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CURRENT AFFAIRS - INDIAN POLITY

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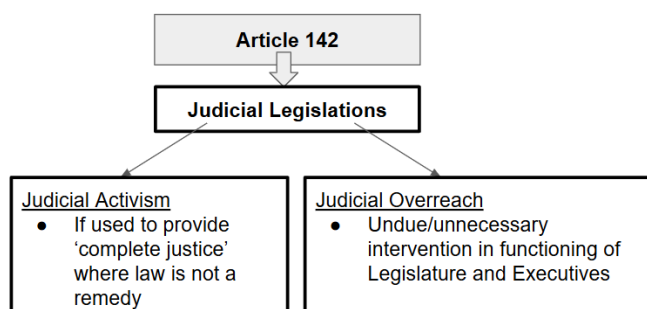
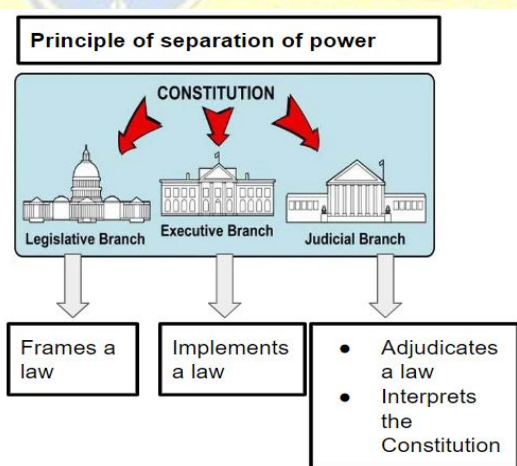
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Day 1
Topic 1
1. Article 142

- Provides **discretionary power** to the **Supreme Court**.
- **Any order** so passed or order so made shall be **enforceable throughout the territory of India**.
- **Article 142** provides a **unique power** to the Supreme Court, to do **“complete justice”** between the parties, where, at times, the **law or statute may not provide a remedy**.
- **Order** released by the SC under **Article 142** has **gravity of a law**.
- Thus such orders are known as **Judicial Legislations**.
- **Judicial legislations** are commended for doing complete justice and hence called **Judicial activism**.
- **Article 142-criticised** for Judiciary **interfering Legislative and executive branch** (Judicial overreach)
- But when such activism **crosses limits**, it is condemned as **Judicial Overreach**.
- Doctrine of Separation of Powers is the **division of the legislative, executive, and judicial functions** of government.



Q1. With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following?

- The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.
- The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by laws made by the Parliament.
- In the event of grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.
- State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of Union Legislature.

Ans: b

Q2. Evaluate the following statements about Judicial Activism. Which statement is incorrect?

- Judicial activism refers to the proactive role played by the judiciary in enforcing rights and ensuring justice when the executive or legislature fails to do so.
- Judicial activism is always consistent with the principle of separation of powers in a democracy.
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been a significant tool in promoting judicial activism in India.
- Judicial activism often faces criticism for allegedly encroaching upon the domain of the legislature and executive.

Ans: b

Q3. Which of the following provisions of the process of removal of SC judge is mentioned in the Constitution?

- The notice for the motion of removal of judges shall be signed by at least 100 members in case of Lok Sabha and 50 members of Rajya Sabha.
- It is the discretion of Speaker whether she will accept or reject the motion.



3. The motion has to be passed by both the Houses by special majority.

4. Violation of Constitution is the only ground mentioned for the removal of judges of SC.

Select the correct code.

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

Ans: c

Sol: The notice for the motion of removal of judges shall be signed by at least 100 members in case of Lok Sabha and 50 members of Rajya Sabha.

- This is true, but it is part of the procedure laid out in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, and not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

It is the discretion of Speaker whether she will accept or reject the motion.

- This is correct and part of the procedure for initiating the removal process. However, like Statement 1, it is part of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, and not in the Constitution.

The motion has to be passed by both the Houses by special majority.

- This is **explicitly mentioned in Article 124(4) of the Constitution**, making it a constitutional provision.

Violation of Constitution is the only ground mentioned for the removal of judges of SC.

- Incorrect. Article 124(4) specifies "proved misbehavior or incapacity" as the grounds for removal, not merely "violation of Constitution."

Topic 2

2. Special status for Ladakh and Asymmetric Federalism

- **Symmetric federal system** - **all States enjoy the same set of powers** and autonomy eg **U.S. or Australia**.
- **Asymmetrical federalism**- **some States and areas have more autonomy** than others eg **Indian Constitution**.

Examples of Asymmetric federalism in Indian polity

1. **Part XXI of the Constitution- special provisions** applicable to many of the northeastern States -Articles 371A (Nagaland), **371B (Assam)**, 371C (Manipur), 371F (Sikkim), 371G (Mizoram) and 371H (Arunachal Pradesh).

2. The Fifth Schedule

- **'Scheduled areas'** that are **declared by the President**.
- **Criteria**-Preponderance of **tribal populations** and **Economic backwardness**.
- At present **10 States** have such **'scheduled areas'** they have **Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC)-20 members-three-fourths** shall be **tribal MLAs** from the State.
- **TAC provides advice-Governor- welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.

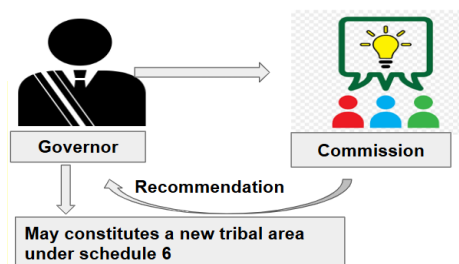
3. The Sixth Schedule (Current news? - Ladakh demanding Schedule 6 status)

- **Autonomous District councils** have up to **30 members-frame laws** on basic matters-**Land, Health, Village, Inheritance, marriage, divorce etc**
- **Bodoland territorial council-46**(40 elected + 6 nominated) members.
 - a. **Meghalaya**-Garos, Khasis, Jaintias
 - b. **Mizoram**-Chakma, Lai Maram
 - c. **Assam**-Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Bodoland
 - d. **Tripura**-Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council



THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PLACES TRIBAL DOMINATED AREAS IN CERTAIN STATES UNDER TWO SCHEDULES: FIFTH AND SIXTH. THIS ALLOWS THESE AREAS INCREASED AUTONOMY IN TERMS OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. BUT THESE TWO CATEGORIES HAVE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THEMSELVES.

Fifth Schedule	Sixth Schedule
Areas under this category are called 'Scheduled Areas'.	Areas under this category are called 'Tribal Areas'.
Tribal dominated areas in 10 States: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.	Tribal dominated areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
Tribal Advisory Committees in Scheduled Areas do not perform administrative duties directly and do not have much autonomy.	Autonomous District Councils in Tribal Areas have much autonomy, and carry out local level governance.
Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas is applicable here.	Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas is not applicable here as these areas already have autonomy in their self governance.



Q4. Evaluate the following statements about Asymmetric Federalism:

1. Asymmetric federalism refers to a system where different constituent units within a federation possess varying degrees of autonomy and powers.
2. In India, the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 (now abrogated) was an example of asymmetric federalism.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. **Correct:** Asymmetric federalism involves unequal distribution of powers among the federal units, allowing some regions greater autonomy due to historical, cultural, or political

reasons. This concept is seen in many federations worldwide.

2. **Correct:** The special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution (prior to its abrogation in 2019) was a classic example of asymmetric federalism, as the state had its own Constitution and decision-making powers in certain areas.

Q5. Evaluate the following statements about **Article 371B** of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 371B provides special provisions for the state of Assam to protect the rights of its tribal populations.
2. Under Article 371B, a separate legislature is established exclusively for the tribal areas in Assam.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: Correct: Article 371B was introduced to address the unique concerns of tribal populations in Assam. It provides for the establishment of a special committee within the Assam Legislative Assembly to ensure their interests are represented and safeguarded.

Incorrect: Article 371B does not establish a separate legislature for tribal areas. Instead, it requires a special committee of elected members from tribal areas to be constituted within the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the difference between Fifth and Sixth Schedule Areas.

1. The Fifth Schedule covers parts of central and peninsular India, while the Sixth Schedule is specific to certain tribal areas in the Northeast.
2. The state government has a larger role in the administration of areas under sixth schedule as compared to fifth schedule.



3. Autonomous Districts under the Sixth Schedule are declared by Governor while Scheduled Areas under fifth are declared by the President of India. Which of the above statements is/are correct? Select the correct code.

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

Ans: c

Topic 3

3. Classical Language status to Assamese

Current news?

- Assamese, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit and Bengali also have been accorded status of Classical language.
- classical language is a prestigious status is accorded to Ministry of Culture
- six languages that enjoy the 'Classical' status in India:

History of Classical Language Status:

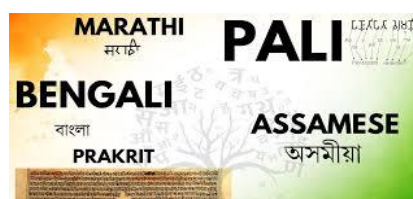
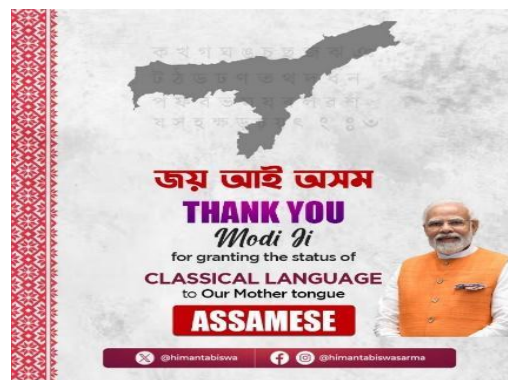
- The classification of "classical languages" was created in 2004, initially awarded to Tamil.
- Since then, languages like Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia have also received this status in subsequent years.
- All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Criteria-

1. High Antiquity-history spanning 1500-2000 years.
2. Valuable Heritage-ancient literature and texts cherished by generations.
3. Distinctness

Benefits of getting Classical languages tag-

- Two major annual international awards
- A Centre of Excellence for studies in Classical Languages
- Professional Chairs in Central Universities by UGC
- dedicated institutions for the study of the classical languages



Q7. Evaluate the following statements about the criteria for declaring a language as a Classical Language in India:

1. The language must have a history of high antiquity, spanning at least 1500-2000 years.
2. It must demonstrate originality by being distinct and not borrowed from another linguistic community.
3. The language must have significant historical texts but can be a modern derivative of an ancient language.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Based on the 2024 revised criteria):

- **Statement 1:** "The language must have a history of high antiquity, spanning at least 1500–2000 years." **Correct.**
- This directly reflects the first criterion: "High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500–2000 years."
- **Statement 2:** "It must demonstrate originality by being distinct and not borrowed from another linguistic community." **Incorrect.**
- This phrasing does not appear in the 2024 revised criteria. There is no requirement that the



language must be “original” or “not borrowed.” The focus is on heritage literature, antiquity, and knowledge texts, not on origin or linguistic isolation.

- **Statement 3:** "The language must have significant historical texts but can be a modern derivative of an ancient language." **Incorrect.**
- This contradicts the 2024 criterion, which states: "The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots."
- This means continuity is not required, but mere derivation does not satisfy the condition — the classical phase must be separate or disconnected in form, not just historically related.

Q8. Evaluate the following statements about **Classical Languages in India:**

1. Tamil was the first language to be declared a Classical Language in 2004.
2. Languages like Assamese, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, and Bengali have recently been added to the list of Classical Languages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Ans: c

Q9. Consider the following statements.

1. The concept of "Classical Languages" in India was introduced during the prime ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2004.
2. Sanskrit was the first language to receive classical status.
3. The addition of classical languages in India is done under the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct? Select the correct code.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: a

Sol: The Union Cabinet has granted classical language status to five additional Indian languages: Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese. This nearly doubles the number of languages with this status, from six to 11.

The newly recognised languages join the existing list of classical languages - Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia.

The concept of "**Classical Languages**" in India was introduced during the prime ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh.

In 2004, the Indian government, led by his administration, declared Tamil as the first classical language of India.

The addition of classical languages in India is done under the **Ministry of Culture of the Government of India**. This ministry is responsible for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, including languages with significant historical and cultural importance.

The criteria to declare classical language, revised in 2005:

1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
2. A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
3. The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
4. The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

Topic 4

4. New Lady Justice Statue

- **'Lady Justice' statue-re-designed** by the Supreme Court.

Old

- **blindfold and a sword**

New

- **removes the blindfold** and **replaces the sword** with the **Constitution**
- **Scales of Justice-retained**

Why change?

- **Sword**-symbolized punishment
- **Constitution-justice** in line with **constitutional values.**



- This transformation is part of an **effort to move away from its colonial legacy.**
- **Blindfold-** represented limited sense of Equality ie **Equality before law.**
- **Open Eyes-** also represent **equal protection of law.**

Article 14

- **both dimension- Equality before law and Equal protection of law.**



Q10. Evaluate the following statements about the new 'Lady Justice' statue unveiled at the Supreme Court of India:

1. The new statue depicts 'Lady Justice' without a blindfold, symbolizing that the law is not blind but sees everyone equally.
2. In this representation, 'Lady Justice' holds the Indian Constitution instead of a sword, emphasizing justice rooted in constitutional values rather than punishment.
3. The statue retains the scales in one hand, representing the balance and impartiality of the justice system.
4. The attire of 'Lady Justice' in the new statue is a traditional Indian saree, reflecting a move away from colonial symbols towards Indian cultural identity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: d

Sol: 'Lady Justice' is adorned in a traditional Indian saree, signifying a deliberate shift from colonial-era symbols to those reflecting Indian cultural heritage.

Q11. Evaluate the following statements about **Article 14** of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 14 guarantees both equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to all persons within the territory of India.
2. The principle of equality before the law is of British origin and emphasizes the absence of any special privileges for any class.
3. The doctrine of reasonable classification is a limitation on the State applicability of Article 14.
4. The "equal protection of the laws" concept is inspired by the American Constitution and allows for reasonable classification by the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

1. **Correct:** Article 14 indeed guarantees both equality before the law (a negative concept ensuring the absence of special privileges) and equal protection of the laws (a positive concept promoting equality through state action).
2. **Correct:** The principle of "equality before the law" is derived from British jurisprudence, emphasizing the rule of law and uniform application.
3. **Incorrect:** The doctrine of reasonable classification is not a limitation but an enabling principle under Article 14. It allows the state to treat different classes differently, provided the classification is reasonable and fulfills a legitimate objective.
4. **Correct:** The "equal protection of the laws" concept is inspired by the U.S. Constitution, permitting reasonable classification based on intelligible differentia and a rational nexus to the object sought.

Q12. The Supreme Court of India recently unveiled a new statue of Lady Justice, introducing several symbolic changes. Consider the following statements about this statue:

1. The statue is depicted wearing a saree instead of traditional Western attire.



2. The blindfold, traditionally symbolizing impartiality, has been removed.
3. The sword has been replaced with a copy of the Indian Constitution.
4. The scales of justice have been omitted from the statue.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct:
- The statue is depicted wearing a saree, reflecting Indian cultural identity.
- The blindfold has been removed, indicating that justice is not blind but sees everyone equally.
- The sword has been replaced with a copy of the Indian Constitution, emphasizing the supremacy of constitutional law over punitive measures.
- Statement 4 is incorrect:
- The scales of justice have been retained in the statue, symbolizing the balance and fairness in the judicial process.

Topic 5

5. New Flag and Insignia of Supreme Court

- **Supreme Court of India**- founded-**26 January 1950** (first sitting was held on 28 January 1950)
- Commemorating the **75th anniversary** of the **Supreme Court's establishment**
- **new flag and insignia** of the Supreme Court of India.

New Flag of the Supreme Court

- The new flag is blue and prominently features the **Ashoka Chakra**, the **Supreme Court building**, and the **Constitution of India**.
- **Indian Constitution** and includes the phrase **"Yato Dharma Tato Jayah"**.

New Insignia of the Supreme Court

- **"Yato Dharma Tato Jayah"** inscribed in Devanagari script, which means '**where there is Dharma there is victory**'.



Q13. New Flag of the Supreme Court of India

Evaluate the following statements about the **new flag of the Supreme Court of India**:

1. The new flag prominently features the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the Constitution of India.
2. The phrase "Satyameva Jayate" is inscribed on the flag in Devanagari script.
3. The flag's background color is blue, symbolizing justice and fairness.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

1. **Correct:** The new flag includes the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the Constitution of India, symbolizing the pillars of Indian justice.
2. **Incorrect:** The phrase inscribed on the flag is "Yato Dharma Tato Jayah," meaning "where there is Dharma, there is victory," and not "Satyameva Jayate."
3. **Correct:** The blue background signifies justice and fairness, reflecting the principles of the judiciary.



Q14. Evaluate the following statements about the new insignia of the Supreme Court of India:

- The new insignia retains the Ashoka Chakra and
1. includes the phrase "Yato Dharmas Tato Jayah" in Devanagari script.
 2. The phrase "Yato Dharmas Tato Jayah" translates to "Truth alone triumphs."
 3. The insignia represents a balance between the judiciary's focus on justice and adherence to constitutional principles.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Correct:** The new insignia of the Supreme Court includes the Ashoka Chakra and the phrase "Yato Dharmas Tato Jayah" in Devanagari script, meaning "where there is Dharm, there is victory."
2. **Incorrect:** The phrase does not translate to "Truth alone triumphs"; it signifies the connection between justice (Dharm) and victory.
3. **Correct:** The insignia emphasizes the judiciary's role in balancing justice with constitutional values.

Q15. Consider the following statements about the establishment of the Supreme Court of India:

1. The Supreme Court of India had first sitting on January 28, 1950.
2. It replaced the Federal Court of India, which was established under the Government of India Act, 1935.
3. The Supreme Court of India initially functioned from the Parliament House building.
4. The Constitution of India grants the Supreme Court the power of judicial review.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on January 28, 1950, two days after the Constitution of India came into effect.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. It replaced the Federal Court of India, which operated under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Initially, the Supreme Court functioned from the Chamber of Princes in the Parliament House building until its own building was constructed.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The power of judicial review is enshrined in the Constitution, allowing the Supreme Court to ensure laws comply with the Constitution.

Topic 6

6. Secularism - core part of the Indian Constitution

- Two words 'Secularism' and 'Socialism' were **originally not a part of the Preamble.**
- They were added by The Constitution **(42nd Amendment) Act, 1976** during the Emergency imposed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- The **42nd Constitutional Amendment** also replaced the phrase **"unity of the nation"** with **"unity and integrity of the nation."**

Why 'Socialism' was not included in original Preamble?

1. Indian Socialism different from prevalent idea of Socialism

- Socialism envisaged by the Indian state was **not the socialism of the USSR or China** of the time.
- It did **not envisage the nationalisation** of all of India's means of production.

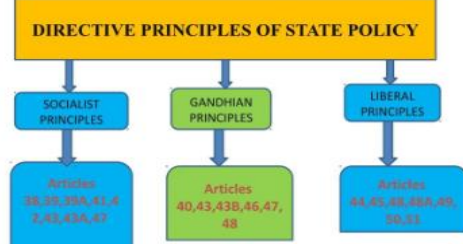
2. India adopted mixed economic model

3. India attempted to avoid getting embroiled in Cold war dynamics

Indian Polity was always **Socialist in its essence** as can be seen in **several articles under Part IV** ie DPSP.



CLASSIFICATION OF DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY



India adopted Democratic Socialist polity without specifying Socialism in the preamble-

- The concept of **democratic socialism** has been adopted in various liberal democracies like India with the **concept of a welfare state**.

Q16. Which of the following statements correctly highlights a difference between Indian secularism and Western secularism?

- Indian secularism strictly separates religion from the state, similar to the Western model.
- Indian secularism allows the state to engage with all religions to ensure equality, while Western secularism often advocates for a strict separation of religion and state.
- Western secularism prohibits freedom of religion, whereas Indian secularism guarantees it under the Constitution.
- Indian secularism prioritizes one religion as a guiding principle, while Western secularism is neutral towards all religions.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Option (a):** Incorrect. Unlike Western secularism, Indian secularism does not strictly separate religion from the state but seeks to maintain principled distance to promote religious equality.
- Option (b):** Correct. Indian secularism involves the state engaging with all religions to promote harmony and equality, while Western secularism often emphasizes complete non-involvement of the state with religion.
- Option (c):** Incorrect. Both Indian and Western secularism guarantee freedom of religion, though their approaches differ.

- Option (d):** Incorrect. Indian secularism does not prioritize any religion; it promotes equal respect for all religions.

Q17. Which of the following statements about socialism is/are correct?

- Socialism advocates for collective ownership of the means of production and distribution of wealth.
 - In a socialist economy, the government plays a minimal role in regulating industries and resources.
 - Socialism aims to reduce income inequality and provide basic needs like education, healthcare, and housing for all citizens.
 - Democratic socialism combines the principles of socialism with democratic political systems.
- Only 1 and 3
 - Only 2 and 4
 - Only 1, 3, and 4
 - All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: c

Sol:

- Correct:** Socialism advocates for collective or state ownership of the means of production to achieve equitable distribution of wealth.
- Incorrect:** In a socialist system, the government plays a significant role in regulating industries and resources to ensure fairness and equality, contrary to the minimal role described here.
- Correct:** Socialism emphasizes reducing income inequality and guaranteeing basic services like education, healthcare, and housing for everyone.
- Correct:** Democratic socialism blends socialist economic principles with a democratic political framework, allowing for individual freedoms and democratic governance.

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976:

- The words "Secularism" and "Socialism" were added to the Preamble by this amendment.
- The amendment was enacted during the Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- The phrase "unity of the nation" was replaced with "unity and integrity of the nation."
- The 42nd Amendment is often referred to as the "Mini-Constitution" due to the extensive changes it brought.



How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The 42nd Amendment added the words "Secularism" and "Socialism" to the Preamble to emphasize India's commitment to these principles.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. This amendment was enacted during the Emergency (1975-1977), a period marked by significant constitutional and political changes under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. The amendment altered the Preamble by replacing "unity of the nation" with "unity and integrity of the nation," strengthening the emphasis on national integrity.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The 42nd Amendment is often called the "Mini-Constitution" because it brought substantial changes to the Constitution, including alterations to the Preamble, fundamental duties, and the directive principles of state policy.

Topic 7

7. Article 21 of the constitution

- No person should be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure by law.

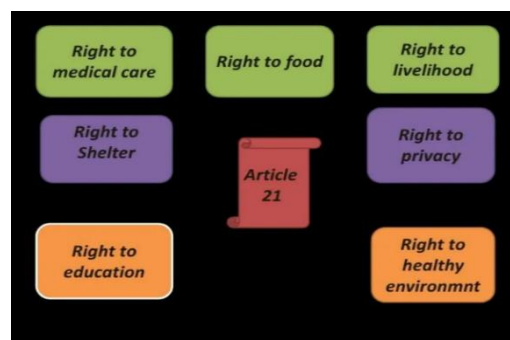
Francis vs. Union Territory of Delhi (1981)

- SC said right to life doesn't mean mere survival, animal like existence.
- Using the idea that Art 21 does not mean right to life just as mere survival but a dignified life, SC expanded the ambit of Art 21.

It included-

- Right to meaningful livelihood (Olga Telli case 1986)
- Right against pollution-free water and air (Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991))
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Right of every child to a full development
- Right against custodial death
- Right against delayed execution

- Right to go abroad
- Right to shelter
- **Right to privacy (KS Puttaswamy judgment 2017)**



Q19. Which of the following statements about Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is/are correct?

1. Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty to all citizens and non-citizens within the territory of India.
 2. The scope of Article 21 has been expanded by judicial interpretation to include the right to privacy, right to clean environment, and right to education.
 3. Article 21 cannot be suspended during emergency.
 4. Protection under Article 21 can only be enforced against the state and not private individuals.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
 (b) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Correct:** Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty to all persons, including citizens and non-citizens, within Indian territory.
- **Correct:** Judicial interpretations by the Supreme Court have expanded the scope of Article 21 to include various derivative rights such as the right to privacy (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case), right to clean environment, and right to education (inserted under Article 21A).
- **correct:** Article 21 cannot be suspended during emergency.
- **Incorrect:** Article 21 primarily protects individuals against state action. However, through judicial activism, courts have applied it in cases involving private individuals under the doctrine of "horizontal application."



Q20. Which of the following statements about the **Right to Privacy** in India is/are correct?

1. The Right to Privacy is explicitly mentioned as a fundamental right in the Constitution of India.
 2. The Supreme Court of India declared the Right to Privacy a fundamental right under Article 21 in the Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case (2017).
 3. The Right to Privacy is absolute and cannot be restricted under any circumstance.
 4. The Right to Privacy includes protections for personal data, bodily autonomy, and informational privacy.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
 (b) Only 2 and 4
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: b

Sol:

1. **Incorrect:** The Right to Privacy is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution but has been recognized as an integral part of Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) through judicial interpretation.
2. **Correct:** In the landmark **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017)** case, the Supreme Court unequivocally declared the Right to Privacy a fundamental right under Article 21.
3. **Incorrect:** The Right to Privacy is not absolute; it is subject to reasonable restrictions, such as concerns of national security, public order, or prevention of crime.
4. **Correct:** The Right to Privacy includes various dimensions, such as data protection, bodily autonomy (e.g., reproductive rights), and informational privacy (control over one's personal information).

Q21. Consider the following statements regarding Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Supreme Court in Francis Coralie Mullin vs. Union Territory of Delhi (1981) held that the right to life includes living with dignity, not mere survival.
2. The right to a meaningful livelihood was recognized under Article 21 in the Olga Tellis case (1986).
3. The KS Puttaswamy judgment (2017) established the right to shelter as part of the right to privacy under Article 21.

4. Protection of cultural heritage is included under the ambit of Article 21.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One
 (b) Two
 (c) Three
 (d) Four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. In Francis Coralie Mullin vs. Union Territory of Delhi (1981), the Supreme Court ruled that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity and is not limited to mere animal-like existence.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The right to a meaningful livelihood was recognized under Article 21 in Olga Tellis & Ors. vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1986).
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. The KS Puttaswamy judgment (2017) established the right to privacy under Article 21 but did not specifically establish the right to shelter as part of privacy.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The protection of cultural heritage is considered part of the expanded ambit of Article 21 as it contributes to the dignity and identity of individuals and communities.

Thus, three statements are correct.

Topic 8

8. Tax on Industrial Alcohol

7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

1. **Union List**-Subjects on which only the Central Government can make laws (e.g., defense, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking).
2. **State List**-Subjects on which only the State Governments can legislate (e.g., police, public health, agriculture, local government).
3. **Concurrent List**-Subjects on which both Central and State Governments can make laws (e.g., criminal law, marriage, bankruptcy, education).

Current issue-

Entry 8 of List II (State List)

- States can regulate production, possession, transport, and sale of **liquors**.

Entry 52 of List I (Union List)



- The Centre has the **power to regulate industries** under Parliament's law.

Current issue

- A dispute was brought in the **Supreme Court on state government's power** to tax **industrial alcohol**.
- Supreme Court ruled states** have the **power to tax** not just **"drinking alcohol"** but **also "industrial alcohol."**



Industrial Alcohol is produced by the **fermentation of Sugar Cane Molasses** by the action of microorganism, **YEAST**. It is mainly used as **solvent in industries**.

Q22. Which of the following statements correctly describes the law-making powers of the Union and State legislatures concerning the **Concurrent List** in the Indian Constitution?

- Both the Union and State legislatures can make laws on subjects listed in the Concurrent List.
 - If there is a conflict between a Union law and a State law on a Concurrent List subject, the State law always prevails.
 - A State law on a Concurrent List subject can prevail over a Union law if it has received the President's assent.
 - Subjects like criminal law, marriage, and education fall under the Concurrent List.
- (a) Only 1 and 4

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- Correct:** Both the Union and State legislatures have the authority to make laws on subjects in the Concurrent List, as outlined in Article 246 of the Constitution.
- Incorrect:** If there is a conflict, the Union law generally prevails over the State law as per the **doctrine of repugnancy** (Article 254). However, there are exceptions when the State law gets Presidential assent.
- Correct:** A State law on a Concurrent List subject can prevail over a conflicting Union law if it has received the **President's assent**, as provided under Article 254(2).
- Correct:** The Concurrent List includes subjects like criminal law, marriage, education, bankruptcy, and trade unions, among others.

Q23. Which of the following statements correctly explains the legislative and taxation powers of the Union and State Governments as per the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the recent Supreme Court ruling?

- The State List (List II) allows state governments to regulate the production, possession, transport, and sale of liquors.
 - The Union List (List I) grants the Central Government authority to regulate industries, including taxation on industrial alcohol.
 - The Supreme Court recently upheld that states can impose taxes on both "drinking alcohol" and "industrial alcohol."
 - The Concurrent List (List III) provides overlapping powers to both the Centre and States on matters like marriage, bankruptcy, and education.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (b) Only 1, 3, and 4
 (c) Only 1 and 3
 (d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: b

Sol:



- Correct:** Entry 8 of the State List empowers state governments to regulate liquors, including their production, possession, transport, and sale.
- Incorrect:** While the Union List empowers the Centre to regulate industries under Entry 52, taxation on industrial alcohol does not fall under the Centre's purview as per the Supreme Court's ruling.
- Correct:** The Supreme Court ruled that states have the authority to impose taxes on both "drinking alcohol" and "industrial alcohol," emphasizing the states' control under the State List.
- Correct:** The Concurrent List includes subjects like marriage, bankruptcy, and education, where both the Centre and States can legislate.

Q24. Consider the following statements regarding industrial alcohol:

- Industrial alcohol is produced by the fermentation of sugarcane molasses.
- The microorganism responsible for the fermentation process is bacteria.
- Industrial alcohol is mainly used as a solvent in industries.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- Only 1 and 2
- Only 1 and 3
- Only 2 and 3
- All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1:** Correct. Industrial alcohol is produced by fermenting sugarcane molasses.
- Statement 2:** Incorrect. Yeast, not bacteria, is the microorganism responsible for the fermentation process in the production of industrial alcohol.
- Statement 3:** Correct. Industrial alcohol is primarily used as a solvent in various industries.

Topic 9

9. New Chief Justice of India

Eligibility-Supreme Court judge

- citizen of India, not** be above **65 years of age**
- judge of one or more High courts** continuously **for five years;** or **advocate in**

the high court for at **least ten years;** or recommended person must be a **distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President.**

Eligibility to become a High Court judge

- citizen of India, not** be above **62 years of age**
- held a judicial office** in the territory of **India for ten years** or should have been an **advocate of the high court(s) for ten years.**
- There is **no minimum age fixed** for **Supreme or High Court judges.**

How are the judges of the SC/HC are selected?

- SC judges-Article 124 /HC judges-Article 217**
- Constitution** says-every judge of Supreme court shall be **appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal after **consultation with the Chief Justice of India** (3 judges case interpreted the word 'consultation').

Appointment of CJI

- The **President** of India appoints the **CJI.**
- The **outgoing CJI** recommends his successor.

Convention?

- the senior most judge in the SC becomes the CJI** (convention decided in **second Judges case 1993**).

Basis of seniority-induction in the Supreme Court.

Note- collegium for High Court judges (CJI + 2 senior most judges)

First Judges Case (1981):

The word 'consultation' in Article 124 does not mean concurrence.
The ruling favored the Executive over the Judiciary.

Second Judges Case (1993):

Reversed earlier judgement.
Ruled that "consultation" really meant "concurrence."
Established the Chief Justice of India's primacy.
Introduced the Collegium system.

Third Judges Case (1998):

Expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.



Current news?


Justice Sanjiv Khanna will be 51st CJI

Q25. Which of the following is a requirement to become a judge of the Supreme Court of India?

1. Must be a citizen of India and not above 65 years of age.
2. Must have been a judge of one or more High Courts for at least ten years.
3. Must have been an advocate in the High Court for at least ten years.
4. Can be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President of India.

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

Ans: c

Sol: To qualify as a Supreme Court judge, the individual must fulfill one of the criteria in statements 1, 3, or 4.

One Must have been a judge of one or more High Courts for at least five years not ten years.

Q26. Which of the following statements about the appointment of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is correct?

1. The President of India appoints the CJI.
2. The outgoing CJI always recommends their successor.
3. Seniority convention established by the Second Judges Case (1993) plays a critical role in the appointment.
4. The collegium system includes the CJI and four senior-most judges for appointing High Court judges.

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

Ans: b

Sol: The **President of India** appoints the CJI as per constitutional provisions.

The outgoing CJI recommends their successor as per convention.

Seniority convention established by the **Second Judges Case (1993)** ensures the most senior judge is considered for the CJI position.

The collegium system, comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges, plays a role in appointing High Court judges.

Q27. Consider the following statements about Justice Sanjiv Khanna:

1. Justice Sanjiv Khanna will serve as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI).
2. The position of Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President of India under Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The tenure of a Chief Justice of India is fixed at five years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Justice Sanjiv Khanna is confirmed to serve as the 51st Chief Justice of India.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President under Article 124 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. The tenure of the Chief Justice of India is not fixed; it depends on their age, as the retirement age for Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

Topic 10

10. Parliamentary Committee

- **Passing a bill complex process** and it usually **takes more** than a year for a bill to pass through it.
- Bill is **usually referred to Parliament committees**.
- It is an **expert body** that studies the bill from different aspects.

Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds-

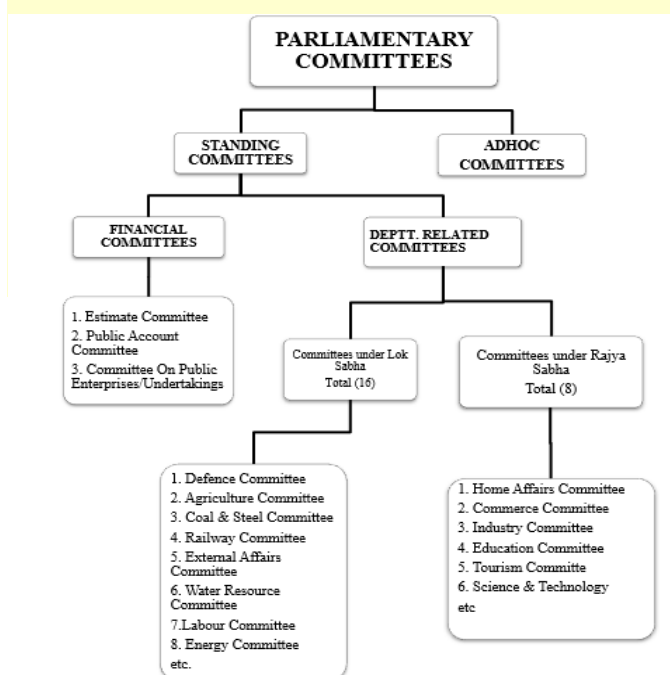
1. **Standing committees-permanent** -work on a continuous basis



- It is of 2 types-
 - **Financial Committees**
- Public Accounts Committee-22 Members (15 LS + 7 RS)
- Estimates Committee (30 members-All from the Lok Sabha-nominated by Speaker)
- Committee on Public Undertakings (15 LS + 7 RS)
- b. Dept Related Committees-31 members (21 LS + 10 RS)
 - **Ad Hoc committees-temporary**-cease to exist on completion
 - Inquire committee
- a. Advisory committee

Parliamentary Committees- how it functions?

- Is appointed/ elected by the house or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman
- Works under the direction of **Speaker/Chairman**
- Presents its report to the house or to the **speaker/chairman**
- Has a secretariat **provided by the LS/RS**



Q28. Which of the following statements about Parliamentary Committees in India is/are correct?

1. Standing Committees are permanent in nature and work on a continuous basis.
2. The Estimates Committee has 30 members, all of whom are from the Lok Sabha and are nominated by the Speaker.

3. Ad Hoc Committees are permanent committees focused on financial matters.

4. Department-related Committees have 31 members, including 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Correct:** Standing Committees are permanent committees and operate continuously.
2. **Correct:** The Estimates Committee consists of 30 members, all from the Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker.
3. **Incorrect:** Ad Hoc Committees are temporary in nature and cease to exist after completing their task, unlike Standing Committees.
4. **Correct:** Department-related Standing Committees have 31 members, with 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

Q29. Which of the following statements correctly describes how Parliamentary Committees in India function?

1. Parliamentary Committees are appointed, elected, or nominated by the Speaker or Chairman of the House.
 2. They work under the direction of the Speaker or Chairman and present their reports to the House or the presiding officer.
 3. The Secretariat of Parliamentary Committees is provided by the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.
 4. Parliamentary Committees have the authority to pass laws directly.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 3
 - (b) Only 1 and 4
 - (c) Only 2, 3, and 4
 - (d) All 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Correct:** Parliamentary Committees are appointed, elected, or nominated by the Speaker or Chairman.
2. **Correct:** They work under the Speaker's or Chairman's direction and submit reports to the House or the presiding officer.



3. **Correct:** The Secretariat support for these committees is provided by the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.
4. **Incorrect:** Parliamentary Committees do not have the authority to pass laws directly; they only recommend changes or provide expert analysis.

Q30. Consider the following statements about Ad Hoc Committees in the Indian Parliament:

1. Ad Hoc Committees are formed for a specific purpose and are dissolved once their task is completed.
2. The Public Accounts Committee is an example of an Ad Hoc Committee.
3. Ad Hoc Committees can be constituted by either house of Parliament or by the Speaker/Chairman.
4. Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) investigating specific matters are a type of Ad Hoc Committee.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Ad Hoc Committees are temporary committees formed for a specific purpose and are dissolved after completing their work.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. The Public Accounts Committee is a Standing Committee, not an Ad Hoc Committee.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Ad Hoc Committees can be constituted by either house of Parliament or by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or the Chairman (Rajya Sabha).
- **Statement 4:** Correct. Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs), such as those investigating specific issues or scandals, are examples of Ad Hoc Committees.

Thus, three of the four statements are correct.

Day 2

Topic 11

11. Anti defection law

"Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" culture?

- originated in the **1960s** and became **symbolic of the defection problem when Gaya Lal, an**

MLA in Haryana, switched parties three times in one day in 1967.

- To deal with the problem **Anti defection law** introduced through **52nd amendment act.**

52nd amendment act, 1985

- added the **Tenth Schedule**
- **Article 102 (2)** -for MPs
- **Article 191 (2)** for member of a state's Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council

Conditions for disqualification?

1. If a **member** of a house belonging to a **political party:**

- **Voluntarily gives up the membership** of his political party, or

- a. **Votes**, or does not vote in the legislature, **contrary to the directions** of his political party.

0. An **independent candidate joins a political party** after the election

0. **Case of nominated MPs- will be disqualified if joins a party after first six months**

Who disqualify a member?

- **Speaker** in LS/LA of States
- **Chairman** in RS
- **no time period** for the **Presiding Officer to decide**
- law said decision of the Speaker or Chairman **will be final-SC in Kihoto Hollohan case (1992)-Presiding Officer's decision is subject to judicial review**

Anti-defection law:

52nd amendment in 1985 inserted **10th schedule** (anti-defection law)

Grounds for disqualification are mentioned in **Article 102(2) & 191(2) for MP's and MLA's**

Defected:

1. Elected member (gives up & voting)
2. Independent member
3. Nominated member

Exceptions:

1. Speaker or chairman
2. Party could be merged into another (2/3 majority)

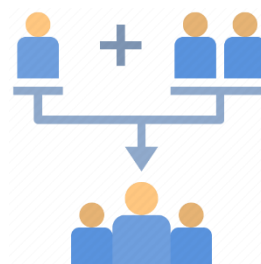
Presiding Officer decides on the question of disqualification

Advantages

- Stability and party discipline

Disadvantages

- Members freedom gets affected



If a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger, neither the members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.

Q31. With reference to anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:

1. The law specifies that a nominated legislator cannot join any political party within six months of being appointed to the House.
2. The law does not provide any time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

Which of the statements given above is/are Correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Incorrect
The anti-defection law, as specified in the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, allows a nominated legislator to join a political party within six months of being appointed to the House. If the nominated member joins a party after the six-month period, it would be considered a ground for disqualification. This statement reverses the condition and is therefore incorrect.
2. Statement 2: Correct
The anti-defection law does not specify a time-frame for the presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) to decide on disqualification petitions. This often leads to delays in decision-making, which has been a point of contention in Indian politics.

Q32. With reference to the Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu (1992) case, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which deals with the anti-defection law.

2. The Supreme Court ruled that decisions of the presiding officer under the Tenth Schedule are subject to judicial review.

3. The ruling placed the Speaker's decision on defection cases beyond the purview of the judiciary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
In the Kihoto Hollohan case, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, affirming the legitimacy of the anti-defection law.
2. Statement 2: Correct
The court ruled that the decisions of the Speaker/Chairman under the Tenth Schedule are subject to judicial review, but only after the decision is made. This ensures a balance between parliamentary privileges and judicial scrutiny.
3. Statement 3: Incorrect
The Supreme Court explicitly stated that the Speaker's decisions are not beyond the purview of the judiciary. Judicial review is permitted in cases where the Speaker's decision is alleged to be mala fide or violates constitutional principles.

Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q33. With reference to the merger provision under the anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:

1. A merger is deemed valid when at least two-thirds of the members of a legislature party agree to merge with another political party.
2. The members of the legislature party involved in a valid merger are exempted from disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both



(d) None

Ans: d

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct

Under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, a merger is considered valid if at least two-thirds of the members of a legislature party agree to merge with another political party. This provision is aimed at preventing splits in parties based on small dissenting groups.

2. Statement 2: Correct

Members involved in a valid merger are exempted from disqualification under the anti-defection law. This is explicitly mentioned as an exception in the Tenth Schedule.

Topic 12

12. Election Expenditure limit

Election expenditure limit for candidates

- ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States.
- For Legislative Assemblies, ₹40 lakh and ₹28 lakh for larger and smaller States respectively.
- These limits are set, from time to time, by the Election Commission (EC).
- There are no limits on the expenditure of political parties during elections.

State funding of elections

- This can bring transparency -bring level playing field

Recommendations on State Funding

1. Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998)

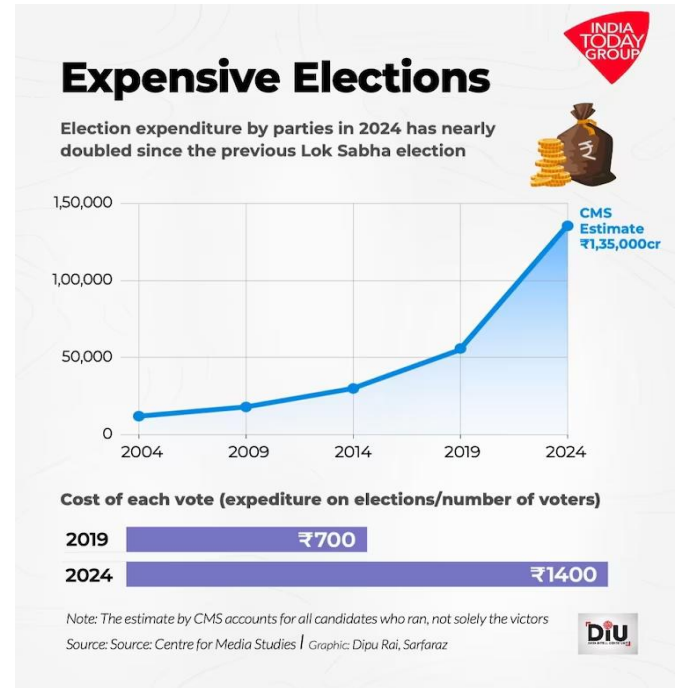
- It suggested that state funding would ensure a level playing field for poorer political parties and argued that such a move would be in public interest.

2. Law Commission Report (1999)

- It stated that a **state funding of elections** **is 'desirable'** provided that political parties are prohibited from taking funds from other sources.

3. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

- It did not support the idea



Q34. With reference to election expenditure limits for candidates in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India periodically sets the expenditure limits for candidates contesting elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

2. There are no legal limits on the expenditure incurred by political parties during elections.

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

Ans: c

Sol:-

1. Statement 1: Correct

The Election Commission of India has the authority to periodically revise and set expenditure limits for candidates contesting elections. For instance, the current limits are ₹95 lakh for larger states and ₹75 lakh for smaller states in Lok Sabha elections, and ₹40 lakh and ₹28 lakh respectively for Legislative Assembly elections.

2. Statement 2: Correct

While candidates have expenditure limits, there are no statutory limits on the expenditure



of political parties during elections. This creates an asymmetry in campaign finance regulation.

Thus, both statements are correct.

Q35. Who chaired the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), established in 2000?

- (a) Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah
- (b) Justice P.N. Bhagwati
- (c) Justice Y.V. Chandrachud
- (d) Justice R.S. Sarkaria

Ans: a

Sol: The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) was chaired by Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India, and was tasked with suggesting possible amendments to the Constitution to reflect the evolving needs of the country.

Q36. With reference to the Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998), consider the following statements:

1. The committee recommended state funding of elections as a means to ensure a level playing field for all political parties.
2. It suggested that state funding should only cover the expenditure of national parties and recognized state parties.

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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct

The Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998) recommended state funding of elections to promote fair competition among political parties and reduce undue influence of money in elections.

2. Statement 2: Correct

The committee proposed that state funding should be limited to national parties and recognized state parties that meet specific

eligibility criteria, ensuring efficient utilization of resources.

Thus, both statements are correct.

Topic 13

13. The US President Election process

- President of the United States **happens every four years.**

Steps

1. CAUCUS and Primaries system

- **Caucuses and primaries** are the processes which **two major parties select nominees for President.**

Caucuses

- Caucuses are **lengthier processes** in which **voters attend meetings** at public places.

Primaries

- Voters go to **polling stations** and **check the box** against the name of their **favoured candidate.**

2. Election Day

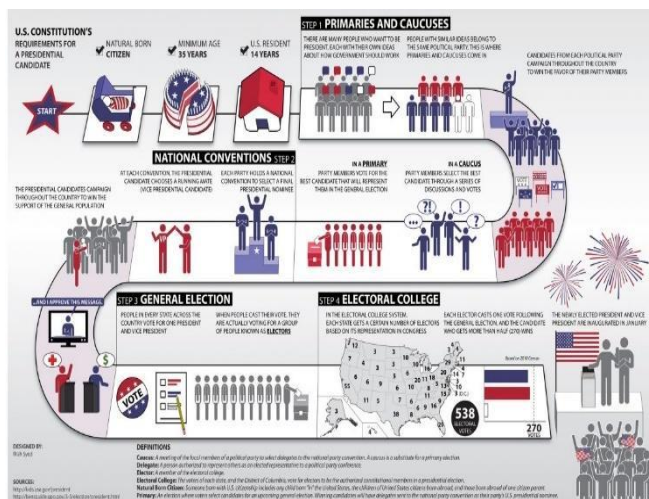
- **first Tuesday in November**
- these votes **don't directly elect the President.**
- People determine **which set of "electors" from their State.**
- These Electors called **Electoral College vote** for the President on behalf of each state.

The electoral college is an **intermediary body** that chooses the U.S. President. In this system, **voters of each State** cast their **ballots to choose electors** of the electoral college who then vote to select the President.

The **number of electors** accorded to each State is in **proportion to its population.**

3. Majority vote required-270 out of 538 electoral votes





Trump vs Kamala Harris

- The chosen candidate then selects a **vice-presidential running mate**, and they campaign together as a team.



Q37. With reference to the Caucus and Primaries system in the United States, consider the following statements:

1. Primaries are direct elections where party members vote to choose their preferred candidate for the general election.
2. Caucuses involve public discussions and debates where voters physically gather to show their preference for candidates.
3. Both caucuses and primaries are mandatory for all states under federal law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct

Primary elections are indeed direct elections where registered party members cast their votes to select their preferred candidate for the general election.

2. **Statement 2: Correct**
Caucuses are less formal processes than primaries, involving public discussions, debates, and group voting to determine candidate preferences.

3. Statement 3: Incorrect

There is no federal law mandating that all states must hold either caucuses or primaries. The choice of using a caucus or primary system is determined by the state and the respective political parties.

Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, but Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q38. With reference to the Electoral College of the United States, consider the following statements:

1. The Electoral College is composed of electors equal to the total number of members in the U.S. Congress, including both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
 2. A candidate needs at least 270 electoral votes to win the presidency.
 3. Each state's electors are proportionally allocated based on the popular vote in that state.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct

The number of electors in the Electoral College equals the total number of members in the U.S. Congress (435 Representatives, 100 Senators) plus 3 electors for the District of Columbia, making a total of 538 electors.

2. Statement 2: Correct

A candidate needs at least 270 electoral votes, which is a majority of the 538 votes, to win the presidency.

3. Statement 3: Incorrect

Electors in most states are not proportionally allocated. Instead, most states follow a "winner-takes-all" system, where the candidate receiving the majority of the popular vote in the state wins all the state's electoral votes (except in Maine and Nebraska, which use a district-based allocation system).



Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, but Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q39. With reference to the Election Day in the United States, consider the following statements:

1. U.S. federal elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
2. This date was established by the Constitution to ensure uniformity in the electoral process across all states.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
U.S. federal elections are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, a practice established by federal law to provide consistency in scheduling elections across all states.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect
The date for federal elections is not established by the Constitution but by an 1845 federal law. The Constitution does not specify the election date.

Topic 14

14. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- **October 2, 2014.**
- To **eliminate open defecation** and to create **Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages in 5 years.**
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was not only for rural areas, but **also included urban areas.**
- The **mission achieved the ambitious goal** of creating an ODF India by October 2, 2019.

Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0

- Launched in 2021
- Goal-Making all **Indian cities "garbage-free" by 2026.**
- SBM 2.0 aims to remediate **all legacy dumpsites** and convert them into **green zones.**

What are legacy waste dumpsites?

- Legacy waste dumpsites are dump sites that **contain solid waste** that have been **collected and untreated** for years in an **unscientific and mismanaged manner.**



Q40. With reference to the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), consider the following statements:

1. The Swachh Bharat Mission aims to eliminate open defecation and achieve 100% scientific management of solid waste in urban and rural areas.
2. The mission was launched on October 2, 2019, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) seeks to eliminate open defecation and ensure 100% scientific management of solid waste, among other goals, to improve sanitation and cleanliness in both urban and rural areas.
Note - The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was not only for rural areas, but also included urban areas.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect
The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on October 2, 2014, not 2019, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and align with his vision of a clean India.

Q41. With reference to Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (SBM 2.0), consider the following statements:



1. SBM 2.0 was launched in 2021 with the goal of making all Indian cities "garbage-free" by 2026.
 2. The mission aims to remediate all legacy dumpsites and convert them into green zones.
 3. Legacy dumpsites refer to scientifically managed sites used for waste disposal in urban areas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 was launched in 2021 with the ambitious goal of making all Indian cities garbage-free by 2026.
2. Statement 2: Correct
One of the key objectives of SBM 2.0 is to remediate all legacy dumpsites (historical waste sites) and transform them into green zones.
3. Statement 3: Incorrect
Legacy dumpsites refer to unsanitary, mismanaged sites where untreated solid waste has been accumulating for years, not scientifically managed sites.

Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.

Q42. With reference to Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 (SBM 2.0), consider the following statements:

1. SBM 2.0 aims to make all Indian cities "garbage-free" by 2026 through 100% scientific waste management and remediation of legacy dumpsites.
 2. The mission was launched in 2022 as part of India's roadmap to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
- 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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
SBM 2.0, launched in 2021, focuses on making Indian cities "garbage-free" by 2026, ensuring scientific waste management and addressing legacy dumpsites as part of its objectives.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect
The mission was launched in 2021, not 2022, and while it aligns with some aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is not explicitly framed as part of India's roadmap to achieve SDGs by 2030.

Thus, only Statement 1 is correct.

Topic 15

15. Rice Fortification

- **Rice Fortification-** "deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in a food so as to improve the nutritional quality of food."

Various methods are available for rice fortification, such as-

1. Coating
 2. Dusting
 3. Extrusion-Best technology
- Extrusion**
- Dry rice flour is mixed with a premix of micronutrients, and water is added to this mixture.
 - This mixture then goes into a twin-screw extruder with heating zones, which produces kernels similar in shape and size to rice.
 - Fortified Rice Kernels (**FRK**) has a shelf life of at least 12 months.
 - These FRKs are mixed with regular rice.
 - As per the **Health Ministry's guidelines**, 10 g of FRK must be blended with 1 kg of regular rice (About 1% fortification)
 - The cooking of fortified rice does not require any special procedure.
 - The rice needs to be cleaned and washed in the normal way before cooking.

Current news?

- THE UNION Cabinet has extended the universal supply of fortified rice under all government run food supply scheme until December 2028.





Fortified rice is packed in jute bags with the logo (+F) and the line “Fortified with **Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12**” mandatorily printed on the pack.

Q43. With reference to fortified rice, consider the following statements:

1. Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) are produced using the extrusion method, where micronutrients are added to rice flour, shaped into kernels, and mixed with regular rice.
 2. Cooking fortified rice requires special procedures to preserve the added micronutrients.
- 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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
The extrusion method involves mixing dry rice flour with micronutrients, forming kernels using a twin-screw extruder, and blending these Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) with regular rice.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect
Fortified rice does not require special cooking procedures. It can be washed and cooked in the same way as regular rice without losing nutritional value.

Q44. As per the Health Ministry’s guidelines, what percentage of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) should be blended with regular rice for fortification?

- (a) 0.1%
- (b) 1%
- (c) 5%
- (d) 10%

Ans: b

Sol: According to the guidelines, 10 grams of FRK must be blended with 1 kilogram of regular rice, achieving 1% fortification. This ensures proper distribution of micronutrients while maintaining affordability and consistency.

Q45. With reference to hidden hunger, consider the following statements:

1. Hidden hunger refers to a deficiency of essential vitamins and minerals in the diet, even when caloric intake is adequate.
2. Hidden hunger primarily affects low-income populations and has no impact on middle or high-income groups.
3. Fortification of food is one of the key strategies to address hidden hunger.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
Hidden hunger is a form of micronutrient malnutrition, where individuals lack essential vitamins and minerals despite consuming enough calories. This can lead to serious health consequences.
 2. Statement 2: Incorrect
While low-income populations are more vulnerable to hidden hunger due to limited access to diverse diets, it can also affect middle and high-income groups, particularly those with unbalanced diets.
 3. Statement 3: Correct
Food fortification, such as adding iron, iodine, or vitamins to staple foods, is a proven strategy to combat hidden hunger effectively.
- Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct, while Statement 2 is incorrect.

Topic 16

16. Rare Diseases

- A rare disease, also referred to as an **orphan disease**, is any disease that affects **a small**



percentage of the population (disease that affects less than 1 in 1,000 people).

- Rare diseases are called orphan diseases when they receive little to no funding or research for treatments.

National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021

Aim

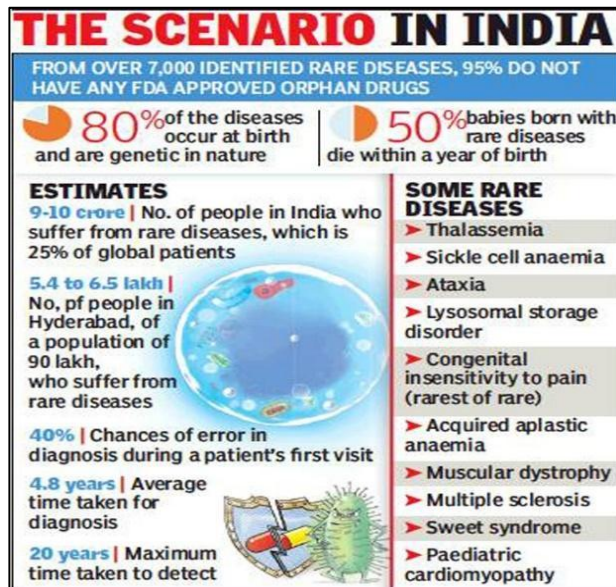
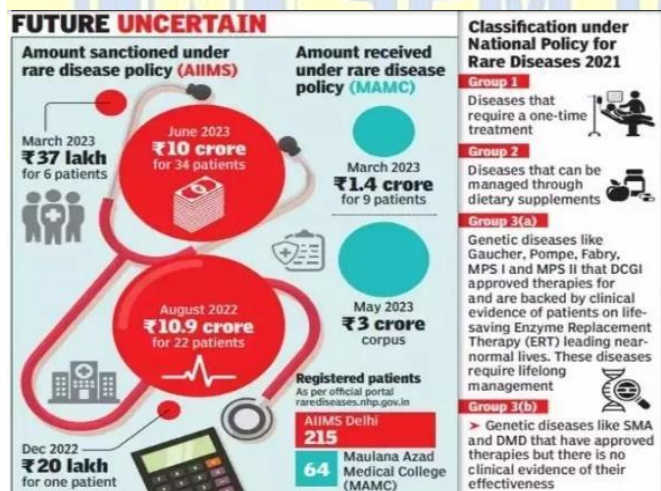
- Lower the high cost of treatment for rare diseases.
- Increased focus on **indigenous research**.

Provisions

- **Financial support** for **one-time treatment of up to Rs. 50 lakh.**
- Introduces a **crowd funding mechanism.**
- Creates a **registry of rare diseases** and provides for **early detection.**
- **Eight (08) Centres of Excellence** (CoEs) like AIIMS and PGIMER have been identified for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of rare diseases.

Centres of Excellence

- The Centres of Excellence would be **provided a one-time grant to a maximum of Rs. 5 crore** each for infrastructure development for screening, tests, treatment.



Q46. With reference to the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The policy provides financial support of up to ₹50 lakh for one-time treatment of rare diseases.
2. It establishes eight Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of rare diseases, including AIIMS and PGIMER.

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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
The National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 provides financial support of up to ₹50 lakh for the one-time treatment of rare diseases.
2. Statement 2: Correct
The policy has identified eight Centres of Excellence (CoEs), including prominent institutions like AIIMS and PGIMER, for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of rare diseases.

Q47. Which of the following is a provision under the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021?

- (a) Establishing a crowd funding mechanism for financial aid
- (b) Providing grants of up to ₹10 crore per Centre of Excellence (CoE)



- (c) Mandatory allocation of 5% of the healthcare budget to rare diseases
(d) Free treatment for all types of rare diseases without cost limits

Ans: a

Sol:

- Option a: Correct
The policy introduces a crowd funding mechanism to help finance the treatment of rare diseases, allowing public contributions toward patient care.
- Option b: Incorrect
CoEs are provided a one-time grant of ₹5 crore, not ₹10 crore, for infrastructure development for screening, tests, and treatment.
- Option c: Incorrect
No specific allocation from the healthcare budget is mandated under this policy.
- Option d: Incorrect
Treatment is supported up to a financial cap of ₹50 lakh for one-time therapy, and not all treatments are free of cost.

Q48. With reference to rare diseases, consider the following statements:

1. A disease is classified as a rare disease in India if it affects less than 1 in 1,000 people.
2. Rare diseases are also referred to as orphan diseases when they lack sufficient funding or research for treatment.
3. The National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 mandates free treatment for all rare diseases regardless of cost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
In India, a disease is classified as a rare disease if it affects less than 1 in 1,000 people.
2. Statement 2: Correct
Rare diseases are often referred to as orphan diseases when they receive insufficient funding

or research, leaving affected individuals without adequate treatment options.

3. Statement 3: Incorrect

The National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 provides financial support up to ₹50 lakh for one-time treatment but does not mandate free treatment for all rare diseases or treatments without cost limits.

Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.

Topic 17

17. Marital Rape exceptions

Matrital Rape?

- Marital rape, the act of **forcing spouse into having sex without consent.**
- There is an **exception to Section 375 (rape)** of the Indian Penal Code (**IPC**) which allows a man to force sex on his wife.
- **Bhartiya Nyaya Samhita** (which superseded IPC) **extends the exception** of marital rape under **BNS Section 63.**

Section 63 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) gives **2 exceptions-**

1. **Medical procedures or interventions:** These are not considered rape.
2. **Sexual acts between a man and his wife**, if the wife is **not under 18**: This is known as the **Marital Rape Exception (MRE).**



Q49. With reference to marital rape and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), consider the following statements:

1. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) retains the marital rape exception, which allows forced sexual acts between a man and his wife if the wife is under 18 years of age.
2. Section 63 of the BNS also includes medical procedures or interventions as exceptions to the definition of rape.

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect:** The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) retains the marital rape exception, which allows forced sexual acts between a man and his wife if the wife is not under 18 years of age.
- Statement 2: Correct:** Medical procedures or interventions are also listed as exceptions under Section 63 of the BNS, indicating that such acts are not considered rape.

Q50. With reference to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), consider the following statements:

- The BNS replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and introduces reforms in criminal law.
- Under Section 63 of the BNS, marital rape is considered an offense regardless of the wife's age.
- The BNS includes provisions for medical procedures or interventions to be excluded from the definition of rape.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct**
The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as part of the government's initiative to reform criminal laws.
- Statement 2: Incorrect**
Section 63 of the BNS retains the Marital Rape Exception (MRE), meaning forced sexual acts between a husband and wife are not considered rape if the wife is not under 18 years of age.
- Statement 3: Correct**
Medical procedures or interventions are explicitly excluded from the definition of rape under Section 63 of the BNS.

Thus, Statements 1 and 3 are correct, while Statement 2 is incorrect.

Q51. With reference to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), consider the following statements:

- The BNS incorporates new offenses such as mob lynching and organized crime, which were not explicitly covered under the IPC.
- Both the IPC and the BNS prescribe the death penalty as the maximum punishment for certain crimes.
- Unlike the IPC, the BNS mandates time-bound delivery of justice by specifying deadlines for the completion of trials in criminal cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct**
The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) introduces provisions for offenses like mob lynching and organized crime, which were not explicitly codified in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Statement 2: Correct**
Both the IPC and the BNS allow the death penalty as the maximum punishment for certain severe offenses, such as murder and terrorism-related acts.
- Statement 3: Incorrect**
While the BNS emphasizes judicial efficiency, it does not explicitly mandate time-bound delivery of justice by setting deadlines for trials. This statement is therefore inaccurate. Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.

Topic 18

18. Nikshay Poshan Yojana

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.
- TB remains one of the country's **most severe health challenges**, with estimated **3,00,000 fatality in India annually**.

National TB elimination Programme

- National TB elimination Programme is **eliminate TB by 2025**.



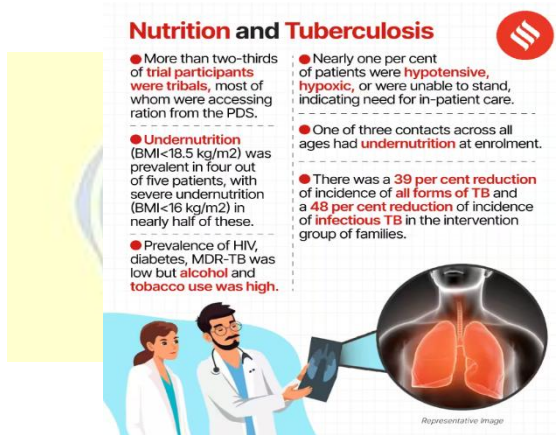
- **DoTS** (directly-observed therapy, short-course) **programme** is run by government of India under which free medicine is provided to TB patients.

Medicine administered under DoTS-

- isoniazid (INH),
- rifampicin (Rif),
- pyrazinamide (PZA),
- ethambutol

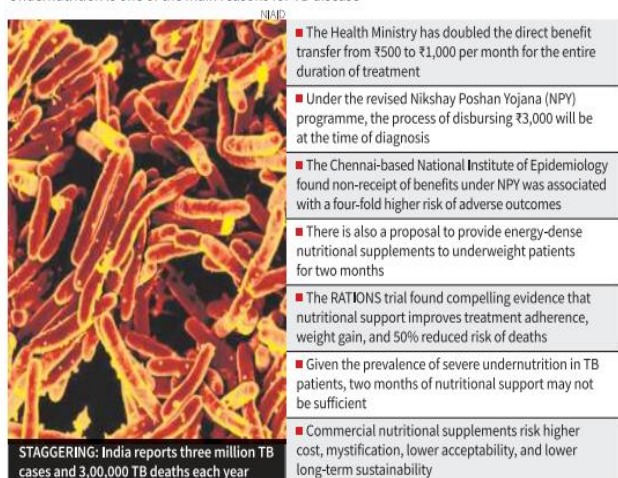
(All 4 are different types of antibiotics)

- **Undernutrition** is a **significant risk** factor for TB
- To address the problem of Undernutrition amongst TB patients **Gol launched Nikshay Poshan Yojana**.
- Under the scheme the government provides **one time grant of Rs 3000** and **monthly monetary support of Rs 1000** to the TB patients for address the issues of malnutrition.



More nutrition support for TB patients

Undernutrition is one of the main reasons for TB disease



Q52. With reference to Tuberculosis (TB) and its management in India, consider the following statements:

1. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
2. The National TB Elimination Programme aims to eliminate TB in India by 2030.
3. The government provides free TB medications under the DoTS (Directly Observed Therapy, Short-Course) programme, which includes four types of antibiotics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct

TB is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a bacterium that primarily affects the lungs.

2. Statement 2: Incorrect

The National TB Elimination Programme aims to eliminate TB in India by 2025, not 2030.

3. Statement 3: Correct

The government provides free TB medications under the DoTS programme, including antibiotics such as isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol.

Q53. Under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, what monetary support is provided to address the issue of undernutrition among TB patients?

- (a) A one-time grant of ₹5,000 only
- (b) A one-time grant of ₹3,000 and monthly support of ₹1,000
- (c) A monthly support of ₹2,000 only
- (d) No monetary support is provided under this scheme

Ans: b

Sol: The Nikshay Poshan Yojana, launched by the Government of India, provides financial assistance to TB patients to combat undernutrition, offering:

- ₹3,000 as a one-time grant at the start.
- ₹1,000 per month for ongoing nutritional support.



This initiative is crucial to improving TB treatment outcomes.

Q54. With reference to the DoTS (Directly Observed Therapy, Short-Course) programme for TB in India, consider the following statements:

1. The DoTS programme provides free TB medication to patients, including antibiotics such as isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol.
2. Under the DoTS programme, patients are required to take their medication under the supervision of a healthcare provider to ensure adherence to treatment.
3. The DoTS programme is focused exclusively on treating drug-resistant TB cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
The DoTS programme provides free TB medication, which includes the antibiotics isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol.
2. Statement 2: Correct
One of the key features of the DoTS programme is that TB patients must take their medications under the supervision of a healthcare provider to ensure adherence and prevent drug resistance.
3. Statement 3: Incorrect
The DoTS programme is designed to treat all forms of TB, not just drug-resistant TB. Special regimens exist for drug-resistant TB, but DoTS broadly covers TB treatment.

Thus, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.

Topic 19

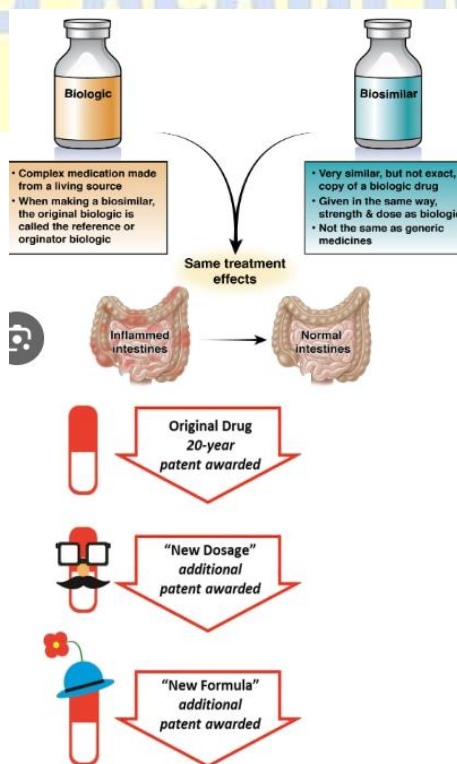
19. Biosimilars and Evergreening of Patents

- **Biopharmaceuticals**- medicines made from living cells, such as yeast and bacteria helpful in treating cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases etc

- A **biologic substance** that is very similar to the Biopharmaceuticals.
- They have the same efficacy, are as safe as the reference Biopharmaceuticals and are used to treat the same disorders.
- there are 98 approved biosimilars in India
- Overall India has a mere 3 per cent share of the global biosimilar market.
- Under the Make in India Initiative, the Centre has launched the National Biopharma Mission (NBM).
- It is a \$250 million mission, co-funded by the World Bank.
- Aim to develop biosimilars and other drugs and vaccines.
- But Patent evergreening-barriers in development of drugs and vaccine.

Patent evergreening?

- Patents are granted-20 years
- After the expiry of the patent, the local manufacturers can make generic version
- sometimes the patentees (mostly pharmaceutical companies) attempt to extend patent by make trivial /insignificant variations.
- This is known as the Ever-greening of a patent.



Section 3(d) of the Patent Act, 1970



- **"Mere discovery** of a new form **without enhancement of the known efficacy** is not **patentable**"

Q55. With reference to Biopharmaceuticals and the National Biopharma Mission (NBM), consider the following statements:

1. Biosimilars are biologic substances that are highly similar to biopharmaceuticals in terms of safety, efficacy, and therapeutic use.
2. The National Biopharma Mission, co-funded by the World Bank, aims to develop biosimilars, drugs, and vaccines under the Make in India initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct
Biosimilars are biologic substances that are very similar to their reference biopharmaceuticals, ensuring comparable safety and efficacy, and are used to treat the same disorders.
2. Statement 2: Correct
The National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is a \$250 million initiative co-funded by the World Bank. It is part of the Make in India initiative and focuses on the development of biosimilars, drugs, and vaccines.

Q56. With reference to Patent Evergreening, consider the following statements:

1. Patent evergreening refers to the extension of a patent's validity by introducing groundbreaking innovations that significantly improve the original product.
2. In India, patent evergreening is encouraged to promote research and development in the pharmaceutical sector.

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

Ans: d

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Incorrect
Patent evergreening does not involve groundbreaking innovations. Instead, it refers to trivial or insignificant changes to an original product to extend its patent protection and delay the production of generic versions.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect
In India, patent evergreening is not encouraged. The Indian Patent Act, 1970 (amended in 2005), includes provisions like Section 3(d) to prevent patenting of insignificant modifications, thereby promoting access to affordable generics.

Q57. What does Section 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act, 1970, stipulate regarding patentability?

- (a) Discovery of any new form of a known substance is always patentable.
- (b) Discovery of a new form of a known substance is patentable only if it enhances the known efficacy of the substance.
- (c) All new forms of chemical compounds are automatically considered for patents.
- (d) Patents are granted for trivial modifications to extend patent life.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Section 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act, 1970, aims to prevent patent evergreening by disallowing patents for new forms of existing substances unless they demonstrate enhanced efficacy.
- This provision ensures accessibility to affordable generic drugs and encourages genuine innovations.

Topic 20

20. Population control strategies of China

1. One Child Policy (1980 till 2016)

- Ordinary people had to **pay heavy fines in China** for each additional child, government employees who broke the rules faced termination.

2. Two child policy(2016-2021)

- The government started incentivising people to have 2 children.



3. More than 2 children policy (2021 onwards)

Challenges are arising for China because of its one child policy-

1. Ageing economy

- Projections suggest that China's elderly population could exceed **400 million by 2035**.

2. High dependency ratio/Distorted demographic structure

Due to **one child policy over a long period of time** TFR of China declined to **1.7.(Replacement rate is 2.1)**. Thus China facing the problem of **distorted demography**.

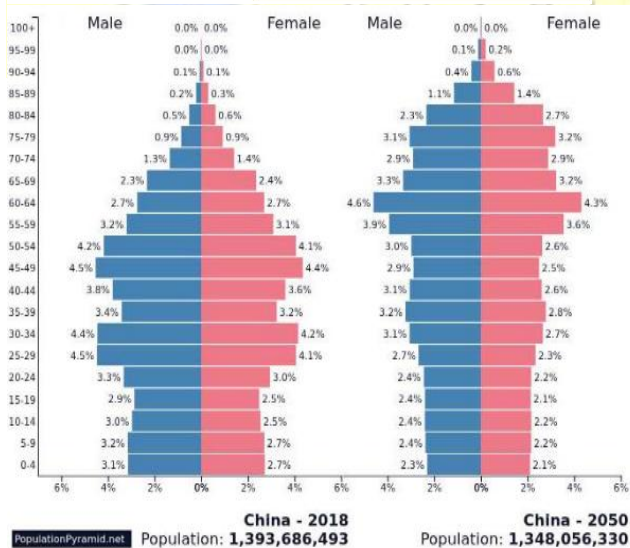
India's TFR NFHS-5

- Overall **India's Total Fertility Rate is 2.**
- Since **replacement rate is 2.1**, it can be inferred that **India's population will stabilise.**



Problem of 4-2-1 of China

- The ratio of dependent population wrt working population has gone up.
- Pension seeking people are more, working population is less.



INDIA'S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE SAW A DECLINE

	NFHS-5 (2019-21)	NFHS-4(2015-16)
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE	2	2.2

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN DECREASED FROM 2.2 TO 2 AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

Q58. Consider the following countries:

1. Italy
2. Japan
3. Nigeria
4. South Korea
5. South Africa

Which of the above countries are frequently mentioned in the media for their low birth rates, or ageing population or declining population?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1, 3 and 5
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 5 only

Ans: a

Sol:

- Italy (1): Known for its low birth rate and ageing population, Italy faces significant demographic challenges.
- Japan (2): A leading example of a country with a declining population due to very low fertility rates and a rapidly ageing population.
- South Korea (4): Frequently in the news for having one of the lowest birth rates in the world, with severe implications for its population size and economy.
- Nigeria (3): Contrarily, Nigeria is known for its high birth rate and growing population, not for issues related to low birth rates or ageing.
- South Africa (5): While South Africa has a complex demographic profile, it is not commonly associated with low birth rates or a declining population.

Thus, Italy, Japan, and South Korea (1, 2, and 4) are the correct countries in this context.

Q59. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:

- the number of children born per 1000 People in the Population in a year.
- the number of children born to couple in their lifetime in a given population.



- (c) the birth rate minus death rate.
(d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Ans: d

Sol:

- The total fertility rate (TFR) measures the average number of children a woman would have during her reproductive years (usually considered 15–49 years), assuming she experiences the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her life.
- It is a crucial indicator for understanding population growth dynamics and planning socio-economic policies.

Q60. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) 2019-21, which of the following statements about India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is correct?

- (a) India's TFR increased from 2.2 in NFHS-4 to 2.5 in NFHS-5.
(b) India's TFR remained constant at 2.2 between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5.
(c) India's TFR declined from 2.2 in NFHS-4 to 2.0 in NFHS-5.
(d) India's TFR declined from 2.0 in NFHS-4 to 1.8 in NFHS-5.

Ans: c

Sol:

- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) represents the average number of children a woman would have during her reproductive years.
- According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), India's TFR declined from 2.2 in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 2.0, indicating progress toward population stabilization.

Day 3

Topic 21

21. Black Coat Syndrome

- The President coined the phrase "**black coat syndrome**" for the **high stress levels** ordinary citizens experience in **courtrooms**.
- She compared it to the "**white coat syndrome**" patients feel in **hospitals**.
- The **President lauded** the government for **initiatives like Nyaya Mitra scheme**.

Bhartiya Nyaya Samhita, Lok Adalats etc for **swift disposal** of judicial cases.

Nyaya Mitra scheme

- The primary objective of the Nyaya Mitra scheme is to **assist in reducing the pendency of cases** in courts (especially those that have been **pending for more than 10 years**).
- Under this scheme, **retired judges, retired judicial officers**, and other **individuals with legal experience** and knowledge are **appointed as Nyaya Mitras (Justice Friends)**.
- Nyaya Mitras are **tasked with providing legal assistance** to those **who need it**, focusing on cases that have been pending for long periods.
- Nyaya Mitras **work as intermediaries** between the **courts and litigants**.
- The scheme aligns with **Article 39-A** of the Indian Constitution.

Article 39-A

- **Part IV - DPSP - Equal justice and free legal aid**
- Added to the Constitution through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**



Q61. Which of the following statements about the Nyaya Mitra Scheme is/are correct?

1. The scheme aims to reduce pendency in the delivery of justice, particularly for undertrials and marginalized groups.
 2. Nyaya Mitras are appointed to assist the judiciary in handling cases related to environmental issues exclusively.
 3. The scheme is implemented by the Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice.
 4. It facilitates the resolution of cases pending for more than 10 years in district and subordinate courts.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 3, and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4



Ans: b

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct. The Nyaya Mitra Scheme focuses on reducing case pendency, especially for marginalized and vulnerable sections.
2. Statement 2: Incorrect. Nyaya Mitras do not focus exclusively on environmental issues but on cases pending for long durations.
3. Statement 3: Correct. The scheme is implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice.
4. Statement 4: Correct. It targets cases pending for more than 10 years in district and subordinate courts.

Q62. What does the term "Black Coat Syndrome" refer to in the context of healthcare?

1. It describes the anxiety and stress experienced by people in court settings.
 2. It is a phenomenon where healthcare professionals exhibit bias against patients from marginalized communities.
 3. It refers to the reluctance of healthcare workers to adopt modern technology in practice.
 4. It denotes the psychological stress experienced by doctors due to long working hours.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** It describes the anxiety and stress experienced by people in court settings.
2. **Statement 2: Incorrect.** This does not relate to "Black Coat Syndrome."
3. **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The term is unrelated to technological reluctance among healthcare workers.
4. **Statement 4: Incorrect.** While doctors experience stress, this is not categorized as "Black Coat Syndrome."

Q63. Which of the following is the primary objective of Article 39A of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Promotion of equal pay for equal work for men and women

- (b) Provision of free legal aid to ensure equal access to justice
(c) Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
(d) Safeguarding the right to education for children below 14 years

Ans: b

Sol: Article 39A directs the State to provide free legal aid to ensure that justice is accessible to all, irrespective of economic or other disabilities.

Topic 22

22. DPSPs Added Through Constitutional Amendments

1. 42nd Constitutional Amendment:

- Article 39: Healthy development of children.
- Article 39A: Free legal aid.
- Article 43A: Participation of workers in the management of industries.
- Article 48A: To protect the environment, forests, and wildlife.

2. 44th Constitutional Amendment:

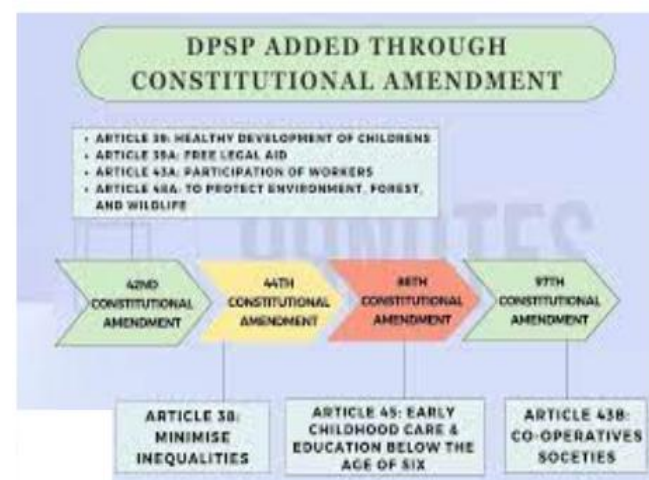
- Article 38: Minimise inequalities.

3. 86th Constitutional Amendment:

- Article 45: Early childhood care and education below the age of six.

4. 97th Constitutional Amendment:

- Article 43B: Co-operative societies.



Q64. What does Article 43A of the Indian Constitution primarily deal with?

- (a) Promotion of agricultural and rural development



- (b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
- (c) Protection of the environment and wildlife
- (d) Prohibition of child labor in hazardous industries

Ans: b

Sol: Article 43A of the Indian Constitution, part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, aims to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries to promote industrial democracy and harmonious labor relations.

Q65. Consider the following statements regarding the 86th Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution:

1. It made the right to education a fundamental right under Article 21A.
 2. It added a fundamental duty for parents or guardians to provide opportunities for education to children between the ages of 6 and 14 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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct. The 86th Amendment Act, 2002, inserted Article 21A, making free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years a fundamental right.
2. Statement 2: Correct. The amendment also added a new fundamental duty under Article 51A(k), obligating parents or guardians to provide opportunities for education to their children in this age group.

Q66. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act is related to which of the following?

- (a) Introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- (b) Reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions
- (c) Incorporation of the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right
- (d) Establishment of the National Judicial Appointments Commission

Ans: c

Sol: The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act (2011) added a new Part IXB to the Constitution titled "The Co-operative Societies" to promote their autonomy and democratic functioning. It also made the right to form cooperative societies a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c). Additionally, it inserted Article 43B under the Directive Principles of State Policy, emphasizing the promotion of cooperative societies.

Topic 23

23. Law Commission

- a non-statutory body
- constituted by a notification of the Government of India.

Role-

1. Undertake research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms.
2. Study systems for elimination of delay in procedures, speedy disposal of cases, reduction in cost of litigation etc.

Composition & Eligibility

- It has no fixed composition, no defined eligibility criteria for its chair and members, and no set functions.

Note

- Recommendations of Law commission are not binding on the government.

Current news

- The Union government has notified the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission of India with effect from September 1 for a three-year term.
- The chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India is yet to be named.
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, will make the decision.





Historical background of Law Commission

- The first such Commission was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Lord Macaulay
- It recommended codification of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

Q67. Which of the following statements about the Law Commission of India is correct?

- It is a constitutional body established under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.
- It is a statutory body constituted by an Act of Parliament.
- It is an executive body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- It is a judicial body formed by the Supreme Court of India.

Ans: c

Sol: The Law Commission of India is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. It is an executive body constituted by the Government of India periodically to suggest reforms in legal frameworks.

Q68. Consider the following statements about the Law Commission of India:

- The recommendations of the Law Commission are binding on the government.
 - The Law Commission is constituted every five years.
 - The primary role of the Law Commission is to suggest legal reforms to promote justice.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. The recommendations of the Law Commission are advisory in nature and not binding on the government.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. There is no fixed interval for constituting the Law Commission; it is constituted at the discretion of the government.
- Statement 3: Correct. The primary role of the Law Commission is to suggest legal reforms to ensure justice and modernize the legal system.

Q69. Consider the following statements regarding the first Law Commission in India:

- It was established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833.
- The Indian Penal Code (IPC) was one of its major contributions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The first Law Commission was established in 1834 under the provisions of the Charter Act of 1833 during British rule in India.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), drafted by the commission under the chairmanship of Lord Macaulay, is one of its most significant contributions. It was enacted later in 1860.

Topic 24

24. Central Bureau of Investigation

- investigation agency of the Government of India
- investigates corruption-related cases, economic offence, cases of serious conventional crime.

Establishment of CBI

- 1941-Special Police Establishment created to investigate cases of bribery and corruption- War and Supply Department during WWII.



- After the War, the need for an agency was felt to investigate cases of bribery and corruption by Central Government employees.
- Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 was brought to create Delhi Special Police Establishment for investigating corruption in government offices.
- Later, the CBI was established in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
- Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) was merged with the CBI.
- CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946 but Since the CBI has been established by a resolution it is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.



- Section 6 of The DSPE Act -CBI must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- Almost all states have traditionally given such general consent.
- Several states, including Meghalaya, Mizoram, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala, and Punjab, have withdrawn general consent for CBI investigations.

Q70. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

- CBI was established by an Act of Parliament in 1947.
- CBI is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- CBI is the constitutional body tasked with overseeing state police forces.

Ans: c

Sol: The CBI is not a constitutional or statutory body; it derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and operates under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.

Q71. Consider the following statements about the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- The CBI investigates cases of corruption, economic offenses, and serious crimes of national importance.
- The consent of the state government is mandatory for the CBI to investigate cases within a state.
- The Director of the CBI is appointed by the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The CBI is responsible for investigating cases of corruption, economic offenses, and other high-profile crimes of national and international importance.
- Statement 2: Correct. The CBI needs the consent of the state government (general or case-specific) to investigate cases within a state's jurisdiction.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Director of CBI is appointed by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition (or the leader of the largest opposition party), and the Chief Justice of India or a judge nominated by them.

Q72. Consider the following statements regarding the Santhanam Committee:

- The Santhanam Committee was established in 1964 to address issues related to corruption in public administration.
- One of the outcomes of the Santhanam Committee's recommendations was the establishment of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).



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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct. The Santhanam Committee was formed in 1964 to investigate and recommend measures for curbing corruption in public administration.
2. Statement 2: Correct. Based on its recommendations, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was established in 1964 to oversee anti-corruption efforts and ensure transparency in governance.

Topic 25

25. Emergency provisions impact on Centre-State relations

- **Part XVIII (Articles 352 to 360)** deals with emergency.

1. National Emergency (Article 352)

- **Grounds-war, external aggression, or armed rebellion.**
- **Instances:** Declared thrice in India's history: 1962 (Sino-India war), 1971 (Indo-Pak war) 1975-77 (Internal disturbance, later changed to armed rebellion-44th amendment 1978).

2. State Emergency (Article 356)

- **Grounds:**
 - **Article 356-** failure of the **constitutional machinery** in a state (Known as President rule).
- This has been used **more than 100 times** since independence.
- b. **Article 355-Centre** to **protect states** from external and internal **threats**.

3. Financial Emergency (Article 360)

- **Grounds:** Proclaimed when the **financial stability** or **credit of India** or any part thereof is **threatened**.
- Financial Emergency has **never been proclaimed in India**.



Article 356 has been **misused** in the past to dissolve state governments, **often** for **political reasons**.

- In **S.R. Bommai case (1994)** the SC said- **President's rule** would be **subject to judicial review**
- **Sarkaria Commission (1983)** and the **Punchhi Commission (2007)**, recommend that **Article 356** should only be **used as a last resort**. (Both commissions are on Centre-State relations)

Q73. Which of the following statements correctly distinguishes the Sarkaria Commission (1983) from the Punchhi Commission (2007)?

1. The Sarkaria Commission focused on Centre-State relations, while the Punchhi Commission also addressed emerging challenges like internal security and socio-economic development.
 2. The Punchhi Commission recommended the establishment of an Interstate Council, which was already a key recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a



Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Sarkaria Commission (1983) primarily addressed Centre-State relations in the context of India's federal structure, while the Punchhi Commission (2007) expanded its scope to include challenges like internal security, socio-economic disparities, and environmental concerns.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The recommendation for the establishment of an Interstate Council was originally made by the Sarkaria Commission, and it was implemented in 1990. The Punchhi Commission reviewed its functioning but did not recommend its establishment.

Q74. Under which of the following grounds can a State Emergency (President's Rule) be proclaimed under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution?

- Failure of the constitutional machinery in a state.
 - Non-compliance with the directions of the Union Government.
 - Financial instability in a state.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Ground 1: Correct. Article 356 allows the President to impose State Emergency if a state government is unable to function according to the provisions of the Constitution (failure of constitutional machinery).
- Ground 2: Correct. Non-compliance with Union Government's lawful directions under Article 256 or 257 can lead to the imposition of President's Rule.
- Article 365 of the Constitution of India gives the President the power to declare that a state government is not functioning in accordance with the Constitution if the state fails to comply with directions from the Union Government. This can lead to the imposition of President's Rule under Article 356.
- Ground 3: Incorrect. Financial instability is not a ground for State Emergency; it is a ground for a Financial Emergency under Article 360.

Q75. Which of the following statements about National Emergency under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution is/are correct?

- National Emergency can be proclaimed on the grounds of war, external aggression, or armed rebellion.
 - The term "internal disturbance" was replaced with "armed rebellion" by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978.
 - National Emergency has been declared four times in India's history.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. National Emergency under Article 352 can be proclaimed on three grounds: war, external aggression, or armed rebellion.
- Statement 2: Correct. The term "internal disturbance" was replaced by "armed rebellion" through the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978 to prevent its misuse.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. National Emergency has been declared thrice in India: 1962 (Sino-India war), 1971 (Indo-Pak war), and 1975-77 (internal disturbance, later termed armed rebellion).

Topic 26

26. Cabinet approval to simultaneous election

- Simultaneous election or "One Nation, One Election" all state's legislative assembly, Urban and Rural Local bodies and the Lok Sabha will have to be held simultaneously.
- Simultaneous elections were the norm until 1967.
- But following premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969 and that of the Lok Sabha in December 1970, elections to State Assemblies and Parliament have been held separately.

Ram Nath Kovind panel

- In September 2023 the government constituted a committee headed by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind to



explore the possibility of “one nation, one election”.

- The panel has recommended that elections to **Lok Sabha** and **state Assemblies should be held at the same time.**
- Subsequently, **elections to local bodies** (municipalities and panchayats) too should be **“synchronised”** so that they are held **within 100 days** of the simultaneous state and national elections.
- To give effect to its recommendation, the committee has **suggested 15 amendments** to the **Constitution** of India.

Current news?

- The **Union Cabinet** has **accepted** the **recommendations** of the **high-level committee**, headed by former **President Ram Nath Kovind.**



Q76. What is meant by the term "simultaneous elections" in the Indian context?

- Conducting general and state assembly elections together across the country.
- Conducting elections in a phased manner over several months.
- Conducting elections for Lok Sabha and Panchayats at the same time.
- Conducting elections only in states with legislative councils.

Ans: a

Sol: Simultaneous elections refer to holding Lok Sabha (general) and state legislative assembly elections at the same time to ensure efficiency and reduce costs.

Q77. Consider the following statements regarding simultaneous elections in India:

- Simultaneous elections aim to reduce election-related expenditure and administrative burden.
- Simultaneous elections have been conducted in India in the past.
- The Constitution explicitly mandates the conduct of simultaneous elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Simultaneous elections can reduce costs and administrative challenges.
- Statement 2: Correct. Simultaneous elections were conducted in India until 1967.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Constitution does not explicitly mandate simultaneous elections.

Q78. Assertion (A): Simultaneous elections can enhance governance and policy implementation.

Reason (R): Frequent elections disrupt governance due to the Model Code of Conduct being in force multiple times.

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Ans: a

Sol: Frequent elections disrupt policy implementation due to the Model Code of Conduct, and simultaneous elections aim to resolve this by reducing election frequency, allowing for more continuous governance.

Topic 27

27. Fact Check Unit

- In **March 2024** the **Union Electronics and IT Ministry** notified new powers to **Fact Checking Unit(FCU)** under the **Press Information Bureau.**
- The **Fact-Check Unit** has **existed since 2019** under the **Press Information Bureau (PIB).**
- The **IT Amendment Rules of 2023** **expanded its authority.**
- The proposed changes aim to **strengthen the FCU's powers**, forcing digital platforms to **take down flagged content as "fake".**



Legal basis of the FCU?

- Created under Information Technology Act, 2000.

Current news?

- A key provision of the Information Technology (IT) rules was struck down by Bombay High Court as unconstitutional.
- The rule empowered the government to identify "fake news" on social media platforms through a "Fact-Check Unit" (FCU) and ask the platforms to remove it.

Grounds for Striking Down the Rules:

- The court found that the rules curtailed freedom of speech and expression (guaranteed under Article 19(1)a) and extended restrictions beyond reasonable limits.

Press Information Bureau (PIB)

- An **executive agency (not statutory body)** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India.
- It facilitate communication between the government and the public/media.
- PIB was established in 1919.
- Headquarters is located in New Delhi.

FCU is a wing of PIB.



Q79. Which of the following is a key reason the Bombay High Court struck down the IT Amendment Rules of 2023 empowering the Fact-Check Unit (FCU)?

- It violated the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- It curtailed freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).
- It failed to address fake news effectively.
- It empowered social media platforms to bypass government regulations.

Ans: b

Sol: The Bombay High Court found that the rules curtailed freedom of speech and expression, guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), by extending restrictions beyond reasonable limits.

Q80. Which of the following correctly describes the Press Information Bureau (PIB)?

- It is an executive agency under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - It acts as a statutory body facilitating communication between the government and the media.
 - It was established in 1919 with its headquarters in New Delhi.
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol: The PIB is an executive agency (not statutory) established in 1919 and headquartered in New Delhi. It facilitates communication between the government and the public/media.

Q81. Which of the following is not a ground for imposing reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution?

- Security of the state
- Public order
- Contempt of court
- Gender equality

Ans: d

Sol: Reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) can be imposed for reasons such as security of the state, public order, contempt of court, defamation, friendly relations with foreign states, incitement to an offense, sovereignty and integrity of India, and decency or morality. Gender equality is not listed as a ground for such restrictions.

Topic 28

28. Removal of Judges

- As per the Constitution, Judges can be removed on the ground of-

- Proved misbehaviour
- Incapacity

Process of removal of Judges

- According to Article 124(4), a judge of the Supreme Court (or any High Court) can be removed from office.



- The **removal** can be done **only "by an order of the President"** passed **after** an address by **each House of Parliament** supported by a-
 1. **majority of the total membership** of that House, and
 2. a **majority of not less than two-thirds** of the members of the House **present and voting**
- has been presented to the President in the **same session for such removal.**

Note-

- The **constitution** provides that a **judge can be removed** only by an **order of the president**, based on a **motion passed by both houses of parliament**. The **procedure** for removal of judges is elaborated in the **Judges Inquiry Act, 1968.**
- Till date, **no judge** of the **higher judiciary (Supreme Court and High Courts)** has been **successfully impeached.**

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

- ▶ A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.

- ▶ If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee to investigate** into the charges is constituted.

- ▶ If the committee finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (**misbehaviour or incapacity**), the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.

Special majority: Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.

- ▶ Once, the House in which removal motion was introduced passes it with **special majority**, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority.

- ▶ After the motion is passed, an **address** is presented to the President for removal of the judge. The President then passes an order removing the judge.



Q82. On which of the following grounds can a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court be removed as per the Indian Constitution?

- Proved misbehaviour or incapacity
- Corruption or inefficiency

- Lack of majority support in Parliament
- Political differences

Ans: a

Sol: As per Article 124(4), a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be removed only on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Q83. Consider the following statements regarding the process of removal of a judge in India:

- The motion for removal must be passed by both Houses of Parliament by a simple majority.
- The Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, elaborates the procedure for the removal of judges.
- No judge of the higher judiciary has been successfully impeached to date.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Removal of a judge requires a special majority: a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, provides the detailed procedure for the removal of judges.
- Statement 3: Correct. Till date, no judge of the Supreme Court or High Court has been successfully impeached in India.

Q84. Which of the following is not a requirement for the removal of a Supreme Court judge in India?

- Proved misbehavior or incapacity
- An address by both Houses of Parliament
- Special majority in both Houses of Parliament
- Approval by the Chief Justice of India

Ans: d

Sol: The process of removal of a judge involves proved misbehaviour or incapacity, a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority, and an order by the President.



Approval from the Chief Justice of India is not required.

Topic 29

29. 10 years of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

(See this topic in link with topic 14 of day 2)

Swachh Bharat Mission

- Launched on **October 2, 2014.**
- SBM aimed to **eliminate open defecation** in India by **October 2, 2019,** the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**

Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0

- Goal-Making all Indian cities "garbage-free" by 2026.

Other key features of Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II

1. Sustaining ODF Status

- Ensuring that villages remain Open Defecation Free by preventing a return to open defecation practices.

2. ODF+

- Focuses on the functionality and maintenance of public and community toilets along with sustained ODF behavior by building toilets in newly constructed houses.

3. ODF++

- Further includes the safe management of solid and liquid waste.



Q85. What was the primary objective of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) launched on October 2, 2014?

- (a) Ensuring safe drinking water for all
- (b) Eliminating open defecation in India by 2019
- (c) Achieving a garbage-free India by 2026
- (d) Promoting 100% waste recycling in urban areas

Ans: b

Sol: The Swachh Bharat Mission aimed to eliminate open defecation by October 2, 2019, coinciding with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Q86. Consider the following statements about ODF+ and ODF++ under the Swachh Bharat Mission:

1. ODF+ focuses on the functionality and maintenance of public and community toilets.
2. ODF++ includes the safe management of both solid and liquid waste.

3. ODF+ automatically includes the goals of ODF++.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:-

1. Statement 1: Correct. ODF+ focuses on maintaining public and community toilets and



ensuring sustained open defecation-free behaviour.

2. Statement 2: Correct. ODF++ extends to include the safe management of solid and liquid waste in addition to ODF+ goals.
3. Statement 3: Incorrect. ODF+ does not automatically include the goals of ODF++. ODF++ adds an additional layer of waste management.

Q87. Which of the following correctly highlights a key difference between Swachh Bharat Mission Phase I and Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II?

- (a) Phase I focused on waste segregation, while Phase II focused on building household toilets.
- (b) Phase I aimed to eliminate open defecation, while Phase II focuses on making cities garbage-free.
- (c) Phase I addressed rural sanitation, while Phase II addresses urban sanitation exclusively.
- (d) Phase I included liquid waste management, while Phase II excluded it.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission (2014-2019) focused on eliminating open defecation by building toilets and promoting sanitation practices.
- Phase II (2021-2026) emphasizes making Indian cities garbage-free through effective waste management and sustaining ODF practices.

Topic 30

30. Antimicrobial resistance

Microbes:

- Microorganism that causes disease. Ex: Bacteria, Viruses, Fungi, Parasites etc.

Antimicrobial drugs:

- Medicine that kill microbes

Antimicrobial resistance:

- When microbes become resistant to drug used.

Reasons

- Taking **incorrect doses of antibiotics** (India is the world's largest consumer of antibiotics)
- Using **antibiotics in livestock farming**

- **release of waste water** from pharma industries

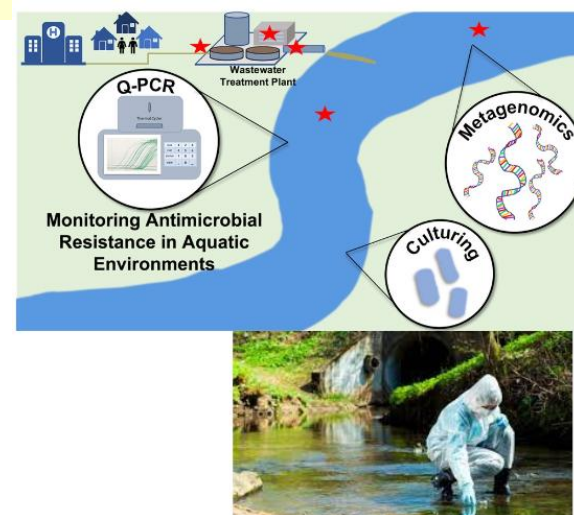
Initiatives

Internationals

- **The Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System by WHO**

India's Red Line Campaign-

- **antibiotics with a red line** to be sold only with **doctor's prescription**



Q88. Consider the following statements about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

1. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and fungi develop the ability to resist the drugs designed to kill them.



2. The overuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture contributes to the emergence of AMR.

3. AMR is not a global health concern as it primarily affects low-income countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct. AMR occurs when microorganisms like bacteria, viruses, and fungi evolve to resist the effects of antimicrobial drugs, making infections harder to treat.
2. Statement 2: Correct. Overuse and misuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture are significant contributors to the development of AMR.
3. Statement 3: Incorrect. AMR is a global health concern, affecting both high-income and low-income countries, with severe implications for public health worldwide.

Q89. Which of the following statements about the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) by WHO is correct?

- (a) GLASS was established to monitor antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends globally.
- (b) GLASS exclusively focuses on tracking antibiotic use in the agricultural sector.
- (c) GLASS provides data only for high-income countries with advanced healthcare systems.
- (d) GLASS aims to reduce antibiotic production worldwide.

Ans: a

Sol: The Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) to collect and share data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use globally. It does not limit its focus to the agricultural sector, high-income countries, or reducing antibiotic production but rather aims to address AMR comprehensively.

Q90. Consider the following statements regarding India's Red Line Campaign:

1. The Red Line Campaign aims to create awareness about the proper use of antibiotics to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

2. Under this campaign, a red line is marked on antibiotic packages to indicate that they should not be taken without a doctor's prescription.

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

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Statement 1: Correct. The Red Line Campaign was launched to promote awareness about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and encourage the responsible use of antibiotics.
2. Statement 2: Correct. A red line is marked on the packaging of antibiotics to alert consumers that these medicines should not be taken without a doctor's prescription to avoid misuse and overuse.

Day 4

Topic 31

31. National Testing House (NTH) for Drones certification

National Test House

- a premier institution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- It is central government's industrial testing laboratory.
- deals with almost all sorts of testing, calibration and quality evaluation related to industry, commerce, trade etc.
- headquarters-Kolkata

Current news?

- The Quality Control of India(QCI) has approved the National Test House (NTH), as the certifying body for drones.

Quality Control of India



- a **non-profit organization** registered under **Societies Registration Act**
- It is **national body of accreditation** (quality rating).
- QCI was set up through a **PPP model**.
- Nodal Ministry is **Ministry of Commerce (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion)**.
- **3 private entities support it-**
 - a. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**)
 - b. Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**)
 - c. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**)
 - Chairman of QCI is **appointed by the Prime Minister**

Quality Council of India (QCI) gives rating to **Hospitals, Educational Institutions, Laboratories, Manufacturing Units and MSMEs etc**



Q91. The National Test House was originally established during British India to cater to the needs of which industry?

- (a) Iron and Steel
- (b) Textiles
- (c) Railways
- (d) Agriculture

Ans: c

Q92. With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements:

1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.

2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1: QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.

- This is correct. The Quality Council of India (QCI) was established as a public-private partnership (PPP) model by the Government of India along with three premier industry associations: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Statement 2: Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.

- This is also correct. The Chairman of QCI is indeed appointed by the Prime Minister of India based on recommendations from the industry associations to the government.

Q93. Which of the following is NOT a constituent board under the Quality Council of India (QCI)?

- (a) National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)
- (b) National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)
- (c) National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)
- (d) National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

Ans: d

Topic 32

32. Expansion of PM Jan Arogya Yojana- Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana

- The Union Cabinet announced the **expansion** of the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** (AB PM-JAY) to provide **health coverage** to **"all senior citizens aged 70 years and above"**—irrespective of their income".

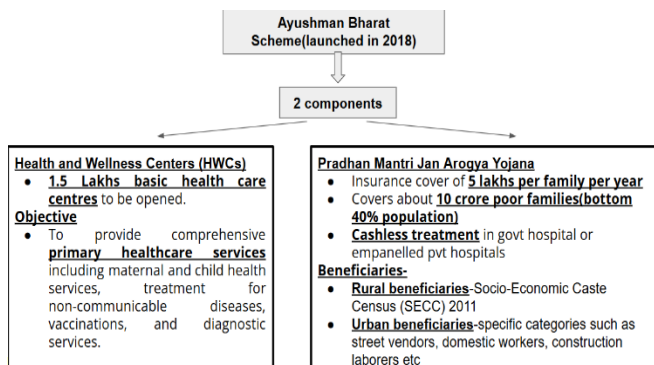


- The **scheme** that allows **extension of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** to **all senior citizen** has been named **Ayushman vay Vandana Yojana**.

Ayushman vay Vandana Yojana

- centrally sponsored scheme**
- Centre** will make **60% of the contribution** (for hilly regions and the Northeast the Centre will bear 90% of the cost)

Note-The **ultimate aim** of PM Jan Arogya Yojana is to provide **universal health coverage**.



there is no fee for registering under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). The registration process is entirely free of charge for eligible beneficiaries.

Q94. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme aims to improve healthcare in India through various initiatives. Evaluate the following statements:

- It provides health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
 - The scheme is targeted at individuals from the upper-middle-class segment to expand healthcare access.
 - Ayushman Bharat includes two components: the Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) All 3
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Ayushman Bharat provides health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per

family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- Statement 2: Incorrect. The scheme targets economically weaker sections, not upper-middle-class individuals.
- Statement 3: Correct. The scheme includes HWCs for primary healthcare and PM-JAY for financial protection in hospitalization.

Q95. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is a critical component of Ayushman Bharat. Consider the following statements:

- PM-JAY is the world's largest government-funded health insurance program.
 - It covers both pre-hospitalization and post-hospitalization expenses.
 - PM-JAY beneficiaries are selected based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All 3

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. PM-JAY is globally recognized as the largest government-funded health insurance program.
- Statement 2: Correct. It covers pre- and post-hospitalization expenses to ease the financial burden on beneficiaries.
- Statement 3: Correct. The SECC database is used to identify eligible households under the scheme.

Q96. Consider the following statements regarding the Ayushman Bharat Scheme:

- The Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) focus on providing comprehensive primary healthcare services.
- The scheme exclusively covers rural households and excludes urban beneficiaries.
- Ayushman Bharat promotes the use of digital health records through the National Health Authority.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 3
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) All 3



Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. HWCs aim to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare, including preventive and promotive services.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The scheme covers both rural and urban households, as identified by the SECC.
- Statement 3: Correct. Digital health initiatives like maintaining health records are encouraged under Ayushman Bharat, overseen by the National Health Authority.

Topic 33

33. SC on Child pornography

Protection of Children against Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act, 2012

- Prevent sexual harassment of children
- Prevent deployment of children in pornography.

Definition of Children

- “Children” according to the Act are individuals aged below **18 years**.
- The Act is gender neutral.

Aggravated crime

- When the child is mentally ill.
- When the abuse is committed by the person in a position of trust such as doctor, teacher, policeman, family member.

Investigation Process

- Investigation process as **child-friendly** as possible
- **POCSO e- Box**- For online complaint

Punishment

- Up to **death sentence**

Current news?

- As per SC viewing in private, downloading, storing, possessing, distributing or displaying pornographic acts involving children is a criminal offence under POCSO Act.

POCSO(Amendment) Act 2019

- mandatory to report such cases (legal duty if a person is aware of such crime).
- In case he fails to do so, the person can be punished with six months imprisonment or fine.
- punishment against false complaints or untrue information.

Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

- National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) /State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (**SCPCR**s) have been made responsible to oversee implementation of POCSO Act.

NCPCR/SCPCR are statutory bodies created under Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

Q97. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, aims to safeguard children against sexual exploitation. Evaluate the following statements:

1. The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.
2. The Act provides for mandatory reporting of sexual offenses against children.
3. Consent of the child is a valid defence for the accused under the POCSO Act.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All 3
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The POCSO Act defines a child as any individual below 18 years of age.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Act mandates the reporting of offenses; failure to do so is punishable.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Consent of the child is not a valid defence under the POCSO Act, as minors are legally incapable of providing consent.

Q98. Consider the following statements about the judicial procedures outlined in the POCSO Act, 2012:

1. The Act requires that cases be disposed of within one year from the date of reporting.
2. Special courts are established to handle cases under the POCSO Act.
3. The identity of the child victim must remain confidential throughout the trial process.

Which of the above statements are correct?



- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All 3

Ans: d

Sol:-

- Statement 1: Correct. The Act emphasizes speedy trial and mandates that cases be resolved within one year.
- Statement 2: Correct. Special courts are designated to ensure sensitivity and efficiency in handling such cases.
- Statement 3: Correct. Maintaining the confidentiality of the victim's identity is a core principle of the Act to protect the child's dignity.

Q99. Evaluate the following statements regarding offenses under the POCSO Act:

1. The Act criminalizes both penetrative and non-penetrative sexual offenses against children.
2. The Act does not recognize sexual harassment as a punishable offense against children.
3. The Act includes provisions for the punishment of abetment or attempt to commit an offense.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 3
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Act criminalizes both penetrative and non-penetrative sexual offenses.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. Sexual harassment against children is a punishable offense under the POCSO Act.
- Statement 3: Correct. The Act includes penalties for abetment and attempts to commit sexual offenses against children.

Topic 34

34. National credit Framework and Academic Credit Bank

National Education Policy 2020 attempted to provide **flexibility** to the students with respect to following-



- **Learn at their own pace**
- eg Not necessary to complete an **engineering degree in 4 years**
- **Select different courses from different institutions** while completing a degree-
- It will allow students to make **specific modifications/specialisations** to their degree programmes rather than undergoing the **regularly prescribed degree/courses.**
- For this purpose **National credit Framework** was notified by **the government in April 2023.**

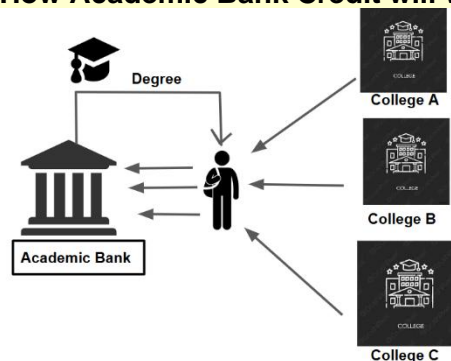
National credit Framework

- **National Credit Framework** aims to **integrate various learning streams** and enhance **educational flexibility**.
- **National Credit Framework** will work in **coordination with Academic Bank Credit**.

Academic Bank Credit (ABC)

- The ABC is a **digital platform** that supports the NCrf by **managing the storage, retrieval, and accumulation of academic credits.**

How Academic Bank Credit will work?



Q100. Evaluate the following statements regarding the National Education Policy 2020:

1. The NEP 2020 aims to achieve a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
2. The policy introduces a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure, replacing the traditional 10+2 system.
3. NEP 2020 mandates all higher education institutions to offer courses exclusively in regional languages by 2035.

Which many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 1 and 2
(c) All 3
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The NEP 2020 sets a target of achieving a 100% GER in school education by 2030.
- Statement 2: Correct. The policy replaces the 10+2 system with the 5+3+3+4 structure, emphasizing foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary stages of education.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. While the policy promotes the use of regional languages, it does not mandate that all higher education courses be taught exclusively in these languages by 2035.

Q101. Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of the National Credit Framework (NCrF):

1. The framework aims to facilitate lifelong learning and recognition of prior learning.
2. NCrF mandates that all universities implement a uniform curriculum across the country.
3. The framework enhances mobility between skill training, vocational education, and general education.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. NCrF promotes lifelong learning and recognizes prior learning to facilitate flexible learning pathways.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The framework does not mandate a uniform curriculum but focuses on credit recognition and transfer.
- Statement 3: Correct. The framework improves mobility between skill-based, vocational, and academic education systems.

Q102. Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC):

1. To enhance student mobility across higher education institutions and disciplines.
 2. To restrict students from earning credits through online or distance learning programs.
 3. To encourage multidisciplinary education by allowing credit transfer across diverse programs.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. ABC enables students to move across institutions and disciplines, promoting flexibility in higher education.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. ABC supports earning credits through various modes, including online and distance learning.
- Statement 3: Correct. ABC fosters multidisciplinary education by allowing students to combine credits from different fields of study.

Topic 35

35. Digital Personal Protection Act and Right to 'informational privacy'

What is 'informational privacy'?

- **All information** about that person should be used **only after consent** of the person
- SC elaborated '**informational privacy**' as part of **Right to privacy** thus directed government to protect it..
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** was enacted to ensure '**informational privacy**'.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- It is a **comprehensive privacy and data protection law** that provides guidelines on **processing, storing and securing personal data**.
- It recognises the **rights and duties** of '**data principal**' '**data fiduciary**' and '**data processor**'.

Rights of data principal-

- To **obtain information** about processing of his/her data.
- To **seek correction and erasure** of personal data

Duties of Data Principals

- Data Principals must **not register a false or frivolous complaint**
- Not furnish any **false particulars or impersonate another person**.

Obligations of data fiduciaries and data processors



- Data fiduciary must build **reasonable security safeguards** to prevent a data breach.
- **Erase personal data** as soon as the **purpose has been met**.

SC in K.S. Puttaswamy judgement 2017

Right to Privacy a **Fundamental right** under Article 21

Right to Privacy entails **informational privacy**

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 to ensure **informational privacy**



Who is 'data principal' 'data fiduciary' and 'data processor'?

- For instance, **Google collects information** from its users and then **sends it to a third party** to process the same.
- **Google** will be the **data fiduciary** while the **third party** will be the **data processor**.

Q103. Evaluate the following statements regarding informational privacy:

1. Informational privacy pertains to the control individuals have over the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information.
2. It is protected under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, as recognized by the Supreme Court.
3. Informational privacy includes the right to remain anonymous in all digital communications.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All 3
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Informational privacy relates to individuals' ability to control their personal data and how it is handled.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Supreme Court of India, in the Puttaswamy v. Union of India

judgment (2017), recognized informational privacy as part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21.

- Statement 3: Incorrect. While informational privacy may include the right to anonymity, it is not an absolute right in all digital communications and may be subject to reasonable restrictions.

Q104. Evaluate the following statements regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:

1. The Act applies to the processing of personal data collected both online and offline.
2. It mandates that data fiduciaries obtain explicit consent from data principals before processing their personal data.
3. The Act establishes the Data Protection Board of India to oversee compliance and adjudicate disputes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. The Act applies to digital personal data and to offline data that is digitized, but it does not cover personal data that remains in non-digital form.
- Statement 2: Correct. Data fiduciaries are required to obtain explicit consent from data principals before processing their personal data, ensuring informed and specific agreement.
- Statement 3: Correct. The Act establishes the Data Protection Board of India to monitor compliance, address grievances, and adjudicate disputes related to data protection.

Q105. Evaluate the following statements regarding the obligations imposed on data fiduciaries by the Act:

1. Implement reasonable security safeguards to prevent data breaches.
2. Notify the Data Protection Board of India and affected data principals in the event of a personal data breach.
3. Conduct Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) for all data processing activities.



Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Data fiduciaries are obligated to implement reasonable security measures to protect personal data from unauthorized access or breaches.
- Statement 2: Correct. In the event of a personal data breach, data fiduciaries must promptly notify both the Data Protection Board of India and the affected data principals.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Act does not mandate Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) for all data processing activities; such assessments are typically required under specific circumstances.

Topic 36

36. Sub classification of SC, ST community

Article 15

- **Article 15(1)**-The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- **Article 15(2)**-No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any restriction to access to public places like shops, public restaurants, hotels, wells, tanks, bathing ghats, etc
- **Article 15(3)**-Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children.
- **Article 15(4)**-Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Article 16

- **Article 16(1)**-There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.

- **Article 16(2)**-No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.
- **Article 16(3)**-Power to make domicile based reservation in jobs is vested only with the Parliament, and not the State legislatures.
- **Article 16(4)**-Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.

Current case?

- **Article 15(4)** and **Article 16(4)** provides provision for reservation in government jobs for SC, ST and OBC community
- Recently SC the 'creamy layer' principle, previously applied only to (OBCs) (as highlighted in Indra Sawhney Case), should now also be applied to SCs and STs ie exclude the creamy layer within SCs and STs from reservation benefits.

Q106. Evaluate the following statements about Article 16(3) of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 16(3) empowers Parliament to make laws providing domicile-based reservation in public employment.
2. The domicile-based reservation under Article 16(3) can be introduced by both Parliament and state legislatures.
3. Laws made under Article 16(3) override the general provision of equality of opportunity in public employment.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Article 16(3) explicitly empowers Parliament, not state legislatures, to make laws for providing domicile-based reservations in public employment for positions under the jurisdiction of a particular state or Union Territory.



- Statement 2: Incorrect. Only Parliament has the power to enact laws under Article 16(3); state legislatures do not have this authority.
- Statement 3: Correct. Laws made under Article 16(3) create an exception to the general principle of equality in public employment guaranteed under Article 16(1) and (2).

Q107. Consider the following statements regarding the legal and constitutional aspects of sub-classification of SCs/STs:

1. Article 341 and Article 342 of the Indian Constitution empower the President to specify the SC and ST lists for each state.
2. Sub-classification of SCs/STs requires a constitutional amendment.
3. The Supreme Court's ruling in *E. V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh* (2005) categorically prohibits sub-classification of SC/ST communities.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Articles 341 and 342 specify the power of the President to identify SC and ST lists for each state and allow Parliament to make changes to these lists.
- Statement 2: Correct. Sub-classification of SC/ST communities, if it significantly alters the constitutional intent, may require a constitutional amendment, depending on the approach taken by the legislature or judiciary.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The *E. V. Chinnaiah* judgment of 2005 questioned sub-classification but did not categorically prohibit it. Later cases have nuanced this interpretation. In 2024 SC asked the State to make sub-classification of SCs/STs.

Q108. Evaluate the following challenges associated with sub-classification of SC/ST communities:

1. Sub-classification may lead to fragmentation and rivalry among SC/ST communities.
2. It requires extensive socio-economic data to justify equitable distribution.

3. The Constitution of India explicitly prohibits sub-classification of SC/ST communities.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Sub-classification, while aimed at addressing inequities, can create intra-community tensions and political rivalries.
- Statement 2: Correct. A credible sub-classification requires detailed socio-economic studies and data to justify the need for redistributing benefits.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Constitution does not explicitly prohibit sub-classification but does not directly provide for it either; the judiciary has interpreted its permissibility based on specific cases.

Topic 37

37. Creamy layer for OBC reservation

Article 15(4)

- Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any **socially and educationally backward classes** of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- **Similar provisions** are mentioned in **Article 16 regarding Public employment**.

Question was raised in Parliament who are these "socially and educationally backward classes" referred by the constitution in Article 15 and 16?

- In **1979 Janta Party Government** constituted the **Mandal Commission**, or the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC) to **"identify the socially or educationally backward classes" of India**.

Recommendation of Mandal Commission

- **52%** of India's **population** recognised as OBC
- **27 % reservations** for **jobs**

Implementation of Mandal Commission recommendation

- **1990**, the then **Prime Minister V P Singh** implemented

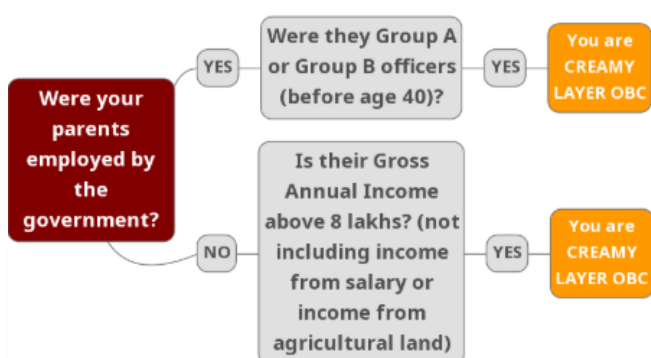


- overall reservation would be **49.5%(15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs).**

Constitutionality of OBC reservation what challenged in the Supreme Court in **Indra Sawhney case 1992**

SC in Indra Sawhney case of 1992

- It declared OBC reservation is **constitutional**.
- Overall reservation should **not exceed 50%.**
- In some **extraordinary situations** this 50% limit can be **breached** but the government should be **very cautious in providing reservation beyond 50%.**
- Concept of **Creamy layer should be applied.**



Definition of Creamy layer in OBC

Q109. Evaluate the following criteria used to determine the creamy layer among OBCs:

1. Income from salary and agricultural land is considered while calculating the annual income of an individual.
 2. Children of Group A and Group B officers are considered part of the creamy layer.
 3. The annual income threshold for determining the creamy layer has been revised periodically.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Income from salary and agricultural land is excluded when calculating the annual income for determining creamy layer status. Only income from other sources,

such as business and investments, is considered.

- The income limit for the creamy layer is currently Rs 8 lakh per year, and it applies to income from sources other than salary and agricultural income. The income threshold is revised every three years, but it was last updated in 2017.
- Statement 2: Correct. Children of Group A and certain Group B officers are classified as part of the creamy layer, irrespective of their family income.
- Statement 3: Correct. The income threshold for determining creamy layer status is revised periodically by the government to reflect economic changes.

Q110. Consider the following outcomes of the Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992) judgment:

1. The creamy layer concept was introduced to exclude economically advanced individuals within the OBC category from reservation benefits.
2. The judgment permitted reservations in promotions for OBCs.
3. The Court emphasized the need for periodic review of backward classes to ensure that only genuinely disadvantaged groups benefit from reservations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The creamy layer exclusion was introduced to ensure that the benefits of reservation reach the truly disadvantaged sections within the OBC category.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The Court explicitly ruled that reservations in promotions are not allowed for OBCs.
- Statement 3: Correct. The judgment called for periodic review to ensure that backward classes do not remain static categories and only those deserving of reservations benefit.



Q111. Evaluate the following statements about constitutional provisions as interpreted in the *Indira Sawhney v. Union of India* (1992) case:

1. Article 16(4) was held to allow reservations for socially and educationally backward classes.
2. The judgment interpreted Article 15(4) to provide reservations in educational institutions.
3. Article 335, which ensures the efficiency of administration, was deemed irrelevant to the reservation policy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Article 16(4) was interpreted to justify reservations for socially and educationally backward classes in public employment.
- Statement 2: Correct. Article 15(4), which allows special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes, was also upheld for reservations in educational institutions.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Article 335, concerning administrative efficiency, was considered relevant but secondary to the broader goal of social justice.

Topic 38

38. Privilege motion against Education Minister

Parliamentary Privileges

- **Rights and immunities** enjoyed by members of Parliament.

- **Individually** and **collectively**.

Purpose-To enable the legislators to **“effectively discharge their functions”**

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 105**- for Members of Parliament
- **Article 194**- for MLAs

Rights and immunities available under Parliamentary Privileges-

1. **Freedom of Speech**-No member can be taken to explain their statement anywhere outside the four walls of the House (eg Court)

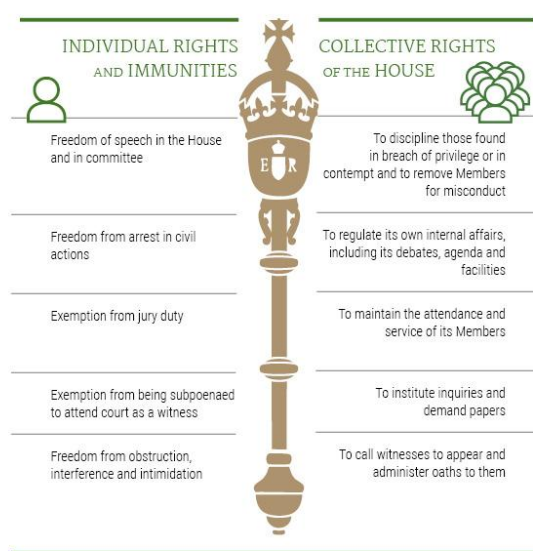
2. **Freedom from Arrest**-no member shall be arrested in a **civil case 40 days before and after** the adjournment of the House.
3. **Right to punish** members and outsiders for breach of its privileges.
4. **Exemption from attendance as witnesses** in any court of law.

Breach of parliamentary privileges-

- Any MP who believes that a breach of privilege has occurred can bring the matter to the attention of the House by moving a **privilege motion**.
- The MP must give notice to the **Speaker** of the **Lok Sabha** or the **Chairman** of the **Rajya Sabha**, outlining the specifics of the alleged breach.
- Then matter can be referred to **Committee of Privilege** of the house.
- The Committee conducts a **thorough investigation** and submits **report** to the house.

Actions that the House can take include- Reprimand, Apology, Suspension, Imprisonment

- The **final decision** on the Privilege Motion- **Speaker in LS/Chairperson in RS**



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accused misuse of privileges by misleading the House on the issue of **dropping the Preamble from NCERT textbooks**

Q112. Evaluate the following statements regarding parliamentary privileges in India:

1. Parliamentary privileges are special rights, exemptions, and immunities granted to Members of Parliament (MPs) and state legislatures.
2. The privileges are explicitly enumerated in the Constitution of India under Article 105.
3. These privileges apply only when Parliament is in session.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All 3
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Parliamentary privileges provide MPs and state legislatures with special rights to perform their duties without undue interference.
- Statement 2: Correct. Article 105 of the Constitution outlines parliamentary privileges but also refers to those recognized by other laws or conventions.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Privileges are not limited to the session period and can extend beyond it, such as immunity from certain actions during a member's term.

Q113. Consider the following statements about the relationship between parliamentary privileges and fundamental rights:

1. Parliamentary privileges are subject to fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution.
2. A breach of privilege occurs if a journalist reports verbatim proceedings of Parliament without prior permission.
3. Parliamentary privileges override freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a).

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Parliamentary privileges often supersede fundamental rights to ensure the autonomy and functioning of the legislature.
- Statement 2: Correct. Reporting parliamentary proceedings verbatim without authorization may lead to a breach of privilege in certain cases.
- Statement 3: Correct. Privileges like immunity from legal proceedings for speeches in Parliament can override Article 19(1)(a).

Q114. Evaluate the following statements about breaches of parliamentary privileges:

1. Breach of privilege involves any act that obstructs or impairs the functioning of Parliament or its members.
 2. Contempt of Parliament includes actions that undermine the authority or dignity of the legislature.
 3. The punishment for breach of privilege can be determined by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha without consultation.
- Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. A breach of privilege refers to actions that hinder the work or integrity of Parliament or its members.
- Statement 2: Correct. Contempt of Parliament involves undermining its authority or violating its rules.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The punishment for breach of privilege is decided collectively by the House, not unilaterally by the Speaker or Chairman.

Topic 39

39. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

(Read it in line with topic 33)

What is a correctional home?



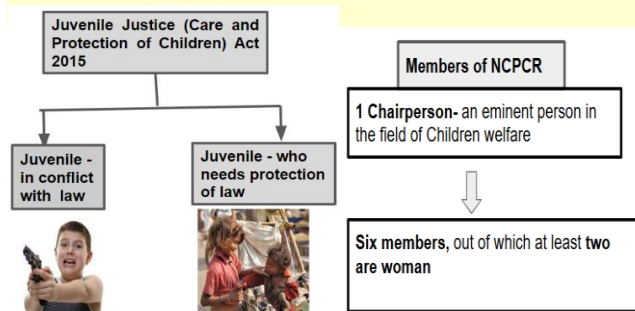
- A correctional home for children, often referred to as a **juvenile detention center**.
- It is a facility designed to **house minors** who are in **conflict with the law**.
- These institutions aim to **provide care, protection, treatment, education, and vocational training** to rehabilitate **young offenders** rather than merely **punishing them**.
- In India, the operation of **correctional homes for children** is governed by the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** (be covered separately)

Issue

- 13 out of 77 inmates at a **correctional home in Jorhat** were reported to be **infected with HIV**.
- **Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR)** must do audit of **correctional homes**.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- **Statutory body**—Created under **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**.
- Works under **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, Government of India.
- At **state level** also a similar body has been created under the act eg Assam State Commission of Protection of Child Rights.



Q115. Evaluate the following statements regarding the rehabilitation and penalties provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015:

1. The Act prioritizes rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles through counseling, education, and skill development.
2. Children in conflict with the law can be sentenced to life imprisonment or the death penalty if the crime is heinous.
3. Foster care, adoption, and sponsorship are some of the measures provided for children in need of care and protection.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Act focuses on rehabilitating juveniles and reintegrating them into society.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The Act explicitly prohibits life imprisonment and the death penalty for juveniles.
- Statement 3: Correct. Measures like foster care, adoption, and sponsorship aim to provide care and protection for vulnerable children.

Q116. Evaluate the following statements regarding the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. The NCPCR is a statutory body established under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
2. Its primary objective is to ensure that all laws, policies, and programs are aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
3. The NCPCR has jurisdiction over all children in India, defined as individuals up to the age of 21 years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The NCPCR is a statutory body established under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.
- Statement 2: Correct. One of its objectives is to align national child-related frameworks with international conventions like the UNCRC.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The NCPCR considers individuals up to the age of 18 years as children, consistent with the UNCRC and Indian laws.



Q117. Consider the following statements about the powers and jurisdiction of the NCPCR:

1. The NCPCR can take suo moto cognizance of child rights violations.
2. It has the power to summon and examine witnesses under the same provisions as a civil court.
3. The commission is authorized to monitor the implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The NCPCR can take suo moto cognizance of cases involving the violation of child rights.
- Statement 2: Correct. The commission has powers equivalent to a civil court for summoning individuals, examining witnesses, and receiving evidence.
- Statement 3: Correct. The NCPCR monitors the implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009, to ensure access to free and compulsory education for children.

Topic 40

40. Mission Vatsalya

Integrated Programme for Street Children

- Initiative by India's Ministry of **Women and Child Development**.
- Aimed at **preventing the destitution of street children** and providing them with essential services such as shelter, nutrition, healthcare, education, and recreational facility.
- In **2010**, this program was merged into the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)** to create a more **comprehensive framework** for child protection in India.
- By **2021-22**, the **ICPS** was restructured and reintroduced as **Mission Vatsalya**, continuing the government's commitment to child welfare and protection.



Q118. Evaluate the following statements about Mission Vatsalya:

1. Mission Vatsalya aims to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of children in need of care and protection.
2. The mission promotes family-based non-institutional care such as foster care and adoption.
3. It focuses exclusively on children living in urban areas.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Mission Vatsalya focuses on protecting children who are vulnerable or in need of care and protection.
- Statement 2: Correct. The mission emphasizes family-based care, including foster care and adoption, to reduce reliance on institutional care.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Mission Vatsalya is applicable across both rural and urban areas.

Q119. Consider the following statements regarding the components of Mission Vatsalya:

1. The mission provides financial assistance to states for the establishment and maintenance of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).
2. It includes initiatives for the training and capacity building of stakeholders involved in child welfare.
3. It mandates the closure of all institutional care facilities for children.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3



- (c) Only 2 and
(d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Mission Vatsalya offers financial support to states for running and maintaining Child Care Institutions.
- Statement 2: Correct. Training and capacity building are critical components of the mission to enhance child welfare outcomes.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The mission does not mandate the closure of institutional care but emphasizes reducing dependence on it through alternatives like family-based care.

Q120. Evaluate the following statements about the implementation of Mission Vatsalya:

1. The mission is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
2. States and Union Territories are required to prepare annual action plans for effective implementation.
3. Mission Vatsalya replaces all existing child welfare schemes at the state level.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Mission Vatsalya is overseen by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Statement 2: Correct. States and Union Territories must draft annual action plans to align with the mission's goals.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The mission complements and integrates existing child welfare schemes but does not replace all state-level programs.

Day 5

Topic 41

41. Minimum age of marriage for women

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006

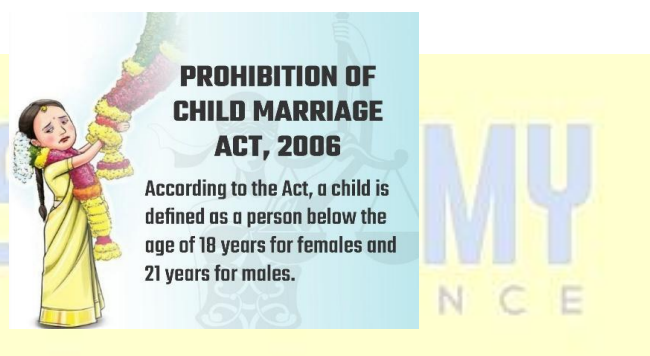
- legal age for marriage at **21** for **men** and **18** for **women**.

Punishment for Solemnizing Child Marriage

- imprisonment up to two years and a fine up to one lakh rupees

Offences to be Cognizable and Non-Bailable:

- means the accused can be arrested without a warrant and bail is not a right but a discretion of the court.
- State Governments to appoint 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' for specific areas to prevent child marriages.
- If a **man** marries a girl below 18 years he can be punished under **POCSO Act**.
- On recommendation of **Jaya Jaitly committee** the Government has introduced a bill namely **'the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021** for raising the age of marriage of women to **21 years** to make it at par with the men.



Why in news?

- The **HIMACHAL PRADESH Assembly** passed a Bill to raise the minimum age of marriage for **women** from **18 to 21 years**.

Q121. Evaluate the following statements regarding the minimum age of marriage for women:

1. Setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 aims to prevent early pregnancy and its associated health risks.
2. In some countries, traditional practices override the statutory minimum age of marriage for women.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: c



Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Establishing the minimum age of marriage at 18 helps prevent early pregnancy, which can have significant health implications for young women.

Statement 2 is correct: In many countries, customary or religious practices may permit marriage below the statutory minimum age, creating challenges in enforcing the legal standard.

Q122. Evaluate the following statements regarding the minimum age of marriage for women:

1. The minimum legal age for women to marry in India is 18 years.
2. The minimum age for women to marry under international law is uniformly 18 years across all countries.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: In India, the legal minimum age for marriage for women is 18 years, as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. Statement 2 is incorrect: The minimum age of marriage for women is not uniformly set at 18 years across all countries. Different nations have varying legal frameworks and cultural norms regarding this age.

Q123. Evaluate the following statements regarding the Jaya Jaitly Committee:

1. The Jaya Jaitly Committee was formed to examine the minimum age of marriage for women in India.
2. One of the committee's recommendations was to increase the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years.
3. The committee focused solely on legal reforms, excluding considerations related to women's health and education.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- (a) Only 1

(b) Only 2

(c) All 3

(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The Jaya Jaitly Committee was established to study the implications of raising the minimum age of marriage for women and provide recommendations.

Statement 2 is correct: The committee recommended increasing the legal minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years to promote gender parity and address issues such as early pregnancies.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The committee's scope extended beyond legal reforms to include considerations of women's health, education, and social empowerment.

Topic 42

42. Article 254

Article 254 of the Constitution

- If the state legislature enacts a law dealing with a subject in the Concurrent List, and that law is inconsistent with a central law, then the inconsistent portion of the state law will be "void".

Exception to this is provided under Article 254(2)

- If the Bill in question is inconsistent to a law made by Parliament, the Bill must be reserved for the President's consideration and needs to receive her assent as per Article 201.
- Only then can the inconsistent provision in the state law be valid.

Article 201

- Regulates the President's assent to a bill reserved for consideration by the Governor.

Note-

- Marriage and divorce are mentioned under the Concurrent List.
- Thus if the bill passed by Himachal Pradesh assembly is finally given assent by the President then it will remain valid.





Q124. Marriage and divorce are part of which list under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

Options:

- (a) Union List
- (b) State List
- (c) Concurrent List
- (d) Residuary List

Ans: c

Sol:

- Marriage and divorce fall under the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, meaning both the Union and State legislatures have the authority to make laws on these matters.
- This arrangement ensures a uniform legal framework for marriage and divorce while allowing states to address regional or cultural variations where necessary.

Q125. Evaluate the following statements regarding Article 254 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 254 deals with the doctrine of repugnancy in cases where laws made by the Parliament and State legislatures are inconsistent.
2. If there is a conflict between a State law and a Central law on a subject in the Concurrent List, the Central law prevails.
3. A State law inconsistent with a Central law can prevail if it receives Presidential assent.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1,2 only
- (b) 2,3 only
- (c) 1,3 only

(d) 1,2,3 all

Ans: d

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Article 254 addresses conflicts between laws made by Parliament and State legislatures under the Concurrent List, establishing the principle of repugnancy.

Statement 2 is correct: In case of a conflict, the Central law generally prevails over the State law on Concurrent List subjects.

Statement 3 is correct: A State law that contradicts a Central law can prevail if it specifically receives the assent of the President, provided it does not subsequently conflict with an amendment or new law by Parliament.

Q126. Evaluate the following statements regarding Article 201 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 201 provides the procedure for the Governor to reserve a State bill for the President's consideration.
2. If the President disapproves a bill reserved under Article 201, it cannot be reintroduced in the State Legislature.
3. The President can either give assent, withhold assent, or return the bill for reconsideration by the State Legislature under Article 201.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All 3
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Article 201 allows the Governor to reserve certain State bills for the President's consideration if they conflict with Central laws or have significant constitutional implications.

Statement 2 is incorrect: If the President disapproves the bill, it cannot take effect but may still be reintroduced in a modified form or subject to the conditions prescribed.

Statement 3 is correct: Under Article 201, the President has the authority to assent, withhold assent, or return the bill (if not a money bill) for reconsideration by the State Legislature.



Topic 43
43. CAG flags concerns with state public debt
Comptroller and Auditor General

- Watchdog institution for **financial accountability of the executives**.
- Constitutional body
- head of the Indian audit & account department

Constitutional Provisions regarding the CAG?

- **Article 148 -CAG appointment**, oath and conditions of service.
- **Article 149-Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General**
- **Article 151** says that the **reports** of CAG - **submitted to the president**-who shall cause them to be laid before each **House of Parliament**.

CAG (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, laid functions of CAG in details

Current news?

- **CAG** has highlighted **issues** with **Assam State's growing public debt**-Public debt constituted **81.98% of the total debt** at the end of 2022-23.

British legacy

- In **1860** **Sir Edward Drummond** was **appointed** as the **first Auditor General**.
- In **1866**, the position was renamed **as CAG**.

CAG in India Different from the CAG in Britain

- **India**-the **CAG audits** the accounts after the expenditure is committed i.e., **ex post facto** (Means Indian CAG is **only Auditor not Comptroller**).
- **UK-no money** can be **drawn** from the public exchequer **without the approval of the CAG**.
- In India, **CAG is not a member** of the **parliament** while in **Britain**; **CAG** is a member of **house of the Commons**.



K Sanjay Murthy has been appointed as the **new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India

Q127. Evaluate the following statements regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG is appointed by the President of India and holds office for a term of 5 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
2. The CAG audits the accounts of both the Union and State governments, as well as government-owned corporations.
3. The reports of the CAG are submitted directly to the Prime Minister for review before being presented to the Parliament.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: The CAG is appointed by the President of India and holds office for a term of 6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Statement 2 is correct: The CAG audits the accounts of the Union, State governments, and government-owned corporations to ensure transparency and accountability in financial matters.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The reports of the CAG are submitted to the President or the Governor, who then lay them before the Parliament or the State Legislature.

Q128. Evaluate the following statements regarding the CAG in India and Britain:

1. In both India and Britain, the CAG is responsible for auditing government accounts and reporting to the Parliament.
2. In India, the CAG is a constitutional authority, while in Britain, it operates under statutory provisions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Ans: c



Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Both in India and Britain, the CAG audits government accounts and ensures accountability to the Parliament. Statement 2 is correct: The CAG in India is a constitutional authority under Article 148 of the Constitution, whereas in Britain, the CAG operates under statutory authority through the National Audit Act, 1983 (Use common sense - Britishers don't have written constitution)

Q129. Who is the current Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India as of November 2024?

Options:

- (a) Rajiv Mehrishi
- (b) Girish Chandra Murmu
- (c) K. Sanjay Murthy
- (d) Vinod Rai

Ans: c

Sol: K. Sanjay Murthy, a 1989-batch IAS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on November 21, 2024. He succeeded Girish Chandra Murmu, who completed his tenure on November 20, 2024. Prior to this appointment, K. Sanjay Murthy served as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education.

Topic 44

44. PARAKH

- Presently, different state and central boards follow different standards of evaluation, leading to wide disparities in scores and confusion among universities to set admission criteria.
- Government created new body is known as **PARAKH**-constituent unit of NCERT as part of NEP 2020.

Role of PARAKH

- set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country.
- To fulfill its commitment **PARAKH** has presented an 'equivalence' report to the **Ministry of Education**.
- **Equivalence report** aims at ensuring that all students, regardless of which board their school is affiliated with, receive a

standardized level of education and facilities.

- PARAKH is funded by World Bank under STARS project.



STARS project

- It is a collaborative initiative between the **Government of India** and the **World Bank**.
- Aims at enhance the quality and governance of school education in 6 states ie **Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala**.
- The STARS Program is part of **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**.

Q130. Which of the following are objectives of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)?

1. Establishing uniform standards for student assessments across various school boards.
2. Providing training to teachers in innovative pedagogical and evaluation techniques.
3. Developing a national-level examination to replace all state-level boards in India.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Objective 1 is correct: PARAKH seeks to bring uniformity in student assessments across different school boards.
- Objective 2 is correct: It emphasizes capacity-building for teachers, including training in innovative assessment methodologies.



- Objective 3 is incorrect: PARAKH does not aim to replace state boards but works to improve and harmonize their evaluation practices.

Q131. Evaluate the following statements regarding PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development):

- PARAKH is a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 initiative aimed at standardizing assessments across all school boards in India.
- PARAKH is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, tasked with improving school-level assessments.
- PARAKH focuses exclusively on assessing the performance of students in science and mathematics subjects.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- Only 1
- Only 2
- All 3
- None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: PARAKH was proposed in NEP 2020 to ensure comparability and consistency in student assessments across different school boards.
- Statement 2 is correct: It functions as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education to reform assessment practices.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: PARAKH aims to assess students holistically, covering various domains, not limited to science and mathematics.

Q132. Evaluate the following statements regarding the STARS Project (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States):

- The STARS Project is supported by the World Bank and aims to improve the quality of education in select Indian states.
- It focuses on enhancing teacher training, assessment systems, and equitable access to education.
- The STARS Project is implemented across all Indian states and union territories.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1,2 only
- 2,3 only
- 1,3 only
- 1,2,3 all

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The STARS Project is a World Bank-supported initiative aimed at improving the quality of education.

Statement 2 is correct: The project focuses on improving teacher training, assessment systems, and ensuring equitable access to quality education.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The project is not implemented in all states; it targets specific states, such as Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, and Odisha.

Topic 45

45. Waqf law

What is a Waqf?

- moveable or immovable properties dedicated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes under the Islamic law.
- Waqf property is non-transferable and held perpetually in the name of God.
- The proceeds from a Waqf is used to fund educational institutions, graveyards, mosques, and shelter homes.

Waqf Board

- a legal entity with nominated members to manage Waqf properties
- Created under the Waqf Act 1995.
- third largest landowner in India after the armed forces and the Indian Railways.

Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024

- Seeks to amend the Waqf Act 1995.
- Aims to restrict the power of Waqf boards to manage its properties.
- Registration with the District Collector's Office mandatory for any Waqf property
- The district collector will be the arbiter to decide whether a property is waqf property or government land and the decision shall be final.





Bill to Amend Waqf Act Proposes Stripping Power from Boards to Decide if Properties are Waqf

The proposed legislation has been criticised by Muslim bodies, who called it an attempt to change the nature of and seize Waqf properties, writes **Sravasti Dasgupta**.



Q133. Evaluate the following statements regarding Waqf law in India:

1. A Waqf is a permanent dedication of property by a Muslim for religious or charitable purposes.
2. The Waqf Act, 1995, established the Central Waqf Council to oversee the administration of Waqf properties.
3. Only immovable property can be dedicated as Waqf under Indian law.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) All 3
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: A Waqf involves the permanent dedication of property for religious, pious, or charitable purposes under Islamic law.

Statement 2 is correct: The Waqf Act, 1995, provides for the establishment of the Central Waqf Council to advise on the proper management of Waqf properties.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Both movable and immovable properties can be dedicated as Waqf under Indian law.

Q134. Under the Waqf Act, 1995, which of the following is/are true about the administration of Waqf properties?

1. State Waqf Boards are responsible for the management of Waqf properties in their respective states.
2. The Central Waqf Council has the authority to directly manage all Waqf properties in India.
3. Mutawallis (caretakers) are appointed for the day-to-day administration of individual Waqf properties.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: State Waqf Boards are tasked with managing Waqf properties within their respective jurisdictions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Central Waqf Council provides advisory support but does not directly manage Waqf properties.

Statement 3 is correct: Mutawallis are caretakers responsible for the day-to-day administration of individual Waqf properties.

Q135. Which of the following provisions are included under the Waqf Act, 1995?

1. Establishment of Waqf Tribunals to resolve disputes related to Waqf properties.
2. Mandatory registration of all Waqf properties with the respective State Waqf Board.
3. Appointment of a Chief Justice of India as the head of the Central Waqf Council.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a



Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The Waqf Act, 1995, provides for the establishment of Waqf Tribunals to adjudicate disputes related to Waqf properties.

Statement 2 is correct: All Waqf properties must be registered with the respective State Waqf Board under the Act.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Central Waqf Council is chaired by the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, not the Chief Justice of India.

Topic 46

46. Joint Parliamentary Committee(JPC)

- Due to **strong objections** from the **Opposition** parties, The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been **referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** after its introduction in Lok Sabha.

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

- The JPC is **usually formed to examine** and investigate **specific issues** such as financial irregularities, legislative issues, or matters of public importance.
- It can be constituted **by a motion adopted** by **one house of Parliament** and **agreed to by the other**.
- Members of both** the **Lok Sabha** and the **Rajya Sabha** in proportion to their representation in Parliament.
- Number of members** in the Joint Parliamentary committee **can vary** depending on the issue.
- The **chairperson** of the JPC is **usually from the ruling party** appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**.
- JPC recommendations are **advisory** and **not enforceable**.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC)



About: An **adhoc-body** (dissolved after its term) usually set up for a specific object and duration



Members: Total members of JPC is decided by parliament. **Members are from both Houses** and from **both ruling parties and opposition**.



Power: JPC has power to **scrutinise documents** and **summon people for questioning** questioning submits a report and makes recommendations to government.



Other Features: There recommendation are **not binding on government**.



Major JPC

- Joint Committee on **Bofors Contracts**
- Joint Committee to enquire into **irregularities in securities and banking transactions**
- Joint Committee on **stock- market scam**
- Joint Committee on **pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks**

Q136. Which of the following is true about the composition of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)?

- A JPC includes members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha appoints the chairperson of the JPC.
- A JPC can only have members from the ruling party.

Options:

- Only 1 and 2
- Only 2 and 3
- Only 1 and 3
- All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: A JPC comprises members from both houses of Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: The Speaker of the Lok Sabha appoints the chairperson of the JPC, usually from the ruling party.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A JPC includes members from both ruling and opposition parties to ensure balanced representation.

Q137. Which of the following are powers and functions of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)?

- Summoning witnesses and calling for documents.
- Enforcing punishments for non-compliance.



3. Submitting recommendations to the Parliament.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: A JPC can summon witnesses and call for documents relevant to its investigation.

Statement 2 is incorrect: A JPC does not have the power to enforce punishments; it can only recommend actions.

Statement 3 is correct: A JPC submits its findings and recommendations to Parliament in a report.

Q138. Which of the following issues was investigated by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) in India?

- (a) Bofors Scandal
- (b) 2G Spectrum Scam
- (c) Harshad Mehta Stock Market Scam
- (d) All of the above

Ans: d

Sol:

- The Bofors Scandal was investigated by a JPC in 1987.
- The 2G Spectrum Scam was referred to a JPC in 2011.
- The Harshad Mehta Stock Market Scam was examined by a JPC in 1992.

Topic 47

47. NIRF Ranking

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- developed for ranking institutions of higher education in different categories and domains of knowledge.
- The Ministry of Education had developed it in 2015.
- in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Five Broad Parameters:

- Teaching, Learning and Resources.

- Research and Professional Practices.
- Graduation Outcomes.
- Outreach and Inclusivity.
- Peer Perception.

Findings at Assam level

- IIT-Guwahati (best) has been ranked ninth among the top institutions.
- Gauhati University (GU) is ranked 57th overall and 13th among State Public Universities. It is also ranked 40th among all universities.
- NIT Silchar is ranked 92nd in the overall category.

NIRF rankings of 2024

INDIA'S TOP 5		
	2024	2023
Overall		
IIT Madras	1	1
IISc Bengaluru	2	2
IIT Bombay	3	4
IIT Delhi	4	3
IIT Kanpur	5	5
Universities		
IISc Bengaluru	1	1
JNU	2	2
Jamia Millia Islamia	3	3
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	4	6
BHU	5	5
Engineering		
IIT Madras	1	1
IIT Delhi	2	2
IIT Bombay	3	3
IIT Kanpur	4	4
IIT Kharagpur	5	6
Medical		
AIIMS Delhi	1	1
PGIMER Chandigarh	2	2
CMC, Vellore	3	3
NIMHANS Bangalore	4	4
JIPMER Puducherry	5	5

Colleges Category-Hindu College, Delhi:
 Achieved the top position

Q139. Evaluate the following statements about the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

1. NIRF was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2015 to rank higher education institutions in India.
2. NIRF rankings are based on parameters such as teaching, learning, and resources; research and professional practices; graduation outcomes; outreach; and perception.
3. Participation in the NIRF ranking process is mandatory for all higher education institutions in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- (a) Only 1



- (b) Only 2
(c) All 3
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The NIRF was introduced by the Ministry of Education (then the Ministry of Human Resource Development) in 2015 to rank higher education institutions in India. Statement 2 is correct: NIRF uses key parameters such as teaching, learning, research, graduation outcomes, outreach, and perception for ranking. Statement 3 is incorrect: Participation in NIRF is currently voluntary for higher education institutions, though it has become a criterion for some funding and accreditation decisions.

Q140. Which of the following categories are covered under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?

1. Overall ranking of institutions.
 2. Discipline-specific rankings like engineering, management, and medicine.
 3. Rankings for primary and secondary schools.
- Options:
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Category 1 is correct: NIRF includes an overall ranking category for institutions. Category 2 is correct: It also ranks institutions discipline-wise, such as engineering, management, law, medicine, and architecture. Category 3 is incorrect: NIRF does not cover primary and secondary schools; its scope is limited to higher education institutions.

Q141. Which institution secured the top position in the Overall category of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024?

- Options:
- (a) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
(b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras

- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi
Ans: c

Sol: In the NIRF 2024 rankings, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained its top position in the Overall category, continuing its consistent performance in national rankings.

Topic 48

48. Lateral entry into bureaucracy

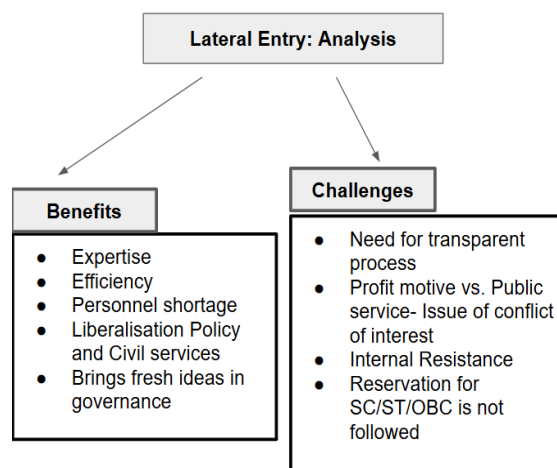
- Lateral entry relates to the appointment of specialists, mainly those from private sector, in government institutions at Secretary position- positions are held by cadres of IAS generally.

Past examples

- Former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh- Appointed as secretary in the finance ministry in 1976.
- Dr Homi Bhabha, Dr M S Swaminathan, V Krishnamurthy, Sam Pitroda, Dr Raghuram Rajan.
- practised less as in India compared to countries like US, Britain, Belgium, Germany, Australia and New Zealand

NITI Aayog on Lateral Entry

- NITI Aayog in its three-year Action Agenda on Governance recommended the induction of personnel at middle and senior management levels in the central government through lateral entry.
- They would be given a three year long contract extended to 5 years.



Q142. Which government organization is primarily responsible for facilitating lateral entry into senior government positions in India?



Options:

- (a) Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)
- (d) NITI Aayog

Ans: a

Sol: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) oversees the selection process for lateral entry into senior government positions, including conducting interviews and evaluations.

Q143. What is the primary objective of introducing lateral entry in Indian governance?

Options:

- (a) To increase the size of the government workforce.
- (b) To bring specialized expertise and fresh perspectives into the administration.
- (c) To reduce the reliance on existing civil services.
- (d) To promote individuals from lower government positions.

Ans: b

Sol: Lateral entry aims to address the shortage of technical expertise and infuse new ideas and practices into the policymaking and administrative processes.

Q144. Evaluate the following statements regarding lateral entry in Indian governance:

1. Lateral entry allows individuals from the private sector and academia to be directly recruited into mid-level and senior-level government positions.
2. The recruitment process for lateral entry is handled by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), with no involvement from the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
3. One of the key goals of lateral entry is to enhance policy innovation by bringing in professionals with domain expertise.

How many of the above statements are correct?

Options:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) All 3

(d) Only 1 and 3

Ans: d

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Lateral entry enables professionals from outside the civil services, such as private sector experts or academics, to join the government at senior levels like Joint Secretary or Director.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) plays a crucial role in conducting the recruitment process for lateral entry positions, ensuring transparency and merit.

Statement 3 is correct: Lateral entry aims to strengthen governance by bringing in fresh perspectives and specialized knowledge to address complex policy challenges.

Topic 49

49. Prevention of Money Laundering Act

What is Money Laundering?

- Process that involves making illicit funds (Black money) appear legitimate.

Black Money are obtained in 2 ways-

- a. Generated through some illegal activity such as drugs smuggling
- b. Income not declared- no tax paid-tax evasion

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002

- to combat money laundering
- Define Offences and Penalties
- Attachment and Confiscation of Property
- Designated Authority for adjudication and Appellate Tribunal

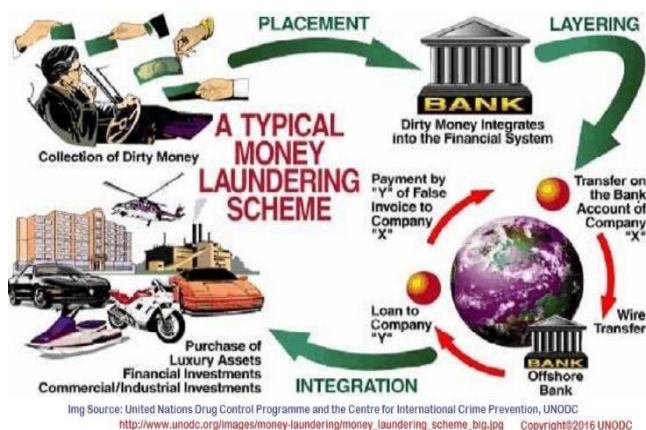
2 international conventions necessitated PMLA Act-

1. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

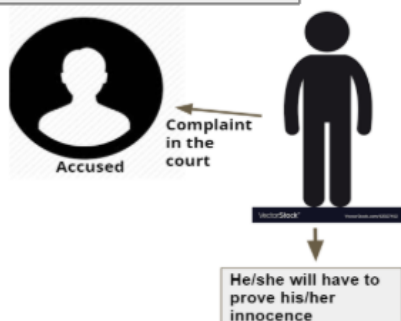
2. Financial Action Task Force

The PMLA was enacted by India's Parliament under **Article 253-** empowers it to make laws for **implementing the international conventions.**





Most controversial provision of PMLA-Burden of proof on accused

Prosecution Agency

Ordinary cases



Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002

Q145. Which agency is primarily responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002?

Options:

- (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
(b) Directorate of Enforcement (ED)
(c) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Ans: b

Sol: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is the designated agency responsible for investigating and enforcing the provisions of PMLA, including the attachment and confiscation of assets involved in money laundering.

Q146. Which of the following provisions is included in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002?

1. Attachment and confiscation of property involved in money laundering.
2. Imprisonment of up to 7 years for those convicted of money laundering offenses.
3. Mandatory reporting by financial institutions and intermediaries of suspicious transactions.

Options:

- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: d

Sol:-

- Provision 1: The PMLA allows for the attachment and confiscation of properties linked to money laundering.
- Provision 2: The Act prescribes imprisonment of up to 7 years for money laundering offenses, extendable to 10 years in certain cases.
- Provision 3: Financial institutions, banks, and intermediaries are required to report suspicious transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

Q147. In which of the following cases has Article 253 been invoked to implement an international treaty or agreement?

1. Enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. Enactment of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. Enactment of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3



- (c) Only 1 and 3
 (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Article 253 allows the Parliament to legislate on matters in the State List if it is necessary to implement an international treaty, thereby extending the Union's legislative power in certain cases and modifying the federal structure.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Enacted to fulfill obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Environment Protection Act, 1986: Enacted to implement decisions from the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, 1972.
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999: Not directly related to international treaties and hence not linked to Article 253.

Topic 50

50. SHE -Box portal under the PoSH Act

Prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace (PoSH) Act, 2013

- lay down the procedures for complaint and inquiry in cases of sexual harassment at workplace.

How did the PoSH Act come about?

- Vishaka Guideline-laid down by the Supreme Court in a judgment passed in 1997.
- POSH act gives legislative backing to Vishaka Guideline.

Provisions of the PoSH Act

- defines sexual harassment at the workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.

Formal sector

- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.

Unorganised sector or Small establishments

- The State Government will notify the District Officer in every district, who will constitute 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.

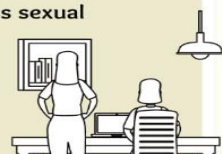
Current news?

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched SHe-Box-centralised portal for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

India's First Sexual Harassment Law

In 1997, the Supreme Court formulated the Vishaka guidelines that made it mandatory for institutions across the country to put in place measures to prevent and redress sexual harassment in the workplace.

It laid the foundation for the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.



History of Vishaka guidelines

- Bhanwari had fought against the marriage of a one-year-old baby girl in 1992, and had been allegedly gangraped as retribution (Honesty comes with a price-Ethics and Essay).
- women's rights groups, led by Vishaka filed a case in SC

Q148. Which of the following were key provisions of the Visakha Guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 1997?

- Establishment of a complaints committee at every workplace.
- Legal recognition of workplace harassment as a violation of fundamental rights.
- Mandatory reporting of workplace harassment cases to the police.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
 (b) Only 2 and 3
 (c) Only 1 and 3
 (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:



- Provision 1 is correct: The guidelines required workplaces to establish a complaints committee to address grievances related to sexual harassment.
- Provision 2 is correct: The Supreme Court recognized sexual harassment at the workplace as a violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution.
- Provision 3 is incorrect: While serious cases could be reported to the police, the guidelines themselves did not mandate automatic reporting of all workplace harassment cases.

Q149. Which of the following provisions is included in the POSH Act, 2013?

1. Establishment of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in organizations with 10 or more employees.
2. Mandatory training sessions on workplace sexual harassment awareness.
3. A monetary fine for individuals found guilty of workplace harassment.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 3
- (d) All 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- Provision 1 is correct: Organizations with 10 or more employees must establish an ICC to address sexual harassment complaints.
- Provision 2 is correct: The Act promotes training and awareness programs to sensitize employees about workplace harassment.
- Provision 3 is incorrect: While disciplinary action is mandated, monetary fines are not specified for individuals in the POSH Act.

Q150. Who is covered under the POSH Act, 2013?

Options:

- (a) Only women employees working in government offices.
- (b) Only women working in private sector organizations.
- (c) All women employees, interns, and contractual workers in government and private sectors.

- (d) Only women workers in manufacturing industries.

Ans: c

Sol: The POSH Act applies to women employees, interns, and contractual workers in all workplaces, including the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and unorganized sectors, ensuring comprehensive protection.

Day 6

Topic 51

51. French Revolution

French Revolution (1789)

1. French Society

- **1st Estate:** Clergy → All privileges
- **2nd Estate:** Nobles → No liabilities
- **3rd Estate:** Commoners → All liabilities, no privileges

2. Issues Leading to the Revolution

- **Frequent subsistence crises** → Poor economic management by the king
- **Resulted in protests** → Culminated in the **14th July 1789: Bastille Prison Break** (where political prisoners were imprisoned).
 - Beginning of the **French Revolution**

3. Key Events and Outcomes

- **French Revolution:**
 - Declaration of Rights of Man & Citizen
 - Key principles: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
 - **1792** - France declared a Republic after the abolition of monarchy.
- India has derived inspiration of principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity from French Constitution.



Fall of the Bastille prison



Q151. Consider the following statements regarding the Estates-General and the formation of the National Assembly during the French Revolution:

1. The Estates-General was a legislative assembly representing the three estates of French society: the clergy, the nobility, and the commoners.
2. Voting in the Estates-General was conducted by headcount, giving the Third Estate a numerical advantage.
3. Dissatisfaction with the voting procedure led the Third Estate to form the National Assembly in 1789.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Estates-General was a legislative assembly comprising representatives from the three estates: the clergy (First Estate), the nobility (Second Estate), and the commoners (Third Estate).
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. Voting in the Estates-General was conducted by estate, not by headcount, which meant that each estate had one vote. This system allowed the First and Second Estates to outvote the Third Estate despite the latter's larger population.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Frustrated by the inequitable voting system, representatives of the Third Estate broke away to form the National Assembly in 1789, marking a pivotal step in the French Revolution.

Q152. With reference to the Directory during the French Revolution, consider the following statements:

1. The Directory was established to prevent the concentration of power in a single individual.
2. It consisted of five members appointed by legislative councils.

3. The Directory was stable and effectively prevented political conflicts.

4. The fall of the Directory paved the way for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Directory was introduced to avoid the concentration of power in one person, as had been seen under the Jacobins.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The Directory consisted of five members chosen by legislative councils to function as the executive branch.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. The Directory faced significant instability due to conflicts with legislative councils, leading to discontent.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The instability within the Directory created an opportunity for Napoleon Bonaparte to rise to power as a military dictator.

Q153. Which of the following correctly distinguishes the ideological basis of the American and French Revolutions?

- (a) The American Revolution emphasized collective rights and social contracts, while the French Revolution focused on individual rights and republicanism.
- (b) The American Revolution was driven by natural rights and individual interest, while the French Revolution emphasized liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- (c) Both revolutions were primarily based on the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- (d) The French Revolution rejected Enlightenment principles, unlike the American Revolution.

Ans: b

Sol:



- The **American Revolution** focused on principles like natural rights, republicanism, and individual interest, largely influenced by thinkers like John Locke.
- The **French Revolution** was guided by the ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity, and collective rights, inspired by thinkers like Rousseau and Montesquieu.

Topic 52

52. Supreme Court on Foreigner Tribunal in Assam

Tribunals under Constitution

- **42nd Amendment Act (1976)**: added **Part XIV-A** to the Constitution.
- **Article 323A**: Deals with **administrative tribunals** (Can be established only by Parliament).
- **Article 323B**: Deals with tribunals for **other matters** (both Parliament and State legislature can establish).
- Tribunals function **like courts** to **resolve disputes**.

Foreigners Act, 1946

- **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964** under the Act- for creation of Tribunals.
- **Purpose**: To decide **whether a person is a foreigner** or an **Indian citizen**.
- As of now, Foreigners Tribunals **primarily operate in Assam**.
- **After the 2019 Amendment-State Governments and Union Territory Administrations were given the power to establish Foreigners Tribunals**.
- **Appeal** against **Foreigner Tribunal** can be made in a **High court**.

Concern

- **Section 9**: Places the **burden of proof** on the **individual** to prove citizenship.
- In a recent case, SC declared Assam resident **Md Rahim Ali a citizen, rejecting a Foreigners Tribunal's decision**.
- SC clarified that **authorities cannot randomly suspect** individuals of being foreigners **without evidence**.

Aspect	Tribunals	Courts
Definition	Quasi-judicial bodies established to resolve specific disputes.	Judicial bodies established to resolve disputes under the rule of law.
Constitutional Basis	Governed by Article 323A and Article 323B of the Constitution.	Established under Articles 124-147 (Supreme Court) and 214-231 (High Courts).
Nature	Specialized in handling particular types of cases (e.g., administrative, taxation).	General jurisdiction over all civil, criminal, and constitutional matters.
Jurisdiction	Limited to specific issues as defined by the legislation or constitutional provisions.	Broad jurisdiction over a wide range of cases.
Composition	Comprised of judges, experts, or technical members from relevant fields.	Comprised of judges with legal training and experience.
Process	Relatively informal and faster in resolving disputes.	Formal procedures as defined by the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes.
Objective	To reduce the burden on courts and resolve specialized disputes efficiently.	To ensure justice is delivered in accordance with the rule of law.
Appeals	Decisions can usually be appealed in a High Court or Supreme Court.	Appeals lie with higher courts (High Court, Supreme Court).
Examples	- Administrative Tribunals (Article 323A) - Income Tax Appellate Tribunal - National Green Tribunal (NGT)	- Supreme Court - High Courts - District Courts

Q154. Consider the following statements regarding the establishment of tribunals in India:

1. Article 323A of the Constitution empowers both Parliament and State Legislatures to establish administrative tribunals.
2. Article 323B allows for the creation of tribunals for matters such as taxation and industrial disputes.

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1**: Incorrect. Article 323A empowers only Parliament to establish administrative tribunals.
- **Statement 2**: Correct. Article 323B permits both Parliament and State Legislatures to establish tribunals for various matters, including taxation and industrial disputes.

Q155. With reference to the Foreigners Tribunals in Assam, consider the following statements:

1. Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Foreigners Act, 1946, to determine the citizenship status of individuals suspected of being foreigners.



2. Both the Parliament and State Legislatures have the authority to establish Foreigners Tribunals under Article 323B of the Constitution.
3. The 2019 amendment to the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, empowered State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to establish such tribunals.
4. Decisions of the Foreigners Tribunals can be appealed directly to the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Foreigners Act, 1946, to determine whether an individual is a foreigner.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. The establishment of Foreigners Tribunals is governed by the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, not by Article 323B of the Constitution.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. The 2019 amendment to the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, empowered State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to establish Foreigners Tribunals.
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect. Appeals against the decisions of Foreigners Tribunals are typically made to the High Court, not directly to the Supreme Court.

Q156. Who among the following can serve as members of Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs)?

1. Retired judges
 2. Advocates
 3. Civil servants with judicial experience
 4. Police officers
- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only

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

Ans: a

Sol: Each FT is headed by a member drawn from retired judges, advocates, and civil servants with judicial experience. Police officers are not eligible to serve as members, This exclusion ensures the impartiality and independence of the tribunals, as police officers are typically involved in the investigation and enforcement processes, which could lead to potential conflicts of interest if they were to serve as adjudicators in these tribunals.)

Topic 53

53. Money Bill vs Finance Bill

Money Bill

- A bill that deals exclusively with matters specified in **Article 110** of the Constitution.
- Deals only with matters like **taxation, appropriation, borrowing, and expenditure.**
- Must be certified as a **Money Bill** by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha.**
- Can be **introduced only in the Lok Sabha.**
- Rajya Sabha has **no power to amend** a Money Bill; it can **only make recommendations** to amend that too **within 14 days.**
- Requires the **recommendation of the President** before **introduction.**

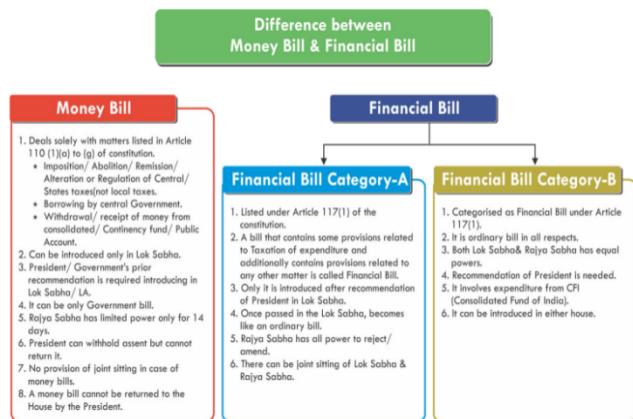
Finance Bill

- **Finance bill** does **not exclusively deal** with matters specified in **article 110.**
- It contains some **other provisions too.**
- Thus it is said **"all money bills are finance bills,"** but **not all finance bills are money bills".**
- Finance Bill is of **2 types**-Financial Bill **Category-I** and Financial Bill **Category-II**

Current news?

- Supreme Court has **accepted petitions** claiming **misuse of "Money Bill route"** eg **Aadhar Bill was certified as Money bill.**





Financial Bill Category I

- Like Money Bill it requires **Speaker's certification, RS** can hold only till **14 days**.

Financial Bill Category II

- **Treated like any ordinary Bill**- require approval from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, no certification of Speaker required.

Q157. Consider the following statements:

1. All Money Bills are Financial Bills.
2. All Financial Bills are Money Bills.
3. Financial Bills under Article 117(1) may contain matters incidental to taxation and appropriation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1: "All Money Bills are Financial Bills."

- **Correct.**
 - Money Bills are a subset of Financial Bills, as they exclusively deal with matters specified in Article 110 (such as taxation, appropriation of funds, and borrowing).
 - Therefore, all Money Bills fall under the broader category of Financial Bills.

Statement 2: "All Financial Bills are Money Bills."

- **Incorrect.**
 - Financial Bills include:

1. Money Bills (Article 110) – Deal exclusively with matters specified in Article 110.
2. Financial Bills (Category-I) (Article 117(1)) – Include matters related to revenue or expenditure but also other provisions not exclusively financial in nature.
3. Financial Bills (Category-II) (Article 117(3)) – Contain provisions that involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India but do not qualify as Money Bills.

- Thus, not all Financial Bills are Money Bills.

Statement 3: "Financial Bills under Article 117(1) may contain matters incidental to taxation and appropriation."

- **Correct.**
 - Financial Bills (Category-I), under Article 117(1), can include provisions incidental to financial matters such as taxation and appropriation. However, these bills also include provisions that go beyond the scope of Article 110, differentiating them from Money Bills.

Q158. What is the primary difference between a Money Bill and a Financial Bill (Category-I)?

- (a) Money Bills require prior presidential recommendation, but Financial Bills do not.
- (b) Money Bills can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, but Financial Bills cannot.
- (c) Money Bills deal exclusively with matters under Article 110, while Financial Bills may include incidental matters.
- (d) Financial Bills require approval only from the Lok Sabha, while Money Bills require approval from both Houses.

Ans: c

Sol: Money Bills deal exclusively with matters under Article 110, while Financial Bills may include incidental matters.

Q159. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's examination of the "Money Bill route" in India:



1. The Supreme Court is reviewing petitions challenging the classification of the Aadhaar Act as a Money Bill.
2. The classification of a Bill as a Money Bill prevents the Rajya Sabha from rejecting or amending it.
3. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had dissented against the classification of the Aadhaar Act as a Money Bill.
4. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Speaker's decision on Money Bill classification is beyond judicial review.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Supreme Court is examining petitions that question the classification of the Aadhaar Act and other laws as Money Bills.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Money Bills bypass the Rajya Sabha, which can only suggest recommendations, not amendments or rejection.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Justice D.Y. Chandrachud dissented, describing the Aadhaar Act's classification as a Money Bill as a "fraud on the Constitution."
- **Statement 4: Incorrect.** While the Speaker's certification is traditionally final, it is subject to judicial review under specific circumstances.

Topic 54

54. PM SHRI Yojana

- **Scheme** for **upgradation** and development of more than **14500 Schools** across the country.
- It aims at **strengthening the selected existing schools** from amongst schools

managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.

- Pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more **experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based** in line **NEP 2020**.
- **Green School Initiatives:** PM SHRI schools incorporate **environment-friendly aspects** such as solar panels, LED lighting
- **Centrally sponsored scheme(60% -Central government/40% by the State government)**
- **Three states ie West Bengal, Punjab, and Delhi refused** to **implement PM SHRI Yojana** in their respective jurisdiction.

Why refused by three states?

- **Delhi and Punjab** have declined to participate in PM SHRI because the Aam Aadmi Party governments in these states are **already implementing** similar schemes for exemplar schools called **"Schools of Specialised Excellence"** and **"Schools of Eminence"** respectively.
- **West Bengal** has **objected** to the requirement of **prefixing PM SHRI** to the names of the schools, especially since the **state bears 40% of the cost.**



The Centre has **stopped funding under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** for the states that have refused to implement its PM SHRI scheme.

This development can be used as an example of-

1. **Combative federalism**
2. **Politicisation of School Education**

Q160. With reference to the eligibility criteria for schools under the PM SHRI Yojana, consider the following statements:



1. Only schools managed by Central and State Governments are eligible to be upgraded under PM SHRI.
2. All Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas running from permanent buildings are eligible to be selected as PM SHRI schools.
3. Private schools affiliated with state boards can also apply for upgradation under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Schools managed by Central, State, and UT Governments, as well as local bodies, are eligible for upgradation, not just those managed by Central and State Governments.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** All Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas that are non-project and operate from permanent buildings are eligible under PM SHRI.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Private schools are not eligible for selection under the PM SHRI scheme as it is limited to government-managed institutions.

Q161. Recently seen in the news, the School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Monitoring private school inclusion under the PM SHRI Yojana
- (b) Assessment and improvement of school performance under the PM SHRI Yojana
- (c) Establishing financial norms for PM SHRI Yojana schools
- (d) Vocational training for PM SHRI Yojana schools

Ans: b

Sol: The School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) is a core component of the PM SHRI Yojana, focusing on the regular monitoring and evaluation of school performance. It sets standards and best practices to ensure high-quality education and holistic institutional excellence.

Option (a): Incorrect. SQAF does not relate to private schools, as PM SHRI covers only government-managed schools.

Option (c): Incorrect. SQAF is not a financial framework but a performance assessment tool.

Option (d): Incorrect. While PM SHRI Yojana includes holistic learning, SQAF is not directly tied to vocational training.

Q162. With reference to the PM SHRI Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to establish over 14,500 PM SHRI schools by enhancing existing schools aligned with NEP 2020.
2. For North Eastern and Himalayan States, the funding pattern under the scheme is 60:40 between the Centre and the States.
3. The scheme mandates that participating States and Union Territories sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Education Ministry.
4. PM SHRI schools will promote "green" initiatives.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The PM SHRI Scheme, launched in 2022, seeks to upgrade over 14,500 existing schools to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** For North Eastern and Himalayan States, the funding pattern is 90:10 between the Centre and the States; it is



60:40 for other States and UTs with a legislature.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** States and UTs must confirm participation by signing an MoU with the Education Ministry.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** PM SHRI schools emphasize modern infrastructure, experiential learning, and sustainability practices like water conservation and waste recycling.

Topic 55

55. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

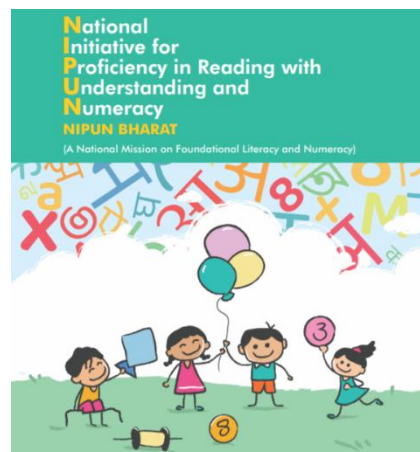
- Proposed by the Union Budget of 2018-19
- Subsumed the erstwhile for school education-
 . Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA),
 a. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
 b. Teacher Education (TE) schemes.
- Covers education from pre-primary to Class XII.

Funding

- The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- The scheme is funded in a 60:40 ratio by the Centre and states.
- Fully funded by the Central Government for Union Territories without legislatures.
- Northeastern and Himalayan states, which have to bear only 10% of the cost. While Centre bears 90% cost.

Significance of the scheme-

- The Samagra Shiksha Scheme is important for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
- Address digital divide by use of DIKSHA, the national digital learning platform for school education.
- Strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy under NIPUN Bharat Mission.



NIPUN Bharat

- Every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy at the end of grade III and not later than grade V

Q163. Which of the following schemes is **NOT** subsumed under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)?

- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
- Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)
- Teacher Education (TE)

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Option (a):** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is subsumed under SSA to provide inclusive education at the primary level.
- **Option (b):** Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan is also included under SSA to focus on secondary education.
- **Option (c):** Incorrect. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a separate initiative aimed at providing nutritional support to students and is not part of SSA.
- **Option (d):** Teacher Education is included under SSA to ensure capacity building and training of educators.

Q164. With reference to the Vocationalisation of School Education scheme under Samagra Shiksha, consider the following statements:

- The scheme integrates vocational subjects with general education for Classes IX to XII to enhance employability skills.



2. It aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.

3. The scheme is also aligned with SDG 2

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The scheme integrates vocational subjects with general education for Classes IX to XII to provide employability and vocational skills.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The scheme aligns with SDG 4, which focuses on inclusive and equitable quality education.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The scheme is not aligned with SDG 2, which addresses zero hunger and food security.

Q165. With reference to the Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to deliver child-centric interventions directly to students through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
2. RTE (Right to Education) entitlements such as textbooks, uniforms, and transport allowance are however not considered under the DBT provisions.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0 enhances its direct outreach by providing child-centric interventions like entitlements directly to students through the DBT mode using an IT-based platform.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** RTE entitlements, including textbooks, uniforms, and transport allowance, are explicitly included in the DBT provisions under the scheme.

Topic 56

56. Amendment to SC list

- Based on **1931 census** that the British government had conducted, the **Government of India 1935 Act** was promulgated.
- The reservation for the **“Depressed Classes”** was incorporated into the act.
- The “Depressed Classes” included those against whom **untouchability** was practised.
- This “Depressed class” **after independence** came to be known as the **Scheduled Caste**.

Important Constitutional provisions wrt SC list

1. Article 341(1)

- The Constitution **empowers the President** to **specify the Scheduled Castes** in various states and union territories.

2. Article 341(2)

- Further list of notified Scheduled Castes (SC) to **be modified by Parliament** through Constitutional Amendment.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- It is a **constitutional body** that works to safeguard the **interests of the scheduled castes (SC)** in India.
- Created as per **article 338** of the constitution.
- The Commission has power to the **setting up of special courts** for the speedy trial of offences committed against SC community members under the Civil Rights Act and the Atrocities Act.

Using Article 341(1)

President of India released **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**

- The order **included list of SC(Schedule caste)** wrt various states and union territories.
- The list was mainly developed on the basis of list of “Depressed classes” prepared by Britishers

PART II – Assam

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bansphor | 9. Kaibartta, Jaliya |
| 2. Bhuinmali, Mali | 10. Lalbegi |
| 3. Brittil Bania, Bania | 11. Mahara |
| 4. Dhupi, Dhobi | 12. Mehtar, Bhangri |
| 5. Dugla, Dholi | 13. Muchi, Rishi |
| 6. Hira | 14. Namasudra |
| 7. Jalkeot | 15. Patni |
| 8. Jhalo, Malo, Jhalo-Malo | 16. Sutradhar. |

SC list for Assam as per Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950



Current news?

- **Bihar government** issued a resolution to merge the **Tanti-Tantwa community** into the **SC list from Bihar**.
- The **court termed** the state government's notification as **"mala fide" as the state government has no power to change SC list**.

Q166. With reference to the Scheduled Castes (SC) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The term "Depressed Classes," used in the Government of India Act, 1935, refers to groups now categorized as Scheduled Castes.
2. Article 341(1) of the Indian Constitution allows Parliament to notify and amend the Scheduled Castes list in states and union territories.
3. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), created under Article 338, has the authority to recommend the establishment of special courts for offences against Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The term "Depressed Classes," used in the Government of India Act, 1935, referred to groups later recognized as Scheduled Castes after independence.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Article 341(1) empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Castes in states and union territories, while Article 341(2) gives Parliament the authority to amend the list through a constitutional amendment.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), established under Article 338, can recommend the setting up of special courts for the speedy trial of offences against SC community members under the Civil Rights Act and the Atrocities Act.

Q167. With reference to the National Commission

for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), consider the following statements:

1. Originally, Article 338 provided for a Special Officer, designated as the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to safeguard their interests.
2. The 65th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1990, replaced the single-member system with a multi-member Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. The 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, created separate commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Articles 338 and 338A, respectively.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Initially, Article 338 of the Constitution provided for a Special Officer, called the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, to address issues related to these communities.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The 65th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1990, amended Article 338 to replace the single-member Commissioner with a multi-member National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, bifurcated the National Commission into two separate bodies: the NCSC under Article 338 and the NCST under Article 338A.

Q168. With reference to the "Depressed Classes" and their classification in India, consider the following statements:

1. The reservation for "Depressed Classes" was first introduced in the Government of India Act, 1935, based on the 1931 census conducted by the British government.
2. The term "Depressed Classes" referred to communities subjected to untouchability.
3. After independence, the "Depressed Classes" were officially classified as Scheduled Castes under the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?



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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Government of India Act, 1935, incorporated reservation for the “Depressed Classes,” a group identified based on the 1931 census.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. The “Depressed Classes” included communities historically subjected to untouchability.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. After independence, these communities were formally categorized as Scheduled Castes under Article 341 of the Indian Constitution.

Topic 57

57. Religious conversion for SC benefits

- **Article 341** of the Constitution **empowers the President** to specify the **castes, races or tribes etc.** which shall be **deemed to be Scheduled Castes.**
- Accordingly **the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** was released.
- The order stipulates that **no person** professing a **religion different from Hinduism, Buddhism or Sikhism** can be deemed to be a member of a **Schedule Caste.**
- The **original order** under which **only Hindus** were classified was **later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.**

Note-

- The **religion-based bar** does **not apply** to converted **STs and OBCs.**

Current case

- A woman from Puducherry, a **Christian by birth**, sought a **Scheduled Caste (SC) certificate claiming** she had **embraced Hinduism.**

Supreme Court Judgment

- The Supreme Court ruled that **religious conversion solely for obtaining reservation benefits** amounts to a **fraud on the Constitution.**



Any further inclusion or exclusion in Schedule Caste list by law made by the Parliament.

Q169. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding royalties and mining regulation in India?

1. Royalties are fees paid to the owner of a product in exchange for the right to use that product and are not considered a tax.
 2. Entry 54 of the Union List allows only the Central Government to make laws regarding mines and mineral development.
 3. State Governments can collect royalties if mining permission is granted on land under their control.
 4. The regulation of mines and mineral development falls under the Central Government, while royalties from state-controlled land are managed by the State Governments.
- (a) 1, 2, and 3
(b) 2, 3, and 4
(c) 1, 3, and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: d

Sol:

1. **Royalties** are payments made to the owner for using their product or resource, and they are not categorized as taxes.
2. Under **Entry 54 of the Union List**, the Central Government is empowered to legislate on matters related to mines and mineral development.
3. **State Governments** can levy royalties when mining activities occur on land under their jurisdiction.
4. While the **Central Government** handles legislation for mining regulation, **State Governments** oversee royalty collection for resources mined within their territory.



Q170. Consider the following statements regarding the difference between royalties and taxes:

- Royalties are negotiable between private parties and governed by contracts, while taxes are not negotiable and are based on criteria set by tax laws.
 - Royalties are typically based on income or consumption, while taxes are calculated based on usage or revenue from assets.
 - Royalties provide income to asset owners or creators, while taxes are used to fund government operations and public services.
 - Taxes are paid to asset owners, while royalties are paid to the government for public services.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- i and iii
- ii and iv
- i, iii, and iv
- all of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement i** is correct, as royalties are negotiated between private parties and governed by contracts, while taxes are determined by tax laws and are non-negotiable.
- Statement ii** is incorrect because royalties are based on usage or revenue from assets, whereas taxes are based on income, property value, or consumption.
- Statement iii** is correct, as royalties are paid to asset owners or creators, while taxes fund government operations and public services.
- Statement iv** is incorrect, as taxes are paid to the government, not asset owners.

Q171. Consider the following statements regarding mineral royalty in India:

- Mineral royalty is the payment made to the government for allowing the extraction of mineral resources.
 - India has one of the lowest mineral royalty rates in the world, making its mining sector highly profitable.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- i only
- ii only
- both i and ii
- neither i nor ii

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement i** is correct: Mineral royalty is indeed the payment made to the government for the extraction of mineral resources.
- Statement ii** is incorrect: India has some of the highest mineral royalty rates in the world, which impacts the competitiveness of its mining sector.

Topic 58

58. SC judges appointment

- The **original Constitution of 1950** provided for a **Chief Justice and seven other judges (total strength: 8)**.
- Over time, the **strength of the Supreme Court has been increased** by **Parliament through amendments** to the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act**.
- Currently the strength is **34(including CJI)** as per the **Number of Judges of Supreme Court act of 2019**.
- Appointment of **SC and HC judges** is done through **Collegium system(refer topic 9 of day 1)**.

Attempt to end Collegium system through National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a **constitutional body** proposed to **replace the Collegium system** of appointing judges.
- NJAC was established by amending the Constitution **[Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014]**.

Structure

- It consist of **six people: Chief Justice of India, Two most senior judges of the Supreme Court, Law Minister, Two 'eminent persons'**.

These eminent persons are to be nominated for a **three-year term** by a **committee** consisting of the **Chief Justice, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition** in the Lok Sabha.



NJAC VS COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

WHAT'S COLLEGIUM SYSTEM

- Collegium system based on Three Judges Cases
- Under it, appointment of judges are made by Chief Justice of India and four most senior Supreme Court judges.
- Has no constitutional backing.
- Constitution of India's Article 124 says appointments to be made by President in consultation with judges as President may deem necessary.
- Critics say it is a closed-door system which lacks transparency

WHAT'S NJAC

- NJAC was a body created to end the two-decade-old Supreme Court Collegium system of judges appointing judges.
- Was passed by Lok Sabha on August 13, 2014. Was passed by Rajya Sabha a day later.
- Will consist of six people – CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, Law Minister and two 'eminent' persons.
- Critics say judges in NJAC will need support of others to push a name through. They fear judicial independence being compromised.



SC struck down NJAC as unconstitutional for violation of principle of independence of judiciary.

Q172. Which of the following statements about Article 361 is/are correct?

1. Article 361 provides immunity to the President of India and Governors of States from legal proceedings during their term of office.
 2. The immunity is derived from the Latin maxim "rex non potest peccare," meaning "the king can do no wrong."
 3. Article 361 allows criminal proceedings against the President or Governors after obtaining prior permission from the Parliament.
 4. Article 361 is an exception to Article 14, which guarantees the Right to Equality.
- (a) 1, 2, and 4
(b) 1, 3, and 4
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1** is correct: Article 361 provides immunity to the President and Governors from legal proceedings during their tenure.
- **Statement 2** is correct: The immunity concept stems from the principle "rex non potest peccare," adapted for modern governance.
- **Statement 3** is incorrect: Criminal proceedings against the President or Governors are not allowed during their term, and no provision exists for initiating them with permission.
- **Statement 4** is correct: Article 361 serves as an exception to Article 14, providing special

privileges to these constitutional offices.

Q173. Which of the following statements about the immunity of Indian and US Presidents is/are correct?

1. The Indian President is immune from legal proceedings for official actions but can be sued for personal actions.
 2. The US President is immune from civil suits for actions taken while in office but can face criminal charges for illegal activities.
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1** is correct: In India, the President enjoys immunity for official acts under Article 361 but can be sued for personal acts.
- **Statement 2** is correct: In the US, the President is immune from civil suits for official actions but can face criminal charges for illegal conduct.

Q174. Consider the following statements regarding the protection of the President and Governors under Article 361:

- i. No court can issue arrest warrants against the President or Governors.
- ii. Civil proceedings against a President or Governor for actions done in their personal capacity can be initiated only with a prior 3 months' notice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) i only
(b) ii only
(c) both i and ii
(d) neither i nor ii

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement i** is correct: Article 361 protects the President and Governors from arrest or imprisonment. No court can issue arrest warrants against them while they hold office.
- **Statement ii** is incorrect: Civil proceedings against the President or Governors, for actions done in their personal capacity, can be initiated



only with a prior **2 months' notice**, not 3 months.

Topic 59

59. Immunity to Governors and the President

Article 361

- **President of India** and **Governors of state immunity** from **legal proceedings** over the **duration** of their **term in office**.

Immunities available under Article 361-

1. Criminal proceedings

- No criminal cases can be initiated or continued against them for both official and personal acts.

0. Civil proceedings

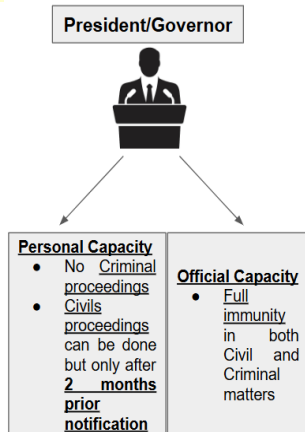
- The Article mandates a two-month notice for any civil proceedings related to personal acts.
- No Civil proceedings for official acts.

0. No arrest or imprisonment

- The Article restricts any arrest or imprisonment orders during their term.

Purpose of the article

- To ensure that they are not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of their official powers and duties, since they act on aid and advice of council of ministers.
- Maintain dignity of the office of governor and president.



Current case?

- A plea has been filed by a woman staff member of the West Bengal Raj Bhavan in the Supreme Court accusing Governor (CV Ananda Bose) of sexual harassment.

The petition seeks-

- Questioning absolute immunity under Article 361 can be seen as **violation to Article 14** (right to equality).

Q175. Which of the following statements correctly describes the evolution of the judicial appointment process through the three Judges Cases in India?

1. The First Judges Case (S.P. Gupta v. Union of India, 1981) held that the term "consultation" in Article 124 means consultation, not concurrence, giving the executive primacy in judicial appointments.
 2. The Second Judges Case (Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India, 1993) upheld the primacy of the executive in judicial appointments.
 3. The Third Judges Case (1998 Presidential Reference) clarified the collegium system and expanded it to include the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court for appointments.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The First Judges Case emphasized executive primacy in judicial appointments, interpreting "consultation" as not requiring concurrence.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Second Judges Case actually overturned the First Judges Case and established the collegium system, granting the judiciary primacy in judicial appointments.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Third Judges Case clarified and expanded the collegium system to include the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges for appointments.

Q176. Which of the following statements regarding the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is/are correct?

1. The NJAC was a constitutional body proposed to replace the Collegium system for appointing judges.
2. It was established by the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014.
3. The NJAC consisted of six members, including



the Chief Justice of India, two senior Supreme Court judges, the Law Minister, and two eminent persons.

4. The Supreme Court upheld NJAC as constitutional for maintaining the principle of independence of the judiciary.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1** is correct: The NJAC was proposed as a constitutional body to replace the Collegium system.
- **Statement 2** is correct: It was established by the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014.
- **Statement 3** is correct: The NJAC's structure included six members, combining judicial, executive, and independent representatives.
- **Statement 4** is incorrect: The Supreme Court struck down the NJAC as unconstitutional, citing it violated the principle of judicial independence.

Q177. The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, which established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), introduced specific articles to the Constitution of India. Which of the following articles was NOT inserted by this amendment?

- (a) Article 124A
- (b) Article 124B
- (c) Article 124C
- (d) Article 124D

Ans: d

Sol:

- The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, introduced Articles 124A, 124B, and 124C to the Constitution of India to facilitate the functioning of the NJAC.
- Article 124A defined the composition of the NJAC.
- Article 124B outlined its functions.
- Article 124C provided for the powers of Parliament to regulate the procedure for appointments.

- Article 124D does not exist in the Constitution.

Topic 60

60. Royalty is not a tax

- Royalties refer to the **fees paid** to the **owner of a product** in **exchange** for the right to use **that product**.
- **Taxes** are meant for **public purposes** such as welfare schemes and creating public infrastructure and are collected by the government.

The question in the SC was- when the **government (State or Centre) collects royalty**, should it be **considered a form of tax?**

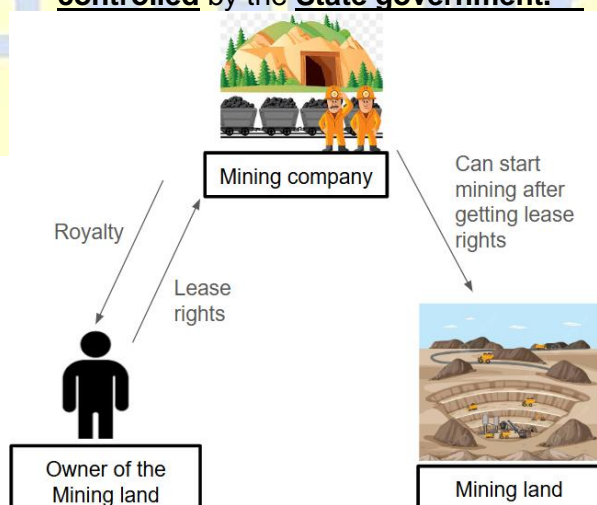
- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that **royalty payments for mineral extraction do not constitute a tax**.

Entry 54 of the Union List

- Regulation of **mines and mineral development**

It means only the **Central government** can make **laws regarding mines and mineral development**.

- But the **State governments** can **collect royalty if mining permission is given on land controlled** by the **State government**.



Q178. Consider the following statements regarding religious conversion for Scheduled Caste (SC) benefits:

- i. Article 341 of the Constitution empowers the President to specify the castes, races, or tribes to be deemed as Scheduled Castes.
- ii. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, allows persons who profess any religion in India- Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or Sikhism can be classified as Scheduled Castes.



iii. The original order classified only Hindus as Scheduled Castes

iv. The President has the authority to specify the caste, race, or tribe for SC benefits, regardless of the religion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) i and iii
- (b) ii and iv
- (c) iii and iv
- (d) all of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement i** is correct, as Article 341 grants the President the authority to specify castes, races, or tribes as Scheduled Castes.
- **Statement ii** is incorrect, as the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 stipulates that persons professing religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism cannot be classified as Scheduled Castes.
- **Statement iii** is correct, as the original order only classified Hindus and was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.
- **Statement iv** is incorrect, as the classification of Scheduled Castes is based on the religion of the person, not solely on the caste, race, or tribe.

Q179. Consider the following statements regarding the right to conversion:

- i. The right to conversion is directly mentioned in the Constitution.
- ii. Article 25 of the Constitution includes the right to "propagate" religion, which has been debated to include the right to convert others.
- iii. Conversions for wrongful purposes, such as polygamy or obtaining reservation benefits, are legally prohibited.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) i and iii
- (d) all of the above

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement i** is incorrect, as the right to conversion is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

- **Statement ii** is correct, as Article 25 protects the right to "propagate" religion, and there is ongoing debate whether this includes the right to convert others.
- **Statement iii** is correct, as conversions for wrongful purposes, like polygamy or seeking reservation benefits, are legally prohibited.

Q180. Which of the following judgments is NOT related to the issue of religious conversion or the right to choose a partner?

- (a) Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa (1977)
- (b) Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995)
- (c) Lata Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2006)
- (d) M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India (2024)

Ans: d

Sol:

- Rev. Stanislaus v. State of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa (1977): Related to anti-conversion laws and the limits on propagation rights.
- Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India (1995): Addressed conversion for marriage and the need for a Uniform Civil Code.
- Lata Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2006): Related to the right to marry a partner of choice irrespective of religion or caste.
- The case M.K. Ranjitsinh & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors. was a landmark Supreme Court of India ruling that established a constitutional right to protection from the adverse effects of climate change.

Day 7

Topic 61

61. Right to be forgotten

- It refers to the ability of an individual to limit, delink, delete, or correct the disclosure of the personal information on the internet.
- It allows for the lawful removal of personal information of an individual if such request is made.
- Individuals may request data hosts to take down some content, and it may be taken down based on the policies of the respective hosts.
- The Kerala High Court recognised the right to be forgotten as being under the ambit of



the right to privacy (specifically, informational privacy) under the Constitution.

See this topic in connection with Topic-35 of Day 4.

- This right has been recognised as a **statutory right in the EU (as “right to erasure”)**

Article 21-Right to Life and Liberty



Right to Privacy (Justice Puttaswamy case)



Right to be forgotten
(but this right should be balanced with right to free speech)

Q181. Which of the following statements about the "Right to be Forgotten" is/are correct?

- The "Right to be Forgotten" allows individuals to request the removal of personal information from the internet if it is no longer relevant.
- This right applies universally and is recognized in all countries worldwide.
- In the European Union, this right is enshrined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- The "Right to be Forgotten" only applies to information shared on social media platforms.

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The "Right to be Forgotten" allows individuals to request removal of personal information, and it is part of GDPR in the EU. Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect because this right is not recognized universally, and it is not limited to social media platforms.

Q182. Which following statements are true regarding the legal recognition of the "Right to be Forgotten"?

- The "Right to be Forgotten" is explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
- The "Right to be Forgotten" is subject to balancing against the public's right to access information.
- It is primarily aimed at protecting individuals' privacy in the digital age.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 3
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) Only 3

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect as the "Right to be Forgotten" is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution, though it is debated under the broader right to privacy. Other 2 statements are correct

Q183. Which of the following best represents the principles underlying the "Right to be Forgotten"?

- Protecting personal dignity and privacy in the digital realm.
- Ensuring absolute removal of content regardless of public interest.
- Balancing the right to privacy with freedom of expression and access to information.
- GDPR of the EU limit the applicability of right to be forgotten to EU citizens only.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1 and 3 represent key principles of the "Right to be Forgotten," emphasizing privacy and balancing competing rights. Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect because the right does not ensure absolute removal of content and is not exclusive to EU citizens.



Topic 62
62. Lok Adalat

- It is a type of **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- **Article 39A** of the Constitution (DPSP) **free legal aid** and **speedy justice** to the poor and weaker sections (**42nd Amendment Act-1976**).
- **First Lok Adalat- Gujarat** in 1982-speedy redressal of cases
- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**- Created **National Legal Service Authority**- Lok Adalats got **statutory status**.
- Lok Adalat take on **Civil Cases and Criminal cases(compoundable)**
- **Decision- final and binding**

How to get the Case Referred to the Lok Adalat for Settlement

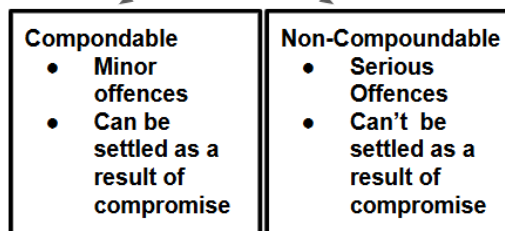
- **Parties agree to settle** the dispute in the Lok Adalat, or
- **Court is satisfied** that the matter can be solved by a Lok Adalat

Types of Lok Adalats
1. National Lok Adalat

- Held at regular intervals where **on a single day** -all the court's right from the **Supreme Court to Taluk Levels**-cases are disposed off in huge numbers.

0. Permanent Lok Adalat

- relating to Public Utility Services, the **supply of water to homes**, supply of electricity, the postal system, the banking system, railways etc.
- The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is upto **Rs. One Crore**.

Criminal cases

Types of Alternative Dispute Resolution

1. **Arbitration**-Decision of **arbitrator binding on the parties**.
2. **Conciliation**: A **non-binding procedure**
3. **Mediation**: mediator does **not decide the dispute** but **helps the parties communicate and settle dispute**
4. **Lok Adalat**

Q184. Which of the following statements about Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is/are correct?

1. ADR refers to methods of resolving disputes outside of traditional court litigation.
2. Arbitration is the only method of ADR recognized by law.
3. ADR is generally faster and more cost-effective than traditional court proceedings.
4. Mediation, arbitration, and conciliation are examples of ADR methods.

Options:

- (a) Only 1, 3, and 4
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct. ADR encompasses various methods like mediation, arbitration, and conciliation and is often faster and less expensive than litigation. Statement 2 is incorrect because ADR includes several recognized methods beyond arbitration.



Q185. Which of the following statements about Lok Adalat is/are correct?

1. Lok Adalat is an alternative dispute resolution forum recognized under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Decisions made by Lok Adalat are binding and enforceable as a court decree.
3. Lok Adalat can adjudicate disputes that have not yet been filed in court.
4. Parties in Lok Adalat can appeal the decision in a higher court if dissatisfied.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2, 3, and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 3
- (d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. Lok Adalat operates under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, its decisions are binding, and it can address disputes that have not been filed in court. Statement 4 is incorrect because decisions of Lok Adalat are final, and there is no provision for appeal.

Q186. How many of the following statements about Lok Adalat are true?

1. Lok Adalat can handle disputes related to civil, matrimonial, and compoundable criminal cases.
2. Parties must pay a court fee before their dispute can be taken up by Lok Adalat.
3. Lok Adalat proceedings are informal and non-adversarial in nature.
4. Participation in Lok Adalat is voluntary for all parties involved.

Options:

- (a) 1 statement
- (b) 2 statements
- (c) 3 statements
- (d) All 4 statements

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 3, and 4 are true. Lok Adalat can address civil, matrimonial, and compoundable criminal cases; proceedings are informal, and

participation is voluntary. Statement 2 is incorrect because no court fee is required in Lok Adalat.

Non-adversarial: Lok Adalat proceedings are based on Gandhian principles and focus on conciliation and compromise rather than adversarial confrontation.

Topic 63

63. The three criminal laws

- **The three criminal laws**, passed in Parliament December 2023.
- Came into effect on **July 1, 2024**

Why Need of reforms in Criminal Justice System?

1. **Vohra Committee (1993)-** Suggested reforms in Criminal Justice System to limit criminalisation of politics.
2. **Malimath Committee (2000)**
 - CJS in India "weighed in favour of the accused and did not adequately focus on the justice to the victims of the crime."
 - Thus, needs reforms.

Important provisions of BNS

1. **Sexual interaction** on deceitful promise to marry-offence
2. **Mob lynching**-mob of five or more individuals commits murder-offence
3. **Organised crime**
4. **Terrorism**-clear and expanded definition of terrorism
5. **Attempt to suicide**-the intent to compel or restrain any public servant from **discharging his official duty will be an offence**
 - cover self-immolations and hunger strikes

Deletions

1. Unnatural sexual offences
2. Thugs (Section 310 of IPC defined certain community as Thugs ie Habitual offenders)

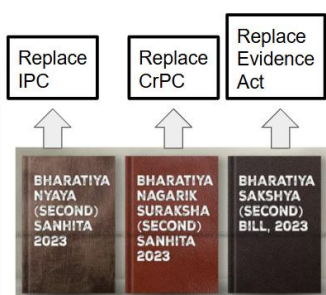


Components of Criminal Justice System India



Criminal laws

- **Common thread** amongst the three components 3 main Criminal laws are-
 - Indian Penal Code (1860)**- provide a exhaustive penal code for crimes in India
 - Criminal Procedure Code (1974)**-How Police machinery and court should function
 - Evidence Act(1873)**- Which evidences are admissible in court of law



HOW IPC SECTION NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED IN BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA

Provision	IPC	BNS
Punishment for murder	302	103
Cruelty against a married woman	498A	85
Rape	375	63
Sedition	124 A	152
Defamation	499	356
Cheating	420	318
Dowry death	304B	80
Criminal Conspiracy	120 A	61
Attempt to murder	307	109
Promoting enmity between different groups	153A	196
Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration	153B	197
Statements conducing to public mischief	505	353
Defamation	499	356
Sexual harassment	354A	75
Outraging the modesty of a woman	354	74
Criminal intimidation	503	351
Public nuisance	268	270
Gang rape	376D	70(1)

Q187. How many of the following statements are true regarding the three criminal laws in India?

1. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) categorizes offenses such as theft, murder, and defamation.
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) includes provisions for arrest, bail, and investigation.
3. The Indian Evidence Act specifies the rules for admissibility of oral and documentary evidence.
4. The IPC prescribes procedures for conducting criminal trials.

Options:

- (a) 1 statement
- (b) 2 statements
- (c) 3 statements
- (d) All 4 statements

Ans: c



Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are true. The IPC defines offenses, CrPC deals with procedures like arrest and bail, and the Evidence Act governs evidence admissibility. Statement 4 is false because the IPC does not prescribe procedures for trials; CrPC does.

Q188. Which of the following statements are true?

1. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) was drafted by Lord Macaulay in 1837 but came into effect in 1860.
2. The CrPC was originally enacted in 1861 and revised extensively in 1973.
3. The Indian Evidence Act was introduced in 1872 and applies exclusively to criminal cases.
4. All three laws were introduced post-independence.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while statements 3 and 4 are false. The Indian Evidence Act applies to both civil and criminal cases, and the three laws were introduced during British rule, not post-independence.

Q189. Which of the following statements about the three criminal laws in India is/are correct?

1. The Indian Penal Code (IPC) primarily deals with substantive criminal law.
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) lays down procedures for the investigation and trial of criminal cases.
3. The Indian Evidence Act governs the rules for presenting evidence in both civil and criminal cases.
4. The CrPC and IPC were enacted simultaneously in 1860.

Options:

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 3
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

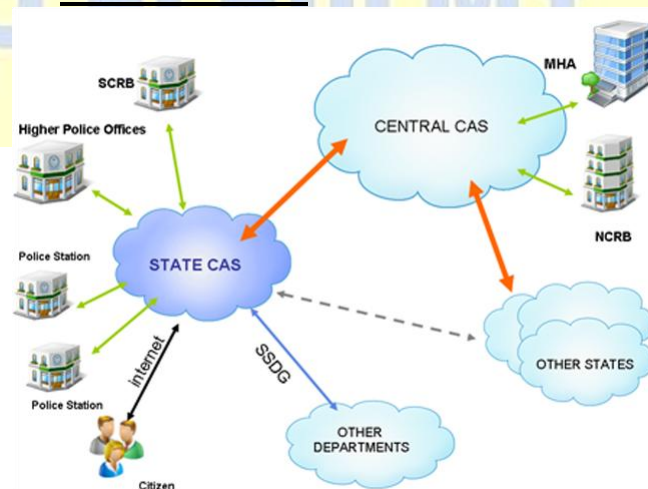
Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. IPC deals with substantive criminal law, CrPC with procedures, and the Evidence Act with rules of evidence. Statement 4 is incorrect because CrPC was enacted later, in 1973, while IPC was enacted in 1860.

Topic 64

64. Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems

- initiative under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- It is a **national-level project**.
- Aimed at creating a **comprehensive and integrated system** for **effective policing** through **e-Governance**.
- It provides a **centralized database** for **crime and criminal records** accessible to **law enforcement agencies** across the **country**.
- **Managed** by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.
- Launched in 2009 as part of the **National e-Governance Plan**.



Q190. Which of the following statements about the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems (CCTNS) is/are correct?

1. CCTNS is a nationwide project aimed at connecting police stations across India.
2. It enables sharing of real-time crime and criminal data among law enforcement agencies.



3. CCTNS was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
4. The project also integrates court and prison data for seamless collaboration.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 3 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. CCTNS connects police stations and enables real-time data sharing among law enforcement agencies. Statement 3 is incorrect as the project was initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Statement 4 is incorrect because it primarily focuses on police data, although integration with courts and prisons is a related initiative under ICJS (Interoperable Criminal Justice System).

Q191. How many of the following statements about the objectives and benefits of CCTNS are true?

1. CCTNS enhances the efficiency of law enforcement through real-time data sharing.
2. It facilitates the tracking of crime trends and patterns for better policymaking.
3. CCTNS allows the public to lodge First Information Reports (FIRs) online.
4. It is exclusively accessible to senior law enforcement officials.

Options:

- (a) 1 statement
- (b) 2 statements
- (c) 3 statements
- (d) All 4 statements

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are true. CCTNS improves efficiency, aids in tracking crime trends, and offers public services like online FIR lodging. Statement 4 is false as CCTNS is designed for use across various levels of law enforcement, not just senior officials.

Q192. A person reports a missing vehicle at a local police station in Assam. Through CCTNS, how can

the police use this system to assist in the investigation?

1. Check the database for any stolen vehicle reports matching the description.
2. Share the case details instantly with police stations in neighboring states.
3. Access real-time GPS tracking of the reported vehicle.
4. Generate automated alerts if the vehicle is found during a routine check.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol: CCTNS enables checking the database for similar reports (1), sharing details across states (2), and generating alerts for identified vehicles (4). Statement 3 is incorrect because GPS tracking is not a function of CCTNS.

Topic 65

65. Jadui Pitara

- Dr. K. Kasturirangan, which submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019.
- In 2020 'National Education Policy 2020' approved by the Union Cabinet.

Key features of National Education Policy, 2020

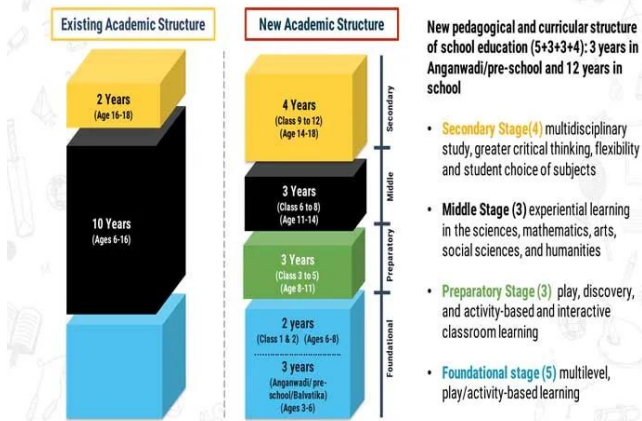
- The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure.
- NCERT to develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework to making learning a fun activity.
- To achieve this goal NCERT introduced Jadui Pitara.

Jadui Pitara

- for children between 3 & 8 years old.
- Play-based learning-teaching material.
- Its digital form E-Jadui Pitara was launched in November 2023.
- Digital Jadui pitara will democratise the access of fun based learning through mobile phones, TV and Radio.



Transforming Curricular & Pedagogical Structure



Q193. Which of the following statements about the National Education Policy 2020 and Jadui Pitara is/are correct?

1. The NEP 2020 introduces a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure replacing the traditional 10+2 model.
2. Jadui Pitara is a play-based learning tool for children between 3 and 8 years old.
3. The digital form of Jadui Pitara, called E-Jadui Pitara, was launched in 2020.
4. NCERT developed Jadui Pitara as part of a framework to make learning fun and engaging.

Options:

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 4
(d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. NEP 2020 introduced the 5+3+3+4 model, and NCERT developed Jai Pita for children aged 3–8 to

promote fun-based learning. Statement 3 is incorrect as E-Jadui Pitara was launched in November 2023, not in 2020.

Q194. Who chaired the committee that submitted the Draft National Education Policy, 2019?

Options:

- (a) Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar
(b) Dr. K. Kasturirangan
(c) Dr. Manmohan Singh
(d) Dr. Vijay Bhatkar

Ans: b

Sol: The Draft National Education Policy, 2019, was chaired by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, a distinguished space scientist and former ISRO chairman. The committee's work laid the foundation for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Q195. A primary school teacher wants to implement play-based learning for students aged 3–8 in a rural area with limited internet access. Which features of E-Jadui Pitara would best support this initiative?

1. Its availability in a digital format accessible via mobile phones, TV, and radio.
2. Its alignment with the NCERT's framework to make learning engaging and fun.
3. Its comprehensive coverage for students in the 8–12 age group.
4. Its focus on rote learning to ensure curriculum coverage.

Options:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 correctly describe the features of E-Jadui Pitara, which supports digital accessibility and fun-based learning. Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect because it is designed for children aged 3–8, not 8–12, and it does not focus on rote learning.



Topic 66

66. World Population Day 2024

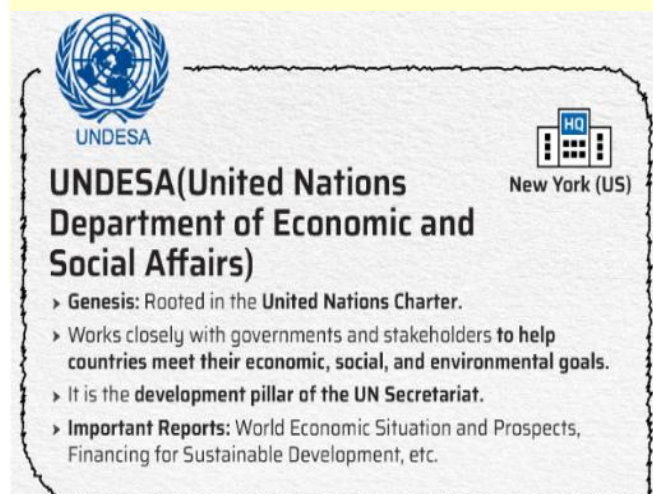
- It is observed on **July 11** every year.
- WPD was established by the **United Nations**

Theme of World Population Day 2024

- "Leave no one behind; count everyone."
- On the occasion of World Population Day, **World Population Prospects report** is published by **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)**.

World Population Prospects 2024 India

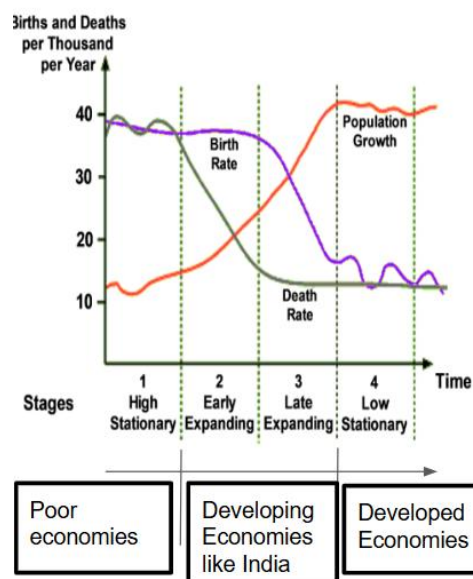
- According to the report, **India's population in 2024** is projected at **1.45 billion** and this **will peak to 1.69 billion in 2054**.
- India surpassed China** as world's most populous country in **2023**.
- Currently, **China is second on the list**, with a population of **1.42 billion**.



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is an **office associated with UN Secretariat**

Relation between poverty and population

Demographic Transition Model



Q196. Which of the following statements about World Population Day and the World Population Prospects report is/are correct?

- World Population Day is observed every year on July 11.
- The theme for World Population Day 2024 is "Leave no one behind; count everyone."
- The World Population Prospects report is published annually by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).
- World Population Day was established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Options:

- Only 1, 2, and 3
- Only 2 and 4
- Only 1 and 3
- All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. World Population Day is observed on July 11, the theme for 2024 is "Leave no one behind; count everyone," and the World Population Prospects report is published by UN-DESA. Statement 4 is incorrect because World Population Day was established by the United Nations, not WHO.



Q197. Which of the following statements about the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) is/are correct?

1. UN-DESA is rooted in the United Nations Charter.
2. It is the development pillar of the UN Secretariat.
3. UN-DESA's headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
4. Important reports published by UN-DESA include the World Economic Situation and Prospects.

Options:

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. UN-DESA is rooted in the United Nations Charter, is the development pillar of the UN Secretariat, and publishes reports like the World Economic Situation and Prospects. Statement 3 is incorrect because UN-DESA's headquarters is located in New York, USA, not Geneva.

Q198. Consider the following specific stages of demographic transition associated with economic development:

1. Low birth rate with low death rate
2. High birth rate with high death rate
3. High birth rate with low death rate
5. What is the correct order of the above stages?

Options:

- (a) 1, 2, 3
- (b) 2, 1, 3
- (c) 2, 3, 1
- (d) 3, 2, 1

Ans: c

Sol: The correct order is 2, 3, 1:

- Stage 2 (High birth rate with high death rate): This is the initial stage typical of pre-industrial economies with minimal population growth.

- Stage 3 (High birth rate with low death rate): As health care improves and death rates decline, population growth accelerates.
- Stage 1 (Low birth rate with low death rate): In developed economies, both birth and death rates stabilize at low levels, leading to minimal or zero population growth.

Topic 67

67. NITI Aayog SDG Index

Sustainable Development Goals

- Adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with a vision to achieve a **better and more sustainable future for all**.
- The SDGs, officially known as 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda'
- 17 Global Goals with 169 targets
- India is one of the signatory

NITI Aayog SDG Index

- The SDG index, has been developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations in India.
- It measures the progress by respective States and Union Territories in attaining SDG targets.
- 4 Performance Categories: Achiever (100), Front Runner (65-99), Performer (50-64), and Aspirant (0-49)

Current news?

- SDG India Index 2023-24, the fourth edition, released by NITI Aayog.

Key findings

- The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.
- Uttarakhand and Kerala have taken the top spot among states with a score of 79 each while Bihar was ranked last with a score of 57.

Assam's performance

- SDG Score 65-Front runner category
- Assam is ranked 23 along with Tripura and Punjab



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Q199. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with which of the following visions?

1. To achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.
2. To implement 17 Global Goals with 169 targets by 2030.
3. To focus solely on environmental sustainability without addressing social or economic issues.
4. To transform the world under the 2030 Agenda.

Options:

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. The SDGs aim for a holistic approach to sustainability, addressing social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Statement 3 is incorrect because the

SDGs address a wide range of issues beyond environmental sustainability.

Q200. Which of the following statements about the SDG India Index is/are correct?

1. The SDG India Index is developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the United Nations in India.
2. It categorizes states and Union Territories into four performance categories: Achiever, Front Runner, Performer, and Aspirant.
3. The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 71 in 2023-24.
4. The fourth edition of the SDG India Index (2023-24) ranked Kerala and Bihar as the top-performing states.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 4,
- (b) Only 1, 2 and 3
- (c) Only 2, 3, and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. NITI Aayog's SDG Index categorizes states into four categories and measures progress. Statement 4 is incorrect as Kerala and Uttarakhand were the top-performing states, not Bihar.

Q201. Which of the following statements about Assam's performance in the SDG India Index 2023-24 is/are correct?

1. Assam is ranked 23 along with Tripura and Punjab.
2. Assam's composite score of 65 places it in the "Performer" category.
3. Assam is categorized as a "Front Runner" state in the 2023-24 SDG Index.

Options:

- Only 1 and 2
- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) All

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Assam is ranked 23 alongside Tripura and Punjab and is categorized as a "Front Runner" state. Statement



2 is incorrect because the "Performer" category has scores of 50-64, while Assam scored 65.

Topic 68

68. Menstrual leave policies

- Menstrual leave policies are **not standardized across the nation** and **vary** between **states**.
- No national law.

State-Level Initiatives:

- Bihar:** Since 1992-two days of special leave each month
- Kerala:** In 2023 across all universities and institutions

Private Sector Initiatives

- Zomato, Swiggy and Byju's**

Proposed Legislation:

- The **Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products Bill, 2022** was introduced-**not passed**.

Current news?

- The **Supreme Court of India dismissed** a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** seeking **menstrual leave** for workers and students nationwide.
- The court said that it is a policy matter to be **addressed by the government**.

HER OWN WORKPLACE

SC's comments on menstrual leave should spur wider conversations on making places of work more inclusive

THE SUPREME COURT'S comment on Monday that a mandatory menstrual-leave policy **might be counter-productive** for women in the workforce is an intervention in what has proved to be a contentious issue not just in India but across the world. The three-judge bench, hearing a plea to implement menstrual leave for women under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, urged the Centre to frame a model policy in consultation with states and stakeholders, ensuring that fear of its misuse as a basis for discrimination does not deter the entry of women into the workforce.

Working women are already set back by the motherhood penalty and workplace house-keeping — pregnancy and child rearing that stall their progress, and the assignment of menial administrative tasks that men at the same professional level would not volunteer for or be assigned. Menstrual leave runs the risk of becoming one more obstacle course that women have to navigate for employment and career advancement. In December last year, the former Union Women and Child Development Minister, Smriti Irani, had told the Rajya Sabha that **she was opposed to the idea of a paid menstrual leave personally because she did not want women to face discrimination over "a natural part of a woman's life journey"**. There is some truth in her words. The pathologisation of a biological process can further the stigma instead of alleviating it. Yet, for those suffering from conditions such as endometriosis and dysmenorrhea, the discomfort that accompanies their menstrual cycles has a real impact on their performance at work. All these necessitate a careful calibration of how policy is framed, with guidelines and safeguards built in against misuse at either end.

While countries such as **Taiwan and Zambia have instituted menstrual-leave policy**, implementation has **remained a hurdle**. In June 2023, when Spain became the **first European nation to introduce paid menstrual leave**, it was seen as a move towards greater gender parity. In the year since, data has shown that very few women have availed of it, either because the process is onerous or due to a fear of discrimination. In Indonesia, the two-day men-

Q202. Which of the following statements about menstrual leave policies in India is/are correct?

- There is no national law mandating menstrual leave in India.
- Bihar has provided two days of special menstrual leave each month since 1992.
- The Supreme Court recently mandated menstrual leave for workers and students across the country.
- The Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products Bill, 2022, has been passed in Parliament.

Options:

- Only 1 and 2
- Only 2 and 3
- Only 1, 3, and 4
- All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. There is no national law on menstrual leave, but Bihar has had a policy since 1992. Statement 3 is incorrect as the Supreme Court dismissed a PIL for nationwide menstrual leave. Statement 4 is also incorrect because the proposed bill has not been passed.

Q203. Which states have introduced menstrual leave policies for women as of 2023?

Options:

- Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- Bihar and Kerala
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- Maharashtra and Kerala

Ans: b

Sol: Bihar introduced menstrual leave in 1992, and Kerala extended it across all universities and institutions in 2023. The other states mentioned have not implemented such policies.

Q204. Which of the following statements are true regarding Menstrual leave policies? ?

- The Supreme Court of India suggested that a mandatory menstrual leave policy may be counterproductive if imposed without consultation.



2. Some argue that a paid menstrual leave policy may lead to biases against women in hiring or promotions.
3. Spain became the first European country to introduce a paid menstrual leave policy in June 2023.
4. Countries like Taiwan and Zambia have already implemented menstrual leave policies.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 3
- (d) All of the above

Ans: d

Sol: All the statements are correct:

- The Supreme Court highlighted the need for consultations before implementing a mandatory menstrual leave policy (1).
- Concerns about workplace biases against women were expressed in the article (2).
- Spain introduced a paid menstrual leave policy in June 2023 (3).
- Taiwan and Zambia are mentioned as countries with existing menstrual leave policies (4).

Topic 69

69. Global Education Monitoring Report

- annual report published by UNESCO.
- aims to monitor progress on education in line with the SDG4.

Key findings

- The report tries to establish relation between school education and climate change.
- The report noted that a child experiencing temperatures deviations due to climate change is predicted to attain 1.5 fewer years of schooling than children experiencing average temperatures.



unesco

Global Education
Monitoring Report

Q205. Which education-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) does the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report primarily focus on?

Options:

- (a) SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)
- (b) SDG 4 (Quality Education)
- (c) SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- (d) SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

Ans: b

Sol: The GEM Report primarily focuses on SDG 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Q206. Which of the following statements about the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report is/are correct?

1. The GEM Report is published annually by UNESCO.
2. It monitors progress in achieving the education-related targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. The GEM Report focuses only on primary and secondary education.

Options:

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The GEM Report is published by UNESCO and monitors progress in education-related SDGs. Statement 3 is incorrect because it covers all levels of education, including early childhood, tertiary, and adult education.



Q207. Which of the following statements about the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report is/are correct?

1. The GEM Report is an annual publication by UNESCO that monitors progress on education in line with SDG 4.
2. The 2023 GEM Report highlights the relationship between school education and climate change.
3. Children experiencing temperature deviations due to climate change are predicted to attain 1.5 fewer years of schooling.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: The GEM Report is an annual UNESCO publication that monitors education progress under SDG 4 and examines the impact of climate change on education, such as reduced years of schooling due to temperature deviations.

Topic 70

70. U-WIN Portal

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

- Under UIP, immunization is being provided free of cost against 12 vaccine preventable diseases
- Mission Indradhanush (MI) was launched in December 2014 to reinforce universal immunization.

Current news?

- A digital platform developed by India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Aim- immunization management under Universal Immunization Programme (like Co-WIN portal during Covid-19).

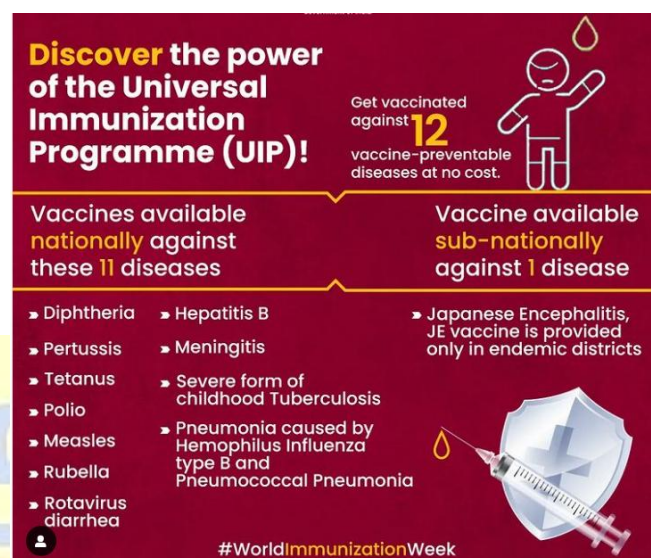
What U-WIN portal will do?

- Maintain an electronic registry of routine immunizations.
- Captures every vaccination event for pregnant women and children
- Automated SMS alerts

- Facilitates the creation of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs.

What is ABHA IDs?

- ABHA ID, or Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account ID, is a unique digital identifier issued to individuals in India.
- It serves as a centralized platform for individuals to store and manage their medical records digitally.
- Developed under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).



Discover the power of the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)!

Get vaccinated against **12** vaccine-preventable diseases at no cost.

Vaccines available nationally against these 11 diseases

- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Rubella
- Rotavirus diarrhea
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis
- Severe form of childhood Tuberculosis
- Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B and Pneumococcal Pneumonia

Vaccine available sub-nationally against 1 disease

- Japanese Encephalitis, JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts

#WorldImmunizationWeek



national health authority
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

Health ID

John Doe
Health ID Number: xx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx

PHR Address: johndoe@ndhm

Date of Birth: 1/12/1993

Gender: male

Mobile: xxxxxxxxxx

For representation purpose only

Q208. Which of the following statements about the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is correct?

1. The UIP was launched in 2000 to provide free immunization against a limited set of diseases.
2. The programme covers only children under 1 year of age.
3. The UIP aims to eradicate polio as its sole objective.
4. The UIP provides free vaccines against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles and hepatitis B.



Options:

Only 1 and 2

(a) Only 2 and 3

(b) Only 1 and 3

(c) Only 4

Ans: d

Sol: The Universal Immunization Programme provides free vaccines against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis. Statements 1, 2, and 3 are incorrect as the UIP was launched in 1985, covers children up to 5 years of age and pregnant women, and targets multiple diseases beyond polio.

Q209. Which of the following statements about the U-WIN Portal is correct?

1. The U-WIN Portal is a digital platform launched by the Indian government to track routine immunization programs.
2. It aims to digitize and streamline the vaccination records of children and pregnant women.
3. The U-WIN Portal has replaced the CoWIN portal used during the COVID-19 vaccination drive.
4. It focuses exclusively on adult vaccinations.

Options:

(a) Only 1 and 2

(b) Only 2 and 4

(c) Only 1 and 4

(d) Only 1, 2, and 3

Ans: d

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. The U-WIN Portal is a government initiative to track and digitize routine immunization records for children and pregnant women. It is modeled after and has replaced the CoWIN portal for managing routine immunizations. Statement 4 is incorrect because the portal focuses on vaccinations for children and pregnant women, not exclusively adults.

Q210. Which of the following statements about ABHA ID is correct?

1. ABHA ID is a unique digital ID introduced under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

2. It enables individuals to access and share their health records securely.
3. The ABHA ID is mandatory for availing any healthcare service in India.
4. It aims to create a unified digital health ecosystem by integrating health data from multiple sources.

(a) Only 1 and 2

(b) Only 2 and 3

(c) Only 1, 2, and 4

(d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. ABHA ID is a digital initiative under ABDM that enables secure access and sharing of health records, creating a unified health ecosystem. Statement 3 is incorrect because the ABHA ID is not mandatory but voluntary for accessing healthcare services.

Day 8

Topic 71

71. Right to Education Act, 2009

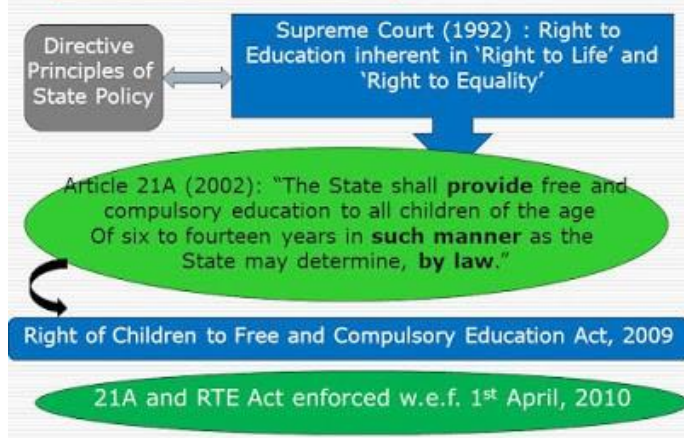
- **86th amendment, 2002-Right to Education** as a **fundamental right** in **part-III** of the Constitution.
 - **free and compulsory** education-**children between 6-14 years**.
 - inserted **Article 21-A**.
- Right to Education Act, 2009**
- Right to Education Act, 2009 was **implemented** in **order** to give **enforcement** to **Article 21A**.
 - **Section 12(1)(c)** of the **RTE Act-25 per cent reservation** of seats in **unaided/private schools** for admission of children in **class 1 for EWS**.
 - **no child can be held back** in a grade, regardless of his performance, all the way **up to the eighth grade**.

NITI Aayog's observation

- **No detention provision** has had a **detrimental effect on learning outcomes**,



Education a Fundamental Right : India



Current news?

- **Maharashtra school education department** issued a gazette notification **exempting private unaided schools (within 1 kilometer of government or government-aided schools)** from the **mandatory 25% admission quota**.
- Maharashtra joins **Karnataka and Kerala** in **exempting private schools** from RTE admissions.
- **The Bombay High Court has cancelled the Maharashtra government's new rule.**

Q211. Which of the following statements regarding the Right to Education Act, 2009, is/are correct?

1. The Act makes education a fundamental right for children aged 6 to 14 years.
 2. It mandates that private schools reserve 50% of their seats for disadvantaged groups.
 3. The Act prohibits any form of screening procedures for admissions to schools.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The RTE Act recognizes education as a fundamental right for children aged 6 to 14 years.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Act mandates private unaided schools to reserve 25% of their seats, not 50%, for children from disadvantaged and economically weaker sections.

- Statement 3 is correct: The Act prohibits screening procedures and interviews for children and parents during admissions.

Q212. Which of the following statements about the No Detention Policy under the Right to Education Act, 2009, is/are correct?

1. No child can be detained in the same class until the completion of elementary education (Class VIII).
 2. The policy ensures that children who fail exams are provided remedial instruction.
 3. It applies only to government schools and not private schools.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 1 is correct
 (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The No Detention Policy states that no child shall be held back in the same grade up to Class VIII.
- Statement 2 is correct: The policy includes provisions for additional support through remedial instruction to help children progress academically.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The policy applies to all schools, including private ones, as per the RTE Act.

Q213. Identify the correct statement(s) about the No Detention Policy under the Right to Education Act, 2009:

1. The policy faced criticism for lowering learning outcomes in schools.
 2. It completely eliminated the need for assessments.
 3. States now have the authority to detain students in certain grades following a re-assessment.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
 (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:



- Statement 1 is correct: Critics argued that the policy led to a decline in learning standards as students were promoted regardless of performance.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The policy did not eliminate assessments but focused on CCE to monitor student progress.
- Statement 3 is correct: post-amendment in 2019, states can detain students in Class V and VIII based on reassessment results.

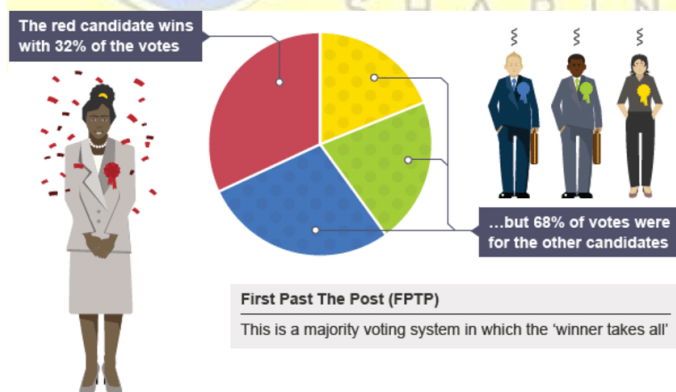
Topic 72

72. First Past the Post System

- First past the post is an electoral system where the **candidate** who **receives the most votes wins** the election.
- This system is widely used in countries like the **United Kingdom, Canada, and India** for legislative elections.

Proportional Representation (PR system)

- **Number of seats** won by a **political party** should be **proportionate** to the number of **votes received**, i.e., seats are assigned as per the number of votes received.
- Votes are **cast for the party** in PR system (unlike FPTP where Votes are cast for candidates)



- FPTP often produces **disproportional results** wrt share of parties in overall votes polled.

2019 Lok Sabha Elections

- Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**) received **37.36%** of the **vote**, which translated into **55% of the seats** in Lok Sabha.

Q214. Which of the following statements about the First Past the Post (FPTP) system is/are correct?

1. It is used in single-member constituencies.
2. A candidate must secure more than 50% of the votes to win.

3. It is commonly used in parliamentary elections in India.

- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
- (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
- (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
- (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The FPTP system is designed for single-member constituencies where one representative is elected.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The candidate does not need more than 50% of the votes; they only need the highest number of votes.
- Statement 3 is correct: India uses the FPTP system for parliamentary and state assembly elections.

Q215. Identify the correct statement(s) about the advantages and disadvantages of the First Past the Post (FPTP) system:

1. It ensures stable governments by favouring large political parties.
 2. Smaller parties often have a significant chance of gaining representation.
 3. It is criticized for disregarding the proportion of votes received by losing candidates.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
 - (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 - (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 - (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: FPTP tends to favor larger parties, often leading to stable majority governments.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Smaller parties find it difficult to win representation unless their support is geographically concentrated.
- Statement 3 is correct: The system does not account for votes cast for losing candidates, which often raises concerns about fairness.

Q216. Identify the correct statement(s) about the advantages and disadvantages of the Proportional Representation system:



1. It provides a fairer representation of public opinion compared to First Past the Post (FPTP).
 2. It can lead to political fragmentation and instability in the legislature.
 3. It ensures that every constituency elects only one representative.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 1 and 2 are correct
(c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: PR systems aim to reflect the proportion of votes received by each party, leading to fairer representation.
- Statement 2 is correct: PR often results in fragmented legislatures, which can make forming stable governments more challenging.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: PR is typically used in multi-member constituencies, not single-member constituencies.

Topic 73

73. The Right to Property in India

1. **Article 19(1)(f)**
 - The right to property was a fundamental right protected under Article 19(1)(f) of the Constitution.
0. **Article 31**
 - No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law.
 - Adequate compensation to the owner, if a private property is acquired for a public purpose.

Issues arising due to above two articles-

- Difficulty for the government in acquiring private property for public infrastructure creation like Roads, Railway etc

44th Constitutional Amendment

- deleted the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights and placed it as a Constitutional Right under Article 300-A.
- Article 31, which had caused a lot of debate about how compensation should be decided, was removed.

Recent development

- In the Kolkata Municipal Corporation case Supreme Court held that Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has no power to acquire

any private land without consent of the owners.

Inference- Though not a fundamental right, yet right to property remains protected as a constitutional right.



Q217. Assertion (A): The Right to Property is no longer considered a fundamental right in India. Reason (R): The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978, removed the Right to Property from the list of fundamental rights.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Ans: a

Sol:

- The 44th Amendment Act indeed removed the Right to Property from the list of fundamental rights, making it a legal right under Article 300A. Thus, both the assertion and reason are correct, and R explains A.

Q218. Match the following regarding the Right to Property in India:

Column A	Column B
1. Article 300A	A. Legal right to property
2. 44th Constitutional Amendment	B. Removed Right to Property as a fundamental right
3. Article 31	C. Originally provided for the Right to Property
4. 1978	D. Year in which Right to Property was made a legal right

(a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D



- (b) 1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-D
(c) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C
(d) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D

Ans: a

Sol:

- Article 300A (A) now recognizes the Right to Property as a legal right.
- The 44th Amendment Act (B) removed it from the list of fundamental rights.
- Article 31 (C) originally enshrined the Right to Property as a fundamental right.
- In 1978 (D), the Right to Property was made a legal right under Article 300A.

Q219. Which of the following statements about Article 300A is/are correct?

- Article 300A provides the right to property as a fundamental right.
 - It was introduced by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978.
 - Article 300A states that no person shall be deprived of their property except by the authority of law.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
(c) Only 3 is correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Right to Property is no longer a fundamental right; it is now a constitutional/legal right under Article 300A.
- Statement 2 is correct: The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced Article 300A, removing the Right to Property from the list of fundamental rights.
- Statement 3 is correct: Article 300A explicitly states that no person shall be deprived of their property except through a process established by law.

Topic 74

74. Finance Commission

- Constituted by the President under **Article 280 of the Constitution**, for a period of **5 years**.

Purpose - To give formula for

- Vertical distribution-** recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States
- Horizontal Distribution-** Distribution of taxes amongst the States themselves.

Other Functions of Finance Commission

1. Statutory Grant (Article 275) of the constitution -

- General Grant-** To needy states having shortfall in revenue or disaster relief or local bodies.
 - Specific Grant-** For welfare of tribals in Schedule areas and state of Assam.
0. Suggest the measures needed to **augment the Consolidated Fund of a State**.
0. Any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.

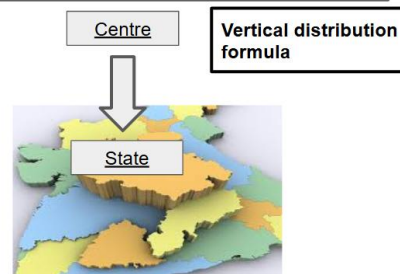
15th Finance Commission

- 2 reports -2020-21 and 2021 to 2026**
- Headed by **economist NK Singh**
- Suggested **41% tax devolution to States**.

16th Finance Commission

- Period of **five years beginning April 1, 2026**.
- Arvind Panagariya-Chairman**
- Members-Ajay Narayan Jha, Annie George Mathew, Manoj Panda

Divisible tax pool of the Central government(all tax collected except cess and surcharges)



Horizontal Formula- Division amongst the states



Dr. Arvind Panagariya

Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission of India





Shri Ajay Narayan Jha

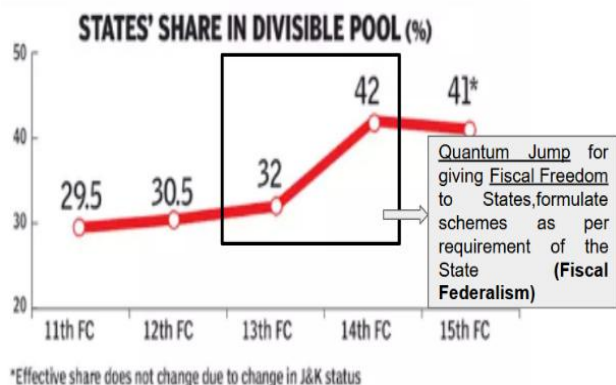


Smt. Annie George Mathew

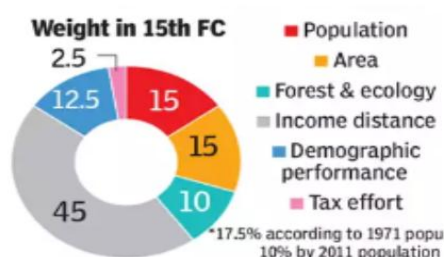


Dr. Manoj Panda

Vertical Tax Devolution Formula by successive FCs



Horizontal Tax Distribution Formula by 15th FC



Recommendations of Finance commission is non-binding

Q220. Which of the following statements about the tax devolution formulas by successive Finance Commissions is/are correct?

1. The states' share in the divisible pool was the highest under the 14th Finance Commission at 42%.
 2. The 15th Finance Commission reduced the states' share to 41% to account for special provisions for Union Territories like Jammu & Kashmir.
 3. In the horizontal tax distribution formula of the 15th Finance Commission, "Income Distance" has the highest weight of 45%.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
(b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
(c) Only 1 and 3 are correct

(d) All are correct

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The image shows that the states' share in the divisible pool was increased to 42% by the 14th Finance Commission.
- Statement 2 is correct: The 15th Finance Commission reduced the share to 41%, citing special considerations for Union Territories, including Jammu & Kashmir.
- Statement 3 is correct: The horizontal formula gives the highest weight to "Income Distance" (45%) for tax distribution.

Q221. Which of the following statements regarding the role of the Finance Commission in India is/are correct?

1. The Finance Commission recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States.
2. It determines the principles governing grants-in-aid to the States by the Centre.
3. It oversees the expenditure incurred by the Union government.
4. The Finance Commission is a constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.

- (a) Only 1 and 3 are correct
- (b) Only 1, 2, and 4 are correct
- (c) Only 2 and 4 are correct
- (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Finance Commission recommends how the tax revenues should be shared between the Union and the States.
- Statement 2 is correct: It advises on the principles for providing grants-in-aid to States from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Finance Commission does not oversee Union expenditure; this is the role of other institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- Statement 4 is correct: The Finance Commission is a constitutional body



established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.

Q222. Which of the following statements about Article 275 of the Indian Constitution is/are correct?

1. Article 275 provides for grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India to certain states.
 2. These grants are meant to help states meet the costs of schemes for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and improving the administration of Scheduled Areas.
 3. Article 275 makes it mandatory for the Union government to provide grants to all states regardless of financial need.
 4. The Finance Commission recommends the principles for the disbursement of these grants.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4 are correct
(b) Only 1 and 2 are correct
(c) Only 2 and 4 are correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Article 275 provides for the provision of grants-in-aid to states from the Consolidated Fund of India to address their specific needs.
- Statement 2 is correct: These grants often target the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and the administration of Scheduled Areas.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 275 is not applicable to all states but only to those requiring financial assistance, as determined by specific criteria.
- Statement 4 is correct: The Finance Commission recommends principles for the allocation and disbursement of grants under Article 275.

Topic 75

75.Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Central government schemes

1. Central Sector Schemes

- **Funding:** Entirely borne by the **Central Government.**
- Normally formulated on **subjects:** Placed under the **Union List.**
- **Implementation** Agency: **Central Government.**

- Examples: Mudra Yojana, Bharat Net, etc.
- 0. **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**
 - **Funding:** By both **Centre and State**(ratio such as 90:10, 70:30, 60:40) etc.
 - Normally formulated on **subjects:** Placed under the **State List.**
 - **Implementation** Agency: **State Government.**
 - Examples: MGNREGA, NSAP.

Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

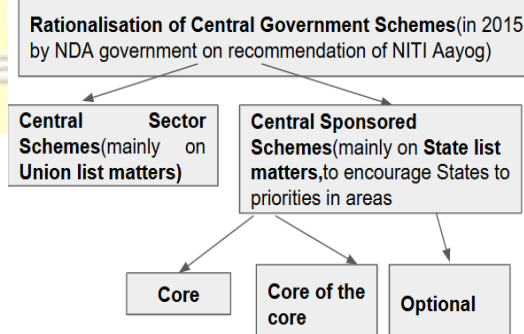
- Aim-Minimize the total number of schemes by merging overlapping ones.
- Schemes were categorized into Core of the Core, Core, and Optional based on their priority and relevance.
- Before rationalisation: 66 schemes.
- Post-rationalisation: Reduced to around 28 schemes.

28 Central Sponsored schemes

- Core of the Core Schemes: 6 schemes
- Core Schemes: 20 schemes
- Optional Schemes: 2 schemes

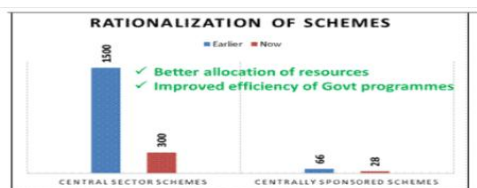
Why rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes was done?

- For ensuring Fiscal Freedom of the states.



(A)	Core of the Core Schemes
1	National Social Assistance Programme
2	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme
3	Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes
4	Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes
5	Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities
6	Umbrella Scheme for Development of Backward Classes, Differently Aabled and other Vulnerable Groups





Before and after (wrt 14th FC) Central Government Scheme

Logically
interrelated events



Planning Commission replaced by NITI Aayog is also in direction of Fiscal Federalism

Q223. Which of the following statements about the rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) is/are correct?

1. The aim was to minimize the number of schemes by merging overlapping ones.
2. Post-rationalisation, Centrally Sponsored Schemes were classified into Core of the Core, Core, and Optional categories.
3. The total number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes was reduced from 66 to 28.

- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
- (b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
- (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
- (d) All are correct

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Rationalisation aimed to minimize duplication and overlap by merging schemes.
- Statement 2 is correct: After rationalisation, CSS were categorized into Core of the Core, Core, and Optional schemes based on their priority.
- Statement 3 is correct: The total number of schemes was reduced from 66 to 28 after rationalisation.

Q224. Which of the following statements about Fiscal Federalism and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) is/are correct?

1. Fiscal federalism refers to the division of financial powers and responsibilities between different levels of government.
 2. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are fully funded by the Central Government.
 3. Rationalisation of CSS was undertaken to ensure greater fiscal freedom for the States.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 - (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 - (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 - (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Fiscal federalism involves the distribution of financial powers between the Centre and the States, ensuring balanced governance.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: CSS are jointly funded by the Centre and States in specific ratios, not fully funded by the Centre.
- Statement 3 is correct: Rationalisation of CSS aimed to provide states more fiscal autonomy and reduce overlap in schemes.

Q225. Which of the following reasons led to the replacement of the Planning Commission with NITI Aayog?

1. The Planning Commission followed a top-down approach to planning, which was considered outdated.
2. NITI Aayog emphasizes cooperative federalism, giving states more say in development planning.
3. The Planning Commission had no role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.
4. NITI Aayog aims to align development planning with changing global economic realities.

- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
- (b) Only 1, 2, and 4 are correct
- (c) Only 3 and 4 are correct
- (d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The top-down approach of the Planning Commission did not consider



the specific needs of states, making it less effective.

- Statement 2 is correct: NITI Aayog fosters cooperative federalism, involving states in development planning and decision-making.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Planning Commission had initiatives for fostering entrepreneurship but lacked a comprehensive framework like NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.
- Statement 4 is correct: NITI Aayog aligns India's development goals with contemporary global challenges, focusing on innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Topic 76

76.Special Category Status

- The status given by the Centre to backward states

How the concept of SCS was introduced?

- Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.

Criteria used to determine SCS?

- Hilly Terrain; Low Population Density or sizeable Tribal Population; Strategic Location along Borders, Economic Backwardness, Nonviable Nature of State finances

Criteria to identify SCS is known as **Gadgil Formula** (DR Gadgil Deputy Chairman of 3rd Planning Commission).

Benefits of being categorised as SCS?

1. **Larger fiscal burden by Central government in Central Sponsored Schemes**
 - Centre pays 90% of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme.
2. **Non-Lapsable fund**
 - Unspent money in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.
3. **Special Consideration in budget allocation**
 - 30% of the Centre's Gross Budget goes to Special Category states.
 - Benefits accorded by Finance commission- Additional tax devolution

Finance Commission on Special Category Status

- 14th Finance Commission has **done away** with the 'special category status' for states, **except** for the **Northeastern and three hill states.**
- The same has been **continued by the 15th FC.**

Why?

- Increased tax devolution from **32% to 42%**
- **Prevent politicisation** of SCS status (eg Andhra Pradesh, Bihar are demanding)

States currently having Special Category Status

- **Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Telangana (8 NE + 2 Hilly + Telangana)**

Note

- **Telangana-an exception to recommendation of 14th and 15th FC.**

Also note-

- **SCS is different from Special status (refer Topic 2 day 1-Special status like 371B to Assam etc)**

Q226. Which of the following criteria were originally considered for granting Special Category Status (SCS) to states?

1. Difficult terrain
 2. Low population density
 3. Economic backwardness
 4. Non-revenue generating industries
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: c

Sol:

- Difficult terrain, low population density, and economic backwardness were key criteria for granting SCS.
- Non-revenue generating industries were not a formal criterion for SCS.

Q227. Which of the following is/are benefits provided to Special Category Status (SCS) states?

1. Preference in central government schemes and projects.
 2. Higher grants under centrally sponsored schemes (90:10 ratio).
 3. Concessions on loans and debts from international agencies.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 1 is correct



- (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: d

Sol:

- SCS states receive preferential treatment in central projects, higher funding ratios (90:10 for CSS), and loan concessions from international funding organizations due to their special needs.

Q228. Which institution was responsible for granting Special Category Status (SCS) to Indian states?

- (a) Parliament of India
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) National Development Council (NDC)
(d) Planning Commission

Ans: c

Sol:

- The National Development Council (NDC), which included the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, and Chief Ministers, was responsible for granting SCS to states.

Topic 77

77.Preventive Detention laws in India

Article 22

- Protects against arrest and detention-**
- Article 22 (4)** states that **no law providing for preventive detention** shall authorise the detention of a person for a **longer period than three months** unless-
 - An Advisory Board** reports sufficient cause for **extended detention**.
 - Such a person is **detained** in accordance with the **provisions of any law** made by the **Parliament**.

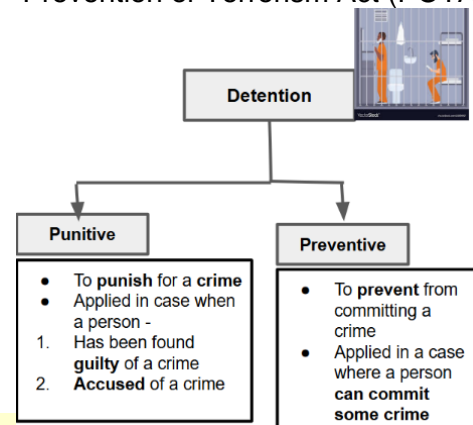
Preventive detention laws made by the Parliament are:

- National Security Act (NSA), 1980
- Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974
- Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980

4. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967

Some Preventive detention laws that are repealed now-

- Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) 1971
- Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (TADA) 1985
- Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002



Q229. Which of the following statements about Article 22 of the Indian Constitution is correct?

- Article 22 provides protection to individuals against arbitrary arrest and detention.
- It guarantees legal aid to all individuals detained under preventive detention laws.
- It lays down both rights for individuals and powers of the state regarding preventive and punitive detention.

- (a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Article 22 provides protection against arbitrary arrest and detention by establishing procedural safeguards.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 22 does not guarantee legal aid as a constitutional right for individuals detained under preventive detention.
- Statement 3 is correct: Article 22 outlines both the rights of individuals and the powers of the state concerning preventive and punitive detention.



Q230. Which of the following statements about Preventive Detention in India is/are correct?

1. Preventive detention is allowed to detain a person to prevent them from committing a crime.
 2. The maximum period of preventive detention without the recommendation of an Advisory Board is six months.
 3. The Constitution of India provides safeguards against misuse of preventive detention under Article 22.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 1 and 3 are correct
(c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
(d) All are correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Preventive detention is permitted in India to prevent an individual from committing an act harmful to public order or security.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Preventive detention without an Advisory Board's recommendation can last a maximum of three months, not six months.
- Statement 3 is correct: Article 22 provides procedural safeguards such as informing the detainee of the grounds of detention and allowing representation before an Advisory Board.

Q231. Under preventive detention laws in India, which of the following rights are denied to the detainee?

1. Right to legal counsel
 2. Right to be informed of the grounds for detention
 3. Right to freedom of movement
- (a) Only 1 and 3 are denied
(b) Only 2 and 3 are denied
(c) Only 1 and 2 are denied
(d) All are denied

Ans: a

Sol:

- The detainee has the right to be informed of the grounds of detention (within 5 to 15 days in some cases).

- The right to legal counsel and freedom of movement are curtailed under preventive detention.

Topic 78

78.Current reservations in government jobs

- **Article 16(4)** of the Constitution provides for reservations to **backward classes** in Central/State government jobs. Accordingly reservation for SC and ST communities were provided-
1. **Scheduled Castes (SCs)- 15%**
 2. **Scheduled Tribes (STs)-7.5%**
 3. **27% reservation Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in 1992** on recommendation of **Mandal Commission.**
 4. **10% Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** reservation

EWS Reservation

- **103rd Constitutional Amendment in 2019-** introduced clauses 15(6) and 16(6) into the Constitution for special provisions for EWS category.

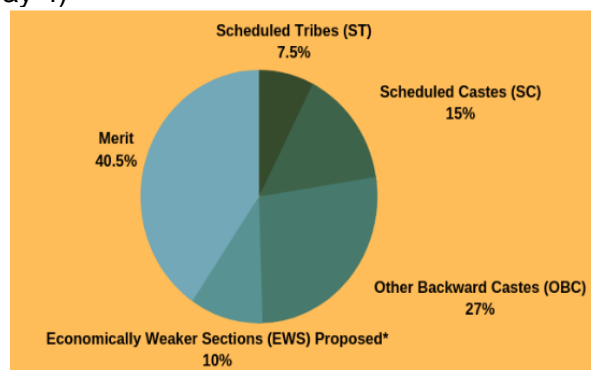
Eligibility Criteria

- annual income below ₹8 lakh

Exclusion criteria

- family should not own more than 5 acres of agricultural land,
- a residential flat of 1,000 square feet or more, or
- a residential plot of 100 square yards or more in notified municipalities,
- residential plot of 200 square yards or more in areas other than notified municipalities

(Note-Read this topic in relation with topic 36 of Day 4)



Q232. Which of the following statements about reservation policy in India is correct?



1. Reservations in education and employment are provided for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) under the Constitution.
 2. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment provides for 10% reservation to economically weaker sections (EWS) of society.
 3. Reservations for SCs and STs in legislatures are provided under Articles 330 and 332 of the Indian Constitution.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 2 is correct
 (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Reservations in education and public employment are provided for SCs, STs, and OBCs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The 103rd Constitutional Amendment provides up to 10% reservation for EWS in education and employment but not for all economically weaker sections, only specific categories as defined.
- Statement 3 is correct: Articles 330 and 332 provide for the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, respectively.

Q233. Which of the following statements about the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservation is/are correct?

1. The EWS reservation provides up to 10% reservation in education and employment for economically disadvantaged sections not covered under SC/ST/OBC categories.
 2. It was introduced through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.
 3. The EWS reservation applies to all private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: EWS reservation benefits economically weaker sections that are not beneficiaries of existing SC/ST/OBC reservations.
- Statement 2 is correct: The EWS reservation was introduced by the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.
- Statement 3 is correct: The reservation applies to all educational institutions, including private unaided ones, except minority institutions.

Q234. Which Articles of the Indian Constitution were amended to implement the EWS reservation?

- (a) Articles 15 and 16
 (b) Articles 14 and 15
 (c) Articles 15 and 19
 (d) Articles 16 and 19

Ans: a

Sol:

- Article 15(6) was added to enable EWS reservation in education, and Article 16(6) was added to provide EWS reservation in public employment.

Topic 79

79. Powers of the Speaker

Pro-tem Speaker

- a **temporary speaker** appointed for a limited period

Role of Pro-tem Speaker

- Speaker of the LS/legislative assembly **vacates the office immediately before the first meeting** of the newly elected house
- President/governor appoints the pro-tem speaker **to preside over the sittings of the newly elected house till new Speaker is elected** (Usually, the **senior most member**)

Oath

- **President** will first administer the **oath to the Protem Speaker.**
- **Protem Speaker** -oath to all the **newly elected LS members.**

Article 93

- election of offices of the **Speaker and Deputy Speaker** (elected by a **simple majority in the House**)

Article 94-Vacation, Resignation and Removal provisions



- **A motion of no-confidence** can be moved against the Speaker with **notice of 14 days**.
- **Speaker gives his resignation to the Deputy Speaker** (Deputy speaker will give his resignation to the Speaker).

Article 95

- Power of the **Deputy Speaker** -to perform the duties of the offices of, or to **act as, the Speaker**

Article 96

- The **Speaker** or the **Deputy Speaker** not to **preside** while a resolution for his/her removal from office is under consideration



- **Current Speaker** (18th LS)-**Om Birla**
- **First Speaker- GV Mavalankar**
- **Speaker who later became President-Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (6th President)**

Q235. Which of the following statements about the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is correct?

1. The Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha.
 2. The Speaker continues to hold office during the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
 3. The Speaker can be removed only by a resolution passed by a majority of the members of the Lok Sabha.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Speaker remains in office until a new Speaker is elected, even if the Lok Sabha is dissolved.
- Statement 3 is correct: Removal requires a resolution passed by a majority of the total members of the Lok Sabha.

Q236. What is the primary role of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

- (a) To act as the head of the Cabinet
- (b) To regulate the business and maintain discipline in the House
- (c) To represent the Lok Sabha in international parliamentary forums
- (d) To draft and introduce financial bills in the Lok Sabha

Ans: b

Sol:

- The primary role of the Speaker is to preside over sessions of the Lok Sabha, regulate debates, and maintain order and decorum in the House.

Q237. Which of the following powers of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is/are unique and discretionary?

1. Deciding whether a bill is a Money Bill.
 2. Casting vote in case of a tie in the House.
 3. Reviewing parliamentary privileges of members.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (c) Only 1 is correct
 (d) All are correct

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Speaker has the sole authority to decide whether a bill is a Money Bill.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Speaker exercises a casting vote only in the event of a tie.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Reviewing parliamentary privileges is not solely the Speaker's prerogative; it is a broader parliamentary matter.



Topic 80
80. Cabinet committees

- Due to the large workload of the Cabinet, the Prime Minister forms smaller groups of 3-8 ministers, either permanently or temporarily, to delve deeper into policy matters.
- These groups, called Cabinet Committees.
- The Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence.

Currently 8 Cabinet Committees in India-

1. **Appointments Committee** of the Cabinet (Head-PM).
2. Cabinet Committee on **Accommodation**.
3. Cabinet Committee on **Economic Affairs** (Head-PM).
4. Cabinet Committee on **Parliamentary Affairs** (Head-Union Home Minister).
5. Cabinet Committee on **Political Affairs** (Head-PM).
6. Cabinet Committee on **Security** (Head-PM).
7. Cabinet Committee on **Investment and Growth** (Head-PM).
8. Cabinet Committee on **Employment & Skill Development** (Head-PM).



Note - All committees except the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the PM.

Q238. Which of the following statements about Cabinet Committees is/are correct?

1. Cabinet Committees are set up by the Prime Minister.
 2. Their membership and composition are determined by the President of India.
 3. Cabinet Committees can include both Cabinet Ministers and non-Cabinet Ministers.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (b) Only 1 is correct
 (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct

(d) All are correct

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Cabinet Committees are constituted by the Prime Minister as per the requirements of the government.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The President of India does not decide their composition; it is determined by the Prime Minister.
- Statement 3 is correct: Cabinet Committees may include both Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State.

Q239. Which of the following statements about the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet is correct?

Options:

- (a) It is headed by the President of India.
- (b) It decides all major appointments, including Governors and Supreme Court Judges.
- (c) It is headed by the Prime Minister and deals with high-level administrative appointments.
- (d) It primarily focuses on the promotion and transfer of civil servants.

Ans: c

Sol:

4. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet is chaired by the Prime Minister and handles appointments to senior administrative and strategic positions.

Q240. Which of the following statements about the size of the Council of Ministers in India is correct?

1. The total number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
 2. This limitation on the size of the Council of Ministers was introduced by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
 3. The limitation applies to the Union Council of Ministers but not to the State Council of Ministers.
- (a) Only 1 is correct
 (b) Only 1 and 2 are correct
 (c) Only 2 and 3 are correct
 (d) All are correct



Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The size of the Union Council of Ministers cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- Statement 2 is correct: This provision was introduced by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The 15% cap applies to both the Union and State Councils of Ministers.

Day 9

Topic 81

81. The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

Article 327

- Empowers **Parliament** to **make laws** regarding **elections to the Houses of Parliament**, state legislatures, and related matters. Accordingly Parliament brought RPA 1951.

The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- Deals with **conduct of elections** and **by-elections**, **registration of political parties**, provisions to **curb corrupt practices**, **qualifications and disqualifications** for membership of the Houses (**over and above article 102** for being MP and **article 191** for being a MLA).

Qualification for Contesting Elections in India

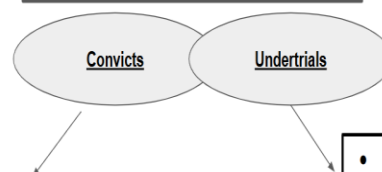
- A person **must be an elector** in the constituency.
- **Minimum age for-**
 - a. becoming an **MLA/MPs (Lok Sabha)** is **25 years**
 - b. **Panchayat** and **Municipality** member- **21 years**.

Right to Vote

- **Article 326** of the Constitution guarantees the right to vote to every citizen above the age of **18 years**, unless disqualified by any law.
- Section 62 of the **RPA, 1951** also ensures that every person who is in the **electoral roll** of that constituency is **entitled to vote in that constituency**.

- **Right to vote**-Both Constitutional Right (Article 326) and Statutory Right (as per RPA 1951).

The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951



- Can't contest election if sentenced for 2 years or more (Section 8 of RPA 1951)
- Can't contest election if sentenced for corrupt practices (Section 8A of RPA 1951)
- Can't vote

- Can't vote
- Can contest election (recently seen **Amritpal Singh** and **Engineer Rashid**)



Current news?

- In the recently conducted Lok Sabha elections **Amritpal Singh**, head of the pro-Khalistan outfit and **Engineer Rashid** won from their respective constituencies.
- Currently both of them are **undertrials** and lodged in jail.

Q241. Consider the following statements about the right to vote in India:

1. The right to vote in India is a constitutional right granted to citizens under Article 326.
2. The minimum age for voting in India was reduced from 21 to 18 by the 61st Constitutional Amendment.
3. The right to vote in India can be denied to individuals on the grounds of religion, caste, or gender.
4. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not allowed to vote in Indian elections unless they are physically present in their constituency on election day.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: c



Sol:

1. Correct: The right to vote in India is a constitutional right, as per Article 326 of the Constitution, which provides for elections based on universal adult suffrage.
2. Correct: The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988 lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years.
3. Incorrect: The right to vote in India cannot be denied based on religion, caste, or gender. Any such discrimination would violate the principles of equality enshrined in the Constitution.
4. Correct: NRIs can vote in Indian elections, but they must be physically present in their constituency at the time of voting, as postal or proxy voting for NRIs has not yet been implemented for general elections.

This question underscores key aspects of the Indian electoral system, encouraging learners to examine the constitutional and practical dimensions of voting rights.

Q242. Consider the following statements comparing the right to vote and the right to contest elections in India:

1. While the right to vote is a constitutional right, the right to contest elections is a legal right.
2. Both rights are available only to citizens of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

1. Correct: The right to vote is a constitutional right under Article 326, whereas contesting elections is governed by legal statutes like the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. Correct: Both rights are available only to Indian citizens.

Q243. Consider the following statements about the Representation of the People Act, 1951:

1. The Act provides for the qualification and disqualification of members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

2. It mandates the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to both Parliament and State Assemblies.
3. The Act outlines the procedure for settling disputes related to elections.
4. It empowers the Election Commission to regulate political party funding and set spending limits for candidates.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. Correct: The Act lays down rules for qualification and disqualification of members of legislatures.
2. Correct: The Act assigns the Election Commission the responsibility for conducting elections to the Parliament and State Assemblies.
3. Correct: The Act includes provisions for resolving election disputes through Election Tribunals (now shifted to the judiciary).
4. Incorrect: The Act does not empower the Election Commission to regulate political party funding; these are dealt with under separate rules and laws.

Topic 82

82.Lily Thomas Case

Grounds of Disqualification for legislators under R.P. Act, 1951:

1. **Section 8:** A person is disqualified for six years if convicted of any offense and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more.
2. **Section 8A:** A person can be disqualified for six years from the date of conviction if found guilty of corrupt practices by an order of the court.
 - What amounts to corrupt practices has been detailed separately in section 123 of RPA.
0. **Section 9:** A person is disqualified if dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the state



0. **Section 9A: Disqualification for government contracts** for goods, services, or execution of public works and have **not taken necessary steps to sever the contracts**
0. **Section 10: Disqualification for being a managing agent** or manager of a **corporation** in which **government has stake**.
0. **Section 10A: Disqualification for failure to lodge an account of election expenses** **Lily Thomas Case, 2013**
- Before 2013 there was **no direct disqualification** on sentence by a court for **more than 2 years of imprisonment** as per **Section 8 of RPA**.
- Legislators could file an **appeal** against the sentence before a **Higher Court**.
- In **Lily Thomas case 2013**- SC said there will **automatic disqualification** in case of **conviction by lower court**.

Corrupt Practices (laid down by section 123 of RPA)

- 'Corrupt practices' to include **bribery, undue influence, false information**, and promotion or attempted promotion of **"feelings of enmity or hatred"** between different classes of the citizens of India on **grounds of religion, race, caste, community, or language**.



Q244. Consider the following circumstances under which a person may be disqualified from contesting elections under the Representation of the People Act, 1951:

1. Conviction for an offense resulting in imprisonment for two years or more.
2. Non-payment of utility bills or government dues exceeding a specified amount.
3. Engaging in corrupt practices, such as bribery or intimidation, during elections.

4. Failure to submit election expenses within the stipulated time frame.

Which of the above circumstances lead to disqualification?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: d

Sol:

1. Correct: Section 8 of the Act disqualifies individuals convicted for offenses leading to imprisonment of two years or more.
2. Correct: Section 10A of the Act allows disqualification for failure to clear utility or government dues.
3. Correct: Engaging in corrupt practices as defined in Section 123 of the Act leads to disqualification.
4. Correct: Failure to submit election expenses on time can result in disqualification under Section 10A.

Q245. Under the R.P. Act, 1951, a legislator convicted for an offense resulting in imprisonment of two years or more is disqualified for what period?

- (a) Only during the imprisonment period
- (b) During imprisonment and for six years after release
- (c) During imprisonment and for three years after release
- (d) For a lifetime

Ans: b

Sol: Section 8(3) of the Act specifies that a person convicted of an offense with imprisonment of two years or more is disqualified during the imprisonment period and for six years after release.

Q246. Consider the following statements regarding the Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013) case:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that any Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) convicted of a crime and sentenced to two years or more will be immediately disqualified from holding office.



- The judgment struck down Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which allowed convicted legislators to continue in office if they appealed their conviction within three months.
- The decision clarified that the disqualification applies only to legislators convicted after the date of the judgment and does not apply retrospectively.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All three

Ans: a

Sol:

- Correct: The Supreme Court ruled that legislators convicted of a crime and sentenced to two years or more would be immediately disqualified, removing the protection provided by Section 8(4) of the R.P. Act.
- Correct: Section 8(4) was declared unconstitutional as it allowed convicted legislators to continue holding office during the appeal period.
- Incorrect: The ruling applied retrospectively, affecting legislators already convicted before the judgment.

Topic 83

83. Gender Gap Report 2024

- Published annually by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** since 2006.
- Ranks countries** on their progress towards **gender parity in four dimensions**:
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity,
 - Educational Attainment,
 - Health and Survival and
 - Political Empowerment
- Highest possible score is **1 (absolute equality)** and the lowest possible score is **0 (absolute inequality)**.

India's performance

- ranked 129**

Category Wise India's performance

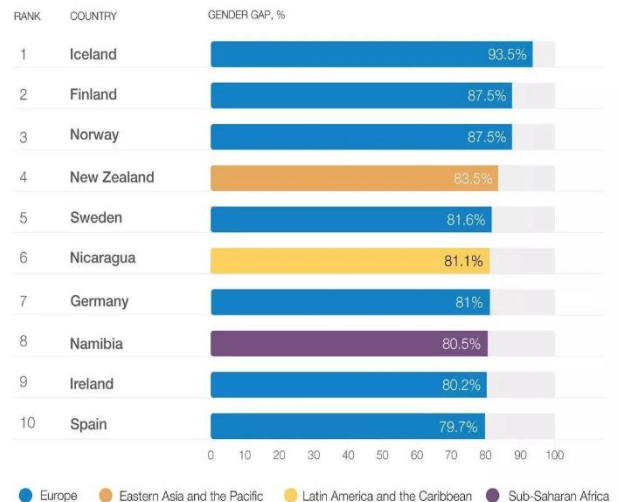
- Economic** Participation and Opportunity-**142**
- Health** and Survival- **142**
- Educational** Attainment-**112**



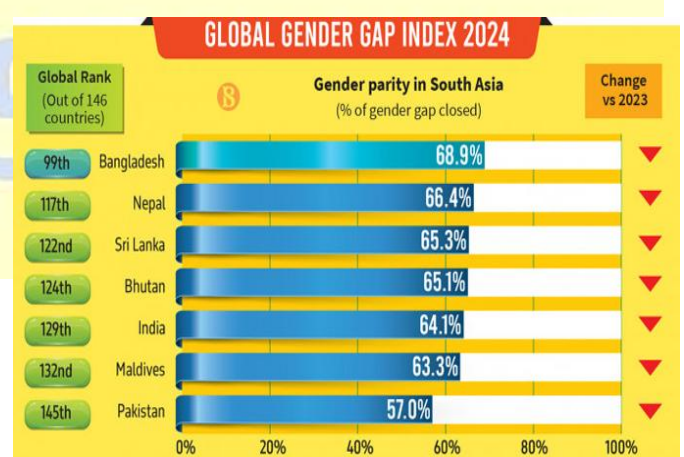
4. 'Political Empowerment'- 65

Global Gender Gap Report 2024

The Global Gender Gap Index 2024 Rankings



Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index 2024



Q247. Consider the following statements about India's performance in the Global Gender Gap Report 2024:

- India is ranked 65th in Political Empowerment due to the high representation of women in ministerial positions.
- India has the highest gender disparity in labor force participation among South Asian countries.
- India's estimated earned income for women is less than 20% of men's earnings.
- India ranked lower than Nepal and Sri Lanka in South Asia.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1 and 3 only

- (b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, and 4 only
(d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. India ranks 65th in Political Empowerment due to high representation of women in leadership.
- Statement 2: Correct. India's labor force participation for women is among the lowest in South Asia.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Women's estimated earnings are less than 30%, not 20%, of men's.
- Statement 4: Correct. India ranked behind Nepal and Sri Lanka in South Asia.

Q248. Assertion (A): India achieved 100% parity in secondary education enrolment according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2024.
Reason (R): India has implemented effective policies to bridge the educational gap between genders.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

Ans: b

Sol: India has achieved full parity in secondary education enrolment, but several social factors also contribute to this achievement beyond government policies.

Q249. Consider the following statements based on the Global Gender Gap Index 2024 rankings:

1. India has closed 64.1% of its overall gender gap, placing it ahead of Maldives and Pakistan in South Asia.
2. Bangladesh is the top-performing country in South Asia, closing nearly 69% of its gender gap.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. India has closed 64.1% of its gender gap, ranking better than Maldives (63.3%) and Pakistan (57%).
- Statement 2: Correct. Bangladesh leads South Asia, closing 68.9% of its gender gap, ranking 99th globally.

Topic 84

84.Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023

- Known as the **Women's Reservation law** inserted as a result of **106th Amendment to the Indian Constitution**.

Key Provisions-

1. **Inserted new Articles to the constitution**
 - **Article 330A**- Reserves **33% seats** for women in **Lok Sabha**
 - **Article 332A**-Reserves **33% seats** for women in **State Legislative Assembly**
 - **Article 239AA**-33% Reserving seats for women in legislative assembly of NCT of Delhi
0. **Sub-reservation**
 - For **SC and ST women** candidates
0. **Duration**
 - **Initially for 15 years** from commencement of the act (Article 334A)
0. **Enforcement**
 - Implementation after the **completion of next delimitation process**.
 - This effectively means that the law **cannot be implemented until at least 2027** (next delimitation is frozen till 2026).

106th Amendment Act 2023

Amendment

Amended article 239AA

Insertion of articles 330A, 332A, 334A

Objective

To **reserve 1/3rd of the seats** in the Lok Sabha(330A), state legislative assemblies(332A) and Delhi Legislative Assembly(239AA) **for women** for a **period for 15 years** after coming effect.(334A)

84th amendment in 2002

- **No delimitation** of constituencies till the **"first census conducted after the year 2026"**.



- It means **present constituencies** carved out on the basis of the **2001 census by Delimitation Commission 2002 will continue till 2026.**

Q250. Assertion (A): The Women's Reservation Law is aimed at enhancing the participation of women in legislative decision-making in India.

Reason (R): Women constitute nearly 50% of India's population but are underrepresented in legislative bodies.

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Ans: a

Sol: The Women's Reservation Law aims to ensure equitable representation for women in legislatures, as their current representation is disproportionately low compared to their population share.

Q251. Consider the following statements about the reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha:

- The reservation for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha is provided under Article 330 of the Indian Constitution.
- The reserved seats for SCs and STs are allocated based on the proportion of their population in the respective states.
- The reservation for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha is permanent and does not require periodic review.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Article 330 of the Indian Constitution provides for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha.

- Statement 2: Correct. Some seats are reserved in Lok Sabha for the members of the Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the order issued by the Delimitation Commission in 2008, 412 are general, 84 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 47 seats for the Scheduled Tribes.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The reservation for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha is not permanent. It is reviewed and extended by Parliament every 10 years, as stipulated in Article 334 of the Constitution.

Q252. The 84th Amendment to the Constitution of India, enacted in 2002, focused on electoral representation and population considerations. Evaluate the following statements about this amendment:

- The 84th Amendment froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures based on population figures of the 1971 Census until the year 2026.
- This amendment was enacted to encourage family planning measures by ensuring states with better population control did not lose representation.
- It mandated the delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 Census to reflect population changes.
- The amendment also altered the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha to 552 members.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Only 3
- All 4

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The 84th Amendment froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures based on the 1971 Census population figures until 2026. This was intended to maintain equitable representation while controlling population growth.
- Statement 2: Correct. One of the objectives was to encourage family planning by ensuring that states implementing population control measures were not penalized in terms of representation.



- Statement 3: Correct. The amendment allowed for the readjustment and delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 Census without altering the total number of seats in the legislatures.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. The amendment did not change the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha, which remains at 552 members as per Article 81 of the Constitution.

Topic 85

85. Delimitation Commission

- Delimitation means **redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats.**

Article 82

- the **Parliament** should constitute a **delimitation commission** according to an **act of the Parliament.**

Delimitation Commission role

- **equal representation** to equal segments of a population (as far as possible).

Composition of Delimitation Commission (a statutory body)

- A **Retired Supreme Court judge**, **Chief Election Commissioner** and the **respective State Election Commissioners.**
- **4 times established-1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 (after every census)**
- **no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.**
- **42nd Amendment Act, 1976-** declared **no delimitation till 2001** (as it incentivises states to increase population).

Delimitation Act, 2002

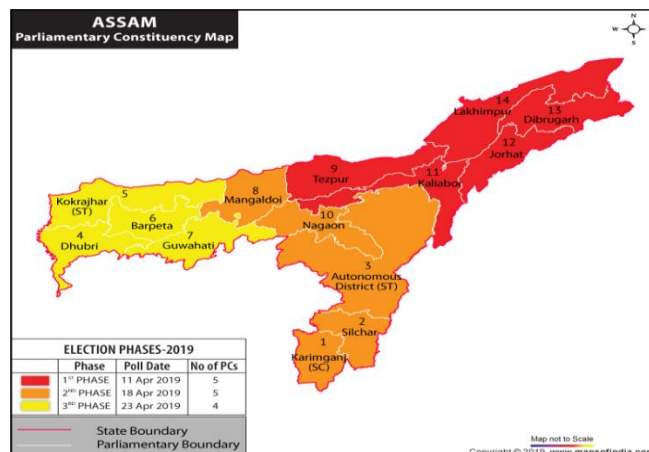
- **New feature-Number of seats of allocated in Parliament** to States should remain **unaltered.** Only **internal realignment** be done

Assam

- The **Delimitation commission 2002 didn't undertook delimitation action** in Assam since the **NRC update process was yet to happen.**

Last time delimitation in Assam- 1976-as per Census of 1971-under Delimitation Act of 1972.

- Orders of Delimitation Commission **can't be challenged in any court.** Its report is **put in front of Parliament** and State Legislative Assembly- but they **can't alter the decision of Delimitation Commission.**



Delimitation Commission in Assam

- In **2023** started **delimitation exercise** started in Assam (on the **basis of 2001 census**) final result published in Aug 2023

Legislative bodies in Assam

- **14 Lok Sabha**
- **126 legislative Assembly seats**

Q253. Which of the following statements about the delimitation process in India is correct?

1. The process of delimitation involves redrawing the boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies.
 2. The Parliament constitutes a Delimitation Commission directly through Article 82 of the Constitution.
 3. The Delimitation Commission ensures equal representation to equal segments of the population as far as possible.
 4. The orders of the Delimitation Commission can be challenged in a court of law.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2, 3, and 4
(d) Only 3 and 4

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Delimitation involves redrawing the boundaries of constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. Article 82 of the Constitution provides for delimitation, but the Parliament constitutes a Delimitation Commission through a statutory act, not directly through the article itself.



- Statement 3: Correct. The Delimitation Commission ensures equal representation to equal segments of the population as far as possible.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in a court of law.

Q254. Which of the following amendments or acts relate to the process of delimitation in India?

1. The 42nd Amendment Act (1976) froze delimitation until the 2001 Census.
 2. The Delimitation Act of 2002 allowed the number of seats in Parliament allocated to states to remain unaltered.
 3. The 84th Amendment Act (2002) introduced a delimitation freeze until 2026.
 4. The Delimitation Commission was established after every census in India without exceptions.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (b) Only 1 and 4
 (c) Only 2 and 3
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The 42nd Amendment froze delimitation until the 2001 Census.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Delimitation Act of 2002 introduced the feature of internal constituency realignment without altering the number of allocated seats.
- Statement 3: Correct. The 84th Amendment further extended the freeze on delimitation based on population figures until 2026.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. There were exceptions to delimitation, such as after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses, when no delimitation was conducted.

Q255. Which of the following statements about delimitation in Assam is correct?

1. The last delimitation exercise in Assam was conducted in 2023 based on the Census of 2001.
2. The Delimitation Commission of 2002 could not conduct delimitation in Assam due to the pending update of the NRC process.
3. Delimitation in Assam was delayed because the Delimitation Commission was challenged in the Supreme Court.

4. The Delimitation Act of 1972 guided the last delimitation exercise in Assam.

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (b) Only 1 and 3
 (c) Only 2, 3, and 4
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The last delimitation exercise in Assam was conducted in 2023, based on the 2001 Census.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Delimitation Commission of 2002 did not carry out the delimitation process in Assam because the NRC update process was pending.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The delay was not due to challenges in the Supreme Court, as the orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in court.
- Statement 4: Correct. The Delimitation Act of 1972 guided the delimitation exercise conducted in 1976.

Topic 86.

86. Mercy Petition

- A mercy petition is a **formal request** by a **convicted individual seeking clemency** from the **President or Governor**, aiming to reduce or commute their sentence.

Constitutional Provisions:

1. Article 72

- Empowers the President of India to **grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment**, or to suspend, remit, or commute sentences in certain cases:

- a. **Offenses against Union laws**
- b. Sentences imposed by **court-martial**
- c. **Death sentences**

2. Article 161

- Grants similar powers to the Governor of a state concerning offenses against laws related to **matters within the state's executive authority**.

Difference between Governor pardon power (Article 161) vs President's pardon power (Article 72)

- a. The **President can grant pardon** in cases involving a **Court Martial**, but **Article 161** does **not grant** this **power to the Governor**.

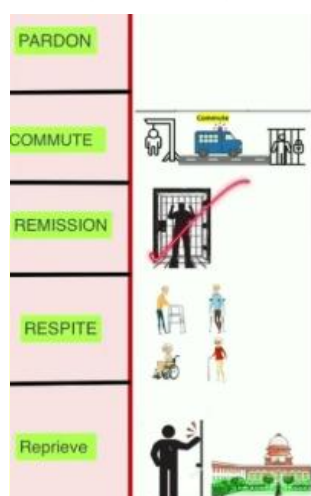


- b. **Article 161**- The Governor can suspend, remit, or commute a **death sentence**, but **cannot pardon it**.

Note-SC in its pronouncement of **2021** allowed **pardoning power** for **Governor** too in **death sentences**.

PARDONING POWER

- The pardoning power of the President includes;
 1. Pardon → Removes both sentence & conviction
 2. Commutation → Substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.
 3. Remission → Reducing the period of sentence
 4. Respite → awarding a lesser sentence in place of originally awarded due to some special facts
 5. Reprieve → stay of the execution of sentence.



Governors can pardon prisoners, including death row ones: Supreme Court

Advice of the appropriate government binds the Head of the State, says judge

Published - August 04, 2021 02:33 am IST - NEW DELHI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



READ LATER PRINT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including death row ones, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.

Q256. Which of the following is true regarding the constitutional provisions for mercy petitions in India?

1. Article 72 empowers the President of India to grant pardons, reprieves, and respites for sentences including death penalties.
2. Article 161 allows the Governor of a state to grant pardons, including in cases of court-martial.
3. Both Article 72 and Article 161 empower the authorities to reduce or commute sentences imposed by courts.

4. Article 161 permits the Governor to pardon death sentences without any limitation.

- (a) Only 1 and 3
- (b) Only 2 and 4
- (c) Only 1, 3, and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Article 72 empowers the President to grant clemency, including in cases involving death penalties.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. Article 161 does not allow the Governor to pardon sentences imposed by court-martial.
- Statement 3: Correct. Both Articles 72 and 161 permit the commutation or reduction of sentences.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. Under Article 161, the Governor can suspend, remit, or commute a death sentence but cannot pardon it fully (with exceptions recognized by the Supreme Court in 2021).

Q257. Which of the following correctly differentiates the clemency powers of the President and Governor in India?

1. The President has the authority to grant pardons in cases involving court-martial, while the Governor does not.
2. The Governor can suspend, remit, or commute a death sentence but cannot pardon it, while the President can pardon a death sentence.
3. The Governor's clemency powers are restricted to laws related to the Union's executive authority.
4. The President's clemency powers extend only to laws related to matters within the state's executive authority.

- (a) Only 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2, 3, and 4
- (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The President can pardon in court-martial cases under Article 72, but the Governor cannot under Article 161.



- Statement 2: Correct. The Governor cannot pardon a death sentence except under special judicial interpretations, while the President can.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Governor's clemency powers are related to state laws, not Union laws.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. The President's powers are broader and not restricted to state matters.

Q258. Which of the following reflects the Supreme Court's pronouncement in 2021 regarding the clemency powers of the Governor?

1. The Governor was granted the authority to pardon death sentences under special circumstances.
 2. The Supreme Court restricted the Governor's clemency powers to non-capital offenses only.
 3. The ruling emphasized the Governor's discretion in granting clemency under Article 161.
 4. The Governor was authorized to grant pardons for offenses involving court-martial.
- (a) Only 1 and 3
 (b) Only 2 and 4
 (c) Only 1 and 4
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Supreme Court in 2021 clarified that the Governor can pardon death sentences under certain conditions.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The Supreme Court did not restrict the Governor's powers to non-capital offenses.
- Statement 3: Correct. The ruling reaffirmed the Governor's discretion in using clemency powers under Article 161.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. The Governor does not have the authority to grant clemency in cases involving court-martial.

Topic 87

87. Judicial Activism and PIL

Judicial Review

- Judicial Review refers the **power of judiciary-**
 - a. to **interpret constitution**
 - b. to **declare any such law** or **order of legislature** or **executive void**, if it finds them conflict the constitution of India.

- This is why the **Supreme Court** is also known as **'the guardian of the constitution'**.

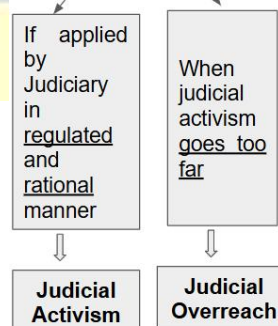
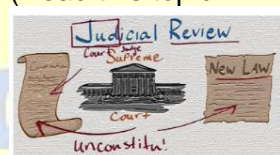
The Supreme Court identified-

- **Basic structure doctrine** in **Kesavananda Bharati judgement 1973** (it implicitly/indirectly means **Judicial review** is part of **Basic structure** of the constitution)
- **Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain Case 1975-** explicitly identified **Judicial review** is considered a **basic structure of the constitution**.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

- introduced in Indian Justice System in **early 1980's**.
- PIL in India was facilitated by the **relaxation** of the **traditional rule** of **'locus standi'**.
- **Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer** and **Justice P.N. Bhagwati** were the pioneers of the concept of PIL in India.
- **PIL** provides **avenue for 'Judicial Activism'** to the judiciary.

(Read this topic in line with **topic 1 of Day 1**)



Case



- Must prove **locus standi**.
- **Locus Standi** means-
 - only that person **whose rights** are **infringed** alone can **move the court** for the remedies

Relaxation of 'locus standi'



- PIL can be filed by any individual regarding a case even if he/she is not directly related to the case.

Q259. Which of the following correctly describes the concept of judicial review in India?

1. Judicial review refers to the judiciary's power to interpret the Constitution.
 2. It allows the judiciary to invalidate laws or orders of the legislature or executive if they conflict with the Constitution.
 3. Judicial review is explicitly recognized as part of the basic structure of the Constitution in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment.
 4. Judicial review empowers the judiciary to function as the guardian of the Constitution.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (b) Only 2 and 3
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Judicial review allows the judiciary to interpret the Constitution.
- Statement 2: Correct. It enables invalidation of unconstitutional laws or orders.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Kesavananda Bharati judgment implied judicial review as part of the basic structure, but it was explicitly recognized in the Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain case (1975).
- Statement 4: Correct. Judicial review ensures the judiciary acts as the guardian of the Constitution.

Q260. Which of the following landmark cases explicitly or implicitly identified judicial review as part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution?

1. Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
 2. Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain Case (1975)
 3. Golaknath Case (1967)
 4. Minerva Mills Case (1980)
- (a) Only 1 and 2
 (b) Only 2 and 4
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 4
 (d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Kesavananda Bharati Case implicitly identified judicial review as part of the basic structure.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain Case explicitly recognized judicial review as part of the basic structure.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Golaknath Case dealt with the amendability of fundamental rights but did not address judicial review as part of the basic structure.
- Statement 4: Correct. The Minerva Mills Case reinforced judicial review as essential to maintaining the balance of power between the legislature, executive, and judiciary.

Q261. Which of the following statements about Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India are correct?

1. PIL was introduced in the Indian justice system in the early 1980s.
 2. The rule of 'locus standi' was relaxed to facilitate PILs in India.
 3. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati were instrumental in introducing PIL in India.
 4. PILs have curtailed the judiciary's scope for judicial activism.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (b) Only 2 and 4
 (c) Only 1 and 3
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. PILs were introduced in the early 1980s.
- Statement 2: Correct. The traditional rule of 'locus standi' was relaxed, allowing individuals to approach the court on behalf of the public.
- Statement 3: Correct. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati pioneered the concept of PIL in India.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. PILs have expanded the judiciary's role and provided a platform for judicial activism, not curtailed it.

Topic 88

88. Renaming of a State

There are two mentioned provisions for changing name of a State as per the Constitution.



1. Initiated by the President

- A bill for renaming a state may be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.
- Before the introduction of the bill, the President shall send the bill to the respective state assembly for expressing their views within a stipulated time.
- On the expiry of the period, the bill will be sent to the Parliament (views of the state assembly are not binding).
- Bill to be passed by a simple majority in Parliament.

0. Initiated by the State Legislative Assembly

- State assembly, pass a resolution for such change and this passed resolution will be sent to Central government (Union Home Ministry).
- Then Union Home Ministry prepares note for Union Cabinet for amendment to Schedule 1 of Constitution.
- Thereafter, Constitution Amendment Bill is introduced in Parliament under Article 3 of Constitution, which has to be approved with simple majority, before President gives his assent to it.
- Thereafter name of state will be changed.

Current

- Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Keralam.

Note-Constitution Amendment Bill for name change of a state doesn't come under the ambit of Article 368.

Part I of the Constitution (Article 1 to 4)

Article 1

- Name and territory of the Union of India to be mentioned in first schedule.

Article 2

- Admission or establishment of new States.

Article 3

- Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States.

Article 4

- Laws made under articles 2 and 3 to provide for the amendment of the First and the Fourth Schedules and consequential matters.

Q262. Which of the following steps are involved in the process of renaming a state initiated by the President as per the Constitution?

1. The President sends the proposed bill to the respective state assembly for their views before introducing it in Parliament.
 2. The views of the state assembly are binding on the Parliament.
 3. The bill for renaming the state is passed in Parliament by a simple majority.
 4. The Constitution is amended under Article 368 to reflect the name change.
- (a) Only 1 and 3
(b) Only 2 and 4
(c) Only 1, 2, and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The President seeks the views of the state assembly on the proposed name change before introducing the bill in Parliament.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. The views of the state assembly are not binding on Parliament.
- Statement 3: Correct. The bill is passed by a simple majority in Parliament.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. Changing the name of a state does not fall under the ambit of Article 368 but is handled under Article 3.

Q263. Role of the State Legislative Assembly in Renaming a State

Question:

Which of the following is true about the process of renaming a state initiated by the state legislative assembly?

1. The state legislative assembly passes a resolution for the name change.
 2. The Union Home Ministry prepares a note for the Union Cabinet based on the state's resolution.
 3. The Constitution Amendment Bill for renaming the state is introduced in Parliament under Article 3 and requires a special majority for passage.
 4. The President's assent is required after the bill is passed by Parliament.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
(b) Only 1, 2, and 3
(c) Only 2, 3, and 4



(d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The state assembly initiates the process by passing a resolution for renaming the state.
- Statement 2: Correct. The Union Home Ministry drafts a note for the Union Cabinet based on the state's resolution.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. The bill is introduced under Article 3 and requires only a simple majority, not a special majority.
- Statement 4: Correct. The President's assent is required after the bill is passed by Parliament.

Q264. Which of the following correctly matches the articles under Part I of the Indian Constitution with their provisions?

1. Article 1: Name and territory of the Union of India to be mentioned in the First Schedule.
2. Article 2: Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries, or names of existing States.
3. Article 3: Admission or establishment of new States.
4. Article 4: Laws under Articles 2 and 3 to amend the First and Fourth Schedules and address consequential matters.

- (a) Only 1 and 4 are correct
- (b) Only 2 and 3 are correct
- (c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
- (d) Only 1 and 4 are correct

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. Article 1 defines the name and territory of the Union and refers to the First Schedule for details.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. Article 2 deals with the admission or establishment of new States, not alteration of existing ones.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. Article 3 concerns the formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries, or names of existing States.
- Statement 4: Correct. Article 4 provides for amending the First and Fourth Schedules and other consequential matters through laws under Articles 2 and 3.

Topic 89

89. Amendment to the constitution

Amendment to the constitution is done in 2 ways-

1. Not very significant matters (Outside the scope of Article 368)

- By simple majority in Parliament.

Issues taken

- a. Admission or establishment of new states
- b. Formation of new states or changing boundaries of existing states
- c. Creation or Abolition of Legislative Councils in States
- d. Quorum in Parliament
- e. Salaries & allowances of MPs
- f. Use of official language
- g. Delimitation of Constituencies
- h. Fifth & Sixth schedule

a. Article 368 of Part XX of Indian Constitution deals with amendment of constitution related to significant matters

- It is of 2 types-

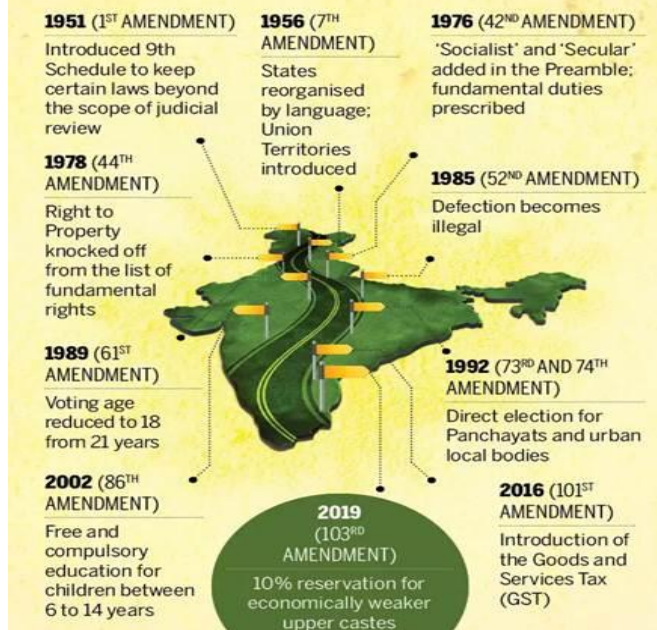
- Non federal issues (like FR, DPSP matters not in Category 1 and 3)
- Can be done by Special Majority (2/3rd of the members present and voting and 50% of the total strength of the house)

b. Federal issues (Distribution of Legislative Powers of Union & States, Any of the list of 7th schedule, Representation of states in Parliament, Election of President)

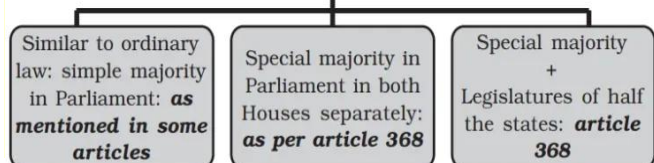
- Requires Special Majority in Parliament and Consent of 50% States by Simple majority.



MAJOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF INDIA



How to amend the Constitution



Q265. Which of the following matters can be amended by a simple majority in Parliament, outside the scope of Article 368?

1. Admission or establishment of new states
 2. Use of official language
 3. Salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament
 4. Fundamental Rights
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 4
(c) Only 1, 2, and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

- Matters such as admission or establishment of new states, use of official language, and salaries and allowances of MPs can be amended by a simple majority.

- Fundamental Rights, however, fall under significant matters and require a special majority as per Article 368.

Q266. Which of the following correctly describes the procedure for amending federal provisions of the Constitution?

1. Requires a special majority in Parliament (two-thirds of members present and voting and at least 50% of the total membership).
 2. Requires ratification by at least 50% of the states through a simple majority in their respective legislatures.
 3. Applies to matters like the representation of states in Parliament and the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and States.
 4. Can be done by Parliament alone without state consent.
- (a) Only 1 and 4
(b) Only 1, 2, and 4
(c) Only 1, 2, and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:-

- Federal provisions require a special majority in Parliament and ratification by at least 50% of the states.
- They apply to critical matters such as state representation in Parliament and the legislative powers between Union and states.
- Parliament alone cannot amend these provisions without state consent.

Q267. Which of the following amendments require a special majority in Parliament but do not need the consent of states?

1. Changes to the Fundamental Rights
 2. Amendments to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)
 3. Changes to the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution
 4. Abolition of the Legislative Council in a state
- (a) Only 2 and 4
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) All of the above

Ans: c



Sol:

- Amendments related to Fundamental Rights and DPSPs require a special majority in Parliament but do not involve state consent.
- Changes to the Seventh Schedule and abolition of Legislative Councils involve federal considerations and need state consent or a simple majority, respectively.

Topic 90

90. Leader of Opposition

Current news?

- **Rahul Gandhi**, Congress MP from Rae Bareilly is **Leader of Opposition** in **Lok Sabha**.
- The position was **vacant** for **10 years** -**no party** -had **tenth of the strength of the House**, to lay **claim to the post**.

Leader of Opposition

- It is a **statutory office (not mentioned in the Constitution).**
- The **Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** provides for the post of leader of opposition.

Criteria for recognising Leader of opposition-

1. The leader of the party in opposition with greatest number.
2. Speaker gives recognition of Leader of Opposition.

Privileges of Leader of Opposition

1. Sits in the front row to the left of the Chair
2. Escorting the Speaker-elect to the rostrum.
3. Representative in the high-powered committees (headed by PM) for appointment-Director of CBI, CVC, CIC, NHRC, Lokpal.
4. 7th in order of precedence
 - along with Union Cabinet Ministers, the National Security Advisor, the Principal Secretary to the PM, the Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog, former PMs, and Chief Ministers.

The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977

The rule that a party should have at least 10% of the members of the House for the Speaker to recognise someone as the **Leader of Opposition** is **not part** of this act.

What is this 10% rule then?

- **G V Mavalankar**, the first Lok Sabha Speaker, said the **main** opposition party's strength must equal the quorum i.e. 10% of the total strength.
- But this **10% norm** has nothing to do with choosing **leader of opposition**.

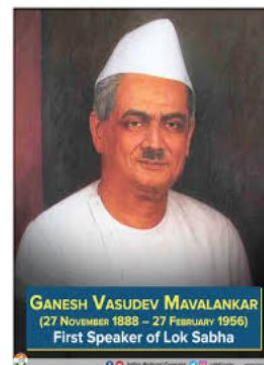


Table of Precedence

- | Table of Precedence | |
|--|--|
| 1. President | |
| 2. Vice-President | |
| 3. Prime Minister | |
| 4. Governors of states within their respective states | |
| 5. Former presidents | |
| 5A. Deputy Prime Minister | |
| 6. Chief Justice of India | |
| Speaker of Lok Sabha | |
| 7. Cabinet Ministers of the Union | |
| Chief Ministers of States within their respective States | |
| Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog | |
| Former Prime Ministers | |
| Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha | |

- In any official gathering sitting sequence is decided by order of precedence.

Q268. Which of the following statements about the recognition and criteria for the Leader of Opposition in India are correct?

1. The Leader of Opposition is a constitutional position.
 2. The leader of the opposition party with the greatest number in the House is eligible for the post.
 3. Recognition of the Leader of Opposition is given by the Speaker of the House.
 4. A party must have at least one-tenth of the total strength of the House to claim the position.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 2, 3, and 4
(d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. The Leader of Opposition is a statutory office, not a constitutional one.
- Statements 2, 3, and 4: Correct. The leader of the largest opposition party is eligible, recognition is given by the Speaker, and



the party must meet the one-tenth rule for strength.

Q269. Which of the following privileges are associated with the Leader of Opposition in India?

1. Sitting in the front row to the left of the Chair in Parliament.
 2. Being part of high-powered committees for appointments like the Director of CBI, CVC, and Lokpal.
 3. Escorting the Speaker-elect to the rostrum.
 4. Being ranked 7th in the order of precedence alongside Union Cabinet Ministers and former Prime Ministers.
- (a) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (b) Only 2 and 4
 (c) Only 1, 3, and 4
 (d) All of the above

Ans: d

Sol: All the listed privileges are associated with the Leader of Opposition, including seating arrangements, roles in ceremonial functions, committee memberships, and high-ranking status in protocol.

Q270. Which of the following statements about the Leader of Opposition in India is correct?

1. The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 provides for the position.
 2. The position of Leader of Opposition was vacant for 10 years as no party met the required strength.
 3. The Leader of Opposition is part of the constitutional framework under Article 85.
 4. The position was established during the drafting of the Indian Constitution.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
 (b) Only 3 and 4
 (c) Only 1, 2, and 3
 (d) All of the above

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The post is governed by the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

- Statement 2: Correct. The position remained vacant for 10 years due to no opposition party meeting the required strength.
- Statements 3 and 4: Incorrect. The position is statutory, not constitutional, and was not established during the drafting of the Constitution.

Day 10

Topic 91

91. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

(Read it in line with topic 39)

- **Definition of Juvenile-** A child below age of 18 years.

Classifies Juveniles into 2 categories-

- a. **Juveniles-** who needs protection of law.
- b. **Juveniles -** who are in conflict with law.

Provisions for juvenile who needs protection of law-

- **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)** in each district to take care of any child who is abandoned or orphaned.
- **Orphan child** can be adopted only after approval of the court or DC in district.
- **CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority)** a statutory body under Ministry of Women and Child Development will regulate adoption procedure.

Provisions for juvenile who are in conflict with law-

- Children in the age group 16-18 as a category which can be tried as adults if they are alleged to have committed a heinous offence.
- **Heinous offence-** One that attracts a minimum punishment of 7 years.

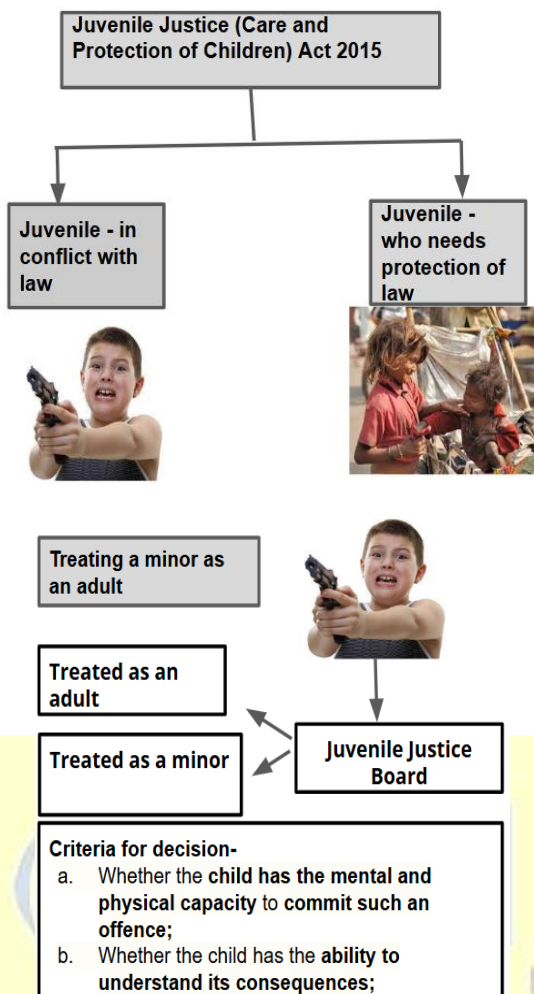
Children's court

- A Children's Court means a court set up under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act (2005).
- The Children's Court shall ensure that the child who is found to be in conflict with law is sent to a place of safety till he attains the age of twenty one years and thereafter shall be transferred to a jail.

Note

- **Hague Convention** in respect of **Intercountry Adoption** (to safeguard the best interests of the adopted child-India is a signatory)





Q271. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) consist of a chairperson and four members, including at least one woman and one expert on matters concerning children.
 2. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) are constituted by state governments.
 3. The Juvenile Justice Act, of 2015, mandates the establishment of at least one CWC in every district.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1 is **correct**. According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of

Children) Act, 2015, CWCs are made up of a chairperson and four members, and they must include at least one woman and one expert in child welfare.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** CWCs are indeed constituted by state governments, as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, mandates the establishment of at least one CWC in every district to address matters related to children in need of care and protection.

Q272. Consider the following statements about adoption of child in India

1. The procedure for child adoption in India is governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
 2. The power to issue orders regarding adoption of children in the country lies with the District Magistrate (DM).
 3. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a constitutional body that is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is **correct**. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) governs adoption among Hindus, while the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, covers the adoption process for children in general, including those of non-Hindu religions.
- Statement 2 is **correct**. The District Magistrate (DM) does not have the authority to issue orders regarding child adoption. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021 gives the power to issue adoption orders to the DM and Additional District Magistrate (ADM)



- Statement 3 is **incorrect**. CARA is not a constitutional body. It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, that facilitates and regulates adoption procedures, both in-country and inter-country. However, it is not a body established by the Constitution.

Q273. Consider the following statements:

1. A Children's Court is established under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, to handle cases related to children in conflict with the law.
 2. According to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, children in conflict with the law are placed in a place of safety until the age of 18 and then transferred to jail.
 3. India is a signatory to the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, which ensures the best interests of the adopted child in international adoptions.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: A Children's Court means a court **set up under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act (2005)**.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Children's Court shall ensure that the child who is found to be in **conflict with law is sent to a place of safety** till he attains the **age of twenty one** years and **thereafter** shall be **transferred to a jail**.

Topic 92

92. Mission Karmayogi

- Also known as **National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB)**
- A **training programme** for the **Civil servants** started by Union government in 2021.

The Goal

1. Competent Civil Servants who will guide India to become **a \$ 30 Trillion economy by 2047**.
2. Improve **ease of doing business**
3. Improve **ease of living**

4. **Attitudinal Change** of civil servants to bring citizen centric administration.

Steps taken-

- Focus on **competency building** of civil servants.
- Personalised learning
- Shared Learning ecosystem
- Digital Platform (**iGOT Karmyogi**)
- A **Capacity building commission**.
- A **SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) Karmyogi Bharat** created to manage **training portals**.
- Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS):** Implementing **digital tools** for **efficient HR management**



Current news?

- Indian **Institute of Public Administration** assessed the **impact of Mission Karmyogi** and reported **increased proficiency in data analytics and e-governance tools**.

Q274. Consider the following statements regarding the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB):

1. 'Mission Karmayogi' is a national program aimed at post- recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource development.
 2. Program aims for a transition from "rules-based to roles-based" Human Resource Management (HRM).
 3. The Prime Minister's Human Resource Council will govern the NPCSCB and approve civil service capacity-building programs.
- How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: c



Sol:

- This statement (1) is **correct**. **Mission Karmayogi** is a national program aimed at reforming the civil services' human resource development post-recruitment. It focuses on capacity building of civil servants, enhancing their skills, and improving their performance to better serve the public.
- This statement (2) is **correct**. **Mission Karmayogi** seeks to shift from a "rules-based" to a "roles-based" HRM approach. This means that the focus would shift from compliance with rules to a more dynamic and skill-based approach, where the roles, responsibilities, and competencies of civil servants are prioritized.
- This statement (3) is **correct**. The **Prime Minister's Human Resource Council (PMHRC)** will oversee the implementation of the NPCSCB and is responsible for approving civil service capacity-building programs. The PMHRC ensures the alignment of these programs with national goals and priorities.

Q275. With reference to Mission Karmayogi, consider the following statements:

1. Technology-driven governance is the core principle that forms the foundation of Mission Karmayogi.

2. The integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) platform of Mission Karmayogi is primarily based on performance appraisal.

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct. Technology-driven governance is one of the core principles of Mission Karmayogi. The program aims to leverage technology to deliver training and capacity-building programs to civil servants, enabling them to enhance their skills and performance. The iGOT Karmayogi digital platform is a key component of this approach.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. iGOT is not primarily focused on performance appraisal. While the platform may offer some resources or training modules related to performance management principles and best practices, its core function lies in capacity building and skill development for civil servants.

Q276. With reference to the institutional framework of Mission Karmayogi, consider the following statements:

1. The Public Human Resources Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, is the apex body providing strategic direction for Civil Services Reform and capacity building.

2. The Capacity Building Commission is tasked with ensuring a collaborative and uniform approach to managing the capacity building ecosystem.

3. The Special Purpose Vehicle Karmayogi Bharat under Mission Karmayogi is responsible for administering all civil service training programs.

4. The Coordination Unit for Mission Karmayogi is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.**

The Public Human Resources Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, is indeed the apex body that provides strategic direction to Civil Services Reform and capacity building under Mission Karmayogi.

- **Statement 2: Correct.**

The Capacity Building Commission is proposed to ensure a uniform and collaborative approach to managing and regulating the capacity building ecosystem, which aligns with the given framework.

- **Statement 3: Correct.**

A SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) Karmayogi Bharat created to manage training portals.

- **Statement 4: Correct.**

The Cabinet Secretary chairs the Coordination Unit of Mission Karmayogi. The Coordination Unit is responsible for: Monitoring the



implementation of the National Programme for Civil Services and Capacity Building (NPCSCB), Aligning stakeholders, overseeing capacity building plans, resolving issues, and ensuring early adoption of capacity building plans.

Topic 93

93. National Testing Agency

- It is **autonomous institution** of Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education of India.
- to conduct **entrance examinations** for **higher educational institutions**.
- Conducts exams like **NEET, JEE, CTET, GATE, GPAT, GMAT, CAT, UGC NET**, etc
- Established as a Society** registered under the **Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

Note

- National testing agency is **not a statutory body** as it has **not been created** as per an **act of parliament**.

Current issue

- The NEET-UG results** that were declared had a lot of anomalies creating controversy.

'Need answers': Supreme Court issues notice to NTA over NEET-UG 2024 paper leak allegations

By HT News Desk

Jun 11, 2024 01:05 PM IST

Supreme Court issues notice on plea demanding cancellation of NEET-UG 2024.



Apart from **irregularities** there has been allegations of **paper leak too**.

Q277. With reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA), consider the following statements:

- It was established in 2017 by the Ministry of Education.
- It conducts entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct.**

The National Testing Agency (NTA) was established in **2017** by the Ministry of Education (formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development) to improve equity and quality in education by providing reliable and transparent assessments.

- Statement 2: Correct.**

The NTA is responsible for conducting entrance examinations for admission and fellowship in higher educational institutions. Prominent exams conducted by the NTA include JEE (Main), NEET (UG), UGC-NET, and others.

Q278. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA):

- Its objective is to conduct "all entrance examinations for higher educational institutions" which were being conducted by the CBSE and AICTE.
- It is an autonomous and self-sustained organization registered under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct.**

The objective of the National Testing Agency (NTA) includes conducting various entrance examinations for higher educational institutions that were earlier conducted by bodies like the **CBSE (Central Board of Secondary**



Education) and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education).

• **Statement 2: Incorrect.**

The NTA is an **autonomous and self-sustained organization**, but it is **registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860**, not under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

Q279. Which of the following statements about National Recruitment Agency is correct?

1. It is a body to conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) to shortlist the candidates for vacancies under 'Group B' and 'Group C' of the Government.
2. Employment in private sector is facilitated in all the districts, particularly 117 aspirational districts.
3. It was set up in 2014.
4. It has been accorded Constitutional status in 2021.

How many of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All 4

Ans: a

Sol: The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) was established by the Government of India to streamline the recruitment process for government jobs.

- The primary function of the NRA is to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for various non-gazetted Group B and Group C posts.
- The CET aims to replace multiple examinations conducted by different recruitment agencies, thereby reducing the burden on candidates and the administrative machinery.
- The CET will be conducted in multiple languages, providing a more inclusive and accessible recruitment process for candidates across the country. 4

Topic 94

94. World Day Against Child Labour

- Observed on **June 12th** (by **ILO**)
- **Theme for year 2024**-Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986-

- Completely **bans** employment of **children below 14**.



- Bars the **employment of adolescents** (14 years to 18 years) in **occupations** that deal with **hazardous working conditions** such as **chemical plants and mines** (65 industries recognised as hazardous).

Exception

- Children below 14 years are allowed to work in **family owned enterprises** and in an **audio-visual entertainment industry** after **school hours**.

Other Child Labour related programmes in India

1. National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme 2007

- Aims at **rescuing children** from child labour and enroll in the NCLP Special Training Centres.

2. Mid day meal scheme (PM Poshan scheme)

- Free, hot cooked meal in school for children to encourage parents to send their children to school not for labour.

3. PENCIL Portal 2017

- An electronic platform involving government bodies and civil society to make child labour free society.

International Efforts

- India has signed **ILO convention 138** and **182** that aims to end **child labour**.

Definition of Child Labour as per ILO

- The term 'Child Labour' is defined as a work that **deprives children of their childhood**, their limits **potential** and compromises their **dignity**.



Less than 14 - no employment



More than 14 - no employment in Hazardous industry

Q280. International Labour Organization's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to:

- (a) Child Labour

- (b) Adaptation of Agriculture Practices to global Climate Change
 (c) Regulation of food prices and food security
 (d) Gender parity at the workplace

Ans: a

Sol: The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which was established in 1919. It is responsible for developing and promoting international labour standards, which include conventions and recommendations. The ILO's objective is to promote social justice and promote decent working conditions worldwide.

Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Employment and Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour are two of the most important conventions related to child labor. These conventions were adopted in 1973 and 1999, respectively, and have been ratified by a large number of countries worldwide.

Q281. Which of the following pairs of Articles provide for right to education and prohibition of child labour respectively?

- (a) Articles 21A and 23
 (b) Articles 21A and 24
 (c) Articles 23 and 24
 (d) Articles 21A and 22

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Article 21A** This article provides for the **Right to Education**. It mandates the State to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution.
- **Article 24** This article prohibits the **employment of children below the age of 14 years** in hazardous industries, factories, or mines. It aims to safeguard children from exploitation and protect their well-being.

Q282. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is a Central Sector Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

3. PENCIL portal ensures the effective implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

How many of the above statements given is/are incorrect?

- (a) Only one
 (b) Only two
 (c) All three
 (d) None

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** aimed at the rehabilitation of child labour. It provides for special schools/rehabilitation centers for child labourers to impart education, vocational training, and health care.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The NCLP is implemented by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, not the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)** portal is an online platform designed to ensure the effective implementation of the NCLP Scheme. It brings together multiple stakeholders for the eradication of child labour.

Topic 95

95. National Litigation Policy

Aim

1. To reduce the burden of pending cases on court in which the government is a party.
2. To achieve the goal in the **National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms** to reduce average pendency time from 15 years to 3 years.

Government related litigations amongst pending cases

- As per ministry of **Social Justice and Empowerment**, of roughly **50 million legal cases** pending at various levels of the judiciary across the country **46% have government as one litigant.**
- The government is responsible for **73%** of all cases **admitted by the Supreme Court.**



How government related litigations can be reduced?



- The policy aims to transform the government into an efficient and responsible litigant.

Efficient litigant means?

- Ensure that good cases are won and bad cases are not unnecessarily pursued.
- Prioritisation in litigation has to be achieved with particular emphasis on welfare legislation, social reform, weaker sections.

Responsible litigant means?

- False pleas shall be discouraged.
- Ensuring that the correct facts and all relevant documents will be placed before the court.
- Government to manage and conduct litigation in a cohesive, coordinated and time-bound manner.

Q283. With reference to the National Litigation Policy, consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of the National Litigation Policy is to reduce government litigation in courts to optimize court time for resolving other pending cases.
2. It aligns with the National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms, which aims to reduce average pendency of cases from 15 years to 3 years.
3. The policy emphasizes that government litigation must prioritize safeguarding citizens' rights and upholding fundamental rights.
4. It mandates government litigation to focus on securing maximum monetary compensation from citizens involved in disputes with the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** The policy aims to minimize government litigation in courts to free up valuable court time for addressing other pending cases.
2. **Statement 2: Correct.** The National Litigation Policy is aligned with the National Mission for Justice Delivery & Legal Reforms, which seeks to reduce the average pendency of cases in courts from 15 years to 3 years.
3. **Statement 3: Correct.** The policy acknowledges the government's responsibility

to protect citizens' rights and respect fundamental rights during the conduct of litigation.

4. **Statement 4: Incorrect.** The policy does not focus on securing maximum monetary compensation from citizens. Instead, it emphasizes responsible and fair conduct of government litigation, prioritizing justice and citizen rights.

Q284. With reference to Public Interest Litigation, Consider the following statements:

1. It is not defined in any statute or in any act.
 2. The court can take suo moto cognisance of the matter
 3. The first reported case of PIL was Hussainara Khatoon vs. the State of Bihar (1979).
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is not defined in any statute or act. It is a concept that has evolved through judicial interpretation to allow individuals or groups to approach the court on matters of public interest.
2. **Statement 2: Correct.** The courts can take **suo motu cognizance** of matters of public interest and initiate PILs on their own. This is an essential feature of PIL in India to ensure justice in cases where affected parties may lack the capacity to approach the court.
3. **Statement 3: Correct.** The first reported case of PIL in India is **Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar (1979)**. This case focused on the plight of undertrial prisoners, marking the beginning of PILs in India.

Q285. Consider the following statements about the Supreme Court of India.

1. The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court can broadly be categorised into original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction and advisory jurisdiction.



2. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with the President.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol: The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Topic 96

96. Digital Health Incentive Scheme

What is Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS)?

- The scheme aims at **digitising patients' health records** and **linking** them with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID)**.
- Under the scheme, **government and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs, and pharmacies** are **paid Rs 20 for each additional record they digitise**, over and above the threshold of **100 transactions a month**.
- It was **launched on January 1, 2023**, under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** to create a robust digital health ecosystem and enhance the quality of care for patients.

ABHA ID

- ABHA ID, or Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account ID, is a **unique digital identifier** issued to individuals in India.
- It serves as a **centralized platform** for individuals to **store and manage** their **medical records digitally**.
- **Digital Health Incentive Scheme** will increase numbers of **Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account ID**.

(Read this topic in line with topic 70)



Q286. With reference to the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme incentivizes healthcare providers for digitizing patients' health records linked to the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID).
2. It offers Rs. 20 per additional digitized record beyond the threshold of 100 transactions per month.
3. The scheme was launched on January 1, 2023, under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to enhance the efficiency of the healthcare delivery system.
4. The incentives are restricted to public healthcare institutions only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** The scheme is aimed at digitizing health records of patients and linking them with the ABHA ID to enhance health record portability and patient care.
2. **Statement 2: Correct.** Healthcare providers are paid Rs. 20 for each additional digitized health record beyond the threshold of 100 transactions per month.
3. **Statement 3: Correct.** The DHIS was launched on January 1, 2023, under the ABDM to strengthen the digital health ecosystem and improve healthcare quality.



4. Statement 4: Incorrect. The scheme is applicable to both **government and private** healthcare institutions, including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, diagnostic labs, and pharmacies.

Q287. Regarding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide universal health coverage by leveraging the digital ecosystem.
2. It is a collaborative mission of both public and private players.
3. ABHA mobile app is part of this mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** leverages the digital health ecosystem to improve access to and quality of healthcare services. While universal health coverage is a broader goal of Ayushman Bharat, ABDM focuses on creating a robust digital framework to support this vision.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The ABDM is a **collaborative mission involving both public and private players**. It aims to integrate diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, private healthcare providers, and technology partners, to create a seamless digital health infrastructure.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** mobile app is a critical component of ABDM. It allows individuals to create and manage their digital health records linked to their unique ABHA ID, facilitating better healthcare delivery and continuity of care.

Q288. Which of the following are the components of PM-ABHIM (Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission)?

1. Surveillance of infectious diseases
2. Diagnostics and treatment facilities
3. Pandemic research

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: d

Sol: The **Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)** is designed to strengthen health infrastructure across India to handle public health emergencies and improve overall healthcare delivery. Its components include:

1. **Surveillance of infectious diseases:** PM-ABHIM focuses on building a robust surveillance system to track and control infectious diseases, enhancing India's preparedness for public health emergencies.
2. **Diagnostics and treatment facilities:** The mission includes establishing critical diagnostic and treatment infrastructure, such as integrated public health labs, critical care hospital blocks, and mobile labs.
3. **Pandemic research:** Strengthening research on pandemics, emerging diseases, and health threats is a key focus to better understand and respond to future health crises.

Topic 97

97. Liquor Prohibition

What is hooch?

- Hooch is a commonly used term for **poor quality alcohol**, derived from **Hoochinoo**, a **native Alaskan tribe** that was known to produce very strong liquor.
- Many **people die** due to **hooch consumption**.

Issues in hooch preparation

- Lack of quality check leads to production of **some Methanol** apart from **Ethanol(consumable- which should be in alcohol)**.
- **Methanol is toxic** that can prove to be fatal if consumed.
- **One reason** for **hooch tragedy** is **prohibition on alcohol** by **State government**.

Prohibition on liquor in different states-

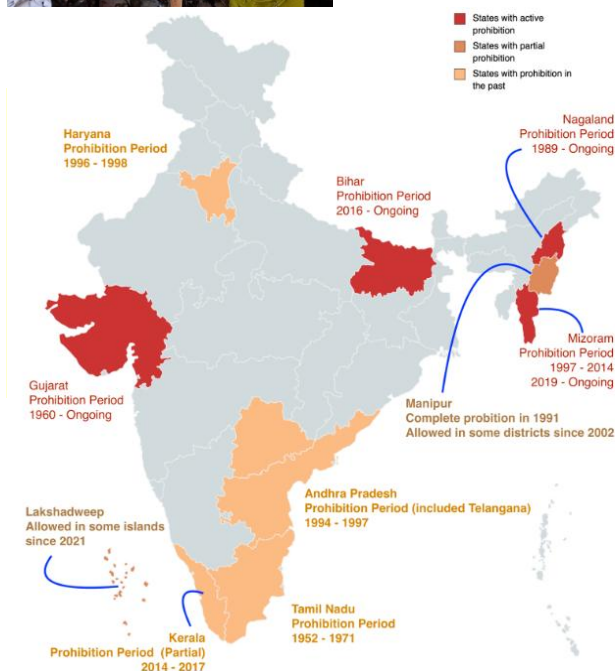
- At present, **ban exists** in the States of **Gujarat, Bihar, Nagaland and Mizoram**; while **partial**



bans are existent in Lakshadweep and Manipur.

Constitutional provisions regarding liquor-

- **Entry 51** in the **State List** makes '**Alcohol for human consumption**' a subject **matter of States**.
- **Article 47** of the **Constitution** directs the State to take measures to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health. It also **directs the state to prohibit the consumption of drugs and intoxicating drinks** that are harmful to health, except for medicinal purposes.



Q289. With reference to hooch tragedies and prohibition policies in India, consider the following statements:

1. Methanol, a toxic substance sometimes produced due to the lack of quality control in illicit liquor production, can be fatal if consumed.
2. One of the reasons for hooch tragedies is the prohibition on alcohol in some states, which often leads to the rise of illegal liquor production.

3. Gujarat, Bihar, Nagaland, and Mizoram have a complete prohibition on alcohol, while Lakshadweep and Manipur enforce partial prohibition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** Methanol is a byproduct of improper alcohol production methods. It is highly toxic and can lead to severe health consequences, including death, when consumed.
2. **Statement 2: Correct.** Prohibition in certain states often creates a demand for illicit liquor, as legal access to alcohol is restricted. This illicit production frequently lacks safety measures, leading to hooch tragedies.
3. **Statement 3: Correct.** The states of **Gujarat, Bihar, Nagaland, and Mizoram** enforce a complete prohibition on alcohol. **Lakshadweep and Manipur** have partial prohibition policies.

Q290. Consider the following statements with reference to the Hooch:

1. It is produced by fermentation and distillation methods
2. The Methanol presence in this Hooch cause impaired vision, high toxicity and metabolic acidosis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Statement 1: Correct.** Hooch, or illicit liquor, is typically produced using **fermentation and distillation methods**. The process often involves crude techniques and unsafe



practices, leading to the formation of toxic substances like methanol.

2. **Statement 2: Correct.** Methanol, when present in hooch, is highly toxic. Its consumption can lead to **impaired vision (including blindness), metabolic acidosis** (a severe drop in blood pH), and can be fatal in high doses.

Q291. With reference to constitutional provisions regarding liquor in India, consider the following statements:

- Entry 51 of the State List under the Seventh Schedule empowers states to legislate on alcohol meant for human consumption.
- Article 48 of the Constitution directs the State to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs, except for medicinal purposes, as part of its duty to improve public health.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct.** Entry 51 of the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution gives states the power to legislate on matters related to **alcohol for human consumption**, including its production, manufacture, sale, and taxation.
- Statement 2: Incorrect. Article 47 not Article 48**, which is a Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP), explicitly directs the State to work towards the **prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs** except for medicinal purposes, with the aim of improving public health and standard of living.

Topic 98

98. Panel to reform competitive exam

- Following the **irregularities witnessed** in recently conducted **NEET exam** the Union government set up an **expert committee** chaired by **former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan**.

Mandate for the expert committee-

- To recommend **exam reforms**
- Suggest **changes** in recently introduced **The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**.

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024-

- maximum jail term of 10 years** and a fine of up to **Rs 1 crore for malpractices** and irregularities in **competitive examinations**.
- Applicable** to **central recruitment and entrance exams** conducted by: **UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS, NTA**

Purview of the law-

- The law provides punishment **for persons, organised groups** or institutions indulging in **unfair means** for monetary or wrongful gains.
- However, **candidates** appearing for the exams have been **left out of its purview**.
- Candidate** shall continue to be covered under the **extant administrative provisions**

Concerns with the law

- A model law** (not applicable directly but States have to implement law in this line)
- Exploitable **loopholes**

Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Act, 2024

1. Penalties for Malpractices

- Individuals found guilty of malpractices can face imprisonment of up to **10 years and fines up to ₹10 lakh**.

2. Special Courts

- The state government, in consultation with the **Chief Justice** of the **Guwahati High Court**, can **designate special courts** to expedite trials related to **examination malpractices**.

Q292. With reference to the *Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024*, consider the following statements:

- It prescribes a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for malpractices in competitive examinations.
- It is applicable to recruitment and entrance examinations conducted by central agencies such as UPSC, SSC, and NTA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2



(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: c

Sol:

1. The *Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024* mandates stringent penalties, including a **maximum jail term of 10 years** and a **fine of up to ₹1 crore**, for malpractices in competitive examinations.
2. The Act is applicable to recruitment and entrance examinations conducted by central agencies such as the **UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS, and NTA**.

Q293. With reference to the *Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024*, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The Act penalizes organized groups and institutions engaged in unfair means for monetary or wrongful gains.
2. Candidates appearing for the examinations are excluded from the Act's purview and remain subject to existing administrative provisions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: d

Sol: The Act indeed penalizes **organized groups and institutions** involved in unfair means for monetary or wrongful gains, making Statement 1 correct.

Candidates appearing for the examinations are **excluded from the Act's purview** and remain subject to existing administrative provisions, making Statement 2 correct.

Q394. With reference to the *Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Act, 2024*, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Act prescribes imprisonment of up to 10 years and fines up to ₹10 lakh for individuals involved in examination malpractices.

2. Special courts for handling cases under the Act can be established by the state government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court of the state.
3. The jurisdiction of special courts under this Act extends to both recruitment and academic examinations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Act prescribes imprisonment of up to 10 years and fines up to ₹10 lakh for malpractices.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Special courts can be set up by the state government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. The jurisdiction of the Act is limited to recruitment examinations and does not extend to academic examinations.

Topic 99

99. Telecommunications Act, 2023

Key provisions-

1. Repeals the British era acts like Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933
2. Prior authorisation from the central government will be required to-
 - a. provide or expand telecommunication services
 - b. possess radio based telecom equipments like Walkie Talkie
3. Powers of interception and search
 - Messages or a class of messages between two or more persons may be intercepted, monitored, or blocked on certain grounds like public safety or public emergency.
4. Extraordinary powers of the government
 - Telecom services may be suspended on similar grounds ie public safety or public emergency.
5. Right of way



- Facility providers may seek a right of way over public or private property to establish telecom infrastructure.

6. **Digital Bharat Nidhi**

- The **Universal Service Obligation Fund** has been established under the **Telegraph 1885 Act** to **provide for telecom services in underserved areas**.
- The law **retains this provision**, renames the fund as **Digital Bharat Nidhi**, and also allows its use for **research and development**.



Universal Service Obligation Funds

- Funds come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) of **5%** charged from all the **telecom operators** on their **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)**.
- It is deposited into the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- Used for **improved connectivity** in unserved areas like rural, border region.
- It is **non-lapsable fund**

Q295. Regarding the Telecommunications Act 2023, consider the following statements:

- It seeks to repeal the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.
 - Communication service providers like WhatsApp and Telegram and other over-the-top (OTT) services and apps are included in the definition of telecommunication services.
 - The amendment to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 allows individuals with at least 30 years of professional experience to qualify for the chairperson position. How many of the given statements is/are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1:** Correct. The *Telecommunications Act, 2023* aims to repeal the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**, the **Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933**, and the **Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950** to modernize the legal framework for telecommunications in India.
- Statement 2:** Incorrect. No, the Telecommunications Act 2023 does not include over-the-top (OTT) services and apps like WhatsApp and Telegram in its definition of telecommunication services. The Ministry of Electronics and IT will regulate OTT apps under the Digital India Act.
- Statement 3:** Correct. An amendment to the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997** under this Act allows individuals with at least **30 years of professional experience** to qualify for the position of **TRAI chairperson**, thereby diversifying the eligibility criteria.

Q296. Regarding the Telecommunication Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

- Under it, entities have been mandated to carry out biometric authentication of their users as a measure to curb fraud.
 - It replaces the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) with 'Digital Bharat Nidhi' expanding its scope.
 - It empowers the Centre to take over control and management of telecommunication services and networks in the interest of national security only.
- How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1:** Correct. The *Telecommunication Act, 2023* mandates entities to implement **biometric authentication** of users to curb fraud and enhance security measures.
- Statement 2:** Correct. The Act replaces the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**



with 'Digital Bharat Nidhi', expanding its scope to include initiatives for ensuring digital inclusion and broader connectivity goals.

- **Statement 3: Not correct.** While the Act empowers the Centre to take over control and management of telecommunication services and networks, it does so not only in the interest of **national security** but also in cases of **public emergency or public safety**.

Q297. Regarding the Telecommunications Bill 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to repeal the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
2. Existing licences will continue to be valid for the period of their grant, or for five years, where the period is not specified.
3. The Bill introduces provisions for allocating spectrum to satellite Internet providers like OneWeb.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The *Telecommunications Bill, 2023* seeks to repeal the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**, among other older legislations, to modernize the legal framework for telecommunications in India.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Bill ensures that existing licences will remain valid for their granted duration. If no duration is specified, they will continue to be valid for up to **five years** from the enactment of the Bill.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Bill introduces provisions for the allocation of spectrum to **satellite Internet providers**, including companies like **OneWeb**, facilitating advancements in satellite-based communication services.

Topic 100

100. International Day Against Drug Trafficking

- **26th June** is observed as International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.
- **United Nation General Assembly** passed a resolution in **1987** to observe 26 June as day against drug abuse.
- The **objective** of declaring this day to create **awareness against drug abuse**.
- **Theme of year 2024: "The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention"**

Note

- **World Drug Report** is published by **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**.

Drug trafficking in India

- **Two regions in India** are most vulnerable-
 1. **Border districts of Punjab and Rajasthan with Pakistan**
 - due to **proximity with Golden Crescent**.
 2. **Northeast states**
 - Due to **proximity with Golden Triangle**.



Q298. With reference to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed annually on 21st June.
2. The theme of the 2024 day is "The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention"

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

Ans: b

Sol: The **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is observed annually on **26th June**, not 21st June. The theme for 2024 is **"The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention"**, emphasizing the importance of preventive measures to tackle drug abuse and illicit trafficking.



Q299. Consider the following statements:

1. Golden Crescent refers to the area adjoining Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.
 2. Golden Triangle refers to the area adjoining Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.
 3. Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent are hotbeds of illicit drug trafficking.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The **Golden Crescent** refers to the region comprising **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**, which is a major global hub for opium production and drug trafficking. This region does not include Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, or Myanmar.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The **Golden Triangle** refers to the area adjoining **Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar**, which is another significant region for the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, particularly opium and heroin. It does not include Afghanistan, Iran, or Pakistan.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Both the **Golden Triangle** and the **Golden Crescent** are well-known as global hotspots for **illicit drug trafficking**, particularly opiates like heroin and synthetic drugs.

Q300. Consider the following statements regarding World Drug Report 2024:

1. It is an annual report released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
 2. Synthetic opioids are the most widely used drug worldwide as per the report.
- 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

Ans: a

Sol:



- **Statement 1:** This is correct. The World Drug Report is indeed an annual publication released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), offering an in-depth analysis of drug trends globally.
- **Statement 2:** This is incorrect. The report indicates that cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide, with synthetic opioids, while potent and a growing concern, not being the most widely used. Cannabis has approximately 228 million users, significantly surpassing opioids, which have around 60 million users globally.

Day 11

Topic 101

101. Important SC judgement dealing FR and DPSP

1. Golak Nath case (1967)

- The Supreme Court held that fundamental rights cannot be abridged or diluted to implement DPSP.

- FR are sacrosanct.

2. Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)

- Doctrine of Basic Structure

3. Minerva Mills case (1980)

- The Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution exists on a harmonious balance between fundamental rights and DPSP.

4. Coelho case, 2007

- Supreme Court held that ninth schedule items are not immune to judicial review as it is part of the constitution.
- Laws placed under the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973 (Date of Kesavananda Judgement) under subject to judicial review.

Current case

- Supreme Court, examined the question whether private property would constitute term 'material resources of community' as appearing in **Article 39(b)**.
- SC held not all privately owned property could form part of "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

Part IV(DPSP) of the Constitution

- **Article 39(b)-** Ownership and control of material resources of the community

should be **distributed** to serve the **common good**.

Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (1st amendment 1951)

- Contains a list of **central and state laws** that are **immune to judicial review** on grounds of **violation of Fundamental rights**.
- Added **Article 31B** to the Constitution.

Q301. With reference to significant Supreme Court judgments in India, consider the following statements:

- The *Golak Nath* case (1967) established that Fundamental Rights cannot be abridged or diluted to implement the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
- The *Kesavananda Bharati* case (1973) introduced the Doctrine of Basic Structure and limited the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.
- The *Coelho* case (2007) held that laws placed under the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973, are immune from judicial review.
- In a recent judgment, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that not all privately owned property could be considered as "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1, 2, and 4 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The *Golak Nath* case (1967) ruled that Fundamental Rights cannot be abridged to implement DPSP.
- Statement 2 is correct: The *Kesavananda Bharati* case introduced the Doctrine of Basic Structure and restricted Parliament's amending power.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The *Coelho* case held that laws placed in the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973, are **not immune** from judicial review.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: In a recent judgment, The Supreme Court clarified that not

all privately owned property qualifies as "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b). The ruling was **made by a nine-judge Constitution Bench** led by then Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud, not by a division bench.

Q302. With respect to 'Ninth Schedule of Indian Constitution', consider the following statements

- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts.
- It was added by the first Constitutional Amendment to protect laws from judicial scrutiny.
- Laws placed under Ninth Schedule can be challenged on the grounds of violation of
- fundamental rights only.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3
- 2 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Ninth Schedule does not guarantee absolute immunity to the laws listed in it. Laws placed under it can be challenged if they violate the *Basic Structure* of the Constitution.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The Ninth Schedule was added through the First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951, to protect land reform and agrarian laws from judicial scrutiny.
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Supreme Court of India ruled in the 2007 case *I.R. Coelho versus State of Tamil Nadu* that all laws, including those in the Ninth Schedule, **are open to judicial review if they violate the basic structure of the Constitution, Not only the Fundamental Rights**.

Q303. Which Article of the Indian Constitution says that Directive Principles of State Policy are not enforceable by any court?

- Article 39
- Article 38
- Article 36
- Article 37



Ans: d

Sol: Under article 37 it is mentioned that the DPSP "shall not be enforceable by any court".

Topic 102

102. Emergency and first non-Congress Govt

- **1971- 5th Lok Sabha election-Indira Gandhi's won** the general elections with a huge majority.

Economic challenges during her regime due to-

1. **Refugees influx** from East Pakistan and **Bangladesh Liberation war**
2. **Oil crisis**
 - In 1973, as a part of the **4th Arab-Israeli conflict (Yom Kippur War)**.

Note-IEA (International Energy Agency) by OECD was created in 1974 to protect them from similar energy crisis in future.

- Due to economic crisis Janata Party leader **Jayaprakash Narayan (JP)** called for the **ouster of the government**.
- He championed a program called **Sampoorna Kranti (total revolution)**.

Raj Narain Case, 1975

- **Raj Narain** was the **political contender against Indira Gandhi** for **Rae Bareilly Constituency** in **1971 Lok Sabha General Elections**.
- Raj Narain filed a petition before **High Court of Allahabad for Election malpractices** under **Representative of Peoples Act, 1951**.
- Allahabad HC found **Mrs. Gandhi guilty**, barred her from **contesting elections** for another **six years**.
- Indira Gandhi's government **declared a state of emergency** on the ground of **Internal disturbances (Article 352)**.
- **Emergency removed in 1977**-first non congress govt - Janta Party government (Morarji Desai-PM)

Note-High Courts have **original jurisdiction** in **election petitions** under the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.



JP Narayan Calling for Sampurna Kranti at a rally in Patna on 5th June, 1974



Q304. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Representation of People's Act, 1951?

1. One candidate can contest from a maximum of three constituencies.
2. If a candidate sacrifices one of the Constituencies, a by-election is automatically triggered after the general election.
3. If a candidate contested from two constituencies and won both, then he or she represents both the constituencies.
4. The Chief Election Commissioner has the power to limit the seats from which a candidate can contest elections.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A candidate can contest elections from a maximum of **two constituencies** under the current provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. This limit was introduced through an amendment in 1996.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** If a candidate wins from two constituencies, they must vacate one, triggering a by-election in the vacated constituency.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A candidate cannot represent both constituencies; they must relinquish one seat.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Chief Election Commissioner does not have the power to limit the number of seats a candidate can contest. This is governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, which can only be amended by Parliament.

Q305. Which of the following statements with regard to the conduct of elections in India is/are not correct?

1. The responsibility for the preparation of the electoral rolls is vested in the Election Commission of India.
2. The Model Code of Conduct comes into existence as soon as the date of the election is announced.
3. The laws relating to delimitation of constituencies are made by the Election Commission of India.
4. No election shall be called in question except by an election petition.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The responsibility for the preparation of electoral rolls is indeed vested in the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into force as soon as the date of the election is announced by the Election Commission.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The laws relating to delimitation of constituencies are not made by the Election Commission of India. They are determined by a Delimitation Commission established under an Act of Parliament.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** As per Article 329(b) of the Constitution, no election can be called into question except through an election petition filed in the prescribed manner and within the specified time.

Q306. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rajya Sabha alone has the power to declare that it would be in national interest for the Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List.
 2. Resolutions approving the proclamation of Emergency are passed only by the Lok Sabha.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 249 of the Constitution, the Rajya Sabha has the exclusive power to declare, by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, that it is necessary in the national interest for Parliament to legislate on a matter in the State List.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Resolutions approving the proclamation of Emergency (under Article 352, Article 356, or Article 360) are passed by **both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha**, not just the Lok Sabha.

Topic 103

103. Federalism and its different formats

- Indian political system is known as **Federal features with unitary bias**.

Federal Features-

- Dual Government, Written Constitution, Independent Judiciary, Bicameralism

Unitary Biasness

- Union has the power to make new states or alter the boundaries, Emergency provisions, Governor appointed by the centre etc

Types of Federalism-

1. Cooperative Federalism

- The cooperative federalism involves the **Centre and States governments cooperating** with each other for the overall development of the nation/public interest. Examples of **Cooperative Federalism-**



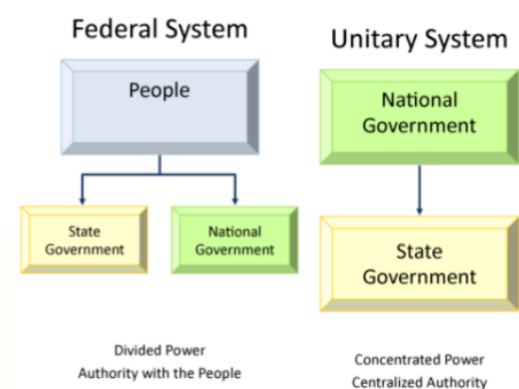
River Interlinking projects, Inter-state council, Zonal Council etc

2. Competitive Federalism

- Competition amongst the states
- Eg State wise Ease of Doing Business ranking, State wise HDI ranking, Swachh Survekshan ranking, 15th Finance Commission recommendations for horizontal distribution including criteria like Demographic performance etc

3. Combative federalism

- Confrontational relation between centre and States or between States.
- Eg Withdrawal of General consent for CBI (Link with topic 24 of Day 3)



Q307. Assertion A: Federalism in India is in recent years moving from co-operative to bargaining federal system

Reason R: Residuary powers of legislation are lying with the centre.

In the light of the above statements, choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

- Both A and R are correct and R is the correct Explanation of A
- Both A and R are correct and R is not the correct Explanation of A
- A is correct but R is not correct
- A is not correct but R is correct

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Assertion (A):** Federalism in India is indeed moving toward a bargaining federal system due to increasing demands by states for greater financial autonomy, decentralization, and negotiation over central allocations and policy decisions. This shift reflects a dynamic

federal structure influenced by political, economic, and social factors.

- **Reason (R):** While residuary powers of legislation lie with the Centre (as per Article 248 of the Constitution), this is a feature of India's quasi-federal system. However, it does not directly explain the recent transition from cooperative to bargaining federalism, which is more related to financial matters, intergovernmental relations, and the evolving political landscape.

Thus, both statements are correct, but **R is not the correct explanation of A.**

Q308. Of the following political features, which is/are common to India and the USA.

- Residuary powers vested in the centre.
- Residuary powers vested in the states.
- President has the power of pocket veto.
- The upper house has some nominated members

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- 3 only
- 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans: a

Sol:

1. **Residuary powers vested in the centre:**

- In India, residuary powers are vested in the Centre (as per Article 248).
- In the USA, residuary powers are vested in the states as per the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- This feature is not common to both nations.

2. **Residuary powers vested in the states:**

- This is true for the USA but not for India.
- Hence, it is not common to both.

3. **President has the power of pocket veto:**

- This is common to both India and the USA. In both countries, the President can take no action on a bill, effectively vetoing it under specific conditions.

4. **The upper house has some nominated members:**

- In India, the Rajya Sabha has nominated members (12 members nominated by the President).



- In the USA, the Senate does not have any nominated members; all senators are elected.
- Thus, this feature is not common to both countries.

Therefore, the correct answer is **3 only**.

Q309. Which of the following features of federalism is/are not found in the Indian Constitution?

1. Representation of the States
2. Independent Judiciary
3. Division of Power between the Union and the State Governments
4. Federal Judiciary

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Ans: d

Sol:

1. Representation of the States:

- This feature is found in the Indian Constitution through the Rajya Sabha, where states are represented based on their population.

2. Independent Judiciary:

- India has an independent judiciary that acts as the guardian of the Constitution and resolves disputes between the Union and states.

3. Division of Power between the Union and the State Governments:

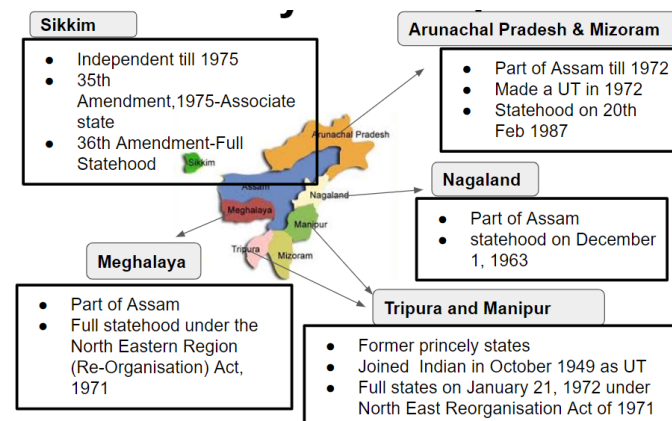
- The Indian Constitution explicitly provides for a division of powers between the Union and State Governments through the Seventh Schedule (Union List, State List, and Concurrent List).

4. Federal Judiciary:

- India does not have a "federal judiciary" in the strict sense, as found in countries like the USA. Instead, India has a unified judiciary with the Supreme Court at the apex, which is not strictly federal in nature but serves both Union and state interests.

Thus, **Only 4** is not a feature of Indian federalism.

104. Statehood day of NE States



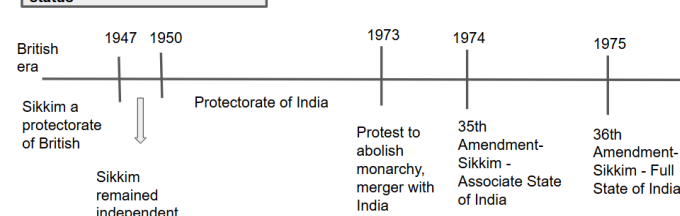
January 21 is **statehood day** of northeastern states **Manipur, Tripura, and Meghalaya**



Sikkim

- **22nd State** of India
- Was a **Buddhist kingdom** under the **Namgyal dynasty** from **1642 to 1975**.
- After **independence**, Sikkim became **protectorate of India**.
- A protectorate state is the one that is **independent but** whose **foreign policy** is guided by **some other country**

Chronology of Sikkim's political status



Topic 104



Q310. Arrange the following states of India on the basis of conferring statehood (starting from the earliest):

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Nagaland
3. Sikkim
4. Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2- 4- 3 - 1
- (b) 2- 1- 4- 3
- (c) 4-1- 3- 2
- (d) 4- 1- 2- 3

Ans: a

Sol: The sequence of statehood conferred to the mentioned states is as follows:

1. **Nagaland (1963):** Nagaland became the 16th state of India on December 1, 1963.
2. **Meghalaya (1972):** Meghalaya was carved out of Assam and conferred full statehood on January 21, 1972.
3. **Sikkim (1975):** Sikkim became the 22nd state of India on May 16, 1975, through the 36th Constitutional Amendment Act.
4. **Arunachal Pradesh (1987):** Arunachal Pradesh was conferred statehood on February 20, 1987, through the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Thus, the correct chronological order is 2 - 4 - 3 - 1.

Q311. The Constitution (56th Amendment) Act, 1987 confers Statehood on:

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Goa
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Meghalaya

Ans: b

Sol:

- The **Constitution (56th Amendment) Act, 1987** conferred statehood on **Goa**, making it the 25th state of India.
- The amendment came into effect on **May 30, 1987**, officially granting statehood to Goa.
- On the same date, the Union Territory of Daman and Diu was formed by separating it from Goa.

Additional Information:

- **Mizoram** became a state through the **53rd Amendment Act, 1986**, which came into effect on February 20, 1987.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** became a state through the **55th Amendment Act, 1986**, effective from February 20, 1987.
- **Meghalaya** became a state earlier, on January 21, 1972, through the **North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971**.

Q312. Consider the following States:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Goa
3. Meghalaya
4. Sikkim

Which of the States given above have their Legislative Assemblies consisting of less than 60 members?

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

Ans: b

Sol: The following states have Legislative Assemblies consisting of less than 60 members:

1. **Arunachal Pradesh:** Its Legislative Assembly consists of **60 members**.
2. **Goa:** The Goa Legislative Assembly has **40 members**, which is less than 60.
3. **Meghalaya:** The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly consists of **60 members**.
4. **Sikkim:** The Sikkim Legislative Assembly has **32 members**, which is less than 60.

Thus, the correct answer is **2 and 4**.

Topic 105

105. Death of President of Iran

- Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash.
- As part of the state mourning national tricolour in India was flown at half-mast at all public buildings across the country.
- State mourning in India is observed under specific guidelines provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- These guidelines are released as a part of Flag Code of India, 2002.

Political system of Iran



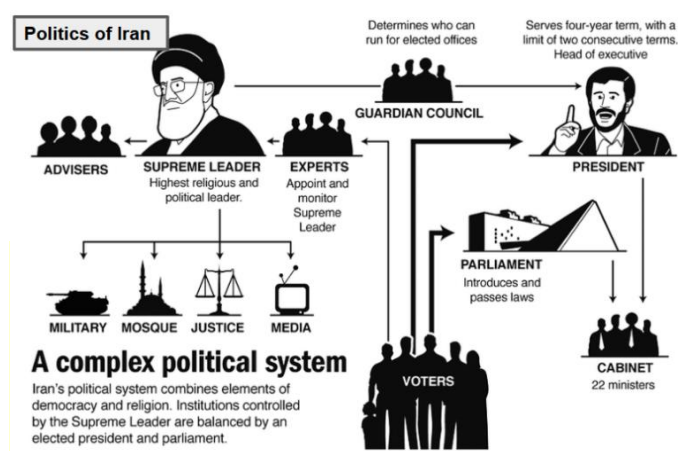
- The **political system** of Iran is **paradoxical**.
- Iran named itself as **Islamic Republic of Iran**.
- It has features of both a **Republican as well as Theocratic state**.

Theocratic state

- **Head of the state** is not representative of people but the one who is **chosen by the god** eg Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Vatican City.

Republic political system

- **Head of the state** is **directly or indirectly elected by people**. Eg India



Supreme Leader of Iran

- **1st-Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (1979-1989)**-Known as father of Iranian revolution
- **2nd-Ali Khamenei (1989 to Present)**
- The **President is subordinate** to the Supreme leader.

Q313. Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002:

1. Statement-I: One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm x 400mm..
2. Statement-II: The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Stmt-II is the correct explanation for Stmt-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Stmt-II is not correct explanation for Stmt-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Ans: d

Sol: The Flag Code of India took effect on January 26, 2002. As per Clause 2.1 of the Flag Code of India, there shall be no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of the general public, private organizations, educational institutions etc. consistent with the dignity and honour of the National Flag.

- The Flag Code of India, 2002 was amended recently, and National Flag made of polyester or machine made flag have also been allowed.
- Now, the National Flag shall be made of hand-spun, hand-woven or machine-made cotton/polyester/wool/silk/khadi bunting, as per the amended flag code.
- The standard sizes of the National Flag shall be as follows: -

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

- The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape. **The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.** So, **Statement 2 is correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q314. Which of the following words were not present in the preamble of the Indian Constitution adopted on November 26, 1949?

1. Republic
 2. Integrity
 3. Socialist
 4. Secular
- Codes:
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 4
(d) 3 and 4

Ans: b

Sol: The original Preamble of the Indian Constitution, adopted on November 26, 1949, did not contain the words "Socialist," "Secular," or "Integrity."

- The word **"Republic"** was present in the original Preamble.
- The word **"Integrity"** was added later by the **42nd Amendment Act of 1976.**



- The terms "**Socialist**" and "**Secular**" were also added by the same amendment in 1976. Therefore, the correct answer is **3 and 4**.

Q315. Consider the following regarding the Flag Code of India, 2002 which was amended vide Order dated 30th December, 2021;

1. The Flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the House of a member of public, it may be flown day and night.
2. A member of a public, a private organization or an educational institution may hoist/display the National Flag on all days and occasions, ceremonial or otherwise.
3. No other flag or bunting should be placed higher than or even side by side with the National Flag.

How many statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol: The Flag Code of India, 2002, was amended on December 30, 2021, to allow for greater flexibility in how the National Flag is displayed. Let's review each statement:

1. The Flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the House of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night.

- This is **correct**. As per the amendment, the National Flag can now be displayed day and night, provided it is properly illuminated when displayed after sunset.

2. A member of the public, a private organization, or an educational institution may hoist/display the National Flag on all days and occasions, ceremonial or otherwise.

- This is **correct**. The amendment permits the general public, private organizations, and educational institutions to hoist or display the National Flag on all days, without any restrictions on specific occasions.

3. No other flag or bunting should be placed higher than or even side by side with the National Flag.

- This is **correct**. The National Flag must always be in a position of honor, and no

other flag or bunting should be displayed above it or alongside it.

Topic 106

106. Free Legal Aid (Article 39A)

- **Article 39A**-Inserted as result of **Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976**

- The **free legal aid** includes: Legal advice, Representation in courts, Drafting documents.

Persons eligible for free legal services includes:

1. **Women and children**
2. Members of **SC/ST**
3. **Industrial workmen**
4. **Victims of mass disasters, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, and industrial disaster,**
5. **Disabled, Persons in custody**
6. Persons whose **annual income does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh** (in the **Supreme Court Legal Services Committee** the limit is **Rs. 5,00,000**)
7. **Victims of trafficking in human beings or beggars.**

Free Legal Aid provided as per-

1. **Constitutional principles-**

- **Preamble-** Justice to all its citizens (social, economic and political)
- a. **Article 14**-Right to Equality (Equal protection of law)

2. **In line with International Conventions**

- Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), 1948
- a. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.



Article 39A

**Free Legal Aid-through
separate law**

Accordingly a separate
law was created

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

- created **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**-National level
- **State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)**- State level
- **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)**- District level

National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)

- It is housed at the **Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.**
- The **Chief Justice of India** is the **patron-in-chief of NALSA**

Q316. Which of the following statements about Article 39A is/are correct?

1. Article 39A is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
2. It mandates the State to promote legal aid services to ensure equal justice.
3. Free legal aid is provided only to women and children under Article 39A.
4. Article 39A is enforceable in a court of law.

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

Ans: a

Sol: Article 39A is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) and mandates the State to provide free legal aid to ensure equal justice for all. However, DPSPs are not enforceable by law, and free legal aid is not limited to specific groups like women and children.

Q317. How many of the following statements about Article 39A are correct?

1. It aims to provide free legal aid to economically weaker sections.
2. It directs the State to ensure justice based on economic or social barriers.
3. Article 39A applies to criminal cases only.
4. It was added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act.

- (a) Only 1 statement

- (b) Only 2 statements
(c) Only 3 statements
(d) All 4 statements

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. Article 39A was introduced through the 42nd Amendment and aims to ensure justice without economic or social barriers. However, it applies to all cases, not just criminal cases, making statement 3 incorrect.

Q318. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect regarding Article 39A?

1. It enforces free legal aid through judicial intervention.
2. It is inspired by the principle of equal justice and legal access.
3. The concept of free legal aid under Article 39A is implemented through the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

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

Ans: a

Sol: Article 39A, as a Directive Principle, is not enforceable by courts and relies on legislative measures like the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Statement 1 is incorrect, while statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Topic 107
107. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

- In 1948 the **UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**
- The declaration consists of a **preamble and 30 articles** setting out fundamental **rights and freedoms** that should be **uniformly available to all humans.**

Article 1 states that

- "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

Article 2 says that

- Everyone is **entitled to all the rights and freedoms** "without distinction of any



kind, such as **race, colour, sex, language, religion.**

Article 11(1)

- Anyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed **innocent until proven guilty.**
- The accused should be provided **opportunity to put his side(basis for free legal aid)**

How human rights are availed in India?

- **No separate category of rights** named as **human rights in India.**

Human Rights are **availed in the form of 3 rights**

- Fundamental rights
 - a. Legal rights eg Right to work under MGNREGA
 - b. Constitutional rights (**Right to Free Legal Aid- as per Art 39A**)

Note-the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is part of the **International Bill of Human Rights (2 more conventions added to it in 1966).**

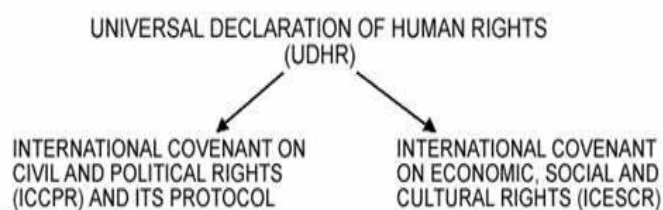
International Bill of Human Rights

- Set of rights identified by the UN that should be available to all.

It includes three documents-

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted in 1948)
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966)
3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966).

INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Q319. Which of the following statements about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, is/are correct?

1. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.
2. The UDHR is legally binding on all member states of the United Nations.
3. It consists of 30 articles outlining fundamental rights and freedoms.

4. The UDHR promotes equality and non-discrimination among all individuals.

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct. The UDHR was adopted on December 10, 1948, and contains 30 articles promoting universal rights, equality, and non-discrimination. It makes 10th December International Day of Human Rights. However, it is not legally binding; instead, it serves as a moral and ethical guideline for nations.

Q320. Which of the following statements about the concept of a "Bill of Human Rights" is/are correct?

1. The term "Bill of Human Rights" often refers to a set of fundamental rights recognized by international frameworks like the UDHR.
 2. It legally binds all nations to protect human rights.
 3. The concept emphasizes equality, dignity, and the inalienable nature of rights.
 4. It is a single, universally agreed-upon legal document ratified by all nations.
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 2, and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 3, and 4 only
 - (d) 2 and 4 only

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The "Bill of Human Rights" is a collective term often used for documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing equality and dignity. However, it is not legally binding (statement 2 is incorrect), nor is it a single universal document ratified by all nations (statement 4 is incorrect).

Q321. Which of the following statements correctly distinguishes between Human Rights and Fundamental Rights?

1. Human Rights are universal and apply to all individuals globally, while Fundamental Rights are specific to citizens of a particular country.
2. Fundamental Rights are enforceable by a court of law, whereas Human Rights are primarily moral and ethical guidelines.



3. Human Rights are granted by the constitution of a country, while Fundamental Rights are inherent to all human beings by birth.
4. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) serves as a global standard for Human Rights, while Fundamental Rights are defined in the constitution of a nation.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Human Rights are universal and apply to everyone, irrespective of nationality, while Fundamental Rights are specific to the legal framework of a country.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Fundamental Rights are enforceable in courts, but Human Rights often serve as moral standards unless incorporated into domestic law.
- **Statement 4:** Correct. The UDHR establishes a global framework for Human Rights, while Fundamental Rights are constitutional provisions unique to each nation.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect. It is the opposite—Human Rights are inherent by birth, while Fundamental Rights are conferred by a country's constitution.

Topic 108

108. Digital learning platforms and courses

Digital sources for academic learning

1. Online course sources (Massive Online Open Courses)

- **SWAYAM**
- SWAYAM platform is developed by **Ministry of Education** and **NPTEL**, **IIT Madras** with the help of **Google**.
- Courses that are taught in classrooms from **9th class till post-graduation**.
- UGC has directed universities to transfer **some courses on SWAYAM platform**.

b. NPTEL

- Initiated by seven Indian Institutes of Technology (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur,

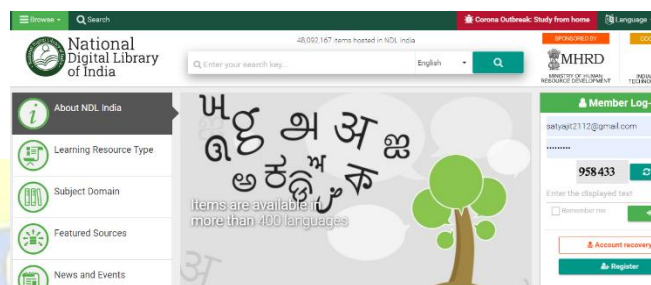
Kharagpur, Madras, Guwahati and Roorkee) along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in **2003**.

2. Online content providers

- **National Digital Library**
- Part of **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)** by **Ministry of Education**.
- b. e-PG pathshala
- Shodhganga

Note-

- National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** to **leverage the potential of ICT in the field of learning**.



Note-

- Ministry of **Human Resource and Development** has been renamed as **Ministry of Education**

Q322. Which of the following statements about SWAYAM is/are correct?

1. SWAYAM is a Government of India initiative to provide free online education.
2. It offers courses for school, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels.
3. SWAYAM certificates are only valid for school-level education.
4. SWAYAM is available to Indian students exclusively.

Options:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. SWAYAM is an Indian government initiative offering free online education for various levels, including school,



undergraduate, and postgraduate courses. Certificates from SWAYAM are valid across levels of education, and the platform is accessible globally, not just to Indian students.

Q323. Which of the following statements about the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is/are correct?

1. NPTEL is an initiative by the Ministry of Education (formerly MHRD), Government of India.
2. It offers certification courses in disciplines such as engineering, sciences, management, and humanities.
3. Certificates from NPTEL are globally recognized and do not require any proctored examination.
4. NPTEL content is available for free on its official website and YouTube.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. NPTEL is an initiative of the Ministry of Education and provides courses across a variety of disciplines, with free access to content via its website and YouTube. However, certification involves a nominal fee and a proctored examination, making statement 3 incorrect.

Q324. Which of the following statements about the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) is/are correct?

1. NMEICT supports the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
2. The mission is implemented in collaboration with institutions like IITs and NITs.
3. It aims to provide high-speed internet connectivity to rural schools and colleges.
4. NMEICT is limited to engineering and technical education.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. NMEICT supports MOOCs, collaborates with premier institutions, and extends internet connectivity to rural schools and colleges. However, the mission is not limited to technical education—it spans multiple disciplines, making statement 4 incorrect.

Topic 109

109. Target Olympics Podium scheme

- Initiated by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2014.**
- Aims to identify and **support Indian athletes** with the **potential to win medals** at the **Olympic and Paralympic Games.**

Pocket allowances-

- Athletes in the **Core Group- ₹50,000 per month,**
- Athletes in **Development Group receive ₹25,000 per month.**

Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)

- A special organization called the **Mission Olympic Cell** was **established to help the athletes chosen through the TOP Scheme.**
- The **head of the MOC** is the **director general of the Sports Authority.**

Note

- At Paris Olympics 2024 India bagged six medals: **one silver and five bronze.**

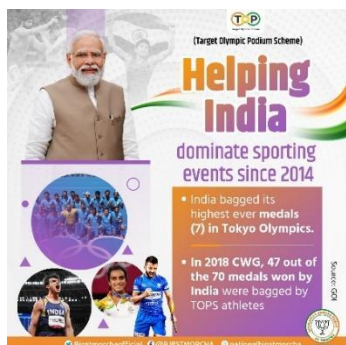
Silver Medal:

- **Neeraj Chopra-men's javelin throw** (first Indian individual athlete to win both a gold and a silver at the Olympics)

Bronze Medals

1. **Manu Bhaker-women's 10m air pistol event** (first Olympic shooting medal by an Indian woman)
2. **Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh-mixed 10m air pistol team event** (Bhaker the first Indian to win two medals at a single Olympics since independence)
3. **Swapnil Kusale- shooting**
4. **Men's Hockey Team**
5. **Aman Sehrawat- wrestling** (India's youngest Olympic medalist)





Q325. Which of the following statements about the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is/are correct?

1. TOPS is an initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
2. The scheme aims to identify and support potential medal-winning athletes for the Olympics and other prestigious competitions.
3. TOPS exclusively funds training for athletes in cricket and football.
4. It provides financial assistance and access to high-quality coaching and international exposure.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. TOPS supports athletes across various disciplines, not limited to cricket and football, aiming to enhance their performance through financial aid, world-class coaching, and exposure to international events.

Q326. Which of the following statements accurately describe India's medal achievements at the Paris 2024 Olympics?

1. India secured a total of six medals: one silver and five bronze.
2. The men's hockey team won a bronze medal, repeating their success from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
3. Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in men's javelin throw.
4. Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal.

Options:

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

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. India won six medals at Paris 2024: one silver and five bronze. The men's hockey team secured a bronze medal, mirroring their achievement from Tokyo 2020. Manu Bhaker earned a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal. However, Neeraj Chopra won a silver medal in men's javelin throw, not gold.

Q327. Which of the following milestones were achieved by Indian athletes at the Paris 2024 Olympics?

1. Manu Bhaker became the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympics since independence.
2. The Indian men's hockey team won its first Olympic medal since 1980.
3. Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian to win Olympic medals in consecutive Games in athletics.
4. Aman Sehrawat became India's youngest-ever Olympic medallist.

Options:

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

Ans: c

Topic 110

110. World No Tobacco day

- Observed on May 31 (organised by WHO).
- Theme of 2024- 'Protecting children from tobacco industry interference'.

Steps taken in India to curb tobacco consumption

1. National Health Policy 2017
 - It has set a target of reducing tobacco use by 30% by 2025.
2. Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003



- Section 4 of the COTPA 2003 prohibits smoking in any place to which the public has access.
- The law, however, permits the establishment of smoking areas or spaces in airports, hotels having 30 or more rooms, and restaurants having seating capacity for 30 or more.
- Graphic warning: Under COTPA, tobacco products need to be sold with graphic health warnings.

0. **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act 2019**

Initiative at global scale-

1. **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

- Only public health agreement endorsed by WHO.

2. **MPOWER**

- Set of technical tools and measures developed by WHO to help member countries to attain target of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.



E- Cigarettes

- Battery powered devices that produces flavored smoke from Nicotine.
- Nicotine is the main addictive substance in tobacco that makes quitting so hard
- The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act 2019 makes use and production of E-Cigarettes a cognisable offence.

Q328. Which of the following is **NOT** a component of the WHO's MPOWER measures for tobacco control?

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Promote tobacco industry partnerships

Ans: d

Sol: The MPOWER measures include:

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use

- Warn about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

Q329. Which of the following statements about e-cigarettes is/are correct?

1. E-cigarettes are electronic devices that heat a liquid to produce an aerosol, often containing nicotine.
2. They are entirely safe and have no harmful effects on health.
3. The use of e-cigarettes is banned in several countries, including India.
4. E-cigarettes were originally introduced as an alternative to help people quit smoking.

Options:

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

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct. E-cigarettes heat liquids to produce an aerosol containing nicotine and other chemicals. They are banned in countries like India due to concerns over their health risks, especially among youth. Statement 2 is incorrect because e-cigarettes are not entirely safe and may have significant health risks.

Q330. Which of the following provisions is/are part of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003?

1. Prohibition of smoking in public places.
2. Ban on direct and indirect advertisements of tobacco products.
3. Regulation of the contents of tobacco products by limiting nicotine levels.
4. Mandatory display of health warnings on tobacco product packaging.

Options:

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

Ans: b



Sol: The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003, includes provisions to prohibit smoking in public places, ban advertisements of tobacco products, and mandate health warnings on packaging. However, it does not regulate the chemical composition (e.g., nicotine levels) of tobacco products, making statement 3 incorrect.

Day 12

Topic 111

111. BHASINI Mission

- Also known as **National Language Translation Mission**.
- Introduced in **July 2022** under the **Digital India program**.

Objective:

- Enable digital inclusion by providing **internet access and services in native Indian languages**.
- AI-powered real-time translation and communication** across **Indian languages**.
- Bhasha Daan:** Language Data Crowdsourcing-citizens can contribute voice data, text, and translations to enrich language resources.
- Aims to build a **National Public Digital Platform** for **languages** using **AI**.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- Annual **month-long cultural event**
- Started in **2022**
- Rediscover the **historical and civilizational connections** between **Tamil Nadu and Varanasi (Kashi)**.
- Organized by the **Ministry of Education** in collaboration with institutions like **IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University**.
- The event embodies the spirit of **"Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."**



Current news?

- Use of **BHASHINI app** at **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** to translate **PM speech into 8 regional languages** is a **good example** of where **AI can help in-**
 - Curbing language barrier**
 - Promoting unity in diversity**

Q331. Regarding the Bhashini Platform, consider the following statements:

- It aims to facilitate convenient internet and digital service accessibility in Indian languages, including voice-based options, and promote content creation in those languages.
- It aims to provide Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources in the public domain for use by Indian MSMEs, startups, and individual innovators.
- It is not a part of the National Language Translation Mission.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- only one
- Only two
- All three statements
- None of the statements

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Bhashini Platform aims to enhance internet and digital service accessibility in Indian languages by providing tools, including voice-based solutions, to facilitate content creation and digital inclusion.
- Statement 2: Correct. The platform provides Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources in the public domain to support Indian MSMEs,



startups, and individual innovators, fostering innovation in language technology.

- Statement 3: Incorrect. The Bhashini Platform is part of the National Language Translation Mission, which aims to make information and knowledge accessible in Indian languages.

Q332. With reference to the Bhashini Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is also known as the National Language Translation Mission and was introduced under the Digital India program.
2. The mission enables digital inclusion by providing AI-powered real-time translation and communication in Indian languages.
3. The Bhasha Daan initiative under the mission crowdsources language data through citizen contributions.
4. It aims to create a National Public Digital Platform exclusively for Indian startups.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Bhashini Mission is also known as the National Language Translation Mission and was launched under the Digital India program in July 2022.
- Statement 2: Correct. The mission leverages AI to enable real-time translation and communication across Indian languages to foster digital inclusion.
- Statement 3: Correct. The Bhasha Daan initiative facilitates language data crowdsourcing, allowing citizens to contribute text, voice data, and translations.
- Statement 4: Incorrect. The mission aims to create a National Public Digital Platform for languages, not exclusively for startups, but for the broader goal of digital inclusion and innovation.

Q333. Consider the following statements regarding 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam':

1. This programme is part of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

2. IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) are the two implementing agencies for this programme.

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Kashi Tamil Sangamam' programme is an initiative by Government of India as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and to uphold the Spirit of Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat.
- Statement 2: Correct. The program is implemented jointly by IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), reflecting the collaboration of academic institutions in organizing this cultural initiative.

Topic 112

112. Model Code Conduct

- Set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission (EC)
- Comes into force on the announcement of the poll schedule and remains operational till the process is concluded.
- Released by Election Commission as per constitutional mandate as per Article 324 (which expects EC to conduct free and fair elections).

Evolution of the Model Code of Conduct

- 1960 MCC: The MCC was introduced for the first time for state elections, and it mainly dealt with maintaining the decency of political campaigning.
- 1979 MCC: The MCC was revised to prohibited the use of government resources for political campaigns.
- 1991 MCC: prohibited appeals to caste or communal feelings.
- 2013 MCC: guidelines on the use of social media platforms
- 2019 MCC: digital political advertising should be pre-certified by the ECI.

Other provisions wrt elections

1. C-Vigil app



- Launched by EC to register complaint of violation of MCC.
2. **Electronic Voting Machine (Manufactured by BEL)**
 - MB Haneefa invented the first Indian voting machine in 1980.
 - First used in 1981 in the by-election to North Paravur(Kerala) Assembly Constituency
 - Amendment in RPA Act 1988(new section 61A) was inserted empowering the Commission to use voting machines.
 3. **Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail**-allows **voters to verify** if their vote has **gone to the intended candidate**



MCC has **no statutory status**.

VVPAT allows voters to see a printed slip for 7 seconds

Q334. Regarding the Model Code of Conduct, consider the following statements

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) lays down the Model Code of Conduct prior to elections under the provisions of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

2. The MCC prohibits the party in power - whether at the Centre or in the states from using its official position for campaigning.

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is not laid down under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Instead, it is a set of guidelines evolved by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in consultation with political parties to ensure free and fair elections. It is not legally enforceable but carries moral authority.
- Statement 2: Correct. The MCC prohibits the ruling party, whether at the Centre or in the states, from using its official position or government machinery for election campaigning, ensuring a level playing field for all parties.

Q335. With reference to the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. The 1960 MCC focused primarily on maintaining decency in political campaigning during state elections.
2. The 1991 revision introduced guidelines for the use of social media in political campaigns.
3. The 2019 MCC mandated pre-certification of digital political advertisements by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The MCC was first introduced in 1960, focusing on maintaining decency in political campaigning during state elections.



- Statement 2: Incorrect. The 1991 revision prohibited appeals to caste or communal feelings, not the use of social media, which was addressed in the 2013 guidelines.
- Statement 3: Correct. The 2019 MCC required digital political advertising to be pre-certified by the ECI to ensure compliance with electoral laws and transparency.

Q336. Consider the following statements Electoral Process in India:

1. Model Code of Conduct (MCC) originated in Kerala in 1960.
2. "Exit-poll" is an opinion survey regarding how electors have voted in an election.
3. NOTA was introduced in elections in 2013, ensuring voters' right to abstain from voting discreetly.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) originated in Kerala in 1960 for state elections.
- Statement 2: Correct. "Exit poll" refers to an opinion survey conducted after voters have cast their ballots in an election to gauge how they voted. Exit polls are often subject to regulation by the ECI to ensure they do not influence ongoing voting processes.
- Statement 3: Correct. The None of the Above (NOTA) option was introduced in Indian elections in 2013 to give voters the right to abstain from voting for any candidate while maintaining secrecy.

Topic 113

113. Article 21-Interpretations

(Read in line with topic 7)

Article 21

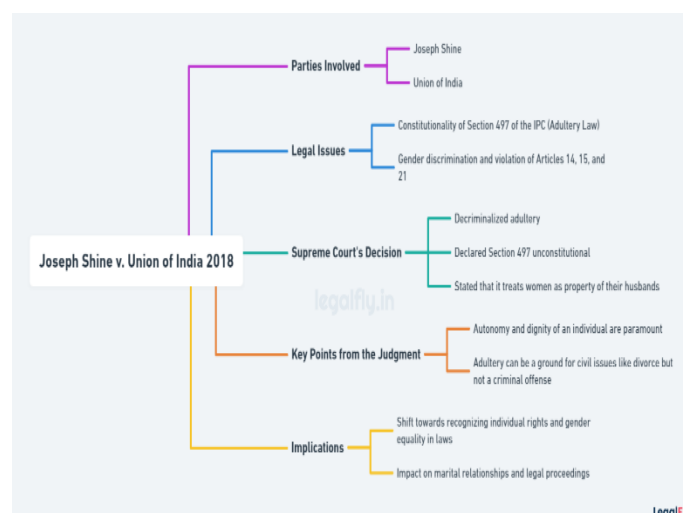
- Right to life with dignity.
- **SC expanded the ambit** of Article 21-added Right to privacy(KS Puttaswamy judgment 2017).

Evolution of Right to Privacy since Puttaswamy Judgement

1. **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)**
 - It decriminalised homosexuality.
2. **Hadiya Case/Shafin Jahan case, 2018**
 - Right to marry person of choice.
3. **Joseph Shine v. Union of India case, 2018**
 - It decriminalised adultery on the grounds of defending sexual liberty and privacy, as well as excessive state intrusion in people's married lives.
 - The Court Said-Adultery will continue to remain 'social crime'.

Current news?

- Supreme Court has **expanded** the scope of **Articles 14 and 21** to include the **right against the adverse effects of climate change**.
- The recent judgment came on a **petition by wildlife activists** to protect the Great Indian Bustard (GIB).



Q337. Consider the following statements:

1. In Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum vs. Union of India, the Supreme Court held that people have



a fundamental right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change.

2. The Supreme Court recognized the fundamental right against climate change under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

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

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: In 'M.K. Ranjitsinh and Others v. Union of India and Others 2024, the Supreme Court held that people have a fundamental right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change.
- Statement 2 is correct: the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21 to include the right against the adverse effects of climate change.

Q338. With reference to the evolution of the Right to Privacy since the Puttaswamy judgment, 2017 consider the following statements:

1. The Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case 2018 decriminalized homosexuality, affirming privacy as a facet of dignity and liberty.
2. The Joseph Shine v. Union of India case decriminalized adultery but upheld it as a "social crime."
3. The Hadiya/Shafin Jahan case recognized the right to privacy in matters of marriage, affirming the right to marry a person of choice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1: Correct. In Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018), the Supreme Court decriminalized homosexuality, upholding privacy as a part of individual dignity and liberty under Article 21.

- Statement 2: Correct. In Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018), the Court decriminalized adultery, stating it infringed upon sexual liberty and privacy, but it remarked that adultery remains a "social crime."
- Statement 3: Correct. In the Hadiya/Shafin Jahan case (2018), the Court upheld the right to marry a person of choice as part of personal liberty and privacy.

Q339. Consider the following part of the constitution:

1. Fundamental Rights
2. Fundamental Duties
3. Directive Principles of State policy (DPSP)
4. Preamble

How many of the above are included with the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform in the constitution through 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976?

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: a

Sol:

- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, introduced references to scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform in one part of the Constitution:
- Fundamental Duties: Article 51A (h) was added, which explicitly mentions that it is the duty of every citizen to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
- **Evaluation of Each:**
 - Preamble: No specific mention of scientific temper, humanism, or the spirit of inquiry and reform was added here by the 42nd Amendment.
 - Fundamental Rights: These were not altered in this context by the 42nd Amendment.

Topic 114



114. Different petitions that can be filed in SC

Curative Petition

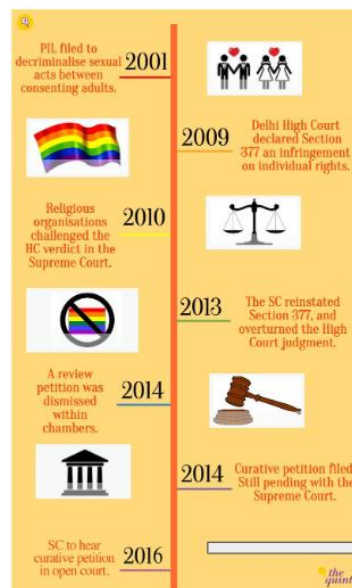
- Can be filed when Review petition in the SC against its decision is rejected.
- A litigant can file a petition if he feels that there has been 'miscarriage of justice'.
- Petition must be certified by a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court.
- Matter will be heard by group of three senior most judges.

Note

- The concept of a curative petition is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
- Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs Ashok Hurra & another, 2002 the SC laid down the principle of Curative petition.

Special Leave Petition

- a legal provision under Article 136 of the Indian Constitution, allowing a person to appeal to the Supreme Court of India against any judgment, decree, or order passed by any lower court or tribunal in the country (except military tribunals or courts-martial).
- One can file Special Leave Petition if one believes there has been 'miscarriage of justice'.
- Acceptance of SLP is not an automatic right (SC may reject also)
- To be filed within 90 days from the date of the judgment of a lower court (cases of delay, the petitioner must explain the delay)



Navtej Singh Johar 2018 the SC while hearing **Curative petition decriminalised Homosexuality**(which was a criminal offence till then under IPC 377)

Q340. With reference to 'Curative Petition' consider the following statements

1. It is the last resort to the highest court that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances, and its ruling is final.
2. The concept of curative petition originated from the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002)
3. Article 137 of the Indian Constitution broadly supports the idea of a curative petition.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: c

Sol:

- It is the last resort to the highest court that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances, and its ruling is final.
 - This is correct. A curative petition is considered the final avenue for redress in the judicial process, filed in the Supreme Court after the dismissal of a review petition. The ruling on a curative petition is final.
- The concept of curative petition originated from the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002).
 - This is correct. The concept was established in the landmark judgment in



Rupa Ashok Hurra v. Ashok Hurra & Anr. (2002), where the Supreme Court held that a curative petition could be filed to prevent abuse of its process and to cure gross miscarriage of justice.

- Article 137 of the Indian Constitution broadly supports the idea of a curative petition.
 - This is correct. Article 137 of the Constitution allows the Supreme Court to review its own judgments or orders. The curative petition is an extension of this concept, developed through judicial interpretation to address exceptional cases.

Q341. With reference to the Special Leave Petition (SLP) under Article 136 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. SLP allows an individual to appeal to the Supreme Court against judgments or orders passed by any lower court or tribunal, except military courts or courts-martial.
2. Filing an SLP is an automatic right and cannot be rejected by the Supreme Court.
3. SLP must be filed within 90 days from the date of the lower court's judgment unless a reasonable delay is justified.
4. The Supreme Court may entertain an SLP only if there is a case of miscarriage of justice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- SLP allows an individual to appeal to the Supreme Court against judgments or orders passed by any lower court or tribunal, except military courts or courts-martial.
 - Correct: Article 136 empowers the Supreme Court to grant Special Leave to appeal against decisions of lower courts or tribunals, with the exception of military tribunals or courts-martial.
- Filing an SLP is an automatic right and cannot be rejected by the Supreme Court.
 - Incorrect: Filing an SLP is not an automatic right. The Supreme Court has discretionary power to accept or reject an SLP. There is

no guarantee that the Court will entertain the appeal.

- SLP must be filed within 90 days from the date of the lower court's judgment unless a reasonable delay is justified.
 - Correct: As per the procedural rules, an SLP must generally be filed within 90 days of the judgment. In case of delay, the petitioner must provide a reasonable explanation for it, and the Court may condone the delay if justified.
- The Supreme Court may entertain an SLP only if there is a case of miscarriage of justice.
 - Correct: The primary purpose of an SLP is to address cases where there has been a gross miscarriage of justice or a significant error in the interpretation or application of law by the lower courts.

Q342. Which, one of the following powers of the Supreme Court is also conferred on a High Court?

- (a) Advisory power
- (b) Power of doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before the court
- (c) Power of court of record
- (d) Power to allow/refuse Special Leave Petitions

Ans: c

Sol: The correct answer is option 3 - Power of court of record. This power is conferred on both the Supreme Court and the High Courts. A court of record has the authority to maintain its own records and proceedings and to enforce its own judgments and orders. This means that the decisions and judgments made by both the Supreme Court and the High Courts are legally binding and can be used as precedent for future cases.

- Option 1 - Advisory power is a power solely held by the Supreme Court. It allows the Supreme Court to give advice to the President and the Governor on matters of law or public interest when they seek it.
- Option 2 - Power of doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before the court is a power specifically held by the Supreme Court. It enables the Supreme Court to pass judgments that uphold justice and fairness.
- Option 4 - Power to allow/refuse Special Leave Petitions is also exclusively held by the Supreme Court. Special Leave Petitions are requests made to the Supreme Court to grant



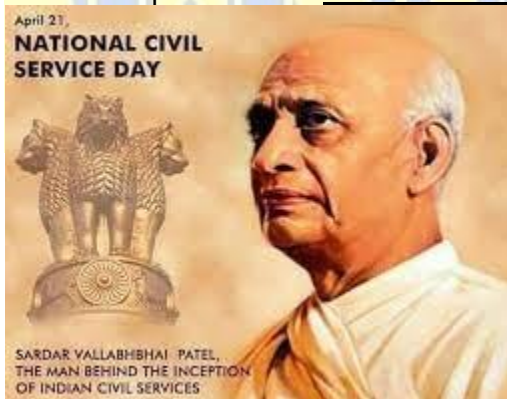
permission to appeal a decision made by a lower court.

In summary, while options 1, 2, and 4 are powers conferred only on the Supreme Court, option 3 - Power of court of record - is also conferred on a High Court.

Topic 115

115. National Civil Services Day

- Every year, **21st April** is celebrated as the **Civil Services Day** by the Government of India.
- The date is chosen to commemorate the day when the **first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** addressed the **probationers of Administrative Services Officers** in **1947** at **Metcalfe House, Delhi**.
- He referred to civil servants as the **'Steel Frame of India'**.
- The **first function on civil services day** was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in **2006**.
- On this day, the **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration** are presented to **Civil Servants**.



Quotes (for Mains Ethics paper)

- "The civil servant has the responsibility to **act as a bridge between the government and the people**." - **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
- "The true test of a civil servant is not how **much he knows, but how much he cares**." - **Jawaharlal Nehru**

Q343. Regarding Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, consider the following statements:

1. He headed the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights.

2. He worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, and caste discrimination, and for women's emancipation in Gujarat and outside.
3. The title 'Sardar' was conferred on Vallabhbhai Patel by Jawaharlal Nehru.
4. How many of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

- He headed the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights.
 - Correct: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Tribal and Excluded Areas during the framing of the Indian Constitution.
- He worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, and caste discrimination, and for women's emancipation in Gujarat and outside.
 - Correct: Sardar Patel actively campaigned for social reforms, including the eradication of untouchability, opposition to caste discrimination, promotion of women's rights, and temperance (anti-alcohol movement).
- The title 'Sardar' was conferred on Vallabhbhai Patel by Jawaharlal Nehru.
 - Incorrect: The title "Sardar" (meaning leader) was conferred upon Vallabhbhai Patel by the people of Bardoli, Gujarat, in recognition of his leadership during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, not by Jawaharlal Nehru.

Q344. With reference to Civil Services Day in India, consider the following statements:

1. Civil Services Day is celebrated on 21st April every year to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to civil service probationers in 1947.
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel referred to civil servants as the "Steel Frame of India" during his address.



3. The first Civil Services Day function was held in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. On this day, the President's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Civil Servants.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- Civil Services Day is celebrated on 21st April every year to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to civil service probationers in 1947.
 - Correct: This date was chosen to honor the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed probationary officers of the Administrative Services at Metcalf House, Delhi, in 1947, emphasizing the crucial role of civil services in independent India.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel referred to civil servants as the "Steel Frame of India" during his address.
 - Correct: In his famous speech, Sardar Patel described civil servants as the "Steel Frame of India," highlighting their indispensable role in the governance and unity of the nation.
- The first Civil Services Day function was held in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - Correct: The inaugural Civil Services Day celebration took place in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, where civil servants were recognized for their contributions.
- On this day, the President's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Civil Servants.
 - Incorrect: The awards presented on Civil Services Day are the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, recognizing outstanding work by civil servants in implementing government programs and projects.

Q345. Consider the following statements:

1. According to Article 310 of the constitution, except for the provisions provided by the

Constitution, a civil servant of the Union works at the pleasure of the President.

2. Article 309 of the constitution empowers the Parliament and the State legislatures to regulate the recruitment, and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
3. The power of the government of India under Article 310 of the constitution is absolute in nature with no remedial measures available to civil servants.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: b

Sol:

1. According to Article 310 of the Constitution, except for the provisions provided by the Constitution, a civil servant of the Union works at the pleasure of the President.
 - Correct: Article 310 enshrines the doctrine of pleasure, which states that civil servants hold office during the pleasure of the President (for Union employees) or the Governor (for State employees), subject to constitutional provisions.
2. Article 309 of the Constitution empowers the Parliament and the State legislatures to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
 - Correct: Article 309 grants the Parliament and State Legislatures the power to make laws regarding recruitment and service conditions for public servants. Until such laws are made, the President or Governor can issue rules.
3. The power of the government of India under Article 310 of the Constitution is absolute in nature with no remedial measures available to civil servants.
 - Incorrect: While Article 310 establishes the doctrine of pleasure, it is not absolute. Civil servants are protected by Article 311, which provides safeguards such as the right to a reasonable opportunity to be heard before dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank.



Topic 116

116. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act)

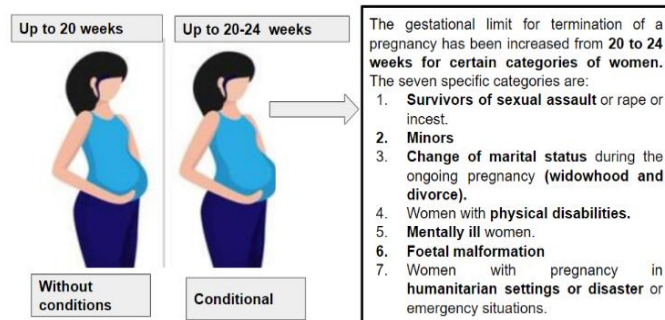
Law regarding abortion in India

1. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971**
 - The Act allows **abortion up to 20 weeks**.
2. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021**
 - It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from **20 weeks to 24** under **special circumstances**- rape survivors, differently abled and minors.
 - **Beyond 24 weeks** in **substantial foetal abnormalities**.

Current case

- A 26 week pregnant married woman already has two sons, pleaded that her current pregnancy was unplanned, her family income is insufficient, herself not in the right mental frame to have third child.
- SC gave special permission of abortion.
- But AIIMS Delhi doctors said where woman was sent for -foetus is “currently viable” “strong possibility of survival”.
- Means-Abortion would be against ‘right to life(Article 21) of unborn child’
- After AIIMS report SC rejected abortion request.

Indications (Contraceptive failure)	Only applies to married women	Unmarried women are also covered
Gestational Age Limit	20 weeks for all indications	24 weeks for rape survivors Beyond 24 weeks for substantial fetal abnormalities
Medical practitioner opinions required before termination	One RMP till 12 weeks Two RMPs till 20 weeks	One RMP till 20 weeks Two RMPs 20-24 weeks Medical Board approval after 24 weeks



- **US SC- in Roe v. Wade case, 1973**-made abortion **a constitutional right**.
- In 2023 **overturned by the SC of the US** (allows the respective States to **make abortion-an illegal act**)

Q346. Evaluate the following statements regarding the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021:

1. The Act increased the gestational limit for abortions from 20 weeks to 24 weeks for all women.
2. It mandates that unmarried women can also seek abortions under the same conditions as married women.
3. The opinion of two registered medical practitioners is required for abortions up to 24 weeks.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:-

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The gestational limit was increased to 24 weeks, but this applies only to certain categories of women (e.g., survivors of rape or incest, minors), not all women.
- Statement 2 is correct: The amendment allows unmarried women to seek abortions under the same conditions.
- Statement 3 is correct: The opinion of two medical practitioners is required for abortions between 20-24 weeks.



Q347. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021?

1. Abortions after 24 weeks can be performed with the approval of two registered medical practitioners.
 2. The amendment allows abortions in cases of fetal abnormalities detected beyond 24 weeks.
 3. The Act applies to private healthcare providers only.
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Only 1 and 2
(d) Only 2 and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Abortions beyond 24 weeks require Medical Board approval, not just two practitioners.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Act allows abortions beyond 24 weeks in cases of severe fetal abnormalities.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Act applies to both public and private healthcare providers.

Q348. Evaluate the following statements regarding Roe v. Wade (1973) and its reversal in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022) in the US:

1. Roe v. Wade established a constitutional right to abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment, protecting it until fetal viability.
2. The Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization upheld Roe v. Wade and expanded abortion rights nationwide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: Roe v. Wade recognized a constitutional right to abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment and protected it until fetal viability, typically around 24 weeks.

- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Dobbs decision overturned Roe v. Wade, eliminating the federal constitutional protection for abortion and returning the authority to regulate abortion to individual states.

Topic 117

117. National Health Policy 2017

- Target public health expenditure of **2.5% of GDP by 2025.**

Key targets

- Increase **Life Expectancy at birth** from 67.5 to **70 by 2025.**
- Reduce **Fertility Rate to 2.1 by 2025.**
- Reduce **Infant Mortality Rate to 28** by 2019.
- Reduce **Under Five Mortality to 23** by 2025.
- **MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate)** in India to **less than 100 per 100,000** live births by 2020

Initiatives for the Health Care Sector

1. PM ABHIM

- To strengthen infrastructure of **grass root public health institutions.**
- To expand and build an **IT enabled disease surveillance system.**
- To **expand research** on COVID-19.

2. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

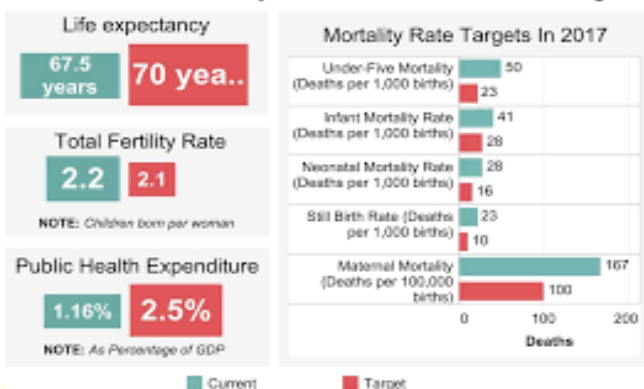
- **A maternity benefit scheme** launched by the Government of India in 2017.
- It is a part of the **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)**
- Conditional cash transfer of **₹5,000** is provided in **three installment**
 - **First Installment (₹1,000):** Registration of pregnancy
- a. **Second Installment (₹2,000):** after 1st antenatal check-up
- b. **Third Installment (₹2,000):** After childbirth is registered and the child receives the first cycle of immunization for BCG, OPV, DPT, and Hepatitis-B.



2017

- Eradicate leprosy by 2018
- Eradicate kala azar in 2017
- Eradicate lymphatic filariasis in 2017
- HIV is still a problem and the policy aims to achieve the global target of 2020
- Bring down IMR to 28 by 2019 and MMR to 100 by 2020

National Health Policy 2017: Current Rates & Targets



Q349. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017?

1. The policy targets reducing the under-five mortality rate to 23 by 2025.
2. It includes specific goals for increasing life expectancy at birth.
3. NHP 2017 focuses exclusively on communicable diseases.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All of the above

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: The policy aims to reduce the under-five mortality rate to 23 per 1,000 live births by 2025.
- Statement 2 is correct: It includes goals to increase life expectancy at birth to 70 years by 2025.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The policy addresses both communicable and non-communicable diseases, along with other determinants of health.

Q350. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)?

1. PM-ABHIM aims to strengthen critical healthcare facilities in urban and rural areas.
2. The mission focuses solely on improving private healthcare infrastructure.
3. It includes provisions for establishing integrated public health labs in all districts.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2
- (d) All of the above

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: PM-ABHIM focuses on enhancing healthcare infrastructure in both urban and rural regions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The mission emphasizes improving public healthcare facilities rather than private ones.
- Statement 3 is correct: The initiative includes establishing integrated public health labs in every district.

Q351. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)?

1. PMMVY provides cash incentives to pregnant women and lactating mothers for their first live birth.
2. The scheme aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional deliveries and immunizations.
3. It covers all women regardless of employment or income status.

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All of the above

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: PMMVY provides cash incentives for the first live birth to improve nutrition and health.
- Statement 2 is correct: It promotes institutional deliveries and immunizations to reduce maternal and infant mortality.



- Statement 3 is incorrect: The scheme primarily targets pregnant and lactating women from economically weaker sections, excluding those in regular formal employment who are entitled to maternity benefits under other laws.

Topic 118

118. National Rural Health Mission

- initiated on 12th April **2005**.

Goal

- Effective health care to the **entire rural population**

Core strategy

- trained female health activist** (Accredited Social Health Activist- **ASHA**) in **each village (1/1000 population)** to fill the gap

Role of ASHA workers

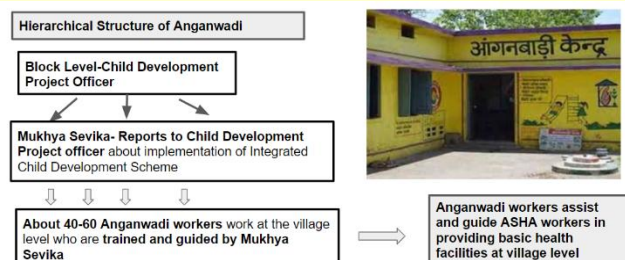
- Create awareness** on basic sanitation and hygienic
- Reproductive health of women in rural areas**

Anganwadi centres

- Started in 1975** as part of the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program**

ICDS goal through Anganwadi

- Counter **child hunger and malnutrition** of children aged 0-6 years.
- Pre Primary education (**Children 0-6 years**)



Current news?

- 32,546 dedicated ASHA workers in Assam
- Assam Cabinet- fixed 60 years** as the **retirement age** for ASHA workers

Retirement compensation

- ASHA worker-Rs 2 lakh
- a. ASHA supervisor -Rs 3 lakh Monetary compensation only if- complete ten years of service

50 per cent of the monetary compensation-in case of voluntary retirement.

Q352. Which of the following are key features of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)?

- Provision of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) to remote areas.
 - Strengthening the healthcare workforce through recruitment and training of ASHAs and other personnel.
 - Infrastructure development, including new sub-centers and primary health centers.
- (a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: d

Sol:

- Feature 1 is correct: Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) are deployed under NRHM to provide healthcare services to underserved areas.
- Feature 2 is correct: NRHM strengthens the healthcare workforce through recruitment and training initiatives.
- Feature 3 is correct: Infrastructure development, including establishing and upgrading healthcare facilities, is a crucial component of NRHM.

Q353. Which of the following statements about Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is/are correct?

- ASHA workers act as a link between the community and the public healthcare system.
 - They are salaried employees of the government.
 - Their primary role includes promoting institutional deliveries and creating awareness about health programs.
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statement 1 is correct: ASHA workers are the primary point of contact between rural communities and the healthcare system.



- Statement 2 is incorrect: ASHA workers are not salaried employees; they are honorary workers receiving performance-based incentives for specific tasks.
- Statement 3 is correct: They play a vital role in promoting institutional deliveries, immunization, and health awareness among rural populations.

Q354. Which of the following statements about the ICDS scheme is incorrect?

- Anganwadi Centers are the main delivery points for ICDS services.
- The scheme includes growth monitoring and health check-ups for young children.
- ICDS exclusively targets malnourished children below the age of three years.
- ICDS was launched in 1975 to address the health and nutritional needs of children and women.

Ans: c

Sol:

- Statement A is correct: Anganwadi Centers serve as the backbone of ICDS service delivery.
- Statement B is correct: Growth monitoring and health check-ups are essential components of the scheme.
- Statement C is incorrect: ICDS targets all children under six years of age, not just those below three years, and also provides services to adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- Statement D is correct: The scheme was indeed launched in 1975 to improve child and maternal health outcomes.

Topic 119

119. Genome India Project

- Launched in 2020 by **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- Led by the Indian **Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**

Aim : To sequence **10,000 Indian genomes** for a reference genome by end of 2023-Phase I.

Benefits

- Healthcare**-To study **Genetic make up Indian people** - develop **medical research** to curb diseases like **cancer, diabetes etc.**

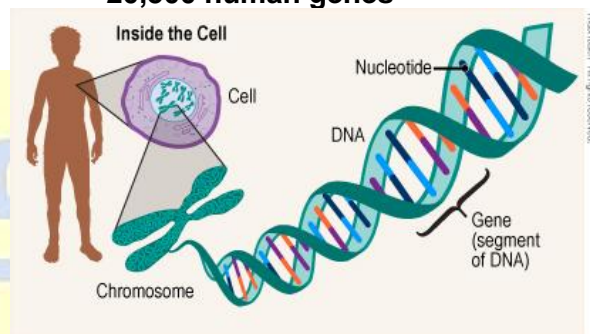
- Prenatal Genetic Screening**- screening for **diseases prior to the birth.**
- Evolution Puzzle**-questions regarding **evolution** by comparing **human DNA with primate DNA.**
- To evaluate **rare disorder**

Current news?

- **First phase** of Genome India Project has been **completed.**
- Sequencing **10,000 healthy genomes** from **different regions** of the country, representing **99 distinct populations** has been done.
- Genome India Project started after taking **inspiration from the Human Genome Project.**

Human Genome Project

- Started in **1990.**
- revealed that there are probably about **20,500 human genes**

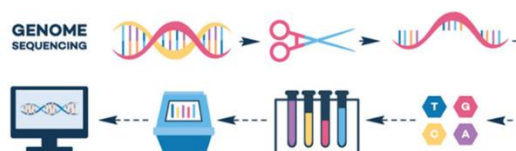


Genes

- Genes are **made up of DNA**
- DNA carries **hereditary information**

Genomes

- **All Genes within the cell** is known as **genome.**
- It is complete information about a **person's Genetic makeup.**



Note-

- Data of **Genome India Project** has been kept at **Indian Biological Data Centre in Faridabad**

Q355. What is the primary benefit of the Genome India Project in the field of healthcare?



- (a) It will lead to the development of universal vaccines for all genetic disorders.
- (b) It will allow the creation of targeted therapies and precision medicine based on genetic profiles.
- (c) It will eliminate all inherited diseases from the Indian population within a decade.
- (d) It will replace traditional diagnostic methods with genetic testing for all illnesses.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Option a is incorrect: The project does not aim to develop universal vaccines but focuses on understanding genetic diversity.
- Option b is correct: The project aims to advance precision medicine by linking genetic profiles with disease susceptibility and treatment responses.
- Option c is incorrect: While the project may help reduce inherited diseases over time, it will not eliminate them entirely.
- Option d is incorrect: Traditional diagnostic methods will complement genetic insights rather than be entirely replaced.

Q356. Which of the following statements about the relationship between chromosomes and genes is correct?

- (a) Genes are made up of chromosomes and determine an organism's genetic traits.
- (b) Chromosomes are long strands of DNA that carry genes, which are the functional units of heredity.
- (c) Chromosomes exist only in reproductive cells, whereas genes are present in all cells.
- (d) Genes and chromosomes are the same structures within a cell.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Option a is incorrect: Genes are segments of DNA located on chromosomes, not the other way around.
- Option b is correct: Chromosomes are made of DNA and proteins, and genes are specific sequences of DNA that code for traits.
- Option c is incorrect: Both chromosomes and genes are present in all nucleated cells of an organism, not just reproductive cells.

- Option d is incorrect: Genes and chromosomes are distinct entities; chromosomes carry multiple genes.

Q357. Which of the following statements about the Human Genome Project (HGP) is correct?

- (a) The Human Genome Project aimed to map and understand all the proteins in the human body.
- (b) HGP identified that humans have approximately 100,000 genes in their genome.
- (c) One of the key outcomes of HGP was determining the sequence of the entire human DNA.
- (d) The Human Genome Project was focused only on the study of genetic diseases.

Ans: c

Sol:

- Option a is incorrect: The HGP aimed to map and sequence the entire human genome, focusing on DNA, not directly on proteins.
- Option b is incorrect: The HGP revealed that humans have about 20,000–25,000 genes, not 100,000 as initially estimated.
- Option c is correct: A major achievement of the HGP was sequencing all 3 billion base pairs of human DNA.
- Option d is incorrect: While studying genetic diseases is one application, the HGP had broader goals, including understanding genetic variation and evolution.

Topic 120

120. NOTA or 'none of the above' button

- NOTA (None of the Above) is an **option available to voters** in India that allows them to **reject all candidates** contesting in an election.
- Introduced by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** following a **Supreme Court ruling in 2013** in the case **People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) v. Union of India**.
- Available as the **last option** on the **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)** in all elections.
- Represented by a symbol of a **ballot paper** with a **cross on EVMs** for easy recognition.

Note-

- Even if **NOTA receives the majority of votes**, the **candidate with the highest**



votes among the others is **declared the winner**.

- The None of the Above (NOTA) option is **available to voters** in **direct elections** such as those for the **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**.
- However, it is **not used** in **Rajya Sabha elections**.
- In 2018, the **Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC)** issued an order that **'if NOTA received the highest number of valid votes, a fresh election shall be held'**.



The NOTA symbol

Q358. What does the NOTA option signify in the Indian electoral system?

- It rejects all the candidates contesting the election.
- It allows a voter to abstain from voting without affecting voter turnout.
- It nullifies the election result if it receives the majority of votes.
- It counts as a vote for the least favored candidate.

Ans: b

Q359. Assertion (A): NOTA is a tool to express dissatisfaction with the candidates contesting an election.

Reason (R): NOTA votes directly affect the outcome of elections in India.

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.

(d) A is false, but R is true.

Ans: c

Q360. Consider the following statements about the NOTA (None of the Above) option in Indian elections:

- NOTA was introduced in India following a Supreme Court judgment in 2019.
- Votes cast for NOTA are counted and can impact the election results.
- If NOTA receives the majority of votes, re-election is conducted in the constituency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- None of the above

Ans: d

Sol:

- Statement 1: True, NOTA was introduced in 2013 following a Supreme Court judgment. PUCI vs UOI, 2013
- Statement 2: False, while NOTA votes are counted, they do not impact the outcome of the election, as the candidate with the highest valid votes wins.
- Statement 3: False, there is no provision for re-election even if NOTA receives the majority of votes.

Thus, none of the statements are completely correct, making option d the correct answer.

