



P.L.RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. With reference to the National Statistical Commission (NSC), which one of the following best describes its primary role?

- (a) It is the statutory authority responsible for conducting the Population Census in India.
- (b) It serves as the apex advisory body for strengthening and standardising the official statistical system of the country.**
- (c) It regulates the publication of economic surveys prepared by State Governments.
- (d) It functions as the constitutional authority for monitoring fiscal statistics of the Union and the States.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** is the **apex advisory body** for India's official statistical system. It was constituted in **2005** following the recommendations of the **Rangarajan Commission** to improve the credibility, quality and coordination of official statistics. The Commission functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** and advises on statistical standards, methodologies, classifications and data quality. It neither conducts the Population Census nor exercises constitutional or regulatory powers over fiscal statistics.

2. With reference to the National Statistical Commission (NSC), consider the following statements:

Statement I: The National Statistical Commission was established following the recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission.

Statement II: One of the objectives of the Commission is to enhance public confidence in official statistics through improvements in data quality and statistical standards.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.**
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement II explains the rationale behind establishing the Commission. The **Rangarajan Commission** recommended the creation of an independent advisory body to strengthen India's statistical framework by ensuring **uniform statistical standards, methodological consistency** and **data reliability**. The NSC recommends measures for improving the quality, credibility and dissemination of official statistics and promotes coordination among Central

Ministries, State Governments and Union Territories to ensure consistency across the national statistical system.

3. Which one of the following is correctly matched?

- (a) National Statistical Commission — Constitutional body responsible for conducting elections
- (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation — Nodal Ministry associated with the National Statistical Commission**
- (c) Registrar General of India — Apex advisory body for official statistics
- (d) NITI Aayog — Statutory authority for national sample surveys

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Option **(b)** is correctly matched. The **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, which is the nodal ministry responsible for official statistics in India. The **Election Commission of India** is the constitutional body responsible for elections, while the **Registrar General of India** functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs and oversees the Census and Civil Registration System. **NITI Aayog** is a policy think tank and does not perform statutory functions relating to official statistical surveys.

4. A country intends to strengthen public confidence in its official statistical system without transferring statistical functions to an independent constitutional authority. Which one of the following measures would be the most appropriate?

- (a) Increase the frequency of economic surveys while reducing methodological scrutiny.
- (b) Establish an advisory body to prescribe statistical standards, improve coordination and periodically audit data quality.**
- (c) Transfer all statistical responsibilities to the central bank.
- (d) Restrict publication of official statistics until approved by the legislature.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

An effective statistical system depends upon **uniform methodologies, transparent data collection, institutional coordination** and **independent quality assurance**. Establishing an advisory body capable of prescribing national statistical standards, recommending methodological improvements, promoting coordination among data-producing agencies and conducting periodic audits enhances the credibility of official statistics without altering the constitutional framework. These are among the principal functions entrusted to the **National Statistical Commission** in India.

5. With reference to the functions of the National Statistical Commission, consider the following:

1. Formulating national statistical standards and classifications.
2. Conducting periodic audits of statistical quality.
3. Preparing the Union Budget.

4. Strengthening coordination between Central Ministries and State Governments on statistical matters.

Which of the above are functions of the National Statistical Commission?

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

The **National Statistical Commission** advises on **statistical concepts, definitions, classifications** and **methodologies** used for the collection and dissemination of official statistics. It also recommends measures to improve public confidence in statistical outputs, conducts periodic quality audits and strengthens coordination among Central Ministries, State Governments and Union Territories. Preparation of the **Union Budget** is the responsibility of the **Ministry of Finance** and lies outside the mandate of the Commission.

6. With reference to the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which one of the following best describes its primary objective?

- (a) To permit the permanent deployment of military forces in each other's territory.
(b) To facilitate reciprocal logistical support for military operations, exercises and humanitarian missions.
(c) To establish a common integrated military command between partner countries.
(d) To enable joint production of strategic defence equipment under a single command structure.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** is a **bilateral defence logistics arrangement** that enables reciprocal access to logistical facilities such as **fuel, transportation, maintenance, medical support, accommodation and repair facilities** during **joint military exercises, training programmes, official port visits and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions**. The agreement facilitates operational efficiency and interoperability between the armed forces of partner countries. It **does not** permit the permanent stationing of troops, establishment of foreign military bases or creation of a unified military command.

7. With reference to the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) between India and Russia, consider the following statements:

Statement I: The agreement permits reciprocal access to logistics facilities during mutually agreed military activities.

Statement II: The agreement authorises the permanent deployment of armed forces and military assets in each other's territory.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.**
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Statement I is correct, whereas Statement II is incorrect. The **RELOS** provides reciprocal logistical support during **pre-approved military activities**, including **joint exercises, training programmes, official port visits and HADR operations**. The agreement covers services such as **refuelling, transportation, maintenance, accommodation and medical assistance**. However, it **explicitly excludes** the permanent deployment of troops, long-term stationing of military assets or establishment of foreign military bases within the territory of either country. It is intended to improve operational cooperation while respecting national sovereignty.

8. Which one of the following is NOT covered under the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)?

- (a) Fuel and transportation support
- (b) Medical and maintenance facilities
- (c) Permanent establishment of foreign military bases**
- (d) Logistical assistance during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The **RELOS** provides a framework for reciprocal logistical assistance, including **fuel supply, transportation, maintenance, repair, medical facilities** and **accommodation** during mutually agreed activities. These include military exercises, training programmes, HADR missions and official naval visits. The agreement **does not permit** the permanent deployment of troops, creation of foreign military bases or transfer of territorial control. Such provisions distinguish logistics support agreements from military alliances or basing agreements.

9. Suppose two friendly countries conclude a defence agreement that allows each other's armed forces to obtain fuel, maintenance, repair facilities and medical support during joint exercises and disaster relief operations, while prohibiting permanent troop deployment. Such an arrangement is best described as:

- (a) A collective defence treaty
- (b) A reciprocal logistics support agreement**
- (c) A mutual non-aggression pact
- (d) A strategic arms limitation agreement

Answer: (b)

Explanation

A **reciprocal logistics support agreement** enables partner countries to access essential logistics services during **joint military activities, training programmes, port calls** and **Humanitarian**

Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Such agreements improve operational readiness and reduce logistical constraints without affecting the sovereign control of military installations. They differ from **collective defence treaties**, which require members to respond jointly to external aggression, and from arms-control agreements, which regulate weapons or force levels.

10. India has concluded logistics support agreements with several countries in recent years. The principal strategic advantage of such agreements is that they:

- (a) permit unrestricted deployment of Indian military forces in foreign territories.
- (b) enhance operational reach by facilitating access to logistics and support facilities during approved military activities.**
- (c) establish permanent overseas military bases under Indian command.
- (d) replace bilateral defence cooperation agreements with a unified military structure.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Logistics support agreements enhance the **operational sustainability** of the armed forces by enabling access to **fuel, maintenance, repair facilities, medical support** and **transportation** at designated military facilities of partner countries. Such arrangements strengthen **interoperability**, reduce operational costs and improve the effectiveness of **joint exercises, maritime deployments** and **HADR missions**. They **do not** create military alliances, establish permanent bases or permit unrestricted deployment of armed forces. These agreements are an important component of India's broader objective of strengthening defence partnerships while maintaining **strategic autonomy**.