

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

## IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Daily MCQs: 06-06-2024

### 1. Consider the following statements about NOTA in the Indian electoral system

- 1) A NOTA vote requires the involvement of the presiding officer.
- 2) The NOTA option on EVMs has no electoral value.
- 3) NOTA is available in Rajya Sabha polls.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

### 2. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) hears appeals against orders passed by which of the following?

- 1) National Company Law Tribunal
- 2) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
- 3) Competition Commission of India.
- 4) National Financial Reporting Authority.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

### 3. Which law defines the criteria for recognition of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha?

- A. Representation of the People Act, 1950
- B. Anti-Defection Law
- C. Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977
- D. Prevention of Corruption Act

### 4. Consider the following statements about the United Nations Security Council

- 1) It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
- 2) It consists of 15 permanent members who can veto any substantive Security Council resolutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

### 5. Consider the following statements about James Webb Telescope

- 1) It is the largest observatory ever launched into space.
- 2) It has been developed by NASA in partnership with the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.

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

### Solutions:

1. Answer: A

### Explanation

- 'None of The Above' (NOTA) option in the Indian electoral system was introduced in India following the **2013 Supreme Court directive** in the *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India* judgment.
- The NOTA option was **first used in the Assembly elections held in four states** -- Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the Union Territory, Delhi in **2013**.
- NOTA is the option which enables the voter to officially register a vote of rejection for all candidates who are contesting. If a voter chooses to press NOTA it indicates that the voter has not chosen to vote for any of the parties.

### How is a NOTA vote cast?

- The EVMs have the NOTA option at the end of the candidates' list.
- Earlier, in order to cast a negative ballot by filing **Form 49-O**, a voter had to inform the presiding officer at the polling booth. But this compromised the secrecy of the ballot.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A NOTA vote doesn't require the involvement of the presiding officer.

### Does it Make a Difference?

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The NOTA option on EVMs has **no electoral value**. Even if the maximum number of votes cast is for NOTA, the candidate getting the most of the remaining votes would be declared winner.
- In other words, the existence of NOTA has been seen just as a **"symbolic instrument to express resentment"** against all the contesting candidates or the political system in general.
- However, attempts have been made recently, albeit at the local level, to expand the scope of NOTA.

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### What are they?

- In 2018, the **Maharashtra State Election Commission** announced that if NOTA garners the most number of votes in a panchayat or municipality election, then none of the candidates in the fray would be declared elected, and instead a re-election would take place.
- In the same year, the **Haryana State Election Commissioner** inserted provisions in the law to bar the candidates—those who got less votes than NOTA—from contesting the follow-up elections.
- However, for Assembly and general elections – which are governed by the Election Commission of India – the scope of NOTA remains limited.
- Now, for the NOTA option to be given some "electoral value" in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, amendments will need to be made to **Rule 64 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961**.

### Is NOTA available in Rajya Sabha polls?

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In 2018, the **Election Commission withdrew the NOTA option** from ballot papers of the **Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council polls** following a Supreme Court directive.
- The apex court held that the NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

### Earlier Recommendations

- The **Law Commission** in 1999 suggested that the **candidates be declared elected only if they have obtained 50%+1 of the valid votes cast**.
- The **'Background Paper on Electoral Reforms'**, prepared by the **Ministry of Law in 2010**, had proposed that if a certain percentage of the vote was negative, then the election result should be nullified and a new election held.

### 2. Answer: D

### Explanation

All the statements are correct.

- The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under the **Companies Act, 2013** for **hearing appeals against the orders passed by the National Company Law Tribunal** under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.
- NCLAT is also the **Appellate Tribunal** for hearing appeals against the orders passed by **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** and the **Competition Commission of India**.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders of the **National Financial Reporting Authority**.
- NCLAT decisions can be **challenged in the Supreme Court** on a point of law.
- NCLAT is functioning from the **Principal Bench in New Delhi**.

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### 3. Answer: C

#### Explanation

- In India, Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are accorded **statutory recognition**.
- The **Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** defines **Leader of the Opposition (LoP)** as that member of the House who is the "Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the **greatest numerical strength** and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be." Hence **Option C is correct**.

### 4. Answer: A

#### Explanation

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1946 as **one of the six principal organs** of the UN. It is generally viewed as the apex of the UN system.
- It is responsible for the **maintenance of international peace and security**.
- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the **only UN body** with the authority to issue **binding resolutions** to member states.

#### Membership

- UNSC consists of **15 Members**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The council has **five permanent members** (P-5) United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France.
- These permanent members can **veto** any substantive Security Council resolutions, including those on the admission of new member states.
- The Security Council also has **10 non-permanent members**, elected on a **regional basis** as follows:
  - five for African and Asian States;
  - one for Eastern European States;
  - two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and
  - two for Western European and other States.
- Each year the 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) elects five non-permanent members for a **two-year term**.
- The body's **presidency rotates monthly among its members**.

#### Vote and Majority Required

- Each member of the Security Council shall have **one vote**.
- Decisions of the Security Council on **procedural matters** shall be made by an **affirmative vote of nine members**.
- Decisions of the Security Council on **all other matters** shall be made by an **affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members**.

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- However, any member, whether permanent or nonpermanent, must abstain from voting in any decision concerning the peaceful settlement of a dispute to which it is a party.

### Why in News?

- The United States has urged the U.N. Security Council to support the three-phase plan announced by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the nearly eight-month war in Gaza, freeing all hostages and sending massive aid into the devastated territory.

### 5. Answer: C

### Explanation

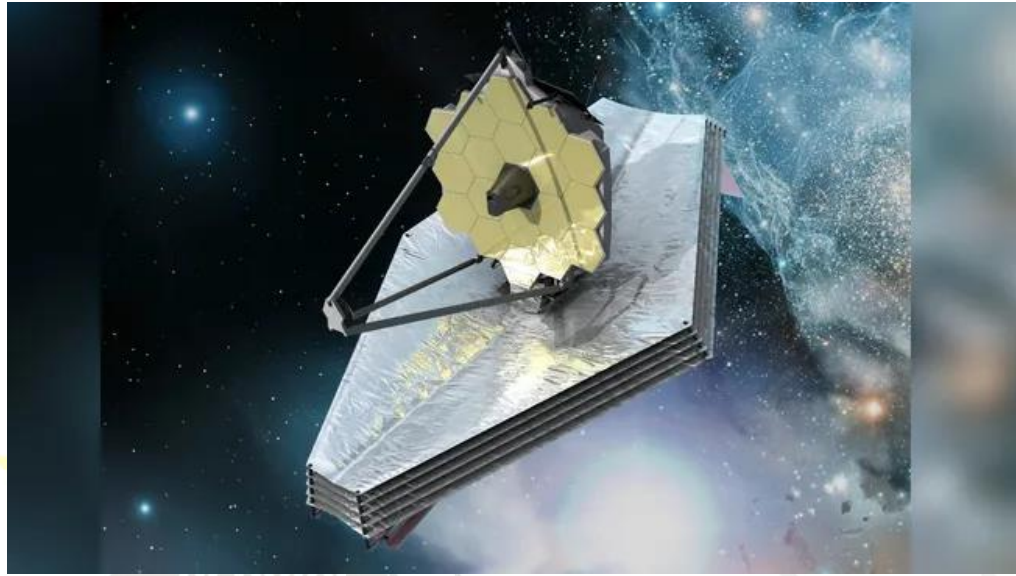
- The James Webb Space Telescope is the world's premier space science observatory.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an **international program led by NASA with its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency).**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the largest observatory ever launched into space.
- Webb will solve mysteries in our solar system, look beyond distant worlds around other stars, and probe the mysterious structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.
- A key feature of Webb's design is that it has a **cold side and a hot side.**
  - The cold side is the one that does the observing, while the hot side carries the spacecraft's solar panels and an antenna for two-way communication with Earth. But this arrangement only works if the sun and Earth are always facing in the same direction from the spacecraft's point of view.
- One special distance at which an object can orbit the Sun and always see the Sun and Earth in the same direction is the so-called **L2 point. It is where the Webb telescope operates.**
  - L2 is one of five locations in space called **Lagrange points**, after Joseph-Louis Lagrange who studied them in the 18th century.
  - At these locations the **gravity of two massive bodies (in this case the Sun and Earth) conspire to keep a third, smaller body (such as an asteroid or spacecraft) in a fixed position relative to the first two.**
  - The Lagrange points aren't stationary, but they revolve around the Sun at exactly the same rate as the Earth, so the distance from us always stays the same.
  - In the case of L2, it's around 1 million miles (1.5 million kilometers) away: around four times as far away as the moon.



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### Objectives

The science goals for the Webb can be grouped into **four themes**.

- **The early universe:** Webb is used to look back around 13.5 billion years to **see the first stars and galaxies** forming out of the darkness of the early universe.
- **Galaxies over time:** It can be used to compare the faintest, earliest galaxies to today's grand spirals and understand how galaxies assemble over billions of years.
- **Lifecycle of stars:** It can be used to **see where stars and planetary systems are being born**.
- **Other worlds:** It is used to **observe the atmospheres of extrasolar planets** (beyond our solar system), and perhaps find the building blocks of life elsewhere in the universe. The telescope will also study objects within our own Solar System.

### What's in the news?

- James Webb Space Telescope spots earliest-known galaxy- JADES-GS-z14-0.