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Q90

Consider the following statements: 1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body. 2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections. 3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 3 only Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Option (a) is 1 and 2 only. The **Election Commission of India** is the **Chief Election Commissioner** plus two **Election Commissioners** (three members), not five. The election schedule is decided by the ECI, not by the Union Home Ministry. Both 1 and 2 are false. This option is not the key.

(b)

Option (b) is 2 only. Home Ministry does not fix the poll calendar. This option is therefore wrong.

(c)

Option (c) is 2 and 3 only. Statement 2 is false even though 3 is true. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

- **Statement 3 is correct:** the ECI decides disputes on splits and mergers of recognised parties under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Statements 1 and 2 are false. Hence 3 only is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) 3 only. ECI is a three-member body. It, not the Home Ministry, notifies the schedule for general and bye-elections. It does adjudicate recognised-party splits and mergers for the party symbol. Only statement 3 is right.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Article 324

Superintendence of elections in an **Election Commission**

CEC + 2 ECs

Present multi-member ECI since 1993 (after a brief three-member experiment in 1989-90)

Model Code of Conduct

ECI-enforced; schedule announcement triggers MCC

Article 329

Election disputes via election petitions, not ordinary suits

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