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Polity

PART – II

CRISP, CONCISE & COMPLETE

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SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

Day 66

Topic 696

696. Press Council of India

- The **Press Council of India (PCI)** was established on **November 16**, 1966, leading to the day being celebrated as **National Press Day.**

Press Council of India

- A **statutory body** established under the **Press Council Act of 1978**.

The PCI comprises a **Chairman and 28 other members**, including:

- Three members from the Lok Sabha (House of the People).
- Two members from the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).
- Six editors of newspapers.

Press Council of India- quasi-judicial body

Role of PCI is-

1. Helping **newspapers** maintain their **independence.**
2. **Ensure journalistic ethics.**

- To discharge its role PCI can act as a **quasi-judicial body.**

The PCI has the **authority to:**

1. Censure any newspaper or journalist for **violating journalistic ethics.**
2. Summon and **enforce the attendance of persons** and examine them on oath.
3. Require the **discovery and inspection of documents**.
4. Receive **evidence** on affidavits.
5. Issue commissions for the **examination of witnesses or documents.**

These powers enable the **PCI to function effectively** as a **watchdog of the press in India**.

सत्यमेव जयते
भारतीय प्रेस परिषद
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Q2087. With reference to the Press Council of India (PCI), consider the following statements:

1. The Press Council of India was established by the Press Council Act of 1978 and is a statutory body.
2. The Council consists only of journalists and editors, with no representation from Parliament.
3. The PCI has powers to censure newspapers or journalists who violate journalistic ethics.
4. The PCI functions as a quasi-judicial body and can summon persons and examine them on oath.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Press Council of India is a statutory body established under the Press Council Act of 1978.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The PCI includes not just journalists and editors, but also members from Parliament — three from the Lok Sabha and two from the Rajya Sabha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The PCI has the authority to censure newspapers or journalists for violations of journalistic ethics.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** It functions as a quasi-judicial body and has powers like summoning persons, examining them on oath, and receiving evidence on affidavits, among others.

2088. With reference to the composition of the Press Council of India (PCI), consider the following statements:

1. The Chairman of the PCI is nominated by the President of India.
2. The PCI includes members from both Houses of Parliament.
3. Only government officials are allowed to serve as members of the Press Council.
4. Six editors of newspapers are also part of the Council's membership.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Chairman is nominated by a committee and appointed by the President of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The PCI includes 3 members from Lok Sabha and 2 from Rajya Sabha.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Membership is not restricted to government officials; in fact, it includes journalists, editors, and representatives of the press.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Six editors of newspapers are part of the Council.

Q2089. Consider the following powers vested in the Press Council of India (PCI):
1. To summon and examine witnesses under oath
2. To issue binding punishment to newspapers violating the code of conduct
3. To require discovery and inspection of documents
4. To receive evidence through affidavits
Which of the above is/are the powers of the Press Council of India?
(a) 1, 3, and 4 only
(b) 2, 3, and 4 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PCI can summon and examine persons under oath.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** PCI can censure, but cannot impose binding punishment (like a court).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It can require discovery and inspection of documents.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** PCI can receive evidence on affidavits.

Topic 697

697. 75th National Constitution Day

● **26th November** is celebrated in India as **National Constitution Day.**
● In 2024, India celebrated its **75th National Constitution Day** (since the constitution was **adopted on 26th November 1949)**.
● **Came into effect** on **January 26, 1950 (Republic Day).**
● Constitution Day initially **declared in 2015** by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
● The Constitution was **handwritten** by calligrapher **Prem Behari Narain Raizada**, the **paintings** were conceived and **implemented in Santiniketan** by artist-pedagogue **Nandalal Bose** and his team.
● **Two copies** of the Constitution, one in **English and one in Hindi,** are handwritten and bear the paintings.

Q2090. With reference to the National Constitution Day in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26th January 1950.
2. The first National Constitution Day was celebrated in 2015.
3. The 75th National Constitution Day was observed in 2024.
4. The Constitution Day is declared by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Constitution was adopted on 26th November 1949, not January 26.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Constitution Day was declared in 2015.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** 2024 marked the 75th Constitution Day.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Constitution Day was declared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, not Parliamentary Affairs.

Q2091. Consider the following statements about the handwritten copies of the Indian Constitution:
1. The English and Hindi versions of the Constitution are both handwritten.
2. The paintings in the Constitution were done under the leadership of Nandalal Bose.
3. The Constitution was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.
4. The printed version of the Constitution bears the signature of Jawaharlal Nehru.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2, and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct:** The Constitution was handwritten (both versions), calligraphed by Prem Behari Narain Raizada, and the artwork was led by Nandalal Bose and his team.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While members of the Constituent Assembly signed the Constitution, there is no specific reference to a "printed version" bearing Nehru's signature.

Q2092. Why is 26th November celebrated as Constitution Day in India?
(a) Because the Constitution came into effect on this day
(b) Because the Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on this day
(c) Because it was the day the first general election was held in India
(d) Because the Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on this day

Ans: b

Sol:
- 26th November 1949 is the day when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India.
- The Constitution came into effect later on 26th January 1950, which is celebrated as Republic Day.

Topic 698

698. Artwork of Indian Constitution

- The **narrative scheme** of the paintings represents **different periods in Indian history,** from the **Indus Valley civilisation to the freedom struggle**, also including scenes from the **Ramayana and the Mahabharata.**
- The illustrations also showcase the **diverse geography** of India, from camels marching in the **desert** to the **mighty Himalayas.**

The artworks borrowed from history and religion

- '**Part I: The Union and its Territory'** The **Bull Seal**, excavated from the **Indus Valley region** is depicted**.**
- **'Part II: Citizenship'** features a hermitage scene with **male ascetic** figures offering prayers in a **meditative environment**.
- **Part III on Fundamental Rights,** the artists turned to the Ramayana, drawing a sketch of **Ram, Lakshman and Sita** returning home after the battle in Lanka.

The **Ram temple in Ayodhya** is being built in the **Nagara style of temple architecture**

● **Part IV on DPSP**-scene from the **Mahabharata, with the discussion between**
● **Arjun and Krishna**
● **Part V, Buddha**
● **Part VI-Mahavir,**
● **Part VII-Emperor Ashoka**
● **Part IX-** has a scene from **King Vikramaditya's court**
  ● **XV- Chhatrapati Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh.**
  ● **Part XVI-Rani Lakshmibai** of Jhansi (the only female depiction), is sketched in her armour as she shares the page with **Tipu Sultan.**

The country's freedom struggle
  ● **Gandhi appears twice,** leading the **Dandi** March and visiting riot-hit **Noakhali in Bangladesh.**
  ● **Part XIX, Subhas Chandra Bose** is seen against a mountainous backdrop, saluting the flag, with members of **Azad Hind Fauj marching ahead.**
  No Nehru

Q2093. With reference to the illustrations in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. The artworks depict scenes from Indian epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
2. The paintings reflect India's geographical diversity, such as deserts and the Himalayas.
3. The artworks focus solely on the modern freedom struggle and exclude ancient and medieval history.
4. Gandhi is depicted more than once in the Constitution's illustrations.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ramayana and Mahabharata are both referenced (e.g., Ram, Lakshman, Sita; Krishna and Arjun).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The illustrations include camels in the desert and the Himalayas, showcasing geographical diversity.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The artworks span ancient, medieval, and modern India, not just the freedom struggle.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Gandhi is depicted twice — in the Dandi March and at Noakhali.

Q2094. Match the parts of the Indian Constitution with the historical or religious figure depicted in its artwork:
1. Part III – Fundamental Rights
2. Part IV – Directive Principles of State Policy
3. Part V – The Union
4. Part XVI – Special Provisions for Certain Classes
A. Buddha
B. Ram, Lakshman, and Sita
C. Krishna and Arjun
D. Rani Lakshmibai and Tipu Sultan
Select the correct matching option:
(a) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D
(b) 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A
(c) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D
(d) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C, 4-D

Ans: a

Sol:
- Part III: Ram, Lakshman, and Sita — from the Ramayana (Fundamental Rights).
- Part IV: Krishna and Arjun — from the Mahabharata (DPSP).
- Part V: Depicts Buddha (The Union).
- Part XVI: Rani Lakshmibai and Tipu Sultan — representing resistance and valor.

Q2095. Which of the following personalities or elements appear in the artwork of the Indian Constitution?

1. Mahavir
2. Guru Gobind Singh
3. Jawaharlal Nehru
4. Subhas Chandra Bose

Which of the above are depicted in the Constitution's artwork?
(a) 1, 2, and 3 only
(b) 1, 2, and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 3, and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol:
- Mahavir (Part VI), Guru Gobind Singh (Part XV), and Subhas Chandra Bose (Part XIX) are depicted.
- Jawaharlal Nehru is notably absent from the Constitution's illustrations.

Topic 699

699. Women leaders of constituent assembly

● The Assembly had **299 members,** including **15 women** who debated gender, caste, and reservations.
- Some **prominent women figures** in constituent assembly were- **Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**.

Some lesser known women leaders of constituent assembly

1. Ammu Swaminathan
- Advocated for gender equality in the Hindu Code Bill.
- Opposed restriction imposed on widows like shaving head, renouncing jewellery etc.

2. Annie Mascarene
- Advocate for a **strong Centre** and **local government autonomy.**

3. Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul
- The **only Muslim woman** in the **Constituent Assembly**.

4. Dakshayani Velayudhan
- **First Dalit woman graduate in science.**

5. Renuka Ray
- Worked on **divorce and inheritance rights of women**.
- **Opposed women's reservation** in **legislatures** post-independence saying that it would be **insult to women intelligence.**

(Left to right) Ammu Swaminathan, Annie Mascarene, Begum Qudsia, Dakshayini Velayudhan and Renuka Ray. *Archives, Wikimedia Commons*

Q2096. With reference to women leaders in the Indian Constituent Assembly, consider the following statements:
1. Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit were among the prominent women members of the Assembly.
2. Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul was the only Muslim woman in the Constituent Assembly.
3. Renuka Ray supported the idea of reserving seats for women in legislatures post-Independence.
4. Dakshayani Velayudhan was the first Dalit woman graduate in science.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** All three were prominent women in the Assembly.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** Begum Qudsia Aizaz Rasul was the only Muslim woman member.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** Renuka Ray opposed women's reservation in legislatures.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** Dakshayani Velayudhan was indeed the first Dalit woman science graduate.

Q2097. Match the following women members of the Constituent Assembly with their respective contributions or views:
1. Ammu Swaminathan
2. Annie Mascarene
3. Renuka Ray
4. Dakshayani Velayudhan

A. Advocated for Hindu widows' dignity and opposed oppressive customs
B. Worked on divorce and inheritance laws; opposed women's reservation in legislatures

C. First Dalit woman science graduate; voice for the marginalised
D. Strongly supported local autonomy while advocating a strong Centre
Select the correct matching option:
(a) 1-A, 2-D, 3-B, 4-C
(b) 1-B, 2-C, 3-D, 4-A
(c) 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B
(d) 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-B

Ans: a

Sol:
- Ammu Swaminathan → A: Spoke against demeaning widow customs.
- Annie Mascarene → D: Advocated Centre–State balance.
- Renuka Ray → B: Opposed women's reservation; worked on family laws.
- Dakshayani Velayudhan → C: First Dalit woman science graduate.

Q2098. Which of the following statements best describes Renuka Ray's position in the Constituent Assembly?
(a) She was a staunch supporter of separate electorates for women.
(b) She proposed mandatory reservation for women in all legislatures.
(c) She argued against women's reservation, believing it would undermine women's capabilities.
(d) She opposed reforms in Hindu personal laws related to divorce and inheritance.

Ans: c

Sol: Renuka Ray opposed women's reservation, stating it would be an insult to women's intelligence. However, she contributed meaningfully to debates on divorce and inheritance rights.

Topic 700

700. Scheduled Castes and conversion norms

- **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**.
- Those who get **converted to Christianity** and **Islam** are **not covered** and they do not get the SC quota benefits.

Note-
- The **religion-based bar** does **not apply** to converted **STs and OBCs.**

Current case
- The Supreme Court ruled that **religious conversion solely for obtaining reservation benefits** amounts to a **fraud on the Constitution.**

SC view on Article 25 of the Constitution
- The court upheld the **right to freely practice** and **profess religion of choice** but emphasized that **conversion** must be **inspired** by **genuine spiritual beliefs**, not for ulterior motives.

Any further inclusion or exclusion in Schedule Caste list by law made by the Parliament.

Q2099. With reference to the Scheduled Castes and religious conversion, consider the following statements:
1. Article 341 empowers the President to specify castes that shall be deemed as Scheduled Castes.
2. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 excludes Muslims and Christians from the SC category.
3. Converted STs and OBCs continue to get reservation benefits, regardless of their religion.
4. The Supreme Court has ruled that religious conversion for spiritual reasons is unconstitutional.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** Article 341 empowers the President regarding SC identification.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** SC Order, 1950 restricts SC status to Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** The religious restriction does not apply to STs and OBCs.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** The SC upheld spiritual conversion rights but opposed conversion solely for reservation benefits.

Q2100. Which of the following statements is/are true about the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950?
1. It applies to Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes as well.
2. It restricts SC status to individuals professing Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism.
3. Converts to Christianity and Islam are excluded from Scheduled Caste status under the order.
Select the correct answer:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is incorrect –** The Order applies only to SCs, not to STs or OBCs.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct –** It limits SC status to certain religions and excludes Christians and Muslims.

Q2101. What is the Supreme Court's position regarding religious conversion and Scheduled Caste benefits?
(a) Conversion to any religion invalidates the right to reservation under all categories.
(b) Conversion motivated by genuine spiritual belief is protected under Article 25.
(c) Conversion to Buddhism automatically grants ST status.
(d) All forms of religious conversion for any reason are unconstitutional.

Ans: b

Sol: The Supreme Court upheld freedom of religion under Article 25, emphasizing that only spiritually motivated conversion is valid—not one aimed solely at obtaining reservation benefits.

Topic 701

701. Statehood day of Nagaland

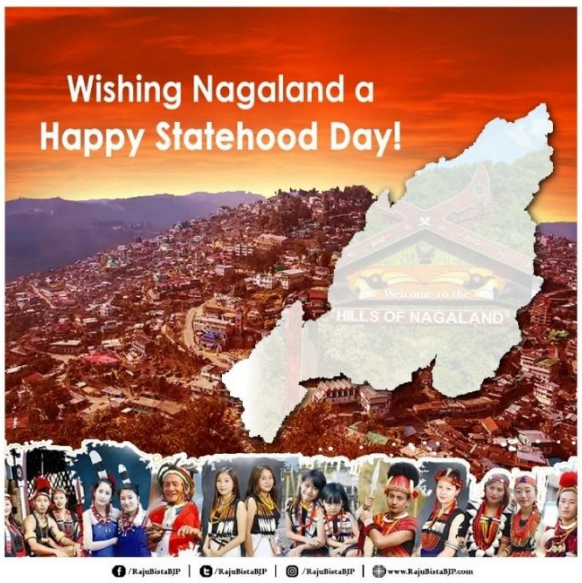
- Nagaland became the **16th State** of the Union of India on **1st December 1963.**

History of Nagaland statehood

- After the independence of India in 1947 it remained a **part of the province of Assam.**
- Nationalist activities arose amongst a section of the Nagas demanding **separate statehood.**
- The **State of Nagaland Act, 1962,** was enacted by the Parliament to give **Nagaland statehood.**
- Nagaland became the **16th state of India on 1 December 1963.**

Hornbill Festival

- Nagas celebrate this festival to revive, protect, sustain and **promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.**
- It occurs during **1 – 10 December** on an **annual basis.**
- Hornbill Festival was established on **1st December 1963** and was inaugurated by the then **President Dr. S Radhakrishnan** on occasion of **first Statehood day of Nagaland.**
- It is celebrated to **pay tribute to Hornbill birds.**
- **Annual celebration** of **Hornbill festival started in 2000.**



Blyth's Tragopan

Some facts about Great Hornbill-

- **Near threatened in** IUCN Red List
- State bird of **Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh**
- Found in the **Indian subcontinent** and **Southeast Asia**

Q2102. With reference to the statehood of Nagaland, consider the following statements:
1. Nagaland became the 16th state of India on 1st December 1963.
2. It was carved out of the province of Assam through the State of Nagaland Act, 1962.
3. The demand for statehood was primarily driven by socio-economic concerns, not nationalist sentiments.
4. Nagaland was the first state in India to be formed post-Independence on linguistic grounds.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct –** Nagaland attained statehood on 1st December 1963 through a Parliamentary act.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** The demand stemmed from nationalist aspirations.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** Nagaland was not formed on linguistic grounds; that distinction belongs to states like Andhra Pradesh.

Q2103. Consider the following statements regarding the Hornbill Festival:
1. It is held annually from 1st to 10th December in Nagaland.
2. It was first celebrated in 1963 to mark Nagaland's statehood.
3. The festival is named after the Great Hornbill, which is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
4. The Hornbill Festival was launched as an annual event in 2000 to promote Naga heritage.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2, and 3 only
(b) 1, 2, and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct.**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** The Great Hornbill is Near Threatened, not Critically Endangered, on the IUCN Red List.

Q2104. Which of the following statements about the Great Hornbill are correct?
1. It is the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is found only in India.
3. It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
4. It plays a central role in Nagaland's Hornbill Festival.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1, 2, and 4 only
(b) 1, 3, and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** It is indeed the state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The bird is found across India and Southeast Asia, not just India.
- **Statements 3 and 4 are correct –** It is Near Threatened, and it symbolizes the Hornbill Festival.

Topic 702

702. Places of Worship Act,1991

- Enacted to uphold **India's secular fabric** and **prevent disputes** over **religious places**.
- It **prohibits altering the character** of a place of worship as it **existed on August 15, 1947**.
- **Bars courts** from entertaining suits that seek such changes.

Exception

- The Act does **not apply** to the **Ram Janmabhoomi–Babri Masjid dispute**, which was already under litigation at the time.

Purpose of the act

- **Preventing religious disputes** over historical events.
- **Maintains harmony** by legally freezing the status of places of worship.

Ram Mandir, Ayodhya

Q2105. With reference to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, consider the following statements:
1. The Act prohibits the conversion of a place of worship from one religious denomination to another.
2. The Act applies retrospectively to all places of worship before January 26, 1950.
3. The Ram Janmabhoomi–Babri Masjid dispute is exempted from the provisions of this Act.
4. The Act empowers courts to revise the religious character of a site if new archaeological evidence is discovered.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** The Act prohibits changing the religious character of places of worship.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The Act applies from August 15, 1947, not January 26, 1950.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** The Ram Janmabhoomi–Babri Masjid dispute is explicitly exempted.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** Courts are barred from hearing such cases, even with new evidence.

Q2106. Which of the following best describes the main objective of the Places of Worship Act, 1991?
(a) To resolve all pending disputes related to religious structures.
(b) To allow religious communities to reclaim ancient places of worship.
(c) To preserve the religious character of places of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.
(d) To regulate the construction of new religious structures across India.

Ans: c

Sol: The Act's central aim is to freeze the religious status of all places of worship as of 15 August 1947, thereby preventing communal disputes over historical conversions or claims.

Q2107. Consider the following features of a certain legislation:
1. Prohibits conversion of places of worship after a specific historical date.
2. Bars courts from entertaining suits seeking such changes.
3. Aims to maintain communal harmony by preventing retrospective religious claims.
4. Applies to the Ram Janmabhoomi–Babri Masjid dispute.
Which legislation is being described and which of the statements are correct?
(a) The statements describe the Places of Worship Act, 1991, and all four statements are correct.
(b) The statements describe the Places of Worship Act, 1991, and only statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.
(c) The statements describe the Religious Endowments Act, and statements 1 and 2 only are correct.
(d) The statements describe the Places of Worship Act, 1991, but none of the statements are correct.

Ans: b

Sol:

- Statements 1–3 accurately reflect the provisions and intent of the Act.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** The Ram Janmabhoomi–Babri Masjid dispute is excluded from the scope of the Act.

Topic 703

703. PRAGATI Portal

- PRAGATI stands for **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.**
- The platform was launched in **2015.**
- It is designed in-house by the **PMO team** with the help of the **National Informatics Center (NIC).**

What PRAGATI Platform does?

- It is a **multi-purpose and multi-modal** platform.

It is aimed at-

- Addressing **common man's grievances.**
- Monitoring progress of **important government** projects of the **Government of India** and **State Governments.**

Utilizes **video conferencing, data analysis,** and **GIS mapping for real-time monitoring** of projects.

- **Prime Minister** conducts a **meeting every month on PRAGATI Platform.**
- He **interacts** with **secretaries** and **chief secretaries** of the **GOI via video conferencing.**
- It is held every month on the **Fourth Wednesday** at 3.30 PM- known as **PRAGATI Day.**
- The **issues** flagged are uploaded **seven days** prior to the **PRAGATI day** (ie. on third Wednesday of every month).
- Union Government Secretaries and Chief Secretaries will be able to **see the issues** pertaining to **their Department /State.**
- They have to be prepared with their **reply on these issues.**

Q2108. With reference to the PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform, consider the following statements:
1. PRAGATI was launched in 2015 to address public grievances and monitor government projects.
2. It was designed in collaboration with the World Bank and NITI Aayog.
3. The Prime Minister conducts monthly meetings through the platform with central and state officials.
4. PRAGATI utilizes real-time tools like GIS mapping and video conferencing for monitoring.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** PRAGATI was launched in 2015 for public grievances and project monitoring.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** It was designed in-house by the PMO with support from NIC, not World Bank or NITI Aayog.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** PM conducts monthly meetings with officials.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** It uses GIS, data analysis, and video conferencing for monitoring.

Q2109. What is the correct full form of PRAGATI as used in the context of Indian governance?
(a) Progressive Action for Governance and Transparency Initiative
(b) Public Response and Grievance Analysis Through Innovation
(c) Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation

(d) Program for Rapid Administrative Governance and Tracking Interface

Ans: c

Sol: PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation — a digital initiative to enhance governance efficiency and redress public grievances.

Q2110. Which of the following are key features of the PRAGATI platform?
1. Monthly meetings chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. Issues are flagged on the second Wednesday of each month.
3. Secretaries and Chief Secretaries are expected to prepare replies to issues beforehand.
4. Platform is supported by GIS-based and data analytics tools.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 3, and 4 only
(b) 1, 2, and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) All four

Ans: a
Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** Monthly meetings are held on Fourth Wednesday by the PM.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** Issues are flagged on the Third Wednesday, not second.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** Officers must prepare responses in advance.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** The platform uses GIS, data analytics, and video conferencing.

Topic 704

704. Belagavi session of INC

- The **Congress party** is held a session in **Belagavi** (previously Belgaum).
- This is to commemorate the **centenary** of **Mahatma Gandhi** presiding over the Congress's historic **Belgaum session** as the **party president in 1924**.
- It was the **only session** of INC **presided by Mahatma Gandhi**.

Belagavi dispute

- The Belagavi/Belgaum region at the **border of Maharashtra and Karnataka.**
- It comprises both **Kannada and Marathi speakers.**
- In the **States Reorganisation Act of 1956,** which divided states on linguistic and administrative lines, made **Belgaum a part** of the then **Mysore State** (which was **renamed Karnataka in 1973**).
- It is **disputed by** parties and **leaders of Maharashtra,** who want to make it part of Maharashtra.

Q2112. With reference to the Indian National Congress (INC), consider the following statements:
1. The only session of the INC presided over by Mahatma Gandhi was held in Belgaum (now Belagavi) in 1924.
2. The Belagavi session was held to commemorate the INC's foundation anniversary.
3. In 2024, Congress held a session in Belagavi to mark the centenary of Gandhi's presidency of the session.
4. Mahatma Gandhi presided over multiple sessions of the INC between 1920 and 1930.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only one
(c) All four
(d) Only three

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** Mahatma Gandhi presided only once over an INC session, and that was Belgaum in 1924.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The session wasn't for the INC's foundation anniversary.

- **Statement 3 is correct –** Congress commemorated 100 years of that session in 2024.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** Gandhi presided over only one session, not multiple.

Q2113. Which of the following statements best describes the Belagavi dispute?
(a) It is a territorial dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka over natural resources.
(b) It concerns the demand for statehood by Belagavi citizens on linguistic grounds.
(c) It is a border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka over a region with both Kannada and Marathi speakers.
(d) It is an administrative conflict between Belagavi and Bengaluru over capital status.

Ans: c

Sol:
- The Belagavi dispute is a long-standing border conflict between Maharashtra and Karnataka, with linguistic identities (Kannada vs Marathi) at its core.
- It began after the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which placed Belagavi in Karnataka.

Q2114. With reference to the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 and the Belagavi region, consider the following statements:
1. The Act reorganized Indian states on the basis of language and administrative convenience.
2. As per the Act, Belagavi was made part of Mysore State, now Karnataka.
3. The State of Maharashtra has raised no official objection to Belagavi's inclusion in Karnataka.
4. The reorganisation of states in 1956 led to the renaming of Mysore State as Karnataka.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2, and 4 only
(b) 1, 2, and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** The 1956 Act reorganized states mainly based on linguistic lines.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** Belagavi was made part of Mysore State.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** Maharashtra has actively disputed this decision.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** Mysore State was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

Topic 705

705. NAMASTE scheme

- **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem** (NAMASTE) scheme.

Objective:
- To **eradicate** **manual scavenging**.
- To provide **skill development** and **rehabilitation** for **sanitation workers**.
- To **promote** the use of **mechanized cleaning equipment**.
- **Health insurance coverage** to sanitation workers under the Ayushman Bharat **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**

Implementation:
- Jointly implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- Collaboration with **local bodies** and **state governments.**

Q2115. With reference to the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to completely eliminate manual scavenging and promote mechanized cleaning.
2. It is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. The scheme provides health insurance coverage under the Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY scheme.
4. The NAMASTE scheme is implemented in collaboration with local bodies and state governments.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** NAMASTE's objective is to eradicate manual scavenging and promote mechanised sanitation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** It is implemented not by the Ministry of Health, but by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Statement 3 is correct –** It provides health insurance under AB-PMJAY to sanitation workers.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** It is implemented with local bodies and state governments.

Q2116. Which of the following correctly describes the objectives of the NAMASTE scheme?
(a) To expand employment opportunities in rural sanitation through manual labour.
(b) To provide insurance benefits and skill development for sanitation workers, while promoting mechanized cleaning.
(c) To regulate the sale of cleaning equipment to private sanitation companies.
(d) To provide housing to sanitation workers and their families.

Ans: b

Sol: The NAMASTE scheme is focused on rehabilitation of sanitation workers, skill development, mechanized sanitation, and health insurance — not on promoting manual labour, housing, or equipment sales.

Q2117. With reference to the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to identify sanitation workers and ensure their inclusion in the formal workforce.
2. The scheme includes provisions for upskilling sanitation workers through training programs.
3. NAMASTE covers both urban and rural areas across all states of India.
4. It is implemented solely by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** One of the key goals of NAMASTE is to identify and formalize the employment of sanitation workers.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** The scheme provides training and upskilling opportunities for sanitation workers.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** NAMASTE currently focuses on urban areas, not rural areas.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** The scheme is implemented jointly by MoHUA and MoSJE, not solely by MoHUA.

Topic 706

706. PM POSHAN Scheme

Mid Day Meal Scheme

- It was started in India on **15th August 1995.**
- The scheme provides that every child within the **age group of six to fourteen years** studying in **class I to VIII** who enrolls and attends the school, shall be provided **hot cooked meal.**

Food quality

1. Class I-V (Primary school)
- 450 calories and 12 gm of protein

2. Class VI-VIII (Upper Primary)
- 700 calories and 20 gm protein
- The scheme runs in sync with **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** and it covers all school children studying **in Government, Government-Aided Schools.**
- In **September 2021,** Mid-Day Meal Scheme was **renamed** as **Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Scheme.**

Major Changes introduced to the scheme are –

1. Extension to Bal Vatikas

- The scheme is proposed to be extended to **students studying in pre-primary** or **Bal Vatikas of Government** and Government-aided primary schools.

2. Community participation

- The concept of **'Tithi Bhojan'** will be encouraged extensively.
- Tithi Bhojan is a community participation programme in **which people provide special food to children** on **special occasions/ festivals.**

On the basis of the inflation index, the material cost of pulses, vegetables and oil have been enhanced by 13.7%. FILE PHOTO

Q2118. With reference to the PM POSHAN Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The scheme covers all children studying in Government and Government-aided schools from Class I to Class XII.
2. The scheme provides for 700 calories and 20 grams of protein per meal for students in upper primary classes.
3. It has been extended to cover pre-primary students in Bal Vatikas.
4. The concept of 'Tithi Bhojan' promotes private corporate sponsorship of school meals.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect –** The scheme only covers children from Class I to VIII, not up to Class XII.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** Upper primary students (Class VI–VIII) are entitled to 700 calories and 20g of protein.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** The scheme has been extended to include Bal Vatikas (pre-primary sections).
- **Statement 4 is correct –** 'Tithi Bhojan' involves community participation, where individuals or groups provide meals voluntarily, often during festivals or special occasions. It is not necessarily about corporate sponsorship.

Q2119. With reference to the PM POSHAN Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The scheme was previously known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and was renamed in 2021.
2. It is implemented only in rural government schools and excludes urban schools.
3. It is aligned with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for comprehensive educational development.
4. Tithi Bhojan under this scheme refers to a mid-day meal cooked and served by government-appointed cooks only.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four
Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed as PM POSHAN in September 2021.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The scheme includes both rural and urban government and government-aided schools.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** It works in alignment with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** Tithi Bhojan involves voluntary community participation, not limited to government cooks.

Q2120. Consider the following features related to the PM POSHAN Scheme:
1. Children of classes I–V are entitled to meals providing 450 calories and 12 grams of protein.
2. The scheme mandates meals be served five times a week in all covered schools.
3. It proposes to include children of Bal Vatikas in government and government-aided schools.
4. The scheme aims to ensure nutritional support and encourage school attendance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** Primary school children (Class I–V) get 450 calories and 12g protein.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** There is no fixed requirement for five days a week in all schools; the frequency is based on school working days.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** Pre-primary (Bal Vatika) students in government and aided schools are being included under the revamped scheme.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** The scheme has dual objectives: nutritional support and promoting attendance/enrollment.

Topic 707

707. Human Rights Day

- Human Rights Day is **observed annually** on **December 10** to **commemorate** the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **1948.**
- The **theme** for **Human Rights Day 2024** is **"Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now".**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights,1948
- The declaration consists of a preamble and **30 articles** setting out fundamental **rights and freedoms** that should be **uniformly available to all humans.**

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-
a. Fundamental rights
b. Legal rights eg Right to work under MGNREGA
c. Constitutional rights

- Though in India we have a separate **National Human Rights Commission.**

National Human Rights Commission
- In **pursuant to UN declaration of Human Rights 1948**, India has enacted the Protection of **Human Rights Act, 1993** and established **NHRC.**
- It is the **watchdog of human rights** in the country.

NHRC
- The Commission consists of a **Chairperson, five full-time Members** (excluding ex-officio members).

Chairperson of-
1. The **National Commission for SCs**
2. **The National Commission for Minorities**
3. **The National Commission for STs**
4. **The National Commission for Women**
5. **National Commission for Backward Classes**

are ex officio member of NHRC.
- The **chairperson** should be a **retired SC judge of India**
- **President appoints the Chairman** and members of NHRC on recommendation of **high-powered committee** headed by Prime Minister.

Q2121. With reference to Human Rights Day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, consider the following statements:
1. Human Rights Day is observed globally on December 10 to commemorate the adoption of the UDHR by the UN General Assembly.
2. The UDHR contains 30 articles and a preamble outlining fundamental human rights applicable globally.
3. The theme for Human Rights Day 2024 is "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now".
4. The UDHR is a legally binding international treaty enforceable by the United Nations Security Council.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.**
- **Statement 4 is incorrect –** The UDHR is a declaration, not a legally binding treaty, and is not enforceable by the UN Security Council.

Q2122. Which of the following rights are considered part of "human rights" in the Indian context?
1. Fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution
2. Legal rights, such as the right to work under MGNREGA
3. Constitutional rights beyond fundamental rights
4. Emergency powers under Article 352
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:
- Human rights in India are available as Fundamental rights, Legal rights, and Constitutional rights.
- Emergency powers (Article 352) are not considered human rights.

Q2123. With reference to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, consider the following statements:
1. The NHRC was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
2. The chairperson of NHRC must be a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
3. The President appoints the chairperson and members of NHRC on the recommendation of a high-powered committee headed by the Prime Minister.
4. The chairpersons of National Commissions for SCs, STs, Women, Minorities, and Backward Classes are ex-officio members of NHRC.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** NHRC was set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The Chairperson must be a retired Chief Justice of India, not just any SC judge.
- **Statements 3 and 4 are correct –** The appointment is made by the President based on the recommendation of a committee led by the Prime Minister, and ex-officio members include chairpersons of key national commissions.

Topic 708

708. 129th Constitution Amendment Bill

- For **simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha** and **State Assemblies.**
- **Municipal corporations** are **excluded.**
- The bill proposes **synchronizing elections** by **2034.**
- The **President** can call for the **first simultaneous elections** based on **notification.**

129th Constitution Amendment Bill seeks to bring **following changes in the Constitution-**

1. Article 82A (to be newly inserted)
- Provides for **simultaneous elections** to the **Lok Sabha** and **State Legislative Assemblies**. **Synchronizes** the terms of Assemblies with Lok Sabha elections.

2. Article 83 (Deals with the **duration of Lok Sabha**)
- If Lok Sabha is dissolved early, **fresh elections** will provide a **full five-year term.**

3. Article 172((Duration of State Legislatures)
- If **State's Assembly elections** are **held mid-term**, the elected Assembly duration will **align with the next general elections**. Provides for **curtailing or extending** the **terms of Assemblies** in case of **mid-term polls.**

4. Article 327 (**power of Parliament** to make **provision with respect to elections to Legislatures**)
- **Election Commission (EC)** will have the **authority to recommend** postponing Assembly elections to **align them with Lok Sabha polls.**

The bills requires:
a. Passage by a **special majority** in **both Houses** of Parliament.
b. Ratification by at least **half the states** in India.
c. A second bill also has been put that **seeks to amend** the **Union Territories Act** to hold **simultaneous elections** for UTs having

legislature: Delhi (NCT)/Puducherry/Jammu and Kashmir

Q2124. With reference to the 129th Constitution Amendment Bill, consider the following statements:
1. The Bill proposes simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and Municipal Corporations by the year 2034.
2. A new Article 82A is proposed to be inserted to provide for synchronization of terms between the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
3. Article 172 will be amended to allow for curtailing or extending the term of State Assemblies to match Lok Sabha election timelines.
4. The Bill requires both a special majority in Parliament and ratification by at least half of the states to become law.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is incorrect –** Municipal Corporations are explicitly excluded from the scope of the Bill.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** Article 82A is proposed to provide for simultaneous elections.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** Article 172 is to be amended to allow alignment of Assembly terms with Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** A constitutional amendment requires special majority + ratification by at least half of the states (as it affects federal structure).

Q2125. Consider the following statements regarding the 129th Constitution Amendment Bill:
1. The Election Commission has been granted the authority to recommend postponement of Assembly elections to align them with the Lok Sabha polls.
2. If the Lok Sabha is dissolved before completing its full term, the new Lok Sabha will serve only the remainder of the original term.
3. The Bill proposes that terms of Assemblies elected mid-way will align with the next general elections.
4. The second Bill associated with the 129th Amendment deals with holding simultaneous elections in all Union Territories.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** The Election Commission is empowered to recommend postponement to synchronize elections.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The new Lok Sabha will get a *full five-year term*, even if elected early.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** Mid-term Assembly elections will align the term with next general elections.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** A separate bill proposes simultaneous elections in UTs with legislatures (Delhi, Puducherry, J&K); not *all* UTs.

Q2126. With reference to the 129th Constitution Amendment Bill, consider the following statements:
1. Article 83 is proposed to be amended to allow a full five-year term for the Lok Sabha, even if elected before the previous term's expiry.
2. The Bill includes a mechanism for synchronizing elections by the year 2034.
3. The amendment requires only the approval of the Parliament by a simple majority.
4. Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir are Union Territories where the second Bill aims to hold simultaneous elections.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2, and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, and 4 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct –** Article 83 is amended to grant full term to Lok Sabha even if elected early.
- **Statement 2 is correct –** The Bill aims for synchronization of elections by 2034.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** The Bill requires special majority in Parliament and ratification by half the states, not just a simple majority.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** The second Bill covers UTs with legislatures: Delhi (NCT), Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.

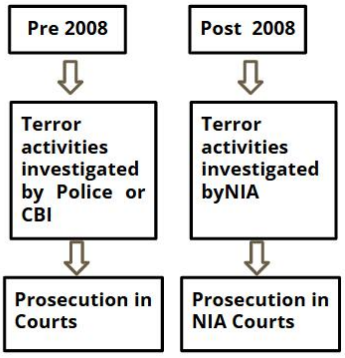
Topic 709

709. National Investigation Agency

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.**
- It is a central agency to **investigate and prosecute** in following offences-

1. Threatening the **security and integrity** of India (**offences** that threatens security of India are mentioned under **UAPA (Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act)**).
2. Threatening security of **atomic and nuclear facilities.**
3. Smuggling in **Counterfeit Indian Currency**.

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- **Branches: Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur and Jammu.**
- **Special NIA courts** also has been established for **speedy redressal.**
- The **NIA is headed** by a **Director-General.**
- He is appointed by the **central government.**



Q2127. With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:
1. The NIA was established by an executive order of the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2008.
2. The NIA is empowered to investigate offences threatening the security of India under laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
3. The Director-General of NIA is appointed by the Central Government.
4. NIA has the authority to investigate crimes related to the security of atomic and nuclear facilities.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is incorrect –** The NIA was constituted under an Act of Parliament, the NIA Act, 2008, not by an executive order.
- **Statements 2, 3, and 4 are correct –** NIA investigates UAPA-related cases, nuclear security threats, and the DG is appointed by the Central Government.

Q2128. Which of the following offences fall under the jurisdiction of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)?
1. Smuggling of counterfeit Indian currency.
2. Offences threatening the integrity and sovereignty of India.
3. Cybercrimes related to espionage.
4. Offences threatening the security of atomic and nuclear facilities.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2, and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct;** NIA investigates counterfeit currency smuggling.
- **Statement 2 – Correct;** national security threats fall under its jurisdiction.
- **Statement 3 –** Not explicitly mentioned in the provided scope.
- **Statement 4 – Correct;** NIA handles threats to nuclear and atomic facility security.

Q2129. With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:
1. The NIA is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional branches in cities like Kochi, Raipur, and Jammu.
2. The NIA can only investigate cases that are referred to it by state governments.
3. Special NIA Courts have been established for faster resolution of cases handled by the agency.
4. The NIA was set up in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 is correct –** The NIA is headquartered in New Delhi with branches in cities including Kochi, Raipur, and Jammu.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The NIA can take up cases suo motu (on its own) for certain scheduled offences without needing referral from state governments.
- **Statement 3 is correct –** Special NIA courts have been established to ensure speedy trial.
- **Statement 4 is correct –** The NIA Act was enacted in response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

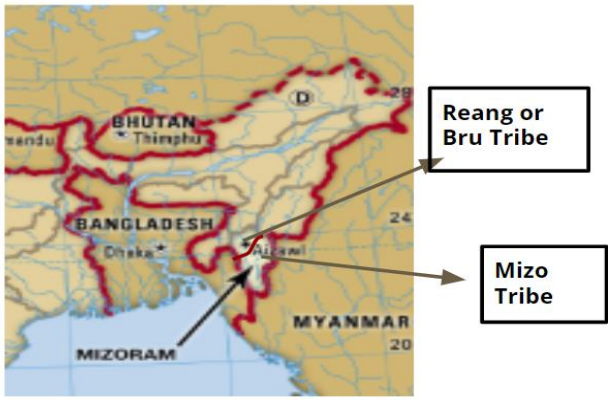
Topic 710

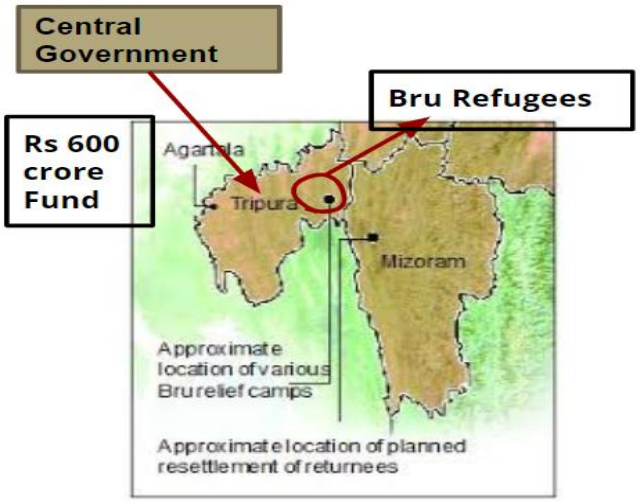
710. Brus or Reang Tribe

- **Minority in Mizoram** (Mizo- majority)
- Ethnic conflict in 1997 - **33000 Brus Refugees** moved to **Tripura from Mizoram.**
- A **quadripartite agreement** signed between **Central government**- **Tripura government**- **Mizoram government**- **Bru representative.**
- The **Central government** will give a fund **to the Tripura government** for **permanent settlement of Brus in Tripura itself.**
- Now Brus will become **permanent residents of Tripura.**
- Brus names will be **enrolled in voter list of Tripura** and they will be now **identified as ST of Tripura not Mizoram.**

Now being **settled in Tripura permanently**

Brus or Reang
- PVTG
- two major clans, Meska and Molsoi
- language is known as Kaubru
- dance is the Hojagiri dance
- followers of **Vaishnavism.**





Q2130. With reference to the Brus (Reangs), consider the following statements:
1. The Brus are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
2. Their traditional dance form is Hojagiri.
3. They are followers of Shaivism.
4. Their language is known as Kaubru.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:

- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct:** Brus are a PVTG, their dance is Hojagiri, and they speak Kaubru.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** They are followers of Vaishnavism, not Shaivism.

Q2131. Which of the following was/were components of the quadripartite agreement concerning the Bru (Reang) refugees?
1. It was signed by the Central Government, Tripura and Mizoram Governments, and Bru representatives.
2. Brus would be permanently settled in Mizoram.
3. The Centre would fund the Tripura government for settlement efforts.
4. Brus would be identified as Scheduled Tribes (STs) of Tripura.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(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:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect –** The Brus will be settled in Tripura, not Mizoram.
- All others are correct as per the agreement.

Q2132. Consider the following facts about the Bru (Reang) community:
1. They were displaced from Mizoram due to ethnic violence in 1997.
2. The major clans among the Brus are Meska and Molsoi.
3. Their names will now be enrolled in the voter list of Mizoram.
4. Hojagiri is a devotional musical tradition of the Brus.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(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: Statement 3 is incorrect – Now that Brus are being permanently settled in Tripura, their names will be entered into the Tripura voter list, not Mizoram.

Topic 711

711. No detention policy ends

- The **86th amendment** to the constitution of India in **2002**, provided **Right to Education** as a **fundamental right** in part-III of the Constitution.
- **Free and compulsory** education fundamental right for **children between 6-14 years**. This provision has been inserted **Article 21-A.**

Right to Education Act,2009

- Right to Education Act,2009 was **implemented** in **order** to give **enforcement** to **Article 21A.**

Key provisions of RTE Act,2009

1. Free and compulsory education

- **Every child** aged **6 to 14 years** has the **right to free education** in a neighborhood school until the **completion of elementary education (Class I to VIII).**

2. School Infrastructure

- All **schools must comply** with **certain norms** and standards regarding infrastructure, such as:

a. Adequate teacher-student ratio (30:1-Primary/35:1-Upper Primary).
b. Classrooms, toilets, drinking water, library, playground, and **barrier-free access**.

3. Reservation of Seats:

- Private unaided and specified category schools are **required to reserve 25% of seats** for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

4. No-detention policy

- The Act emphasizes a no-detention policy for children until the **completion of elementary education** to promote learning without the fear of failure.

- The Central government has **removed the "no-detention" policy** for **Classes 5 and 8.**
- Schools can now **hold back students unable to clear** year-end examinations.

Q2134. With reference to the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, consider the following statements:
1. It guarantees free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 and 18.
2. It mandates a pupil-teacher ratio of 30:1 in primary schools.
3. It requires all private unaided schools to reserve at least 25% of seats for disadvantaged children.
4. It mandates schools to provide barrier-free access and a library.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c
Sol:
- **Statement 1 is incorrect –** The Act covers children aged 6 to 14 years, not up to 18.
- **Statements 2, 3, and 4 are correct** as per the RTE Act norms.

Q2135. Which of the following provisions were introduced or reinforced through the Right to Education Act, 2009?
1. No-detention policy till Class VIII.
2. Reservation of 25% seats for children from economically weaker sections in private unaided schools.
3. Compulsory registration of all children under the UIDAI for school admission.
4. Requirement for schools to maintain minimum infrastructure standards.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(a) 1, 2, and 4 only
(b) 1, 3, and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** There is no provision in the RTE Act mandating UIDAI registration for school admission.
- Statements 1, 2, and 4 are part of the Act.

Q2136. Consider the following statements about recent changes related to the RTE Act:
1. The "no-detention" policy under the RTE Act has been removed for Classes 5 and 8.
2. Schools can now detain students if they fail to clear year-end exams in Classes 5 and 8.
3. The removal of the no-detention policy requires a constitutional amendment.
4. Article 21-A was inserted into the Constitution by the 86th Amendment Act, 2002.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(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:
- **Statement 3 is incorrect –** Removing the no-detention policy is a statutory amendment, not a constitutional one.
- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct.**

Day 67

Topic 712

712. Interlinking of Rivers

In India some rivers are-
1. **'Surplus'**
2. **'Deficit'**

Suggestions in the past-
- **1980 - Ministry of Irrigation**(now Ministry of Water Resource) and **Central Water Commission** prepared a **National Perspective Plan (NNP)** suggested idea of interlinking of rivers.

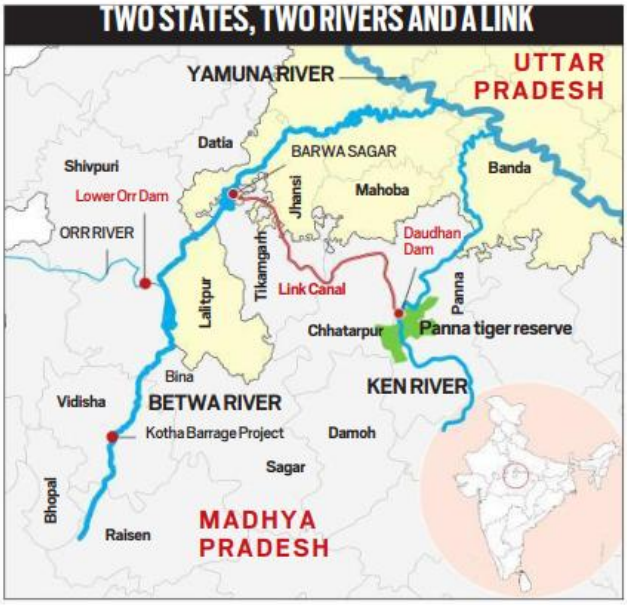
Ken Betwa Link Project
- It is the **first project** under the **National Perspective Plan** for interlinking of rivers.
- The **Ken-Betwa Link Canal** will be **221 km long.**
- Ken and Betwa rivers **originate in Madhya Pradesh.**
- They are the **right bank tributaries of Yamuna.**
- **Ken River** passes through **Panna tiger reserve.**

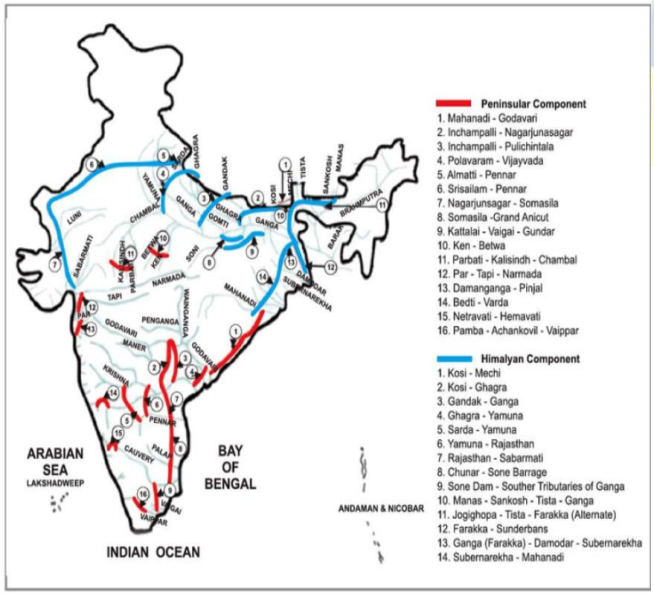
Environmental Concerns:

- The project will **partly submerge the Panna Tiger Reserve** in Madhya Pradesh and affect the **habitat of vultures and jackals.**

Dhaudhan Dam Project

- The project involves transferring **surplus water from the Ken** river in Madhya Pradesh **to the Betwa** river in Uttar Pradesh.





National Perspective Plan (NNP)

- Comprised **two components:**

1. Himalayan Rivers Development (Comprises of 14 rivers);

2. Peninsular Rivers Development (Comprises of 16 rivers)

- First **connectivity** amongst **Himalayan river system** and **Peninsular River system** will be developed **separately.**
- **Later Himalayan and peninsular rivers** were also to be **connected by connecting Mahanadi with Godavari**

Q2137. Consider the following statements regarding the Ken-Betwa Link Project:
1. Both Ken and Betwa rivers are left bank tributaries of the Yamuna.
2. The Ken-Betwa Link Canal is planned to be more than 200 km in length.
3. The project proposes to submerge parts of a tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
4. Ken-Betwa link project transfers water from Uttar Pradesh to Madhya Pradesh.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: Ken and Betwa are right bank tributaries of the Yamuna.
Statement 2 is correct: The canal is planned to be 221 km long.
Statement 3 is correct: It will submerge parts of Panna Tiger Reserve.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The project involves transferring water from Ken (Madhya Pradesh) to Betwa (Uttar Pradesh), not the other way.

Q2138. With reference to the National Perspective Plan (NNP) on Interlinking of Rivers in India, consider the following statements:
1. It was proposed by the Ministry of Irrigation and Central Water Commission in the 1980s.
2. It includes plans to connect rivers only within the peninsular region.
3. The Himalayan and Peninsular River systems are proposed to be connected by linking the Mahanadi with the Godavari.
Which of the above statements 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 is correct: Proposed in 1980 by Ministry of Irrigation (now MoWR) and CWC.
Statement 2 is incorrect: NNP includes both Himalayan and Peninsular River systems.
Statement 3 is correct: Plans exist to link Mahanadi and Godavari to connect Himalayan and Peninsular systems.

Q2139. Which of the following environmental concerns are associated with the Ken-Betwa Link Project?
1. Submergence of habitat in the Panna Tiger Reserve.
2. Threat to populations of vultures and jackals.
3. Degradation of the Sunderbans mangrove ecosystem.
4. Fragmentation of riverine ecology in the Yamuna basin.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct: The project threatens habitats in Panna TR, affects vultures and jackals, and may disrupt Yamuna basin ecology.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Sunderbans are unrelated to this project.

Topic 713

713. Veer Bal Diwas

- In **2022 Prime Minister of India** announced that **26th December** will be observed as **'Veer Bal Diwas',** to mark the **martyrdom of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's sons.**

Significance of 26th December

- On **December 26, 1704**, **Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh**, sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh, **attained martyrdom** when they were executed on the orders of Aurangzeb.

Current news?

- On the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, **PM Modi highlighted** the **role of youth** in nation building and does he launched **Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan.**

Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan

- Aims to improve **nutritional outcomes** and **eliminate malnutrition.**
Includes a **competition among anganwadis.**
- **1,000 gram panchayats** to receive **₹1 lakh for better nutrition in anganwadis.**

Q2140. Consider the following statements regarding 'Veer Bal Diwas':
1. It commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Nanak's sons.
2. It is observed annually on 26th December.
3. It marks the sacrifice of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.
4. It was declared by the Prime Minister of India in the year 2022.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: It commemorates the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, not Guru Nanak.
Statements 2, 3, and 4 are correct: It is observed on 26th December, honors the martyrdom of Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, and was announced in 2022.

Q2141. With reference to the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to improve nutrition and combat malnutrition in rural India.
2. The initiative was launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas.
3. Under the scheme, 1,000-gram panchayats are to be awarded ₹1 lakh each.
4. It targets reducing micronutrient deficiency among adolescents and elderly.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct: It's a nutritional scheme launched on Veer Bal Diwas, with ₹1 lakh awards to 1,000 GPs.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The focus is primarily on nutrition in anganwadis, i.e., children and mothers, not adolescents and elderly.

Q2142. Veer Bal Diwas is associated with which of the following historical events?
(a) Foundation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh
(b) Execution of Sikh children by Mughal rulers in 1704
(c) Battle of Chamkaur Sahib
(d) Coronation of Guru Gobind Singh as the tenth Guru
Ans: b

Sol: Veer Bal Diwas commemorates the martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, who were executed by the orders of Aurangzeb in 1704 for refusing to convert to Isla.

Topic 714

714. PM CARES Fund

- The Prime Ministers Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) was **created on in 2020**, following the **COVID-19 pandemic in India.**
- It has been registered as a **Public Charitable Trust.**

Objective of the fund

- It was created for **relief efforts** during the pandemic.
- **Creation** as well as **upgradation** of any **pharmaceutical facilities,** funding a **research, creation or upgradation** of any necessary infrastructure of **healthcare support.**

Composition of the Trust:

- **Prime Minister** is the **ex-officio Chairman** of the **PM CARES Fund.**
- **Minister of Defence**, **Minister of Home Affairs** and **Minister of Finance,** Government of India are **ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.**

Contributions

- The fund consists **entirely of voluntary contributions** from **individuals/organizations**.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for **100% exemption under the Income Tax Act, 1961.**
- Donations to PM CARES Fund will also qualify to be counted as **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).**

PM CARES
Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund

Q2143. Consider the following statements regarding the PM CARES Fund:
1. It was constituted in 2020 as a public charitable trust in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The fund is partly financed through annual budgetary allocations of the Government of India.
3. It is eligible to receive foreign contributions under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).
4. Donations to the fund are eligible for 100% exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two

(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – It was created in 2020 as a public charitable trust for pandemic relief.
Statement 2 is incorrect – It is not funded by government budget, only through voluntary contributions.
Statement 3 is correct – It has been granted permission to receive foreign donations.
Statement 4 is correct – It qualifies for 100% tax exemption under Section 80G.

Q2144. With reference to the governance of the PM CARES Fund, consider the following statements:
1. The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the Trust.
2. Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance are ex-officio Trustees.
3. The fund is administered by NITI Aayog under the supervision of the Prime Minister.
4. It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct – The PM is Chairperson, and the three Ministers are ex-officio Trustees.
Statement 3 is incorrect – It is not administered by NITI Aayog.
Statement 4 is incorrect – The CAG does not audit the PM CARES Fund; it is audited by independent auditors appointed by the trustees.

Q2145. Which of the following is/are eligible to claim CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) benefits under the Companies Act, 2013, for donations made to PM CARES Fund?
1. Public Sector Undertakings
2. Private companies
3. Foreign companies operating in India
4. Educational institutions under private management
How many of the above entities is/are eligible to claim CSR for donations to PM CARES Fund?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: d

Sol: Donations to PM CARES Fund qualify as CSR expenditure under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013.
There is no restriction on the nature of the entity—all listed above (including foreign companies and educational institutions, if registered under the Act) can claim CSR compliance for donations.

Topic 715

715. PM National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

- PMNRF was instituted in **1948** by then **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru,** to **assist displaced persons from Pakistan**.
- The fund is currently used to **provide support** to **people affected by natural** and **man-made disasters.**
- This includes **natural disasters** like floods, **cyclones, and earthquakes**, and **man-made disasters** like major accidents, **acid attacks, and riots.**
- The fund consists entirely of **public contributions** and does **not get any budgetary support.**
- The corpus of the fund is **invested with banks in fixed deposits**.
- Disbursements are made with the **approval of the Prime Minister.**
- All donations towards the PMNRF are notified for **100% deduction from taxable income** under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

सत्यमेव जयते
Prime Minister
National Relief Fund

Q2146. With reference to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), consider the following statements:
1. PMNRF was established in 1948 to provide relief to persons displaced due to partition.
2. The fund receives financial support from the annual Union Budget.
3. Disbursements from the fund require approval from the Prime Minister.
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: PMNRF was instituted in 1948 by Prime Minister Nehru to assist people displaced during the Partition.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The fund does not receive any budgetary support; it consists solely of public contributions.
Statement 3 is correct: Disbursements are made with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Q2147. Consider the following statements about PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund):
1. Donations to PMNRF qualify for 100% tax deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
2. The fund supports victims of both natural and man-made disasters.
3. The fund's corpus is maintained with the Reserve Bank of India.
Which of the above statements 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: Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Donations to PMNRF are eligible for full tax exemption, and the fund provides support to victims of disasters such as floods, riots, and accidents.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The corpus of the fund is invested in fixed deposits with banks, not specifically with the RBI.

Q2148. Regarding the usage and administration of PMNRF, consider the following statements:
1. The PMNRF is used exclusively for supporting health infrastructure development in India.
2. Acid attack victims are eligible for support under PMNRF.
3. PMNRF receives both public donations and international aid from foreign governments.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: PMNRF is not limited to health infrastructure; it supports a range of disaster-related emergencies.
Statement 2 is correct: Acid attack victims are among the categories eligible for assistance under the PMNRF.
Statement 3 is incorrect: PMNRF is funded by public contributions, not foreign government aid.

Topic 716

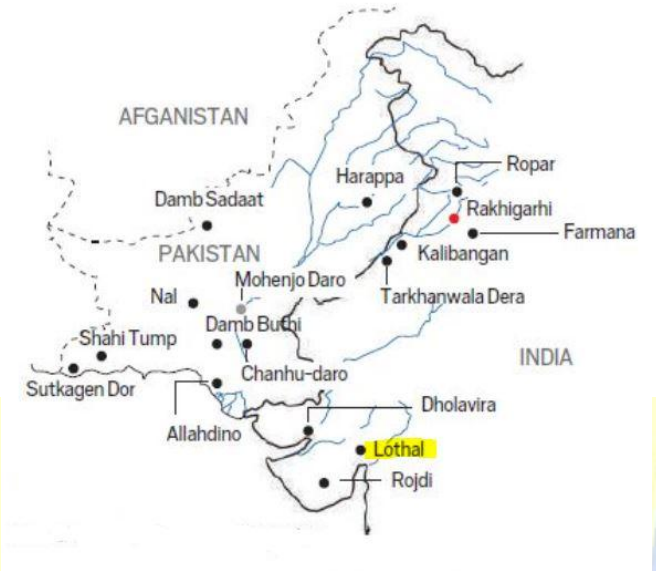
716. National Maritime Heritage Complex

- National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is being developed at **Lothal.**
- It aims to **showcase** India's **maritime strength** in ancient times.

Lothal

- Lothal was **one of the southernmost sites** of the **Indus Valley civilization**, located in the **state of Gujarat.**
- The **meaning of Lothal** (a combination of Loth and (s) thal) in Gujarati is **"the mound of the dead".**

- The port city is believed to have been built in **2,200 BC.**
- Lothal was a **thriving trade centre** in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and ornaments reaching **West Asia and Africa.**
- Lothal is the **only port-town** of the **Indus Valley Civilisation.**
- **Lothal** was nominated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site,** and its application **is pending on the tentative list** of **UNESCO.**



Q2149. With reference to the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), consider the following statements:
1. It is being developed in the state of Gujarat.
2. The complex aims to depict India's maritime history from the colonial period to the present.
3. The site of the complex, Lothal, was an important port-town of the Indus Valley Civilization.
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 NMHC is being developed in Gujarat, at Lothal.
Statement 2 is incorrect: NMHC aims to showcase India's ancient maritime strength, not primarily colonial to present-day history.
Statement 3 is correct: Lothal was indeed a port-town of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Q2150. Consider the following statements about Lothal:
1. It is located in Gujarat and is believed to have been built around 2,200 BC.
2. The city engaged in maritime trade with regions like West Asia and Africa.
3. It has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Lothal was a prominent port-town around 2200 BC, known for its international maritime trade.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Lothal has been nominated, but it is not yet inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; it is on the tentative list.

Q2151. Which of the following correctly describes the historical significance of Lothal?
(a) It was a northernmost trading outpost of the Mauryan Empire.
(b) It is considered the only known port-town of the Indus Valley Civilization.
(c) It was the primary capital of the Harappan civilization.
(d) It served as the centre of Buddhist learning during the Gupta era.

Ans: b

Sol: Lothal is significant because it is the only port-town discovered from the Indus Valley Civilization period.
Other options are incorrect or pertain to different periods and locations.

Topic 717

717. Interpol and Bharatpol Portal

- The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is a **195-member intergovernmental organisation** headquartered in **Lyon, France.**
- It was formed in **1923.**
- **India joined** the organisation in **1949,** and is **one of its oldest members.**

What does Interpol do?

- The Interpol basically **connects police across the world.**
- The agency is **focused** on several key areas of crime – **Terrorism Sexual abuse of children and child pornography Organized crime International fugitives**.

Funding –

- Most of Interpol's funding comes from the **member countries themselves.**

Current news?

- Union **Home Minister** Amit Shah on inaugurated the **Bharatpol portal,** which aims to **provide police and security** agencies in India with a **seamless connect to Interpol.**

- The **President of Interpol** is **elected** by the **General Assembly of Interpol** and holds office for **four years.**
- **CBI** assumes this role of **liasoning with Interpol** in **India.**

Q2152. With reference to Interpol, consider the following statements:
1. Interpol is a 195-member intergovernmental organization headquartered in France.
2. India became a member of Interpol in 1949.
3. The President of Interpol is elected by the General Assembly for a term of five years.
4. Interpol assists in combating terrorism, child exploitation, and organized crime.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Interpol has 195 members and is headquartered in Lyon, France.
Statement 2 is correct: India joined in 1949 and is one of the oldest members.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The President of Interpol is elected for a term of four years, not five.
Statement 4 is correct: Interpol addresses crimes such as terrorism, child pornography, organized crime, and tracks international fugitives.

Q2153. Consider the following statements regarding Interpol and its operations in India:
1. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) acts as the nodal agency for Interpol in India.
2. Interpol can arrest and prosecute international criminals directly through its Red Notices.
3. Most of Interpol's funding is derived from voluntary donations by private organizations.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The CBI is the nodal agency that liaises with Interpol in India.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Interpol has no arresting power; it issues notices, not arrest warrants.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Interpol is funded mostly by member countries, not private donors.

Q2154. With reference to Bharatpol Portal, recently in the news, consider the following statements:
1. The portal was launched by the union home minister to facilitate access to Interpol services.
2. It will help integrate all state police forces with Interpol's global criminal databases.
3. Bharatpol will replace the CBI as the primary liaison agency with Interpol.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The union home minister launched the portal.

Statement 2 is correct: It is meant to enhance coordination between Indian police agencies and Interpol databases.
Statement 3 is incorrect: CBI remains the official nodal agency for Interpol; Bharatpol does not replace it.

Topic 718

718. National Youth Day

- National Youth Day is celebrated on **12 January being the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.**
- **In 1984** the Government of India declared this day as **National Youth Day** and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

Parliament of World's Religions

- The **Parliament of World's Religions,** held for the first time in **1893.**
- So far, **six international modern Parliaments have been hosted.**
- The **Council for a Parliament** of the World's Religions is **headquartered in Chicago. Its board of trustees are elected from various faith communities.**

Participants in the first conference:

- Jain preacher Virchand Gandhi.
- Buddhist preacher Anagarika Dharmapala.
- **Swami Vivekananda represented Hinduism (first to speak on 11th September 1893).**
- Christianity was represented by G. Bonet Maury.
- Islam was represented by Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb.

Q2155. With reference to the Parliament of the World's Religions, consider the following statements:
1. The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held in 1893 in the United States.
2. Swami Vivekananda delivered his iconic speech at the conference on 11th September 1893.
3. The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions is headquartered in Geneva and comprises representatives appointed by the United Nations.
4. Islam was represented at the first Parliament by Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The first Parliament was held in 1893 in Chicago, USA.
Statement 2 is correct: Swami Vivekananda gave his iconic speech on 11 September 1893.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The Council is headquartered in Chicago, not Geneva, and its board of trustees is elected, not appointed by the UN.
Statement 4 is correct: Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb represented Islam.

Q2156. Consider the following statements regarding Swami Vivekananda's participation in the Parliament of the World's Religions:
1. He was the first speaker on 11th September 1893 at the conference.
2. His speech promoted the idea that religions should preserve their individuality while coexisting peacefully.
3. He spoke on behalf of both Hinduism and Buddhism as a representative of Indian spiritual traditions.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Swami Vivekananda was the first speaker on 11 September 1893.
Statement 2 is correct: His theme emphasized religious harmony while maintaining distinctiveness.
Statement 3 is incorrect: He represented Hinduism only, not Buddhism.

Q2157. With reference to National Youth Day in India, consider the following statements:
1. National Youth Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
2. The day has been officially observed in India since 1984.

3. Swami Vivekananda was conferred Bharat Ratna posthumously, which became the basis for the observance.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a
Sol: Statement 1 is correct: It is observed on 12 January, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Though declared in 1984, the day has been celebrated since 1985.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Swami Vivekananda was never awarded Bharat Ratna.

Topic 719

719. Kumbh Mela

1. Kumbh (Poorna Kumbha): Held every 12 years at 4 locations **Prayagraj,Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik-Trimbakeshwar**(but in different **12 years cycle).**
2. Ardh-Kumbh: Held in **Prayagraj and Haridwar** every **6 years**.

- The Kumbh Mela was recognized by **UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage** of **Humanity in 2017.**
- **Kumbh Mela** occurs every **12 years** at four locations, while **Mahakumbh Mela** is held every **144 years** only at **Prayagraj.**

The Kumbh Mela-Mythology behind

- The Sanskrit word **"kumbh"** means **pot.**
- According to mythology, during the **ocean churning** by **Devas (gods)** and **Asuras (demons), Dhanvantri** emerged with a pitcher of **amrita (elixir of immortality).**
- **To prevent Asuras** from getting it, **Jayant, Indra's son,** fled with the pot, protected by the Sun, Shani, Brihaspati (Jupiter), and the Moon.
- As Jayant ran for **12 divine days** (equal to 12 human years), **amrita spilled** at **four locations: Haridwar, Prayagraj, Ujjain, and Nashik-Trimbakeshwar.**

The festivals occur on the banks of sacred rivers:
1. Haridwar: Ganga
2. Prayagraj: Confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati
3. Ujjain: **Kshipra** (believed to emerge from Vishnu's heart in his Varah avatar)
4. Nashik-Trimbakeshwar: **Godavari** (known as the Ganga of the south)

Note-The **Skanda Purana** is often cited as proof of Kumbh Mela's antiquity

Mahakumbh

- Jupiter takes **12 years** to complete **one revolution around the Sun** and **12 revolutions of Jupiter around the Sun takes 144 years** (i.e Mahakumbh)
- The festival occurs when **Jupiter aligns with the Sun** and Moon, **amplifying Earth's electromagnetic fields.**

Q2158. With reference to the Kumbh Mela, consider the following statements:
1. The Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik-Trimbakeshwar.
2. Ardh Kumbh Mela is organized at Ujjain and Nashik every 6 years.
3. Mahakumbh Mela is held only at Prayagraj once every 144 years.
4. Kumbh Mela was recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – Kumbh is held every 12 years at four locations.
Statement 2 is incorrect – Ardh-Kumbh is held only at Prayagraj and Haridwar, not Ujjain or Nashik.
Statement 3 is correct – Mahakumbh occurs once in 144 years, only at Prayagraj.
Statement 4 is correct – UNESCO recognized Kumbh Mela in 2017.

Q2159. Consider the following statements regarding the mythology and astronomical basis of Kumbh Mela:
1. According to mythology, amrita spilled at four locations while Jayant fled with the pot of nectar.
2. The Skanda Purana is often referred to as the earliest source mentioning Kumbh Mela.
3. The Mahakumbh Mela is linked to the astronomical alignment of Jupiter with the Sun and Moon.
4. The duration of Jupiter's revolution around the Sun plays no role in determining the Kumbh Mela cycle.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – Mythologically, amrita spilled at four sites during the flight of Jayant.
Statement 2 is correct – The Skanda Purana is often cited as proof of antiquity.
Statement 3 is correct – Mahakumbh is associated with alignment of Jupiter, Sun, and Moon.
Statement 4 is incorrect – The 12-year revolution of Jupiter is the basis for Kumbh cycle.

Q2160. Match the Kumbh Mela locations with their corresponding rivers:

Location	River
A. Haridwar	1. Godavari
B. Prayagraj	2. Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati
C. Ujjain	3. Kshipra
D. Nashik-Trimbakeshwar	4. Ganga

Which of the following is the correct match?
(a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
(b) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1
(c) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1
(d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

Ans: b

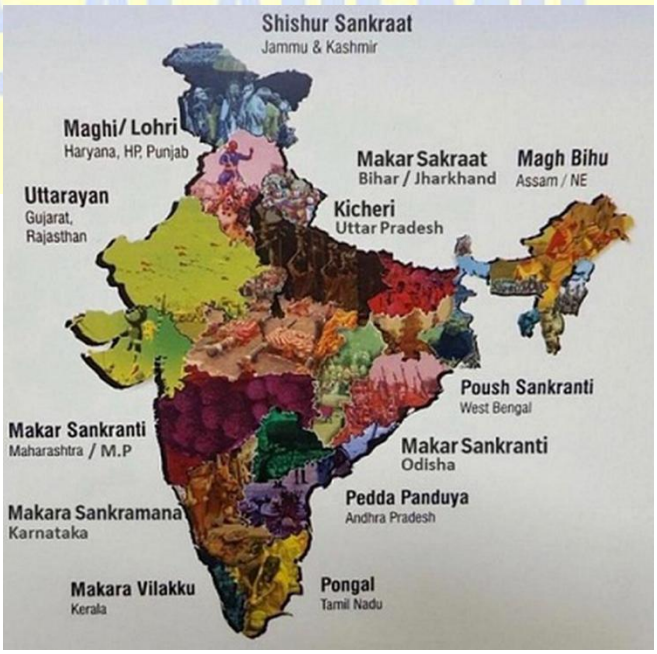
Sol: Haridwar – Ganga **(A-4)**
Prayagraj – Confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati **(B-2)**
Ujjain – Kshipra **(C-3)**
Nashik-Trimbakeshwar – Godavari **(D-1)**

Topic 720

720. Makar Sankranti and Makaravilakku festival

Makar Sankranti
- Makar Sankranti is a **festival** day in the **Hindu calendar.**
- It is held normally on the **14th of January,** or a day before or after.

Makaravilakku festival
- The Makaravilakku festival is a **prominent religious event** celebrated annually at the **Sabarimala temple** in **Kerala**, India.
- **Lord Ayyappa,** is the **presiding deity** of the famous Sabarimala temple, which is a major pilgrimage center.



For a holy glimpse: Pilgrims gather at the Sabarimala temple on Monday ahead of the Makaravilakku festival. LEJU KAMAL

Q2161. With reference to the festivals of Makar Sankranti and Makaravilakku, consider the following statements:
1. Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival that is typically celebrated on or around January 14 every year.
2. Makaravilakku is celebrated at the Sabarimala temple in Tamil Nadu.
3. Lord Vishnu is the presiding deity of the Sabarimala temple where Makaravilakku is celebrated.
4. Makar Sankranti marks a solar event in the Hindu calendar.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – Makar Sankranti usually falls on January 14 or a day before/after.
Statement 2 is incorrect – Sabarimala temple is in Kerala, not Tamil Nadu.
Statement 3 is incorrect – Lord Ayyappa, not Vishnu, is the deity of Sabarimala.
Statement 4 is correct – Makar Sankranti is associated with the Sun's transition into Makara (Capricorn).

Q2162. Consider the following statements regarding the Makaravilakku festival:
1. Makaravilakku is celebrated at the Sabarimala temple, which is a major pilgrimage site in India.
2. The festival is associated with the worship of Lord Ayyappa.
3. The event is marked by a ritualistic lighting of a lamp at the Ponnambalamedu hill.
4. Makaravilakku is held in the month of Kartik according to the Hindu calendar.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct – It is celebrated at Sabarimala and associated with Lord Ayyappa.
Statement 3 is also correct – Though not explicitly mentioned in your input, the lamp lighting ritual is part of traditional understanding and core to Makaravilakku celebrations.
Statement 4 is incorrect – The festival is not held in Kartik month; it aligns with Makara Sankranti (mid-January).

Q2163. Match the following festivals with their features:

Festival	Feature
A. Makar Sankranti	1. Celebrated at Sabarimala temple in Kerala
B. Makaravilakku	2. Solar festival typically observed on January 14

Which of the following is the correct match?
(a) A-1, B-2
(b) A-2, B-1
(c) A-2, B-2
(d) A-1, B-1

Ans: b

Sol: Makar Sankranti is a solar festival usually observed on January 14 **(A-2)**

Makaravilakku is celebrated at the Sabarimala temple in Kerala **(B-1)**

Topic 721

721. Lokpal

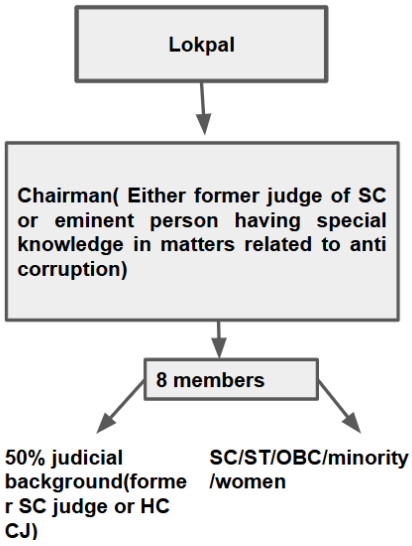
- **Scandinavian countries** like Sweden (first in 1809), Finland, and Denmark were earliest to introduce the concept of Ombudsman.
- **Ombudsman in India** to deal with corruption has **been named Lokpal.**

Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of **Lokpal for the Union** and **Lokayukta for States.**

- The **Lokpal at Union level** and the **Lokayuktas at the state level** are empowered to **investigate against even PM(by Lokpal, CM by Lokayukta)** and other **cabinet ministers**.
- Lokpal consists of **one chairperson** and a **maximum of 8 members.**
- The **term of office** for **Lokpal Chairman** and **Members** is **5 years** or till the **age of 70 years**.
- The members are **appointed** by the **President** on the recommendation of a **Selection Committee**.

The selection committee is composed of the

1. Prime Minister who is the Chairperson;
2. Speaker of Lok Sabha,
3. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha/Leader of single largest party in opposition
4. Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and
5. One eminent jurist-nominated by President on basis of consensus of first 4 members.



Current Lokpal Chairman

- The President of India has appointed former Supreme Court **Justice A.M. Khanwilkar** as **second chairperson** of the Lokpal.

Q2164. With reference to the institution of Lokpal in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, provides for the establishment of Lokpal at the Union level and Lokayuktas at the State level.
2. The Lokpal has jurisdiction to investigate allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister.
3. The term of office for the Lokpal Chairperson and Members is 6 years or until the age of 70, whichever is earlier.
4. The Lokpal can have a maximum of nine members including the Chairperson.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – The 2013 Act provides for Lokpal and Lokayuktas.
Statement 2 is correct – Lokpal can investigate the Prime Minister, subject to certain safeguards.
Statement 3 is incorrect – The term is 5 years or until 70 years of age, not 6 years.
Statement 4 is incorrect – Lokpal can have a maximum of 8 members plus one Chairperson, not 9 members including Chairperson.

Q2165. Consider the following statements about the selection process of the Lokpal in India:

1. The members of the Lokpal are appointed by the President of India.
2. The selection committee for the Lokpal includes the Chief Justice of India or a judge nominated by him/her.
3. An eminent jurist is nominated by the President solely at his discretion.
4. The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha is necessarily a member of the selection committee.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – President appoints Lokpal members based on recommendations.
Statement 2 is correct – The CJI or a nominated judge is a member of the selection committee.
Statement 3 is incorrect – The eminent jurist is nominated on the basis of consensus of the other 4 members, not solely by the President.
Statement 4 is incorrect – If there is no recognized Leader of Opposition, the leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha becomes a member, not necessarily a formally recognized Leader of Opposition.

Q2166. The idea of Lokpal in India was inspired by which of the following?
(a) The concept of "Praja Sabha" from ancient Indian polity
(b) The Ombudsman system first introduced in Scandinavian countries
(c) The Magna Carta principles of British constitutional law
(d) The recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission exclusively

Ans: b

Sol: The concept of Ombudsman, first introduced by Sweden in 1809, and later adopted by Finland and Denmark, served as the model for the Lokpal in India, designed to handle corruption and maladministration.

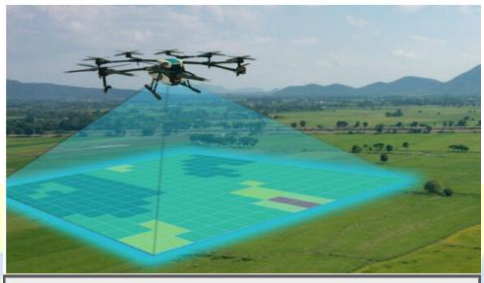
Topic 722

722. SVAMITVA programme

- The **SVAMITVA** (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) **programme** is an initiative launched by the Government of India in **2020.**
- It aims to provide an **property validation** solution for **rural India.**
- It works by **mapping land parcels** using **drone technology** and issuing **property cards** to village household owners.

Implementation

- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is the **nodal ministry**.
- Collaboration with **State Revenue Departments.**



Technology Used
1. **High-resolution drones** for **mapping**.
2. **GIS** (Geographic Information System) technology for creating digital maps.

Q2167. With reference to the SVAMITVA scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. Property cards under this scheme are issued after land mapping using satellite-based technology.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – The objective of SVAMITVA is to provide property validation in rural areas.
Statement 2 is incorrect – The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, not Rural Development, is the nodal ministry.
Statement 3 is incorrect – Drone technology, not satellite-based mapping, is used for land parcel mapping.

Q2168. Consider the following pairs regarding the SVAMITVA scheme:

Component	Description
1. Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Mapping Technology	Drone-based Survey
3. Beneficiaries	Urban household owners
4. Implementation Partners	State Revenue Departments

How many of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Pair 1 – Correct
Pair 2 – Correct
Pair 3 – Incorrect – The scheme targets rural household owners, not urban.
Pair 4 – Correct

Q2169. Which of the following statements best describes the objective of the SVAMITVA scheme?
(a) To provide affordable housing to all rural families through land allocation.
(b) To facilitate digital recordkeeping for rural land through satellite surveillance.
(c) To generate revenue for Panchayats by leasing village lands to private entities.
(d) To map rural inhabited lands using drone technology and issue property ownership cards.

Ans: d

Sol: The SVAMITVA scheme uses drone-based mapping to issue property cards to rural landholders, providing legal recognition of their property rights and enabling better governance in villages.

Topic 723

723. Jallikattu and animal rights

- Jallikattu is a **traditional bull-taming sport** associated with the **Tamil festival of Pongal.**

Cultural Significance:

- The event **dates back** to the **Sangam period** and is considered a symbol of **Tamil culture.**

Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja,2014

- The **SC judgment** **banned** the practice of jallikattu and **bullock-cart races of Maharashtra**.
- SC emphasizing that **animals' rights must be considered under Article 21** (Right to Life) of the **Indian Constitution.**

Note

- **Animal Welfare Board of India** is a **statutory body** under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.**

Q2170. With reference to the Supreme Court judgment in Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja (2014), consider the following statements:
1. The judgment banned the traditional sport of Jallikattu.
2. The Court ruled that animals are entitled to protection under Article 21 of the Constitution.
3. The judgment upheld Jallikattu as an essential religious practice protected under Article 25.
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 Supreme Court banned Jallikattu and similar sports.
Statement 2 is correct – The Court emphasized that animal rights are implicit under Article 21.
Statement 3 is incorrect – The Court did not uphold Jallikattu as an essential religious practice.

Q2171. Consider the following pairs regarding Jallikattu and related institutions:

Item	Associated Detail
1. Jallikattu	Sangam-era bull-taming sport
2. Article 21 of the Constitution	Applied to animal rights in a 2014 Supreme Court ruling
3. Animal Welfare Board of India	Non-statutory advisory body under the Constitution

How many of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: Pair 1 – Correct
Pair 2 – Correct
Pair 3 – Incorrect – The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory body under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, not a non-statutory advisory body.

Q2172. Which of the following statements regarding Jallikattu is not correct?
(a) It is celebrated during the Tamil festival of Pongal.
(b) It is considered a part of Tamil cultural heritage dating back to the Sangam period.
(c) The Supreme Court permanently upheld the legality of Jallikattu in 2014.
(d) Animal rights were interpreted to fall under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution in a related case.

Ans: c

Sol: Option c is incorrect – In 2014, the SC banned Jallikattu, citing animal rights concerns. It did not uphold its legality; the event was later permitted through legislative and judicial interventions post-2014.

Topic 724

724. UGC (University Grants Commission)

- A **statutory body** set up under **UGC Act, 1956.**
- under the **Ministry of Education, Government of India.**

Types of Institutions under ambit of UGC-

- Central Universities/ State Universities/ Private Universities/ **Deemed-to-be Universities eg NCERT**

Responsibilities- Funding/ Regulation /Recognise courses

1. Central Universities

- Established by an **Act of Parliament ie Central Universities Act, 2009**(some have been created with separate law).
- **Funded** by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India.
- Examples: Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University etc

Administrative Structure

- **President of India**: **Visitor** of all central universities.
- **Chancellor: A ceremonial head,** usually **appointed** by the **Visitor**.
- **Vice-Chancellor**: **Chief executive** and academic officer, **appointed by the President** on the **recommendation of a search committee.**

2. State Universities

- Established by an Act of the **respective State Legislature.**
- Funded and **regulated** primarily by the **State Government**.
- **Examples:** University of Mumbai, Gauhati University etc

Administrative Structure

- **Governor:** Acts as the **Chancellor** (in most states).
- **Vice-Chancellor**: **Chief executive** and academic officer, typically **appointed by the Governor** based on the **recommendations of a search committee.**

How Private Universities are established?

- Each private university shall be established by a **separate State Act.**
- It shall conform to the relevant provisions of the **UGC Act, 1956**

Note: Education is on the **Concurrent List**

Q2173. With reference to the University Grants Commission (UGC), consider the following statements:
1. It was established under an Act of Parliament and functions under the Ministry of Education.
2. It regulates and funds all types of universities in India, including Central, State, Private, and Deemed-to-be Universities.
3. NCERT is an example of a Deemed-to-be University under the UGC framework.
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 – UGC is a statutory body established under the UGC Act, 1956 and works under the Ministry of Education.
Statement 2 is correct – UGC regulates and funds various categories of universities including Central, State, Private, and Deemed-to-be Universities.
Statement 3 is incorrect – NCERT is not a deemed university; it is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, not granted university status.

Q2174. Consider the following pairs:

Type of University	Key Features
1. Central University	Established by an Act of Parliament and funded by the Ministry of Education
2. State University	Funded by the UGC and administered by the President of India
3. Private University	Established through a central legislation and funded by UGC

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol: Pair 1 – Correct: Central universities are established by Parliament and funded by the MoE.
Pair 2 – Incorrect: State universities are funded and administered by the respective State Government, not the UGC or the President.
Pair 3 – Incorrect: Private universities are established by State legislation, not central, and are self-financed, not funded by UGC.

Q2175. With reference to the administrative structure of universities in India, consider the following statements:
1. The President of India is the Visitor of all central universities.
2. The Chancellor of a state university is typically the Governor of the state.
3. The Vice-Chancellor of both central and state universities is appointed by the UGC.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct – The President is the Visitor of all central universities.

Statement 2 is correct – In most states, the Governor is the Chancellor of state universities.
Statement 3 is incorrect – The Vice-Chancellor is appointed by the President or Governor based on recommendations of a search committee, not by the UGC.

Topic 725

725. Supreme Court on death penalty

Bachan Singh case,1980

- In this case the **Supreme Court** of India that established the **"rarest of rare" doctrine** for awarding the **death penalty.**

Which case can be considered as "rarest of rare"?

1. Government must prove there is '**no possibility of reform of the convict'.**
2. The 5 judges bench also laid down **non-exhaustive lists** of **"aggravating"** and **"mitigating"** circumstances for awarding **death penalty.**

Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983)

- The SC held that death could be given in cases where the **"collective conscience" of society is so shocked** that the judiciary is expected to impose the death penalty.

Manohar v. State of Rajasthan (2011)

- The Supreme Court considered the **young age** of the accused persons **(below 30 in these cases)** as an indication that they could be reformed.

Aggravating Circumstances (which could tilt a case in favor of the death penalty)	Mitigating Circumstances (which could tilt a case away from the death penalty)
1. If the murder is **pre-planned**	1. Whether the accused was under the influence of extreme **mental or emotional disturbance**
2. If the murder involves **"exceptional depravity(brutal)"**	2. Age of the accused,**very young.**
3. If the accused has been found guilty of murdering a **public figure** or a **member of the armed forces** while on duty	3. **Probability** of **reforming** the accused.
	4. If the accused was acting on the **directions of another person.**

Q2176. With reference to the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the death penalty in India, consider the following statements:

1. The "rarest of rare" doctrine for awarding the death penalty was first laid down in the Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983) case.
2. According to Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980), the possibility of reform and rehabilitation must be conclusively ruled out before imposing the death sentence.
3. The Supreme Court has identified both "aggravating" and "mitigating" circumstances to guide sentencing in capital punishment cases.

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 incorrect – The "rarest of rare" doctrine was laid down in Bachan Singh (1980), not in Machhi Singh.
Statement 2 is correct – Bachan Singh held that death penalty should only be awarded when there is no possibility of reform.
Statement 3 is correct – The court in Bachan Singh also provided non-exhaustive lists of aggravating and mitigating factors for sentencing.

Q2177. Consider the following judgments:
1. Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)
2. Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983)
3. Manohar v. State of Rajasthan (2011)

Which of the above cases explicitly emphasized the societal perception or "collective conscience" as a basis for awarding the death penalty?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: b

Sol: Machhi Singh extended the Bachan Singh doctrine by stating that where the collective conscience of society is shocked, the death penalty may be justified.

Bachan Singh laid the broader constitutional framework but did not emphasize collective conscience as a key criterion.
Manohar emphasized the possibility of reform, especially in the case of young convicts, not societal reaction.

Q2178. Which of the following statements regarding the application of the death penalty in India are correct?
1. Death penalty can be awarded even if the convict shows potential for reform, if the crime is heinous enough.
2. The convict's young age has been considered by the Supreme Court as a mitigating factor against the death penalty.
3. The death sentence is mandatory for certain categories of crime under Indian law, such as murder under IPC Section 302.
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 incorrect – As per Bachan Singh, death penalty should be avoided if there's any possibility of reform, even in heinous crimes.
Statement 2 is correct – The Court in Manohar v. State of Rajasthan and other cases has held that young age is a mitigating factor.
Statement 3 is correct – Death sentence is not mandatory under IPC Section 302; it is discretionary. Even for murder, life imprisonment is the norm, and death is awarded only in the rarest of rare cases.

Day 68

Topic 726

726. Parakram Diwas

- **23rd January-birth anniversary** of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.**
- This day is celebrated as **Parakram Diwas** across the country.
- In **2021**,**Government of India** decided to celebrate birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the **23rd day of January** every year as **'PARAKRAM DIWAS'.**

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- He was an Indian Nationalist born on **January 23, 1897 (Cuttack, Odisha).**
- **In 1920** he passed the **Civil Service examination,** but **resigned** in **1921 to** join **NCM.**
- **Politics style- militant approach, socialist policies.**
- **President** of INC in **1938 and 1939.**
- He formed a **national planning committee,** which formulated a **policy of broad industrialization.**
- After **resignation from INC** he lead **Indian National Army (INA)** or Azad Hind Fauz during WWII for India's independence.

Note

- **Mohan Singh,** an Indian revolutionary formed the Indian National Army from among the Indian **prisoners of war with the aim of liberating India from the British rule.**
- The **title of "Netaji"** (meaning "Respected Leader") was given to Subhash Chandra Bose by the Indian soldiers of the **Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army).**

Q2179. With reference to Subhas Chandra Bose and his contributions to India's freedom struggle, consider the following statements:
1. Subhas Chandra Bose resigned from the Indian Civil Services to join the Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. He presided over the Indian National Congress sessions of 1938 and 1939.
3. He founded the Indian National Army (INA) after resigning from the Congress.
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 – Correct:** Bose passed the ICS exam in 1920 but resigned in 1921 to join the Non-Cooperation Movement under Gandhi.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1938 (Haripura) and 1939 (Tripuri) sessions.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The INA was originally founded by Mohan Singh. Bose later reorganized and led it after reaching Southeast Asia in 1943.

Q2180. Consider the following statements regarding Parakram Diwas:
1. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
2. The Government of India officially declared it in 2021.
3. Parakram Diwas is observed every year on 26th January.
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 – Correct:** Parakram Diwas marks Netaji's birthday on 23rd January.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** In 2021, the Indian government officially declared the day as Parakram Diwas.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The date is 23rd January, not 26th January.

Q2181. With reference to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's ideology and actions, consider the following statements:
1. He supported socialist policies and a strong central government.
2. He formed a National Planning Committee within the Congress to promote industrialization.
3. He earned the title "Netaji" from British political leaders.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) All three
Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Bose had a militant and socialist approach to Indian independence.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** As INC President in 1938, he set up the National Planning Committee to promote broad-based industrialization.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The title "Netaji" was given by soldiers of the Indian National Army, not by the British.

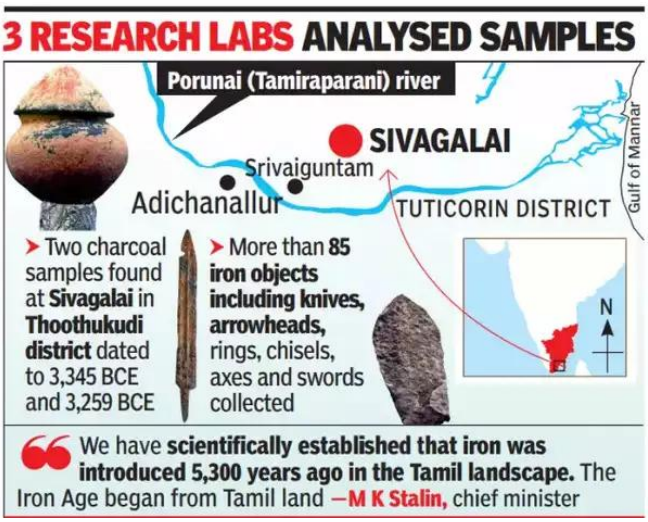
Topic 727

727. Iron Age

- Recent findings **reveal iron technology** in **Tamil Nadu** dates back to as **early as 3345 BCE**.
- Samples from **archaeological sites** such as **Sivagalai**, **Adichanallur**, **Mayiladumparai**, and **Kodumanal** support this evidence.
- **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry** (AMS) and **Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)** confirmed dates from 3345 BCE to 953 BCE

Significance of the findings

- Suggests that the **Copper Age** of **Northern India** and **Iron Age** of **Southern India** might have been **contemporary.**
- The findings **redefine global cultural trajectories**, suggesting Tamil Nadu's early role as a pioneer in metallurgy.



Q2182. With reference to the recent discoveries related to the Iron Age in Tamil Nadu, consider the following statements:
1. Iron technology in Tamil Nadu has been dated back to as early as 3345 BCE.
2. The archaeological dating was confirmed using Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL).
3. The findings show that Tamil Nadu's Iron Age preceded the Harappan Civilization.
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 – Correct:** Recent findings suggest iron use in Tamil Nadu dates back to 3345 BCE.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The dates were confirmed using AMS and OSL techniques.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization began around 2600 BCE, whereas Tamil Nadu's Iron Age overlaps but does not precede it.

Q2183. Consider the following archaeological sites from Tamil Nadu related to early iron usage:
1. Mayiladumparai
2. Adichanallur
3. Keeladi
4. Kodumanal

Which of the above have yielded evidence of iron use dating back to 3345 BCE to 953 BCE?
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) All four

Ans: a

Sol:
- Mayiladumparai, Adichanallur, Sivagalai, and Kodumanal are the key sites with iron-age dating.
- Keeladi is more known for urban civilization evidence from the Sangam period, not specifically Iron Age metallurgy.

Q2184. What is the historical significance of the Iron Age findings in Tamil Nadu?
1. They suggest the Copper Age in North India and the Iron Age in South India may have been contemporaneous.
2. They establish Tamil Nadu as one of the earliest regions in the world to develop iron smelting independently.
3. The findings challenge the long-standing belief that iron technology spread from the Gangetic plains southward.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The overlapping timeframes indicate contemporaneity of North India's Copper Age and South India's Iron Age.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The 3345 BCE iron evidence supports independent development in Tamil Nadu.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The discoveries challenge the diffusionist model of iron technology from north to south.

Topic 728

728. National Voters Day

- National Voters' Day has been **celebrated on January 25** every year **since 2011**.

● **Objective-**to mark the **foundation day** of the **Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.**
● **The main purpose** of the celebration is to **create electoral awareness** amongst citizens and **encourage them to participate** in the electoral process.
● The **theme for 2025**: **'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'**

Q2185. With reference to National Voters' Day, consider the following statements:
1. It is celebrated annually to commemorate the first general election held in India.
2. The day marks the foundation of the Election Commission of India.
3. The first National Voters' Day was observed in the year 2011.
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 – Incorrect:** National Voters' Day marks the foundation of the Election Commission (25th January 1950), not the first general election.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
- **Statement 3 – Correct**

Q2186. Consider the following statements regarding the purpose and significance of National Voters' Day:
1. It aims to encourage citizens' participation in the electoral process.
2. One of its goals is to educate voters, especially the newly eligible ones.
3. It is celebrated on 26th January to align with Republic Day.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct**
- **Statement 2 – Correct** (Though implicit in the official objective)
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** It is celebrated on 25th January, not 26th.

Q2187. Which of the following statements about the theme of National Voters' Day 2025 is correct?
(a) It focuses on celebrating youth as voters for a better democracy.
(b) It emphasizes voting as a civic duty under the theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure."
(c) The 2025 theme is "Inclusive Elections for a Stronger Democracy."
(d) It is based on the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

Ans: b

Sol:
- The official theme for 2025 is: "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure."
- The other options refer to older themes or are unrelated.

Topic 729

729. 76th Republic Day celebrations

● **Theme**:**"Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas"** (Golden India: heritage and development).
● **Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto** as the **special guest.**

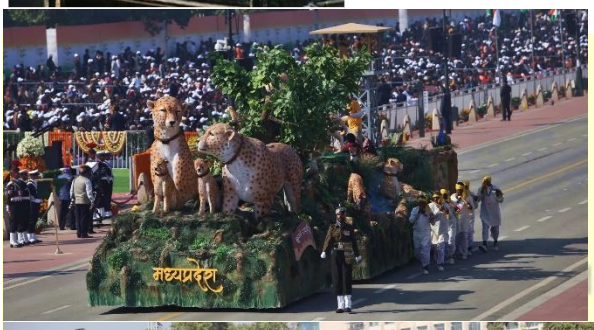
Republic Day Tableaux

● the **Ministry of Defence** is tasked with giving the final approval to a select few.
● Total **31** (16 States/UTs & 10 Ministries/Departments + 5 others) tableau presented.

Highlights of Tableaux

1. **Uttar Pradesh**- represented **Kumbh Mela**
2. **Madhya Pradesh-**represented **Cheetahs,**

3. **Andhra Pradesh- 'Etikoppaka Bommalu,'** featuring eco-friendly **wooden toys** used in **puppetry.**
4. **Tripura (only state from NE)-** representing **Kharchi Puja**
5. **First Tri-services tableau**
   - For the first time, a **Tri-services tableau** was displayed with the **theme 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat'**
   - It showed a **Joint Operations Room** facilitating networking and communication among the **Army, the Navy and the Air Force.**



The celebration included the **traditional Republic Day parade** on **Kartavya Path** (Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate) till Red Fort.

Q2188. With reference to the 76th Republic Day celebrations, consider the following statements:
1. The theme for the year was "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas".
2. The special guest for the celebrations was the President of Indonesia.
3. The traditional Republic Day parade route extended from Rashtrapati Bhavan to the Red Fort via Kartavya Path.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The theme was "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas".
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto was the special guest.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**: The parade route was from Rashtrapati Bhavan via Kartavya Path to Red Fort.

Q2189. Consider the following statements regarding the Republic Day tableaux of 2025:
1. A total of 31 tableaux were presented, including those from States/UTs and various Ministries.
2. Andhra Pradesh's tableau showcased traditional wooden toys used in puppetry.
3. Only one Northeastern state participated in the tableau presentation.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** 31 total tableaux (16 States/UTs + 10 Ministries + 5 others).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Andhra Pradesh depicted *'Etikoppaka Bommalu'*.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Only Tripura participated from the Northeast.

Q2190. With reference to the first Tri-services tableau presented during the 76th Republic Day celebrations, consider the following statements:
1. It was themed 'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat'.

2. It focused on showcasing India's ballistic missile capabilities.
3. The tableau highlighted the Joint Operations Room for inter-service coordination.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

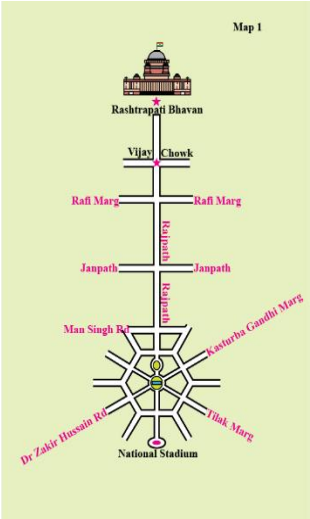
Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statement 1** – **Correct:** Theme was *'Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat'*.
- **Statement 2** – **Incorrect:** There is no mention of missile capabilities.
- **Statement 3** – **Correct:** It featured a Joint Operations Room enabling tri-services communication.

Topic 730

730. Kartavya Path

● A **three-km** ceremonial boulevard.
● Developed by **Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker.**
● Called **Kingsway** during **British rule.**
● **Following Independence**, the road was given its Hindi name, **Rajpath.**
● Still the name reflected **colonial legacy**, thus in 2022 renamed as **Kartavya Path.**



Q2191. With reference to the historical evolution of Kartavya Path, consider the following statements:
1. The ceremonial boulevard was originally named Kingsway during British rule.
2. It was renamed as Rajpath after Independence, and later changed to Kartavya Path in 2022.
3. The original layout of this boulevard was developed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Charles Correa.
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 – Correct:** It was indeed named Kingsway during British rule.
- **Statement 2** – **Correct:** post-independence, it became Rajpath, and in 2022, renamed Kartavya Path.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**: The designers were Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, not Charles Correa.

Q2192. Consider the following statements regarding the Kartavya Path:
1. It is a ceremonial boulevard that stretches for approximately three kilometers.
2. The renaming to Kartavya Path aimed to shift the symbolism from colonial rule to a focus on duty and responsibility.
3. Kartavya Path connects Rashtrapati Bhavan to the Parliament House.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1** – **Correct:** The length is approximately three kilometers.
- **Statement 2** – **Correct:** The renaming reflects a shift from colonial legacy to duty (Kartavya).
- **Statement 3** – **Incorrect:** Kartavya Path connects Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, not the Parliament House.

Q2193. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched regarding the evolution of Kartavya Path?

Period	Name of the Boulevard
British Rule	Kingsway
Post-Independence	Rajpath
Renamed in 2022	Azadi Path

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Ans: d

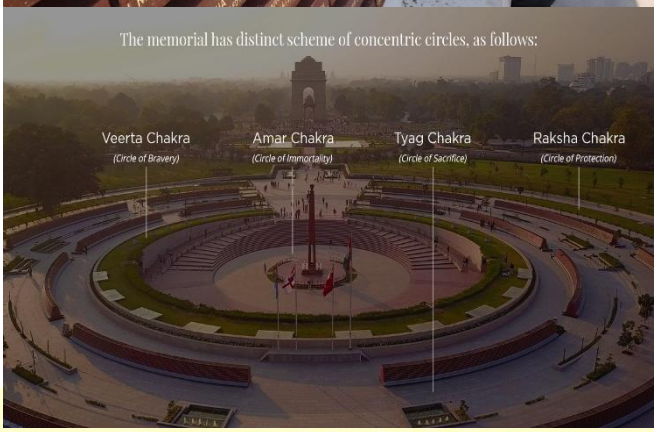
Sol:
- Kingsway during colonial period
- Rajpath post-independence
- Renamed in 2022 as Kartavya Path, not Azadi Path

Topic 731

731. National War Memorial

● Developed in **2019**
● **400 metres away** from **India GATE**
● Names of about **26,000 Indian soldiers** who **died in the wars** and **conflicts of independent India.**
  ● The memorial stands as a tribute to those who lost their lives in **significant conflicts,** including the India-China War in 1962, India-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965, and 1971, Kargil Conflict in 1999, and UN peacekeeping missions.

National War Memorial boasts **four concentric circles -**
1. Raksha Chakra
2. Tyag Chakra,
3. Veerta Chakra,
4. Amar Chakra-the Circle of Immortality, which has an **obelisk,** and an **Eternal Flame.**
  ● The flame from the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at the **India Gate** was **merged with this flame.**



Q2194. With reference to the National War Memorial, consider the following statements:
1. It was inaugurated in 2019 and is located within 400 metres of India Gate.
2. The Amar Chakra at the Memorial houses the Eternal Flame and an obelisk.
3. It commemorates soldiers who laid down their lives only in post-1971 conflicts.
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** – **Correct:** It was inaugurated in 2019, and is located 400 metres from India Gate.

- **Statement 2** – **Correct:** Amar Chakra (Circle of Immortality) indeed contains the Eternal Flame and an obelisk.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**: It commemorates sacrifices from 1947 onwards, including the Indo-Pak war of 1947 and India-China war of 1962, not just post-1971.

Q2195. Consider the following features of the National War Memorial:
1. Raksha Chakra represents the outermost protective boundary symbolising the armed forces.
2. Tyag Chakra honours the sacrifice of soldiers and includes inscriptions of their names.
3. The Eternal Flame at the Memorial was newly lit and is not connected to India Gate.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1** – **Correct:** Raksha Chakra symbolises the outer protective shield.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Tyag Chakra contains the names of about 26,000 martyrs, representing sacrifice.
- **Statement 3** – **Incorrect:** The Eternal Flame was merged with the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate.

Q2196. Which of the following wars or operations are commemorated at the National War Memorial?
1. India-China War, 1962
2. Kargil Conflict, 1999
3. Operation Blue Star, 1984
4. UN Peacekeeping Missions
How many of the above is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 – Correct:** These are specifically mentioned as conflicts commemorated.
- **Statement 3** – **Incorrect:** Operation Blue Star is not included in the list of commemorated events.

Topic 732

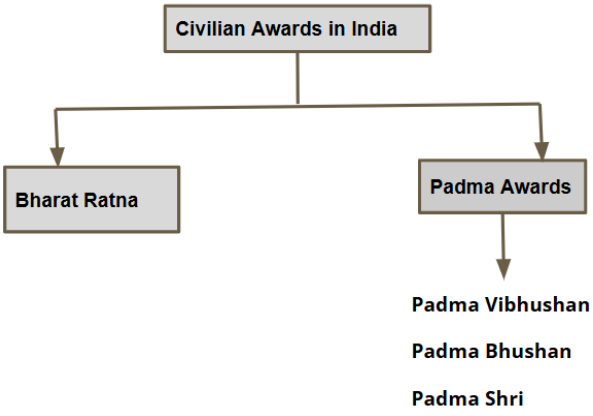
732. Civilian Awards in India

- **highest civilian awards** are **Bharat Ratna** which is **followed by Padma Vibhushan, Padma bhushan and Padma Shri in the last.**
- The **Padma awards** are announced every year on the **eve of Republic Day.**

Bharat Ratna

- Bharat Ratna is the **highest civilian award** of the **Republic of India**.
- Instituted in **January 1954,** the award is conferred **"in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order".**
- The award was originally limited to achievements in the **arts, literature, science and public services** but the government expanded the criteria to include **"any field of human endeavour" in December 2011.**
- **Recommendations** for the **Bharat Ratna** are made by the **Prime Minister to the President,** with a **maximum of three** nominees being awarded per year.
- But in **2024,five personalities** received it, and in **2019,four people** received it.
- These can be considered as **exception year.**
- Recipients **receive a Sanad (certificate) signed** by the **President** and a **peepal-leaf–shaped medallion;** there is **no monetary grant** associated with the award.
- Bharat Ratna recipients rank **seventh** in the Indian **order of precedence**, but are **constitutionally prohibited from using the award name** as a title.

Note-The order of precedence in India is **not mentioned in the Constitution.**



Q2197. With reference to Bharat Ratna, consider the following statements:
1. It was instituted in 1954 and was initially restricted to fields such as arts, literature, science, and public service.
2. The maximum number of Bharat Ratna awards that can be conferred in a year is three.
3. In accordance with constitutional provisions, Bharat Ratna recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence.
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 – Correct**: Bharat Ratna was instituted in January 1954, and initially limited to arts, literature, science, and public services.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Normally, only three recipients can be awarded in a year. However, exceptions like 2019 and 2024 exist.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Order of precedence is not a constitutional provision, though Bharat Ratna recipients are ranked 7th in practice.

Q2198. Consider the following statements regarding civilian awards in India:
1. The Padma Awards—Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri—are always conferred posthumously.
2. Bharat Ratna awards carry a medallion and a certificate but no monetary component.
3. The Bharat Ratna award name cannot be used as a title before or after the recipient's name.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The Padma Awards are not always posthumous; they are often conferred on living recipients.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Bharat Ratna comes with no monetary grant.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The use of the award name as a title is constitutionally prohibited.

Q2199. Regarding the announcement and nature of Bharat Ratna, consider the following:
1. Recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President.
2. The award was constitutionally mandated under Article 18 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The medallion is shaped like a peepal leaf and bears the emblem of the Republic of India.
4. In exceptional years, more than three individuals have been awarded the Bharat Ratna.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) Only one

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The PM recommends recipients to the President.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Bharat Ratna is not constitutionally mandated; it was instituted by executive decision in 1954.

- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The medallion is indeed peepal-leaf–shaped.
- **Statement 4** – **Correct**: In 2019 (4 recipients) and 2024 (5 recipients), more than three were awarded—exceptional years.

Topic 733

733. Padma Awards

- Padma Awards were **instituted in the year 1954.**
- The Awards are given in **various disciplines**/ fields of activities, viz. - art, social work, public affairs, science and, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- **Padma Shri** is awarded for **'distinguished service'.**
- **Padma Bhushan** for **'distinguished service** of a **high order'.**
- **Padma Vibhushan for 'exceptional** and **distinguished service'.**

Padma Awards 2025

- The list comprises **7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.**

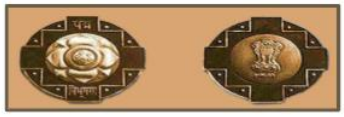
Padma Awards for Assam

1. Padma Bhushan

- Shri Jatin Goswami-Art

2. Padma Shri

- Shri Anil Kumar Boro-Literature and Education
- Smt. Gita Upadhyay-Literature and Education
- Shri Joynacharan Bathari-Art
- Shri Reba Kanta Mahanta-Art



Padma Vibhushan

Padma Bhushan

Padma Shri

THE AWARDS GO TO...

PADMA BHUSHAN (19)

A SURYA PRAKASH, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION-JOURNALISM, KARNATAKA
ANANT NAG, ART, KARNATAKA
BIBEK DEBROY (POSTHUMOUS), LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, NCT DELHI
JATIN GOSWAMI, ART, ASSAM
JOSE CHACKO PERIAPPURAM, MEDICINE, KERALA
KAILASH NATH DIKSHIT, OTHERS-ARCHAEOLOGY, NCT DELHI
MANOHAR JOSHI (POSTHUMOUS), PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MAHARASHTRA
NALLI KUPPUSWAMI CHETTI, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TAMIL NADU
NANDAMURI BALAKRISHNA, ART, ANDHRA PRADESH
P R SREEJESH, SPORTS, KERALA
PANKAJ PATEL, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, GUJARAT
PANKAJ UDHAS (POSTHUMOUS), ART, MAHARASHTRA
RAMBAHADUR RAI, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION-JOURNALISM, UTTAR PRADESH
SADHVI RITAMBHARA, SOCIAL WORK, UTTAR PRADESH
S AJITH KUMAR, ART, TAMIL NADU
SHEKHAR KAPUR, ART, MAHARASHTRA
SHOBANA CHANDRA KUMAR, ART, TAMIL NADU
SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (POSTHUMOUS), PUBLIC AFFAIRS, BIHAR
VINOD DHAM, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, USA

PADMA VIBHUSHAN (7)

DUVVUR NAGESHWAR REDDY, MEDICINE, TELANGANA
JUSTICE (RETD) SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KHEHAR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHANDIGARH
M T VASUDEVAN NAIR (Posthumous), LITERATURE & EDUCATION, KERALA
OSAMU SUZUKI (Posthumous), TRADE AND INDUSTRY, JAPAN
SHARDA SINHA (Posthumous), ART, BIHAR
LAKSHMINARAYANA SUBRAMANIAM, ART, KARNATAKA
KUMUDINI RAJNIKANT LAKHIA, ART, GUJARAT

PADMA SHRI (113)

SHRI ADWAITA CHARAN GADANAYAK, ART, ODISHA
ACHYUTRAMCHANDRAPALAV, ART, MAHARASHTRA
AJAY V BHATT, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, USA
ANIL KUMAR BORO, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, ASSAM
ARIJIT SINGH, ART, WEST BENGAL
ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MAHARASHTRA
ARUNODAY SAHA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, TRIPURA
ARVIND SHARMA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, CANADA
ASHOK KUMAR MAHAPATRA, MEDICINE, ODISHA
ASHOK LAXMAN SARAF, ART, MAHARASHTRA
ASHUTOSH SHARMA, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, UTTAR PRADESH
ASHWINI BHIDE DESHPANDE, ART, MAHARASHTRA
BAIJNATH MAHARAJ, OTHERS-SPIRITUALISM, RAJASTHAN
BARRY GODFRAY JOHN, ART, NCT DELHI
BEGAM BATOOL, ART, RAJASTHAN
BHARAT GUPT, ART, NCT DELHI
BHERU SINGH CHOUHAN, ART, MADHYA PRADESH
BHIM SINGH BHAVESH, SOCIAL WORK, BIHAR
BHIMAVVA DODDABALAPPA SHILLEKYATHARA, ART, KARNATAKA
BUDHENDRA KUMAR JAIN, MEDICINE, MADHYA PRADESH
C S VAIDYANATHAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NCT DELHI
CHAITRAM DEOCHAND PAWAR, SOCIAL WORK, MAHARASHTRA
CHANDRAKANT SHETH(POSTHUMOUS), LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, GUJARAT
CHANDRAKANT SOMPURA, OTHERS-ARCHITECTURE, GUJARAT
CHETAN E CHITNIS, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, FRANCE
DAVID R SYIEMLIEH, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, MEGHALAYA
DURGA CHARAN RANBIR, ART, ODISHA
FAROOQ AHMAD MIR, ART, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHRI GANESHWAR SHASTRI DRAVID, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, UTTAR PRADESH
GITA UPADHYAY, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, ASSAM
SHRI GOKUL CHANDRA DAS, ART, WEST BENGAL
SHRI GURUVAYUR DORAI, ART, TAMIL NADU
HARCHANDAN SINGH BHATTY, ART, MADHYA PRADESH
HARIMAN SHARMA, OTHERS-AGRICULTURE, HIMACHAL PRADESH
HARJINDER SINGH SRINAGAR WALE, ART, PUNJAB
HARVINDER SINGH, SPORTS, HARYANA
HASSAN RAGHU, ART, KARNATAKA
HEMANT KUMAR, MEDICINE, BIHAR
HRIDAY NARAYAN DIXIT, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, UTTAR PRADESH
HUGH AND COLLEEN GANTZER(POSTHUMOUS)(DUO)*, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION-JOURNALISM, UTTARAKHAND
INIVALAPPIL MANI VIJAYAN, SPORTS, KERALA
JAGADISH JOSHILA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, MADHYA PRADESH
JASPINDER NARULA, ART, MAHARASHTRA
JONAS MASETTI, OTHERS-SPIRITUALISM, BRAZIL
JOYNACHARAN BATHARI, ART, ASSAM
JUMDE YOMGAM GAMLIN, SOCIAL WORK, ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DAMODARAN, OTHERS-CULINARY, TAMIL NADU
K L KRISHNA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, ANDHRA PRADESH
K OMANAKUTTY AMMA, ART, KERALA
KISHORE KUNAL (POSTHUMOUS), CIVIL SERVICE, BIHAR
L HANGTHING, OTHERS-AGRICULTURE, NAGALAND
LAKSHMIPATHY RAMASUBBAIYER, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION-JOURNALISM, TAMIL NADU
LALIT KUMAR MANGOTRA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
LAMA LOBZANG (POSTHUMOUS), OTHERS-SPIRITUALISM, LADAKH
LIBIA LOBO SARDESAI, SOCIAL WORK, GOA
M D SRINIVAS, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, TAMIL NADU
MADUGULA NAGAPHANI SARMA, ART, ANDHRA PRADESH
MAHABIR NAYAK, ART, JHARKHAND
MAMATA SHANKAR, ART, WEST BENGAL
MANDA KRISHNA MADIGA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, TELANGANA
MARUTI BHUJANGRAO CHITAMPALLI, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, MAHARASHTRA
MIRIYALA APPARAO (POSTHUMOUS), ART, ANDHRA PRADESH
NAGENDRA NATH ROY, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, WEST BENGAL
NARAYAN (BHULAI BHAI) (POSTHUMOUS), PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UTTAR PRADESH
NAREN GURUNG, ART, SIKKIM
NEERJA BHATLA, MEDICINE, NCT DELHI
NIRMALA DEVI, ART, BIHAR
NITIN NOHRIA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, USA
ONKAR SINGH PAHWA, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, PUNJAB
P DATCHANAMOORTHY, ART, PUDUCHERRY
PANDI RAM MANDAVI, ART, CHHATTISGARH
PARMAR LAVJIBHAI NAGJIBHAI, ART, GUJARAT
PAWAN GOENKA, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WEST BENGAL
PRASHANTH PRAKASH, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, KARNATAKA
PRATIBHA SATPATHY, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, ODISHA
PURISAI KANNAPPA SAMBANDAN, ART, TAMIL NADU
R ASHWIN, SPORTS, TAMIL NADU
R G CHANDRAMOGAN, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TAMIL NADU
RADHA BAHIN BHATT, SOCIAL WORK, UTTARAKHAND
RADHAKRISHNAN DEVASENAPATHY, ART, TAMIL NADU
RAMDARASH MISHRA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, NCT DELHI
RANENDRA BHANU MAJUMDAR, ART, MAHARASHTRA
RATAN KUMAR PARIMOO, ART, GUJARAT
REBA KANTA MAHANTA, ART, ASSAM
RENTHLEI LALRAWNA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, MIZORAM
RICKY GYAN KEJ, ART, KARNATAKA
SAJJAN BHAJANKA, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WEST BENGAL
SALLY HOLKAR, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MADHYA PRADESH
SANT RAM DESWAL, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, HARYANA
SATYAPAL SINGH, SPORTS, UTTAR PRADESH
SEENI VISWANATHAN, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, TAMIL NADU
SETHURAMAN PANCHANATHAN, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, USA
SHEIKHA SHAIKHA ALI AL-JABER AL-SABAH, MEDICINE, KUWAIT
SHEEN KAAF NIZAM (SHIV KISHAN BISSA), LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, RAJASTHAN
SHYAM BIHARI AGRAWAL, ART, UTTAR PRADESH
SONIYA NITYANAND, MEDICINE, UTTAR PRADESH
STEPHEN KNAPP, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, USA
SUBHASH KHETULAL SHARMA, OTHERS-AGRICULTURE, MAHARASHTRA
SURESH HARILAL SONI, SOCIAL WORK, GUJARAT
SURINDER KUMAR VASAL, SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, DELHI
SWAMI PRADIPTANANDA (KARTIK MAHARAJ), OTHERS-SPIRITUALISM, WEST BENGAL
SYED AINUL HASAN, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, UTTAR PRADESH
TEJENDRA NARAYAN MAJUMDAR, ART, WEST BENGAL
THIYAM SURYAMUKHI DEVI, ART, MANIPUR
TUSHAR DURGESHBHAI SHUKLA, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, GUJARAT
VADIRAJ RAGHAWENDR-ACHARYA PANCHAMUKHI, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION, ANDHRA PRADESH
VASUDEO KAMATH, ART, MAHARASHTRA
VELU AASAAN, ART, TAMIL NADU
VENKAPPA AMBAJI SUGATEKAR, ART, KARNATAKA
VIJAY NITYANAND SURISHWAR JI MAHARAJ, OTHERS-SPIRITUALISM, BIHAR
VIJAYALAKSHMI DESHAMANE, MEDICINE, KARNATAKA
VILAS DANGRE, MEDICINE, MAHARASHTRA
VINAYAK LOHANI, SOCIAL WORK, WEST BENGAL

Q2200. With reference to the Padma Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and include Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
2. The Padma Bhushan is awarded for 'exceptional and distinguished service' across all fields of human endeavour.
3. The Padma Shri is the highest civilian honour in India after the Bharat Ratna.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two

(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Padma Awards were instituted in 1954, and include Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Padma Bhushan is for "distinguished service of a high order", not "exceptional and distinguished service", which applies to Padma Vibhushan.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India, not the highest after Bharat Ratna.

Q2201. Consider the following statements regarding the Padma Awards 2025:
1. A total of 139 Padma awards were conferred, including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
2. Assam received two Padma Bhushan and three Padma Shri awards in 2025.
3. Literature and Education was one of the disciplines in which individuals from Assam received Padma awards.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** 7 (Vibhushan) + 19 (Bhushan) + 113 (Shri) = 139 awards in total.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Assam received 1 Padma Bhushan (Jatin Goswami) and 4 Padma Shri, not 3.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Anil Kumar Boro and Gita Upadhyay received Padma Shri for Literature and Education.

Q2202. Which of the following personalities from Assam were awarded the Padma Shri in 2025?
1. Anil Kumar Boro
2. Gita Upadhyay
3. Joynacharan Bathari
4. Reba Kanta Mahanta
How many of the above is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: d

Sol: All four — Anil Kumar Boro, Gita Upadhyay, Joynacharan Bathari, and Reba Kanta Mahanta— were awarded Padma Shri in 2025 for contributions in Literature and Education and Art, respectively.

Topic 734

734. Gallantry Awards

Main awards given out on Republic Day

1. Civilian Service Awards
- Includes **Bharat Ratna** and the **Padma Awards** – the Padma Vibhushan, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri.

2. Service Medals
- These awards recognise distinguished service, dedication, and exceptional contributions by personnel in the **Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces, and Police**.
- They are announced on **Republic Day** and **Independence Day**.

3. Gallantry Awards
- Medals for gallantry are awarded to members of the **armed forces**, **paramilitary forces**, and **civilians** for **bravery** and **heroic action**. Grouped in 2 categories-

a. Gallantry in the Face of Enemy
b. Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy

Gallantry Awards are classified into two Categories

1. **Gallantry in the Face of Enemy**	2. **Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy**
• Param Vir Chakra (PVC)(Highest) • Mahavir Chakra (MVC) • Vir Chakra	• Ashok Chakra • Kirti Chakra • Shaurya Chakra

Q2203. With reference to Gallantry Awards in India, consider the following statements:
1. Gallantry awards in India are given only to members of the Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces.
2. These awards are announced only on Republic Day every year.
3. Gallantry awards are classified into those given in the face of the enemy and those given otherwise.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**: Gallantry awards can also be conferred on civilians for acts of bravery.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**: They are announced on both Republic Day and Independence Day, not just Republic Day.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Gallantry awards are classified into two categories:
  - Gallantry in the Face of Enemy
  - Gallantry Other than in the Face of Enemy

Q2204. Consider the following statements about awards announced on Republic Day:
1. Civilian awards such as Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are announced on Republic Day.
2. Gallantry awards and Service Medals for Armed Forces are announced only on Independence Day.
3. Gallantry awards include medals for both wartime and peacetime bravery.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: b

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Civilian awards like Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are traditionally announced on Republic Day.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Gallantry awards and service medals are announced on both Republic Day and Independence Day, not only Independence Day.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Gallantry awards cover both bravery in the face of the enemy (wartime) and bravery otherwise (peacetime).

Q2205. Gallantry awards are conferred for bravery and heroic action. Which of the following groups are eligible recipients?
1. Armed Forces personnel
2. Paramilitary Forces
3. Civilians
How many of the above is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol: Gallantry awards can be given to members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and even civilians for acts of bravery and heroism, depending on the context of the action.

Topic 735

735. Uniform Civil Code

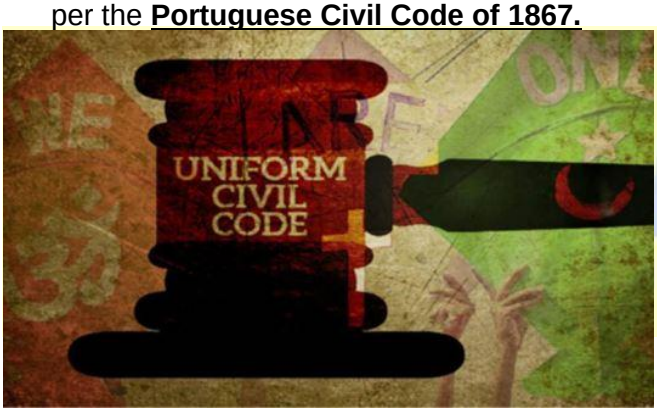
- It is the proposal of **displacement of personal laws** based on **scriptures and custom** of each of the major **religions** with the **common set of laws** governing every citizens.

Article 44 of DPSPs

- The constitution under Article 44 declares that **state shall endeavour** to secure the citizens a **Uniform Civil Code.**
- **Uttarakhand** rolled out the Uniform Civil Code **(UCC)**, making Uttarakhand the **first state** in India to **implement UCC post-independence.**
- UCC applies to all **residents of the State**, except **Scheduled Tribes** and natives who have **migrated out of the state.**

Note-

- **Goa** is the **only state** in India where a form of **common civil code is in practice even before independence.**
- The personal matters in Goa is regulated as per the **Portuguese Civil Code of 1867.**



Q2206. With reference to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), consider the following statements:
1. The idea of UCC is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution under the Fundamental Rights.
2. Goa has a common civil code based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867.
3. Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy relates to the implementation of UCC.
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 – Incorrect:** The UCC is mentioned under Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 44), not under Fundamental Rights.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Goa follows a form of common civil code based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867, applicable even before independence.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Article 44 of the Constitution calls upon the State to endeavour to implement a Uniform Civil Code.

Q2207. Consider the following statements regarding the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in India:
1. Uttarakhand is the first Indian state post-independence to implement the Uniform Civil Code.
2. The UCC in Uttarakhand applies to all residents, including Scheduled Tribes and those who have migrated out of the state.
3. The Constitution obligates the state to implement UCC, making it legally enforceable.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Uttarakhand is the first state post-independence to implement a UCC.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The UCC excludes Scheduled Tribes and natives who have migrated out of Uttarakhand.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** DPSPs are non-justiciable, meaning they are not legally enforceable in a court of law.

Q2208. Which of the following correctly explains the term *Uniform Civil Code* as envisaged in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution?
(a) A code that governs criminal and civil laws under one unified legal framework
(b) A proposal to replace religious personal laws with a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens
(c) A directive for creating a uniform taxation system across the country
(d) A legal provision to ensure uniform application of international treaties

Ans: b

Sol: The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to the idea of replacing religious-based personal laws (relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc.) with a common civil code applicable to all citizens, ensuring equality and secularism in personal matters.

Topic 736

736. Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2024

- ASER stands for **Annual Status of Education Report**.
- This is an **annual citizen-led survey** that provides reliable estimates of **children's schooling** and **learning levels** in **rural India.**
- The **survey report** is published by **NGO Pratham.**

What are the focus areas of the survey?

- **The 'basic' ASER survey tracks-**

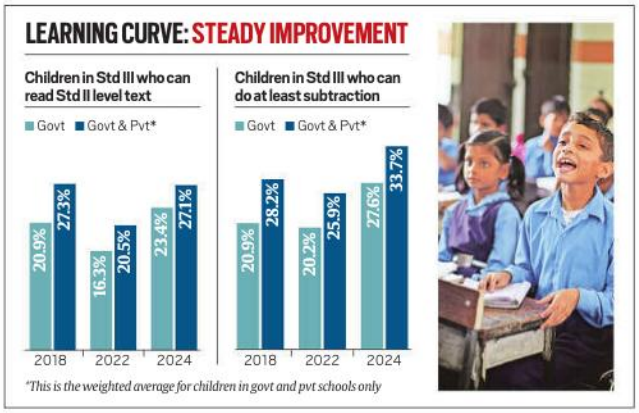
a. Enrollment for children **aged 3-16**
b. Basic reading and **arithmetic** of **children aged 5-16.**

Frequency of the survey

- It was conducted **every year from 2005 to 2014** in almost all rural districts of India.
- Beginning in **2016**, an **alternate-year model** was introduced, where the **'basic' ASER survey** is conducted in **alternate years**
- In the **gap years**, a **different lens is employed** to examine different age groups and/or **new aspects of children's learning.**

Current news?

- **ASER (Rural) 2024** has been released by **Pratham NGO.**



ASER (Rural) 2024 : Key findings

- The findings highlight a **strong recovery** from **pandemic**-induced learning **losses.**
- The survey presented outcomes separately for **three groups** of children:

a. Pre-primary (age group 3-5)
b. Elementary (age group 6-14)
c. Older children (age group 15-16)

Enrollment trends

- 6-14-year-olds -98.1% in 2024
- Pre-school enrollment among 3-5-year-olds increased, with a **sharp rise among 5-year-olds** from **58.5%** in **2018** to **71.4% in 2024.**

Reading and arithmetic skills

- There has been **recovery** in reading and arithmetic skills as shown in the illustration.

Q2209. With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), consider the following statements:
1. ASER is conducted by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with NGOs.
2. The survey tracks enrollment and foundational learning outcomes such as reading and arithmetic.
3. ASER has followed an alternate-year model for the basic survey since 2016.
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 – Incorrect:** ASER is not conducted by the government; it is a citizen-led survey conducted by the NGO Pratham.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The ASER survey measures enrollment and foundational learning outcomes, particularly in reading and arithmetic.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Since 2016, ASER has adopted an alternate-year model for conducting its 'basic' survey.

Q2210. Consider the following statements regarding ASER (Rural) 2024 findings:
1. The enrollment rate for children aged 6–14 years was reported at over 98%.
2. Pre-school enrollment among 5-year-olds has shown a substantial increase since 2018.

3. ASER 2024 showed that learning outcomes for older children (15–16 years) have declined post-pandemic.
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 – Correct:** ASER 2024 reported 98.1% enrollment for 6–14-year-olds.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**: Enrollment for 5-year-olds increased from 58.5% in 2018 to 71.4% in 2024, indicating a sharp rise.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** ASER 2024 highlighted a strong recovery from pandemic-induced learning losses, rather than a decline.

Q2211. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the ASER (Rural) survey?
(a) It tracks infrastructure development in rural government schools.
(b) It assesses student satisfaction with the education system in rural India.
(c) It provides estimates of school enrollment and foundational learning outcomes of rural children.
(d) It is a biannual government census of all rural educational institutions.

Ans: c

Sol: ASER is a citizen-led, nationwide household survey that tracks enrollment trends and foundational learning (reading and arithmetic) of children aged 3–16 in rural India.

Topic 737

737. Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) and D-Voters

Role of security agencies

- The **BSF** and **state police** monitor **border areas** and illegal crossings, especially along the **India-Bangladesh** and **India-Myanmar borders.**
- Intelligence agencies **track suspected illegal immigrants** living in different parts of the country and subject them to Foreigners Tribunals.

Foreigners Tribunals (FTs)

- These tribunals determine **whether a person** is a **foreigner or an Indian citizen.**
- The Foreigners Act of 1946 **defines a foreigner** as a person who is **not a citizen** of the country.

Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964

- Using The Foreigners Act of 1946, Ministry of Home Affairs released **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964** for establishment of **Foreigner Tribunal.**
- **Appeal** against Foreigner Tribunal can be made in **a High court.**

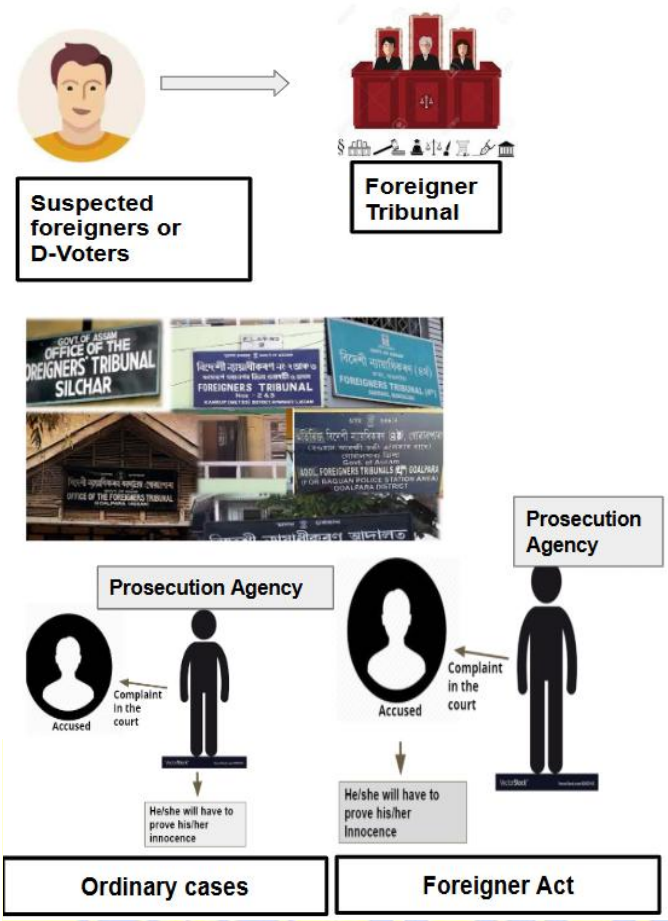
How Foreigner Tribunals are established?

- The power to establish FTs in states was **previously solely** available to the **Center;** however, after the **2019 amendment** to the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, **states now have the same authority.**

Currently- Foreigner Tribunals are in **Assam only.**

D-Voters(a special concept applicable in Assam)

- 'D' voters are a category of voters in Assam **whose citizenship is doubtful.**
- This category was **introduced in 1997** at the time **EC** was revising the **state's voter list.**



Burden of Proof

- Section 9 the Foreigners' Act, the **burden of proof is reversed.**

Q2212. With reference to Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) in India, consider the following statements:
1. Foreigners Tribunals are established under the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946.
2. Only the Central Government can establish Foreigners Tribunals, even after the 2019 amendment.
3. The decisions of a Foreigners Tribunal can be appealed in the High Court.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** FTs are established under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, issued under the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** After the 2019 amendment, the power to establish FTs was also given to the states, not just the Centre.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** An appeal against an FT decision can be made in the High Court.

Q2213. Consider the following statements regarding 'D-Voters' in Assam:
1. D-Voters are individuals whose citizenship status is under doubt.
2. The category of D-Voters was introduced by the Election Commission in 1997.
3. D-Voters are a nationwide category applied to all states where citizenship is in question.
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 – Correct:** D-Voters are those whose citizenship is doubtful and are flagged during voter list revision.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The Election Commission of India introduced this category in 1997 in Assam.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The D-Voter category exists only in Assam, not across the entire country.

Q2214. With reference to the Foreigners Act, 1946 and its implementation, consider the following statements:
1. Under Section 9 of the Foreigners Act, the burden of proof lies on the state to prove that a person is a foreigner.
2. Intelligence agencies may refer suspected illegal immigrants to Foreigners Tribunals for citizenship verification.
3. The BSF and state police are key agencies involved in monitoring illegal cross-border migration.
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 – Incorrect:** Under Section 9 of the Foreigners Act, the burden of proof lies on the individual, not the state.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Intelligence agencies play a role in identifying and referring suspected illegal immigrants to FTs.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** BSF and state police monitor illegal migration along international borders, especially with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Topic 738

738. Ad-hoc judges

● Ad-hoc judges are **retired Court judges** who are **temporarily appointed** to serve in High Courts to **clear case backlogs**.
They have the same **powers, privileges**, and jurisdiction as a **regular Court judge**.

High Court

● **Article 224A** of the Indian Constitution allows the **Chief Justice of a High Court** to recommend **retired judges** for **temporary appointments.**
● This requires the **consent** of both the **retired judge** and the **President of India.**

Supreme Court

● As per **Article 128, Chief Justice of India,** with the previous **consent of the President**, request a **retired Judge of the Supreme Court** or **High Court,** who is duly qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court, **to sit and act as a Judge of the Supreme Court.**

Lok Prahari vs Union of India (2021) case

● The Supreme Court outlined following **"trigger points"** for appointment of ad-hoc judges-

1. If **vacancies** in a High Court **exceed 20%** of its **sanctioned strength;**
2. If **cases in a specific category** have been **pending** for more than **five years**;
3. If more than **10% of the High Court's cases** are **pending** for over **five years;**
4. If the **case disposal rate is lower** than the rate at which **new cases are filed** (case clearance rate).

Current news?

● The Supreme Court (SC) **relaxed the 2021 Lok Prahari judgment** conditions.

New Conditions

● Now **Ad-hoc judges** can now be **appointed** even if **judicial vacancies** are **below 20%**.
● These judges will **only hear criminal appeals.**
● The number of ad-hoc judges **cannot exceed 10%** of a High Court's sanctioned **strength (between 2 to 5 in number).**
● **Ad hoc judge**s will sit on a **bench presided** over by a **sitting judge of the High Court**

Q2215. With reference to the appointment of Ad-hoc Judges in India, consider the following statements:
1. Article 224A of the Constitution allows appointment of ad-hoc judges in High Courts.
2. The consent of both the President of India and the retired judge is mandatory for such appointments.
3. Article 128 empowers the Chief Justice of India to appoint serving High Court judges to the Supreme Court temporarily.
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 – Correct:** Article 224A enables the Chief Justice of a High Court to recommend retired judges as ad-hoc judges.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The appointment requires the consent of both the retired judge and the President.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Article 128 allows appointment of retired Supreme Court or High Court judges to the Supreme Court, not serving judges.

Q2216. Consider the following changes introduced by the Supreme Court in 2024 regarding the appointment of Ad-hoc Judges:

1. Ad-hoc judges can now be appointed even if judicial vacancies are less than 20%.
2. They can preside over High Court benches independently.
3. They will hear only criminal appeals.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None
Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The 2024 update relaxed the 20% vacancy threshold for appointing ad-hoc judges.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Ad-hoc judges must sit with a regular judge; they cannot preside independently.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** They are now limited to hearing criminal appeals only.

Q2217. In the *Lok Prahari vs Union of India (2021)* case, the Supreme Court listed certain "trigger points" for appointing ad-hoc judges in High Courts. Which of the following were among them?
1. If vacancies in the High Court exceed 20% of the sanctioned strength.
2. If more than 10% of cases are pending for over five years.
3. If the number of criminal appeals exceeds 20% of total cases.
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 – Correct:** One trigger was if vacancies exceed 20%.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Another was if over 10% of cases are pending for more than 5 years.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** There is no such criterion based on the percentage of criminal appeals.

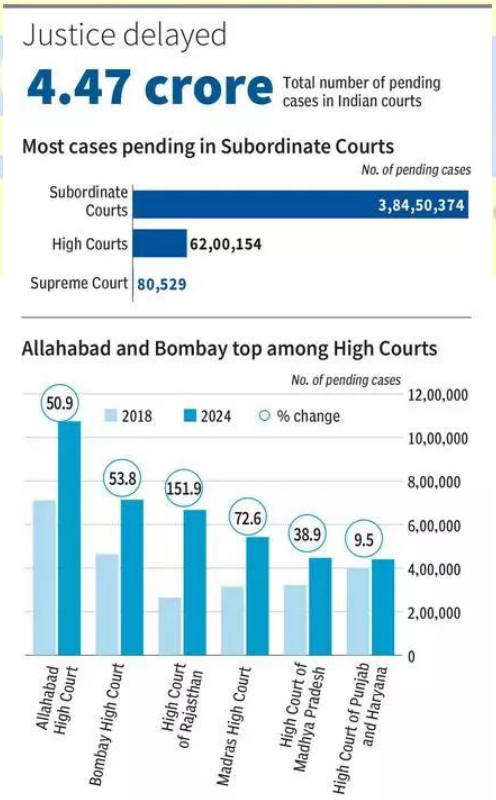
Topic 739

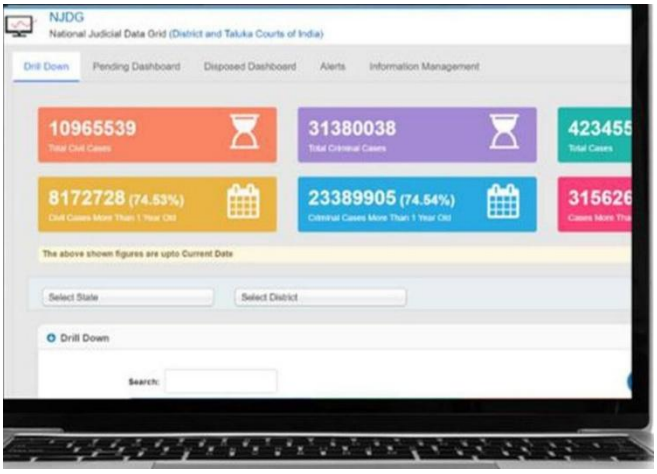
739. National Judicial Data Grid

- Part of the **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** of **Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- NJDG primarily covers **District and Subordinate Courts**, along with some data from **High Courts.**
- It **provides real-time data** for cases in different courts.

Note-
- Earlier National Judicial Data Grid didn't provide real time data of SC. But now it **provides real time data for SC also.**

High pendency of cases in the High Courts. According to data from the **National Judicial Data Grid**-
- **62 lakh cases** are **pending in High Courts** (as of January 2024).
- **18.2 lakh cases** are **criminal matters**, requiring urgent resolution.
- **Current process** of appointment of ad-hoc judges is **very complex** leading to very few such appointments in the past.





Q2218. With reference to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), consider the following statements:
1. NJDG is an initiative under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project of the Ministry of Law and Justice.
2. It provides real-time data only for District and Subordinate Courts.
3. As of 2024, real-time data for the Supreme Court is also available on the NJDG platform.
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 – Correct:** NJDG is part of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project under the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** NJDG also includes some High Court data and now even Supreme Court data, not just District and Subordinate Courts.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** As of 2024, NJDG provides real-time data for the Supreme Court as well.

Q2219. As per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) data from January 2024, which of the following statements are correct?
1. Over 60 lakh cases are pending in the High Courts.
2. Among them, more than 18 lakh are criminal cases.
3. The highest number of pending criminal cases are from the Supreme Court.
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 – Correct:** 62 lakh cases are pending in High Courts (as of Jan 2024).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** 18.2 lakh of these are criminal cases.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** This refers to High Courts, not the Supreme Court.

Q2220. Consider the following regarding the challenges related to ad-hoc judges and NJDG:
1. The current process of appointing ad-hoc judges has been highly efficient, leading to many appointments in the past.
2. NJDG aims to improve judicial transparency by providing open, real-time access to case data.
3. NJDG is relevant for planning reforms related to judicial pendency and appointments.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol:
- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The appointment process is complex, resulting in very few ad-hoc appointments historically.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** NJDG helps improve transparency and accountability.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The platform's data is crucial for policymaking and backlog reduction strategies.

Topic 740

740. State Emblem of India

- **State Emblem of India** is **adaptation of the Lion Capital** of **Ashoka at Sarnath**.

- Originally there are **four lions**, **mounted back-to-back**, on a **circular abacus** on a **bell-shaped lotus**.
- The **abacus has sculptures** of an **elephant**, a **galloping horse,** a **bull**, and a **lion** separated by intervening **Dharma Chakras.**
- In the **State emblem**, **adopted** by the Government of India on **26 January 1950**, only **three lions are visible.**
- **Dharma Chakra** is at **centre** of the **abacus** with a **bull** on the **right** and a **horse on the left.**
- The bell-shaped **lotus has been omitted.**
- **Below** the representation of the Lion Capital, **Satyameva Jayate** is written in **Devnagari Script**, which is also the **National Motto of India.**
- **Satyameva Jayate** has been taken from **Mundaka Upanishad.**

Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath

State Emblem of India

Law regarding State Emblem of India

- The use of the State Emblem of India is **restricted to the authorities/purposes** specified in the **State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.**

Improper use as per the law-

- Use the emblem or its **imitation for commercial purposes, advertisements**, or any other **unauthorized activities.**
- Used on **letterheads, private stationery, trademarks**, or business products.
- Used to **mislead people into believing** that an individual, organization, or product is **officially associated with the Government of India.**

Q2221. With reference to the design of the State Emblem of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath.
2. In the emblem, all four lions of the original sculpture are visible.
3. The bell-shaped lotus base is part of the State Emblem.
4. The motto "Satyameva Jayate" inscribed below the emblem is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The State Emblem is based on the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Only three lions are visible; the fourth is hidden from view.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The bell-shaped lotus of the original is omitted in the State Emblem.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** "Satyameva Jayate" is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.

Q2222. With reference to the features of the State Emblem of India, consider the following statements:
1. The abacus of the emblem shows a Dharma Chakra in the centre, flanked by a bull and a horse.
2. The inscription "Satyameva Jayate" is in English below the abacus.
3. The original Lion Capital contains carvings of a lion, elephant, horse, and bull on the abacus.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans: b

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Dharma Chakra is at the centre, with a bull on the right and horse on the left.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** "Satyameva Jayate" is written in Devnagari script, not English.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The abacus of the original sculpture includes a lion, elephant, horse, and bull, separated by Dharma

Chakras.

Q2223. Under the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005, which of the following constitutes improper use of the emblem?
1. Using the emblem on commercial advertisements.
2. Using it as part of a private organization's logo.
3. Displaying it on government buildings and official government documents.
4. Using it to falsely imply official government endorsement.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol:
- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct:** All are examples of improper use under the 2005 Act.
- **Statement 3 is not improper:** Government usage on official buildings and documents is permitted.

Day 69

Topic 741

741. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- The NCSK was **first established in 1994** under the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993** for a period of **three years.**
- Although the **original Act lapsed in 2004**, the Commission has **continued to function** as a **non-statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, with periodic extensions.

The **body was created** with **goal of ensuring-**
1. Welfare of Safai Karamcharis (sanitation workers)
2. Monitors the **implementation of laws** related to their **rights,** particularly in **eliminating manual scavenging.**

Functions-

Monitors implementation of Laws such as:
- **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers** and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in cases of violence against Safai Karamcharis.

Recent Developments
- The **Union Cabinet** has extended the **tenure of NCSK multiple times,** with the latest **extension until 2028.**

Q2224. With reference to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), consider the following statements:
1. NCSK was established under a statutory act passed in 1993 and continues to function under the same act.
2. After the lapse of the 1993 Act, NCSK has been functioning as a statutory body under the Constitution.
3. Currently, NCSK operates as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
4. The latest extension of the NCSK's tenure is valid until the year 2028.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: The NCSK was originally established under a statutory Act of 1993, but that Act lapsed in 2004.

Statement 2 is incorrect: After the lapse of the Act, NCSK continues not as a constitutional or statutory body, but as a non-statutory body.
Statement 3 is correct: post-2004, it has functioned as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Statement 4 is correct: The Union Cabinet has extended its tenure till 2028.

Q2225. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):
1. NCSK monitors implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
2. It is also tasked with overseeing implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in the context of Safai Karamcharis.
3. One of the goals of NCSK is to monitor the welfare and rights of sanitation workers.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: c

Sol: All three statements are correct.
NCSK is responsible for ensuring welfare of sanitation workers.
It monitors laws like the 2013 Act on manual scavenging and the 1989 SC/ST Act in relevant cases.

Q2226. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the origin and legal status of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)?
1. The NCSK was initially created for a three-year term under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.
2. Despite the expiry of the Act, the NCSK has continued through successive statutory amendments.
3. Currently, NCSK does not derive its authority from any statute but functions as a non-statutory body.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The original Commission was set up under the 1993 Act for a three-year term starting in 1994.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The Act lapsed in 2004 and there have been no statutory amendments thereafter to revive it.
Statement 3 is correct: Since 2004, it has continued as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Topic 742

742. National Mission on Manuscripts

National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM)-launch

- The NMM was launched in **February 2003** by the **Ministry of Tourism and Culture** to document and **conserve the vast manuscript wealth** of **India.**
- Later moved under the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).**
- **Steps** are being considered to make NMM an **independent body** instead of being under **IGNCA.**

Current news?

- As per announcement in the **Union Budget 2025-26**, **National Mission on Manuscripts** (NMM) will be **made autonomous** by allocating nearly **₹500 crore** over the **next six years.**

Q2227. With reference to the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM), consider the following statements:
1. The National Mission on Manuscripts was launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2003 to preserve and document India's manuscript heritage.
2. The Mission is currently functioning as an autonomous institution under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
3. As per the Union Budget 2025–26, the government plans to make the NMM autonomous with a ₹500 crore allocation over six years.
4. The NMM was initially launched as a constitutional body under Article 49 of the Indian Constitution.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one

(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: It was launched in February 2003 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for documenting and conserving manuscripts.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The Mission is not autonomous yet; it currently operates under IGNCA.
Statement 3 is correct: Budget 2025–26 proposes to make it autonomous with an allocation of ₹500 crore over six years.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The NMM is not a constitutional body, and Article 49 relates to the protection of monuments, not manuscripts.

Q2228. Consider the following statements about the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM):
1. It was initially launched under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.
2. The NMM is responsible for identifying, cataloguing, and conserving manuscripts across India.
3. After its launch, the NMM was moved under the administrative control of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: d

Sol: All three statements are correct:
The NMM was launched under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in 2003.
Its main function is to identify, document, catalogue, and conserve India's manuscript heritage.
It was later moved under IGNCA, a premier cultural body under the Ministry of Culture.

Q2229. Which of the following statements regarding recent developments in the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM) is/are correct?
1. The NMM will be restructured as an autonomous body as per the Union Budget 2025–26.
2. An allocation of ₹500 crore has been announced for the Mission for a 10-year period.
3. Making NMM autonomous is intended to improve the efficiency of manuscript conservation efforts.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The government has announced plans to make the NMM autonomous.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The ₹500 crore allocation is for six years, not ten.
Statement 3 is correct: Autonomy is expected to enhance efficiency and focus in manuscript preservation efforts.

Topic 743

743. AI Action Summit in Paris

- **AI Action Summit** in **Paris** has been **co-chaired** by **India and France**.
- The summit was **addressed by PM Modi**.

Highlights of PM address in the summit-

1. Focus on benefits of AI

- **Debate on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** should **not** just **focus** on **risks but also benefits,** especially for the **Global South.**
- He asserted that **history** has shown **technology does not eliminate jobs**; rather, it **creates new ones.**

2. Future needs

- He stressed the **need for reskilling workforces to** adapt to AI-driven changes.

Joint statement at the AI Action Summit

- **58 countries**, including **India, China**, Brazil, France, and Australia, signed a **joint statement** on **"Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet"** at the AI Action Summit in Paris.

Note-

- The **United States** and the **United Kingdom** did **not sign the statement.**
- The **U.S. Vice-President** J.D. Vance **criticized the** statement for **"excessive regulation" of AI.**

Investment by France in field of AI

- During the summit, **French President** Emmanuel Macron announced a **€109 billion investment** plan in AI to **enhance Europe's position** in the **global AI.**

Q2230. With reference to the Stargate Project, consider the following statements:
1. It is a large-scale initiative aimed at building AI supercomputing infrastructure through public-private partnership.
2. OpenAI, Oracle, and SoftBank are among the key stakeholders involved in the project.
3. The project aims to establish decentralized AI compute hubs across multiple continents to ensure global access.
4. One of its primary objectives is to enhance national security and maintain U.S. leadership in artificial intelligence.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2, 3, and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The Stargate Project is a massive AI infrastructure initiative in the U.S. It represents a public-private collaboration aiming to construct cutting-edge data centers to support AI supercomputing at scale. The project is planned to be a multi-year, multibillion-dollar investment.
Statement 2 is correct: The project involves major stakeholders such as: o OpenAI – operational responsibility o SoftBank – financial responsibility o Oracle – infrastructure and data center deployment o NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Arm are also technology collaborators.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The Stargate Project is focused on building U.S.-based AI infrastructure. There is no official mandate for establishing decentralized compute hubs across multiple continents. Its aim is to secure American leadership in AI capabilities.
Statement 4 is correct: Enhancing national security, creating jobs, and ensuring AI leadership are explicitly stated goals. It is part of the U.S. strategic vision to remain ahead in the global AI race.

Q2231. With reference to the AI Action Summit held in Paris, consider the following statements:
1. The summit was co-chaired by India and France and was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
2. The United States and the United Kingdom were co-signatories of the joint statement titled "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet."
3. The joint statement emphasized inclusive and sustainable development of AI, and was signed by 58 countries, including China and Brazil.
4. In his address, PM Modi emphasized that AI-driven transformations will inevitably result in large-scale job loss across the Global South.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b
Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The summit was co-chaired by India and France, and addressed by PM Modi.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The U.S. and U.K. did not sign the joint statement.
Statement 3 is correct: The joint statement titled "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet" was signed by 58 countries, including China and Brazil.
Statement 4 is incorrect: PM Modi highlighted the job-creating potential of technology, not inevitable job loss.

Q2233. Consider the following statements regarding India's participation in the AI Action Summit in Paris:
1. PM Modi emphasized that discussions on AI should balance the risks and the potential benefits, particularly for developing nations.
2. He advocated large-scale upskilling and reskilling to prepare the workforce for AI-driven transformations.
3. India was critical of the joint statement signed at the summit, citing over-regulation of AI innovation.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct: PM Modi stressed the benefits of AI, especially for the Global South, and called for reskilling the workforce.
Statement 3 is incorrect: India supported the joint statement; the U.S. Vice President criticized it for excessive regulation, not India.

Topic 744

744. PM- AJAY scheme

- The Pradhan Mantri **Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM- AJAY)** has been implemented **since 2021-22.**
- To **reduce poverty of the SC communities** by generation of additional **employment opportunities** through **Skill development**, income generating schemes.
- Initiatives by **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**

It is a **merged scheme** of **three Centrally Sponsored Schemes-**
1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY),
2. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan
3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)
Objective of the scheme-

- Development of **SC dominated villages** into an **"Adarsh Gram".**
- **'Grants-in-aid'** for District/State-level Projects for socio-economic betterment of SCs.
- **Comprehensive Livelihood Projects**
- **Construction of Hostels** in higher educational institutions for SCs

Q2234. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY), consider the following statements:
1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2021–22 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. The scheme exclusively focuses on providing financial aid for Scheduled Castes through direct cash transfers.
3. PM-AJAY merges three earlier schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.
4. One of the aims of PM-AJAY is to develop Scheduled Caste-dominated villages into "Adarsh Grams".
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: PM-AJAY is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2021–22 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The scheme is not focused on direct cash transfers, but on skill development, infrastructure, and livelihood generation.
Statement 3 is correct: It merges PMAGY, Special Central Assistance to SC Sub Plan, and BJRCY.
Statement 4 is correct: Developing SC-dominated villages into Adarsh Grams is one of the scheme's key objectives.

Q2235. Which of the following components is/are included under the PM-AJAY scheme?

1. Grants-in-aid for State/District-level socio-economic projects
2. Construction of hostels in higher educational institutions for Scheduled Castes
3. Promotion of SC entrepreneurship through start-up incubation centres
4. Implementation of comprehensive livelihood projects for SC families

How many of the above option(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct: These are all components of PM-AJAY.
Statement 3 is incorrect: There is no mention of start-up incubation centres as part of PM-AJAY.

Q2236. Consider the following pairs regarding schemes merged under PM-AJAY:

Scheme Merged	Primary Focus
PMAGY	Development of SC-majority villages into Adarsh Grams
BJRCY	Scholarships for Scheduled Caste students
Special Central Assistance to SC Sub Plan	Socio-economic development of SC communities

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: b

Sol: PMAGY – **Correctly matched:** Focuses on Adarsh Gram development for SC-majority villages.
BJRCY – **Incorrectly matched:** It deals with hostel construction, not scholarships.
Special Central Assistance – **Correctly matched:** Aimed at socio-economic upliftment of SCs.

Topic 745

745. Corruption Perceptions Index

- It is an index which **ranks countries** "by their **perceived levels** of **public sector corruption,** as determined by **expert assessments and opinion surveys**."
- It is published annually by the non-governmental organisation **Transparency International** since 1995.
- Corruption is defined in the index as **"abuse of power for private gain"**.
- It uses a **scale of zero to 100**, where **"zero"** is **highly corrupt** and **"100" is very clean**.

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024

- **India** ranked **96 out of 180 countries** (CPI score of 38).
- In **2023**, India's overall score was **39** while in **2022**, it was **40.**
- **Denmark** is raked at the **top,** followed by **Finland**, and **Singapore.**

Q2237. With reference to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), consider the following statements:
1. It is published annually by Transparency International, a non-governmental organisation.
2. The index ranks countries based on the actual number of corruption cases filed in the public sector.
3. The CPI uses a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates highly corrupt and 100 means very clean.

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: CPI is published annually by Transparency International.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The CPI ranks countries based on perceived levels of corruption, not actual case numbers.
Statement 3 is correct: The scale runs from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Q2238. Consider the following statements regarding India's performance in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI):
1. India's CPI score has shown a consistent improvement from 2022 to 2024.
2. In 2024, India ranked 96th among 180 countries.
3. India's CPI score declined from 40 in 2022 to 38 in 2024.
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 incorrect: India's CPI score declined, not improved — from 40 (2022) to 38 (2024).
Statements 2 and 3 are correct as per the latest CPI data.

Q2239. Which of the following countries are among the top three ranked in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2024?
1. Denmark
2. Singapore
3. Switzerland
4. Finland
How many of the above option(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Denmark, Singapore, and Finland are the top three countries in the 2024 CPI rankings. Switzerland is not in the top three.

Topic 746

746. Devolution Index in Panchayati Raj System

Article 243G of the Indian Constitution

- **empowers State legislatures** to devolve **powers** and responsibilities to **Panchayats across 29 subjects** listed in the **Eleventh Schedule**.
- It is **not mandatory** for the state legislature to devolve all 29 matters to panchayat.
- The **Devolution Index (DI) 2024** report, has been released by the **Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj** and the **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)**, New Delhi.

The **index evaluates states** performance regarding **functioning of their Panchayati Raj System** based on **six key dimensions:**

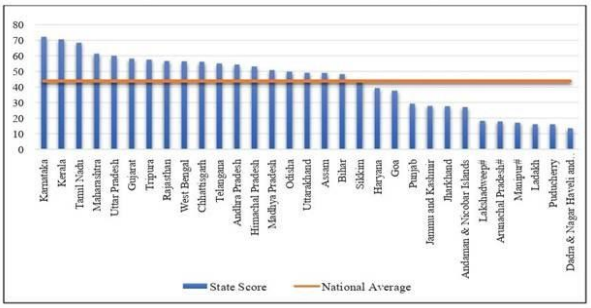
1. **Framework**
2. **Functions**
3. **Finances**
4. **Functionaries**
5. **Capacity Enhancement**
6. **Accountability**

Findings of the report

1. **Top 3 States in devolution**
   - **Karnataka(first), Kerala(2nd),** and **Tamil Nadu(3rd).**

ELEVENTH SCHEDULE
(Article 243G)

1. Agriculture, including agricultural extension.
2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation.
3. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development.
4. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.
5. Fisheries.
6. Social forestry and farm forestry.
7. Minor forest produce.
8. Small scale industries, including food processing industries.
9. Khadi, village and cottage industries.
10. Rural housing.
11. Drinking water.
12. Fuel and fodder.
13. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication.
14. Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.
15. Non-conventional energy sources.
16. Poverty alleviation programme.
17. Education, including primary and secondary schools.
18. Technical training and vocational education.
19. Adult and non-formal education.
20. Libraries.
21. Cultural activities.
22. Markets and fairs.
23. Health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries.
24. Family welfare.
25. Women and child development.
26. Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded.
27. Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
28. Public distribution system.
29. Maintenance of community assets.



State Wise performance

1. **High devolution states (>55 score)**
   - **Karnataka** (highest score -72.23), Kerala (70.59) and Tamil Nadu (68.38),
2. **Medium devolution category (50-55 score)**
   - Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha
3. **Moderate devolution progress (43.89 and 50)**
   - **Assam**, Bihar, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand
4. **Low-performing states (below the national average (43.89))**
   - 12 states and UTs, including Jharkhand, Punjab, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh

Q2240. With reference to the SVAMITVA Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development to provide property rights to rural landowners.
2. It utilizes drone-based surveys to create digital property maps of rural areas.
3. The property cards issued under the scheme serve as legal ownership records and can be used for financial purposes like obtaining bank loans.
4. The scheme is applicable only to states following the Panchayati Raj system and excludes those with traditional land governance systems.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2, and 3 only
(d) 2, 3, and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 Incorrect: The SVAMITVA Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, not the Ministry of Rural Development. It aims to provide record of rights to rural property owners by mapping their land using advanced technology.
Statement 2 Correct: The scheme uses drone-based surveys and CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) technology to create high-resolution digital maps of rural properties.
Statement 3 Correct: Under the scheme, property cards are issued to villagers, which serve as legal ownership documents. These cards can be used for financial transactions, including obtaining bank loans against the property.
Statement 4 Incorrect: The scheme is not limited to states with the Panchayati Raj system. States with traditional land governance systems, such as those in the Northeast, can also participate based on their willingness and administrative framework.

Q2241. With reference to the Devolution Index (DI) and Panchayati Raj, consider the following statements:
1. The Devolution Index is a mandatory constitutional provision under Article 243G.
2. The Devolution Index 2024 evaluates state performance based on six key dimensions including Functionaries and Finances.

3. Karnataka ranks highest in the Devolution Index 2024.
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 incorrect: Article 243G enables but does not mandate states to devolve all 29 subjects. The Devolution Index is not a constitutional provision.
Statement 2 is correct: The 2024 DI evaluates states based on six dimensions, including Functionaries and Finances.
Statement 3 is correct: Karnataka scored the highest (72.23) in the 2024 DI.

Q2242. Consider the following pairs regarding Devolution Index 2024 findings:

State	Devolution Category
Tamil Nadu	High devolution
Odisha	Moderate devolution progress
Bihar	Low-performing
Kerala	Second in overall ranking

How many of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Tamil Nadu is correctly listed as a high devolution state.
Odisha is in the medium category (score between 50–55), not Moderate.
Bihar is in the Moderate devolution group, not Low-performing.
Kerala is correctly placed as second in the ranking.

Topic 747

747. Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- It is a **government initiative** aimed at celebrating and **strengthening** the **cultural, spiritual, and historical ties** between **Kashi** (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh) and **Tamil Nadu**.
- It is **part of** the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program**, which **promotes unity in diversity** by **fostering connections** between different states of India.
- Launched in **November 2022** by the **Ministry of Education**, Government of India.
- Organized by **IIT Madras** and **Banaras Hindu University (BHU).**

Religious and philosophical link of Kashi and Tamil-

1. Shaivism Connection
- Both regions have a strong tradition of Shaivism (devotion to Lord Shiva).

2. Adi Shankaracharya's Influence
- He had strong ties to both Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

3. Maharishi Agastya
- Believed to be the **sage who brought Sanskrit to South India.**

Current news?
- The **third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam** was inaugurated in Varanasi.
- This 2024 edition is **integrated with the Maha Kumbh celebrations.**

Four Key Focus Areas (4S):
- **This year's event** is based on the theme of 4S:

1. Saints
2. Scientists
3. Students
4. Social Reformers

Q2243. With reference to the Kashi Tamil Sangamam initiative, consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by the Ministry of Culture as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign.
2. The event aims to celebrate the cultural and philosophical links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

3. The organizing institutions include IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
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 incorrect: It was launched by the Ministry of Education, not the Ministry of Culture.
Statement 2 is correct: The event celebrates historical, spiritual, and cultural ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi).
Statement 3 is correct: IIT Madras and BHU are key organizing institutions.

Q2244. Consider the following statements regarding the religious and philosophical linkages highlighted in the Kashi Tamil Sangamam:
1. Both Tamil Nadu and Kashi share a strong Shaivism tradition.
2. Adi Shankaracharya had spiritual ties only with Kashi and not Tamil Nadu.
3. Maharishi Agastya is traditionally believed to have brought Sanskrit to South India.
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: Shaivism is deeply rooted in both Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Adi Shankaracharya had significant spiritual influence in both regions.
Statement 3 is correct: Maharishi Agastya is revered for introducing Sanskrit to South India.

Q2245. With reference to the third edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam (2024), consider the following statements:
1. It has been integrated with the Maha Kumbh celebrations in Varanasi.
2. The 2024 edition is centered around four key focus areas referred to as 4S.
3. 'Scientists' and 'Social Reformers' are not part of the 4S theme.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The 2024 edition is aligned with the Maha Kumbh celebrations.
Statement 2 is correct: The event focuses on 4S: Saints, Scientists, Students, and Social Reformers.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Scientists and Social Reformers are included in the 4S theme.

Topic 748

748. New Chief Election Commissioner appointed

Article 324(2) of the Constitution

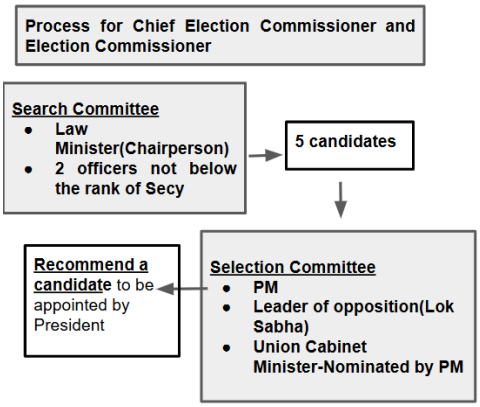
- **Election Commission** shall consist of the **Chief Election Commissioner** and such number of **Election Commissioners**, as the **President may fix** from time-to-time.
- Currently there are **3 members** in the Election Commission-a **Chief Election Commissioner** and **two election commissioners.**
- **Appointment** of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are made **by the President, subject to the law** enacted by the Parliament.

Dec 2023

- The parliament enacted the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners** (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) **Act, 2023**.
- It laid down procedure for **appointment of Election Commissioners.**

Current context

- **Gyanesh Kumar** has been appointed as the **Chief Election Commissioner** (CEC).



Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India Case,2023

- The Supreme Court laid down that the CEC and ECs shall be appointed by a committee consisting of the **Prime Minister, the CJI** and the **Leader of the Opposition** or the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.
- This committee **will make recommendations** and advise the **President on Election Commission** appointments **until Parliament enacts** a **separate law on the subject**.

Q2246. With reference to the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs), consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India is a three-member body as per the constitutional mandate.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India, subject to law made by Parliament.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 lays down the current legal framework for these appointments.
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 incorrect: The Constitution does not fix the number of Election Commissioners; it empowers the President to decide the number from time to time (Article 324(2)).
Statement 2 is correct: Appointment is made by the President, subject to laws made by Parliament.
Statement 3 is correct: The 2023 Act provides the current procedure for appointing the CEC and ECs.

Q2247. Consider the following statements regarding the Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023) judgment:
1. The Supreme Court directed that the appointment of CEC and ECs shall be based on the recommendation of a committee including the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of the Opposition.
2. This judgment was rendered after Parliament had already enacted the 2023 law on appointments.
3. The Court's directions were intended to be followed only until Parliament enacted a law governing such appointments.
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 three-member committee was mandated by the Supreme Court.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The judgment was given before Parliament enacted the law in December 2023.
Statement 3 is correct: The judgment specified the arrangement would be interim, until Parliament passed a law.

Q2248. With reference to the Chief Election Commissioner and the 2023 legal developments, consider the following statements:
1. Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner in accordance with the 2023 Act.
2. As per the 2023 Act, the CJI is no longer part of the appointment process for the CEC and ECs.

3. The 2023 Act replaced the system laid down in Anoop Baranwal case for appointment of Election Commissioners.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: d

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Gyanesh Kumar's appointment was made under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other ECs Act, 2023.
Statement 2 is correct: The CJI was part of the earlier interim arrangement but is not part of the process under the new law.
Statement 3 is correct: The 2023 Act supersedes the SC's directions in the Anoop Baranwal case.

Topic 749

749. Alternate Dispute Resolution

- **Alternate Dispute Resolution** the process by which **disputes** between the parties are **settled** or brought to an amicable result-
- Without the **judicial intervention**

Types of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

1. Arbitration: The dispute is **submitted to an arbitral tribunal** which makes a decision (an "award") on the dispute that is mostly **binding on the parties.**

2. Mediation: In mediation, an impartial person called a **"Mediator"** helps the parties try to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the dispute.

- The mediator does **not decide the dispute** but **helps the parties communicate** so they can try to settle the dispute themselves.

3. Conciliation: A **non-binding procedure** in which an **impartial third party,** the conciliator, assists the parties to a dispute in reaching a **mutually satisfactory agreed settlement of the dispute.**

4. Lok Adalat (Covered in Topic no 62)

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

- The act updated and **codified arbitration, mediation, and conciliation** procedures.

Features of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act-

Based on UNCITRAL Model Law

- The Act is modelled on the **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law** (UNCITRAL) **Model Law** ensuring global standardization.

Arbitration Council of India

- **Statutory body** created under Arbitration and Conciliation(amendment) Act 2019.
- Designed to improve the **quality and efficiency** of arbitration in India.

Q2249. With reference to Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, consider the following statements:
1. Arbitration is a binding dispute resolution process where the arbitral award is generally enforceable in law.
2. In Mediation, the mediator assists in resolution but has no power to impose a decision.
3. Conciliation is legally binding on the parties and is enforceable like a court judgment.
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: In Arbitration, the arbitrator's award is typically binding.
Statement 2 is correct: In Mediation, the mediator helps parties communicate but does not impose a decision.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Conciliation is a non-binding process unless the parties sign a settlement agreement voluntarily.

Q2250. Consider the following statements regarding the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996:
1. The Act is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law to align with global standards of dispute resolution.
2. It governs only domestic arbitration and excludes international arbitration cases.
3. It covers provisions related to arbitration, mediation, and conciliation.
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 Act is modeled on UNCITRAL Model Law.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The Act covers both domestic and international commercial arbitration.
Statement 3 is correct: It includes procedures for arbitration, conciliation, and mediation.

Q2251. With reference to the Arbitration Council of India, consider the following statements:
1. It was established under the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019.
2. It is a non-statutory advisory body aimed at promoting traditional mediation.
3. Its objective is to improve the quality and efficiency of arbitration in India.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The 2019 Amendment established the Arbitration Council of India.
Statement 2 is incorrect: It is a statutory body, not non-statutory, and focuses on arbitration, not traditional mediation.
Statement 3 is correct: Its mandate is to promote quality arbitration and enhance institutional capacity.

Topic 750

750. Supreme Court on remission without application

What is Remission?
- It refers to **reducing the sentence** of a **convicted person.**

Legal basis of remission
- **Section 473** of the **Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita** (BNSS), 2023
- **Section 432** of the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**, 1973 empower the government to remit sentences "at any time".

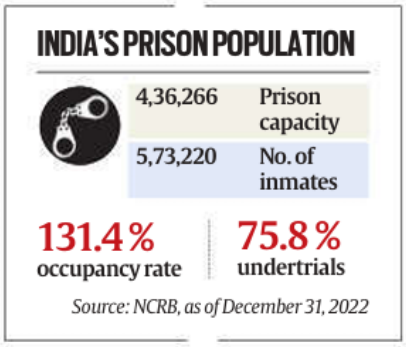
Grounds for remission
- Remission is earned through **good behavior** of the convict.

Conditions for Remission
- Many **states impose conditions** such as-

a. Serving a **minimum period** before release.
b. **Regularly reporting** to authorities after remission.
c. Possibility of **re-arrest** if **conditions are violated**.

Current context
- The SC ruled that **states must consider premature release of prisoners**, even if they do **not apply** for remission.

Why SC is emphasising on remission?
- To **reduce occupancy level** in the Indian prisons.
- Indian prisons are **overcrowded** leading to **plightful condition** of the prisoners.



Q2252. With reference to "Remission" in the Indian legal context, consider the following statements:
1. Remission refers to the suspension of a convict's trial.

2. Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 empowers the government to remit sentences.
3. Remission can be granted only if the convict submits a formal written application.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: Remission does not refer to suspension of a trial. It refers to reducing the sentence of a convicted person, not halting or suspending the judicial process.
Statement 2 is correct: Section 432 of the CrPC, 1973 (and Section 473 of BNSS, 2023) empowers the appropriate government to remit the sentence of a convict.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The Supreme Court has clarified that remission can be considered even without a formal application by the convict.

Q2253. Consider the following reasons why the Supreme Court of India has recently emphasized granting remission to convicts:
1. To uphold the fundamental right to legal aid for convicts.
2. To reduce the occupancy level in Indian prisons.
3. Because Indian prisons are overcrowded and in poor condition.
Which of the 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: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: While the right to legal aid is important, the recent SC judgment on remission did not revolve around legal aid, but rather prison overcrowding and humane treatment.
Statement 2 is correct: One of the Supreme Court's aims is to decongest prisons by considering premature release of eligible convicts.
Statement 3 is correct: The SC emphasized that overcrowded prisons lead to inhumane conditions, making remission a necessary reform.

Q2254. Which of the following conditions are commonly imposed by states while granting remission to convicts?
1. The convict must serve a minimum period before being considered for release.
2. The convict must regularly report to authorities after release.
3. The convict cannot be re-arrested under any circumstance after remission.
Select the correct answer using the code 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 is correct: Many states require a convict to have served a minimum portion of the sentence before considering remission.
Statement 2 is correct: Post-release, regular reporting to authorities is a common condition.
Statement 3 is incorrect: If conditions of remission are violated, the person can be re-arrested. Hence, the claim that re-arrest is never allowed is false.

Topic 751

751. Article 101(4) and its application

What is Article 101(4)?

- "If for a **period of sixty days** a **member** of either **House of Parliament is without permission** of the House **absent** from all meetings thereof, the **House may declare his seat vacant**,".
- The **60 days**, however, **do not account** for "any period during which the **House is prorogued** or is **adjourned** for **more than four consecutive days**".
- **Effectively,** the period of absence is only **calculated** based on the **actual sittings of Parliament.**

How MPs can seek leave?

- **MPs must write** to the **Committee on Absence of Members** to request leave.

- If approved, the **House grants permission**, preventing the seat from being vacated.
- If **denied**, the **MP loses their seat.**

Current case

- Amritpal Singh, MP from **Khadoor Sahib,** has been **detained** under the **National Security Act (NSA)** in **Dibrugarh** since **April 2023**.
- He **won the 2024 Lok Sabha election** from prison but has **not attended Parliament.**
- PRS Legislative Research data indicates his **attendance is 0%.**

Q2255. With reference to Article 101(4) of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. A Member of Parliament's seat can be declared vacant if they are absent from all sittings of the House for 60 days without permission.
2. The 60-day period includes days when the House is prorogued or adjourned for more than four days.
3. The provision applies to both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: Article 101(4) allows the House to declare a seat vacant if an MP is absent for 60 days of actual sittings, without permission.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The 60-day calculation excludes periods when the House is prorogued or adjourned for more than four consecutive days.
Statement 3 is correct: Article 101(4) is applicable to both Houses of Parliament — the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Q2256. Consider the following steps regarding how a Member of Parliament can avoid losing their seat due to prolonged absence:
1. The MP must write to the Committee on Absence of Members requesting leave.
2. If the Committee approves, the House grants permission for absence.
3. If the request is denied, the MP's seat is automatically protected.
Which of the statement(s) 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: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: MPs seeking long-term absence must formally request leave from the Committee on Absence of Members.
Statement 2 is correct: If approved, the House grants leave and prevents the seat from being vacated.
Statement 3 is incorrect: If the request is denied, and the MP is absent for the qualifying period, the seat can be declared vacant.

Q2257. In the context of Article 101(4), why has the case of Amritpal Singh, MP from Khadoor Sahib, gained attention?
(a) He resigned immediately after being elected in 2024.
(b) He was elected from prison under preventive detention and has not attended a single sitting.
(c) He was expelled from Parliament under Article 102.
(d) He voluntarily declined to take oath as a Member of Parliament.

Ans: b

Sol: Amritpal Singh, detained under the National Security Act (NSA), won the 2024 Lok Sabha election from prison.
As per PRS Legislative Research, his attendance in Parliament is 0%, making his case relevant under Article 101(4).

There has been no resignation or expulsion; his absence is due to ongoing detention.

Topic 752

752. Three-Language Policy issue

Current news?

- **Tamil Nadu government refused** to participate in **PM SHRI Scheme**, as it requires implementing the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- **TN government** is **not aligned** with the **three-language formula** advocated by **NEP 2020.**

What does NEP 2020 propose which is objected by TN?

- Advocates for a **three-language formula** (**Hindi, English**, and a **modern Indian language**).
- **Hindi-speaking states** must include a **South Indian language.**
- **Non-Hindi states** must include **Hindi.**

Q2258. With reference to the PM SHRI Scheme and Tamil Nadu's response, consider the following statements:
1. Tamil Nadu refused to participate in the PM SHRI Scheme as it requires implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
2. Tamil Nadu supports the three-language formula advocated by NEP 2020.
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: Tamil Nadu opted out of the PM SHRI Scheme as it mandates adopting NEP 2020, which includes the controversial three-language policy.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Tamil Nadu opposes the three-language formula and follows a two-language policy (Tamil and English).

Q2259. With reference to the Three-Language Formula under NEP 2020, consider the following statements:
1. Hindi-speaking states are encouraged to include a South Indian language in their curriculum.
2. Non-Hindi-speaking states are expected to include Hindi as one of the three languages.
3. All states must make Sanskrit a compulsory language.
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: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct: NEP 2020 suggests linguistic balance by encouraging Hindi-speaking states to adopt a South Indian language and vice versa.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Sanskrit is not compulsory but is offered as an optional language.

Q2260. With reference to Tamil Nadu's language policy in education, consider the following statements:
1. Tamil Nadu follows a two-language formula comprising Tamil and English.
2. The state has consistently opposed the imposition of Hindi in its curriculum.
3. Tamil Nadu was the first state to fully implement the NEP 2020 in school education.
Which of the statement(s) 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: a

Sol: Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Tamil Nadu has a well-established two-language policy and has historically resisted Hindi imposition.
Statement 3 is incorrect: Tamil Nadu has not implemented NEP 2020 and, in fact, declined participation in central schemes linked to it.

Topic 753

753. Interstate Council

- The Inter-State Council is a **constitutional body** to facilitate **coordination** between **states and the centre**.
- It is an **advisory body.**
- It has been set up according to **Article 263** of the constitution.

Article 263

- Article 263 says that "if at any time it **appears to the President** that the **public interest** would be served by the establishment of a Council **charged with the duty** of

1. inquiring into and **advising upon disputes** which may have arisen **between States;**
2. investigating and discussing subjects in which some issues between **Union and States.**

How Inter State Council established in India?

- On recommendation of **Sarkaria Commission (1988),** interstate council was established as per a **Presidential order in 1990.**

Note-The Inter-state council is **not a permanent body.** It is generally suspended. It is constituted as per **Presidential order** as and when **need arises.**

Interstate Council members

- **Chairman- PM**
- **Other members**

a. Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories (having legislative Assembly),
b. Union Ministers (nominated by the PM)
c. Administrators of Union Territories which **do not have legislative Assembly**

The **council meets infrequently** (only **12 times since 1990)**-last **one in 2017**

Q2261. With reference to the Inter-State Council, consider the following statements:
1. It is a constitutional and advisory body established under Article 263.
2. It is a permanent body that regularly resolves inter-state disputes.
3. The Inter-State Council was set up following the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission.
Which of the statement(s) 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 is correct: The Inter-State Council is a constitutional body under Article 263 and acts in an advisory capacity.
Statement 2 is incorrect: It is not a permanent body; it is constituted as needed by Presidential order and has met only 12 times since 1990.
Statement 3 is correct: The Sarkaria Commission (1988) recommended its formation, and it was set up in 1990.

Q2262. With reference to Article 263 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following functions assigned to the Inter-State Council:
1. Inquiring into and advising upon disputes between States.
2. Legislating on matters listed in the State List.
3. Investigating and discussing subjects of common interest between the Union and the States.
Which of the statement(s) 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: Statements 1 and 3 are correct: As per Article 263, the Council can inquire into inter-state disputes and deliberate on Union-State issues.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Council is advisory in nature and does not have legislative powers.

Q2263. With reference to the composition of the Inter-State Council, consider the following statements:
1. The Prime Minister of India is the Chairman of the Council.
2. Union Ministers are appointed as members by the President.
3. Chief Ministers of all States and UTs with Legislative Assemblies are members.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The Prime Minister chairs the Inter-State Council.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Union Ministers are nominated by the PM, not appointed by the President.
Statement 3 is correct: CMs of all states and UTs with legislatures are included as members.

Topic 754

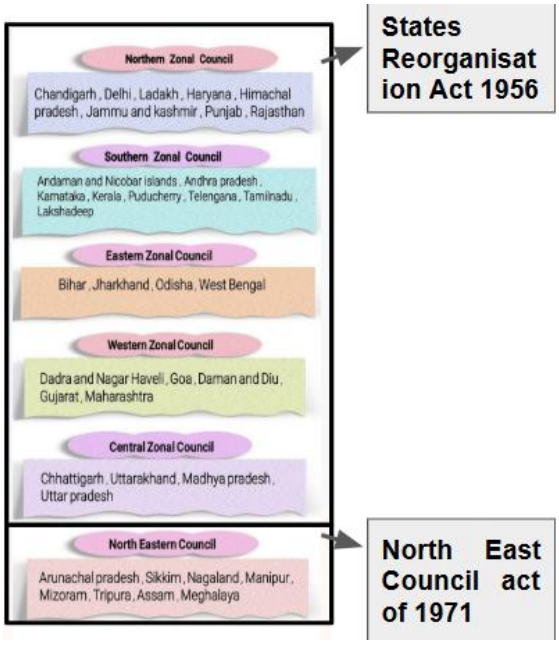
754. Zonal Councils

There are 5 five Zonal councils namely:
1. The Northern Zonal Council
2. The Central Zonal Council,
3. The Eastern Zonal Council
4. The Western Zonal Council
5. The Southern Zonal Council

Members of Zonal Council

- The **Union Home Minister is the Chairman** of each of these Councils.
- **Vice Chairman** – The **Chief Ministers** of the States included in each zone on **rotation basis**.
- **Members**– **Chief Minister** and **two other Ministers** as **nominated by the Governor** from each of the States and **two members from Union Territories** included in the zone.

Note-Zonal Councils are **Statutory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act 1956**



Q2264. With reference to Zonal Councils in India, consider the following statements:
1. There are a total of six Zonal Councils, including the North-Eastern Council.
2. Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
3. The Union Home Minister serves as the Chairman of all Zonal Councils.
Which of the statement(s) 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: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: There are five Zonal Councils. The North Eastern Council is a separate constitutional/statutory body, not one of the five zonal councils.
Statement 2 is correct: Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
Statement 3 is correct: The Union Home Minister acts as the Chairman of each Zonal Council.

Q2265. Which of the following correctly lists all the Zonal Councils in India?

(a) Northern, North-Eastern, Central, Western, Southern
(b) Northern, Central, Western, Eastern, Southern
(c) Central, Western, Eastern, Southern, North-Eastern
(d) Northern, Central, Southern, North-Eastern, Eastern

Ans: b

Sol: The five Zonal Councils are:
1. Northern Zonal Council
2. Central Zonal Council
3. Western Zonal Council
4. Eastern Zonal Council
5. Southern Zonal Council
The North-Eastern Council is not part of these five — it is separately constituted.

Q2266. With reference to the composition of Zonal Councils, consider the following statements:
1. The Chief Minister of each state in the zone acts as the Vice Chairman on a rotational basis.
2. Each Zonal Council includes two Union Ministers as permanent members.
3. The Governor nominates two ministers from each state to be members of the Zonal Council.
Which of the statement(s) 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: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: The Chief Ministers act as Vice Chairman on rotation.
Statement 2 is incorrect: There is no provision for two Union Ministers as permanent members.
Statement 3 is correct: The Governor nominates two other Ministers from each state in addition to the Chief Minister.

Topic 755

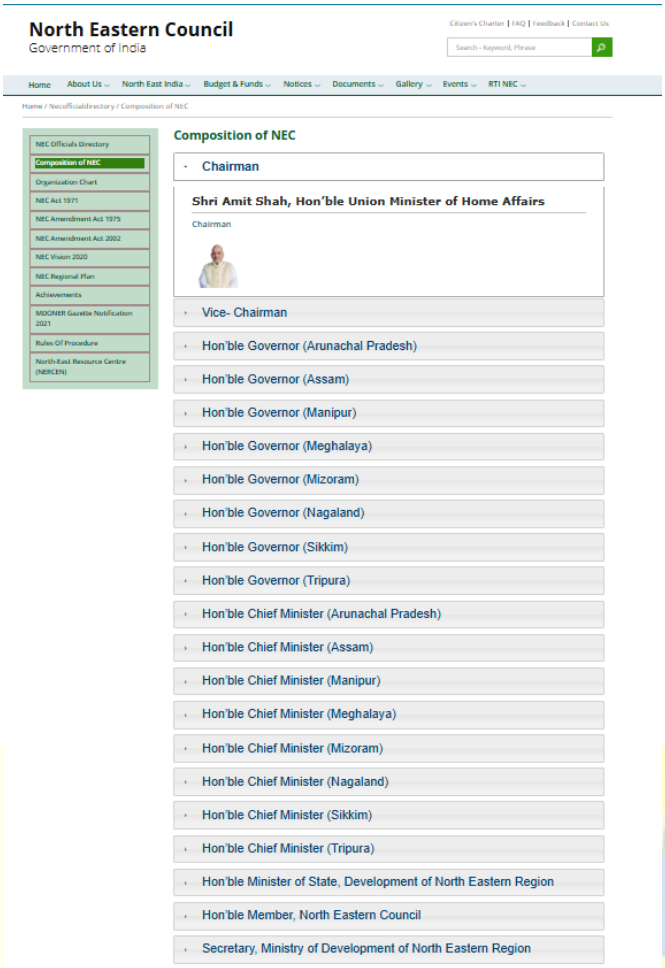
755. North Eastern Council

- It is a **statutory body** created by **North East Council act of 1971**(NEC started functioning in 1972).
- It includes all **8 North Eastern states**.
- **Earlier** there were **only seven North Eastern states** in it, **Sikkim was added** by **amending** North Eastern Council act of 1971 in **2002.**
- Its **headquarter is in Shillong.**

Members
- **Union Home Minister- Chairman**
- **Minister** of Development of North Eastern region **(DoNER) - Vice Chairman**
- **Chief ministers** and **Governors** of all **8 North Eastern states.**

Functions-
- Function as a **regional planning body** for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan.
- It will discuss the **schemes and projects benefiting two or more states** provided that **in the case of Sikkim,** the Council shall formulate **specific projects and schemes for that State**.

Name of the Council	Headquarter
North Eastern Council	Shillong
Northern Zonal Council	Delhi
Central Zonal Council	Prayagraj
Western Zonal Council	Mumbai
Eastern Zonal Council	Kolkata
Southern Zonal Council	Chennai



Q2267. With reference to the North Eastern Council (NEC), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body established under the North Eastern Council Act of 1971.
2. Sikkim was added to the NEC by an amendment in 2002.
3. The NEC started functioning after the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
Which of the statement(s) 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: a

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: NEC is a statutory body created under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.
Statement 2 is correct: Sikkim was added to NEC via an amendment in 2002.
Statement 3 is incorrect: NEC started functioning in 1972, long before the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992).

Q2268. Which of the following correctly describes the composition of the North Eastern Council?
(a) Prime Minister as Chairman, DoNER Minister as Vice Chairman
(b) Union Home Minister as Chairman, Minister of DoNER as Vice Chairman
(c) President of India as Chairman, Chief Ministers of NE States as Vice Chairmen
(d) Chief Ministers of NE States on rotational basis as Chairman

Ans: b

Sol: The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of the NEC, and the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the Vice Chairman. Chief Ministers of all 8 North Eastern states are members.

Q2269. Which of the following is/are true regarding the functions of the North Eastern Council (NEC)?
1. NEC acts as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Region.
2. It formulates specific schemes only for the state of Assam.
3. For Sikkim, the NEC formulates specific projects and schemes.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(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 is correct: NEC functions as a regional planning body for the North East.
Statement 2 is incorrect: It does not limit formulation of specific schemes to Assam.
Statement 3 is correct: For Sikkim, NEC is mandated to formulate specific projects and schemes.

Day 70

Topic 756

756. NAKSHA

- **Union Rural Development Minister** Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Central government's new initiative— '**NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HAbitations' (NAKSHA)**— on from **Raisen in Madhya Pradesh.**

What is NAKSHA?

- It is a **city survey initiative** under the existing **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).**
- **Implemented** by **Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development.**
- Objective: To **update land records** in **urban areas across India.**

Benefits:

- Creates **accurate**, geospatial **urban land records**
- **Reduces land disputes**
- Streamlines **ownership records**

Technology to be used for NAKSHA

- GIS mapping, drones, digital surveys

Q2270. With reference to the NAKSHA initiative, consider the following statements:
1. NAKSHA is a geospatial city survey initiative launched under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. The project aims to update land records in urban areas using GIS mapping, drones, and digital surveys.
4. One of its objectives is to reduce land disputes and streamline ownership records.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: NAKSHA is a geospatial survey initiative under DILRMP.
Statement 2 is incorrect: It is implemented by the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development, not MoHUA.
Statement 3 is correct: The initiative uses modern technology like GIS, drones, and digital surveys.
Statement 4 is correct: Reducing land disputes and streamlining records are key objectives.

Q2271. Consider the following statements about the NAKSHA initiative:
1. It was launched by the Union Rural Development Minister from Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is limited only to rural land records in hilly and tribal areas.
3. NAKSHA is part of the broader Digital India initiative aimed at land governance reform.
Which of the above statements 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 is correct: It was launched by the Rural Development Minister from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh.
Statement 2 is incorrect: It focuses on urban habitations, not rural or tribal areas.
Statement 3 is correct: It aligns with the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Q2272. Which of the following are expected benefits of the NAKSHA initiative?
1. Creation of accurate geospatial land records in urban areas
2. Enhanced ease of property registration and transfer
3. Reduction in urban land disputes
4. Automatic allocation of land to municipal corporations
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct: These are among the main goals of NAKSHA.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The initiative does not involve automatic land allocation to municipalities.

Topic 757

757. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- A **maternity benefit scheme**(for women working in informal sector) launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** under the **National Food Security Act, 2013.**

Key Features of the scheme

1. Financial Assistance

- Pregnant and lactating mothers **receive ₹5,000 in two installments** during **pregnancy and after childbirth.**
- **Additional ₹1,000** is provided under **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** for **institutional deliveries.**

2. Eligibility

- **Covers only first child(second child is covered if it is a girl**- in this case Rs 6000 given in one instalment after the birth).
- The **woman or her spouse** must **not be a government employee.**

Objectives of PMMVY

1. Reduce child and maternal mortality
2. Compensate for wage loss during pregnancy
3. Improve maternal and child health

PRADHAN MANTRI
MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

Conditional Cash transfer

1. First Instalment (₹3,000) – At the time of **pregnancy registration** and least **one antenatal check-up**

2. Second Instalment (₹2,000) – After childbirth and **completion of the child's first round of vaccinations** (BCG, OPV, DPT, Hepatitis-B).

Q2273. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), consider the following statements:
1. PMMVY is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
2. The financial assistance is given only for the first live birth, regardless of the child's gender.
3. The scheme is targeted primarily at women working in the informal sector.
4. Women or their spouses employed in government service are not eligible under this scheme.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is correct: PMMVY is launched under NFSA, 2013.
Statement 2 is incorrect: While normally limited to the first child, second child is covered only if it is a girl.
Statement 3 is correct: It is aimed at women in the informal sector.
Statement 4 is correct: Those in government service or their spouses are excluded.

Q2274. Consider the following pairs regarding benefits under PMMVY:

Event	Benefit Provided
1. Pregnancy registration and one antenatal check-up	₹3,000
2. Birth of a second child (girl)	₹5,000
3. Completion of child's first round of vaccinations	₹2,000
4. Institutional delivery under JSY	₹1,000

How many of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: 1. Correct – ₹3,000 is given at registration + one antenatal check-up.
2. Incorrect – ₹6,000 (not ₹5,000) is given in one instalment for second child if girl.
3. Correct – ₹2,000 after full vaccination.
4. Correct – ₹1,000 is given under Janani Suraksha Yojana.

Q2275. Which of the following are key objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)?
1. To provide unconditional cash benefits to all pregnant women
2. To reduce child and maternal mortality
3. To compensate women for wage loss during pregnancy
4. To improve maternal and child health outcomes
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect: The scheme offers conditional cash transfers.
Statements 2, 3, and 4 are correct: These are among the main goals of the scheme.

Topic 758

758. Champakam Dorairajan case and 1st amendment

Who was Champakam Dorairajan?

- Champakam Dorairajan was **born in 1915** and had a **Bachelor's degree** in Physics and Chemistry from the **University of Madras.**
- She **aspired to become a doctor** but was **denied admission** due to **caste-based reservation** policies.
- In 1948, the **Madras government introduced** the **Communal General Order (G.O)** which **apportioned admissions to educational institutions based on caste.**
- She registered a **case in Madras High Court,** then matter reached **SC.**

Champakam Dorairajan case (1951)

- The **Supreme Court** ruled that **caste-based reservations violated fundamental rights.**

Impact: The First Amendment (1951)

- The ruling **prompted the Government of India** to **amend the** Constitution through the **First Amendment Act, 1951.**
- **Article 15(4) was introduced**, allowing **special provisions** for socially and educationally backward classes, **paving the way for caste-based reservations in education.**

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.

Q2276. With reference to the Champakam Dorairajan case (1951), consider the following statements:
1. It was the first case in which the Supreme Court struck down a state law on the grounds that it violated fundamental rights.
2. The case dealt with the validity of caste-based reservation in educational institutions under the Madras Communal G.O.
3. The verdict directly led to the enactment of Article 15(4) through the First Constitutional Amendment.
4. The Supreme Court held that Directive Principles of State Policy take precedence over Fundamental Rights.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. It was a landmark case where SC struck down the Communal G.O. as unconstitutional.
Statement 2 – Correct. The issue was caste-based reservations in educational admissions.
Statement 3 – Correct. The ruling triggered the 1st Amendment, adding Article 15(4).
Statement 4 – Incorrect. The SC held that Fundamental Rights prevail over Directive Principles.

Q2277. Consider the following statements regarding the First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951:
1. It inserted Article 15(4) to permit special provisions for backward classes.
2. It was enacted in response to a Supreme Court ruling that invalidated caste-based reservations.
3. It amended both Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.
4. It introduced the Ninth Schedule to protect land reform laws from judicial review.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. Article 15(4) was introduced.
Statement 2 – Correct. Enacted in response to Champakam Dorairajan case.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. It did not amend the Directive Principles; only Fundamental Rights were amended.
Statement 4 – Correct. Ninth Schedule was introduced to shield land reforms.

Q2278. With reference to Article 15 of the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Article 15(1) and 15(2) prohibit discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, sex, or place of birth.
2. Article 15(3) permits the State to make special provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. Article 15(4) enables the State to make special provisions for women and children.
4. Article 15(4) was added through the First Amendment to allow for reservation of seats for backward classes in educational institutions.
Which of the statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. These are the non-discrimination clauses.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. Article 15(3) is about women and children, not SC/STs.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. It is Article 15(3), not 15(4), that covers women and children.
Statement 4 – Correct. Article 15(4) was added to enable reservations for SEBCs and SC/STs.

Topic 759

759. Hague Service Convention

What is Hague Service Convention?

- Officially known as the **Convention on the Service Abroad** of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters.
- This is an **international treaty** that **simplifies the process** of **serving legal documents** across **borders.**
- The convention **ensures that documents sent** for legal service abroad **reach the recipient efficiently** and with proof of delivery.
- It was **adopted in 1965.**

India and the Hague Service Convention

- **India is a signatory** to this convention.
- **The Department of Legal Affairs** (Ministry of Law & Justice) acts as the **central authority** for receiving and processing service requests.

Current news?

- The **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** has sought **assistance from the Indian government** under the **Hague Service Convention** to **serve summons** on **Gautam Adani** and his **nephew Sagar Adani.**

Q2279. With reference to the Hague Service Convention, consider the following statements:
1. It facilitates the service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in criminal and civil matters across international borders.
2. It was adopted in 1965 to standardize and streamline cross-border legal communication.
3. India is a party to this convention and has designated the Ministry of External Affairs as the central authority.
4. The convention ensures proof of service to the sender nation for legal verification.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Incorrect. The Hague Service Convention applies only to civil and commercial matters, not criminal.
Statement 2 – Correct. Adopted in 1965 to improve the cross-border service of legal documents.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. In India, the Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law & Justice), not MEA, is the designated authority.
Statement 4 – Correct. The Convention ensures legal documents are delivered with proof of service to the requesting country.

Q2280. Consider the following statements regarding India's obligations under the Hague Service Convention:
1. India must accept and process requests for service of legal documents from other signatory countries.
2. India can reject a request if it believes it infringes on its sovereignty or public order.
3. India follows a centralized system where only the High Courts can execute requests received under this Convention.
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 – Correct. As a signatory, India must accept service requests under the convention.
Statement 2 – Correct. Article 13 of the Convention allows refusal if it infringes on sovereignty or public order.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. While courts assist, the Department of Legal Affairs is the central authority, not the High Courts alone.

Q2281. In the context of recent developments related to the Hague Service Convention, which of the following is/are correct?
1. The U.S. SEC invoked the Convention to issue summons to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani.
2. The SEC directly serves documents to the concerned individual under the convention, without routing through Indian authorities.
3. The use of the Hague Service Convention ensures that legal summons have international enforceability.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: c

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. The U.S. SEC recently used the Convention to seek India's help in serving notices.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. Service must go through the designated central authority of the receiving country (India's Department of Legal Affairs).
Statement 3 – Correct. The Convention provides legal validity and international recognition to service of documents.

Topic 760

760. Reduction of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has capped the amount of **trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils to 2%.**

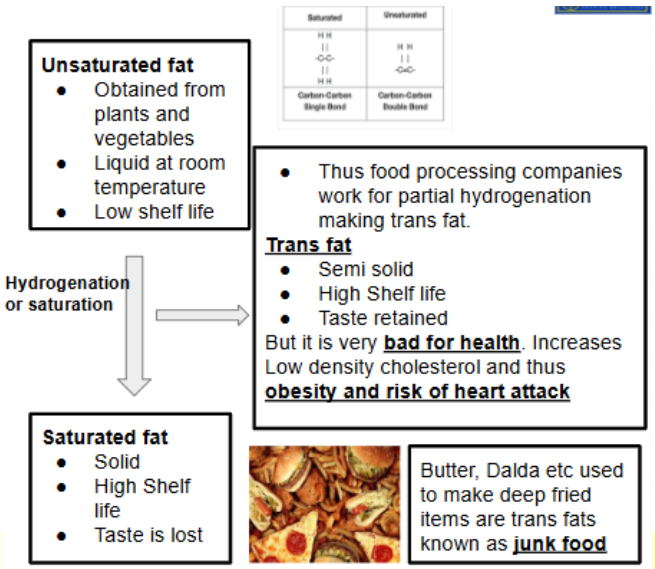
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- A **statutory body under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.**

- The FSSAI functions under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

Functions of FSSAI-

- Lays **down standards for almost all types of food products**



Q2282. With reference to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements:
1. FSSAI is a constitutional body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
3. It is responsible for setting standards for food safety and regulating food-related practices in India.
How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 – Incorrect. FSSAI is a statutory body, not constitutional.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. It functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, not Consumer Affairs.
Statement 3 – Correct. FSSAI lays down standards for food safety and regulates food practices across the country.

Q2283. Consider the following statements regarding trans fatty acids (TFA) regulation in India:
1. The FSSAI has capped the permissible limit of trans fatty acids in oils and fats to 2%.
2. This regulation is aimed at reducing non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular diseases.
3. Trans fatty acids are artificially created by adding oxygen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid and increase shelf life.
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 – Correct. FSSAI has capped TFA at 2% in oils and fats.
Statement 2 – Correct. Reducing TFA helps prevent heart-related diseases.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. TFAs are created by adding hydrogen (not oxygen) to vegetable oils in a process called hydrogenation.

Q2284. Which of the following are functions of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)?
1. Setting standards for food products
2. Monitoring and licensing of food businesses
3. Conducting nutritional research and issuing pharmaceutical guidelines
4. Enforcing limits on harmful substances like trans fats in edible oils
How many of the above function(s) is/are performed by FSSAI?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Ans: c

Sol: Statements 1, 2, and 4 – Correct. These are core regulatory functions of FSSAI.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. FSSAI is not responsible for pharmaceutical guidelines or conducting medical research; these fall under other agencies like ICMR or CDSCO.

Topic 761

761. New SEBI Chief

Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI)

- In April, **1988 the SEBI** was constituted as the **regulator of capital markets** in India under a **resolution of the Government of India.**
- Initially SEBI **was a non-statutory body** without any statutory power.
- It became **autonomous and given statutory powers by SEBI Act 1992.**
- The basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India is to **protect the interests of investors in securities** and to promote and regulate the securities market.
- Its **headquarter** is in **Mumbai.**
- SEBI is a **quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body** which can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings and impose penalties.

Current news?

- **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, an IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the **11th Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**
- He **succeeded Madhabi Puri Buch**, the **first woman SEBI chief**.

'We have built such a good institution, and we will continue to put our own contributions to its growth,' said Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey. *Indian Express*

Q2285. With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:
1. SEBI was originally established in 1988 as a non-statutory body through a government resolution.
2. It became a statutory body after the passage of the SEBI Act in 1992.
3. SEBI functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
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 – Correct. SEBI was formed in 1988 through a government resolution.
Statement 2 – Correct. It got statutory status via the SEBI Act, 1992.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. SEBI operates under the Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Q2286. Consider the following statements regarding the role and powers of SEBI:
1. SEBI can draft regulations and impose penalties, making it a quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body.
2. One of SEBI's primary roles is to protect the interests of retail investors in the securities market.
3. SEBI has the authority to directly prosecute companies in criminal courts for corporate fraud.
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 – Correct. SEBI can frame rules and pass penalties, hence quasi-legislative and judicial.
Statement 2 – Correct. Protecting investor interest is central to SEBI's mandate.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. SEBI can investigate and impose civil penalties, but criminal prosecution requires coordination with other agencies like the ED or CBI.

Q2287. Regarding recent developments related to SEBI, consider the following statements:
1. Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the 11th Chairman of SEBI.
2. He is an IAS officer from the Odisha cadre.

3. He succeeded Subhash Chandra Garg, who was the first woman SEBI chief.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: a

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. Tuhin Kanta Pandey is the 11th SEBI Chairman.
Statement 2 – Correct. He is from the Odisha cadre of the IAS.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. He succeeded Madhabi Puri Buch, who was the first woman SEBI chief, not Subhash Garg.

Topic 762

762. Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific

- The **Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum** in **Asia and the Pacific** was launched in **2009**.

Objective

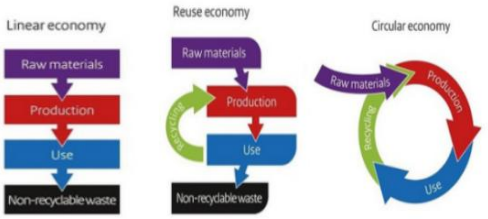
- **3R stands** in the forum stands for **(reduce, reuse and recycle).**
- A **major milestone** was the adoption of the **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013 -2023)**, which outlined **33 voluntary goals** for shifting towards a more resource efficient and circular economy.

Current news?

- The **12th meet** of **Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum** in Asia and the Pacific was **inaugurated in Jaipur.**
- **PM Modi,** while addressing the forum said,India follows the **P-3 (Pro Planet People) approach.**
- At the forum India launched a **new platform** named **Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3).**

Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)

- **Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)** will be a **multi-nation alliance** for **city-to-city collaboration**, **knowledge-sharing**, and **private sector partnerships**.
- C-3 initiative is part of **Jaipur Declaration (2025-2034)**, a **non-political**, **non-binding commitment** that will **guide the next decade** of efforts towards **resource efficiency** and **sustainable urban growth**.



What is a circular economy?

- A **'circular economy' model,** employs **maximum reuse, recycling and minimize waste.**
- It will help in **improvement of efficiency of industries** and **minimize environment pollution** due to industries.

Q2288. With reference to the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, consider the following statements:
1. The forum was launched in 2009 with the goal of promoting reduce, reuse, and recycle strategies.
2. The Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013–2023) adopted during the forum laid down 33 voluntary goals for a resource-efficient economy.
3. The forum is an initiative of the World Economic Forum and is organized annually in Geneva.
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 – Correct. The forum began in 2009 and promotes the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
Statement 2 – Correct. The Hanoi Declaration outlined 33 voluntary goals for moving towards a circular economy.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. The forum is not organized by the World Economic Forum nor held in Geneva; it is a UNCRD-led initiative involving Asia-Pacific countries.

Q2289. Consider the following statements regarding recent developments at the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum:
1. It was inaugurated in Jaipur, India, and addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
2. India launched a platform named Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3) at the event.
3. The Jaipur Declaration (2025–2034) adopted at the event is a legally binding international agreement for circular economy practices.
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 – Correct. The 12th edition was held in Jaipur and addressed by PM Modi.
Statement 2 – Correct. India launched C-3 as a key platform for urban collaboration.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. The Jaipur Declaration is a non-binding, non-political commitment—not legally enforceable.

Q2290. With reference to the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3), launched during the 12th Regional 3R Forum, consider the following statements:
1. C-3 aims to promote collaboration between cities across countries to share circular economy solutions.
2. The initiative focuses solely on governmental cooperation and excludes private sector participation.
3. C-3 is aligned with the vision of the Jaipur Declaration (2025–2034).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All three

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct. C-3 promotes city-to-city collaboration and knowledge sharing.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. C-3 includes private sector partnerships as part of its multi-stakeholder framework.
Statement 3 – Correct. C-3 is part of the Jaipur Declaration 2025–2034.

Topic 763

763. National Board for Wildlife meeting

- It is **apex body** in India responsible for **wildlife conservation and protection** of **endangered species** and habitats.
- It operates **under** the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- Constituted under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Composition

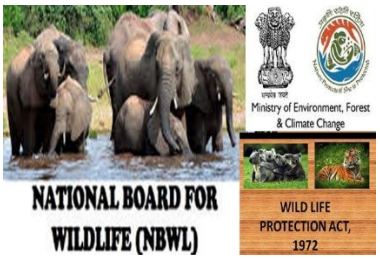
- **Chairperson**: **Prime Minister of India (ex-officio).**
- **Vice-Chairperson**: **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

Members:

- Official members: Representatives from **relevant ministries** (Forests, Agriculture, Tribal Affairs, etc.).
- **Non-official members**: Experts, conservationists, and NGOs working in wildlife conservation.
- **State representatives: Chief Ministers of states** and **UTs** where wildlife conservation is a major concern.

Current news?

- **PM Modi** chaired **first full body** meet of the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** meeting held at **Sasan, Gujarat's Junagadh district.**
- The meeting coincided with **World Wildlife Day.**
- The **last full-body NBWL** meeting, with its **47 members** was **held on September 5, 2012**, and was **chaired by then PM Manmohan Singh**.
- Normally **standing committee of NBWL** headed by **minister of MoEFCC takes most of the decisions.**



Functions of NBWL

- **Formulates national policies** for the **protection of wildlife** and their habitats.

- **Suggests strategies** to reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife.
- **Grants or denies approval for infrastructure projects** (like roads, dams, and industries) in and around **protected areas**.

Q2291. With reference to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), consider the following statements:
1. The NBWL is the apex statutory body for wildlife conservation in India and functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It was constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chairperson of the NBWL.
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 – Correct. NBWL is the apex body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. It was constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, not the Environment Protection Act.
Statement 3 – Correct. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairperson of the NBWL.

Q2292. Consider the following statements regarding the composition of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):
1. The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change serves as its Vice-Chairperson.
2. Non-official members include conservationists and NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation.
3. The Board does not include representation from state governments.
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 – Correct. The MoEFCC Minister is the Vice-Chairperson.
Statement 2 – Correct. NBWL includes non-official members like experts and NGOs.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. Chief Ministers of relevant states are also members.

Q2293. With reference to the recent developments in NBWL, consider the following statements:
1. The first full-body meeting chaired by PM Modi was held at Sasan in Gujarat's Junagadh district.
2. The previous full-body meeting of NBWL was held in 2012 and chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
3. Decisions of the NBWL are taken solely by its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson without committee inputs.
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 – Correct. The 2024 meeting was held at Sasan, Gujarat, chaired by PM Modi.
Statement 2 – Correct. The last full-body meeting was in 2012, chaired by PM Manmohan Singh.
Statement 3 – Incorrect. Most decisions are taken by the Standing Committee chaired by the MoEFCC Minister, not solely by the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson.

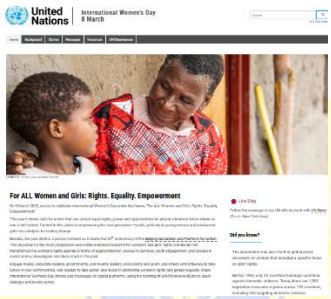
Topic 764

764. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- **March 8** is celebrated as the **International Women's Day** all over the world.
- The **United Nations (UN) officially recognized** International Women's Day in **1977** and is the organization that celebrates it on March 8th each year.
- The **theme for 2025** International Women's Day is:**"For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."**
- Besides, the year **2025 is a pivotal moment** as it marks the **30th anniversary** of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.**

Beijing Declaration

- The **Beijing Declaration** also known as **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)** was adopted at the **Fourth World Conference on Women** (FWCW) **conducted by the UN** in **Beijing**, China, in September 1995.
- It is considered a **landmark document** for advancing **gender equality** and *12* **women's rights** worldwide.
- The BPfA remains a **global reference** for **gender equality policies.**
- Subsequent international meetings **Beijing+5**(in 2000), Beijing+10(in 2005), Beijing+15(in 2010), **Beijing + 20 (in 2015)** have evaluated progress and reaffirmed commitments.
- It has led to **policy changes** in education, health, and legal rights for women **worldwide** including in **India.**



Q2294. With reference to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), consider the following statements:
1. The Beijing Declaration was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995.
2. It is considered the first-ever international document to address women's legal rights.
3. The declaration continues to serve as a global framework for promoting gender equality.
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 – Correct. The Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing in 1995, where the Beijing Declaration was adopted.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. While important, it was not the first international document on women's rights. Earlier documents include the CEDAW (1979).
Statement 3 – Correct. The BPfA continues to be a global reference for gender equality.

Q2295. Consider the following statements regarding the global review process of the Beijing Platform for Action:
1. The Beijing+10 summit was held in 2005.
2. The Beijing+15 meeting reaffirmed global commitments to women's rights and took place in 2020.
3. These periodic summits have helped evaluate and reinforce the progress made toward gender equality.
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 – Correct. Beijing+10 was held in 2005 to assess progress.
Statement 2 – Incorrect. Beijing+15 was held in 2010, not 2020.
Statement 3 – Correct. These summits have helped in monitoring and reinforcing commitments to women's rights.

Q2296. With reference to International Women's Day and the Beijing Declaration, consider the following statements:
1. The United Nations officially recognized International Women's Day in 1977.
2. The theme for International Women's Day 2025 is "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."
3. The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
Which of the above statements is/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 UN recognized International Women's Day in 1977.

Statement 2 – Correct. The 2025 theme is "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."
Statement 3 – Incorrect. 2025 marks the 30th anniversary, not 25th, of the 1995 Beijing Declaration.

Topic 765

765. APAAR ID system

- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry **(APAAR) ID** is a unique **12-digit identification** number assigned to students across India, aligning with the **"One Nation, One Student ID" initiative** under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- This ID serves as a **lifelong academic identifier,** consolidating a **student's educational records,** achievements, and credentials into a **centralized digital platform.**

Key Features of APAAR ID

1. Lifelong Academic Identity

- Provides a permanent academic record, facilitating seamless transitions between educational institutions.

2. Centralized Record Management

- Digitally stores academic achievements, including degrees, diplomas, certificates, and co-curricular accomplishments.

3. Credit Transfer Facilitation

- Integrates with the **National credit Framework** & **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**, enabling students to accumulate, transfer degree/credit.

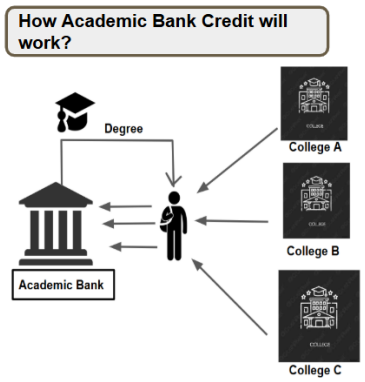
Note-

- **National credit Framework** & **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) discussed on Day 4 (topic 34).**

Current news?

- The government claims **enrollment is voluntary**.
- **But CBSE issued a circular** in January, instructing **schools to ensure 100% APAAR ID coverage**,

APAAR ID system enrollment is **voluntary,** not mandatory.



Q2297. With reference to the APAAR ID system, consider the following statements:
1. APAAR is a 10-digit academic identifier introduced under the NEP 2020.
2. It aims to consolidate a student's educational records and achievements into a centralized digital platform.
3. It facilitates integration with the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the National Credit Framework.
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: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Incorrect APAAR is a 12-digit unique identifier, not 10-digit.
Statement 2 – Correct It digitally stores and centralizes academic credentials, achievements, and records.
Statement 3 – Correct It integrates with both the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the National Credit Framework to facilitate credit accumulation and transfer.

Q2298. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the APAAR ID system?
(a) To assign biometric identification to students for security purposes
(b) To track employment data of graduates
(c) To maintain a lifelong digital academic record for each student
(d) To replace Aadhaar for student verification

Ans: c

Sol: APAAR ID serves as a permanent academic identifier, allowing a student's academic journey — from school to higher education — to be tracked and consolidated digitally.

Q2299. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the implementation status of the APAAR ID system?
1. The government has declared APAAR enrollment as mandatory.
2. Despite claims of voluntariness, CBSE has instructed schools to ensure 100% enrollment.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Incorrect The government maintains that enrollment is voluntary, not mandatory.
Statement 2 – Correct However, CBSE issued a circular in January asking schools to ensure 100% APAAR ID coverage, raising questions about its voluntary nature in practice.

Topic 766

766. Narasu Appa Mali case (1951)

Background

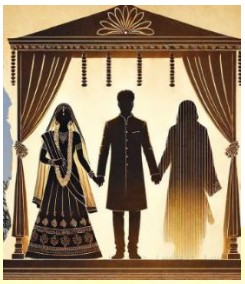
- **Narasu Appa Mali** was a **Hindu man from Bombay (now Mumbai)**.
- He was **accused of bi-gamy** (second marriage even when first wife is alive) under **Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946**.

Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946

- A pre-independence **personal law** passed by the **Bombay Legislative Assembly.**
- To **prohibit bigamy** among **Hindus** within the **Bombay Province** (which included present-day Maharashtra and Gujarat).
- Narasu Appa Mali was **convicted** under this law for marrying a second time.
- He **challenged the Act in Bombay High Court**, arguing that it **violated his fundamental rights** (**Article 14** & 15 of the Constitution) because it **applied only to Hindus** and **not to Muslims.**

Bombay High Court verdict

- The Bombay High Court **upheld the Act.**
- The Court said **personal laws are not "laws"** under **Article 13** and hence **cannot be challenged for violating fundamental rights.**



Article 13

- Article 13 declares **that any existing law**, at the commencement of the Constitution, that is **inconsistent with Part III** (Fundamental Rights) **would be void**.

Q2300. With reference to the Narasu Appa Mali case (1951), consider the following statements:
1. The case challenged the constitutional validity of a law that criminalized bigamy among Hindus.
2. The Bombay High Court struck down the law, holding it violated Articles 14 and 15.
3. The petitioner argued that the law was discriminatory because it did not apply to Muslims.
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: c

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct Narasu Appa Mali challenged the Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946, which criminalized bigamy among Hindus.

Statement 2 – Incorrect The High Court upheld the Act, stating that personal laws are not "laws" under Article 13.
Statement 3 – Correct The petitioner contended the law was discriminatory as it applied only to Hindus and not Muslims.

Q2301. What was the primary legal reasoning of the Bombay High Court in upholding the Act in the Narasu Appa Mali case?
(a) The Act promoted uniform civil code.
(b) The Act applied equally to all religious communities.
(c) Personal laws are not considered "laws" under Article 13 of the Constitution.
(d) The Constitution allows religious freedom even in criminal matters.

Ans: c

Sol: The Bombay High Court ruled that personal laws do not fall within the scope of Article 13, and hence, they cannot be tested against fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution.

Q2302. Which of the following articles were cited by Narasu Appa Mali in his constitutional challenge to the Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946?
(a) Article 21 and Article 25
(b) Article 15 and Article 16
(c) Article 14 and Article 15
(d) Article 13 and Article 32

Ans: c

Sol: Narasu Appa Mali argued that the law discriminated based on religion, thus violating Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 15 (Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth).

Topic 767

767. Menhir

- A menhir is a **standing or an upright stone**, which is usually **tapered at the top.**It is **man-made**, in that it is **sculpted** and **placed by humans.**
- Menhirs (standing stones) are **found** across various regions in **Europe, Africa, and Asia**, with a **concentration in Western Europe.**
- They belong to **prehistoric times** (period in human history before the invention of writing).
- The **largest surviving menhir** is the **Great Broken Menhir in Brittany, France**, once stood at 20.6 m tall.

Current context

- The **Mudumal megalithic menhirs** in **Telangana's Narayanpet district** has been added to the **UNESCO's tentative list** of **cultural sites** by the World Heritage Centre in 2025.
- The Mudumal menhirs are **3,500 to 4,000 years** old and are the **oldest known menhirs in India.**

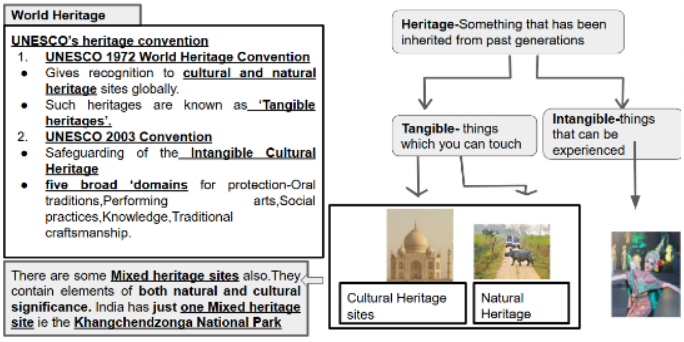
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- A **specialised agency** of the United Nations (UN).
- **Headquartered**-World Heritage Centre in **Paris.**
- Founded in **1945.**

Aim

- To promote **world peace and security** through international cooperation.

Mudumal megalithic menhirs in Telangana. X/@MinOfCultureGoI



Q2303. With reference to Menhirs, consider the following statements:
1. Menhirs are man-made standing stones, often associated with prehistoric times.
2. The Great Broken Menhir in France is the tallest known surviving menhir.
3. Menhirs are found only in Western Europe.
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: a

Sol: Statement 1 – Correct Menhirs are upright, man-made stones from prehistoric times.
Statement 2 – Correct The Great Broken Menhir in Brittany, France, is the tallest surviving menhir (20.6 m).
Statement 3 – Incorrect Menhirs are found across Europe, Africa, and Asia, not only in Western Europe.

Q2304. What is the significance of the Mudumal menhirs recently added to UNESCO's tentative list in 2025?
(a) They are the oldest Buddhist relics in India.
(b) They are the tallest menhirs in the world.
(c) They are the oldest known menhirs in India.
(d) They mark the first discovery of Stonehenge-like structures in South India.

Ans: c

Sol: The Mudumal megalithic menhirs, located in Telangana's Narayanpet district, are 3,500–4,000 years old and have been added to UNESCO's tentative list as India's oldest known menhirs.

Q2305. Which of the following statements about UNESCO is/are correct?
1. UNESCO was founded in 1945 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
3. The World Heritage Centre, which manages cultural heritage listings, is part of UNESCO.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 – Incorrect UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, not Geneva.
Statement 2 – Correct It is a specialised agency of the UN.
Statement 3 – Correct The World Heritage Centre is a part of UNESCO and manages heritage site listings.

Topic 768

768. Hanif Qureshi vs State of Bihar (1958) case

- The petitioners, including Mohammad Hanif Qureshi, were part of the **Qureshi community**, traditionally engaged in the **slaughter of cattle** and **selling beef**.
- The **State of Bihar** passed a **law prohibiting the slaughter** of **all categories of cows**, **Bulls and bullocks.**

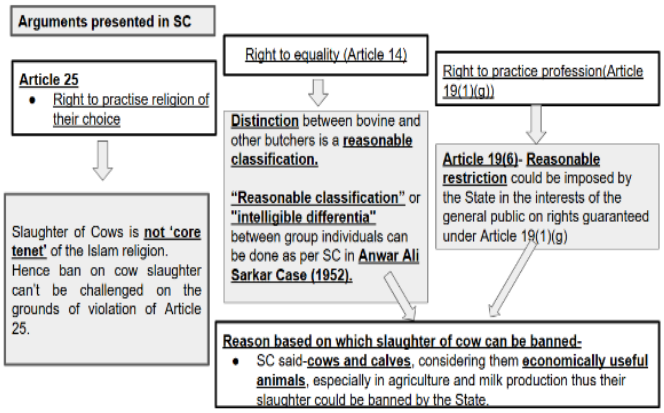
Hanif Qureshi vs State of Bihar (1958) case

- The petitioners **challenged the ban in Supreme Court,** arguing that the law violated their 3 fundamental rights-

1. Right to equality (Article 14)-as the laws separated bovine butchers from other butchers.
2. Right to practise religion of their choice (Article 25)
3. Right to practise any **profession** or to carry on **any occupation, trade or business (Article 19(1)(g))**

.SC view

- The Supreme Court **upheld the constitutionality of the ban** on slaughter of cows and calves of cows.
- The **Supreme Court** took cow slaughter issue from **economic viewpoint**, **not religious.**
- The judgment **provided scope for laws around cow protection and animal slaughter** bans in India. Eg Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021.



Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021

- Cattle **"over 14 years of age"** or those "**unfit for work"** in **Assam** subject to a **"fit-for-**

slaughter certificate" issued by a **local veterinary officer** after **examination.**
- **Cow cannot be slaughtered** regardless of age.

Q2306. In the Hanif Qureshi vs State of Bihar (1958) case, which of the following fundamental rights were claimed to be violated by the petitioners?
1. Article 14 – Right to Equality
2. Article 19(1)(g) – Right to practice any profession or carry on any occupation
3. Article 25 – Freedom of religion
4. Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: a

Sol: The petitioners argued that the ban on cattle slaughter violated their rights under Articles 14, 19(1)(g), and 25. Article 21 was not part of the argument in this case.

Q2307. What was the Supreme Court's rationale in upholding the ban on cow and calf slaughter in the Hanif Qureshi case?
(a) The slaughter ban was essential for religious harmony
(b) Economic considerations outweighed the petitioners' rights
(c) The Constitution allows for absolute restrictions on food practices
(d) The petitioners failed to prove their religious identity

Ans: b

Sol: The Supreme Court upheld the ban from an economic viewpoint, emphasizing animal preservation and agricultural utility, rather than framing it as a religious issue.

Q2308. According to the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Cattle over 14 years of age may be slaughtered only after receiving a fit-for-slaughter certificate.
2. Cows can be slaughtered if they are medically unfit and over 14 years old.
3. A veterinary officer must examine the animal before issuing a slaughter certificate.
4. Cow slaughter is prohibited in Assam irrespective of age or fitness.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: b

Sol: Cattle over 14 years or unfit for work may be slaughtered with a certificate,
But cow slaughter is strictly prohibited, regardless of age or fitness.
Statement 2 is incorrect.

Topic 769

769. Dare2eraD TB initiative

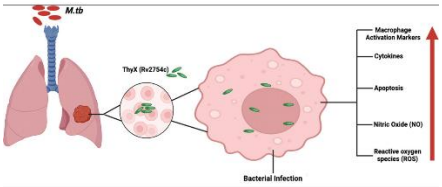
- The Dare2eraD TB initiative is a **government-led scientific program** launched by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under the **Ministry of Science and Technology.**
- It stands for:**"Data-Driven Research to Eradicate Tuberculosis".**
- The initiative was announced in **2022.**

Objective of Dare2eraD TB
- To **eliminate tuberculosis (TB)** from **India by 2025** through:

1. Advanced **genomic research**,
2. **Early detection** of **drug-resistant TB**,
3. **Better diagnostics** and treatment options,
4. **Data-driven** policy making.

Genome Sequencing
- Under Dare2eraD TB initiative aim is to **sequence 32,500 TB bacterial genomes**.
- As of now, **10,000 samples** have been **sequenced.**

By Genome sequencing-
a. Scientists can **spot those changes/mutations in Mycobacterium bacteria**.
b. They can predict **which drug will work** and **which won't.**
Thus, Genome sequencing under Dare2eraD TB initiative can **help** in **curbing rise of drug resistant TB.**



Q2309. What is the primary objective of the Dare2eraD TB initiative launched by the Department of Biotechnology?
(a) To promote TB vaccination across rural India
(b) To eliminate tuberculosis from India by 2030 using AI
(c) To eliminate tuberculosis from India by 2025 through data-driven scientific research
(d) To distribute free TB medicines in all government hospitals

Ans: c

Sol: The Dare2eraD TB initiative stands for Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB, and aims to eliminate TB in India by 2025.

Q2310. Which of the following is/are components of the Dare2eraD TB initiative?
1. Genome sequencing of Mycobacterium tuberculosis
2. Development of better diagnostics and treatment
3. Randomized community trials of traditional medicines
4. Early detection of drug-resistant TB
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: c

Sol: The initiative does not include traditional medicine trials, but focuses on genomic research, drug resistance, and improved diagnostics.

Q2311. In the context of the Dare2eraD TB initiative, genome sequencing of TB bacteria helps in which of the following ways?
(a) Developing vaccines for malaria
(b) Determining which TB drug will be most effective
(c) Creating food supplements for TB patients
(d) Increasing immunity levels among healthy individuals

Ans: b

Sol: Genome sequencing detects mutations in the TB-causing bacteria, enabling scientists to predict drug resistance and recommend effective treatments.

Topic 770

770. Zero hour in parliament

Question Hour

- Question Hour in both Houses is held **on all days of the session**.

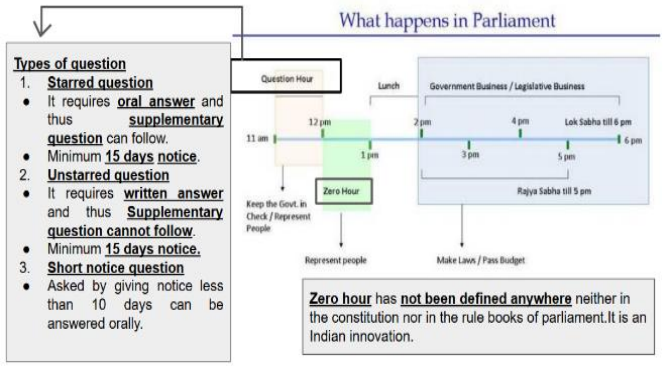
But there are two days when an exception is made.

1. The **day the President addresses MPs** from both Houses in the Central Hall.
2. The day the **Finance Minister presents the Budget**.

- Though generally **questions are asked to the ministers** but the rules of the Parliament allow them to ask **questions to the other colleague's MPs is also.**
- **Only once** in the history of parliament question hour was **suspended**- during the **winter season of 1962 to because of Sino India war.**

Zero hour

- Zero Hour is an **Indian parliamentary innovation.**
- The concept of Zero Hour **started organically in the first decade of Indian Parliament,** when MPs felt the need for raising important constituency and national issues.



Q2312. Which of the following statements about the Question Hour in the Indian Parliament is/are correct?
1. Question Hour is held on all sitting days of Parliament without exception.
2. It is the first hour of every sitting of the House.
3. It was suspended once in history due to the Indo-China war.
4. Members can only ask questions to Ministers, not to fellow MPs.
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect as Question Hour is not held on two occasions: when the President addresses Parliament and when the Union Budget is presented.
Statement 4 is incorrect because MPs can also ask questions to fellow MPs, as per the rules.

Q2313. Zero Hour in the Indian Parliament refers to:
(a) The time immediately before the lunch break when new bills are introduced
(b) The first hour of parliamentary sitting when ministers answer questions
(c) The time immediately after Question Hour when MPs raise important matters without prior notice
(d) The last hour of a sitting when voting on bills takes place

Ans: c

Sol: Zero Hour is an Indian innovation and is not mentioned in the rule book. It allows MPs to raise urgent issues without prior notice.

Q2314. Consider the following statements about Zero Hour in the Indian Parliament:
1. It is an officially recognized procedure under the rules of business.
2. It started organically in the first decade of the Indian Parliament.
3. It allows MPs to raise matters of urgent public importance.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Sol: Statement 1 is incorrect because Zero Hour is not officially mentioned in parliamentary rules—it's a convention, not a rule.