on the ground that **Tamang was convicted of an offence committed in 1996-97**, when a minimum **punishment of two years was warranted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**, for attracting the six-year disqualification. Tamang was imprisoned for a year. The EC also noted that he had already served his sentence, and hence, his case merited a disqualification waiver.

10. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct**

Supplementary notes:

Fast Track Courts in India

- As per the National Judicial Data Grid, more than 3 crore civil and criminal cases are pending (as of Feb 2019) in the lower courts across the country. This delayed delivery of justice, especially in sexual assault cases leads to frequent large scale protests, by various groups demanding stricter punishment and speedier trial in such cases.
- In this backdrop, the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) were established in Indian in the year 2000 with an aim to clear the long-pending Sessions and other lower judicial cases.
- **These are special kind of courts which have exclusive jurisdiction over a particular category of law i.e. case of sexual assault and children's cases.**

- The main objective of fast track courts is to provide speedy justice to a large number of pending cases in a specified time.
- **Judges are appointed on ad hoc basis and retired judges are eligible for selection.**
- **A total of 1734 FTCs were approved in 2000 following the report of the 11th Finance Commission.** Out of this, only 1192 were functional by 2011.
- The central government constituted the Justice Verma Commission in 2012

to suggest possible amendments in the criminal law to ensure speedier disposal of cases relating to sexual assault.

- According to a recently released report by the Ministry of Law and Justice in June 2019, currently, there are 581 fast track courts in the country that are functional.
- The government in December 2019 announced to set up 1,023 fast track special courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of rape cases, including that of minors under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

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