

**1. Which of the following amounts to criminal contempt under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971?**

1. Willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court.
2. Acts which scandalise or tend to scandalise, or lower or tend to lower the authority of, any court.
3. Acts which prejudice, or interfere or tend to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding.
4. Acts which interfere or tend to interfere with, or obstruct or tend to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- According to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt.
- **Civil contempt** means wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- On the other hand, **criminal contempt** means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which
  - scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or
  - prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or
  - interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.
- A contempt of court may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both, provided that the accused may be discharged or the punishment awarded may be remitted on apology being made to the satisfaction of the court.
- However, innocent publication and distribution of some matter, fair and reasonable criticism of judicial acts and comment on the administrative side of the judiciary do not amount to contempt of court.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/scandalising-as-contempt-the-hindu-editorial-on-proceedings-against-prashant-bhushan/article32198126.ece>

**2. With reference to India’s revised FDI policy to prevent opportunistic takeovers of firms, consider the following statements.**

1. It places restrictions on entities from Pakistan and Bangladesh only who can now invest in Indian firms only under the Government route.
2. Even if the investing company is not located in the restricted countries, it would still be subject to these conditions if its owner is a citizen or resident of such a country.

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:**

- India recently revised its FDI policy with the objective of preventing “opportunistic takeovers” of firms hit by the lockdown induced by the COVID-19 outbreak.

**What was the amendment?**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The government has announced that an entity of a country that **shares a land border** with India can now invest in Indian firms **only under the Government route**.
- India shares land borders with **Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar**.
- Previously, only investments from Pakistan and Bangladesh faced such restrictions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The new changes also apply to “**beneficial**” owners — even if the investing company is not located in a neighboring country, it would still be subject to these conditions if its owner is a citizen or resident of such a country.

**Rationale of the changes**

- While the recent changes did not name any country, analysts see the amendments as aimed at possible Chinese investments.
- With many Indian businesses coming to a halt due to the lockdown imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and valuations plummeting, a number of domestic firms may be vulnerable to opportunistic takeovers or acquisitions from foreign players.
- China’s FDI has grown five-fold since 2014 and, as of December 2019, its cumulative investment in India exceeded \$8 billion — far more than investments by other countries that share borders with India.
- The fear is partly due to the concerns arising from other countries where Chinese investments in the time of COVID-19 are seen as an attempt to take over national assets at a time of crisis.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/200-chinese-investment-bids-await-mh-nod/article32196986.ece>

**3. With reference to the No-Confidence Motion, which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- A. A Motion of No-Confidence can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only.
- B. There is no mention of a No-Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India.
- C. No reason is required to move such a motion.
- D. The first-ever no-confidence motion was moved 1999.

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- Article 75 of the Constitution states that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the **Lok Sabha**.
- A no-confidence motion is usually moved by the opposition when it feels that the ruling government does not enjoy a majority in the House any longer.
- **Statement C is correct: No reason** is required to move such a motion.
- It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only (and not against the individual ministers).
- **Statement A is correct:** A no-confidence motion can be moved by **any member of the house** and can be done **only in the Lok Sabha** and not in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Statement B is correct:** There is **no mention of a No-Confidence Motion** in the Constitution of India. Such a motion is moved under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha (the term is not mentioned in the Constitution).
- A **minimum of 50 members** have to accept the motion and the Speaker would accordingly announce the date for the discussion on the motion.
- A no-confidence motion needs a **majority vote** to pass the House.
- In case the government fails to prove its majority, then the government has to resign.
- **Statement D is incorrect:** J.B. Kripalani moved the first-ever no-confidence motion in **August 1963** against the Nehru government after the India-China war.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/congress-set-to-move-no-confidence-motion-against-manipur-cm-biren-on-august-10/article32195727.ece>

**4. Consider the following statements about Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST)**

1. It is levied on inter-state supplies of goods and/or services and collected by the state where the goods and/or services are sold.
2. Supplies made to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are treated as an inter state supply under GST regime.

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:**

- IGST is one of the three categories under Goods and Service Tax (CGST, IGST and SGST) with a concept of one tax one nation. It is levied on inter-state supplies of goods and/or services.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under Article 269A of the Constitution, the GST on supplies in the course of interstate trade or commerce shall be levied and **collected by the Government of India** and such tax shall be apportioned between the Union and the States in the manner as may be provided by Parliament by law on the recommendations of the GST Council.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under GST, any supply to or by a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) unit is considered to be an Inter state supply and Integrated Goods and Service tax (IGST) will be applicable.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Finance-Ministry-proposes-stern-action-against-untraceable-exporters-claiming-IGST-Refund&id=395790>

#### 5. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) norms are notified under

- A. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- B. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- C. Wild Life Protection Act, 1972
- D. Environmental Protection Act, 1986

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process or study which predicts the effect of a proposed industrial/infrastructural project on the environment.
- It prevents any project from being approved which has a harsh effect on the environment and tries to give oversight to have solutions to the upcoming issues if the project is implemented.
- This process falls under **Environmental Protection Act 1986**.
- EIA covers projects such as mining of coal or other minerals, infrastructure development, thermal, nuclear and hydropower projects, real estate and other industrial projects.
- The projects are assessed based on their potential impact on the environment. Based on the assessments, they are granted or denied environmental clearance by a panel of experts.
- It was in 1994 when the first norms of the EIA were notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This notification was replaced by another one in 2006.
- Recently, the Government of India has put up new draft EIA rules and has asked for public opinion on this.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-to-finalise-proposed-Environment-Impact-Assessment-Draft-2020-after-considering-various-suggestions&id=395789>