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Comprehension Test Question IBPS PO Pre, IBPS Clerk, SBI PO Pre and SBI Clerk

Comprehension Test Quiz 72

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

“Police reforms are going on and on. Nobody listens to our orders.” This is how a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar reacted last week, while declining the plea of a lawyer demanding immediate action to **usher** in major police reforms in the country. The lawyer had earlier been permitted to implead himself in a pending PIL on the subject.

It is sad that the highest court of the land is so helpless in the matter. Its anguish, however desperate and well-meaning it may have been, is understandable. It epitomises the pathetic state of affairs in public administration in the country, and it can only **embolden** our political heavyweights to brazenly halt the few contemplated reforms.

While the National Police Commission (1977-79), set up by the Janata government that displaced the Congress government led by Indira Gandhi, kick-started reforms, the credit for keeping the debate alive and taking it to the highest judicial forum goes to a colleague of mine, Prakash Singh, former Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh and a former Border Security Force chief, who filed a PIL in 1996 and sought major changes to the police structure. His accent was on autonomy and more space for police professionalism by giving a fixed tenure for police officers in crucial positions beginning with the DGPs in the States.

The apex court gave its nearly revolutionary directions in 2006, a decade after Mr. Singh first filed his petition. While it is easy to blame the court for such an inordinate delay, one must remember that ‘police’ being a State subject under the Constitution, the process of consultation was **tortuous** and time-consuming.

The SC’s directions to the States included a fixed tenure of two years for top police officers in crucial positions, setting up of a State Security Commission (in which the leader of the Opposition party also had a role, and would give policy directions to the police), the clear separation of law and order and crime functions of the police and creation of a Police Establishment Board to regulate police placements. It also mandated a new Police Act on the basis of a model Act prepared by the Union government and circulated to the States. Policemen across the country were excited over this development and believed that an end to gross political interference in police routine was in sight.

Events since 2006 have been dismaying, with several State governments devising their own means to dilute — if not wholly sabotage — what the Supreme Court had laid down. Finding that the court had stepped in mainly because there was no law on the subject, many States brought in quick hotchpotch legislation to water down the essentials of the Supreme Court direction. On the face of it, the new Police Acts appeared to be fully **compliant** with the judicial prescription. In fact, they were a ruse to outwit the court, without demonstrating any irreverence or defiance. This is why we still see Directors and Inspectors-Generals (IGs) being handed out a two-year tenure on paper, but given marching orders midway into their tenure on the most untenable and imaginary grounds. Nobody has protested.

A few States have made officers temporarily in charge of the post of DGP without having to obey the SC direction. Commissioners of Police and IGs (Intelligence) have also suffered the same fate. The objectives of the Police Establishment Board, conceived only to depoliticise appointments and transfers, have been set at naught by the DGPs getting informal prior political approval from the Chief Minister/Home Minister with a view to placing politically amenable officers in vital places in the police hierarchy.

Dispassionate observers have other ideas on the matter. In their view, mere autonomy to the police and job security, without upgrading the quality of recruits and ensuring dedication and honesty in the day-to-day delivery of service to the public, will be of little avail. They also dispute the popular theory that all police ills are traceable only to political interference in police routine. I am inclined to agree with this somewhat unpopular stand.

Many dishonest policemen — there are quite a few in every State police — get away with accusing the local politician of preventing them from discharging their duties. The pathetic state of police stations and their culpable tardiness in responding to the common man, crying for protection from a bully, are too well known to be chronicled. Policemen either ignore complaints, or when they do take cognisance of them, side with the aggressors. We are familiar with the spectacle of perpetrators of violence being treated as witnesses, and victims of crime converted to be accused. There is not always a politician energising the police to act blatantly against canons of ethics.

Is there hope of a measurable improvement in the quality of policing? I would like to say 'yes', but I am reluctant, because sections of the police leadership are not contributing enough to the cause of consumer-sensitive policing. They are either selfish or dishonest, or indifferent.

It is equally true that many young IPS officers lose their idealism early in their careers, because of fear of vengeful politicians or disloyal subordinates. They, therefore, become deadwood, which the force cannot get rid of without prolonged litigation. The fears of proactive and dedicated officers about reprisal over honest action against powerful men in society and politics are well-known.

But how long will the citizen be satisfied with a non-performing police force? This is the question we should ask ourselves while discussing police reforms. It is not as if this is a problem that has suddenly come upon the police. It has only ballooned in recent times because of growing lawlessness promoted by big money and all that goes with it. Unless there is self-correction within the police, a process initiated by the DGP and his aides, we cannot see a perceptible change in the manner in which policing is carried out in most parts of the country. Just as there are many bright spots in the police forces, there are an equal number of enlightened elements in our polity, who are willing to listen to police woes. There is here a symbiotic relationship without activating which our police forces will remain condemned and shunned by the law-abiding citizen.



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Questions:

1. Which of the following reasons did the author mention for the delay on the part of court regarding the directions it gave in 2006 in the context of the passage?

I. The police department comes under the State government.

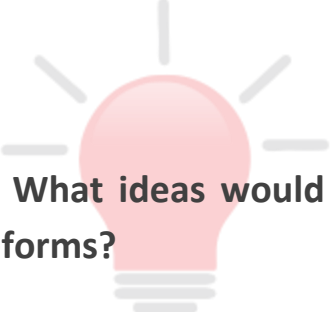
II. The process of consultation was complex.

III. The process of consultation was time-taking.

A. Only I B. Only I & II C. Only I & III D. Only II & III E. All of the above

2. Which of the following statements is true with respect to the passage?

- A. In many instance, several State governments themselves did not seem to be willing to let the court bring reforms in the Police departments.
- B. The various Supreme court judges were apathetic towards the reforms required to be brought in the Police department.
- C. In most of the cases, there is always a politician who prompts the police to act as per his or her convenience.
- D. All are true
- E. None of these



3. What ideas would a neutral observer like to be brought in the Police reforms?

I. Posting of a policeman should be in his or her home-town as he or she must be aware of the law and order situation in the city beforehand.

II. Quality of recruits should be upgraded.

III. Dedication and honesty in day to day delivery of service should be ensure.

- A. Only II B. Only I & III C. Only I & II D. Only II & III E. All of the above

4. What is the tone of the author in the paragraph that starts with “Many dishonest policemen — there are quite a few in every State police ...”?

- A. Sarcastic B. Demeaning C. Distressing D. Mocking E. Exaggerated

5. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- A. The Congress government led by late Indira Gandhi was unsuccessful to bring reforms in the Police department in spite of putting its best efforts towards it.
- B. In some cases, even the apex court of the country becomes incapable.
- C. Not a single person with intention to bring a positive change is present in either of the Police department and the Political system of the country.
- D. All can be inferred from the passage.
- E. None can be inferred from the passage.

6. What according to the author are some of the unethical practices that have been rampant in the system in the context of the passage?

- A. A few state governments demand heavy personal donations from Police personnel to reward them their favourite posting area.
- B. The ministers in power in many an instance influence the functioning of Police department in matters related to their relatives.
- C. High ranked officers are appointed with a view to placing politically amenable officers in vital places in the police hierarchy.
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these

7. Choose the word which is similar in meaning of the word 'Usher' printed in bold as used in the passage.

- A. Permit B. Introduce C. Discuss D. Spread E. Serve

8. Choose the word which is similar in meaning of the word 'Embolden' printed in bold as used in the passage.

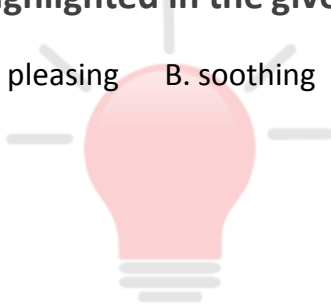
A. Tolerate B. Restrict C. Encourage D. Enlighten E. Reminisce

9. Which one of these words is opposite of the word 'Compliant' highlighted in the given passage?

A. Regular B. Strange C. Recalcitrant D. Reminiscent E. Gratifying

10. Which one of these words is opposite of the word 'Tortuous' highlighted in the given passage?

A. pleasing B. soothing C. straight D. agonizing E. demotivating



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Correct Answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E	A	D	C	B	C	B	C	C	C

Explanations:

1.

Reference

4th paragraph, 2nd sentence

... While it is easy to blame the court for such an inordinate delay, one must remember that 'police' being a State subject under the Constitution, the process of consultation was tortuous and time-consuming.

The sentence above taken as reference clearly validates all the given statements.

Evidently, option E is the correct answer.

2.

Reference

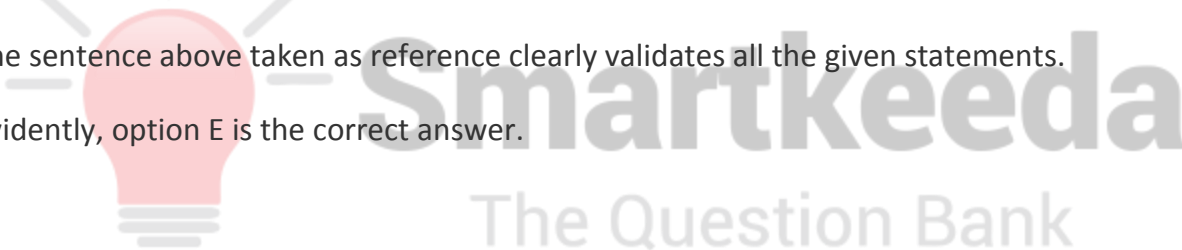
6th paragraph, 1st and 2nd sentences

Events since 2006 have been dismaying, with several State governments devising their own means to dilute — if not wholly sabotage — what the Supreme Court had laid down. Finding that the court had stepped in mainly because there was no law on the subject, many States brought in quick hotchpotch legislation to water down the essentials of the Supreme Court direction.

The underlined parts in the above two sentences evidently validates what is stated in the statement given as option A.

The other two statements are the results of distortion of the facts and statements given in the passage.

Option A is hence the correct answer.



3.

Reference

8th paragraph, 2nd sentence

... In their view, mere autonomy to the police and job security, without upgrading the quality of recruits and ensuring dedication and honesty in the day-to-day delivery of service to the public, will be of little avail. ...

The above sentence taken as reference apparently validates what is stated in statement II and III respectively. Statement I has nowhere been mentioned in the passage.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

4.

Reference

9th paragraph

Many dishonest policemen — there are quite a few in every State police — get away with accusing the local politician of preventing them from discharging their duties. The pathetic state of police stations and their culpable tardiness in responding to the common man, crying for protection from a bully, are too well known to be chronicled. Policemen either ignore complaints, or when they do take cognisance of them, side with the aggressors. We are familiar with the spectacle of perpetrators of violence being treated as witnesses, and victims of crime converted to be accused. There is not always a politician energising the police to act blatantly against canons of ethics.

In this paragraph, the writer presents a distressful condition of the current Police system that functions in our country. The underlined parts above clearly indicate how bad the situation has been for the common public.

Clearly, the tone of the author is distressing here.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

5.

Reference

2nd paragraph, 1st sentence

It is sad that the highest court of the land is so helpless in the matter. ...

The above sentence taken as reference evidently confirms what is stated in the statement given as option B.

The statement given as option A is nowhere mentioned in the passage whereas the one given as option C is exactly the opposite of what is stated in the passage.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

6.

7th paragraph, last sentence

The objectives of the Police Establishment Board, conceived only to depoliticise appointments and transfers, have been set at naught by the DGPs getting informal prior political approval from the Chief Minister/Home Minister with a view to placing politically amenable officers in vital places in the police hierarchy.

The above sentence taken as reference evidently validates the statement given as option C. The other two statements cannot be inferred from the passage.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

7.

Usher (Verb): To precede and introduce; inaugurate

Ex. a celebration to usher in the new century.

Clearly, the word which is synonym of the word "usher" is "introduce".

Option B is hence the correct answer.

8.

Embolden (Verb):

To embolden someone is to inspire them.

Ex. You might embolden your brother to try out for a play by enthusiastically praising his singing and dancing abilities.

Synonyms: give courage, make brave/braver, encourage, hearten, strengthen, lift the morale of; stir, stimulate, cheer, etc.

Clearly, the word which is synonym of the word “Embolden” is ‘encourage’.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

9.

Compliant (Adjective): disposed to agree with others or obey rules, especially to an excessive degree; acquiescent.

Ex. "a compliant labour force"

Synonyms: acquiescent, amenable, biddable, tractable, accommodating, cooperative, adaptable, etc.

Clearly, the word which is opposite of the word “Compliant” is ‘recalcitrant’. ‘Recalcitrant’ is someone who does not obey or comply with commands of those in authority.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

10.

Tortuous (Adjective):

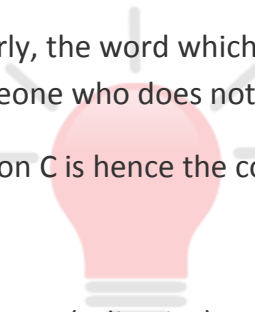
full of twists and turns; complex

Ex. "the route is remote and tortuous"

Synonyms: twisting, complex, complicated, winding, curving, curvy, bending, undulating, coiling, rambling, wandering, indirect, etc.

Clearly, the word opposite of the word “tortuous” in the context is ‘straight’.

Option C is hence the correct answer.





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