

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 30-08-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act

- 1) The Act addresses the issue of workplace sexual harassment faced by women in private institutions and government organisations.
- 2) As per the Act, a workplace covers both the organized and unorganized sectors.

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

2. Consider the following statements about the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- 1) It is a constitutional body.
- 2) The term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission is three years.

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

3. The primary function of IREDA is

- A. To conduct research on renewable energy technologies
- B. To promote and finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in India
- C. To regulate energy tariffs across India
- D. To provide electricity distribution services

4. With reference to the RESET programme, consider the following statements,

1. The programme was launched by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
2. It is available for athletes who are currently active in their sports career.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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5. Which of the following Indian states requires Inner Line Permit (ILP) for visitors?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4

Solutions:

1. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 addresses the issue of workplace sexual harassment faced by women in **private institutions and government organisations**.
- The act superseded **Vishakha Guidelines** laid down by the Supreme Court in 1997.
- The Act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

- The Act defines **sexual harassment** to include **unwelcome acts** such as physical contact and sexual advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, making sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

Definition of Workplace

- Under the Act, a **workplace** is defined as “any place visited by the employee arising out of or during the course of employment, including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such a journey.”
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per this definition, a workplace covers **both the organized and unorganized sectors**.
- It also includes all workplaces **whether owned by Indian or foreign company having a place of work in India**.
- As per the Act, workplace includes:-
 - Government organizations, including Government company, corporations and cooperative societies;-
 - Private sector organizations, venture, society, trust, NGO or service providers etc. providing services which are commercial, vocational, educational, sports,

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professional, entertainment, industrial, health related or financial activities, including production, supply, sale, distribution or service;-

- Hospitals/Nursing Homes;-
- Sports Institutes/Facilities;-
- Places visited by the employee (including while on travel) including transportation provided by employer;
- A dwelling place or house.

ICC & LCC

- Every employer is required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee** at each office or branch with **10 or more employees**.
- Every district will have a **Local Complaints Committee (LCC)** so as to enable women in the unorganised sector or small establishments to work in an environment free of sexual harassment.
- The LCC will receive complaints:
 - From women working in an organization having less than 10 workers;
 - When the complaint is against the employer himself;
 - From domestic workers.
- At least **50 percent** of the nominated members in any Internal or Local Committee must be women.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of **civil courts** for gathering evidence.
- The Complaints Committees are required to provide for **conciliation** before initiating an inquiry, if requested by the complainant.

2. Answer: D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a **statutory organisation** established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- The Act also created Human Rights Commissions at the levels of the various States.
- NHRC was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991, and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993.

Functions of NHRC

- The NHRC enquires into complaints of violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, studies treaties and international instruments on human rights and makes recommendations for their effective implementation to the Government.
- It is responsible for spreading human rights awareness amongst the masses.
- While inquiring into complaints under the Act, the Commission shall have all the powers of a **civil court**.

Composition of NHRC

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- According to the **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019**, the NHRC consists of
 - A **Chairperson**, who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court
 - One member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India
 - One member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court
 - Three Members, out of which at least one shall be a woman to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights
 - In addition, the Chairpersons of National Commissions viz., National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities serve as **ex officio members**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The term of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission is **three years or until he attains the age of seventy years**, whichever is earlier. They shall be **eligible for re-appointment**.
- They can be removed only on the **charges of proved misbehavior or incapacity**, if proved by an inquiry conducted by a Supreme Court Judge.

Limitations of NHRC

- As per the Protection of Human Rights Act, the NHRC **can only recommend the government but the recommendations are non-binding**. This lack of authority gives an outright rejection of any recommendation or partial compliance.
- Under the Act, human rights commissions **cannot investigate** an event if the complaint was made more than **one year after the incident**. Therefore, a large number of genuine grievances go unaddressed.
- State human rights commissions cannot call for information from the national government, which means that they are implicitly denied the power to investigate armed forces under national control.
- Also, the National Human Rights Commission powers related to violations of human rights by the armed forces have been **largely restricted**.
- Another major problem is that it is **flooded with too many complaints**, and are finding it difficult to address the increasing number of complaints.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a **Mini Ratna (Category - I)** Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
 - *The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna Category-I status.*
- IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** in **1987** engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance

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for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the motto: '**ENERGY FOR EVER**'.

- Its objective is to give **financial support** to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and/or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.

4. Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has launched "Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- The Programme aimed at **empowering our retired sports persons** who have played for the country and brought immense laurels to the nation. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The programme will **support retired athletes on their career development journey** by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.

Who are eligible?

- The athletes, who have retired from an active sports career and are **aged between 20-50 years** and who have been winners of an International Medal/participants in international events or have been National medallists/State medallists/participants in competitions recognized by National Sports Federations/Indian Olympic Association/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are eligible to apply for courses under RESET Programme.

5. Answer: D

Explanation

Inner Line Permit

- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document that allows Indian citizens to stay in an area under the ILP system.
- The document is currently required by visitors to **Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.**
- The ILP is issued by the **concerned state government.** The permits issued are mostly of different kinds, provided separately for tourists, tenants and for other purposes.
- The main objective of the ILP system is to prevent settlement of other Indian nationals in the notified states in order **to protect the indigenous population.** It also offers protection for the locals with regards to lands, jobs and other facilities.