

Q: The Ministry of Defence has issued a notification amending the rules of defence forces for the appointment of next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Consider the following statement:

- a) An officer must be either serving, or retired, in the rank of general or lieutenant general.
- b) He should be below 65 years on the date of his appointment.

What are the criteria set by the government of India for the appointment of CDS?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The amendment to the service rules of the Army, Navy and Air Force will make serving three-star officers and retired three-and four-star officers eligible for appointment as the next CDS.
- The government may consider officers who are serving as Lieutenant General equivalent, General equivalent or officers who have retired in the rank of Lt Gen or Gen but have not attained the age of 62 years, for the post of CDS.
- For the Air Force, the government may consider an officer who is serving as Air Marshal or Air Chief Marshal or an officer who has retired in similar ranks but has not attained the age of 62 years on the date of appointment. Similar notifications have been issued for the Navy.

Q: Prime Minister launched a PM CARES for Children scheme to support children who lost their parents or a primary caregiver to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider the following statement:

1. PM CARES fund is under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
2. PM is the Chairman or ex-officio of the fund.
3. Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance are the trustees of the fund's

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Recently, Prime Minister released benefits under the PM CARES for Children scheme and reiterated the Centre's commitment to providing other benefits under the scheme.
- Although the PM is the Chairman (ex-officio) of the fund and the Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance are the fund's trustees, the Centre has maintained that it is not a Government of India fund and isn't under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding "Bad Bank":

1. It is a financial entity set up to buy non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, from banks.
2. It may later try to restructure and sell the NPA to investors who might be interested in purchasing it

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- A bad bank is a financial entity set up to buy non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, from banks. The aim of setting up a bad bank is to help ease the burden on banks by taking bad loans off their balance sheets and get them to lend again to customers without constraints.
- After the purchase of a bad loan from a bank, the bad bank may later try to restructure and sell the NPA to investors who might be interested in purchasing it.
- A bad bank makes a profit in its operations if it manages to sell the loan at a price higher than what it paid to acquire the loan from a commercial bank. However, generating profits is usually not the primary purpose of a bad bank, the objective is to ease the burden on banks, of holding a large pile of stressed assets, and to get them to lend more actively.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Rajya Sabha:

1. Its MP's are elected by MLAS through an indirect election.
2. The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of Rajya Sabha seats.
3. A nominated member may join a party within six months of taking a seat.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- Rajya Sabha MP's are **elected by MLAS through an indirect election.**
- Article 80(4) provides that members shall be elected by the elected members of state Assemblies through a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
- The **Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of Rajya Sabha seats** to the states and Union Territories, on the basis of the population of each state. For instance, there are 31 Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and 1 in Goa.
- Elections are held there are more candidates than vacancies; otherwise, candidates are elected unopposed.
- **Under Article 80(3)**, the 12 nominated members should have special knowledge or practical experience in matters like literature, science, art etc. A nominated member may join a party within six months of taking a seat.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the 4th State Food Safety Index and choose the incorrect option:

- a) NITI Aayog does the rating for State Food Safety Index.
- b) Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state.
- c) State Food Safety Index was started from 2018-19.
- d) Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir secured the first place.

Ans: a

Explanation:

- In an effort to galvanize States/UTs to work towards ensuring safe food for citizens, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI).
- Among the larger states, Tamil Nadu was the top ranking state, followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra. Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim.
- Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks.
- The rating is done by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- SFSI was started from 2018-19 with the aim of creating a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
- The index will help in providing safe and nutritious food to our citizens.