

IAS 2023

PRELIMS SAMPORNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS Yearly Compilation

Oct 2021 to Jan 2023

POLITY

- ❑ Comprehensive coverage of last 1.5 years of current affairs
- ❑ Crisp notes in Pointers for Quick Revision
- ❑ Topic-wise Previous Year Questions
- ❑ Practice MCQs to validate your learning
- ❑ All-important Newspapers, Magazine, government Sites covered
- ❑ Fused static & dynamic



Edited by **MANOJ K. JHA**

YOUR **BOOSTER** DOSE

PRELIMS FACT FILE



**2+ YEARS PRELIMS
CURRENT AFFAIRS TESTS**



**ALL INDIA OPEN
MOCK TEST**



7+ YEARS UPSC PYQ



PIB COMPILATION



**GS ANALYST:
Daily CURRENT AFFAIRS**



NCERT REVISION TESTS



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER / DOWNLOAD



1B, Second Floor, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi - 110005 (Beside Karol Bagh
Metro Station Gate No. 8)



8448496262



iasscore.in

Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	7	2. CENTRE STATE RELATION	20
1. SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION	1	◦ Centre reconstitutes Inter-State Council	20
◦ Uniform Civil Code	1	◦ Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal.....	20
◦ Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha	2	◦ Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh	21
◦ Suspension of MPs.....	3	◦ Belagavi border dispute	22
◦ Attorney General's Consent.....	3	◦ Previous Year Question	23
◦ Office Of Profit.....	4	3. JUDICIARY	24
◦ Anti-Defection Law	4	◦ Collegium system and revive NJAC	24
◦ Remission in Bilkis Bano Case	5	◦ Recusal of Judges	24
◦ National Anti-Doping Bill.....	6	◦ SC delivers split verdict on Karnataka hijab ban.....	25
◦ Rules For Tapping a Phone	6	◦ Law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all.....	25
◦ Changes in Bhakra Beas Management Rules	7	◦ Supreme Court's demonetization verdict.....	26
◦ Session of Parliament.....	8	◦ Transfer of High Court judges.....	27
◦ Rising Conflict among Chief Minister and Governor	9	◦ Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction to decide a matter on merits: Supreme Court.....	28
◦ SC refers 'death penalty' issues to a Constitution Bench	10	◦ Review Petition by Centre on the Supreme Court's Judgement.....	28
◦ Prisons in India.....	10	◦ Judicial Accountability.....	29
◦ Regulation of the Digital Ecosystem in India	11	◦ Public Interest Litigation	30
◦ Caste Census & 7th Schedule	12	◦ Contempt of Court	30
◦ DigiYatra, the contactless passenger processing system	12	◦ SC expands meaning of vulnerable witnesses.....	31
◦ World Day Against Child Labour	13	◦ Judicial Infrastructure	32
◦ Power to grant Remission vs. Pardoning between Centre and State	14	◦ Justice Dinesh Sharma to head UAPA tribunal	32
◦ Kesvananda Bharati and the 'Basic Structure' doctrine.....	15	◦ Supreme Court on short tenures of Chief Election Commissioners.....	33
◦ New Land Grant Rules in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K).....	16	◦ Supreme Court expands Article 19 ambit.....	34
◦ 13 New districts in Andhra Pradesh.....	16	◦ Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary	35
◦ Seven new districts in West Bengal	17	◦ Live-Streaming of the Supreme Court's Proceedings	36
◦ Previous Year Question	18		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ad hoc Judges36 ◦ Language of Courts in India37 ◦ Lok Adalat.....37 ◦ Previous Year Question38 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN.....57 ◦ Rights of Persons with disability58 ◦ Laws against corporal punishment59 ◦ NCRB: Rise in case of Preventive Detention60 ◦ Language as a barrier: Including mother Tongue in Higher Studies.....60 ◦ Surjapuri and Bajjika dialects61 ◦ Identification of Minorities62 ◦ Diameter Of Censorship Laws In India ..63 ◦ Hate Speech.....63 ◦ Sedition Law in India64 ◦ Previous Year Question65
4. ELECTIONS40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Election Freebies40 ◦ ‘One Nation, One Election’, Assessing The Idea41 ◦ Right To Vote For Under Trials And Civil Prisoners’41 ◦ India’s New Proposal For Migrant Voting..42 ◦ Authorisation To Issue Of Electoral Bonds.....43 ◦ Recognition As National And State Political Party44 ◦ One Candidate, One Constituency45 ◦ Assessing Possibility Of Postal Ballots For Nri.....45 ◦ Social Media And Elections45 ◦ Internal Democracy In Political Parties ..46 ◦ Dispute Over Party’s Symbol.....46 ◦ Uidai Enrolment Of Prisoners.....47 ◦ Electronic Voting MaChines (Evms)48 ◦ Previous Year Question49 	
5. RESERVATION50 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Feasible Criteria For EWS Reservation....50 ◦ Quota Benefits for Dalit Muslims and Christians51 ◦ Muslim federation to reserve seats for women in its panel.....51 ◦ Reservation for Transgender in India.....52 ◦ Local Reservation in private sector52 ◦ Norms For Quota In Promotion53 ◦ OBC sub-categorisation panel’s report in ‘final stages’54 ◦ Previous Year Question55 	
6. RIGHTS ISSUES56 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Conjugal Rights56 ◦ Centre’s Plea against forced conversion in India57 	
	7. TRIBAL ISSUES67 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ RS passes bill to remove Bhogta Caste from SC list.....67 ◦ Hattis of Himachal Pradesh67 ◦ Supreme Court Strike Down The Vanniyar Kshatriya Quota.....68 ◦ Tribes in Assam hill district seek separate autonomous council68 ◦ De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribe Report In Parliament70 ◦ Expedite classification of nomadic tribes in quota lists, Panel71 ◦ ST status to Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran communities71 ◦ Tulu, and Kodava speakers demand priority for their languages.....72 ◦ Ceasefire with 3 Naga groups extended 73 ◦ Sarna religion in Jharkhand74 ◦ 75 tribal districts for focused TB interventions.....75 ◦ Pahari ethnic community added to Scheduled Tribes list of Jammu and Kashmir75 ◦ Bills to modify ST list in four States.....75 ◦ Previous Year Question76
	8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT79 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Urban Local Government in India78 ◦ Balika Panchayat78 ◦ PESA Act, 1996 completes 25th years79

- Punjab Bans Sarpanch proxies.....79
- Agri-credit societies to be set up in all Panchayats.....80
- Previous Year Question.....80

9. CONSTITUTIONAL & NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODY.....82

- Enforcement Directorate.....81
- SC Ruling on GST Council82
- Central Information Commission82
- CBI Vs State.....83
- National Investigation Agency83
- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' position on new Forest Conservation Rules84
- National Commission of Women85
- Tea Board of India to be overhauled86
- New Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)86
- Eastern Zonal Council.....87
- Dilution of Lokayukta Powers in Kerala..87
- **Previous Year Question.....88**

10. IMPORTANT COMMISSIONS/REPORT/INDEX90

- High-Power Ladakh Committee90
- FSSAI releases State Food Safety Index..91
- Out of 110 nations, India tops the global minority index.....91
- CAG audit report on Assam's NRC93
- Public Account Committee.....93
- The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation report.....94
- Election Commission to start Assam's delimit exercise.....95
- Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2020-21.....96
- Democracy Report 202297
- Chandigarh topped in Indian Swachhta League.....98
- Telangana scoops Swachh Survekshan Gramin, 2022 award.....98
- Social Progress Index 202299
- Press Freedom Index 2022.....100

- Rule of law Index 2022.....101
- Police Commissionerate system.....101
- Grievance Reversals Index.....102
- Child Welfare Committee102
- CAG Report On Functioning of UIDAI...103
- Corruption Perception Index.....104
- Tribal Development Report 2022104

11. MISCELLANEOUS 107

- UGC's regulations for foreign universities in India.....107
- New Media Accreditation108
- Desh Ke Mentor Programme.....109
- Two Finger Test and Constitutionality .109
- iRASTE Project for Road Safety In India110
- Second phase of the GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0)110
- National Air Sports Policy 2022.....111
- Probity Portal.....111
- India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) .112
- NeVA Service Centre113
- Laws covering obscenity in India113
- CSIR gets its first woman chief.....114
- Sashakti: Delhi police's self-defence training helping women fight back.....114
- India's first bridgital autism support network set up.....114
- Raisina Dialogue 2022115
- Draft Rules of Criminal Practice 2020 ...115
- Centre to soon introduce 'Ayush Visa' for foreign nationals116
- Mother Nature' a 'living being' with legal entity: Madras HC.....116
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat.....118
- India's first suicide prevention policy...118
- The idea of one nation, one police uniform.....119
- Rules for displaying the Tricolour120
- **Previous Year Question121**

PRACTICE MCQS 122



For Information, Contact: **8448496262**

| Website: <https://iasscore.in/>

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE **WE** DO!



R. P. SINGH



RAJEEV CHAUDHARY



RASHID YASIN



MANOJ K. JHA



GAURAV BANSAL



SIDDHARTH MITTAL



RAJNISH JINDAL



SHIVLAL GUPTA



RAJVARDHAN



SOURABH MISHRA



SMRITI RAO



ABHISHEKH SAXENA



VIRAJ C. RANE

THE MOST **EXPERIENCED & SEASONED** **SUBJECT EXPERT**

INTRODUCTION

Current affairs are “The Thread” which binds the various stages of the UPSC CSE together, it is also the ropeway to achieve success in this extremely challenging examination finally. Current affairs present themselves in varying forms in the examination- sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. They reflect themselves in the prelims in terms of direct as well as applied questions

GS Score Prelims Sampoorna Current affair Yearly compilation for UPSC CSE prelims 2023 offers holistic Coverage of the last 1.5 years of Current affairs with a special focus on Preliminary examination along with practice questions to validate your learning. The compilation offers pointed and quick notes for effective revision saving you the effort to make separate notes. We have also provided Previous Years Prelims Question at the end of each sectionn to give insight into the type of questions that come in the exam and the way the UPSC expects the aspirants to prepare the topics. The practice questions not only simulate the pattern of the questions asked in the examination but also season you better to navigate through the challenges which one might encounter in the real examination.

These notes are not just quick and handy but covers almost everything that one requires to get a good hold on the area of Current Affairs. With this much effort, current affairs would become a cakewalk for you! This compilation provides lucid and effective content making your learning easy, effective and efficient. A hassle-free logically arranged bouquet of current affairs to master the news in sync with concepts. . So that you shine on May 28th, 2023 and beam with confidence that you know it all and how. Face the examination with confidence and attempt to win.

This edition covers current affairs from October 2021 to January 2023. We will release the second edition in the 1st week of May, covering the current affairs of February to April.

TARGET PT 2023

COMPLETE REVISION *of* PRELIMS
through 6000⁺ MCQs & 70⁺ CLASSES



CLASS & TEST

- 57 Concept cum Revision Classes with Tests
- 20 Prelims Current Affairs Classes + Test



PRELIMS TEST SERIES

- 6 Revision Tests
- 6 Sectional Tests
- 20 Mock Tests



STUDY MATERIAL

- Quick Revision Notes
- Prelims Current Affairs Compilation
- Prelims Fact File



SPECIAL CLASSES

- Special Classes on Economic Survey & Budget
- 20 Special Classes on India Year Book & Mapping



 8448496262  iasscore.in



COURSE FEE
₹ 20,000 (+GST)

1

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Uniform Civil Code

Context: The Supreme Court of India (SC), in a hearing, states that States have power to constitute committees on Uniform Civil Code.

'DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES CALL FOR UCC'

- SC favours UCC throughout India as envisaged under Article 44 of the Directive Principles in the Constitution
- Cites **example of Goa**, says the **state has a UCC for all** irrespective of their religion and no provision for triple talaq
- Says Muslim men whose marriages are registered in Goa cannot practise polygamy
- Says **no attempt made to frame a UCC despite SC appeals** in Shah Bano and Sarla Mudgal cases
- Hindu laws codified in 1956

“ It is interesting to note that whereas the founders of the Constitution in Article 44 in Part IV dealing with Directive Principles of state policy had hoped and expected that the state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territories of India, till date no action has been taken in this regard

—SUPREME COURT BENCH

What is Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

- UCC refers to that part of the law that deals with the family affairs of an individual and denotes uniform law for all citizens, irrespective of his/her religion, caste or tribe.
- The common areas covered by a civil code include:
 - Personal Status
 - Rights related to the acquisition and administration of property
 - Marriage, divorce and adoption

Constitutional provision

- Article 44 deals with UCC.
- It states **that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens, a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.**
- The Constitution calls upon the State to apply UCC principles in making laws as these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country.

Need for such legislation:

- The need for a **uniform civil code** is inscribed in **Article 44** (Article 35 in the draft constitution).
 - This article is included in **Part IV of the Constitution** dealing with the directive principles of state policy.

- The legal nature of the Directive Principles is such that they cannot be enforced by any court and therefore these are non-judicial rights.

First implementing State

In India, **Goa is the only state** to have implemented the directive principle of the UCC and converted it into a law called the Goa Civil Code or the Goa Family Law. The Goa Civil Code is in force since Portuguese times and is considered a Uniform Civil Code. It is the set of civil laws that governs all the Goans irrespective of the religion or the ethnicity to which they belong.

State's power regarding UCC

- As per **Entry 5 of List-III-Concurrent List**, Personal laws (intestacy and succession; will; marriage and divorce), relate to **the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution**, and hence, the States are also empowered to legislate upon them.

Who can enact laws on the Uniform Civil code?

- The Parliament is authorized to make laws on UCC, as per the Constitution of India, with the consultation of States.
 - ▶ This will be done by amending the Constitutional provisions.

State's power regarding UCC

- As per **Entry 5 of List-III-Concurrent List**, Personal laws (intestacy and succession; will; marriage and divorce), relate to **the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution**, and hence, the States are also empowered to legislate upon them.

2. Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha

Context: Delhi High Court asked Central government to explain its stand on a petition for keeping the post of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha vacant.

About Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha:

- Both Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected according to **Article 93** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 94** governs the Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's vacations, resignations, and expulsion from office.
- **Article 95** grants the Deputy Speaker the authority to undertake the Speaker's functions or act in their place.
- **Article 96** of the by-laws highlights that the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker should take himself off their respective offices while a resolution for his removal is being discussed.

Office Term and Removal of Deputy Speaker:

- The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha normally serves the whole term (5 years) of the Lok Sabha.
- The Deputy Speaker can resign sooner if any of the three major conditions are met:
 - ▶ If they are no longer a Lok Sabha member.
 - ▶ If they write to the Speaker and resigns.
 - ▶ If he is impeached by a resolution voted by most of the Lok Sabha members at the time.
- A resolution of this type can only be moved with 14 days' notice.

Powers and Responsibilities of Deputy Speaker:

- When the Speaker's office is unoccupied, the Deputy Speaker takes responsibility. The Deputy Speaker often fills in for the Speaker when they cannot attend a House meeting.
- If the Speaker is unavailable, The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha India holds power over a joint session of both Houses of Parliament.
- Like the Speaker, they also get to cast the deciding vote if there is a tie during voting within Parliament or between both houses.
- The Deputy Speaker enjoys only one special privilege compared with his fellow Speakers – anytime The Deputy Speaker is nominated to a legislative committee, they instantly become its chairman.

3. Suspension of MPs

Context: Suspensions of MPs have become more common in recent years, and have taken place every year since 2019.

What is the reason for suspending an MP?

- The general principle is that it is the role and duty of the **Presiding Officer — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha** — to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.
- In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/ Chairman is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House.

What are the Rules under which the Presiding Officer acts?

- **Rule Number 373** of the **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business** says: “The Speaker, if he is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day's sitting.”

4. Attorney General's Consent

Context: The Attorney General gave consent to Mumbai-based activist to initiate criminal contempt of court proceeding against controversial priest of Haridwar conclave.

Role of Attorney General (A-G) of India:

- The A-G is the **Government of India's first law officer**, and has the **right of audience** in all courts of the country.
- **Who can become Attorney General for India?**
 - Under **Article 76(1)**, the A-G is appointed by the President from among persons who are “qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court”.
- **Term of Office:**
 - **Article 76(4)** says “the Attorney-General shall hold office during the pleasure of the President, and shall receive such remuneration as the President may determine.”
- **Duty:**
 - **Article 76(2)** of the Constitution says “it shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President”.

- **Powers**

- ▶ Article 105 of the constitution deals with the powers, privileges, and immunities of the Attorney General.
- ▶ The AG's consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person. Before such a plea can be filed, the Attorney General must sign off on the complaint, determining if it requires the attention of the court at all.

5. Office Of Profit

- Context:**
- The concept of "office of profit", to keep the members away from any temptations, is often in news.
 - It also seeks to enforce the principle of separation of power between the legislative, the judiciary and the executive - a basic feature of the Constitution.

Office of profit under Indian Constitution:

- The term office of profit has **not been defined in the Constitution**.
- But, **Articles 102 (1) and 191 (1)** - which give effect to the concept of office of profit -- prescribe restrictions at the central and state level on lawmakers accepting government positions. Any violation attracts disqualification of MPs or MLAs, as the case may be.
- According to **Article 102 (1) (a)**, a person shall be disqualified as a member of Parliament for holding any office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state, "other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder".
- **Article 191 (1) (a)** has a similar provision for the members of state assemblies.
- However, **Articles 102 and 191** clarify that "a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister".
- Further, the last part of the two provisions protects a lawmaker holding a government position if the office has been made immune to disqualification by law.

6. Anti-Defection Law

Context: Maharashtra political crisis and Governor's crucial role.

Background

- In 1985, the **Tenth Schedule of the 52nd amendment** to the Constitution of India was passed by the Parliament of India.
- Parliament in 2003 passed the **Ninety-first Amendment** to the Constitution of India.

What is Anti-defection Law?

- The anti-defection law punishes individual **Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs** for leaving one party for another.
- It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
- **Provisions:** The members disqualified under the law can stand for elections from any political party for a seat in the same House.

- The decisions on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the **Chairman or the Speaker of such House**, which is subject to ‘**Judicial review**’.
- However, the law does not provide a **timeframe** within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

Can the Governor dissolve the State Assembly?

- Cabinet of a government with doubtful majority cannot recommend dissolution of House; Supreme Court has ruled that floor test is the best way to test majority.
- The Governor can use his **discretionary power** and may choose not to dissolve the Assembly — even if Chief Minister seeks the same — if she is convinced that the council of ministers, in whose name the recommendation is made, does not enjoy the confidence of the House

What is a floor test?

- A floor test is a **legislative procedure** through which an incumbent government that is suspected to have lost majority is required to prove it still retains the confidence of the House.

7. Remission in Bilkis Bano Case

Context: Eleven men, convicted of life imprisonment for gang-raping Bilkis Bano and murdering her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots, walked out of Godhra sub-jail after a panel approved their application for remission.

Determining the ‘legality’ of the grant of remission to the convicts

- Is the Gujarat Government the “appropriate government” as per **Section 432(7) of the CrPC** to grant remission?
 - ▶ The Supreme Court, in **Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah v. the State of Gujarat**, held that the “appropriate government” was the one where the offence took place.
- Is the Centre’s concurrence necessary in cases of remissions?
 - ▶ **Section 435 of CrPC** states that in a case where an investigation is carried out under any Central Act by a central agency (such as CBI in the present case), no order of remission can be passed by the State Government unless concurrence has been produced by the Central Government.
 - **Section 435** makes consultation with the centre mandatory.

What is remission?

- Remission implies reducing the period of a sentence without changing its character.
- Indian laws provide pardoning power sourcing from statutory and constitutional authorities.
- As per law, there are three kinds of remissions —
 - ▶ Constitutional
 - ▶ Statutory
 - ▶ Those earned in accordance with jail manuals
- **Sections 432 and 433 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** lay down rules for the State governments to suspend or remit sentences.

What are the Constitutional Provisions related to remission?

- While **Article 72** of the Constitution empowers the President to grant remission, Article 161 vests similar power with the Governor.

Prison is a subject under the **State List** of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and the management and administration of jails fall under State governments.

Legal Provision related to remission:

- **Section 432 of CrPC** empowers the ‘*appropriate government*’ to suspend or remit the sentence of a prisoner.
- **Section 433A of CrPC** which deals with the power to commute sentences, however, states that a prisoner shall not be released before 14 years of undergoing sentence in the case of two kinds of life convicts:
 - ▶ those found guilty of an offence punishable with death
 - ▶ those whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment under Section 433
- **Section 435** states that in certain cases, the States have to act in consultation with the Central government.
 - ▶ These include cases investigated by the Delhi Special Police Establishment, or by any agency that has investigated an offence under a Central Act other than the CrPC.

The Powers of remission, commutation, and Pardon in the hands of the state government are applicable only to Convicted persons and not in trial cases.

8. National Anti-Doping Bill

Context: The **National Anti-Doping Bill 2021**, which aims to establish a statutory framework for the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**, was recently approved by the Lok Sabha.

About National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA):

- The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) was established as a **registered corporation** under the **Companies Registration Act, 1860**, on November 24, 2005.
- **Mission:** drug-free sports in India
- It implements **anti-doping regulations** in accordance with the **WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) code**, overseeing the doping control program, supporting education and research, and raising awareness of doping and its negative impacts are the main objectives.
- It looks into the planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and enforcing advances in doping control, cooperating with other pertinent national organizations, agencies, and other anti-doping organizations, etc.

9. Rules For Tapping a Phone

Context: Maharashtra's Shiv sena party accused the Centre of protecting IPS officer Rashmi Shukla, under probe for 'tapping the phones' of political leaders in the year of 2019.

What does the law says?

- According to **Section 5(2) of The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** on the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of public safety, phone tapping can be done by the Centre or states.
- This permits interception of telephonic messages/conversation when adhering to prescribed procedures.

Who can tap phones?

- In the states, police have the powers to tap phones.
- At the Centre, 10 agencies are authorised to do so:
 - Intelligence Bureau
 - CBI
 - Enforcement Directorate
 - Narcotics Control Bureau
 - Central Board of Direct Taxes
 - Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
 - National Investigation Agency
 - R&AW
 - Directorate of Signal Intelligence

Delhi Police Commissioner

- Tapping by any other agency would be considered illegal.

10. Changes in Bhakra Beas Management Rules

Context: The Government of India in February 2022 decided to amend the **BBMB Rules 1974**, thereby changing the criteria for the selection of whole-time members of the Board.

About Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)

- The genesis of BBMB lies in the **Indus Water Treaty** signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 whereby waters of three eastern rivers— **Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** — were allotted to India for exclusive use while Indus, Chenab and Jhelum rivers were allocated to Pakistan.
- In India, a master plan was drawn to harness the potential of these rivers for providing assured irrigation, power generation and flood control.
- Bhakra and Beas projects form a major part of this plan and were established as a joint venture of the then undivided Punjab and Rajasthan.
- Following the reorganisation of Punjab on November 1, 1966, and the creation of the state of Haryana, the **Bhakra Beas Management Board** was constituted under **Section 79 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**.

Bhakra Nangal Dam

- Around 226 m high and 518 m long, Bhakra dam is the 2nd highest dam in India after the Tehri dam.
- It is also the highest straight gravity dam in the world.

Bhakra dam is constructed on Satluj river and located in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab border near Nangal city.

11. Session of Parliament

Context: The Winter Session of the Lok Sabha was **adjourned sine die (indefinitely)**, six days ahead of schedule, with the Opposition parties forcing repeated adjournments in the final days over their demand for a discussion on the border issue with China at **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.

Sessions of the Parliament:

- A session of Indian Parliament is the time period during which a House meets almost every day continuously to transact business.
- There are usually **three sessions** in a year:
 - ▶ The Budget Session (February to May)
 - ▶ The Monsoon Session (July to September) and
 - ▶ The Winter Session (November to December).
- A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by **adjournment, adjournment sine die, prorogation or dissolution**.
- The period between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.

Part-V (Article 79 – 122) of the Constitution deals with the organization, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges and powers of the Parliament.

The authority of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

Summoning:

- Summoning is the process of calling all members of the Parliament to meet.
- It is the duty of Indian President to summon each House of the Parliament from time to time.
- The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year.

Adjournment:

- An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks. In this case, the time of reassembly is specified.
- An adjournment only terminates a sitting and not a session of the House.
- The power of adjournment lies with the presiding officer of the House.

Adjournment Sine Die:

- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

Prorogation:

- Prorogation means the termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President under article 85(2) (a) of the Constitution.
- Prorogation terminates both the sitting and session of the House.
- Usually, within a few days after the House is adjourned sine die by the presiding officer, the President issues a notification for the prorogation of the session.
- However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session.

Dissolution:

- Dissolution ends the very life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.
- Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution. Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution.
- The dissolution of the Lok Sabha may take place in either of two ways:
 - **Automatic dissolution**
 - **Order of President**

12. Rising Conflict among Chief Minister and Governor

Context: With the rise in instances of stand-offs between State governments and Governors, there is once again a debate on the role and conduct of Governors.

What are the roles and responsibilities of a Governor? What is the significance of the post?

- The Governor is essentially a link between the **Centre and the States**.
- The Governor has various functions, such as addressing the joint session of the Assembly and the Budget session and signing Bills that have been passed by the Assembly.
- The Governor has both **administrative** and **political functions** to perform.

What do the Constitutional provisions say regarding the appointment of the Governor?

- The appointment and powers of government can be derived from **Part VI** of the Indian constitution.
- **Article 153** says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
- As per **Article 155** of the Constitution, the Governor is appointed by the '**President**'.
- The governor acts in a '**Dual Capacity**' as the Constitutional head of the state and as the representative.
- He is part of a **federal system** of Indian polity and acts as a bridge between union and state governments.
- **Article 157 and Article 158** of the Constitution of India specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor. They say a governor must:
 - Be a citizen of India.
 - Be at least 35 years of age.
 - Not be a member of either house of the parliament or the house of the state legislature.
 - Not hold any office of profit.
- The term of governor's office is **normally 5 years** but it can be terminated earlier by:
 - Dismissal by the president on the advice of the council of ministers headed by the prime minister of the country.
 - Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted. However, it is the duty of the President to dismiss a governor whose acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.
 - Resignation by the governor.

13. SC refers 'death penalty' issues to a Constitution Bench

Context: The question of providing accused in death penalty cases a “*meaningful, real and effective*” hearing before a trial judge has been referred to a Constitutional bench by the Supreme Court

What is Death Penalty?

- Death penalty stands for the most severe form of punishment.
- It is the punishment which is awarded for the most heinous and grievous crimes against humanity.

Crime punishable by death penalty

- **Offences:** Certain offences under Indian Penal Code, for which the offenders can be sentenced to punishment of death are: -
 - Murder (Section 302)
 - Dacoity with murder (Section 396)
 - Criminal Conspiracy (Section 120B)
 - Waging war against the Government of India or attempting to do so (Section 121)

The numbers

- There were 488 death row prisoners in India in 2021, according to Project 39A's “Death Penalty in India” report. This was the highest recorded since 2004, when it was reported to be 563.

In **Jagmohan Singh vs State of UP** (1973), then in **Rajendra Prasad vs State of UP** (1979), and finally in **Bachan Singh vs the State of Punjab** (1980), the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional validity of the death penalty (Principle of death penalty to be awarded in Rarest of Rare case was established).

14. Prisons in India

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested prison reforms to improve jail management and recommended repealing obsolete criminal laws.

What is the present situation?

- ‘Prisons’ is a **State subject** under **State List** of the **Seventh Schedule** to the Constitution of India.
- The management and administration of Prisons falls exclusively in the domain of the State Governments, and is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prison Manuals of the respective State Governments.
- Thus, States have the primary role, responsibility and authority to change the current prison laws, rules and regulations

Rights of Prisoners

Various fundamental rights under **Article, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India** impliedly deal with the rights of prisoners.

- **Article 14** deals with right to equality which provides equality before law and equal protection of law to all persons.
- **Article 20** deals, inter alia, with two things, firstly it prohibits double jeopardy, that is, no person should be convicted for same offence twice. Secondly, it prohibits self-incrimination, that is, no one can be compelled to be witness against himself.
- **Article 21** deals with right to life and personal liberty.
- **Article 22** provides that a person must be produced before magistrate within 24 hours of his arrest and must be provided with a counsel of his own choice.

Committees associated with prison reforms

- Justice Amitabh Roy committee
- Mulla committee
- Krishna Iyer committee

15. Regulation of the Digital Ecosystem in India

Context: Despite several transformative progresses made in the digital payment sphere, it is continuing amid a sea of regulatory uncertainty. Rapid adoption has thrown up the new policy in regulatory challenges.

Digital ecosystem: Social media platforms, OTT platforms, online apps, metaverse and block chain.

Recent Government measures for regulating the sector:-

- In 2022 itself, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the draft amendment to the **IT Rules 2021 (June 2022)**
- Draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy (February 2022)
- National Data Governance Framework Policy (May 2022)
- New cyber security directions (April 2022)
- India is also working on a complete overhaul of its technology policies and is expected to soon come out with a replacement of its IT Act, 2000, which is expected to look at ensuring net neutrality and algorithmic accountability of social media platforms, among other things.

How digital ecosystem is changing India?

- **Jan-Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity:** Ensuring delivery of government schemes to its beneficiaries without leakage or misuse.
- **SVAMITVA Yojana:** Provided digital land records to the rightful owners by leveraging the power of drones and GIS technologies.
- **Bharat Net:** provided high-speed broadband to all the village.
- **Common Service Centers (CSCs):** offering banking, insurance, state and central government services, passport and PAN card services, digital literacy, rural eCommerce services and pre-litigation advice etc.
- **Digital payments revolution:** UPI and Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Systems (AEPS), AEPS-based micro-ATM at CSCs and post offices.

India's digital ecosystem

- India has over 825.30 million Internet users and around 1.2 billion mobile users. 1.3 billion people — almost 90 per cent of India's population — have Aadhaar, and over 80 per cent of Indians aged 15 or more have a bank account.

The Trendsetters:

- **Digital Services Act (DSA):** The European Union (EU) has given final approval to online safety-focused legislation, which is an overhaul of the region's social media and e-commerce rules.
- **US and Australia, also catching up:** The US and Australian initiatives are still brewing, as are those in several other parts of the world. The principles of regulation are mostly aligned, reflecting their unease with the inconceivable growth and influence of Big Tech.

16. Caste Census & 7th Schedule

Context: The Supreme Court refused to entertain a batch of pleas challenging the Bihar Government's decision to conduct a caste survey in the State.

Points highlighted in the petition

- The subject of the survey falls in List 1 of the **7th Schedule** of the Constitution and only the Centre has the power to hold the exercise.

Three Lists in the Seventh Schedule

- Article 246 of the Constitution mentions three lists in the Seventh Schedule — union, state, and concurrent lists thereby affecting the delivery of public goods.
- **The Three Lists are:**
 1. **Union List:** The Union list comprises those subjects on which only the Union Parliament may enact laws. Under this, subjects of national importance such as foreign affairs, railways, banking, Defence are included.
 2. **State List:** It comprises those subjects on which the legislature to the state only can make laws such as public order, police, public health and sanitation, betting and gambling and others.
 3. **Concurrent List:** This list includes those subjects on which both Union and State have concurrent powers, which includes education, population control and family planning, forests, criminal law, social and economic planning, electricity, marriage, and divorce and others.

What is Caste Census?

- It means inclusion of **caste-wise tabulation** of India's population in the Census exercise.
 - Census Exercise is a decennial count of the Indian population.
- From 1951 to 2011, every census in India has published the population of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**, along with the gamut of data including religions, languages, socio-economic status, etc.
- It, however, has never counted **OBC's, the lower and intermediate castes**, which according to the **Mandal commission** make up around **52 per cent of the country's population**.
- All castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are counted under the **general category**.

17. DigiYatra, the contactless passenger processing system

Context: The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) recently announced the soft launch of the Centre's DigiYatra initiative, rolling out the beta version of its app for Android platforms.

About DigiYatra:

- DigiYatra is the passenger processing system based on facial recognition technology.
- It has been piloted at the Delhi airport and has had the required infrastructure set up at the airport's Terminal 3.
- DigiYatra envisages that travellers pass through various checkpoints at the airport through paperless and contactless processing, using facial features to establish their identity, which would be linked to the boarding pass.
- With this technology, the entry of passengers would be automatically processed based on the facial recognition system at all checkpoints – including entry into the airport, security check areas, aircraft boarding, etc.

Key Pillars:

Digi Yatra platform will be built on 4 key pillars, like:

- Connected Passengers
- Connected Airports
- Connected Flying
- Connected Systems

18. World Day Against Child Labour

Context: The World Day against Child Labour is held annually on June 12 as a day dedicated to creating awareness about the menace of child labour and human trafficking.

World Day against Child Labour:

- June 12 was officially adopted as World Day against Child Labour in 2002 by the **International Labour Organisation**, a United Nations body that regulated the world of work.
 - The day aims to guarantee a normal childhood to victims of child labour by providing them appropriate support for education, and medical services.
- **Theme:** The theme for World Day against Child Labour 2022 is “**Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour.**”

Child labour:

- **ILO's Convention No. 138** provides that the minimum age for admission to employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling.
- The **ILO's adoption of Convention No. 182 in 1999** consolidated the global consensus on child labour elimination.

Policy interventions against Child labour in India:

- **Child Labour Act (Prohibition and Regulation) 1986:** It prohibits children under the **age of 14 years** to be working in hazardous industries and processes.
- **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act 2016:** It prohibits the employment of children **below 14 years** in all employment and with the provisions for the prohibition on employment of **adolescents (14-18 Years)** in scheduled hazardous occupations and processes.
- The **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2017:** The Rules provide a broad and specific framework for the prevention, prohibition, rescue and rehabilitation of child and adolescent workers.
- Policy interventions such as **MGNREGA 2005** and **Right to Education Act 2009** and **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** have paved the way for children to be in schools along with guaranteed wage employment (unskilled) for rural families.

Constitutional Provisions for Child Upliftment:

- **Article 21 A: 'Right to Education':** The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the **age of 6 to 14 years** in such manner as the State, by law, may determine.
- **Article 24:** Prohibition of employment of children in factories
- **Article 39:** The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing, that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

About NCPCR

- NCPCR is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- The commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

- **Composition:** This commission has a chairperson and six members of which at least two should be women.
- All of them are appointed by the Central Government for three years.
- The maximum age to serve in commission is 65 years for Chairman and 60 years for members.

19. Power to grant Remission vs. Pardoning between Centre and State

Context: In the latest order of the **Supreme Court (under Article 142)** for the immediate release of convicts in the **Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**, pardoning power of President and Governor has been highlighted.

About**Scope of power to grant Pardoning vs. Remission:**

- Both the **President and the Governor** have been vested with **sovereign power of pardon** by the Constitution, commonly referred to as '**mercy**' or '**clemency power**'.
 - **Article 72:** President can grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence in all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a court-martial.
 - **Article 161:** A Governor can grant pardons,

The terms:

- **Remission:** In remission, the nature of the sentence is remained untouched; **while the duration is reduced** i.e. the rest of the sentence need not be undergone. For example, if a person is sentenced to a term of **20 years**, his sentence is now reduced to **15 years**.
- **Pardon:** Means to absolve from the consequences of a fault or crime and to allow (an offense) to pass without punishment or to forgive.

reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment, or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of anyone convicted under any law on a matter which comes under the State's executive power.

- **Article 163** requires the Governor to exercise his/her *functions* on the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**. Therefore, the Governor is mandated to act on this advice, being the nominal Executive Head of the State.

What does the Constitution say?

- **For President vs. Governor:** The President, under **Article 72** of the Constitution, could consider a claim for pardon or remission, and not the **State Governor**, if the offence involved was based on a parliamentary law.
- **For Supreme Court vs. High Court:** In the Constitution of India, 1950; **Article 226** - Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; **Section 432** - Judicial Review - Appeal against the High Court judgment which allowed the request for remission itself on the premise that it is covered by the policy - It was not within the domain of judicial review for the learned judge to have himself exercised the power of remission.

20. Kesvananda Bharati and the 'Basic Structure' doctrine

Context: The recent statement by Vice President has slammed the **Supreme Court's landmark 1973 judgement in the Kesavananda Bharati case** in which it ruled that Parliament had the authority to amend the Constitution but not its basic structure.

What does the Basic Structure mean?

- The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of **federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy**.
- The Constitution of India provides for '**judicial review**' to safeguard the citizens' liberties and to preserve the ideals on which the Constitution is based.

Who was Kesvananda Bharti?

- He was a monk from Adi Shankaracharya's tradition born in 1940.
- Kesavananda Bharati took sanyas at the **age of 19** and headed to the Edneer Mutt, a Hindu monastery in Kasargod, Kerala.
- In 1961, still only 21, he was appointed as the head of the Mutt, a position he held till his death in 2020.

The Edneer Mutt is believed to have been established by Totakacharya, one of four original disciples of **Adi Shankaracharya** (credited to have synthesised the non-dualistic philosophy of Advaita Vedanta).

- He fought against the **Kerala government's land reforms** and aims when he took the Kerala government to court in February 1970.

- Rather, he was challenging the 1969 Land Reforms enacted by the communist C. Achuta Menon government which had affected his Mutt. Under the reforms, Edneer Mutt lost a large chunk of its property, which contributed to its financial woes.
- Filing a writ petition in the Supreme Court, Kesavananda Bharati argued, that this action violated his fundamental rights – in particular, his fundamental **right to religion (Article 25)**, **freedom of religious denomination (Article 26)**, and **right to property (Article 31)**.

21. New Land Grant Rules in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K)

Context: Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has notified “J&K Land Grant Rules 2022” which has ended the owner’s right to hold on to properties on lease in the Union Territory (U.T.) and plans to outsource these properties afresh online.

Background:

- The **Land Grants Rules 1960** includes land grant rules for J & K, under which land was granted on lease for **99 years** and had the provision of extension.
- However, it no more exists, post-5 August 2019, when **J&K Reorganization Act 2019** was enacted.
- Now, the government has decided to hold the auction **online for the leased land**.

What are the new land reforms?

- All the outgoing lessees shall immediately hand over the possession of the land taken on lease to the government.
- In case of failing to do so, the outgoing lessee shall be evicted.
 - ▶ **Exception:** All the subsisting or expired residential leases have been kept out of the purview of the new rules.
 - ▶ The lease period has been reduced to 40 years, earlier it was for 99 years.
 - ▶ Besides, it also states that the outgoing lessees will be paid for any structure built on the land, ‘**provided the lessee has not violated any of the conditions of the lease**’.

22. 13 New districts in Andhra Pradesh

Context: Andhra Pradesh government inaugurated **13 new districts in the state**. The state now has 26 districts, double the earlier number of 13.

Total districts in India: As of August 2022, there are a total of 766 districts, up from the 640 in the 2011 Census of India and the 593 recorded in the 2001 Census of India.

The new districts

- **The new districts are:** 1) Parvathipuram Manyam, 2) Anakapalli, 3) Alluri Seetharama Raju, 4) Kakinada, 5) Konaseema, 6) Eluru, 7) Palnadu, 8) Bapatla, 9) Nandyala, 10) Sri Sathya Sai, 11) Sri Balaji, 12) Annamaya, and 13) NTR.

How a new district is created?

- The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments.
- This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly.
- Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette.

Role of Centre

- The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. **States are free to decide.**
- The **Home Ministry** comes into the picture when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station.



23. Seven new districts in West Bengal

Context: The West Bengal cabinet has approved the creation of seven new districts in the state.

State's Population

- In West Bengal, South 24-Parganas district sprawls over almost 10,000 sq km; North 24-Parganas is about 4,000 sq km in area — with populations of more than 8 million and more than 10 million each (2011).

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. A constitutional government by definition is a

- (a) government by legislature
- (b) popular government
- (c) multi-party government
- (d) limited government

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy.
2. The Constitution of India provides for 'judicial review' to safeguard the citizens' liberties and to preserve the ideals on which the Constitution is based.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. The Preamble to the Constitution of India is

- (a) a part of the Constitution but has no legal effect
- (b) not a part of the Constitution and has no legal effect either
- (c) a part of the Constitution and has the same legal effect as any other part
- (d) a part of the Constitution but has no legal effect independently of other parts

4. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model?

1. As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.
2. In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

5. Which one of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character?

- (a) The independence of judiciary is safeguarded.
- (b) The Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units.
- (c) The Union Cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties.

- (d) The Fundamental Rights are enforceable by Courts of Law.

6. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. There is only 'one citizenship and one domicile'.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted the citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model?

1. As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.
2. In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

8. Which one of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character?

- (a) The independence of judiciary is safeguarded.
- (b) The Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units.
- (c) The Union Cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties.
- (d) The Fundamental Rights are enforceable by Courts of Law.

9. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. There is only 'one citizenship and one domicile'.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted the citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Consider the following statements:


4. A bill amending the Constitution requires a prior recommendation of the President of India.
5. When a Constitution Amendment Bill is presented to the President of India, it is obligatory for the President of India to give his/her assent.
6. A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha by a special majority and there is no provision for joint sitting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

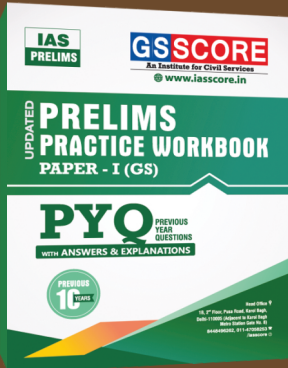
ANSWER KEY

1. (d)	2. (d)	3. (a)	4. (a)
5. (a)	6. (b)	7. (a)	8. (a)
9. (b)	10. (b)		



GSSCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

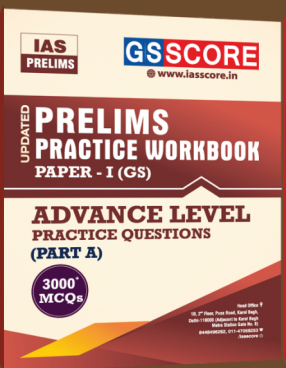
UPDATED PRELIMS PRACTICE WORKBOOK



PRELIMS PRACTICE WORKBOOK
PAPER - I (GS)

PYQ PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS
with ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

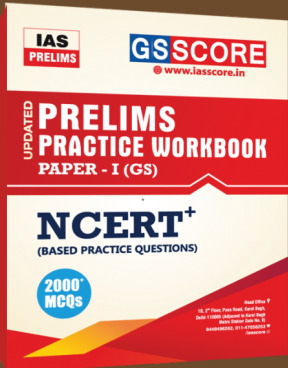
PREVIOUS 10 YEARS



PRELIMS PRACTICE WORKBOOK
PAPER - I (GS)

ADVANCE LEVEL
PRACTICE QUESTIONS
(PART A)


3000 MCQs




PRELIMS PRACTICE WORKBOOK
PAPER - I (GS)

NCERT⁺
(BASED PRACTICE QUESTIONS)

2000 MCQs



PRINTED NOTES



ORDER NOW

CENTRE STATE RELATION

1. Centre reconstitutes Inter-State Council

Context: The Centre has reconstituted the Inter-State Council, which works to promote cooperative federalism.

About Inter-State Council

- **Article 263** of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council.
- It is a **statutory body** that has representatives of the Union government as well as chief ministers of states.
- The Council is for coordination between the states and the Center.
- Instead, the President can establish the council at any time if it appears to him that the public interests would be served by the establishment of such a council.
- **Mandate:** To inquire and advise on interstate disputes and to provide recommendations for better policy coordination.
- **Chaired by:** The Prime Minister.
- **Members:**
 - Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Assembly,
 - the Administrators of the Union Territories without Assembly,
 - the Governors of the States under the rule of the President,
 - the six Ministers in the Cabinet, including the home minister, to be nominated by the PM, and
 - Five ministers of the cabinet rank are permanent invitees of the council.
- **Meetings and decisions:** The council meeting are supposed to be held thrice a year and its decisions on all questions are decided by consensus.
- **Formation of Standing committee:** A standing committee of the council was set up in 1996 for continuous consultation and processing of matters for the consideration of the council.
- The chairman of this standing committee is Union Home Minister.

2. Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal

Context: The stand-off between Haryana and Punjab continues to haunt the proposed Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) as the chief ministers of the two states failed to reach an amicable solution at a meeting hosted by the **Union Jal Shakti ministry**.

What is Sutlej-Yamuna Link?

- The **Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL)** is a proposed 211-kilometre canal.
- It would connect the Sutlej River in Punjab with the Yamuna River in Haryana, providing Haryana with a share of the water from the Ravi and Beas rivers that flow through Punjab.

Background

- The SYL canal project was proposed following the **Indus Water Treaty in 1960** between India and Pakistan, which granted India 'free and unrestricted use' of the **Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers**.
- The canal was also intended to address the dry conditions in the present-day Punjab-Haryana region.
- The **Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal** was planned in 1966 when Haryana was separated from Punjab.
- In 1976, the Government of India approved the construction of the canal.

What are the developments so far?

- While a 121 km stretch of the canal was to be built in Punjab, another 90 km was to be constructed in Haryana.
- Haryana completed its portion of the project by June 1980, but work on the portion in Punjab, which was launched by Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, near the Kapoori village in Patiala district, was stalled.

3. Demand for Rajya Sabha Seat to Chandigarh

Context: Recently, the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has approved a proposal to amend **Article 80 of the Constitution** so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha.

Correlation with Static part

- Article 80 of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House and Rajya Sabha (Upper House).
- So far, Chandigarh has no representation in the Rajya Sabha.

What is the Demand of the Proposed Bill?

- The bill (Private Member Bill) sought the adding of a provision provided that the representative of the Union Territory of Chandigarh in the council of states shall be elected by an electoral college.
- The Electoral College should consist of elected members of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh constituted under the Punjab Municipal Corporation (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994 in Article 80 of the Constitution.
- An amendment has also been sought to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution with 'Entry 32, Chandigarh.
- The fourth Schedule contains provisions as to the allocation of seats in the Council of States.
- It contains the number of seats represented in the Council of states (Rajya Sabha) from each State and Union Territory.

4. Belagavi border dispute

- Context:**
- The decades-old dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over the Belagavi or as Maharashtra likes to call it the Belgaum district, is back in the headlines.
 - Belgaum or Belagavi is currently **part of Karnataka** but is claimed by Maharashtra.

Reorganization of States in India:

- At the time of independence in 1947, **India consisted of nearly 550 disjointed princely states.**
- In 1950, the Constitution contained a four-fold classification of the states of the Indian Union—Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D States.
 - ▶ **Part-A** states comprised nine erstwhile governor's provinces of British India.
 - ▶ **Part-B** states consisted of nine erstwhile princely states with legislatures.
 - ▶ **Part-C** states consisted of the erstwhile chief commissioner's province of British India and some of the erstwhile princely states.
 - ▶ **Part-D** state comprised the Andaman and Nicobar Islands only.
- The grouping of states at the time was done **on the basis of political and historical considerations rather than on linguistic or cultural divisions**, but this was a temporary arrangement.
- On account of the multilingual nature and differences that existed between various states, there was a need for the states to be reorganized on a permanent basis.
- In this context, **in 1948, SK Dhar committee** - was appointed by the government to look into the need for the reorganization of states on a linguistic basis.
 - ▶ The Commission **preferred reorganisation of states on the basis of administrative convenience** including historical and geographical considerations instead of on linguistic lines.
 - ▶ This created much resentment and led to the appointment of another Linguistic Provinces Committee.
- **In December 1948, the JVP Committee** comprising Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya was formed to study the issue.
 - ▶ The Committee, in its report submitted in April 1949, rejected the idea of reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis but said that the issue could be looked at afresh in the light of public demand.
- However, due to protests, **in October 1953, the Government of India created the first linguistic state, known as Andhra state**, by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state.
- The **Fazl Ali**, commission submitted its report in 1955 and it suggested that the whole country be divided into 16 states and three centrally administered areas.
 - ▶ The government, while not agreeing with the recommendations entirely, **divided the country into 14 states and 6 union territories under the States Reorganisation Act that was passed in November 1956.**
 - ▶ Even after the large-scale reorganization of the states in 1956, the political map of India underwent continuous changes due to the pressure of popular agitations and political conditions.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in a Court of Law.
2. When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot effect any modifications in the orders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (c)

IAS-2023

Prelims Test Series

Total 65 Tests (GS + CSAT)

Questions based on UPSC Pattern

Discussion After each Test

Detailed Performance analysis
including All India Ranking

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

ENGLISH
& हिन्दी माध्यम
20+ OFFLINE
CENTERS

Online
&
Offline



3

JUDICARY

1. Collegium system and revive NJAC

Context: The **Chief Justice of India** agreed to reconsider the **Collegium system** and the revival of the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) for judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The National Judicial Appointment Commission:

- **Appointment of CJI:** It provided for the CJI's appointment along with those of the judges for the Supreme Court and HC's Chief Justice judges.
- **The commission shall comprise the following members;**
 - The Chief Justice of India (ex-officio, Chairperson of the NJAC)
 - Two senior Supreme Court judges (ex-officio)
 - The **Union Minister of Law and Justice** (ex-officio)
 - Two eminent persons who are to be nominated by a committee comprising of the CJI, the **Prime Minister of India** and the **Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha** or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then, the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha).
 - One person to be from the **Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBC/Minority/Woman**.
- **Term of the service:** No re-nomination after having served a **term of 3 years**.

2. Recusal of Judges

Context: In a recent development, Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna of the Supreme Court recused themselves from hearing a dispute among the States of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the allocation of the Krishna river water.

What is Recusal of Judges?

There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts.

- When there is a conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case.
- The practice stems from the cardinal principle of due process of law that nobody can be a judge in her own case.

Instances of recusal

- The conflict of interest can be in many ways — from holding shares in a company that is a litigant to having a prior or personal association with a party involved in the case.
- Another instance for recusal is when an appeal is filed in the Supreme Court against a judgement of a High Court that may have been delivered by the SC judge when she was in the HC.

Who decides to recuse?

- Since there are no formal rules governing the process, it is often left to individual judges to record reasons for recusal.
- Some judges disclose the reasons in open court; in some cases, the reasons are apparent.
- The decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest.
- In some circumstances, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge.
- If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench.

3. SC delivers split verdict on Karnataka hijab ban

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict on whether Muslim Girls/ students should shed their hijabs at the Educational Institutions, again igniting the debate around the **Right to profess and follow their religion**.

The Verdict

- One judge affirmed that the state government is authorised to enforce uniform in schools and the other called hijab a matter of choice that cannot be stifled by the state.

About Religious Freedom Protected under the Constitution:

- **Article 25(1)** of the Constitution guarantees the “**freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion**”.
- It is a right that **guarantees a negative liberty** — which means that the state shall ensure that there is no interference or obstacle to exercise this freedom.
- However, like all **fundamental rights**, the state can restrict the right for grounds of **public order, decency, morality, health and other state interests**.

4. Law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all

Context: Against the Vice president’s criticism of the decision taken by National Judicial appointments commission (NJAC), the Supreme Court has held that its judicial pronouncements lay down the law.

The Supreme Court as the ‘law of the land’:

- **Article 141** of the Constitution mandates that law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts including the Supreme Court itself.
- **Article 368** postulates only a ‘procedure’ for amendment of the Constitution and could not be treated as a ‘power’ vested in the Parliament to amend the Constitution so as to alter the ‘core’ of the Constitution, which has also been described as the ‘**basic features/basic structure**’ of the Constitution.

5. Supreme Court's demonetization verdict

Context: The Supreme Court has upheld the decision taken by the government in 2016 to demonetize the currency notes. The court also said that the decision, being the Executive's economic policy, cannot be reversed.

What is the Supreme Court's verdict on demonetization?

- In its **majority 4:1 judgment**, it was held that the Centre's notification dated November 8, 2016, was valid and satisfied the test of proportionality.
- **Procedure Followed:**
- **RBI Approval was taken:** The central government's decision was after the RBI board's approval which shows an in-built safeguard against the center's powers.
- **No Excessive delegation of power:** It cannot be said that there is an excessive delegation of power under the RBI Act to the Centre which is answerable to the Parliament.

What is the test of proportionality?

- Proportionality means that administrative action should not be more drastic than it ought to be for obtaining the desired result. This requires few tests,
- State action must have a **legislative mandate**
- The action must show that the objective of its law is founded on a **legitimate governmental aim**
- It must be proportionate, i.e., such state action — both in its nature and extent, must be **necessary for a democratic society**. Further, such action must **have no alternative** and less intrusive measures available to achieve the same objective
- The principle of proportionality calls for **striking down laws that are excessively harsh or disproportionate**.

Why was demonetization challenged?

- The matter primarily revolved around the procedure prescribed in **Section 26(2) of the RBI Act, 1934, which appears to have not been followed**.
- **According to Section 26(2) of the RBI Act, 1934** the Parliament should have discussed the law on demonetization.
- The process should not have been done through a gazette notification.
- Parliament cannot be left aloof on an issue of such critical importance for the country.

Majority view	Dissenting view
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Centre's decision-making process was not flawed as there was consultation between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Union government. ◦ There was a reasonable nexus to bring such a measure. ◦ The court holds that demonetization was not hit by the doctrine of proportionality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Parliament should have discussed the law on demonetization. ◦ The process should not have been done through a gazette notification. ◦ Parliament cannot be left aloof on an issue of such critical importance for the country.

Article 131 of the Constitution confers on the SCI exclusive original jurisdiction in any dispute amongst the states or the Government of India and state(s) (in any combination) where the dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.

6. Transfer of High Court judges

Context: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud recommended the transfer of 7 judges of High Courts which have drawn arguments against its 'Opaque procedure'.

The Process of selection and transfer:

- The selection and transfer of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court are done by **President** in consultation with the **collegium system**.
- In the case of selection and **transfer of HC judges**, the collegiums consisting of the CJI, 2 senior-most judges of the SC, and the CJ of the concerned High Courts.

Note: The proposal of NJAC to replace the **collegium system** was struck down by SC and after that, the executive is working on a New Memorandum of Procedures to reform the collegium system

- The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- The opinion of the CJI “is **determinative**”.
- CJI is expected to take into account the views of the **Chief Justice of the High Court** from which the Judge is to be transferred and the Chief Justice of the High Court to which the transfer is to be affected.
- The views of one or more **Supreme Court Judges** who are in a position to offer his/their views are also taken into account.

Constitutional Provisions:

Article 222 of the Constitution makes provision for the **transfer of a Judge** (including the Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.

- In the case of the transfer of a Chief Justice, only the views of **one or more knowledgeable Supreme Court Judges** need to be taken into account.
- The views on the proposed **transfer of a Judge or a Chief Justice of the High Court** should be expressed in writing and should be considered by the CJI and the **four senior-most Judges** of the Supreme Court.
- The proposal once referred to the Government, the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs would submit a recommendation to the Prime Minister who will then advise the President as to the transfer of the Judge concerned.
- After the President approves the transfer, the notification will be gazetted and the judge remains transferred.

7. Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction to decide a matter on merits: Supreme Court

Context: The Supreme Court noted that Lok Adalat has no jurisdiction over the matter once it has been determined that a compromise or settlement cannot be reached between the parties.

What are Lok Adalats?

- Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. Simply put, it is one way to resolve differences.
- It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in a court of law or pre-trial stage are resolved peacefully.
- Lok Adalats has been granted legal status under the **Legal Services Act, 1987**.
- Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decision of a public court and is final and binding on all parties and there is no appeal against that award before any court of law.

What types of cases have been handled in Lok Adalats?

- Mutation of land cases
- Compoundable criminal offences
- Family disputes
- Encroachment on forest lands
- Land acquisition disputes
- Motor accident claim
- Cases which are not sub-judice

Key-points highlighted by SC

- The Supreme Court stated that the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 make it clear that the power of Lok Adalat will be to clarify and reach an agreement or settle between the parties to a dispute.
- It said that if the payment or agreement failed, Lok Adalat should return the case to the court where the indictment was found.

8. Review Petition by Centre on the Supreme Court's Judgement

Context: The Centre moved to **Supreme Court (SC)**, seeking a review of the court's order for granting remission to the convicts of the **Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**.

What is the procedure for filing a review petition?

- A review petition must be filed **within 30 days** of the pronouncement of the judgment.
- Except in **cases of the death penalty**, review petitions are heard through circulation by judges in their chambers. They are usually not heard in **open court**.
- Lawyers in review petitions usually make their case through **written submissions**, and not oral arguments.

- The **same judges** who passed the original verdict usually also hear the **review petition**.

Criteria by SC's for review petition:

- In a 1975 ruling, Justice Krishna Iyer said a review can be accepted only where;
 - ▶ A glaring omission or
 - ▶ Patent mistake or
 - ▶ A grave error has crept in earlier by judicial fallibility.
- In a 2013 ruling, the Supreme Court laid down **three grounds** for seeking a review of a verdict it has delivered:
 - ▶ The discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the petitioner or could not be produced by him;
 - ▶ A mistake or error apparent on the face of the record; or
 - ▶ Any other sufficient reason. In subsequent rulings, the court specified that "any sufficient reason" means a reason that is analogous to the other two grounds.

9. Judicial Accountability

Context: In recent times, judicial accountability and judicial independence are seen as the opposite concept but it is necessary to ensure a balance between them.

What is Judicial Accountability?

- The term judicial accountability means that the judges are responsible for the decisions they deliver. It also means that Judges be held accountable for their conduct.
- The Judiciary is not subjected to the same level of accountability as the Executive or the Legislative wings of the Government.

The reason is that the principles of Judicial Independence and Accountability are sometimes regarded as fundamentally opposed to one another.

What is Judicial Independence?

- Judicial independence is considered 'an essential pillar of liberty and the rule of law'. So, if Judiciary is made accountable to the Legislature or the Executive it will impact its Independence. So special provisions have been provided to ensure judicial accountability.

Provision of Judicial Accountability:

Current framework of Judicial Accountability in India

- The Indian Constitution provides for the removal of the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts for **misbehaviour and incapacity** by means of impeachment.
- The provisions of impeachment have been provided in the
 - ▶ Article 124(4)- SC Judge
 - ▶ Article 217(1)(b)- HC Judge

- **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** regulates the investigation procedure and to find proof showing incapacity and misbehavior on the part of the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- **Article 235 of the Constitution** provides for the '**control**' of the High Court over the subordinate judiciary. It provides an effective mechanism to enforce accountability of the lower judiciary.

10. Public Interest Litigation

Context: The Supreme Court (SC) scolded a petitioner for filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) without adequate research.

What is PIL?

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern. The concept of "Public Interest Litigation" has been borrowed from the American Jurisprudence.
- In Indian law, PIL means litigation for the protection of Public Interest. It is Litigation introduced in a court of Law, not by the aggrieved party but by the court itself or by any other private party.
- It is the power given to the public by courts through judicial activism.
- PILs are **extensions of Writ Jurisdiction**. Therefore, PILs may be filed before
 - ▶ **Supreme Court** of India under **Article 32** of the Indian Constitution
 - ▶ **High Court** under **Article 226** of the Indian Constitution
- The concept of PIL is suited to the Principles enshrined in Article 39 A of the Constitution of India to protect and deliver prompt Social Justice with the help of Law.

How PIL is different from Writ Petition?

It is different from Writ Petition, which is filed by individuals or institutions for their own benefit, whereas PIL is filed for the benefit of the general public.

11. Contempt of Court

Context: The Madras High Court recently found activist and YouTuber A.Shankar, popularly known as 'Savukku' Shankar, guilty of **criminal contempt** and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment for his remarks about the higher judiciary.

What is Contempt of Court?

- Contempt of Court can be easily understood as when we are **disrespectful or disobedience towards the court of law which** means that we wilfully fail to obey the court order or disrespect the legal authorities.
- According to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt.
- **Civil Contempt** means wilful disobedience of any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court, or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.

- **Criminal contempt**, on the other hand, means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act

Provision in Indian Constitution:

- **Article 129** says that the Supreme Court shall be the 'Court of Record' and it has all the powers of such courts including the power to punish for contempt of itself.
- The 'Court of Record' means a Court having its acts and proceedings registered for everlasting memory or that memory which has no end and as evidence or proof.
- **Article 142(2)**
 - ▶ When any law is made by the Parliament on the provisions mentioned in clause 1 of this Article, the Supreme Court has all the power to make an order for securing any person's attendance, production of any documents or has the power to give punishment to anyone for its contempt.
 - ▶ This also does not mean that the Supreme Court can do anything against the right of personal liberty if it has power to punish under Contempt of Court.

12. SC expands meaning of vulnerable witnesses

Context: The Supreme Court expanded the meaning of vulnerable witnesses to also include among others sexual assault victims, those with mental illness and people with speech or hearing impairment.

Who is a vulnerable witness?

- A vulnerable witness is a witness to an event such as an accident or crime is a person who saw it.

Issues faced by vulnerable witness

- Vulnerable witnesses find the criminal justice system intimidating, particularly the courtroom experience.
- Under these circumstances, a vulnerable witness may be a poor witness, providing weak testimony and contributing less information than should have been elicited.
- Further, the lengthy process of navigating the formal and adversarial criminal justice system can affect the vulnerable witnesses psychological development and disable this sensitivity in significant and long-lasting ways.

The extended definition

- The vulnerable witnesses will not be limited to mean only child witnesses, but will include
 - ▶ age-neutral victims of sexual assault
 - ▶ gender-neutral victims of sexual assault
 - ▶ age and gender neutral victims of sexual assault under section 377 IPC (unnatural offences)
 - ▶ witnesses suffering from mental illness as defined in Mental Healthcare Act
 - ▶ witnesses with threat perception
 - ▶ any speech or hearing impaired individual or person suffering from any other disability who is considered to be vulnerable by the court concerned

13. Judicial Infrastructure

Context: Department of Justice has been administering various schemes for making the Indian Judicial System robust and well equipped.

What is Judicial Infrastructure?

- Judicial infrastructure includes the physical premises of courts, tribunals, lawyers' chambers, and so on.
- It also involves the digital and human resources infrastructure, including the availability of all the resources that are essential to ensure timely dispensation of justice.

Important Schemes

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary:
- **Set up in:** 1993-94
- **Objective:** to meet the country's expanding justice delivery needs following economic liberalisation in 1991.
- **Funding:** The funding plan uses a ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State; exceptions are the Northeastern and the Himalayan States, where the Union government takes care of 90 percent of the financing, and the UTs, which are 100 percent central-funded.

Other schemes to improve judicial infrastructure

- **E-Courts:** It is a pan-India Project, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, for the District Courts across the country.
- Access to Justice/DISHA
- Action Research for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms

14. Justice Dinesh Sharma to head UAPA tribunal

Context: The Centre has appointed **Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma** as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**, related to the ban on the **Popular Front of India (PFI)**.

About

- The **National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate** had alleged that PFI was engaged in raising and collecting funds from abroad.
- They were also reported transferring funds to India through "**clandestine and illegal channels**".
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its front organizations including its student wing- the Campus Front of India (CFI) as an "**unlawful association**" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- The Muslim organization has been banned for five years along with eight associates or front organizations.

UAPA Law

- **Enacted in 1967**, the UAPA was amended to be **modelled as an anti-terror law** in 2004 and 2008.
- In **August 2019**, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.

- In order to deal with terrorism-related crimes, it **deviates from ordinary legal procedures** and **creates an exceptional regime** where **constitutional safeguards of the accused are curtailed**.

15. Supreme Court on short tenures of Chief Election Commissioners

Context: In a statement came by the Constitution Bench of the **Supreme Court**, the short tenure of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** is hindering the 'independence of the office'.

The Election Commission of India (ECI):

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering **Union and State election** processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

It is not concerned with the **elections to panchayats and municipalities** in the states. **For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.**

Important Constitutional Provisions:

Part XV (**Article 324-329**) of the Indian Constitution:

- **Article 324:** Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
- **Article 325:** No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.
- **Article 327:** Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- **Article 328:** Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
- **Article 329:** Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.

Structure of the Commission:

- Originally the commission had only **one election commissioner** but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body
- The Election Commission shall consist of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix.
- Presently, it consists of the **CEC and two Election Commissioners**.
- At the **state level**, the election commission is helped by the Chief Electoral Officer who is an IAS rank Officer.

The Chief Election Commissioner:

- The Chief Election Commissioner of India heads the Election Commission of India.

- This power of the Election Commission of India is derived from the **Article 324** of the Constitution of India.

Appointment of CEC:

- There is no prescribed procedure for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners as **per the constitution**.
- Under the **Transaction of Business rules**, the President shall appoint the CEC and EC based on the recommendations made by **the Prime Minister**.
- Therefore, it is the **executive power of the President** to appoint CEC and ECs.
- However, according to **Article 324(5)**, the Parliament has the power to regulate the terms of conditions of service and tenure of ECs. It is under this article that the Parliament has made laws till date.

Tenure of Commissioners:	Removal:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. ◦ They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) of India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term. ◦ The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament

16. Supreme Court expands Article 19 ambit

Context: The Supreme Court has supported a case on question of whether “a fundamental right under **Article 19 or 21** of the Constitution of India be claimed other than against the ‘State’ or its ‘instrumentalities’.

About the Judgement:

- The court ruled that a citizen can seek enforcement of the fundamental rights to **freedom of speech** not just **against the state** but extended the ground for seeking these rights **against other citizens**.
- As said under the **4-1 majority** ruled by the Constitution Bench:
 - A fundamental right under **Article 19 and Art.21** can be enforced even against persons other than the **State or its instrumentalities**.
 - The case of heard in view that the right of free speech and expression guaranteed under the Article 19(1)(a) cannot be curbed by any **additional grounds** other than those already laid down in Article 19(2).

Constitutional Backing:

- **Article 19** which guarantees freedom of speech and expression is a right invoked against the state.
- Some fundamental rights such as those prohibiting untouchability, trafficking and bonded labour are explicitly against **both the state and other individuals**.

Basis of the judgement:

- The Court relied on the **2017 verdict in Puttaswamy** where a nine-judge bench unanimously upheld privacy as a fundamental right.
- One of the key arguments by the government was that privacy is a right enforceable against other citizens and, therefore, **cannot be elevated to the status of a fundamental right against the state.**
- The Court also referred to several foreign jurisdictions, contrasting the American approach with the European Courts.
- Referring to the **landmark New York Times vs. Sullivan**, in which the US Supreme Court found that defamation law, as applied by the state against The New York Times, was inconsistent with the Constitutional guarantee of the freedom of speech and expression, the SC noted a shift in US law from a “purely vertical approach” to a “horizontal approach”.

For example, a horizontal application of the right to life would enable a citizen to bring a case against a private entity for causing pollution, which would be a violation of the right to a clean environment.

17. Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary

Context: An unstarred question in the Lok Sabha during the first part of the Budget session of Parliament was asked with reference to artificial intelligence and its use in judicial processes to reduce the pendency of cases.

Machine Learning -based applications in Judiciary

- **SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software)** is a language learning application being used to translate judgments.
- **SUPACE (Supreme Court portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency)** can draft a legal brief, comprise the initiatives being undertaken in the Indian judiciary as part of incorporating ML-based applications.

Additional Information

Artificial Intelligence: It is a field of computer science which makes a computer system that can mimic human intelligence. The Artificial intelligence system does not require being pre-programmed, instead, they use such algorithms which can work with their own intelligence.

Machine Learning: It is about extracting knowledge from the data. It enables a computer system to make predictions or make some decisions using historical data without being explicitly programmed.

Question Hour :

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for this. Question hours are of three kinds:
 - ▶ **Starred Question:** (Distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence, supplementary question can follow.
 - ▶ **Unstarred Question:** These questions require a written answer and hence, supplementary question can't follow.
 - ▶ **Short Notice Question:** It is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

18. Live-Streaming of the Supreme Court's Proceedings

- Context:**
- The Supreme Court decided to live stream its proceedings in crucial Constitution Bench cases. Following the SC's decision, **Gujarat High Court** began live streaming its proceedings in July 2021.
 - Currently, the Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Patna High Courts live stream their proceedings.

Constitutional provision for Live Streaming

- Live-streaming of courtroom proceedings is an extension of the **principle of open courts**.
- The principle of an open court is a significant procedural dimension of the **broader concept of open justice**.
- The Constitution adopts the concept in **Article 145(4)**, which states that the Supreme Court shall be an open court.

Static Correlated Data:

Article 124 to 147 in part v of the constitution deals with organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures, and so on of the Supreme Court.

Methods of live streaming:-

- **Synchronous:** real-time live streaming.
- **Asynchronous:** uploading recordings after certain delay such as the next day.

Global Precedent

- In the **US**, through broadcast of proceedings is not allowed, however, audio recording and transcripts of oral arguments are allowed.
- Other countries including **Canada, South Africa and United Kingdom** also allow media to broadcast court proceedings **Australia and Brazil** also allow live streaming with limitations.

19. Ad hoc Judges

- Context:** Recently, the Supreme Court (SC), suggested a less cumbersome process to appoint ad hoc judges in High courts and also mentioned including retired senior lawyers to act as '**ad hoc judges**' in High Courts, to address the rising pendency of cases.

Who are ad hoc Judges of High Court?

- A judge ad hoc is a judge appointed by a **special procedure** for a specific case, or period only.
- **Tenure:** 2-3 years.
- Depending on the strength of the High Court and the problems it faces, they may appoint 2-5

Difference between ad hoc judges and acting judges:

- In case of absence of main judge, additional judge can act at the place of main judge.
- But **ad hoc judge is temporary**; he acts only at certain occasion in the absence of main judge.

Need to appoint ad hoc judges:

- Faster delivery of justice.

- For reducing pendency of cases in High Courts.
- As number of cases is far more in high court than in Supreme Court, hence to reduce the workload.
- To use experience of the senior judges.

Constitutional Provisions:-

- The appointment of retired judges was provided for in the Constitution under **Article 224A** (appointment of retired judges at sittings of High Courts).
- CJI gives recommendations for judges to be appointed on an ad hoc basis in High Courts.

20. Language of Courts in India

Context: Recently, the Gujarat High Court has asked a journalist facing contempt of court proceedings to speak only in English as that was the language in the higher judiciary.

Language used in Courts of India

- Republic of India has 22 official languages recognized by the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Article 348 (1)** of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.
 - ▶ However as per Clause (2) of Article 348, the Governor of a state, with the previous consent of President of India, can authorize use of official language of the state in proceedings before its high court.

21. Lok Adalat

Context: Lok Adalat has emerged as the most efficacious tool of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

What is Lok Adalat?

- Lok Adalat is a forum where the cases (or disputes) which are pending in a court or which are at prelitigation stage (nor yet brought before the court) are compromised or settled in an amicable manner.
- First, Lok Adalat was organised in Gujrat in 1982.

Jurisdiction of Lok Adalat:-

- A Lok Adalat shall have jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of:
 - ▶ Any case pending before any court, or
 - ▶ Any matter which falls within the jurisdiction of any court and is not brought before such court.
- The offenses which are non-compoundable under any law fall outside the purview of the Lok Adalat.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. Which of the following are included in the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?

1. Dispute between the Government of India and one or more States
2. A dispute regarding elections to either House of the parliament or that of Legislature of a State
3. A dispute between the Government of India and Union Territory
4. A dispute between two or more States.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

2. What is the provision to safeguard the autonomy of the supreme court of India?

1. While appointing the Supreme Court judges, the president of India has to consult the CJI.
2. The SC judges can be removed by the CJI only
3. The salaries of judges are charged on the consolidated fund of India to which the legislature does not have to vote.
4. All appointments of officers and staffs of the SC are made by the govt only after CJI

Choose the Correct options:

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

3. Consider the following statements :

The Supreme Court of India tenders advice to the President of India on matters of law or fact

1. On its own initiative (on any matter of larger public interest).
2. If he seeks such an advice.
3. Only if the matters relate to the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.

Choose the Exp :

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

4. With reference to Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Lok Adalats have the jurisdiction to settle the matters at pre-litigative stage and not those matters pending before any court
(b) Lok Adalats can deal with matters which are civil and not criminal in nature

- (c) Every Lok Adalat consists of either serving or retired judicial officers only and not any other person
(d) None of the statements given above is correct

5. In India, separation of judiciary from the executive is enjoined by

- (a) the Preamble of the Constitution
(b) a Directive Principle of State Policy
(c) the Seventh Schedule
(d) the conventional practice

6. With reference to Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Pursuant to the report of H.N. Sanyal Committee, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 was passed.
2. The Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves.
3. The Constitution of India defines Civil Contempt and Criminal Contempt.
4. In India, the Parliament is vested with the powers to make laws on Contempt of Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. Government law officers and legal firms are recognized as advocates, but corporate lawyers and patent attorneys are excluded from recognition as advocates.
2. Bar Councils have the power to lay down the rules relating to legal education and recognition of law colleges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to the writs issued by the Courts in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mandamus will not lie against a private organization unless it is entrusted with a public duty.

2. Mandamus will not lie against a Company even though it may be a Government Company.
3. Any public minded person can be a petitioner to move the Court to obtain the writ of Quo Warranto.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (c)	2. (a)	3. (b)	4. (d)
5. (b)	6. (c)	7. (c)	8. (b)
9. (b)	10. (c)		




IAS-2024

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services

INTEGRATED TEST SERIES



Single Source of Integrated Preparation
for **PRELIMS & MAINS**

-  **Total 96 Tests, (45 Prelims & 51 Mains Tests)**
-  **One on one doubt clearing sessions**
-  **Approach Classes & Test discussion classes**

More than just the Test Series

4

ELECTIONS

1. ELECTION FREEBIES

Context: The newly elected Punjab government's announcement of providing up to 300 units of free power to every household has again raised questions—whether freebies are 'good or bad' for the economy.

What are freebies?

- Freebies can be defined as something without charge or cost. It is a very well-known and widespread practice during election.
- **Examples:** free electricity, bicycles, coloured TVs, mixers, mobile data, unemployment benefits, scooters, washing machines, and so on

Arguments against Freebies (Important Constitutional Provisions)

- Freebies contravenes various provisions of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 14:** It violates Article 14, the equality clause, as these are targeted only at a few sections of society and not for all.
- **Article 41:** It contradicts Article 41, which obligates the state to secure certain rights for its people within the limits of its economic capacity and development.
- **Article 162:** It also disregards Article 162, as the power to make such promises does not fall under the executive power of the states.
- **Article 266(3) and Article 282:** Spending on them amounts to a violation of Article 266(3) and Article 282 since money can't be appropriated out of the consolidated fund for any purpose that is not recognized in the Constitution.
- **RPA, 1951:** These free assurances are nothing but a form of bribery and, hence, amount to a corrupt practice under **section 123(1)(A)** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

Arguments Supporting Freebies

- Free deliveries advance the preambular ideas and goals enshrined in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)**.
- **Articles 38, 39, and 46** obligate the state to secure social and economic justice, promote the welfare of the people, provide adequate means of livelihood, and promote the interests of weaker sections of society.

2. 'One Nation, One Election', assessing the idea

Context: In 2022, elections were held in 5 states, which once again raised the question of One Nation, One Election, i.e. holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and all state assemblies, at the centre-stage.

The current Indian election cycle

- Currently, elections to the **state assemblies** and the **Lok Sabha** are held separately — that is whenever the incumbent government's five-year term ends or whenever it is dissolved due to various reasons.
- This applies to both the state legislatures and the Lok Sabha.
- The terms of Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha may not synchronise with one another.
 - For instance, Rajasthan faced elections in late 2018, whereas Tamil Nadu will go to elections only in 2021.

About the idea of "One Nation, One Election"

- The idea envisages a system where elections to all states and the Lok Sabha will have to be held simultaneously.
- This will involve the **restructuring of the Indian election cycle** in a manner that elections to the states and the centre synchronise.
- This would mean that the voters will cast their vote for electing members of the LS and the state assemblies on a single day, at the same time (or in a phased manner as the case may be)

Brief history of simultaneous elections in India

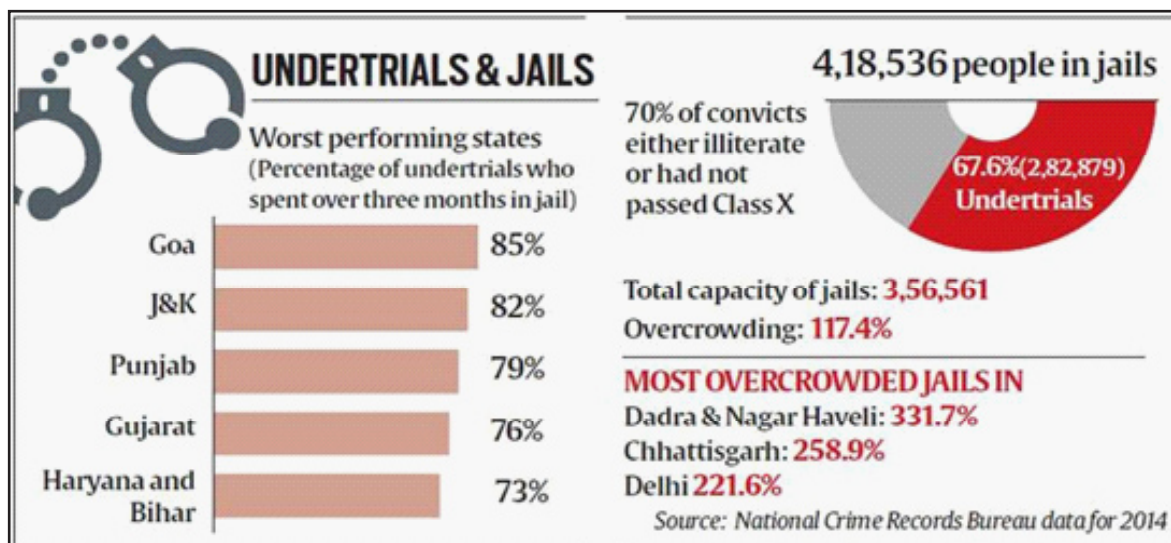
- India did start-off with simultaneous elections. Lok Sabha and state legislatures went to polls together in 1952 and 1957.
- The cycle was first broken in Kerala, in July 1959, when the Union Government of Jawaharlal Nehru used Article 356 of the Constitution to dismiss the state government of the **M. S. Namboodiripad (Communist Party of India)**.
- The idea of reverting to simultaneous polls was mooted in the annual report of the Election Commission in 1983.
- The Law Commission's Report also referred to it in 1999.

3. Right to vote for under trials and civil prisoners'

Context: There is need to give right to vote for under trials and civil prisoners.

The numbers

- The latest **National Crime Reports Bureau (NCRB) report of 2021** shows that a total of 5, 54,034 prisoners were confined as on December 31, 2021, in various jails across the country.
- A hike of **9%. Uttar Pradesh** has the maximum number of under trials (21.2%, 90,606 under trials) in the country followed by **Bihar (13.9%, 59,577 under trials)** and **Maharashtra (7.4%, 31,752 under trials)** at the end of the year 2021.
- This growing number of under-trials and conviction rates lead to keeping a large section of society away from their right to cast their votes over a longer period of time.



Provisions related to Prisoners' right to cast their vote:

- The right to vote is a **constitutional right** under **Article 326** of the Constitution.
- Under **Section 62(5)** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, individuals in the lawful custody of the police and those serving a sentence of imprisonment after conviction cannot vote. Undertrial prisoners are also excluded from participating in elections even if their names are on the electoral rolls.
- Only those under **preventive detention** can cast their vote through **postal ballots**.

4. India's new proposal for migrant voting

Context: The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** proposed its new Remote Electronic Voting Machine (RVM), which would allow domestic migrants to vote in national and regional elections but has seen concerns about the logistical and administrative challenges to remote voting.

About the Remote voting Machine (RVM):

- Remote voting may take place in person somewhere other than an **assigned polling station** or at another time, or votes may be sent by **post** or **cast by an appointed proxy**.
- The ECI in its concept note that the **Multi-Constituency RVM for migrant voting** will have the same security system and voting experience as the EVM.

There have been demands from various political parties that the EC should ensure that **migrant workers, NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) who miss out on voting**, as they cannot afford to go home during elections to exercise their franchise, should be allowed to vote for their constituency from the city they are working in.

How does the current system of Electronic voting take place?

EVMs started being used on a larger scale in 1992 and since 2000, have been used in all Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

- The current EVM setup has a **Balloting Unit (BU)** which is connected to the **VVPAT printer**, both of which are inside the voting compartment.

- The VVPAT is connected to the **Control Unit (CU)**, which sits with the Presiding Officer (PO) and totals the number of votes cast, on its display board.
- Only once the **Polling Officer (PO)** presses the ballot button on the CU, does the BU get enabled for the voter to cast her vote by pressing the key corresponding to the candidate on the ballot paper sheet pasted on the BU.
- The VVPAT, which is essentially a printing machine, prints a slip with the poll symbol and candidate name, once the voter presses the key on the BU.
- This slip is visible to the voter on the VVPAT's glass screen for seven seconds after which it gets dropped off in a box inside the VVPAT.
- Once a vote is cast, the BU becomes inactive till the PO schedules the next vote by enabling it again from the CU.

5. Authorisation to Issue of Electoral Bonds

Context: Recently, Supreme Court Justice B R Gavai, heading a Bench, asked the government whether the electoral bonds' system reveals the source of money pumped in to fund political parties.

What are Electoral Bonds?

- Electoral bonds are an instrument through which anyone can donate money to political parties.
- Such bonds, which are sold in multiples of Rs.1, 000, Rs.10, 000, Rs.1 lakh, Rs.10 lakh, and Rs.1 crore, can be bought from authorized branches of the State Bank of India.
- **Process of Donation:**
 - ▶ As such, a donor is required to pay the amount — say Rs.10 lakh — via a cheque or a digital mechanism (cash is not allowed) to the authorized SBI branch.
 - ▶ The donor can then give this bond (just one, if the denomination chosen is Rs.10 lakh, or 10, if the denomination is Rs.1 lakh) to the party or parties of their choice.



How Political Parties can use these donations?

- The political parties can choose to encash such bonds within 15 days of receiving them and fund their electoral expenses.

- On the face of it, the process ensures that the name of the donor remains anonymous. The source of the donations is hence not revealed to voters.

6. Recognition as national and state political party

Context: Recently, the Aam Aadmi Party became the **9th** National Party of India after the result of Gujarat elections where it gained almost **13% of the vote share**.

Background

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them **recognition as national or state parties** on the basis of their poll performance.
- The other parties are simply declared as **registered-unrecognised parties**.
 - As per the **Representation of People Act 1951**, registered political parties, in course of time, can get recognition as 'State Party' or National Party'.
- At the time of the **first General Elections (1952)**, there were **14 national parties in India**.

- At the time of the first General Elections (1952), there were 14 national parties in India.

Note:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them **recognition as national or state parties** on the basis of their poll performance.
- The other parties are simply declared as **registered-unrecognised parties**.
- As per the **Representation of People Act 1951**, registered political parties, in course of time, can get recognition as 'State Party' or National Party'.

What is a National Party?

- About:** As the name suggests, it has a **nationwide presence** as opposed to a regional party that is restricted to only a particular state or region.
- A certain stature is sometimes associated with being a national party, but this **does not necessarily translate into having a lot of national political influence**.

Declaration as a State Party

A party is recognised as a state party in a state **if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:**

- If it **secures 6% of the valid votes** polled in the state at a general election to the respective state legislative assembly (state LA) and **also, it wins 2 seats in the same state LA**.
- If it **secures 6% of the total valid votes in the state** at a general election to the LS; and **also, it wins 1 seat in the LS from the same state**.
- If it wins **3% of seats in the LA** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or **3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more)**.
- If it wins **1 seat in the LS for every 25 seats** or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the LS from the state concerned.
- If it secures **8% of the total valid votes** polled in the state at a **General Election to the LS from the state or to the State LA**.

7. One Candidate, one constituency

Context: Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner asked the Ministry of Law & Justice to limit the seats from which a candidate can contest to just one.

Provision

- As per Section 33(7) of the RPA (Representation of the People Act), 1951, one candidate can contest from a maximum of two constituencies

What are the Points in Favour of Contesting two Seats?

- The system of one candidate, two constituencies provides a “wider choice to the polity as well as candidates”.
- Doing away with the provision could cause an infringement of the rights of the candidates contesting elections as well as curtail choice of candidates to the polity.

8. Assessing possibility of postal ballots for NRI

Context: The Election commission is contemplating the possibility of **postal ballots for overseas migrants**.

Voting Rules for overseas voters:

- Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010:** After the passing of the Act, NRIs have been able to vote, but **only in person** at the polling station where they have been enrolled as an overseas elector.
 - The provision of having to visit the polling booth in person has discouraged eligible voters from exercising their mandate.
- Amendment to Conduct of Election Rules, 1961:** The Rule was amended in 2016 to allow **service voters** to use the **Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)**.
 - Under this system, postal ballots are sent electronically to registered service voters.
 - The service voter can then register their mandate on the ballot and send it back via ordinary mail.
 - The ECI proposed to extend this facility to overseas voters as well.
- In the case of overseas voters:** the address mentioned in the passport is taken as the place of ordinary residence and chosen as the constituency for the overseas voter to enrol.

9. Social Media and Elections

Context: Recently, the Chief Election Commissioner addressed an international conference for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) hosted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) under the aegis of the United States’ ‘Summit for Democracy’ platform.

ECI’s power to regulate media

- The Election Commission does not regulate media.
- It has however, the responsibility to enforce the provisions of law or Court directions, which might have linkages with media or certain aspects of media functioning.

- These laws are mentioned below:-
 - **Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:** It prohibits displaying any election matter by mean of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.
 - **Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:** It prohibits conduct of exit poll and dissemination of their results during the period mentioned therein, i.e., the hour fixed for commencement of polls in the first phase and half hour after the time fixed for close of poll for the last phase in all the States and Union Territories.
 - **Section 127A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:** The printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters, etc. is governed by its provisions, which make it mandatory to bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher.
 - **Section 171H of the Indian Penal Code:** It prohibits incurring of expenditure on, inter alia, advertisement without the authority of the contesting candidate.

10. Internal Democracy in Political Parties

Context: In Indian democracy, there is an issue of lack of internal democracy in all political parties.

What is *Internal Democracy* in political parties?

- Internal Democracy also known as **intra-party democracy** refers to the level and methods of including party members in the decision-making and deliberation within the party structure.

Can Election Commission of India interrupt?

- In the landmark judgment in *Indian National Congress (I) vs Institute of Social Welfare*, the Supreme Court had reiterated that the ECI **cannot take punitive action** against registered parties for violating the principles of inner-party democracy.

Directives of ECI on Internal Democracy:-

- **Representation of the People Act, 1951: -**
 - The ECI has periodically used guidelines issued for the registration of parties under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to remind parties to conduct elections and to ensure that their leadership is renewed, changed, or re-elected every five years.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has also recently rejected the idea of a '**permanent president**' for a party.

11. Dispute Over Party's Symbol

Context: In recent times, various controversies are erupting regarding the claims of different political party over the same party symbol.

Election symbols and their significance:

- An electoral or election symbol is a standardized symbol allocated to a political party.

Types of Election Symbol:

- As per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2017, party symbols are either “reserved” or “free”.
 - ▶ **Reserved:** Eight national parties and 64 state parties across the country have “reserved” symbols
 - ▶ **Free:** ECI has a pool of nearly 200 “free” symbols. These symbols are allotted to the thousands of unrecognized regional parties in the country.
- They are used by the parties during their campaigning and are shown on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), where the voter chooses the symbol and votes for the associated party.
- The symbol of a party is one of extreme relevance to political survival.
- For many Indian voters who do not read, the symbol is their association with the party when they exercise their franchise. Hence, importance is given to the symbol of the party.

Election Commission’s powers in a dispute over the election symbol when a party splits:

- The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognize political parties and allot symbols.
- EC can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognized political party staking claim to its name and symbol.
- The EC is the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger under the order.

The Supreme Court (SC) upheld its validity in *Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI* in 1971.

- This applies to disputes in recognized national and state parties. However, if any of the parties is not satisfied then they can approach the courts.

12. UIDAI Enrolment of Prisoners

Context: The Unique Identification Authority of India has accepted the ‘Prisoner Induction Document’ as a valid supporting document for the enrolment/updating of Aadhar.

About

- The campaign to extend Aadhaar facility to prisoners was launched in 2017.
- **Section 57 of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** allows the use of the Aadhaar Number for establishing the identity of an individual for any purpose provided that the use of the Aadhaar Number is subject to the procedure and obligations under section 8 and Chapter VI of the Act.

The numbers

- According to NCRB, there are 1,319 prisons in the country with an inmate population of nearly 550,000 as on December 31, 2021.
- The overall Aadhaar saturation level in the country has crossed 93%, and in the case of adult population, it is nearly 100%.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- **Established in:** 2016
- UIDAI is a statutory authority under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, following the provisions of the **Aadhaar Act 2016**.

- The UIDAI was initially set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission.
- **Mandate:** To assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.

13. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMS)

Context: The Election Commission (EC) is working on a plan to introduce remote voting machine for migrant workers.

About remote e-voting machine

- It will be a **standalone device** which doesn't need connectivity to operate.
- **Developed by:** Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) **Electronics Corporation of India Limited.**
 - ECIL and Bharat Electronics are the two PSUs manufacturing the EVMs.
- **Capacity:** It can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth.
- The RVM is a modified version of the **M3 (Mark 3) EVMs.**
- Remote voting may take place in person somewhere other than an **assigned polling station** or at another time, or votes may be sent by **post or cast by an appointed proxy.**

There have been demands from various political parties that the EC should ensure that **migrant workers, NRIs who miss out on voting**, as they cannot afford to go home during elections to exercise their franchise, should be allowed to vote for their constituency from the city they are working in.

RVM contains the following components

- **RCU (Remote Control Unit):** It has similar controls to the existing CU. The RCU can also store the result of the total number of votes as per candidate and the constituency).
- **RBU (Remote Ballot Unit):** It consists of the electronic dynamic display (BUOD) instead of a fixed ballot paper sheet in a BU, BUOD (Ballot unit overlay Display), which can dynamically display the list of candidates based on the constituency number read by the constituency card reader).
- **RVVPAT (Remote Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail):** It has similar functionality to existing M3 VVPAT. In addition, it can store symbols of different AC/PCs with candidate images).
- **CCR (Constituency Card Reader):** It is a barcode reader to read the constituency number of a particular voter. It is connected to the PDCU Unit).
- **PDCU (Public Display Control Unit):** It acts as an interface between CCR, Public display and RBU. It enables the list of candidates of the particular constituency to be displayed on public display and the RBU simultaneously).
- **RSLU (Remote Symbol Loading unit):** It is used to capture symbols of Remote AC/PCs candidates from laptops under the control of Home RO. The same symbols will then be loaded into RVVPAT under the control of Remote RO).

Current electronic voting machine (EVM)

- EVMs started being used on a larger scale in 1992.

- Since 2000, have been used in all Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.
- There have been three iterations of the machine with improved features, the latest one being the M3 model which was manufactured from 2013 onwards.
- The current EVM setup has a Balloting Unit (BU) which is connected to the VVPAT printer, both of which are inside the voting compartment.
- The VVPAT is connected to the Control Unit (CU), which sits with the Presiding Officer (PO) and totals the number of votes cast, on its display board.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. With reference to the election of the president of India, consider the following statements.

1. The value of the vote of each MLA varies from state to state.
2. The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. The Prime Minister of India, at the time of his/her appointment

- (a) need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of one of the Houses within six months
- (b) need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of the Lok Sabha within six months
- (c) must be a member of one of the Houses of the parliament
- (d) must be a member of the Lok Sabha

3. For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by

- (a) Anyone residing in India.
- (b) A resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
- (c) Any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
- (d) Any citizen of India.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, there is no law restricting the candidates from contesting in one Lok Sabha election from three constituencies.

2. In 1991 Lok Sabha Election, Shri Devi Lal contested from three Lok Sabha constituencies.

3. As per the existing rules, if a candidate contests in one Lok Sabha election from many constituencies, his/her party should bear the cost of bye-elections to the constituencies vacated by him/her in the event of him/her winning in all the constituencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Constitution of India, a person who is eligible to vote can be made a minister in a State for six months even if he/she is not a member of the Legislature of that State.
2. According to the Representation of People Act, 1951, a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for five years is permanently disqualified from contesting an election even after his release from prison.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (c)	2. (a)	3. (c)	4. (b)
5. (d)			

5

RESERVATION

1. Feasible Criteria For EWS Reservation

Context: The Supreme Court Constitution Bench has by a 3:2 majority upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which introduced a 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in education and public employment.

Present Scenario of Reservation

CATEGORY	RESERVATION IN PERCENTAGE (%)
Scheduled Caste	15%
Scheduled Tribe	7.5%
Other Backward Class (OBC)	27%
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	10%
Persons with Benchmark Disabilities	4%

EWS QUOTA

- The **10% EWS quota** was introduced under the **103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019** by amending **Articles 15 and 16**.
 - It inserted **Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6)**.
- It is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in educational institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the **50% reservation policy** for **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC)**.
- It enables both the **Centre and the States** to provide reservations to the EWS of society.

Addition of new clause (6) in Articles 15 and 16.

- **Article 15(6)** empowers states to make special provisions for the advancement of any EWS other than those mentioned and to make a special provision on **their admission to educational institutions – including aided or unaided private –** other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of Article 30.

- ▶ This is in addition to **existing reservations** and is subject to a maximum of 10 percent of the total seats in each category.
- **Article 16 (6)** empowers the State to make **any provision** for **reservation of appointments** or posts in favour of **any EWS** other than classes mentioned in clause (4), in addition to the existing reservation and subject to a maximum of **10 percent** of the posts in each category.

Important Case:

Indra Sawhney vs. Union of India (The Mandal Case):

- The landmark Mandal case, **Article 16(4-A) (through 77th Amendment)** and **Article 16(4-B) (through 81st Amendment)** inserted into the constitution:
 - ▶ **Clause 4-A:** According to clause 4-A, nothing in this Article shall prevent the state from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the service of state in favour of the SCs and STs which in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
 - ▶ **Clause 4-B:** Clause 4-B seeks to end the 50% ceiling on the reservation for SCs/STs and BCs in backlog vacancies which could not be filled up in the previous years due to the non-availability of eligible candidates.

2. Quota Benefits for Dalit Muslims and Christians

Context: The Union government told the SC that it was not willing to consider the recommendations of the **2007 Justice Ranganath Misra Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities**, which suggested that reservations benefits be extended to Dalits who accepted Christianity and Islam.

Existing framework of SC's reservation

- According to the existing framework of Scheduled Caste reservations, only those who follow Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism can avail the benefits of reservation.
- Dalits who converted to Islam and Christianity cannot claim reservation, as they lose their Scheduled Caste status once they move out of the fold of Hinduism and the two other religions.

3. Muslim federation to reserve seats for women in its panel

Context: For the first time ever seats have been reserved on caste lines in any Muslim body in the country.

Details

- **Two seats each have been earmarked for women and notified Muslim OBC representatives.** This is the **first time ever that seats have been reserved on caste lines** in any Muslim body in the country.
- There are plans to reserve seats for women and Pasmanda community representatives to the body's **25-member national executive**.

How these changes have been introduced?

- The changes have been brought in with select amendments to the 'Constitution of the Mushawarat'.
- The amendments were brought in through a referendum that took place via a **postal ballot**.
- The moment the amended constitution got the consent of the members, it was considered passed.
- A little over 81% of the members voted in favour of reservation for women through a referendum while nearly 74% voted in favour of **Pasmanda reservation**.

4. Reservation for Transgender in India

- Context:**
- The Delhi High Court issued a notice to the Delhi government on a plea seeking reservation for transgender people in all public appointments in the NCT of Delhi.
 - In India, the trans-population makes up a total of 4.88 lakh, as per the **2011 census**.

Constitutional provisions for Reservation of Transgender

- Currently, Karnataka is the **only state** that provides 1% horizontal reservation for transgender people.
- The reservation of 1% is available in each category – **general, SC, ST**, and in each of the categories under 'OBC'.

In the landmark 2014 judgment by the Supreme Court in **NALSA vs Union of India**, the SC had recognised the constitutional **rights of equality, liberty, and dignity for transgender persons** and had directed the Union and state governments to take steps to treat transgender people *“as socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and extend all kinds of reservations in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments”*.

National Commission for Transgender

- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (40 of 2019), the Central Government has constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons in 2020.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment is the Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).

5. Local Reservation in private sector

- Context:**
- The Haryana government notified that its act of implementing 75% reservation for local people in private jobs with a monthly salary ceiling of 50,000 will come into force from 15 January, 2022.

Some other states have also enacted such laws to provide reservation for their local citizens in the private sector. These include Maharashtra (up to 80 per quota), Karnataka (75 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (75 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (70 per cent).

Current scenario of Reservation

- The Supreme Court ruling that reservations cannot exceed 50% (which it judged would violate

equal access guaranteed by the Constitution) has put a cap on reservations.

- **The current scenario of Reservation in India is:**
 - 15% seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC)
 - 5% seats are reserved for Schedule tribes (ST)
 - 27% seats are reserved for Other backward classes (OBC)

Can a law be framed for reservation on domicile?

- Yes, but only by the Parliament.
- **Article 16(3)** in the Constitution empowers Parliament to provide for domicile-based reservation in public employment and jobs with local or any other authority under a state or a Union Territory.

Restriction on private entity

- **Article 19** does not provide absolute freedom to private companies against the State's regulations upon their business activities.
- **Article 19(1)(g)** guarantees citizens the freedom to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- However, by virtue of **Article 19(6)**, the State can put "reasonable restrictions" on the business activities of companies in "the interests of the general public".

What is 'Locals First' Policy?

- This policy implies that jobs that will be created in a state will be first offered to only people who belong to that state i.e., local people.

Indian Constitution & Migration:

The Constitution of India guarantees 'freedom of movement' and consequently employment within India through several provisions.

- **Article 19** ensures that citizens can "move freely throughout the territory of India".
- **Article 16** guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment.
- **Article 15** guards against discrimination based on place of birth.
- **Article 14** provides for equality before law irrespective of place of birth.

6. Norms For Quota In Promotion

Context: The **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** has asked all departments of central government to collect the data on inadequacy of representation of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** before implementing the policy of reservation in promotion in government offices.

Constitutional backing

- **Reservation is not a Fundamental Right:** It is a settled law that there is no fundamental right to reservation or promotion under Article 16(4) or Article 16(4 A) of the Constitution, rather they are enabling provisions for providing reservation, if the circumstances so warrant.
- **Under Article 15(4) it provides that:** Nothing 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 Tribe.

- **Article 46:** mandates that the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- **The Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995:** By the Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995, which, Article 16(4-A), was inserted to provide that “nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which, in the opinion of the State, are not adequately represented in the services under the State”.
- Later two more amendments were brought,
 - One to ensure consequential seniority (**Article 16(4 A)**)
 - Another to secure carry forward of unfilled vacancies of a year (**Article 16(4 B).**)

7. OBC sub-categorisation panel's report in 'final stages'

Context: After more than five years of formation, the '**commission for the sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes (OBC)**' is now in the final stages of finishing its task of coming up to further classify the nearly 3,000 caste groups within OBC.

Evolution of OBC status in India:

- The **Kalekar Commission**, set up in 1953, was the first to identify backward classes other than the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at the national level.
- The **Mandal Commission Report, 1980** estimated the OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward.
 - It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.

Constitutional Backing for OBC reservation:

- The central government reserved **27% of seats** in union civil posts and services for OBCs [**Article 16(4)**].
 - The quotas were subsequently enforced in central government educational institutions [Article 15 (4)].
- In 2008, the Supreme Court directed **the central government** to exclude the creamy layer (advanced sections) among the OBCs.
- The **102nd Constitution Amendment Act, of 2018** provided constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), which was previously a statutory body under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

About the Commission to review OBC quota:

- The commission was set up on 2nd October 2017 under **Article 340** of the Constitution.
- It was tasked with sub-categorisation of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and equitable distribution of benefits reserved for them.

- It was a **five-member commission**, headed by **Justice G. Rohini (retd)**.
- It was initially given 12 weeks to submit its report to the President of India.
- Since then, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has extended the deadline more than 10 times.
- The distribution of quota for caste groups within OBC is being done remaining under 27% of quota for the OBC share holistically.

- In 2015, the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** recommended that OBCs should be categorised into extremely backward classes, more backward classes, and backward classes.
 - ▶ NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.

For what reason commission is making its Classification:

- To examine the **uneven distribution of reservation** benefits among different castes in the central OBC list.
- To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms, and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such OBCs.
- To take up the exercise of identifying the respective **castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms** for comprehensive data coverage.
- To study and recommend correction of any **repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies, and errors** of spelling or transcription.

Recommendations by the Committee:

- Since the final recommendations have not been disclosed by the committee till now but have been released a few last years.
 - ▶ It has met representatives of state governments, state backward classes' commissions, and community In 2021, the commission proposed to divide OBCs into **four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4** and split the 27% **into 2, 6, 9, and 10%**,
- It also recommended the complete **digitization of all OBC records** and a standardised system of issuing OBC certificates.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to?

1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community of Lok Sabha.
3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (d)			
--------	--	--	--

6

RIGHTS ISSUES

1. Conjugal Rights

Context: A petition questioning a law that forces a woman to return to her husband and denies her sexual autonomy has been pending in the Supreme Court without a hearing.

What are conjugal rights?

In India, marriage is administered by Personal laws which administer the terms like divorce, maintenance, custody and restitution of conjugal rights.

- Conjugal rights are rights created by marriage, i.e. right of the husband or the wife to the society of the other spouse.
- The term Conjugal Rights could be placed against any of the spouses guilty of staying away from the other party without a proper reason.
- If the suit succeeds then the couple would be needed to stay together.

Provisions dealing with Conjugal rights

- **Section 9** of the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, which deals with restitution of conjugal rights,
- This section of the Act recognises one aspect of conjugal rights — the right to consortium and protects it by allowing a spouse to move court to enforce the right.
- The law recognises these rights— both in personal laws dealing with marriage, divorce etc, and in criminal law requiring payment of maintenance and alimony to a spouse.
- At present, the concept of restitution of conjugal rights is codified in **Hindu personal law**.
- Similar provisions exist in **Muslim personal law** as well as the **Divorce Act, 1869**, which governs **Christian family law**.

How this provision disturbs the constitutional rights?

This is a highly debatable subject. This right has also been misused many times, disturbing the:

- Right to Life
- Right to Privacy
- Right to Equality

2. Centre's Plea against forced conversion in India

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs has added that “the Right to freedom of religion does not include a fundamental right to convert people to a particular religion”.

Right to Freedom of religion in India:

- The Indian Constitution allows individuals the freedom to live by their religious beliefs and practices as they interpret these.
- In keeping with this idea of religious freedom for all, India also adopted a strategy of separating the power of religion and the power of the State

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 25:** Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion
- **Article 26:** Freedom to manage religious affairs
- **Article 27:** Freedom to pay taxes for the promotion of any particular religion
- **Article 28:** Freedom to attend religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions.

3. RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Context: SC recognises the Rights to be forgotten (RTBF) as a part of the “Right to privacy”.

What is the Right to be forgotten?

- It is the right to have **publicly available personal information removed from the internet**, search, databases, websites, or any other public platforms, once the personal information in question is no longer necessary, or relevant.
- The RTBF gained importance after the 2014 decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (“CJEU”) in the **Google Spain case**.
- In the Indian context, the Supreme Court in **Puttaswamy Vs. Union of India**, 2017 noted that the RTBF was a part of the broader right of privacy.

The RTBF emerges from the right to privacy under Article 21 and partly from the right to dignity under Article 14.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information from individuals who live and outside of the European Union (EU).
- Approved in 2016, the GDPR went into full effect two years later.

Human Rights Watch's World Report 202

Recently, **Human Rights Watch's World Report 2023** highlighted the Indian authorities had “intensified and broadened” their crackdown on activist groups and the media through 2022.

India-specific data:

- The Indian authorities misused laws forbidding **forced religious conversion** to target Christians, especially from **Dalit and Adivasi communities**.

Basic human rights are:

- **Universal:** They belong to all (everybody in the world)
- **Inalienable:** They cannot be taken away from the people
- **Indivisible and interdependent:** Governments should not be able to pick and choose which are respected.
- **Human Rights can be violated:** Although they are inalienable, they are not invulnerable. Violations can stop people from enjoying their rights, but they do not stop the rights from existing.
- **Essential:** They are essential for freedom, justice, and peace.

Universal Human Rights Declaration:

- The UDHR consists of 30 articles detailing an individual's "basic rights and fundamental freedoms". It is **universally applicable to all human beings of varying races, religions and nationalities**.
- It directly inspired the development of international human rights law and was the first step in the formulation of the International Bill of Human Rights, which was completed in 1966 and came into force in 1976.
- India is a **signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

Provisions related to Human Rights in India

- According to the **National Human Right Commission of India**, **Human Rights** as the rights relating to **life, liberty, equality and dignity** of the individual guaranteed by the **Constitution** or embodied in the **International Covenants** and enforceable by **courts in India**.
- **Human Rights as Incorporated in Indian Laws:**
 - **Indian Constitution** incorporated several provisions of **human rights** in **Indian Constitution**.
 - **Part III of Fundamental Rights from Article 14 to 32**.
 - **Articles 14 to 18 of the Constitution** guarantee the **right to equality for every citizen of India**.
 - **Article 19** deals with freedom of speech and expression and **Article 21** provides the Right to life and liberty.

National Human Rights Commission:

- NHRC was established in 1993.
- The statute under which it is established is the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- The Act provides for the establishment of **State Human Rights Commissions**.

4. Rights of Persons with disability

Context: The 'Accessible India Campaign' (AIC) was launched for making government buildings, public transport and websites accessible for **Persons with disability (PwD)**.

The numbers

- As per Census 2011, in India, out of the total population of 121 crore, **about 2.68 Cr persons are 'Disabled' (2.21% of the total population)**
- Out of 2.68 crore, 1.5 crore are males and 1.18 crore are females.

Constitutional provisions

- **Article 41** of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) states that State shall make effective provision for securing right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, within the limits of its economic capacity and development.
- The subject of '**relief of the disabled and unemployable**' is specified in state list of the **Seventh Schedule** of the constitution.

Legislative backing for Disabled in India

- **Rights of person with Disability Act, 2016:** The Act replaces the **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**.

Programmes and initiatives for PwD in India

- **Accessible India Campaign : Creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs**
- **National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities (RGMF)**
- **DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)**

5. Laws against corporal punishment

Context: Three private school teachers in Pune were booked under the **Juvenile Justice Act** over allegedly thrashing three Class 10 students, and threatening to grade them poorly in internal assessments.

What is Corporal Punishment?

- By definition, corporal punishment means punishment that is physical in nature.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 prohibits 'physical punishment' and 'mental harassment' under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offense under Section 17(2).

Provisions under the law against such punishment:

In theory, corporal punishment is covered by all the provisions under Indian law that punishes perpetrators of physical harm.

- **Section 17 of the Right to Education Act, 2009**, imposes an absolute bar on corporal punishment.
- **Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act** prescribes punishment for cruelty to children.
 - ▶ Violation would invite punishment of rigorous imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to Rs.5 lakh.
 - ▶ If the child is physically incapacitated or develops a mental illness or is rendered mentally unfit to perform regular tasks or has a risk to life or limb, then imprisonment may extend up to ten years.
- **Section 23 of the JJ Act, 2000:** It applies to personnel in childcare institutions regulated by the JJ Act; it arguably applies to cruelty by anyone in a position of authority over a child, which would include parents, guardians, teachers, and employers.
- **Section 323 of IPC:** pertaining to voluntarily causing hurt.
- **Section 325 of IPC:** is about voluntarily causing grievous hurt.

6. NCRB: Rise in case of Preventive Detention

Context: The latest crime statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), have reported a rise in Preventive detentions in 2021 of about 23% compared to 2020.

About Preventive detention

- Preventive detention is the practice of incarcerating accused individuals before trial on the assumption that their release would not be in the best interest of society.

Types of Detentions: -

- Preventive detention** is when a person is held in police custody only based on a suspicion that they would conduct a criminal act or cause harm to society.
- Punitive detention**, which means detention as a punishment for a criminal offense. It occurs after an offense is committed, or an attempt has been made towards the commission of that crime.

Constitutional safeguard against detention:

Provisions of Article 22 related to preventive custody

- Article 22 (4):** It provides that no law for preventive detention authorizes any individual to be detained for more than three months unless an advisory panel claims a reasonable justification for such detainment. This panel shall consist of an High Court Judge
- Article 22 (5):** It specifies that the reason for detention shall be conveyed to the individual as quickly as possible by any official when detaining any individual under preventive detention.

About NCRB

- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Established in:** 1986
- NCRB, set-up under the Ministry of Home Affairs, functions as a repository of information on crime and criminals to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).

7. Language as a barrier: Including mother Tongue in Higher Studies

Context: In sync with one of the focal points of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the promotion of Indian languages in higher education, the Union minister has suggested introducing Indian languages in the study of **Engineering, law, and medicine in the country.**

Constitutional and Legal Provisions Safeguarding Regional Languages

- Article 29 (Protection of interests of minorities)** gives all citizens right to conserve their language and prohibits discrimination on the basis of language.

- **Article 120 (Language to be used in Parliament)** provides for use of Hindi or English for transactions of Parliament but gives the right to members of Parliament to express themselves in their mother tongue.
- **Part XVII** of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Articles **343 to 351**.
- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** says that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in a child's mother tongue.
- Article 350 A facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage.

Government Initiative to promote mother language

- **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:** It marked a departure from the past, as it made a clear case for mother tongue.
- **SWAYAM:** It is an open online courses platform of the Central government, has been offering some popular courses in Indian languages too.
- **Ten States** have accepted Indian languages such as Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, and Bengali as the medium of instruction for engineering courses.
- **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India (SPPEL):** to promote all Indian Languages including endangered languages

8. Surjapuri and Bajjika dialects

Context: Bihar Chief Minister and Education Minister have asked the state education department to set up academies for the promotion of the **Surjapuri** and **Bajjika dialects** on the lines of the Hindi and Urdu academies.

About

- It has been instructed that **these two academies be set up on the lines of eight already existing centres**, constituted for the promotion of other dialects.
- It is also directed that efforts must be made to strengthen all academies and bring them under an umbrella body for their effective functioning.

The eight already existing language academies are;

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◦ Bihar Hindi Granth Academy | ◦ Sanskrit Academy |
| ◦ Maithili academy | ◦ Bhojpuri Academy |
| ◦ Magahi Academy | ◦ Angika Academy |
| ◦ Bangla Academy | ◦ South Indian languages organization |

- The department is currently working to will bring all such academies under one body.

Surjapuri dialects:

- Surjapuri is spoken **mainly in Kishanganj** and other parts of Seemanchal in north-eastern Bihar, including the districts of **Katihar, Purnia and Araria**.
- The dialect, a **mix of Bangla, Urdu, and Hindi**, is also spoken in contiguous parts of West Bengal.
- The name Surjapuri comes from Surjapur pargana, which no longer exists. But there is a toll plaza called '**Surjapur**' between **Purnia and Kishanganj**.

- Although Surjapuri has nothing specifically to do with religion, the largest share of speakers of **the language is made up of Surjapuri Muslims**, who live mainly in Kishanganj, the district that has about 70 per cent Muslim population.
- According to 2011 Census, the total number of Surjapuri-speaking population in Bihar stood at 18, 57,930.

Bajjika dialects:

- **Bajjika**, one of five dialects spoken in Bihar, is a **mix of Hindi and Maithili**, and is spoken mainly in Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, and parts of Sitamarhi, Sheohar and Samastipur.
- Bajjika is not as well-known as other dialects such as **Bhojpuri and Maithili**.
- Although the Bihar education department had considered teaching in **local dialects** up to **Class 5** during the 2010-15 which did not come to fruition.
- An estimate based on 2001 census data suggests that 20 million Bajjika speakers resided in Bihar at that time.

9. Identification of Minorities

Context: Petition before the Supreme Court seeking the identification of Hindus as ‘minority’ in the states and union territories where their numbers are below other communities.

Arguments present in the petition

- According to the numbers of 2011 census, the population of Hindus is less than 50% in the states and union territories of **Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Punjab**.

What does the term ‘minority’ mean according to the Constitution of India?

- The Constitution of India mentioned the term ‘minority’ only on two occasions in Article 29 and in Article 30 but it **nowhere** defines the term.
- Though the Constitution of India **recognizes two types of minorities i.e. religious and linguistic**.

Important Minority Rights

- **Article 29 – Protection of interests of minorities:** Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, Script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.
- **Article 30– Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions:** All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - **Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** had granted minority status to five Communities based on their national population.
 - Muslims (largest minority group in India forming 14% of the total population.)
 - Christians
 - Sikhs
 - Buddhists
 - Parsis
 - Jains

Other important minority rights

- **Article 15** prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion race cast sex or place of birth.
- **Article 17** Prohibits untouchability.
- **Articles 25 to 30** preserve the right of minorities on grounds of religion.
- **Article 25** provides the right to practice any religion.
- **Article 26** allows religious institutions to be opened.
- **Article 27** provides that no person shall be forced to pay any taxes which is not mandatory.
- **Article 28** provides that there shall be no religious instruction to be followed in any particular educational institutions.

Minorities Rights Day in India is celebrated on **18 December every year** to educate people about the right of minorities.

10. Diameter Of Censorship Laws In India

Context: The Indian government announced changes to its information technology rules (IT rules) that will apply to social media companies. The amended rules would give the government control over the content moderation decisions that social media companies make.

Provisions regarding Social Media Censorship

- **Section 69A of IT Act:** The government derives its extensive powers to curtail online content from Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2002 ('IT Act'). This provision empowers the government to block public access to any information through any public resource.
- **Section 95 of the Cr.P.C:** Power to declare certain publications forfeited and to issue search-warrants for the same

Digital media regulation in India

- Recently the government issued an order bringing **online news portals** and **Over the Top (OTT)** content under the regulatory purview of the **Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry**.
- Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe the '**Norms of Journalistic Conduct**' of the **Press Council of India** and the 'Programme Code' under the **Cable Television Networks Regulation Act**.

11. Hate Speech

Context: The debate surrounding the comments by ruling party spokespersons have put the spotlight on the law that deals with **criticism of or insult to religion**.

What is hate speech?

- Hate speech is defined as any form of communication, whether spoken, written, or physical, that criticizes or discriminates against a person or a group based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender, or other identity factor.

Legal Provisions of Hate Speech in India

- **Article 19(2)** of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India.
- Responsible speech is the essence of the liberty granted under **Article 21** of the Constitution.

Legislations around Hate speech

Hate speech has **not been defined in any law in India**. However, legal provisions in certain legislations prohibit select forms of speech as an exception to freedom of speech.

The Indian Penal Code, 1860 (hereinafter IPC);

- **Section 124A** IPC penalises sedition
- **Section 153A** IPC penalises 'promotion of enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony'.
- **Section 153B** IPC penalises 'imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration'.
- **Section 295A** IPC penalises 'deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs'.
- **Section 298** IPC penalises 'uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person'.
- **Section 505(1) and (2)** IPC penalises publication or circulation of any statement, rumour or report causing public mischief and enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

Important Supreme Court Judgements related to Hate speech

Rangila Rasool case, Ramji Lal Modi vs State of Uttar Pradesh, Ramlal Puri vs State of Madhya Pradesh, Baragur Ramachandrappa vs State of Karnataka. etc

12. Sedition Law in India

Context: The Supreme Court recently directed the Centre and states to keep in abeyance all pending trials, appeals, and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, till the central government completes the promised exercise to reconsider and re-examine the provision.

What is sedition?

- **Sedition** is overt conduct, such as speech and organization that tends toward rebellion against the established order.
- Sedition often includes **subversion of a constitution** and incitement of discontent toward, or insurrection against, Established authority.
- Sedition may include any commotion, though not aimed at direct and open violence against the laws.
- A **seditionist** is one who engages in or promotes the interest of sedition.

What is the Sedition Law?

Sedition is an offence against the state, and it is covered in the Indian Penal Code as **Section 124A**.

Sedition is a **non-bailable offence**.

- **Punishment:** It varies from imprisonment up to three years to a life term and fine.

Important Judgment

- In the **Kedar Nath case** on January 20, 1962, SC upheld the constitutional validity of the sedition law but also attempted to restrict the scope for its misuse.
- **Others**
 - Tara Singh Gopi Chand v. The State (1951)
 - Sabir Raza v. The State (1955)
 - Ram Nandan v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1959)
 - Common Cause v. Union of India (2016)
 - S.G Vombatkere v. Union of India (2022)

Fact Box

- **Thomas Macaulay**, who drafted the Indian Penal Code, had included the law on sedition.
- The first application of the law was the trial of newspaper editor Jogendra Chandra Bose in 1891.
- Other prominent examples of the application of the law include the trials of Tilak (1897) and Gandhi (1922).
- Jawaharlal Nehru, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and Abul Kalam Azad were also charged with sedition.
- Sedition was made a **cognizable offence** for the first time in history in India during the tenure of Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi in 1973**, that is, arrest without a warrant was now permissible.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of application of law violates which one of the following articles of the Constitution of India?

(a) Article 14	(c) Article 32
(b) Article 28	(d) Article 44
2. Which one of the following best defines the term 'State'?

(a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organized government	(d) A society permanently living in a definite territory with a central authority, an executive responsible to the central authority and an independent judiciary
(b) A politically organized people of a definite territory and possessing an authority to govern them, maintain law and order, protect their natural rights and safeguard their means of sustenance	
(c) A number of persons who have been living in a definite territory for a very long time with their own culture, tradition and government	
3. What is the position of the Right to Property in India?

(a) Legal right available to citizens only	(c) Fundamental Right available to citizens only
(b) Legal right available to any person	(d) Neither Fundamental Right nor legal right
4. 'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India?

(a) Article 15	(c) Article 21
(b) Article 19	(d) Article 29
5. Consider the following statements:
 1. 'Right to the City' is an agreed human right and the UN-Habitat monitors the commitments made by each country in this regard.

2. 'Right to the City' gives every occupant of the city the right to reclaim public spaces and public participation in the city.
3. 'Right to the City' means that the State cannot deny any public service or facility to the unauthorized colonies in the city.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. Judicial custody means an accused is in the custody of the concerned magistrate and such accused is locked up in police station, not in jail.
2. During judicial custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect without the approval of the court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of application of law violates which one of the

following articles of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Article 14 (c) Article 32
(b) Article 28 (d) Article 44

9. Which one of the following best defines the term 'State'?

- (a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organized government
- (b) A politically organized people of a definite territory and possessing an authority to govern them, maintain law and order, protect their natural rights and safeguard their means of sustenance
- (c) A number of persons who have been living in a definite territory for a very long time with their own culture, tradition and government
- (d) A society permanently living in a definite territory with a central authority, an executive responsible to the central authority and an independent judiciary

10. What is the position of the Right to Property in India?

- (a) Legal right available to citizens only
- (b) Legal right available to any person
- (c) Fundamental Right available to citizens only
- (d) Neither Fundamental Right nor legal right

ANSWER KEY

1. (a)	2. (b)	3. (b)	4. (c)
5. (c)	6. (b)	7. (b)	8. (a)
9. (b)	10. (b)		

7

TRIBAL ISSUES

1. RS passes bill to remove Bhogta Caste from SC list

Context: The **Rajya Sabha** recently passed a Bill that seeks to remove the '**Bhogta caste**' from the list of **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** in **Jharkhand** and include certain other communities in the list of **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** for the state.

Key-highlights

- The **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022** was passed by a voice vote.
- The Bill amends the Schedule to the ST Order to include communities such as **Deshwari, Ganjhu, Dautalbandi (Dwalbandi), Patbandi, Raut, Maajhia, Khairi (Kheri), Tamarla (Tamadia), and Pura** in the list of STs in Jharkhand.

Jharkhand state reservation for SC and ST-

- The state has 10% reservation for SC and 26% for the ST population of the state.
- The **chairman of national commission of scheduled tribes Mr. Rameshwar Oraon** has recommended the inclusion of bhogta caste in Schedule tribe from the schedule caste list.

2. Hattis of Himachal Pradesh

Context: Centre would consider favourably the Himachal Pradesh government's request for inclusion of the Hatti community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the state.

About

- The Hattis are a close-knit community who got their name from their **tradition of selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat and wool etc.** at small markets called '**haat**' in towns.
- The Hatti community, whose men generally don a distinctive white headgear during ceremonies, is **cut off from Sirmaur by two rivers called Giri and Tons**.
- Tons divide it from the Jaunsar Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
- The Hattis who live in the **trans-Giri area** and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur until Jaunsar Bawar's separation in
- Due to topographical disadvantages, the Hattis living in the Kamrau, Sangrah, and Shillia areas lag behind in education and employment.

Societal norms of Hattis

- The Hattis are governed by a **traditional council called Khumbli**, which like the khaps of Haryana, decide community matters.
- The Khumbli's power has remained unchallenged despite the establishment of the **panchayati raj system**.
- The two clans have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are commonplace.
- There is a fairly rigid caste system among the Hattis — the **Bhat and Khash are the upper castes, while the Badhois are below them**.
- **Inter-caste marriages** have traditionally remained a **strict no-no**.

3. Supreme Court Strike Down The Vanniyar Kshatriya Quota

- Context:**
- The Supreme Court has recently repealed the Tamil Nadu special reservation Act of 2021, also known as the 'Vanniyar quota Act'.
 - This judgement has led the Government to overview the present quota system followed by the States and its related validity.

Constitutional provisions for reservation

- **Article 15(4):** Nothing in clause (2) of the Article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially, and educationally backward classes of citizens of or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 46** of the Constitution states that "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

50% ceiling in reservation is not absolute

- **The Supreme Court of India ruled in 1992** that reservations could not exceed 50 % anything above which it judged would violate equal access as guaranteed by the Constitution. It thus put a cap on reservations.

4. Tribes in Assam hill district seek separate autonomous council

- Context:** A forum of ethnic communities excluding **the Dimasa**, the largest, has iterated its demand for carving a separate autonomous district out of the erstwhile **North Cachar Hills** district of Assam.

Background:

- The North Cachar Hills District Council in Assam was set up on April 29, 1952, under **Article 244(2)** of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.
 - It was later recognised as an **autonomous council**.

- The demand was first raised after the **North Cachar Hills district** was renamed **Dima Hasao** on March 30, 2010, to allegedly stamp the authority of the **Dimasa people**.
- The resentment among the other communities intensified after the **North Cachar Hills Autonomous District Council** passed a resolution to rename itself the **Dima Hasao Autonomous Council** with effect from April 26, 2022.
- The **Dima Hasao district** currently has **one Assembly seat**.

There are 13 tribes constitute about **71% of the district's total** population in the district. The major tribal groups in descending order of population are **Dimasa, Kuki, Zeme, Hmar and Karbi**.

About the Dimasa Community:

- The Dimasa society is tradition bound and guided by customs.
- Important feature: existence of male and female clan. The male clan is called **Sengphong** and the female clan is known as **Jadi**
- There are **forty male clan** and **forty-two female clan**.

What is the Sixth Schedule?

- According to **Article 244** of the Indian Constitution, the Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in-
 - Assam
 - Meghalaya
 - Tripura
 - Mizoram
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of **Autonomous District Councils (ADC)**.
- ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

Autonomous districts and regional councils:

- Along with ADCs, the Sixth Schedule also provides for **separate Regional Councils** for each area constituted as an autonomous region.
- In all, there are 10 areas in the Northeast that are registered as autonomous districts –
 - three in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram
 - one in Tripura
- These regions are named as district council of (name of district) and regional council of (name of region).
- Each autonomous district and regional council consists of not more than 30 members, of which four are nominated by the governor and the rest via elections. All of them remain in power for a term of five years.

The current governing structure:

- **Fifth Schedule:** The Frontier State bordering Bhutan, China and Myanmar is under the **Fifth Schedule** that “does not provide special rights for the indigenous communities” unlike the Sixth Schedule.
- **Sixth Schedule:** The Sixth Schedule currently includes 10 autonomous district councils in four north-eastern States — Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

- **Article 371 (A):** Nagaland, on the other hand, is governed by Article 371 (A), which says that no Act of Parliament shall apply in the State in several areas unless the Nagaland Assembly so decides by a resolution.

5. De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribe Report In Parliament

Context: A standing committee of Parliament has criticised the functioning of the development programme for de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes.

About the tribe

- Denotified tribes are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminal' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871.
- After India gained Independence, these tribes were 'de-notified' from the list of Criminal Tribes, and, hence, the term.
- The CTA was repealed and the Habitual Offenders Act (HOA) was enacted in various States.
- Currently, a variant of the HOA Model Bill as proposed by the Union Government stands enforced in 10 States across the country, having been enacted in many more.
- Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are defined as those who move from one place to another rather than living at one place all the time.

At present 269 such Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities are specified and a survey is now in under process to place these castes in SC, ST and BC categories.

Steps taken by Government:

- A **National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT)** was constituted in 2006.
- It was headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke** and submitted its report in June
 - ▶ The report stated that, "It is an irony that these tribes somehow escaped the attention of our Constitution makers and thus got deprived of the Constitutional support unlike Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."
 - ▶ The Renke commission estimated their population at around 74 crore based on Census 2001.
- A new Commission constituted in February 2014 to prepare a state-wise list, which submitted its report in January, 2018, identified 1,262 communities as **de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic**.
- **DWBDNC:** The government set up the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the purpose of implementing welfare programmes.
 - ▶ The DWBDNC was constituted in February, 2019 under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate.
- **NITI Aayog Committee:** Also, a committee has been set up by the **NITI Aayog** to complete the process of identification of the de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities (DNCs).

6. Expedite classification of nomadic tribes in quota lists, Panel

Context: The **Parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment** has asked the centre to speed up the process to categorize 260 de-notified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes under either the SC/ST/OBC lists.

Details:

- The Parliamentary panel has categorically said that:
- The delay is increasing the suffering of potential beneficiaries.
- It is also depriving them of welfare schemes.
- Potential beneficiaries are unable to benefit from schemes for the welfare of SC/STs.

What are Notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes?

- These are communities that are the most vulnerable and deprived.
- DNTs are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminals' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.
- These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified".

Important Commissions and Committees

- Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947
- Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Committee in 1949
- Kaka Kalelkar Commission
- B P Mandal Commission constituted in 1980
- National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), 2002
- Bhiku Ramji Idate Commission

Policy measures for DNTs:

- **Commission:** A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2006 by the then government.
- It was headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke** and submitted its report in June 2008.
- The **Renke commission** estimated their population at around 10.74 crore based on Census 2001.
- **SEED Scheme:** Much recently, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Communities (SEED)**.

7. ST status to Narikoravan, Kurivikkaran communities

Context: Lok Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022**, which seeks to grant Scheduled Tribe status to **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran** communities in Tamil Nadu.

Background

- Lokur Committee and the Joint Committee of Parliament had recommended the inclusion of the community in 1965 and 1967 respectively.
- The Narikoravars constitute one of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu and therefore deserve all constitutional protection and welfare measures envisaged, by its inclusion in the list of STs.

Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran Communities:

- The Narikurava, also called Narikuravar, are an indigenous group from Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- Narikoravan is a nomadic community by tradition.
- Kurivikkaran's traditional occupations is 'trapping birds, especially sparrows' (Kurivi in Tamil denotes sparrow).

Process of Inclusion in ST list:

- The process begins at the level of a State or Union Territory with the concerned government or administration seeking the addition or exclusion of a particular community from the SC or ST list.
- The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 341 and 342.

Criteria for ST list inclusion:

- To establish whether a community is a Scheduled Tribe, the government looks at several criteria, including its ethnological traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture, geographical isolation and backwardness.

8. Tulu, and Kodava speakers demand priority for their languages

Context: Speakers of Tulu and Kodava have opposed the draft of the **Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022**, which aims to ensure the "extensive use and propagation" of the Kannada language.

Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022

- **R. Bannurmth-headed committee** prepared the draft of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill, 2022.
- There is no mention of Kodava and Tulu in the bill.

Tulu

- Tulu is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.

Kodava

- The Kodava is an endangered Dravidian language and it is spoken in the Kodagu district in Southern Karnataka, India.
- The 2011 Census of India, for a total of 113,857 persons who identified one of these languages as their mother tongue.

Protection of Local Languages under the constitution and other provisions

- **Articles 347:** President may direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout that State or any part if he is satisfied that the language is spoken by a substantial proportion of the population of a State.
- **Articles 350:** Every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the Union or a State in any of the languages used in the Union or in the State.
- **Articles 350A:** State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- **Articles 350B:** There shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities.

9. Ceasefire with 3 Naga groups extended

Context: The Centre has extended ceasefire agreement with three Naga groups for further period of one year.

Which are those three insurgent groups of Nagaland?

The ceasefire agreement is in operation between the Centre and the three insurgent groups of Nagaland namely:

- National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN/NK)
- National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN/R) and
- National Socialist Council of Nagaland-K-Khango (NSCN/K-Khango).

About Naga Ceasefire Agreements:

- The Naga groups include NSCN-NK, NSCN-R and NSCN-K-Khango.
- All these groups are breakaway factions of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K).
- This agreement is a significant boost to the Naga peace process and in line with Prime Minister of India's vision of 'insurgency free, prosperous North East'.
- In September 2021, the Centre had entered into a one-year ceasefire agreement with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki Group.
- The Centre had earlier signed a "Framework Agreement" with the NSCN (IM) in August 2015.

THE NAGA STRUGGLE

1918: Naga Club formed. Seeds of Naga nationalism sown	Agreement interpreted as offer for sovereignty by NNC
1946: Naga National Council (NNC) born under the leadership of A.Z. Phizo	1955: NNC begins armed insurgency. Delhi imposes Assam Disturbed Areas' Act
August 14, 1947: NNC declares independence	1958: AFSPA comes into force
June 1947: Haidari	1963: Nagaland born
1964: Nagaland Peace Mission created, ceasefire signed	
1975: Shillong Accord signed, calls for unconditional ceasefire, termed a 'complete sellout'	
	1980: National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) formed
	1988: NSCN splits into NSCN (K) and NSCN (I-M)
	1997: NSCN (I-M) signs ceasefire
	2001: NSCN (K) signs ceasefire
	March 2015: NSCN (K) breaks ceasefire
A.Z. Phizo	August 2015: Naga peace accord signed

10. Sarna religion in Jharkhand

Context: Tension among the tribal-dominated villages in Jharkhand for inclusion of the 'Sarna dharma code' in the religion column in the next census of 2021.

What is the Sarna religion?

- The followers of Sarna are nature worshippers who believe in protecting the forest areas. The holy grail of the faith is "Jal, Jungle, Zameen".
- They worship nature and do not practice idolatry.
- There is neither Varna system in their society or any sort of inequality.
- Their practice follows natural laws and are not codified ones.

Population:

- It is believed that 50 lakh tribal people in the entire country put their religion as 'Sarna' in the 2011 census, although it was not a recognized code.
- For the Census 2011, the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes** did recommend the addition of this code.

11. 75 tribal districts for focused TB interventions

Context: To mark 75 years of India's Independence, 75 **high-burden tribal districts** have been selected for focused interventions in the coming months during the **100-day Aashwasan Campaign** under the 'Tribal TB Initiative'.

About

Tribal TB Initiative:

- Tribal TB Initiative is a **joint initiative** of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **Central TB Division, Ministry of Health**.
- It is supported by **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** as a **technical partner** and **Piramal Swasthya** as **implementing partner**.

Aashwasan Campaign:

- The Aashwasan Campaign started in January 2022 **for active case finding for TB in 174 tribal districts of India**, under the ambit of the Tribal TB Initiative.
- It was flagged off in **Nandurbar District, Maharashtra**.
- Under the initiative, **door-to-door screening for TB** was undertaken covering 68,019 villages.

12. Pahari ethnic community added to Scheduled Tribes list of Jammu and Kashmir

Context: National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has cleared the way for the inclusion of the 'Pahari ethnic group' in the Scheduled Tribes list of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

About

- '**Pahari ethnic group**', **Paddari tribe**", "**Koli**", and "**Gadda Brahman**" communities has been added in the ST list of J&K.
- Currently, Jammu and Kashmir have 12 communities that have been notified as STs.

Scheduled Tribes in India

- The term '**Scheduled Tribes**' first appeared in the Constitution of India. **Article 366 (25)** defined scheduled tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342** to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution".

13. Bills to modify ST list in four States

Context: The GOI has introduced **four Bills** that seek to modify the **Scheduled Tribes list** in the four States of **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh** in the Lok Sabha, via amendments proposed in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

About the Bills introduced:

- There were four bills being introduced in the parliament for providing ST status and to add more tribes to the existing status in the States.
- The bill accordingly contains:
- To add the **Narikoravan and Kuruvikkaran** hill tribes to the ST list of Tamil Nadu.
- To introduce Betta-Kuruba as a synonym for the already categorised Kadukuruba in the ST list of Karnataka.
- To add a number of synonyms in Devnagri script for the already categorised BhariyaBhumia tribe in the ST list of Chhattisgarh.
- The Hattee community of Sirmaur district's Trans-Giri region was added to the ST list of Himachal Pradesh

The Schedule Tribe (ST) Order, 1950:**Important Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 46** provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the society and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
 - **Article 164(1)**, provides that in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha there shall be a Minister in charge of tribal welfare who may in addition be in charge of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and backward classes or any other work.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, **specifies the tribal and tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes.**
 - **The President** has notified the Scheduled Castes in the order called 'Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order-1950' and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order-1956.

How a community is added or removed from ST lists?

- The process begins at the level of a State or Union Territory, with the concerned government or administration seeking the addition or exclusion of a particular community from the ST list.
- The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 342.
- The inclusion or exclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes list comes into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the **Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950**, as is appropriate after it is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- A State government may choose to recommend certain communities for addition or subtraction from the list of SCs/STs based on its discretion.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to?
 1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
2. The President of India automatically nominates a representative of the community of Lok Sabha.
3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 2 only
(b) Only 1 (d) 2 and 3 only
2. **The provisions in Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to**
- (a) protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes
(b) determine the boundaries between States
(c) determine the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats
(d) protect the interests of all the border States
3. **If a particular area is brought under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the consequence of it?**
- (a) This would prevent the transfer of land of tribal people to non-tribal people.
(b) This would create a local self-governing body in that area.
(c) This would convert that area into a Union Territory.
(d) The State having such areas would be declared a Special Category State.

4. **At the national level, which ministry is nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?**

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(c) Ministry of Rural Development
(d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5. **At the national level, which ministry is nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?**

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(c) Ministry of Rural Development
(d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

ANSWER KEY

1. (d)	2. (a)	3. (a)	4. (d)
5. (d)			

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Urban Local Government in India

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court declared that State Election Commissions across the country cannot skip their constitutional obligation to conduct polls to Local Bodies every five years.

What is local Government:-

- Local Self Government is the management of local affairs by such local bodies who have been elected by the local people.
- The local self-Government includes both rural and urban government.
- It is the **third level** of the government.

Two Types of Local Government :

Rural Local Governments:

- PRI was constitutionalized through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** to build democracy at the grass roots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country.
- This act has added a new **Part-IX to the Constitution of India**. This part is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from **Articles 243 to 243 O**.
- In addition, the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with **Article 243-G**.

Urban Local Body

- The **74th Amendment Act** pertaining to urban local government was passed and came into force on 1st June, 1993.
- Added Part IX -A and consists of provisions from **Articles 243-P to 243-ZG**.
- Added 12th Schedule to the Constitution. It contains 18 functional items of Municipalities and deals with Article 243 W.

2. Balika Panchayat

Context: Gujarat is the first state in the country to launch Balika Panchayat.

Balika Panchayat:

- The initiative aims to promote the **social and political development of the girls** and ensure their active participation in politics.
- It is a new initiative has been started in **Kutch under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**.
- The main objective of panchayat is that the girls should move forward in politics.
- In Balika panchayat, the member is **nominated just like Gram panchayat**.
- This initiative has been taken by the **Women and Child Development Welfare Department of the Gujarat Government** under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- 'Balika Panchayat' is managed by people in the **11-21 age group and its main objective is to promote the social and political development of the girl child** and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.

3. PESA Act, 1996 completes 25th years

Context: One Day National Conference was organized on the Provisions of the **Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** to celebrate the **25th year** of PESA Act, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

What is PESA Act, 1996?

- **The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996** or PESA Act is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the **Scheduled Areas of India**.
- It was enacted by Parliament in **1996** and came into force on **24th December 1996**.
- The PESA is considered to be the **backbone of tribal legislation in India**.
- PESA recognises the traditional system of the **decision-making process and stands for the peoples' self-governance**

Background

- To promote local self-governance in rural India, the **73rd constitutional amendment** was made in 1992.
- However, its application to the scheduled and tribal areas under **Article 243(M)** was restricted.
- After the **Bhuria Committee recommendations in 1995**, **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996** came into existence for ensuring tribal self-rule for people living in scheduled areas of India.
- The PESA conferred the absolute powers to **Gram Sabha**, whereas state legislature has given an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.

4. Punjab Bans Sarpanch proxies

Context: The Punjab government has decided to ban Sarpanch proxies in any meeting of Panchayati raj institutions to empower women instead of paying lip service.

About Panchayat:

- 'Panchayat', being "**Local government**", is a state subject and part of the State list of the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
- Through the **73rd constitutional amendment**, one-third of seats in Panchayats were reserved for women. Several **states raised the quantum of reserved seats to fifty percent**.

- This was aimed at empowering women and ensuring their participation in the political process and decision-making at the grass root level.
- Punjab has also made provisions of 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.
- **Clause (3) of Article 243D** of the Constitution ensures the participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by **mandating not less than one-third reservation for women** out of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election and the number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.

5. Agri-credit societies to be set up in all Panchayats

Context: Union Home and Cooperation Minister said that **primary agricultural credit societies (PACS)** will be set up in all panchayats of the country.

What are Primary Agricultural Credit Societies?

- PACS are **ground-level cooperative credit institutions** that provide short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans to the farmers for the various agricultural and farming activities.
- It works at the grassroots gram Panchayat and village level.
- The first Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) was formed in the year 1904.
- The PACS functioning at the base of the cooperative banking system constitutes the major retail outlets of short-term and medium-term credit to the rural sector.

PACS in the country:

- There are about 95,000 PACS in the country of which only **65,000 are active** at present.
- According to the union home minister, **all panchayats must have one such body by 2027.**
- This will be helpful in promoting farming and dairy activities at the grassroots level.
- The cooperation ministry is working on a plan to set up multi-purpose PACS in panchayats over the next five years.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha?

1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting license or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (a)			
--------	--	--	--

CONSTITUTIONAL & NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODY

1. Enforcement Directorate

Context: The Supreme Court refused to interfere in a plea seeking the extension of service of the (ED) Enforcement Directorate Chief.

The Enforcement Directorate:

- The **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with the investigation of offenses of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- It functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.

What is the Structure of ED?

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Headed by:** Director of Enforcement.
- There are five regional offices in Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi headed by Special Directors of Enforcement.
- The Directorate has 10 Zonal offices each of which is headed by a Deputy Director and 11 sub Zonal Offices each of which is headed by an Assistant Director.
- **Recruitment:** Recruitment of the officers is done directly and by drawing officers from other investigation agencies.
 - It comprises officers of the IRS (Indian Revenue Services), IPS (Indian Police Services), and IAS (Indian Administrative Services) such as Income Tax officers, Excise officers, Customs officers, and police.
- **Tenure:** The Centre has got recommendations to extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate from 'two years' to upto 'five years'.

The statutory functions of ED:

- **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):** ED has been given the responsibility to conduct an investigation into suspected contraventions of foreign exchange laws. And regulations and to adjudicate and impose penalties on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):** The ED has been entrusted with the responsibility of executing the provisions of PMLA by conducting an investigation to trace the assets derived from proceeds of crime. To provisionally attach the property, and to ensure the prosecution of the offenders and confiscation of the property by the Special court.

2. SC Ruling on GST Council

Context: The Supreme Court recently held that Union and State legislatures have “equal, simultaneous and unique powers” to make laws on **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** and the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on them.

The apex court ruling:

- **Article 246A** of the Indian Constitution treats the Union and the States as equal units, conferring a simultaneous power (on Union and States) for enacting laws on GST.
- **Article 279A** (constituting the GST Council) envisions that neither the Centre nor the states are actually dependent on the other.
- The recommendations of the GST Council are the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and the states.
- They are recommendatory in nature and only have a persuasive value. To regard them as binding would disrupt the fiscal federalism

About the GST Council:

- **Composition:** The Council consists of the Union Finance Minister (as Chairman), the Union Minister of State in charge of revenue or Finance, and the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other, nominated by each State government.
- All decisions of the GST Council will be made by three-fourth majority of the votes cast; the center shall have one-third of the votes cast, and the states together shall have two-third of the votes cast.

The GST Council makes recommendations on:

- Taxes, cesses, and surcharges to be subsumed under the GST,
- Goods and services which may be subject to, or exempt from GST,
- The threshold limit of turnover for application of GST,
- Rates of GST,
- Model GST laws, principles of levy, apportionment of IGST and principles related to place of supply,
- Special provisions with respect to the eight north eastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand and other related matters.

3. Central Information Commission

Context Vacant posts and inadequate members are taking a toll on the **transparency regime**, and it is resulting in pendency in the resolution of RTI pleas.

Details:

- As per the latest update-
 - About 3.15 lakh complaints or appeals are pending with 26 information commissions across India.
 - The highest number of pending cases was in Maharashtra at 99,722 followed by Uttar Pradesh at 44,482.

Central Information Commission:

- The **Central Information Commission** was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**.
- It is **statutory body**.
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- While inquiring, the Commission has the **powers of a civil court** in respect of summoning, requiring documents, etc.

4. CBI Vs State

Context: A number of states are withdrawing their consents to the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) to investigate cases in the state.

- Meghalaya, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram have withdrawn consent to the CBI for launching investigations in their territory.

What is general consent?

- The CBI is governed by The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.
- It must mandatorily obtain the consent of the state government concerned before beginning to investigate a crime in a state.
- The consent of the state government to CBI can be either case-specific or general.

CBI vs NIA

The CBI's position is different from that of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is governed by The NIA Act, 2008, and has jurisdiction across the country.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- Set up in **1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Comes under the administrative control of the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
- Recommended by the **Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- **Not a statutory body**, its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**.

5. National Investigation Agency

Context: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered 73 cases, including 35 cases of Jihadi terror, in 2022, a 19.67 per cent increase from the 61 cases registered in 2021 and the highest in the last three years.

About NIA

- It is the primary **counter-terrorist task force** of India.
- It is a statutory body
- **Establishment:** In the wake of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack in November 2008.
- **Mandate:** To investigate:
 - offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states

- ▶ offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations
- **Type of offence:** These include terror acts and their possible links with crimes like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake Indian currency and infiltration from across the borders.
- **Powers:** The agency has the power to search, seize, arrest and prosecute those involved in such offences.
- **Headquartered** in Delhi, the NIA has its branches in Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kochi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, Raipur, Jammu, Chandigarh, Ranchi, Chennai, Imphal, Bengaluru and Patna.

What are the scheduled offences?

- The list includes the **Explosive Substances Act, Atomic Energy Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Anti-Hijacking Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act** and relevant offences under the **Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and the Information Technology Act**.
- ▶ In September 2020, the Centre empowered the NIA to also probe offences under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act** that are connected to terror cases.

How wide is NIA's jurisdiction?

- **Territorial extent-** The law under which the agency operates extends to the whole of India and also applies to Indian citizens outside the country.
- **Government Servant-** Persons in the service of the government wherever they are posted.
- **Affecting the interest of India-** Persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against the Indian citizen or affecting the interest of India.

6. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' position on new Forest Conservation Rules

Context: In the escalating conflict between the government and the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** over the **Forest (Conservation) Rules (FCR) 2022**, NCST Chairperson has mentioned that the position of the body, on being violate of the **Forest Rights Act, 2006** "will be the same".

About Provisions of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022:

- **Objective:** The Forest Conservation Rules, 2022 were notified to implement the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980.
- They **prescribe the procedure to be followed** for forest land to be diverted for non-forestry uses such as road construction, highway development, railway lines, and mining.
- For forest land beyond five hectares, approval for diverting land must be given by the Central government. This is via a specially constituted committee, called the **Forest Advisory Committee**.
 - ▶ The new rules that proposes to do away with the consent clause for diversion of forest land for other purposes.

Objections of NCST

- The new FCA rules will dilute Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as the **Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA)**.
- This is because the new rules eliminated the need for **Gram Sabha** consent before Stage II clearance of projects on indigenous land.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
- By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely-
 - National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
 - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The Act recognises and vests the forest rights and occupation in **Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD)** who have been residing in such forests for generations.
- It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD.
- The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.

7. National Commission of Women

Context Recently, the 30th Foundation Day (31st January) of the National Commission for Women (NCW) was celebrated.

About National Commission for Women

- The National Commission for Women was set up in 1992 under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.
- **Composition of National Commission of Women:** The Commission must consist of a minimum number of members which includes a chairperson, a member secretary, and the other five members.
 - **Chairperson:** The central government should nominate the chairperson.
 - **Five members:** The five members are also to be nominated by the central government from amongst the person of ability, integrity, and standing. They should possess experience in various fields like law or legislation, trade unionism, management of industry potential of women, women's voluntary organization, education, administration, economic development, and social good-being.
 - **Member Secretary:** The Central Government also nominates member secretary. He/ she should be either an expert in the field of management, an organization, or an officer who is a member.

8. Tea Board of India to be overhauled

Context The 70-year-old Tea Act is headed for an amendment aimed at overhauling the Tea Board of India amid falling tea exports worsened by the Ukraine crisis.

About Tea Board of India:

- Tea Board was set up as a statutory body on 1st April, 1954 as per Section (4) of the Tea Act, 1953.
- As an **apex body**, it looks after the overall **development of the tea industry**.
- The Board's Head Office is situated in **Kolkata** and there are two Zonal offices-one each in North Eastern Region at Jorhat in Assam and in Southern Region at Coonoor in Tamil Nadu.
- For the purpose of tea promotion, three overseas offices are located at London, Dubai and Moscow.
- **Organisation of the Board:**
 - The present Tea Board is functioning as a **statutory body** of the Central Government under the **Ministry of Commerce**.
 - The Board is constituted of **31 members** (including Chairman) drawn from Members of Parliament, tea producers, tea traders, tea brokers, consumers, and representatives of Governments from the principal tea producing states, and trade unions.
 - The Board is **reconstituted every three years**.

9. New Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

Context The Government of India has recently appointed Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

Who is Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan?

- Lt Gen Chauhan is known as the '**China expert**' who has had multiple tenures in the Eastern Command and retired as the Eastern Army Commander on 31 May, 2021.
- Before assuming charge of the Eastern Command, the officer, who has a career spanning over nearly 40 years, was the **Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)** during the **Balakot air strike in 2019**.

About Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

- The post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in the **rank of a four star General** with salary and perquisites at par with a Service Chief was created in 2019.
- The CDS is meant to be a **single-point military advisor** to the government, and to coordinate long-term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three services.
- The dual-hatted role refers to the two hats the CDS wears:
 - the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which has the three service chiefs as members head of the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the ministry

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: WHO, WHAT

Department of Defence
Headed by Defence Secretary

Department of Military Affairs
Headed by the CDS

Department of Defence Production
Headed by Secretary Defence Production

Department of Defence Research and Development
Headed by DRDO chief

Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare
Headed by Secretary ESW

DUAL-HATTED ROLE OF CDS

- Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
- Head of Department of Military Affairs in Defence Ministry

Role of Chief of Defence Staff:

- **Principal Military Adviser:** CDS acts as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-services matters. He is also be the military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority (chaired by the Prime Minister), which handles India's nuclear arsenal.
- **Department of Military Affairs' Head:** The Department of Military Affairs will also be headed by the CDS. The mandate of the Department of Military Affairs will include the following areas:
 - Promoting joint-ness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services.
 - Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources.
 - Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.
- **Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee:** The CDS will be the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). As a permanent chair, CDS will:
 - Administer all tri-service organisations and commands.
 - Function as the Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.
 - Implement the five year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP) and the two year roll on Annual Acquisition Plans.
 - Coordinate operation, logistics, transport, training, support services communications, etc. of the three Services

10. Eastern Zonal Council

Context: Recently, the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting was held in Kolkata which was presided over by the Home Minister.

About the Eastern Zonal Council:

- It comprises the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim and West Bengal.

What are Zonal Councils?

- The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 during debate on the report of the States Reorganisation Commission.
- **Functions Of the Councils:**
 - ▶ Any matter of common interest in the **field of economic and social planning**.
 - ▶ Any matter concerning **border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-State transport**.
 - ▶ Any matter connected with or arising out of **the reorganization of the States under the State's Reorganisation Act**.

11. Dilution of Lokayukta Powers in Kerala

Context Kerala Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2022, has been passed by the State's legislature.

What is Lokpal and Lokayuktas?

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of

- ▶ **Lokpal for the Union**
- ▶ **Lokayukta for States**
- They are **statutory bodies** without any constitutional status
- The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by **L. M. Singhvi**.

Comparison Chart

BASIS	LOKAYUKTA	LOKPAL
Meaning	◦ Lokayukta is the body operating at state level, set up to investigate individual's complaints against public servants or any politician with respect to corruption.	◦ Lokpal is the body operating at central level, established to investigate the civil servant or politician, against the corruption complaint lodged by any person.
Jurisdiction	◦ All the members of legislative assembly and state government employees.	◦ All the members of Parliament and central government employees.
Appointment	◦ Governor	◦ President

Background

- In 1966, the **First Administrative Reforms Commission** recommended the setting up of two independent authorities- at the central and state level, to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.
- In 2005, the **Second Administrative Reforms Commission** chaired by **Veerappa Moily** also recommended that the office of Lokpal should be established without delay.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. The Government of India has established NITI Aayog to replace the :

- (a) Human Rights Commission
(b) Finance Commission
(c) Law Commission
(d) Planning Commission

3. What is the importance of the office of the CAG?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the parliament when the president of India declares national emergency/ financial emergency
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the PAC/
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with audit and accounting of govt. companies. CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, which of the following statements is correct?
- It encourages the inflow of foreign capital for infrastructure development
 - It facilitates the proper distribution of finances among the Public Sector Undertakings
 - It ensures transparency in financial administration
 - None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context
5. Who of the following shall cause every recommendations made by the Finance Commission to be laid before each House of Parliament?
- The President of India
 - The Speaker of Lok Sabha
 - The Prime Minister of India
 - The Union Finance Minister
6. With reference to the "Tea Board" in India, consider the following statements:
- The Tea Board is a statutory body.
 - It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - The Tea Board's Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.
 - The Board has overseas offices at Dubai and Moscow.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 3
 - 2 and 4
 - (c) and 4
 - (d) 1 and 4

ANSWER KEY

1. (d)	2. (d)	3. (c)	4. (d)
5. (a)	6. (d)		

IMPORTANT COMMISSIONS/ REPORT/INDEX

1. High-Power Ladakh Committee

Context The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a **high-powered committee** for the Union Territory of Ladakh in order to conserve the region's unique culture and language.

Details of the committee:

- **Chaired by:** Minister of State for Home, **Nityanand Rai**.
- It is a **17-member committee** that includes Ladakh Lieutenant Governor.
- **Objective:** The committee will discuss;
- Measures to protect the **region's unique culture and language** taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance;
- Ensure protection of **land and employment** for the people of Ladakh;
- Strategize **inclusive development** and discuss issues related to the **empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil**

Why was the committee formed?

- Civil society groups in Ladakh have been demanding protection of land, resources and employment for the past three years after the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir under **Article 370** of the Constitution.
- The fear of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people has contributed to this demand.

Difficulty behind Ladakh's Inclusion:

- Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule would be difficult. The Constitution is very clear; the Sixth Schedule is for the Northeast.
- For tribal areas in the rest of the country, there is the Fifth Schedule.
- Notably, no region outside the Northeast has been included in the Sixth Schedule.
- In fact, even in Manipur, which has predominantly tribal populations in some places, the autonomous councils are not included in the Sixth Schedule.
- Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, which are totally tribal, are also not in the Sixth Schedule.
- However, it remains the prerogative of the government; it can, if it so decides, bring a Bill to amend the Constitution for this purpose.

2. FSSAI releases State Food Safety Index

Context The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have recently released the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2021-22.

What is Food Safety Index?

- Food Security Index developed by **Food Security and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.
- The index aims to measure the performance of states and Union Territories on selected “parameters” of food safety.
- The major objective of the index is to encourage states and UTs to improve their performance and work towards establishing a proper food safety ecosystem.

What are the parameters measured in the food safety index?

- Human Resources and Institutional Data; 20% weightage
- Compliance; most important parameter with 30% weightage
- Food Safety- Infrastructure and Surveillance; 20% weightage
- Training and Capacity; 10% weightage
- Consumer Empowerment; 20% weightage

3. Out of 110 nations, India tops the global minority index

Context A Patna-based research institute, the **Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA)** has put India on top of the ‘**global minority index**’ in its Global Minority Report tabulating 110 countries.

Key Findings of the Report:

- India remains **on top** of the index, followed by **South Korea, Japan, Panama, and the US**.
- **Maldives, Afghanistan, and Somalia** figured at the bottom of the list.
- The UK is **ranked 54**, and the **UAE 61**.
- The ranking approach has been mathematical and the grading of countries was done based on the approach of the **State towards minority religions**, and the **extent of their inclusiveness**.
- This report only takes into account ‘**macro parameters**’ to analyse the status of religious minorities in a country, and the approach of a state towards them.
- The parameters that have been taken into account to assess the status of religious minorities include;
- Constitutional provisions,
- Policies of a government, and
- Broader indicators, such as the laws of the land.

Minority community in India:

- In 1993, the **first Statutory National Commission** was set up and **five religious communities Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.

- In 2014, **Jains** were also notified as a minority community.
- The population of **Muslims is 14.2%; Christians 2.3%; Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7%, Jain 0.4%, and Parsis 0.006%.**
- As per the Census 2011, the percentage of minorities in the country is about **3% of the total population** of the country.

Defining properties of Minorities in India include;

- Subordination in some way to the majority, Distinguishable from the majority based on physical or cultural features, collectively being regarded and treated as different and inferior and Excluded from full participation in the life of the society.

What does the Constitution say about minorities?

The expression “minorities” appears in some Articles of the Constitution but is not defined anywhere.

Article 29:

- It provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct **language, script, or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve** the same.
- It grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.
- However, the SC held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as the use of the word ‘**section of citizens**’ in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority.

Article 30:

Other important minority rights

- **Article 15** prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion race cast sex or place of birth.
- **Article 17** prohibits untouchability.
- **Articles 25 to 30** preserve the right of minorities on grounds of religion.
- **Article 26** allows religious institutions to be opened.
- **Article 27** provides that no person shall be forced to pay any taxes which are not mandatory.
- **Article 28** provides that there shall be no religious instruction to be followed in any particular educational institution.

- All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- The protection under **Article 30** is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29).

Article 350-B:

- The **7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956** inserted this article which provides for a **Special Officer** for Linguistic Minorities appointed by the President of India.
- It would be the duty of the **Special Officer to investigate** all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

4. CAG audit report on Assam's NRC

Context: The CAG in its 'logistical arrangements for NRC update project in Assam', tabled before the parliament has flagged serious irregularities.

What is the NRC exercise?

- **Origin:** National Register of Citizens (NRC) was first created in 1951 in Assam to identify those born in India and migrants from erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.
- **Assam Exercise:** In 2013, the **Supreme Court** issued directions to the Centre and State to initiate an exercise in Assam to update the 1951 register.
- The first draft was released in 2018.
- The final list, published in 2019, included those who could establish their Indian citizenship.
- **Condition:** By being residents or descendants of people living in Assam before March 25, 1971.
- **Excluded Persons:** 19.06 lakh people out of 3.3 crore applicants were excluded due to a lack of adequate documents to prove their citizenship.
- **Current Status:** It has been three years since then and the process is on pause as the **Registrar General of India (RGI)** is yet to notify the final list.

About the Comptroller and Auditor General:

- **Constitutional Body:** Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG. It is the supreme audit institution of India.
- **Other Provisions Related to CAG include:**
 - **Articles 149-151** (Duties & Powers, Form of Accounts of the Union and the States, and Audit Reports)
 - **Article 279** (calculation of net proceeds, etc.)
- **Not eligible for further office**, either under the Government of India or of any state, after he ceases to hold his office.
- **Salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament.**
- **No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament.**
- The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances, and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged to the Consolidated Fund of India.

5. Public Account Committee

Context: Recently, Public Account Committee has completed 100 years.

About Public Account Committee

- **Establishment:** The Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 also called Montfort Reforms.
- The Public Accounts Committee is now constituted every year under Rule 308 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- **Objective:** To audit the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India.
- **Appointment:** The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **Members:** It presently comprises 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman) with a term of one year only.

Note- It is to be noted that the Committee, not being an executive body, can only make decisions that are advisory by nature.

Type of Committee

Parliamentary Committees can be categorised into two groups, they are as follows:

Standing Committees	Ad hoc Committees
<p>They are formed according to Acts of Parliament. They work continuously and regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Financial Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Public Accounts Committee (PAC) ▶ Estimates Committee ▶ Committee on Public Undertakings ◦ Departmental Related Standing Committees ◦ Committees to Inquire ◦ Committee to scrutinize and control ◦ Committees relating to the day-to-day business of the house ◦ Service Committees or Housekeeping Committees 	<p>They are appointed only to look into specific issues, and they are dissolved when the purpose is fulfilled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Inquiry Committees ◦ Advisory Committees

6. The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation report

Context: The J&K Delimitation Commission submitted its final report on May 5, 2022.

The Commission

- The Commission was appointed in 2020.
- **Headed by:** retired Supreme Court Justice **Ranjana Prakash Desai**.
- **Objective:** to redraw the electoral boundaries in Jammu and Kashmir as per the mandate set by the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

What is delimitation?

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in population.
- **Objective:** to provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.
- **Responsible body:** Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission, appointed by the Government of India under provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act.
 - ▶ **Appointment:** The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
 - ▶ **Composition:** It is composed of the following:
 - ▶ a retired Supreme Court judge
 - ▶ the Chief Election Commissioner of India

- ▶ respective State Election Commissioners
- The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence. The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final and **cannot be questioned before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely.

What are the key takeaways from the final report?

- **First**, J&K is split into two divisions, with Jammu having 37 Assembly seats and Kashmir 46.
- **Second**, the Commission has recommended the Centre to nominate at least two Kashmiri Pandits to the Legislative Assembly.
- **Third**, the panel has proposed nine seats for the Scheduled Tribes (STs). These will include six in Jammu (Budhal, Gulabgarh, Surankote, Rajouri, Mendhar, Thanamandi) and three in the valley (Gurez, Kangan, Kokernag). Seven seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the Jammu region.

7. Election Commission to start Assam's delimit exercise

Context: Recently, the Election Commission (EC) has mentioned that it has decided to start delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Assam.

2001 census figures would be used for the purpose.

Background:

- The first delimitation exercise in the Country was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- Under the provisions of **Delimitation Act, 1972**, the last delimitation of constituencies in the **state of Assam** was done on the basis of census figures, 1971, by the then Delimitation Commission in 1976.
- The present delimitation of parliamentary constituencies within states has been done on the basis of the 2001 census, under the provisions of **Delimitation Act, 2002**.
- However, the Constitution of India was specifically amended (84th amendment) in 2002, not to have interstate delimitation of constituencies till 2026.

In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been **constituted 4 times** – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.

What is Delimitation?

- Boundary delimitation (or simply delimitation) is the drawing of boundaries, particularly of electoral precincts, states, counties or other municipalities.
- In the context of elections, it can be called redistribution and is used to prevent unbalance of population across districts.

Boundary commission of India:

- Boundary commission of India is a commission established by the Government of India under the provisions of the **Delimitation Commission Act**.

- The main task of the commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
- **Composition:**
 - ▶ Retired Supreme Court judge
 - ▶ Chief Election Commissioner
 - ▶ Respective State Election Commissioners
- The representation from each State is not changed during this exercise. However, the number of SC and ST seats in a state is changed in accordance with the census.
- The Commission's orders cannot be challenged in any court of law.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 170 of the Constitution**, census figures (2001) shall be used for the purpose of readjustment of constituencies.
- Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be provided as per **Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution**.

8. Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2020-21

Context: The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L) has released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and Union Territories (UTs) for 2020-21.

Key findings of PGI 2020-21:

- A total of 7 States and UTs, viz., **Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh** have attained **Level II (score 901-950)** in 2020-21 as compared to none in 2017-18 and 4 in 2019-20.
- Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are the new entrants to highest achieved level of any State so far.
- The newly formed UT viz., **Ladakh** has made significant improvement in PGI from Level 8 to Level 4 in 2020-21 or improved its score by 299 points in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20 resulting in highest ever improvement in a single year.
- None of the states has so far attained the highest level (L-1).

About the Performance Grading Index (PGI)

- It is a unique index for evidence-based comprehensive analysis of the school education system in India.
- **Initiated by:** Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Education.
- **Objective:** To promote evidence-based policymaking and highlight course correction to ensure quality education for all.
- **Methodology:** The PGI structure comprises of 1,000 points across 70 parameters grouped into five broad categories (Learning Outcomes, Access, Infrastructure & Facilities, Equity, and Governance Process).
- It ranked the states and UTs based on the scores out of 1000 points. The highest achievable grade is Level 1 with a score above 950. The lowest grade is Level 10 with a score below 551.

Schemes for Online Education:

- **SWAYAM:** The 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is an integrated platform for offering online courses and covering school (9th to 12th) to Post Graduate Level.
- **SWAYAM Prabha:** SWAYAM Prabha is an initiative to provide 32 High-Quality Educational Channels through DTH (Direct to Home) across the length and breadth of the country on a 24X7 basis.
- **National Digital Library (NDL):** The National Digital Library of India (NDL) is a project to develop a framework of a virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
- **Free and Open-Source Software for Education (FOSSEE):** FOSSEE is a project promoting the use of open-source software in educational institutions.
- **E-Yantra:** e-Yantra is a project for enabling effective education across engineering colleges in India on embedded systems and Robotics.
- **Other major initiatives include:**
 - **UG/PG MOOCs** for non-technology courses
 - **e-PG Pathshala** or e-content containing modules on social science, arts, fine arts, natural and mathematical science
 - **Vidwan** – a database of experts who provide information to peers and prospective collaborators,
 - **NEAT** – an initiative by AICTE based on the PPP model to enhance employability skills among students, in collaboration with Education Technology Companies and the National Digital Library (NDL), a repository of learning resources with a single-window facility.

9. Democracy Report 2022

Context: According to the latest report from the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels, with the democratic gains of the post-Cold War period eroding rapidly in the last few years.

About the Report

- **Study Title:** 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'
- The V-Dem institute uses aggregate expert judgments to produce estimates of critical concepts by gathering data from a pool of over 3,700 country experts who provide judgments on different concepts and cases.
- The V-Dem report classifies countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI):
 - ▶ Liberal Democracy
 - ▶ Electoral Democracy
 - ▶ Electoral Autocracy and
 - ▶ Closed Autocracy

Main findings of the Report

- Top 5 LDI Countries: **Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand**
- **India's performance:** It was ranked 93rd in the LDI, India figures in the "bottom 50%" of countries.
 - ▶ In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117) in the LDI.

Important democracy indices

- **Freedom in the World-** Freedom House
- **World Press Freedom Index-** Reporters Without Borders
- **Democracy Index-** Economist Intelligence Unit.

10. Chandigarh topped in Indian Swachhta League

Context: Chandigarh was adjudged winner along with Navi Mumbai in the **10 lakhs plus population** category of the **Indian Swachhta League (ISL)**.

About**About the 'Indian Swachhta League':**

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs initiated the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav, which started with the **Indian Swachhata League**.
- The Indian Swachhata League is India's first **inter-city** competition led by youth toward building **Garbage Free Cities**.
- Citizens across India were invited to search for their cities on **MyGov** and register to join their city teams in the Swachhata activities that have been planned.
- More than **1,850 teams** have participated in the league.

- **SBM-Urban 2.0** is a maiden edition of the 'Indian Swachhata League' which has mobilized more than **5,00,000 youth**, citizen volunteers, and celebrity icons across the country to join the first ever Indian Swachhata League and to work together towards the mission's goal of making cities clean, green, and garbage-free.

Related Initiatives

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** It was announced by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on Indian Independence Day & launched on 2 Oct 2014, Gandhi Jayanti.
- **Waste to Wealth Model:** The government has adopted new rules that provide for ways and means to minimize plastic waste generation, adoption of extended producer responsibility for collection of waste and sustainable plastic waste management, recycling and utilization of plastic waste in road construction, energy, and oil generation.

11. Telangana scoops Swachh Survekshan Gramin, 2022 award

Context: 'Telangana' won the first prize under the Large States category under Swachh Survekshan Gramin (SSG) 2022.

Swachh Survekshan Gramin-2022 award:

- The Swachh Survekshan Gramin award by the **Jal shakti ministry** ranks states and districts based on their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) parameters.
- It also factors in the engagement of the rural community in the improvement of their sanitation status.
- Swachh Bharat Diwas is not a single event but a culmination of several activities/campaigns for the components of SBM-G phase II. The following activities were conducted as a run-up to the event:
 - ▶ **Swachhta Hi Sewa (SHS)**– is a fortnightly campaign undertaken by the public offering “shramdaan” for sustaining cleanliness in the country.
 - ▶ **United India for Swachhata**– is a dedicated week-long intensified campaign for complete cleanliness – ‘sampoorna swachhta’ in 9 states across the country.

What is Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)?

- It was launched in 2014 by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation.
- The mission was implemented as a **nationwide campaign/Jan andolan** which aimed at eliminating open defecation in rural areas.

12. Social Progress Index 2022

Context Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts made by the Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative was submitted to Economic Advisory Council- Prime Minister and released.

About the Index:

- SPI is a comprehensive tool that can serve as a holistic measure of a country’s social progress at the national and sub-national levels.
- The index assesses states and districts based on 12 components across three critical dimensions of social progress - **Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity**.
- **Basic Human Needs** assess the performance of states and districts in terms of Nutrition and Basic Medical Care, Water and Sanitation, Personal Safety and Shelter.
- **Foundations of Wellbeing** evaluates the progress made by the country across the components of Access to Basic Knowledge, Access to Information and Communication, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Quality.
- **Opportunity** focuses on Personal Rights, Personal Freedom and Choice, Inclusiveness, and Access to Advanced Education.
- Based on the SPI scores, states and districts have been ranked under six tiers of social progress.
- **The tiers are;**
 - ▶ Tier 1: Very High Social Progress;
 - ▶ Tier 2: High Social Progress;
 - ▶ Tier 3: Upper Middle Social Progress;
 - ▶ Tier 4: Lower Middle Social Progress;
 - ▶ Tier 5: Low Social Progress; and
 - ▶ Tier 6: Very Low Social Progress.

13. Press Freedom Index 2022

Context: The Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes annually a World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) for the year 2022.

About the Index:

- **Published by:** The Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes annually a World Press Freedom index.
- **Aim:** It evaluates the level of freedom available to the media in 180 countries.
- **Procedure:** It is based on an online questionnaire comprising 83 questions, answered by 18 freedom of expression NGOs, many of which are funded by the RSF, and a network of around 150 correspondents, and researchers, jurists and human rights activists, usually selected by the correspondents.

Parameters:

- The qualitative questionnaire is used to calculate scores on six parameters in the index:
 - pluralism,
 - media independence,
 - media environment and self-censorship
 - legislative framework,
 - transparency and
 - quality of infrastructure that supports production of news and information

India's Performance:

- India has fallen eight places from 142nd to 150th in 2022.
- From a rank of 80 in the inaugural WPFI report, 2002, India's rank fell to 122 in 2010 and 131 in 2012.

Ranking of the Countries:

- Norway topped the list followed by Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th).
 - North Korea remained at the bottom of the list.
 - China was 175th while Russia was placed at 155th position.
 - The world's 10 worst countries for press freedom include Myanmar (176th), where the February 2021 coup d'état set press freedom back by 10 years, Turkmenistan (177th), Iran (178th), Eritrea (179th) and North Korea (180th).
 - The ranking of India's neighbors, except that of Nepal, have also slid down, with the index placing Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.
 - Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position. Last year, the Himalayan nation was placed at 106th position.
- According to a report titled: "India: Media freedom under threat" on RSF website, Indian authorities should respect the right to freedom of expression and release any journalists detained on trumped-up or politically motivated charges for their critical reporting and stop targeting them and muzzling independent media.
 - The report also mentions, increase in targeting of journalists coupled with a broader crackdown on dissent, threatening, harass and abuse of journalists both online and offline in last few years

14. Rule of law Index 2022

Context: The report is a compilation of the 'rule of law' status across 140 countries worldwide.

About:

- It was released by an international civil society organization, World Justice Project (WJP).
- According to the report, the rule of law has declined globally for the fifth consecutive year.
- It says that the checks on executive power are weakening, and respect for human rights is falling.

Top and bottom performers:

- The top-ranked country in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 is Denmark, followed by Norway (2), Finland (3), Sweden (4), and the Netherlands (5).
- The bottom ranked countries are Venezuela (140), Cambodia (139), Afghanistan (138), the Democratic Republic of Congo (137), and Haiti (136).

India:

- India has been ranked 77 out of 140 countries with a score of 50 on the 'rule of law index'.
- Globally, India ranks 94 out of 140 as far as adherence to fundamental rights are concerned, 111 out of 140 in civil justice, 89 out of 140 in criminal justice and 93 out of 140 in absence of corruption.

Neighboring countries:

- Bangladesh scored 0.39 in the 127th rank, Pakistan settled with a 0.39 score at the 129th rank, and China scored 0.47 in the 95th rank.
- Notably, Nepal has performed better than its neighbours, with a 0.52 score and 69th rank.

Factors:

- The index is prepared by examining these four principles through eight factors- constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice.

Rule of Law:

- The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, opens government, and accessible justice.

15. Police Commissionerate system

Context: Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has approved the implementation of the Police Commissionerate system in the two cities, Lucknow and Noida.

About:

- Delhi turned into a commissionerate during 1977-1979.
- National Police Commission's 6th report released in 1983 recommended the commissionerate

system in cities with a population of 5 lakh and above as well as in places having special conditions.

- In 2005, Draft Model Police Act, framed by a committee, set up by the Home Ministry also made a similar recommendation saying metro cities and major urban areas with a population of 10 lakh or more should have commissionerate system
- As of January 2018, the system has been implemented in 61 cities across 15 states in the country. (BPRD data, 2018)
 - ▶ However, after UP, 63 cities now have this system.

The Commissionerate System:

- In some metropolitan cities and urban areas, however, the dual system has been replaced by the commissionerate system to allow for quicker decision-making in response to complex law and order situations, rising population and rapid urbanisation.
- The police have a greater say in resolving land disputes. However, removal of encroachments and other land-related problems would need the presence of a magistrate to aid the police.

16. Grievance Reversals Index

About the Index:

- The Grievance Redressal Index has been published by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- UIDAI has emerged out as the top performer in resolving the cases received through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- **Dimensions of index:**
 - ▶ Timely Disposal of Grievance Redressal:
 - Percentage of Grievances Disposed within 45 Days: 30%
 - Percentage of Grievances pending for more than 45 Days: 10%
 - ▶ Quality Disposal of Grievance Redressal:
 - Percentage of Grievances Redressal (closed) and received Feedback as Excellent & Very Good: 30%
 - Percentage of Grievances Redressal (closed) and received Feedback as Average & Poor: 20%
 - Percentage of Appeals Filed (on closed grievances): 10%

17. Child Welfare Committee

Context: ◦ The Ministry of Women and Child Development has proposed the draft amendments to Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016.

- This follows the passage of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) (JJ) Amendment Bill, 2021, in Parliament.**

The proposed Child Welfare Committees:

- As per the **Section 27(1)** of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) are to be constituted by State Government by notification

in the Official Gazette for every district, for exercising the powers and to discharge the duties conferred on such Committees in relation to children in need of care and protection under JJ Act, 2015.

- The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, and four other members as the State Government may think fit to appoint, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on the matters concerning children.
- As per **Rule of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016** framed under JJ Act, 2015 Chairperson and the members shall be above the age of thirty-five years and shall have a minimum of seven years of experience of working with children in the field of education, health, or welfare activities, or should be a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or social work or sociology or human development or in the field of law or a retired judicial officer.
- The primary responsibility of execution of the Act and Rules lies with the State/UTs.

18. CAG Report On Functioning of UIDAI

Context The Comptroller and Auditor General of India [CAG] published an audit report titled 'Functioning of Unique Identification Authority of India'.

Key-points made in the Report

- The Aadhaar project, established through the Unique Identification Authority of India [UIDAI] in January 2009, has generated more than 129.04 crore Aadhaars till the end of March 2021.
- Yet, even after ten years of its existence, it has failed to maintain the uniqueness of the identity.
- As per the CAG report, more than 4.75 lakh Aadhaars with the same biometric data were issued by the UIDAI till November 2019.

Additional Information

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

Comptroller and Auditor General

- **Constitutional Body:** Article 148 provides for an independent office of the CAG. It is the supreme audit institution of India.
- **Other Provisions Related to CAG include:**
 - **Articles 149-151** (Duties & Powers, Form of Accounts of the Union and the States, and Audit Reports)
 - **Article 279** (calculation of net proceeds, etc.)
- **Not eligible for further office**, either under the Government of India or of any state, after he ceases to hold his office.
- **No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament.**
- **Salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament.**
- The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances, and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged to the Consolidated Fund of India.

19. Corruption Perception Index

Context: Recently, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 was released by Transparency International.

Key highlights of the Index:

- The Index **ranks 180 countries and territories** by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- It **relies on 13 independent data sources** and uses a **scale of zero to 100**, where **zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean**.
- More than two-thirds of countries (68%) score below 50 and the **average global score remains static at 43**. Since 2012, 25 countries significantly improved their scores, but in the same period 23 countries significantly declined.

Top performers:

- This year, the top countries are **Denmark, Finland and New Zealand**, each with a score of 88. **Norway (85), Singapore (85), Sweden (85), Switzerland (84), the Netherlands (82), Luxembourg (81) and Germany (80)** complete the top 10.

Bottom Performers:

- **South Sudan (11), Syria (13) and Somalia (13)** remain at the bottom of the index.
- Countries experiencing armed conflict or authoritarianism tend to earn the lowest scores
- Including **Venezuela (14), Afghanistan (16), North Korea (16), Yemen (16), Equatorial Guinea (17), Libya (17) and Turkmenistan (19)**.

India's Performance:

- **India ranked 85 among 180 countries** in the current index (86 in 2020 and 80 in 2019). Transparency International gave India a **CPI score of 40**.
 - ▶ Except Bhutan, all of India's neighbours are ranked below it. Pakistan dropped 16 spots in the index and was ranked at 140.
- The **country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade**; some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening.
- There are **concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay**.
- Anyone that speaks up against the government has been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding.

20. Tribal Development Report 2022

Context: According to the Tribal Development Report 2022, India's tribal communities are at the bottom of the country's development pyramid even after 75 years of independence.

The **Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation** was set up by the Union Cabinet in 2013 as an independent society under the **Union Ministry of Rural Development** to scale up civil society action in partnership with central and state governments.

Analysed parameters

- livelihoods
- Agriculture
- Natural resources
- Economy
- Migration
- Governance
- Human development
- Gender
- Health
- Education
- Art and culture

- **Launched by:** Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF)
- The report claims to be the first of its kind information since 1947 (after Independence).
- It focuses on the status of tribal communities at an all-India level and in central India.

Key findings:

- **Indigenous communities of India** have been pushed farther away from alluvial plains and fertile river basins into the harshest ecological regions of the country like **hills, forests, and dry lands**.
- The rules under **Forest Conservation Act in 1980**, has increased the conflict between environmental protection and the needs of **local Adivasi communities**, drove a wedge between people and forests.

The Demographic statistics:

- Tribal community forms **8.6 percent of the country's population** according to the 2011 Census.
- Central India is home to **80% of the tribal communities** in the country.
- Of the **257 Scheduled Tribe districts**, **230 (90 percent)** are either **forests or hilly or dry lands**.

Government Initiatives for empowering Tribals:

- **National Forest Policy of 1988:** It was in this policy that domestic requirements of local people were explicitly recognized for the very first time.
- **Capacity Building Initiative:** It is aimed at **empowering tribal Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives** by enhancing their decision-making capabilities at the local government level.
- Apart from tribal development, it also focuses on **constitutional and legal provisions** that protect and promote the rights and welfare of the tribal population.
- **1000 Springs Initiative:** The initiative aims at improving **access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities** living in difficult and inaccessible parts of rural areas in the country.
- The initiative will help in **harnessing the potential of perennial springs' water** to address the

natural scarcity of water in tribal areas.

- It includes the provision of infrastructure for **piped water supply** for drinking; provision of water for irrigation; community-led total sanitation initiatives; and provision for water for backyard nutrition gardens, generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people.

Status of Tribes Communities in India:

The **Dhebar Commission** constituted in 1973 created a separate category “Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)” which was renamed in 2006 as “**Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**”.

- The most commonly known tribes of India are **Gonds, Bhils (or Wheels), Santhal, Munda, Khasi, Garo, Angami, Bhutia, Chenchu, Kodaba, and the Great Andamanese Tribes**.
- Of all these tribes, the **Bhil tribal group**, as per the 2011 census, is the **largest tribe** in India.
- It constitutes a staggering 38% of the country’s total scheduled tribal population.
- The major tribal communities have their roots in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and North-eastern states.

1. UGC's regulations for foreign universities in India

Context Amid the several European universities have shown keen interest to open campuses in India, the higher education regulator University Grants Commission (UGC) released draft regulations to allow foreign universities to enter India.

About the guidelines:

- **Criteria for Foreign universities:**
 - ▶ Only the universities that are placed at the **top 500** either in the overall or the subject-wise category, in global rankings such as QS, can apply to enter India.
 - ▶ Universities that do not participate in such rankings must be “reputed” in their countries to be able to apply.
 - ▶ The draft regulations do not specify a metric to judge the ‘reputation’ of the university.
- **Key provisions:**
 - ▶ They have been granted free will to decide the fee structure and admission criteria for students.
 - ▶ The universities have the autonomy to their professors and faculty from India or abroad.
 - ▶ They can repatriate funds from their home jurisdiction.
 - ▶ They are not abiding to offer courses that are in favour of India’s national interest.

Recent developments:

King’s College London has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **government of Telangana** regarding collaborative research projects, staff and student exchanges, as well as curriculum development and upskilling in Telangana Pharma City.

Similar Government Interventions:

- **Young Professionals Scheme:** Under the scheme, the U.K. will offer about 3,000 degree-holding Indians in the 18–30-year age group places to work in the U.K. for up to two years.
- The scheme will commence in early 2023. Both India and UK will allow young professionals in their Countries to hold degree programs.

India is the first country to benefit from such a scheme, highlighting the strength of the **UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership** agreed upon last year.

2. New Media Accreditation

Context: Recently, the Central Government has released Central Media Accreditation guidelines 2022.

- **Media Accreditation:** Media accreditation is strictly reserved for media professionals (print, photo, radio, television, film, news agencies and online media) who represent a bona fide media organization (formally registered as a media organization in a country recognized by the United Nations General Assembly).

About the Media Accreditation guidelines 2022:

- Provisions to Withdraw/Suspend Accreditation:
 - ▶ If a journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country's security, sovereignty and integrity, friendly relations with foreign States, public order or is charged with a serious cognisable offense.
- If actions are prejudicial to decency, or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offense.
- Accredited media persons have been prohibited from using the words "Accredited to the government of India" on public/social media profile, visiting cards, letter heads or on any other form or any published work.
- **Provisions for Granting Accreditation:**
 - ▶ Accreditation is only available for journalists living in the Delhi NCR region. There are multiple categories.
 - ▶ A journalist needs to have a minimum five years' professional experience as a full-time working journalist or a cameraperson in a news organization, or a minimum of 15 years as a freelancer to become eligible.
 - ▶ Veteran journalists, with over 30 years of experience, and who are older than 65 years of age, too are eligible.
 - ▶ A newspaper or a periodical needs to have a minimum daily circulation of 10,000, and news agencies must have at least 100 subscribers. Similar rules apply for foreign news organizations and foreign journalists.
 - ▶ Journalists working with digital news platforms are also eligible, provided the website has a minimum of 10 lakh unique visitors per month.
 - ▶ No accreditation will be granted to freelance journalists working for foreign news media organizations.

Constitutional Provisions related to Freedom of Press:

- The Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression under **Article 19**, which deals with **Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech**, etc.
- Freedom of the press is **not expressly protected by the Indian legal system** but it is impliedly protected under article **19(1) (a) of the constitution**.
 - ▶ However, Freedom of the press is also **not absolute**.
 - ▶ A law could impose only those restrictions on the exercise of this right, it faces certain restrictions under **article 19(2)**, which is as follows:
 - ▶ Sovereignty and integrity of India, Security of the State, Friendly relations with foreign States, Public order, decency or morality or in Contempt of court, Defamation, Incitement to an offense.

3. Desh Ke Mentor Programme

Context: Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) suggested that the Delhi government suspend its flagship '**Desh ke Mentor**' Programme till "the time when all the loopholes pertaining to the safety of the children are overhauled."

About the Programme:

- It was launched in **October 2021**, with an aim at connecting students in classes IX to XII with voluntary mentors.
- People between the ages of 18 and 35 can sign up to be mentors through an app created by a team at the Delhi Technological University and will be connected with students based on mutual interests.
- The mentorship entails regular phone calls for a minimum of two months, which can optionally be carried on for another four months.
- The idea is for the young mentors to guide students through higher education and career options, preparation for higher education entrance exams, and dealing with the pressure of it all.
- So far, 44,000 people have signed up as mentors and have been working with 1.76 lakh children.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

- NCPCR is a **statutory body set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.**
- It is **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.**
- The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It enquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the **Right to Education Act, 2009.**
- It monitors the implementation of **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**

4. Two Finger Test and Constitutionality

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) has declared that any person conducting the invasive 'two-finger' or vaginal test on rape or sexual assault survivors will be found guilty of misconduct, as checking the virginity of the rape victim or whether she is 'sexually active' or not, is irrelevant to the fact whether she was 'raped' or not.

About the Two-finger Test:

- The 'two-finger test' or 'per Vaginal' is a regressive procedure that involves the insertion of two fingers into a person's vagina to gauge the laxity of vaginal muscles, thereby determining her 'virginity'.
- Doctors also check how habituated the woman who has been raped is to sexual intercourse and her sexual history.

Legality of Two-finger Test:

- In May 2013, the Supreme Court had banned the two-finger test on rape victims on the grounds that it violates their Right to privacy.

- The court had asked the government to provide better medical procedures in order to confirm sexual assault.
- This test has no scientific basis and neither proves nor disproves allegations of rape. It instead re-victimizes women who may have been sexually assaulted.

5. iRASTE Project for Road Safety In India

Context: The Indian government recently announced that a **technology-fueled by AI** could reduce the risk of road accidents in the country.

About iRASTE Project:

- A project called 'Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering' (iRASTE) is being implemented in Nagpur to tackle the problem of road accidents.
- The project is based on **artificial intelligence (AI)** and aims to identify potential accident-causing scenarios while driving a vehicle.
- iRASTE will alert drivers about the potential accident with the help of the **Advance Driver Assistance System (ADAS)**.
- The iRASTE project is being undertaken by the I-Hub Foundation, IIIT Hyderabad, a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) set up in the technology vertical- Data Banks and Data Services supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) along with INAI (Applied AI Research Institute).
- The project (iRASTE) will also identify 'greyspots', by data analysis and mobility analysis by continuously monitoring dynamic risks on the entire road network.
 - The need to identify 'greyspots' is of immense importance because if they remain unaddressed, they can become blackspots (locations with fatal accidents).

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS):

- The NM-ICPS is a **comprehensive Mission**.
- **Objective:** To address technology development, application development, human resource development & skill enhancement, entrepreneurship and start-up development in Cyber Physical System (CPS) and associated technologies.

6. Second phase of the GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0)

Context The second phase of the GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0) was launched with an aim to digitally upskill tribal youth

About

- GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Meta (formerly Facebook)**, which aims at digital empowerment of tribal youth and women through concept of mentor and mentee.
- **First Phase:** The first phase of the GOAL programme was launched as a pilot project in May 2020 and it was completed by Dec 2021.
- **Second Phase:** The second phase of the GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0) was launched on 28th June, 2022 with an aim to digitally upskill tribal youth by promoting entrepreneurship and opening up opportunities for them using digital technology.

7. National Air Sports Policy 2022

Context: The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation recently released a new policy on air sports in India.

About the National Air Sport Policy, 2022 (NASP):

- The National Air Sport Policy (NASP), 2022, lists 11 games under the category.
 - ▶ These include aerobatics, aero modelling and rocketry, ballooning, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, drones, gliding and paragliding.
- The policy aims to “organise a previously unregulated sector” and could potentially generate annual revenue of Rs. 8,000 to Rs.10, 000 crore in the near future.
- The NASP, 2022, aims to create a structure that would help “promote the country’s air sports sector, by way of making it safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable.”
- It includes safety mandates, penalties for violating those norms.
- Its vision is making India “one of the top air sports nations by 2030”.
- For the Air sports, there are four government structures formed under the Policy, which are named as follows:
 - ▶ **Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI)** is the apex governing body. It will preside over the national sports federations.
 - ▶ **National associations for individual air sports** or a set of air sports, as appropriate Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
 - ▶ **District-level air sports associations**, as appropriate. It will preside over the national sports federations
 - ▶ **Globally, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)**, headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland is the governing body for air sports.
- **It sets standards, organizes events and has over 100 members.**
- **All competitions in India will be conducted as per the guidelines laid down by FAI.**

8. Probity Portal

Context: Recently, the Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched revamped Probity Portal, e-HRMS 2.0 Portal and Mobile Application of iGoTKarmayogi Portal.

About the Portal:

- **e-HRMS 2.0 portal:**
 - ▶ The portal provides various services such as transfers (rotation/mutual), deputation, APAR, IPR, iGOT trainings, vigilance status, deputation opportunities, service book and other basic HR services like leave, tour, reimbursements, etc.
 - ▶ The **revamped e-HRMS 2.0 portal** was launched as the earlier iteration of the e-HRMS was limited in scope, where employees could avail limited services and it was not connected with other HR applications.
- The employees were unable to get full benefits of digital service deliveries and seamless connection with HR applications and initiatives of the government.

- ▶ The **revamped e-HRMS 2.0** is the **first digital system in government of India** to provide end-to-end HR services.
- **Significance of e-HRMS 2.0 portal:**
 - ▶ **Revamped e-HRMS 2.0** will save several thousand man-hours and tonnes of printing paper.
 - ▶ This will also go a long way in improving employee satisfaction, promoting ease of doing/processing HR work and enhancing productivity and transparency in administrative functioning.
- **iGoT Karmayogi Portal:**
 - ▶ The **iGOT Karmayogi platform** is envisaged as a democratised, competency driven solution space that all of the government can access to enhance their execution capabilities.
 - ▶ **iGOT-Karmayogi mobile app** and the platform will allow all government servants, at multiple levels, to undergo continuous training, depending on their domain areas. The app and the platform will provide anytime-anywhere-any-device learning to train about two crore users which was hitherto not achievable through traditional measures.

9. India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)

Context: The Union Minister of **Ports, Shipping & Waterways** (MoPSW) launched the India's first Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping to provide Green solutions to transform Ports & Shipping sector in India.

About

The National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS):

- **Aim:** To develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption road map for Green Shipping to foster **carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE)** in shipping sector in India.
- NCoEGPS will act as a **technological arm** of MoPSW for providing the needed support on Policy, Research and Cooperation on Green Shipping areas for Ports, DG Shipping, Corporate Social Landings and other institutions.
- The Center will be a host of several technological arms to support the port and shipping sector and will provide solutions to a variety of problems being faced in the industry through scientific research.
- It will also carry out valuable education, applied research and technology transfer in maritime transportation at the **local, regional, national and International levels**.
- **It will focus on the following areas:**
 - ▶ **Energy Management** - Energy management tools, waste energy recovery systems
 - ▶ **Emission Management**- Alternate, clean Energy/Fuel, emission control & monitoring.
 - ▶ **Sustainable Maritime Operations** – novel technologies and approaches

Other Government Initiatives:

- **Maritime Vision Document 2030:** It is a 10 Year blueprint on India's vision of a **sustainable Maritime sector** and **vibrant blue economy**.
- India's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** under the **Paris Agreement** for the Period 2021-2030 includes reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by **33 to 35 per cent** by 2030.

10. NeVA Service Centre

Context: The government inaugurated the renovated picture gallery and NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application) Seva Kendra at Vidhan Bhawan.

About:

- Orientation and training will be imparted to the Members of The Legislative Assembly, Assembly Secretariat and various officers of the State Government on e-Vidhan related works at the NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application) Service Centre.
- NeVA NIC Cloud is a workflow system based on 'Meghraj' which embodies the concept of e-Sadan/ Paperless House.
- NeVA is a device neutral and member-centric application designed to provide complete information about member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers and to handle diverse house businesses in a smart manner.
- It is worth mentioning that the Nagaland Assembly is the first assembly in the country to implement the NeVA.

11. Laws covering obscenity in India

Context: Based on a complaint by a Mumbai-based NGO, the Mumbai Police registered an FIR against actor Ranveer Singh recently for sharing photographs from an apparently nude photoshoot that he did with 'Paper' magazine.

Obscenity:

- The word obscene comes from the Latin word obscenus, which means foul, repulsive, or detestable.
- Obscenity is a term that is used to describe words that usually have a connection with sexual morality but now it extends to images or actions that offend most people.

Related Laws

- Section 292** (Sale, etc. of obscene books, etc) says that "a book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, representation, figure, or any other object shall be deemed to be obscene if it is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest.
- Section 293** (Sale, etc., of obscene objects to young person) says that "whoever sells, lets to hire, distributes, exhibits or circulates to any person under the age of twenty years any such obscene object...or offers or attempts so to do, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.
- Section 509** (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) states "whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any woman, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen, by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both"
- Sections 67A** of the Information Technology Act lays down the punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form.

12. CSIR gets its first woman chief

Context: Dr N Kalaiselvi has become the first woman to be appointed **Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

About CSIR:

- It was set up in 1942 as an autonomous body (under the Societies Registration Act, 1860).
- CSIR is now the largest government funded multi-disciplinary industrial research and development (R&D) organisation in India.
- It comes under the administrative supervision of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- The R&D activities of CSIR include aerospace engineering, structural engineering, ocean sciences, life sciences, metallurgy, chemicals, mining, food, petroleum, leather and environmental science.
- CSIR is headquartered in New Delhi.
- **CSIR@80: Vision and Strategy 2022** - New CSIR for New India: Under this, the CSIR's vision is to pursue -
 - Science which strives for global impact,
 - The technology that enables innovation-driven industry,
 - The technology that fosters multidisciplinary leadership, catalysing inclusive economic development for the people of India.

13. Sashakti: Delhi police's self-defence training helping women fight back

Context: Delhi Police's Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWAC) organised the **18th Summer Camp 2022** under its special initiative '**Sashakti**' for the purpose of creating awareness about women's safety.

About

- Under the initiative, Delhi Police will provide self-defence training to girls, working women and housewives with a view of empowering them.
- These classes are conducted free of cost both online and offline. This prepares women to deal with any situation at any given point in case they don't have immediate help around or when police may take time to reach the spot

14. India's first bridgital autism support network set up

Context: The Tata Power Community Development Trust (TPCDT) has partnered with the Center for Autism and other Disabilities Rehabilitation Research and Education (CADRRE) to launch 'Pay Attention - A different mind is a gifted mind', India's first bridgital autism support network.

About the initiative:

- The initiative aims to create awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and help people understand, accept and support individuals with autism and their parents and caregivers
- In addition to this, a toll-free autism support helpline is also launched at 1800 2099 488 to provide interactive support and much-needed professional aid for families in need.

15. Raisina Dialogue 2022

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the seventh edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi recently.

Raisina Dialogue:

- The Raisina Dialogue is an annual **conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics** addressing issues facing the **global community**.
- It takes its name from the Raisina Hill, the seat of the Indian government.
- It is organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in collaboration with the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**.
- Since its inception, the Raisina Dialogue has emerged as a leading global conference on international affairs featuring the participation of heads of state, ministers, journalists, academics and researchers.
- **Theme of previous Dialogues:**
 - 2016: "Asia: Regional and Global Connectivity"
 - 2017: "The New Normal: Multilateralism with Multipolarity"
 - 2018: "Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms"
 - 2019: "New Geometrics, Fluid Partnerships, Uncertain Outcomes"
 - 2020: "Navigating the Alpha Centurys"
 - 2021: "Viral World: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"

16. Draft Rules of Criminal Practice 2020

Context: After the Supreme Court gave directions in a case where the Court took *suo moto* proceedings related to inadequacies in the criminal trial system, two senior advocates and an amicus curiae (someone who assists the Court) have submitted a Report outlining the 'Draft Rules of Criminal Practice, 2020'.

Provision under the Criminal Practice rules 2020:

- Every Medico Legal Certificate and Post Mortem Report must contain a printed format of the human body (both frontal and rear view) and the sketch must indicate if there are any injuries.
- In case of custodial deaths, the Investigating Officer (IO) must inform the hospital to arrange for a photographer or videographer for conducting the post-mortem examination of the deceased.
- A police photographer or a state nominated photographer, or by an independent private photographer in the absence of the former two has to do this.
- The police must seize such photographs or videos through a panchnama or seizure memo, for proof during trial in Court accompanied by a written certificate for admitting electronic evidence.

- The IO must prepare a site plan with details and attach it to the spot panchnama. After this, a police draftsman must make a 'scaled site plan' and the panchnama and the site plan must contain all the relevant details.

Trial Procedure for Recording Evidence:

- The deposition of witnesses must be recorded in typed format in the language of the witness as well as in English and the Presiding Officer must read it over to them.
- A hard copy of the signed recorded testimony will be with the Presiding Officer and should be made available free of cost to the accused or an advocate representing the accused, the witness and the prosecutor.
- Every Court and Presiding Officer should have a translator trained in the local languages, on the request of the Presiding Officers.
- The Presiding Officers will not record evidence in more than one case at the same time.

17. Centre to soon introduce 'Ayush Visa' for foreign nationals

Context: The Centre would soon introduce a special Ayush visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to India to take advantage of traditional medicine, as part of initiatives to promote medical tourism.

What is the concept of AYUSH VISA?

- AYUSH Visa aims to help all those individuals who are looking to come to India for seeking **traditional treatments**.
- The AYUSH wellness centres would attract a lot of visitors from across the world thus boosting the country's economy.

About AYUSH

- AYUSH is the acronym of the medical systems that are being practiced in India such as **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy**.
- These systems are based on definite medical philosophies and represent a way of healthy living with established concepts on prevention of diseases and promotion of health.
- The basic approach of all these systems on health, disease and treatment are holistic.

The AYUSH Mark


- To promote the **traditional medicine industry**, India will soon launch '**AYUSH mark**' which will give authenticity to quality AYUSH products made in the country.
- After the introduction of the AYUSH mark, products will be thoroughly vetted using the latest technology to check and maintain its quality.
- ISO standards are being developed by the experts of AYUSH in association with the **Bureau of Indian Standards** with the objective of creating an export market across 150 countries in the world.

18. Mother Nature' a 'living being' with legal entity: Madras HC

Context: The Madras High Court in a recent order declared "Mother Nature" a Living Being with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

The ruling:

- Madras High Court invoked the 'parens patriae jurisdiction', and declared 'Mother Nature' as a 'living being' having the status of a legal entity.
- Justice S. Srimathy observed that the court is hereby declaring 'Mother Nature' a 'living being' having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order to preserve and conserve it.
- The court observed that 'Mother Nature' was accorded the rights akin to fundamental rights, legal rights, constitutional rights for its survival, safety, sustenance and resurgence in order to maintain its status and also to promote its health and well-being.

 **The court is hereby declaring Mother Nature a Living Being having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order to preserve and conserve it**
JUSTICE S. SRIMATHY
 Madurai Bench of Madras High Court



Parens patriae Jurisdiction:

- Parens patriae is Latin for "parent of the people."
- Under parens patriae, a state or court has a paternal and protective role over its citizens or others subject to its jurisdiction.
- The doctrine of parens patriae is a doctrine under which a state has third-party standing to bring a lawsuit on behalf of a citizen when the suit implicates a state's quasi-sovereign interests for the well-being of its citizens.
- The parens patriae doctrine is also the doctrine in which all orphans, dependent children, and persons deemed incompetent are within the special protection, and under the control of the state.

The 2017 Uttarakhand High Court judgment:

- The Uttarakhand High Court granted legal rights to the heavily-polluted Yamuna and Ganga rivers in 2017.
- The court went on to declare all the glaciers, including Gangotri and Yamunotri, rivers, streams, rivulets, lakes, air, meadows, dales, jungles, forests wetlands, grasslands, springs, and waterfalls as living entities.

Other countries with similar judgments:

- **Ecuador:** The South American country became the first country in the world in 2008 to ratify a constitutional amendment to include nature's rights.
- **New Zealand:** New Zealand and its native Maori have recognised natural ecosystems as living beings. In 2017, New Zealand granted the Whanganui River the legal rights of a human being.

- **Columbia:** Citing the precedent set in New Zealand, the Constitutional Court of Columbia granted legal rights to the Atrato River, near the Panama border.
- **Australia, the United States** and Bangladesh are also some other countries that have acknowledged the legal rights to various natural ecosystems.
- **Bangladesh** in fact went a step ahead and declared all of the rivers in the country to be alive and entitled to legal rights.

19. WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat

Context: The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the government of India signed an agreement to establish a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Gujarat. The agreement is signed between **Ministry of Ayush and World Health Organization (WHO)** to establish the WHO-GCTM at Jamnagar, Gujarat.

About Global Centre for Traditional Medicine:

- The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) is a **knowledge centre for traditional medicine**.
- The global knowledge centre for traditional medicine is supported by an investment of **USD 250 million from the Government of India**.
- It aims to harness the **potential of traditional medicine** from across the world through modern science and technology to improve the health of people and the planet.
- The term traditional medicine describes the **total sum of the knowledge; skills and practices indigenous and different cultures have used over time to maintain health and prevent diagnose and treat physical and mental illness**.
- Its reach encompasses ancient practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine and herbal mixtures as well as modern medicines.
- The new centre focuses on **four main strategic areas**:
 - **evidence and learning;**
 - **data and analytics;**
 - **sustainability and equity; and**
 - **innovation and technology**
- Its aim is to **optimize the contribution of traditional medicine** to global health and sustainable development.

20. India's first suicide prevention policy

Context: The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has announced a **National Suicide Prevention Strategy**, the first of its kind in the country to achieve a reduction in **suicide mortality by 10% by 2030**.

About

The National Suicide Prevention Strategy:

- The strategy is in line with the **WHO's South East-Asia Region Strategy** for suicide prevention.

- **Aim:** The strategy broadly seeks to establish:
 - Effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
 - To establish **psychiatric outpatient departments** that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years, and
 - To integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.
- **It envisages developing guidelines for:**
 - responsible media reporting of suicides, and
 - restricting access to means of suicide with time-bound action plans
 - multi-sectoral collaborations
- The stress is on **developing community resilience** and **societal support** for suicide prevention.

Suicide rates in India:

- According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report 2021**, the Suicide rate in India is increasing alarmingly.
- Delhi has recorded the highest number of **(2,840) suicides**.
- **Reasons for Suicide:**
 - 2%: Family Problems (other than marriage-related problems)
 - 8%: Marriage Related Problems
 - 6%: Illness

Related Initiatives:

- Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- KIRAN
- Manodarpan Initiative

21. The idea of one nation, one police uniform

Context: While addressing the State Home Ministers' conference in Haryana, the Prime Minister has flagged the idea of **"one nation, one police uniform"** to have a **brand recall** just like the red-and-black post boxes in the country.

Background

- While police personnel in India are often associated with the **colour khaki**, their uniforms do differ in varying degrees in different regions.
- Since state governments and even an individual force can decide the uniform of their personnel, there are at times inconsistencies in their official attire.
- **For example:**
 - The **Kolkata Police** wear **white**
 - **Puducherry Police** constables wear **bright red caps** with their **khaki uniforms**.
 - **Delhi Traffic Police** personnel wear a **white and blue uniform**

Provisions for Police forces in India:

- The **Indian Constitution** puts '**police forces**' under the jurisdiction of **state governments**, and each of the **28 states** has its own police force.
- Both 'public order and the 'police' are placed in **List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule** of the Constitution, which deals with the division of powers between the Union and States.

22. Rules for displaying the Tricolour

Context: To commemorate the 75th Independence Day, Indians actively participated in the government's HarGharTiranga campaign, being held under the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav programme.


About

Flag Code of India:

- According to the Flag Code of India, **paragraph 2.2**, (effective from January 26, 2002) any person, organisation, private or public, or educational institution can hoist or display the Tricolour on "all days or occasions in accordance with the dignity and honour of the National Flag".
- Dimension:** The flag can be as big or small as one wants, but the ratio of the length to the height (width) of the National Flag shall be **3:2**.
- Material:** After an amendment on December 30, 2021, the material of the flag has been decided as "handspun and handwoven or machine-made, cotton, polyester, wool, silk or khadi bunting".

What is not allowed?

- It is **against rules to display a damaged or dishevelled National Flag**.
- No other flag or bunting shall be placed higher than or above or side by side with the National Flag; nor shall any object including flowers or garlands, or emblem be placed on or above the flagmast from which the National Flag is flown".
- The Tricolour should **never be used as a festoon, rosette, and bunting** or for a decorative purpose.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF NATIONAL FLAG		
BY BURNING		
<p>■ Light a fire strong enough to burn the flag but not very intense so that pieces of burnt flag do not fly out. Fold the flag according to rules and carefully place it on fire. During the process, never put the flag on ground.</p>		
<p>■ Don't throw away the flag into the fire. Putting the flag on fire without folding it is considered as disrespect.</p>	<p>■ Stand solemnly and silently near the fire until the flag is completely burnt. Make sure that no part of the flag remains unburnt.</p>	 <p>By burying</p> <p>■ Choose a clean burial place for the flag.</p> <p>■ Before burying, fold the flag according to rules and preferably put it in a biodegradable box.</p> <p>■ The flag can also be carefully cut along the strips before burial.</p>

- No advertisements should be festooned to the pole from which it flies.
- A person is forbidden by law to use the national flag "as a portion of costume or uniform".
- It cannot be used as an accessory to be worn below the waist of any person.
- It shall not be embroidered or printed on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, undergarments or any dress material".

- The National Flag **cannot be flown on any vehicle** except those of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Governor and other dignitaries.
- The flag should also not be used to cover the sides, back, and top of any vehicle.
- The Tricolour **should not be stored in a way that might dirty or damage it.**

Punishment for disrespecting the flag:

- According to **Section 2** of the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, whoever in any public place destroys or tramples upon the Indian National Flag, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with a fine, or with both.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

1. Consider the following statements in respect of Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards:

1. Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are titles under the Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India.
2. Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, were suspended only once.
3. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of five in a particular year.

Which of the above statements are not correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements in respect of the ICC World Test Championship:

1. The finalists were decided by the number of matches they won.
2. New Zealand was ranked ahead of England because it won more matches than England.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements in respect of the Laureus World Sports Award which was instituted in the year 2000:

1. American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.
2. The award was received mostly by 'Formula One' players so far.
3. Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times compared to others.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this Olympics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (d)	2. (d)	3. (c)	4. (b)
--------	--------	--------	--------

PRACTICE MCQs

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) is/are correct?

1. It is a common counter-terrorism grid that acts as a nodal establishment for sharing intelligence inputs among various agencies.
2. All organizations that are in any way involved in the counter-terrorism effort are a member of this centre.
3. It operates under the aegis of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the electronic-bill processing system:

1. It seeks to expedite the process of payments by allowing suppliers and contractors to submit their claims online which will be trackable on a real-time basis.
2. It has been developed by the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
3. The bills will be processed by the first-in-first-out method.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding e-DAR portal recently seen in news:

1. It is an integrated data and instant information provisioning portal on road accidents.
2. It is an extension of Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) and will provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot along with the site map.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Election commission can deregister the faulty political parties.
2. The Representation of People act, 1951 is the governing law for rights of political parties as well as the voters.
3. Under section 24A of the RPA 1951, there is no legal inquiry for funding of political parties up to 20,000.

Which of the statement given above are correct?

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

5. With reference to National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), consider the following statements:

1. It is the statutory agency for auditing and accounting standards in India.
2. NFRA has been set up under the Companies Act 2013.
3. It keeps account of financial statements of both listed and unlisted companies.

Which of the following statements are correct?

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

6. Which of the following are considered as 'Minor forest produce' under the Forest Rights Act, 2003?

1. Mahua flower
2. Sal leaves

3. Amla
4. Tendu leaves
5. Bamboo
6. Tea
7. Spices

Select the correct answer from code given above:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

7. Consider the following regarding National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. It is a statutory body made under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
2. It can recommend initiation of proceedings in violation of child rights cases.
3. Children in Street Situations (CiSS) portal have been launched under the body.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

8. Consider the following pairs:

	IPC Sections	Related to
1	Sec 153A	Promoting enmity between different groups
2	Sec 295A	Hate Speech
3	Sec 298	Deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings
4	Sec 505	Statements conducing to public mischief

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The constitution empowers the Parliament to appoint a Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.

2. At present, there is no sub-categorisation within the 27% reservation for socially and educationally backward classes in jobs and education under the central government.

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

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

10. With reference to election of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Electoral College to elect a person to the office of the Vice-President consists of all members of both Houses of Parliament.
2. An election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be held within six months from the date of occurrence of vacancy.
3. The Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha is usually appointed as the Returning Officer to conduct the Vice-Presidential elections.
4. A Petition challenging the election of the Vice-president is heard by a five-judge bench of the supreme court of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

11. With reference to 'Right to be forgotten', consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court of India has recognized the right to be forgotten as a fundamental right under Article 21.
2. India, at present does not have any statutory provision that provides for right to be forgotten.

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

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

12. Which of the following are parliamentary privileges?

1. Freedom of Speech
2. Freedom from Arrest
3. Exemption from Attendance as Witnesses
4. Right to Publish Debates and Proceedings
5. Right to Punish Members and Outsiders

Select the correct code given below:

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

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Major ports figure in the State List and come under the jurisdiction of the State governments.
2. The Kolkata port is the only riverine port in the country.
3. The draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022 proposes to establish a Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) as a statutory-cum-permanent apex advisory body.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

14. Which of the following are the features of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

1. It limits the benefits of economic reservation to general categories only.
2. The amendment runs contrary to the Supreme Court judgment in Indira Sawhney Case.
3. It imposes reservations for economically weaker sections in state-aided private educational institutions only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

15. Consider the following statements:

1. Creation of new districts or abolishing existing districts can only be done by passing a law in the State Assembly.
2. The Centre has no role to play in matters of alteration of districts' names or creation of new ones.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

16. With reference to legal provisions regarding forests in India, consider the following statements:

1. State governments require statutory clearance from the centre before forests can be used for any non-forest purpose such as industry, mining, or construction.
2. Under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, centre can define any land area as forest which is not already classified as forest in the Central or state records.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding the delimitation commission:

1. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law.
2. The orders of the delimitation commission come into force on a date as specified by the President of India.
3. Constitution of India prohibits any delimitation exercise till 2026.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

18. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission was recently setup by Government of India to examine which among the following issue?

- (a) Setting uniform time frame for disposing bail applications.
- (b) Granting 'Scheduled Caste' status to Dalits who converted to other religions.
- (c) Studying various issues relating to non-personal data.
- (d) Looking into allegations of unauthorized surveillance

19. Consider the following statements:

1. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is the national medical regulatory authority of India.
2. Under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 the primary remit for monitoring the manufacture and sale of drugs is that of state authorities.
3. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 governs the pricing of drugs in India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

20. With reference to the Model Code of Conduct, consider the following statements:

1. It imposes a restriction on government-sponsored advertisements for up to six months prior to the date of expiry of the House/Assembly.
2. It is not legally enforceable and thus its violation does not attract penal provisions.
3. It prescribes a standardised disclosure proforma for parties to explain how they plan to finance poll promises.

Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?

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

21. Which among the following categories of people can cast their votes remotely using the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)?

1. Persons working in Central Forces
2. Media persons authorized by ECI for poll day coverage
3. Persons with disabilities
4. Overseas migrant labourers
5. Government officials deployed in embassies outside the country

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Sixth Schedule of Indian constitution:

1. It seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
2. The President is vested with powers to create a new autonomous district and alter the name of any autonomous district.
3. No region outside the Northeast has been included in the Sixth Schedule so far.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

23. Consider the following:

1. Article 153 of the Constitution declares that

one person can hold the office of Governor for two or more States.

2. Governor holds his office as a Constitutional head of the State but does not represent a State.
3. The Governor is not a part of State Legislature.

Which of the statements given above are *incorrect*?

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

24. Consider the following statements:

1. Enforcement Directorate is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
2. Any appeal against any order passed by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court can directly be filed in the High Court for that jurisdiction.

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

25. Which of the following statement is correct regarding Digi Yatra?

- (e) It is iris recognition technology to change the identification and security infrastructure
- (f) It is the first biometrically verified peer lending network.
- (g) It is a voice biometrics system that authenticates customers to prevent security breaches.
- (h) It is a biometric enabled seamless travel experience based on Facial Recognition Technology.

26. Which of the following statement is *Incorrect* regarding Electoral Bonds?

- (a) Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country.
- (b) Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act of 1951 are only eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.
- (c) The State Bank of India (SBI) is the only authorized bank to issue and redeem electoral bonds.
- (d) No payment can be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

27. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:

1. Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner are appointed by the President of India.
2. The CEC cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

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

28. Which of the following Article of the Constitution of India deals with the 'Appointment of additional and acting Judges'?

- (a) Article 211
- (b) Article 224A
- (c) Article 230
- (d) None of these

29. Consider the following statements regarding foreign funded religious conversions in India:

1. Article 15(3) of the constitution allows the State to make special provision for women and children.
2. Rules under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) scrutinises funding of NGOs particularly for fraudulent religious conversion.

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

30. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding 'Pardoning Power'?

- (a) Pardoning power is entrusted to a superior judicial authority.
- (b) The President under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution can grant pardons, reprieves, or commute the sentence of any person where such punishment is a death sentence.
- (c) The President cannot exercise his power of pardon independent of the government.
- (d) The pardoning powers of the President are subject to judicial review by the court.

31. Regarding corporal punishment, consider the following statements:

1. Section 17 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, imposes an absolute bar on corporal punishment.
2. Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act prescribes punishment for cruelty to children.
3. Physical punishment is any action that causes pain, hurt/injury and discomfort to a child, however light.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

32. Regarding the recently developed remote voting machine prototype by the Election Commission (EC), consider the following statements:

1. It can handle up to 72 constituencies from a single remote polling booth.
2. It is a modified version of the existing Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).
3. The remote voter will have to pre-register for the facility.
4. The RVM would have paper ballot sheets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

33. Which of the following statements regarding Doctrine of Pith and Substance are correct?

1. It literally means true nature and substance and it is used to solve the conflict regarding the power of a level of government to make law on a particular matter.
2. It has been borrowed by the framers of the Indian Constitution from American Constitution.
3. It is helpful in maintaining the federal structure of our political setup.

Choose the correct option using the code given below:

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding doctrine of Colourable Legislation:

1. It is applied when a Legislature does not have the right to make law upon a particular subject but indirectly makes one.

2. It is used to determine the substance of the law which the legislature has given it and not the form or label of it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

35. Which of the following statements related to Doctrine of Severability is *incorrect*?

- (a) It states that if there is any offending part in the statute then the only offending part is declared void and not the entire statute.
- (b) It is explicitly related to Article 13 of the constitution.
- (c) If the valid and invalid provisions of statute cannot be separated from one another then the entire act becomes invalid.
- (d) It limits the scope of Judicial Review.

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

1. Due Process of Law is now explicitly mentioned in Article 21.
2. Article 21 is inherently related with Article 19 and Article 14.
3. Power of 'Judicial Review' has been expanded with Maneka Gandhi judgement, hence, it has got equal to power given to US Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

37. Consider the following:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill in either House of Parliament:
2. The President can withhold his assent but cannot return the Bill to the Parliament when a Constitution Amendment Bill is presented to him/her.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental rights can be amended by the Parliament by a constitutional amendment but

only if the amendment does not alter the basic structure of the Constitution.

2. In the Golaknath case of 1967, the Supreme Court held that the Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution including fundamental rights.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. Which of the following is not the part of the Basic Structure of the Indian constitution as established by various Supreme Court judgments over the years?

- (a) The parliamentary system of government
- (b) Welfare state
- (c) Free and fair elections
- (d) The absolute power of the parliament to amend the Constitution

40. Consider the following statements:

1. The Muslim League favoured the Cripps proposal of two separate Constituent Assemblies.
2. The Constituent Assembly formed in 1946 was an entirely elected body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following pairs:

1. Provincial Constitution Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Special Committee to Examine the Draft Constitution - Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar
3. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights - BR Ambedkar

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

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

42. Consider the following statements.

1. Procedure established by law is a novel feature of the Indian Constitution.
2. The concept of due process of law has been explicitly mentioned in Article 21.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

43. Which of the following was/were recommendations of the Amendment Act of 1786?

1. The Governor-general of Bengal should be empowered to override the decision of his council in special cases.
2. The Governor-general of Bengal should be the Commander-in-chief.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

44. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the organization of the States in the Union of India under the Indian Constitution?

1. The State of Andhra became the first linguistic state formed in the year 1953, on the recommendation of Fazl Ali Commission.
2. By the States Reorganization Act (1956) and the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act (1956), some of the Part C states gave rise to the special type of territories known as the Union territories.
3. In the year 1972, the NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency) was reorganised into two separate states of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Select the correct answer using the following code:

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding the state of Sikkim:

1. Sikkim became the 22nd state of the Union of India and it was admitted in the Union as a result of referendum in 1975.
2. 35th Constitutional Amendment Act (1974), conferred the Sikkim a status of 'Associate state' but people of the Sikkim state in 1975, voted to abolish the institution of monarchy and make Sikkim a State of Union of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

46. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951?

1. It was moved by then Prime Minister Mr. J. L. Nehru.
2. It was not discussed in the Rajya Sabha of the Parliament.
3. It created the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to prevent the land reform laws from judicial review.

Choose the correct answer using the following codes.

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding significance of Fundamental Duties:

1. They help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law.
2. They serve as a warning against the anti-national and antisocial activities in public sphere.

Which of the above statements is/are *incorrect*?

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

48. Consider the following statements:

1. A State is a Political Organisation while a Nation is a social, cultural, psychological, emotional and political unity.
2. Possession of a Definite Territory is essential for the State but not for a Nation.
3. Sovereignty is essential for State but not for Nation.
4. The State uses police power (force) for preserving its unity and integrity, the Nation is bound by strong cultural and historical links.

Which of the above statements are correctly highlighting the difference between a Nation and a State?

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):

1. It aims to make secondary and tertiary healthcare completely cashless for the underprivileged sections of the society.
2. It is implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) in all states and UTs.

3. The Ayushman Bharat health cards issued under the scheme can be used only for the central health schemes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor is not constitutionally bound to give assent to the Bill that has been passed again by the legislature without accepting any of the amendments suggested by him.
2. Article 200 does not lay down any time frame for the Governor to give his assent **to a bill**.
3. The state legislatures cannot override the veto power of the President.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANSWER KEY

1. (b)	2. (d)	3. (c)	4. (b)
5. (b)	6. (d)	7. (d)	8. (c)
9. (b)	10. (a)	11. (c)	12. (c)
13. (d)	14. (a)	15. (d)	16. (a)
17. (b)	18. (b)	19. (d)	20. (d)
21. (c)	22. (a)	23. (b)	24. (c)
25. (d)	25. (b)	27. (c)	28. (b)
29. (a)	30. (a)	31. (c)	32. (a)
33. (c)	34. (c)	35. (d)	36. (b)
37. (a)	38. (a)	39. (d)	40. (d)
41. (c)	42. (d)	43. (c)	44. (a)
45. (c)	46. (d)	47. (d)	48. (d)
49. (c)	50. (c)		



SUCCESS IS A PRACTICE WE DO!

