

18th September, 2020

TEST YOURSELF

Daily Current Affairs MCQs

Q1. With reference to the Salaries of Legislators in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 106 of the Constitution empowers MPs to determine their salaries through legislation.
2. The salary and pension of MPs increased every five years on the basis of the cost inflation index.

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

In News- The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was unanimously passed by the both the Houses. The Bill reduces the basic salary of MPs by 30% for one year to meet the exigencies arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both statement 1 and 2 are correct: Article 106 of the Constitution empowers MPs to determine their salaries through legislation. Until two years ago, MPs periodically passed laws to revise their salaries which raised the issue of conflict of interest. This was changed in 2018 when Parliament amended the salaries of MPs law through the Finance Act. The Finance Act, 2018 provided that the salary, daily allowance, and pension of MPs will be increased every five years, on the basis of the cost inflation index provided under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Queen's Counsel is an advocate, appointed Counsel to the UK Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.
2. He is recognised in the courts of Commonwealth nations only.

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:

In News- India has called for the appointment of an Indian lawyer or a Queen's Counsel for Kulbhushan Jadhav to ensure a free and fair trial in the review of his death sentence in Pakistan.

Statement 1 is correct: Queen's Counsel is a barrister or advocate, appointed Counsel to the UK Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. Queen's Counsel has the privilege of sitting within the Bar of court and wear silk gowns of a special design (hence the informal title Silks). The special robes are the reason why becoming a QC is often called "taking silk". A lawyer is required to serve as a barrister or a Scottish advocate for at least 10 years in order to be appointed to the special counsel. In January 2019, Indian advocate Dipen Sabharwal was appointed as the Queen's Counsel.

Statement 2 is not correct: Queen's counsels are recognised in almost all courts around the world.

Q3. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act?

1. Under this, both an individual or organisation can be designated as terrorist.
2. It empowers any officers of the rank of DySP or above, to investigate cases of terrorism.
3. Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged under this act.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

In News- Recently, former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid, had been arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The UAPA is primarily an anti-terror law – aimed at “more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations and for dealing with terrorist activities”. It was **first promulgated in 1967 to target secessionist organisations** and is considered to be the predecessor of laws such as the (now repealed) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). In **2019, it was amended** to make it broader, it was amended to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act, earlier only organisations were included. Now it included both individual and organisations.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Act empowers the Director-General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency. The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

Statement 3 is correct: Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if the crime is committed on foreign land, outside India.

Q4. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct with respect to the International Court Of Justice (ICJ)?

1. It is governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute'.
2. The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
3. The judges are not eligible for re-election.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

In News- Recently, India called for the appointment of an Indian lawyer or a Queen's counsel for Indian death-row prisoner Kulbushan Jadhav. The assertion by India comes days after Pakistan's Parliament has extended for four months an ordinance that allowed Jadhav to file an appeal against his conviction in a high court as required by the International Court of Justice.

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct: It was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working formally in April 1946. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).

Statement 2 is correct: It is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately.

Statement 3 is not correct: One-third of the judges are elected every three years, and the judges are eligible for re-election.

Q5. Which of the following state become the first to institutionalise snake handling in the country?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

Answer: D

In News- Recently, the Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes and releasing them in uninhabited areas.

Explanation:

Option D is correct: Kerala has become the first state to institutionalise snake handling in the country. The Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes from human-dominated places and releasing them in uninhabited areas.

- **Guidelines-** It is mandatory for snake handlers, aged between 21 and 65 years, to seek certification.
 - The applications will be screened by the Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACF, Social Forestry) to prepare lists of snake handlers in each district. Various parameters, including experience, age, health as well as track record will be considered during the selection process.
 - While the certification will be valid for five years, the respective ACFs can withdraw or cancel the same if the snake handler is found to be involved in any illegal or unethical practices.
 - The snake rescuer has to bear protective gears.