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1. Consider the following statements about “domestic systemically important banks”? (D-SIB)

- 1) Banks whose assets exceed 2% of GDP are considered part of this group.
- 2) Only public sector banks are designated as D-SIB.

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:

- D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Banks whose assets **exceed 2% of GDP** are considered part of this group. Liabilities are not into account for designating a D-SIB.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Both public and private sector banks can be designated as D-SIB.
- All the banks under D-SIB are required to maintain a higher share of risk-weighted assets as tier-I equity.

Why in the news?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has retained State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) or banks that are considered as “too big to fail”.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/too-big-to-fail-list-sbi-icici-bank-hdfc-bank-remain-7153597/>

https://rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2766

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2. Consider the following statements about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

- 1) The law allows a woman to undergo an abortion only under certain conditions such serious abnormality of the fetus, mental or physical harm to the woman, etc.
- 2) It capped the upper gestation limit for abortion at 24 weeks.

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 Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 allows a woman to undergo an abortion only under certain conditions.
- A woman can seek abortion if the doctor confirms that the fetus in the womb has serious abnormality or if the continuation of pregnancy could cause mental or physical harm to the woman.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- The law allows a woman to undergo abortion only till 20 weeks, beyond which abortion is prohibited.

Issues with the current law

- Legal and medical experts feel that a revision of the legal limit for abortion is long overdue.
- Foetal abnormalities show up only by 18 weeks, so just a two-week window after that is too small for the would-be parents to take the difficult call on whether to keep their baby and for the medical practitioner to exhaust all possible options before advising the patient to take the extreme step.
- Since lack of legal approval does not prevent abortions from being carried out beyond 20 weeks, women are put under risk since the abortions then are often conducted in unhygienic conditions by untrained, unqualified persons. It is estimated that about 8% of maternal deaths happen due to unsafe abortions.

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- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which allows abortion up to 24 weeks of gestational age for vulnerable categories of women and there is no limit of gestational age in case of pregnancies with substantial foetal abnormalities, diagnosed by a medical board.

3. With reference to the Removal of the Speaker, Consider the Following Statements

- The Speaker has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, while the resolution for his removal is being considered.
- He, however, is not entitled to vote in such a resolution, except in the case of equal votes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 and 2

Answer- A

Explanation -

- At any sitting of the Legislative Assembly, while any resolution for the removal of the Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Speaker, or while any resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker, from his office is under consideration, the Deputy Speaker, shall not preside.
- The Speaker shall have **the right to speak in, and take part in the proceedings of, the Legislative Assembly** while any resolution for his removal from office is under consideration in the Assembly and **be entitled to vote** in the first instance as a member or on any other matter during such proceedings but not in the case of an equality of votes as he cannot preside over the meeting. **Statement 2 incorrect, while Statement 1 is correct.**

4. Consider the Following Statements regarding the money bill

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- 1) In case of a Money Bill, if the Council of States does not pass the bill, within 14 days, it is sent back to the Lower House and is passed by it.
- 2) The Decision of the Speaker is final with respect to the question of a bill being a Money Bill.

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

- After a Money Bill has been passed by the House of the People it shall be transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations and the Council of States shall within a period of fourteen days from the date of its receipt of the Bill return the Bill to the House of the People with its recommendations and the House of the People may thereupon either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Council of States.
- If the House of the People accepts any of the recommendations of the Council of States, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses with the amendments recommended by the Council of States and accepted by the House of the People.
- If the Lok Sabha does not accept any of the recommendations of the Council of States, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by the House of the People without any of the amendments recommended by the Upper House.
- If a Money Bill passed by the House of the People and transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations is not returned to the House of the People within the said period of fourteen days, it shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by the House of the People. **Hence, the bill is not sent back to the House of people. Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final. **Statement 2 is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements with respect to the Western Cyclonic Disturbances

1. These are weather phenomena of the winter months which originate over the Mediterranean Sea and brought into India by the westerly jet stream

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2. They usually influence the weather of the north-eastern region of India.

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 western cyclonic disturbances are **weather phenomena of the winter months** brought in by the westerly flow from the Mediterranean region.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** They usually **influence the weather of the north and north-western regions of India.**
- Western Disturbances are **low pressure systems, embedded in western winds (westerlies)** that flow from the west to the east.
- **Arrival in India**
 - The low pressure typically forms over the Mediterranean Sea and travels over Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan before entering India loaded with moisture.
 - These **moisture laden western disturbances eventually** come up against the himalayas and get blocked, as a consequence, the moisture gets trapped and precipitation is shared in **the form of snow and rain over Northwest India** and sometimes, in other parts of North India.

Why in the news?

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According to National Weather Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Under a fresh Western Disturbance influence, scattered to fairly widespread rain/snow likely over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan & Muzaffarabad and Himachal Pradesh would occur.

