



**An Institute for Civil Services**

**PRELIMS 2025**

# **INDIAN POLITY**

**PRACTICE TEST - 6**

**Political Processes *and*  
Constitutional Developments**

 **8448496262**

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Question Booklet

## GENERAL STUDIES

# PRACTICE TEST - 6

## (Indian Polity: Political Processes & Constitutional Developments)

**Time Allowed: 40 Min.**

**Maximum Marks: 50**

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. **Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.**
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the test booklet in the Box provided alongside. **DO NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **25** items (questions). Each item is printed in English. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet in response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**

THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.

- (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
- (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
- (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no** penalty for that question.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Anti-Defection Law (Tenth Schedule):

1. A nominated member of a House loses his seat if he joins any political party after six months from the date of taking the oath.
2. The Speaker of the House is the final authority to decide on disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.
3. A legislator disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law is permanently barred from contesting elections in the future.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

2. **Assertion (A):** The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies.

**Reason (R):** The Election Commission is a multi-member body with three Election Commissioners.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

3. With reference to Pressure Groups in India, consider the following statements:

1. Pressure groups are organizations that seek to influence public policy but do not contest elections.
2. The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) is an example of a pressure group.
3. Pressure groups always work independently and do not align with political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Which of the following best describes a multi-party system in India?

- (a) A system where only two parties dominate national politics.
- (b) A system where multiple political parties exist, but only one can form a government.
- (c) A system where several parties compete, and coalition governments are common.
- (d) A system where regional parties are constitutionally barred from contesting national elections.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Scheduled Areas in India:

1. The President of India can declare an area as a Scheduled Area in any state after consultation with the Governor of that state.
2. The Fifth Schedule applies to states other than those in the Northeast.
3. The Sixth Schedule provides for autonomous district councils in certain tribal areas of the Northeast.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

6. Under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which of the following powers are granted to Autonomous District Councils?

1. Power to form laws on land management and village administration.
2. Power to establish and manage schools and hospitals.
3. Power to regulate trade and commerce within their jurisdiction.
4. Power to override state laws without the Governor's assent.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

7. Which of the following Indian states has special provisions under Article 371A of the Constitution?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Sikkim

8. Consider the following statements regarding Union Territories (UTs) in India:

1. Union Territories are governed directly by the President of India through an Administrator.
2. All Union Territories have a Legislative Assembly.
3. The Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, curtailed the powers of the elected government of Delhi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

9. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments is related to the Basic Structure Doctrine?

- (a) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
- (b) Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)
- (c) Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967)
- (d) S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)

10. **Assertion (A):** The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act introduced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

**Reason (R):** The Supreme Court upheld the amendment, stating that economic criteria alone can be used to determine backwardness.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

11. With reference to the NOTA (None of the Above) option in Indian elections, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced following a Supreme Court directive in 2013.
2. If NOTA receives the highest number of votes in a constituency, a re-election is conducted.
3. NOTA is available in all elections, including the Presidential and Rajya Sabha elections.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

12. Which of the following conditions can lead to disqualification of a candidate under the Representation of the People Act, 1951?

1. Holding an office of profit under the government.
2. Engaging in corrupt practices during elections.
3. Conviction for any criminal offense with imprisonment of at least two years.
4. Failure to declare assets and liabilities before nomination.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

13. Which of the following best describes the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)?

- (a) It grants individual and community rights over forest land and resources.
- (b) It provides automatic ownership of all forest lands to tribals.
- (c) It allows the Union Government to directly control tribal lands in Scheduled Areas.
- (d) It exclusively applies to Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.



**14.** The Constitutional requirement for states to establish a Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) is applicable to:

- (a) Only the states having Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule
- (b) Only the states having Sixth Schedule areas
- (c) All states with Scheduled Tribes population
- (d) Only Union Territories with Scheduled Tribes population

**15.** Which of the following statements regarding Article 371J is correct?

- (a) It provides special provisions for the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- (b) It grants special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region to improve education and employment.
- (c) It was introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act.
- (d) It allows for the creation of a separate autonomous council in Telangana.

**16.** Which of the following states have been given special constitutional provisions under Articles 371 to 371J?

- 1. Andhra Pradesh
- 2. Sikkim
- 3. Manipur
- 4. Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**17.** Which of the following landmark Supreme Court cases dealt with legislators' right to free speech inside the legislature?

- (a) Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)
- (b) Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013)
- (c) Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)
- (d) P.V. Narasimha Rao v. State (1998)

**18. Assertion (A):** The 105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021 restored the power of states to identify backward classes.

**Reason (R):** The Supreme Court's decision in the Maratha Reservation Case (2021) had ruled that states cannot independently identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

**19.** With reference to the powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

- 1. The ECI is responsible for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislatures.
- 2. It has the authority to deregister a political party if it violates the Model Code of Conduct.
- 3. The Constitution explicitly provides for the independence and tenure of Election Commissioners.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**20.** Which of the following statements regarding the recognition of political parties in India is correct?

- (a) A party is recognized as a national party if it secures at least 6% of valid votes in four or more states and wins at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- (b) A party can be recognized as a state party only if it wins at least 10 Assembly seats in a state.
- (c) A party losing its recognition as a state party automatically loses its national party status.
- (d) The Election Commission can suo motu revoke the recognition of a party if it fails to field candidates in elections.

**21.** Consider the following statements regarding Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) under the Sixth Schedule:

1. ADCs have legislative, judicial, and executive powers over specified matters.
2. The Governor can increase or reduce the jurisdiction of an ADC.
3. The laws made by ADCs require the assent of the President of India before implementation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**22.** Which of the following correctly describes the special status of Article 371A for Nagaland?

- (a) It grants the Governor of Nagaland discretionary powers to administer the state independently.
- (b) No Act of Parliament affecting religious and social practices of Nagas can be applied unless approved by the State Legislature.
- (c) The Article allows for the formation of Naga Autonomous District Councils with legislative powers.
- (d) It provides 100% reservation for Scheduled Tribes in state government jobs and educational institutions.

**23.** Which of the following states was given special status under Article 371G, limiting the applicability of Central laws unless approved by its Legislative Assembly?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**24.** The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, which sought to establish the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), was struck down by the Supreme Court in which of the following cases?

- (a) Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)
- (b) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)
- (c) Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)
- (d) Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015)

**25. Assertion (A):** The Right to Privacy has been recognized as a Fundamental Right in India.

**Reason (R):** The Supreme Court, in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), held that the Right to Privacy is an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.



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## GENERAL STUDIES

# PRACTICE TEST - 6

(Indian Polity: Political Processes  
& Constitutional Developments)

### *Answer Key*

Q. 1 (b)	Q. 6 (a)	Q. 11 (a)	Q. 16 (c)	Q. 21 (a)
Q. 2 (b)	Q. 7 (a)	Q. 12 (d)	Q. 17 (d)	Q. 22 (b)
Q. 3 (a)	Q. 8 (b)	Q. 13 (a)	Q. 18 (a)	Q. 23 (c)
Q. 4 (c)	Q. 9 (a)	Q. 14 (a)	Q. 19 (a)	Q. 24 (d)
Q. 5 (c)	Q. 10 (a)	Q. 15 (b)	Q. 20 (a)	Q. 25 (a)

## 1. Correct Option: (b) Only two

### Step 1: Carefully Read the Question and Identify the Key Terms

- The question is about the **Anti-Defection Law** under the **Tenth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution.
- The **three statements** need to be evaluated based on **constitutional provisions and judicial interpretations**.
- The question asks **how many statements are correct**, so **each statement must be assessed independently**.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *A nominated member of a House loses his seat if he joins any political party after six months from the date of taking the oath.*
- **Check Constitutionality:**
  - **Tenth Schedule, Paragraph 2(3)** states that a **nominated member** can **join a political party within six months** of taking the oath.
  - After **six months**, if they join a party, they are **disqualified**.
- **Verdict:** This statement is correct.

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *The Speaker of the House is the final authority to decide on disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - **Tenth Schedule, Paragraph 6(1)** states that the **presiding officer (Speaker/Chairman)** has the **authority** to decide disqualification under this law.
  - However, **this decision is subject to judicial review** (as ruled in **Kihoto Hollohan case, 1992**).
- **Verdict:** This statement is correct.

### Step 4: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *A legislator disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law is permanently barred from contesting elections in the future.*
- **Check the Disqualification Effect:**
  - **Tenth Schedule** does **NOT** impose a **permanent ban** on contesting elections after disqualification.
  - A disqualified legislator **can contest elections again**, even immediately

after disqualification, unless barred under another provision (e.g., criminal conviction under Representation of the People Act, 1951).

- **Verdict:** This statement is incorrect.

### Step 5: Count the Correct Statements

- **Statement 1** → Correct
- **Statement 2** → Correct
- **Statement 3** → Incorrect
- Thus, **two statements are correct**.

## 2. Correct Option: (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.

### Step 1: Understand Assertion (A)

- **Assertion (A):** *The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for conducting elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies.*
- **Check Constitutionality:**
  - **Article 324 of the Indian Constitution** vests the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** with the power to conduct elections to:
    - **Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament)**
    - **Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament)**
    - **State Legislative Assemblies**
    - **State Legislative Councils (where applicable)**
    - **President & Vice-President elections**

- **Verdict:** A is true.

### Step 2: Understand Reason (R)

- **Reason (R):** *The Election Commission is a multi-member body with three Election Commissioners.*
- **Check Constitutionality & Historical Context:**
  - Originally, the **Election Commission** was a **single-member body** (only the Chief Election Commissioner).
  - Since **1993**, it has been a **multi-member body** with **one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **two Election Commissioners (ECs)**.
- **Verdict:** R is true.

### Step 3: Evaluate the Relationship Between A and R

- **Does R explain A?**
  - **No.** The reason (R) talks about the structure of the Election Commission, but the assertion (A) is about its functions.
  - The fact that ECI is a **multi-member body** does **not** explain why it is responsible for conducting elections in India.
  - The **correct explanation** for A would be **Article 324**, which grants the Election Commission this authority.

### Step 4: Choose the Correct Answer

- Both A and R are true
- R does NOT correctly explain A

## 3. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only.

### Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *Pressure groups are organizations that seek to influence public policy but do not contest elections.*
- **Check Conceptual Accuracy:**
  - Pressure groups **do not contest elections** but try to **influence policymaking and government decisions** through lobbying, protests, and negotiations.
  - Unlike political parties, they do **not aim to directly form a government** but rather advocate for specific interests (e.g., trade unions, farmers' associations, business groups).
- **Verdict:** Statement 1 is correct.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) is an example of a pressure group.*
- **Check Factual Accuracy:**
  - AITUC (All India Trade Union Congress) is India's oldest trade union federation, formed in 1920.
  - It represents **workers' interests** and engages in **collective bargaining and strikes** to influence labor policies.
  - It does not function as a political party but **acts as a pressure group** advocating labor rights.
- **Verdict:** Statement 2 is correct.

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *Pressure groups always work independently and do not align with political parties.*
- **Check Conceptual Accuracy:**
  - While some pressure groups remain **independent**, many are **closely linked to political parties**.
    - AITUC has historically been associated with the **Communist Party of India (CPI)**.
    - **Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS)** is linked to the **RSS and BJP**.
    - **Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)** has been associated with the **Indian National Congress**.
  - Many pressure groups align with **political ideologies** and **support specific parties** during elections.
- **Verdict:** Statement 3 is incorrect.

### Step 4: Choose the Correct Answer

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Correct
- Statement 3 → Incorrect

## 4. Correct Option: (c) A system where several parties compete, and coalition governments are common.

### Step 1: Understand the Definition of a Multi-Party System

- A **multi-party system** is one where **multiple political parties** compete for power, and no single party necessarily dominates.
- This system often leads to **coalition governments** due to the lack of an absolute majority by any one party.

### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a):** *A system where only two parties dominate national politics.*
  - **Incorrect** – This describes a **two-party system** (e.g., the USA with Democrats & Republicans).
  - India does not have a strict two-party dominance; many parties influence politics.

- **Option (b):** *A system where multiple political parties exist, but only one can form a government.*
  - **Incorrect** – This describes a **one-party dominant system**, where many parties exist, but one party consistently remains in power (e.g., China has a single-party system).
  - **In India, multiple parties not only exist but also form governments at both state and national levels.**
- **Option (c):** *A system where several parties compete, and coalition governments are common.*
  - **Correct** – India has a **multi-party system**, where regional and national parties compete.
  - **Coalition governments are frequent due to fragmented electoral mandates.**
  - **Examples:** UPA (2004-2014), NDA (1998-2004, 2014-present), Third Front governments in the 1990s.
- **Option (d):** *A system where regional parties are constitutionally barred from contesting national elections.*
  - **Incorrect** – No such constitutional restriction exists.
  - **Regional parties like DMK, AIADMK, TMC, and Shiv Sena have participated in national elections and formed coalitions.**

## 5. Correct Option: (c) All three

### Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *The President of India can declare an area as a Scheduled Area in any state after consultation with the Governor of that state.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Article 244(1) and the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution empower the President to declare any area as a Scheduled Area in a state after consultation with the Governor.
  - The Governor has a recommendatory role, but the final decision lies with the President.
- **Verdict:** Statement 1 is correct.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *The Fifth Schedule applies to states other than those in the Northeast.*

- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - The Fifth Schedule applies to Scheduled Areas in states EXCEPT those in the Northeast.
  - The Northeastern states (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram) are covered under the Sixth Schedule, not the Fifth.
- **Verdict:** Statement 2 is correct.

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *The Sixth Schedule provides for autonomous district councils in certain tribal areas of the Northeast.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in certain tribal areas of Northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram).
  - These councils have legislative, administrative, and financial autonomy in matters related to land, forest, customs, and local governance.
- **Verdict:** Statement 3 is correct.

### Step 4: Count the Correct Statements

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Correct
- Statement 3 → Correct

## 6. Correct Option: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only.

### Step 1: Understand the Context of the Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in certain tribal areas of Northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram).
- These councils have legislative, administrative, and financial autonomy in various matters concerning governance within their jurisdiction.
- The question asks about powers granted to ADCs, so we need to assess each statement based on the constitutional provisions.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *Power to form laws on land management and village administration.*

- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Paragraph 3 of the Sixth Schedule grants ADCs the power to make laws on matters including:
    - Land use and land management
    - Village administration
    - Inheritance of property
    - Social customs

- **Verdict: Statement 1 is correct.**

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2: *Power to establish and manage schools and hospitals.***
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule grants ADCs control over:
    - Primary schools, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads, and bridges
    - Public health and sanitation
    - Dispensaries and hospitals

- **Verdict: Statement 2 is correct.**

### Step 4: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3: *Power to regulate trade and commerce within their jurisdiction.***
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Paragraph 8 of the Sixth Schedule states that ADCs have the power to regulate trade and commerce within their jurisdiction, especially regarding tribal communities.
  - This includes control over markets, trade licenses, and resource management.

- **Verdict: Statement 3 is correct.**

### Step 5: Analyze Statement 4

- **Statement 4: *Power to override state laws without the Governor's assent.***
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - ADCs do not have the power to override state laws arbitrarily.
  - According to Paragraph 12 of the Sixth Schedule, ADC laws require Governor's assent before coming into force.
  - The Governor can modify or annul ADC laws, ensuring they do not conflict with state or national laws.
- **Verdict: Statement 4 is incorrect.**

### Step 6: Select the Correct Answer Choice

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Correct
- Statement 3 → Correct
- Statement 4 → Incorrect

## 7. Correct Option: (a) Nagaland

### Step 1: Understand the Context of Article 371A

- Article 371A of the Indian Constitution provides special provisions for Nagaland to protect its customary laws, social and religious practices, land, and resources.
- It was added through the 13th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962 following the 16-Point Agreement between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention.

### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a) Nagaland**
  - **Correct** – Nagaland has special provisions under Article 371A, which ensures:
    - No Act of Parliament regarding religious/social practices, customary law, administration of civil and criminal justice, ownership and transfer of land and resources applies to Nagaland unless the state legislature agrees.
    - The Governor has special powers concerning law and order in the state.
- **Option (b) Mizoram**
  - **Incorrect** – Mizoram is covered under Article 371G, which provides similar protections as Article 371A but specific to Mizo customary laws and religious/social practices.
- **Option (c) Arunachal Pradesh**
  - **Incorrect** – Arunachal Pradesh comes under Article 371H, which grants the Governor special discretionary powers regarding law and order.
- **Option (d) Sikkim**
  - **Incorrect** – Sikkim has special provisions under Article 371F, which were introduced after Sikkim became a part of India in 1975.



## 8. Correct Option: (b) Only two.

### Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *Union Territories are governed directly by the President of India through an Administrator.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - **Article 239** of the Indian Constitution states that **Union Territories (UTs) are administered by the President through an Administrator** appointed by him.
  - The **Administrator acts as the representative of the President** in the UT.
  - However, some UTs have a **Legislative Assembly and Chief Minister** (e.g., Delhi, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir).
- **Verdict:** Statement 1 is correct.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *All Union Territories have a Legislative Assembly.*
- **Check Factual Accuracy:**
  - **Not all Union Territories have a Legislative Assembly.**
  - As of now, only three UTs have a legislature:
    - Delhi (NCT of Delhi)
    - Puducherry
    - Jammu & Kashmir (since 2019 after Article 370 revocation)
  - The remaining UTs (Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, and Ladakh) do not have a Legislative Assembly and are governed directly by the Administrator.
- **Verdict:** Statement 2 is incorrect.

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *The Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, curtailed the powers of the elected government of Delhi.*
- **Check Legal Provision:**
  - The **Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021** clarified that:
    - The **Lieutenant Governor (LG)** is the administrative head of Delhi.

- The **Delhi government must seek the LG's opinion** before implementing any decision.
- It **reduced the independent decision-making power** of the elected government of Delhi.

- **Verdict:** Statement 3 is correct.

### Step 4: Count the Correct Statements

- **Statement 1 → Correct**
- **Statement 2 → Incorrect**
- **Statement 3 → Correct**

## 9. Correct Option: (a) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973).

### Step 1: Understand the Basic Structure Doctrine

- The **Basic Structure Doctrine** was established by the **Supreme Court of India** to ensure that certain fundamental features of the Constitution **cannot be altered or destroyed by amendments** under **Article 368**.
- It acts as a **limitation on the amending power of Parliament**.
- This doctrine was formulated in the **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)** case.

### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a): Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)**
  - **Correct** – This landmark judgment laid down the **Basic Structure Doctrine** and ruled that while **Parliament can amend the Constitution**, it cannot alter its basic structure.
- **Option (b): Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case **expanded the interpretation of Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)** and introduced the **due process of law** concept in India, but it is not related to the **Basic Structure Doctrine**.
- **Option (c): Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967)**
  - **Incorrect** – In this case, the Supreme Court ruled that **Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights** under **Article 368**, but the **Basic Structure Doctrine** was not established here. This was **overruled by Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**.

- **Option (d): S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case dealt with **President's Rule (Article 356)** and **federalism**, ruling that **secularism is a part of the Basic Structure**, but it did not establish the doctrine itself.

**Step 3: Select the Correct Answer**

**10. Correct Option: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

**Step 1: Analyze Assertion (A)**

- **Assertion (A):** *The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act introduced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, added Articles 15(6) and 16(6) to the Indian Constitution.
  - It provides **10% reservation in education and government jobs for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** from the **General category**, excluding those already covered under SC/ST/OBC quotas.
- **Verdict: Assertion (A) is correct.**

**Step 2: Analyze Reason (R)**

- **Reason (R):** *The Supreme Court upheld the amendment, stating that economic criteria alone can be used to determine backwardness.*
- **Check Judicial Ruling:**
  - The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 103rd Amendment in **Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)** by a 3:2 majority.
  - The Court ruled that **reservation based on economic criteria alone is constitutionally valid** and does not violate the Basic Structure.
  - However, **previous judgments like Indra Sawhney (1992)** had held that **economic criteria alone cannot determine backwardness** in the case of OBCs, but this ruling made an exception for EWS reservations.
- **Verdict: Reason (R) is also correct.**

**Step 3: Check Whether R Correctly Explains A**

- **Does R explain A?**
  - **Yes.** The 103rd Amendment introduced EWS reservation, and

the Supreme Court upheld it on the basis that economic criteria alone can determine backwardness.

- This ruling directly **supports and explains** the basis of the reservation introduced by the amendment.
- **Verdict: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

**11. Correct Option: (a) Only one.**

**Step 1: Analyze Statement 1**

- **Statement 1:** *It was introduced following a Supreme Court directive in 2013.*
- **Check Legal and Constitutional Basis:**
  - The Supreme Court of India, in its landmark ruling in 2013 (**People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India**), directed the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to introduce **NOTA** in electronic voting machines (EVMs).
  - Following this directive, **NOTA was introduced in the 2013 Assembly Elections** and subsequently implemented in the **2014 General Elections**.
- **Verdict: Statement 1 is correct.**

**Step 2: Analyze Statement 2**

- **Statement 2:** *If NOTA receives the highest number of votes in a constituency, a re-election is conducted.*
- **Check Electoral Provisions:**
  - **NOTA has no electoral value** in determining the result of an election.
  - Even if **NOTA gets the highest number of votes**, the candidate with the **second-highest votes (excluding NOTA)** is declared the winner.
  - The Supreme Court has ruled out re-elections based on **NOTA votes**, meaning it is **purely a symbolic option** for voters to reject all candidates.
- **Verdict: Statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Step 3: Analyze Statement 3**

- **Statement 3:** *NOTA is available in all elections, including the Presidential and Rajya Sabha elections.*
- **Check Scope of NOTA Application:**
  - **NOTA is available in Lok Sabha, State Assembly, and local body elections** conducted via **direct voting**.

- NOTA is NOT available in Presidential, Rajya Sabha, or Legislative Council elections, as these elections are conducted via indirect voting (proportional representation and single transferable vote system).
- In 2018, the Supreme Court struck down the ECI's order allowing NOTA in Rajya Sabha elections, stating that it is not applicable for indirect elections.

- Verdict: Statement 3 is incorrect.

#### Step 4: Count the Correct Statements

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Incorrect
- Statement 3 → Incorrect

### 12. Correct Option: (d) 1, 2, 3, and 4.

#### Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

- Statement 1: *Holding an office of profit under the government.*
- Check Legal Provisions:
  - Under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, a person holding an office of profit under the government (except those exempted by law) can be disqualified from contesting elections.
  - This is to ensure independence of legislators from undue influence by the executive.

- Verdict: Statement 1 is correct.

#### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- Statement 2: *Engaging in corrupt practices during elections.*
- Check Legal Provisions:
  - Section 8A of the RPA, 1951 disqualifies a person for corrupt practices (as defined under Section 123 of the RPA, 1951).
  - Corrupt practices include bribery, undue influence, booth capturing, and promoting enmity among groups.

- Verdict: Statement 2 is correct.

#### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- Statement 3: *Conviction for any criminal offense with imprisonment of at least two years.*

- Check Legal Provisions:

- Section 8(3) of the RPA, 1951 states that a person convicted of any offense and sentenced to at least two years of imprisonment is disqualified from contesting elections.
- Such disqualification lasts for six years after release from prison.

- Verdict: Statement 3 is correct.

#### Step 4: Analyze Statement 4

- Statement 4: *Failure to declare assets and liabilities before nomination.*
- Check Legal Provisions:
  - As per Section 33A of the RPA, 1951, a candidate must disclose assets and liabilities while filing nomination papers.
  - If a candidate fails to declare assets and liabilities, the nomination can be rejected, but it does not automatically lead to disqualification under the RPA, 1951.
  - However, if false information is provided, it may invite disqualification under Section 125A of the RPA, 1951.

- Verdict: Statement 4 is correct.

#### Step 5: Select the Correct Answer

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Correct
- Statement 3 → Correct
- Statement 4 → Correct

### 13. Correct Option: (a) It grants individual and community rights over forest land and resources.

#### Step 1: Understand the Context of the Act

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) recognizes the historical rights of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) over forest land and resources.
- It provides legal recognition to their rights and ensures their participation in forest governance.

#### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- Option (a): It grants individual and community rights over forest land and resources.

- **Correct** – The FRA grants:
  - **Individual Forest Rights (IFR):** For cultivation on forest land.
  - **Community Forest Rights (CFR):** For using, managing, and conserving forest resources.
  - **Rights to habitat and seasonal resource access** for pastoralist and nomadic communities.
- **Option (b):** It provides automatic ownership of all forest lands to tribals.
  - **Incorrect** – The Act does not grant automatic ownership of forest land to tribals.
  - Claims must be verified by Gram Sabhas and approved through a process outlined in the Act.
- **Option (c):** It allows the Union Government to directly control tribal lands in Scheduled Areas.
  - **Incorrect** – The FRA empowers local communities and Gram Sabhas, not the Union Government, to manage and govern forest lands.
- **Option (d):** It exclusively applies to Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.
  - **Incorrect** – The FRA applies to forest dwellers across India, not just in Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.
  - It covers both Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) in all forest regions.

**14. Correct Option: (a) Only the states having Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.**

**Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision**

- **Article 244(1) and the Fifth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution provide for the establishment of a **Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)** in certain states.
- **Paragraph 4 of the Fifth Schedule** mandates that **TACs must be established in states that have Scheduled Areas.**
- **TAC advises the Governor on matters related to the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.**

**Step 2: Evaluate Each Option**

- **Option (a): Only the states having Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule.**
  - **Correct** – The **Fifth Schedule explicitly mandates** the formation of TACs in states that have **Scheduled Areas.**
  - However, other states with **ST populations** may establish a TAC at the Governor's discretion, but it is not constitutionally required.
- **Option (b): Only the states having Sixth Schedule areas.**
  - **Incorrect** – The **Sixth Schedule** deals with **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** in certain **Northeastern states** and does not mandate the establishment of TACs.
- **Option (c): All states with Scheduled Tribes population.**
  - **Incorrect** – TACs are not mandatory in all states with **ST populations**; they are only required in states having **Scheduled Areas.**
- **Option (d): Only Union Territories with Scheduled Tribes population.**
  - **Incorrect** – The provision applies only to states, not Union Territories.

**15. Correct Option: (b) It grants special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region to improve education and employment.**

**Step 1: Understand the Constitutional Provision of Article 371J**

- **Article 371J** provides **special provisions for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region** (now known as **Kalyana Karnataka**), which includes districts like **Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Koppal, Yadgir, and Bellary** in Karnataka.
- The **aim** is to improve **education, employment, and regional development** in these **historically backward districts.**
- It was introduced through the **98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012.**

**Step 2: Evaluate Each Option**

- **Option (a):** It provides special provisions for the **Marathwada region** of Maharashtra.



- **Incorrect**—Article 371J applies to the **Hyderabad-Karnataka region**, not Marathwada (which is in Maharashtra).
- **Option (b): It grants special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region to improve education and employment.**
  - **Correct** – Article 371J allows **reservation in education and government jobs** for people from this region and also enables the creation of a **Development Board** to ensure equitable resource allocation.
- **Option (c): It was introduced through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act.**
  - **Incorrect** – It was introduced through the **98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012**, not the 42nd Amendment (1976).
- **Option (d): It allows for the creation of a separate autonomous council in Telangana.**
  - **Incorrect** – Article 371J does not apply to Telangana. Telangana was formed in **2014** but does not have an autonomous council under this Article.

## 16. Correct Option: (c) 1, 2, 3, and 4.

**Step 1: Understand the Scope of Articles 371 to 371J**

- **Articles 371 to 371J of the Indian Constitution provide special provisions for certain states to address regional imbalances, cultural preservation, economic development, and administrative autonomy.**
- **The following states have been granted special constitutional provisions under these articles:**
  - **Andhra Pradesh (Article 371D)** – Ensures equitable opportunities in employment and education.
  - **Sikkim (Article 371F)** – Special protections due to its integration into India in 1975.
  - **Manipur (Article 371C)** – Establishes a special **Hill Area Committee** for the protection of tribal areas.
  - **Karnataka (Article 371J)** – Grants special status to the **Hyderabad-Karnataka region (now Kalyana Karnataka)** to promote education and employment.

## Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a): 1 and 2 only**
  - **Incorrect** – Manipur and Karnataka also have special provisions under Articles 371C and 371J, respectively.
- **Option (b): 2, 3, and 4 only**
  - **Incorrect** – Andhra Pradesh is also included under **Article 371D**, so this option is incomplete.
- **Option (c): 1, 2, 3, and 4**
  - **Correct** – All four states (**Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Karnataka**) have special provisions under Articles 371 to 371J.
- **Option (d): 1 and 4 only**
  - **Incorrect** – This excludes **Sikkim and Manipur**, both of which have special constitutional provisions.

## 17. Correct Option: (d)

**Step 1: Identify the Constitutional Provision Related to Legislators' Free Speech**

- **Article 105 (for Parliament) and Article 194 (for State Legislatures) grant legislators freedom of speech inside the legislature and immunity from legal proceedings for anything said or done in the course of legislative proceedings.**
- **The question asks for a landmark Supreme Court case that deals with this privilege.**

## Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a): Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case dealt with the **Anti-Defection Law (Tenth Schedule)** and whether the Speaker's role in deciding disqualification was subject to judicial review.
  - **It did not focus on legislators' free speech inside the legislature.**
- **Option (b): Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case ruled that **convicted legislators would be disqualified immediately**, striking down a provision that allowed them to continue in office while appealing their conviction.
  - **It does not relate to free speech inside the legislature.**

- **Option (c): Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case struck down **Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000**, which restricted online speech.
  - It was a **freedom of speech case** but not related to **legislators' speech inside the legislature**.
- **Option (d): P.V. Narasimha Rao v. State (1998)**
  - **Correct** – This case examined the **immunity of legislators** under Article 105.
  - The Supreme Court ruled that **MPs are immune from prosecution for bribery** if the bribe was taken to make a speech or vote inside the House.
  - It established a crucial precedent regarding the **scope of legislative privileges and free speech inside the legislature**.

**18. Correct Option: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

**Step 1: Analyze Assertion (A)**

- **Assertion (A):** *The 105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021 restored the power of states to identify backward classes.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - The **105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021** amended **Articles 338B, 342A, and 366(26C)** to restore the power of state governments to identify and notify **Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs)**.
  - This amendment clarified that **states can maintain their own lists of SEBCs**, which was limited by the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**.
- **Verdict: Assertion (A) is correct.**

**Step 2: Analyze Reason (R)**

- **Reason (R):** *The Supreme Court's decision in the Maratha Reservation Case (2021) had ruled that states cannot independently identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).*
- **Check Judicial Ruling:**
  - In **Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil v. Union of India (2021)** (Maratha Reservation

Case), the Supreme Court **struck down the Maharashtra government's law granting reservation to Marathas**, ruling that:

- The **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018** had given the power to **identify SEBCs exclusively to the President and the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
  - **States could not independently determine SEBCs without central approval.**
  - This ruling **led to the 105th Amendment**, which restored the power of states to identify SEBCs.
  - **Verdict: Reason (R) is correct.**
- Step 3: Check Whether R Correctly Explains A**
- **Does R explain A?**
    - **Yes.** The **105th Constitutional Amendment** was passed in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in the **Maratha Reservation Case (2021)**, which had taken away the states' power to identify SEBCs.
    - The amendment was necessary to **undo the impact of the SC judgment and restore the states' authority over SEBC classification**.
  - **Verdict: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

**19. Correct Option: (a) Only one.**

**Step 1: Analyze Statement 1**

- **Statement 1:** *The ECI is responsible for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislatures.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - **Article 324 of the Indian Constitution** gives the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** the authority to conduct elections for:
    - **Lok Sabha (House of the People)**
    - **Rajya Sabha (Council of States)**
    - **State Legislative Assemblies**
    - **State Legislative Councils (where applicable)**
    - **President and Vice-President of India**



- **Municipal and Panchayat elections** are **NOT** conducted by the ECI but by **State Election Commissions** under **Article 243K and 243ZA**.

- **Verdict: Statement 1 is correct.**

#### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *The ECI has the authority to deregister a political party if it violates the Model Code of Conduct.*
- **Check Legal Provisions:**
  - The ECI can register political parties under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
  - However, there is **NO** provision in law that allows the ECI to deregister a political party for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).
  - The ECI can take disciplinary actions, issue warnings, and penalize parties through other legal mechanisms, but **deregistration is only allowed in specific cases**, such as:
    - If the party obtained registration through **fraud or misrepresentation**.
    - If the party is declared **illegal** by the government or if it **voluntarily dissolves**.

- **Verdict: Statement 2 is incorrect.**

#### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *The Constitution explicitly provides for the independence and tenure of Election Commissioners.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - **Article 324** mentions the **Election Commission of India** but **does not explicitly define the independence and tenure of Election Commissioners**.
  - The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **Election Commissioners (ECs)** hold office for **six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier**, as per **The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991**.
  - While **Article 324(5)** ensures that the CEC **cannot be removed except in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge**, **Election Commissioners do not have the same protection**.
  - Their removal is subject to **recommendation by the Chief**

**Election Commissioner**, making their independence weaker.

- **Verdict: Statement 3 is incorrect.**

#### Step 4: Count the Correct Statements

- **Statement 1 → Correct**
- **Statement 2 → Incorrect**
- **Statement 3 → Incorrect**

**20. Correct Option: (a)** A party is recognized as a national party if it secures at least 6% of valid votes in four or more states and wins at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.

#### Step 1: Understand the Criteria for Recognition of Political Parties

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, under the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, grants **national party** and **state party** status based on electoral performance.
- A **national party** must fulfill at least one of the following conditions:
  - Secure at least **6% of valid votes in four or more states** in a Lok Sabha or State Assembly election **AND** win at least **4 Lok Sabha seats OR**
  - Win at least **2% of total Lok Sabha seats (i.e., 11 seats)** from at least **3 different states OR**
  - Be recognized as a **state party in at least four states.**
- A **state party** must fulfill at least one of the following conditions in a state:
  - Secure at least **6% of valid votes in a Lok Sabha or Assembly election AND** win at least **1 Lok Sabha seat or 2 Assembly seats OR**
  - Win at least **3% of total Assembly seats or at least 3 seats (whichever is greater) OR**
  - Win **1 Lok Sabha seat for every 25 Lok Sabha seats** allotted to the state **OR**
  - Secure **8% of total valid votes** in the state.

#### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a):** A party is recognized as a national party if it secures at least 6% of valid votes in four or more states and wins at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.

- **Correct** – This is one of the three criteria for national party status.
- **Option (b): A party can be recognized as a state party only if it wins at least 10 Assembly seats in a state.**
  - **Incorrect** – Winning 10 Assembly seats is not mandatory; a state party can be recognized by securing 6% of votes and winning 2 Assembly seats or meeting other criteria.
- **Option (c): A party losing its recognition as a state party automatically loses its national party status.**
  - **Incorrect** – A national party must be recognized in **at least four states**. If it loses recognition in a state, it does not **automatically** lose national status unless it falls below four states.
- **Option (d): The Election Commission can suo motu revoke the recognition of a party if it fails to field candidates in elections.**
  - **Incorrect** – The ECI does not have the power to revoke recognition merely for non-participation in elections. Recognition is based on **performance in elections**, not just contesting.

## 21. Correct Option: (a) 1 and 2 only.

### Step 1: Analyze Statement 1

- **Statement 1:** *ADCs have legislative, judicial, and executive powers over specified matters.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
  - **Legislative Powers:** ADCs can make laws on land, forest management, water resources, village administration, inheritance, marriage, and social customs (subject to Governor's assent).
  - **Executive Powers:** ADCs administer departments like primary education, public health, sanitation, and regulation of markets.
  - **Judicial Powers:** ADCs can set up village courts (excluding cases under CrPC and IPC).
- **Verdict:** Statement 1 is correct.

### Step 2: Analyze Statement 2

- **Statement 2:** *The Governor can increase or reduce the jurisdiction of an ADC.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Under Paragraph 2(6) of the Sixth Schedule, the Governor has the power to modify the territorial jurisdiction of an ADC by:
    - Increasing or decreasing the size of an ADC.
    - Creating new autonomous regions or altering their boundaries.
- **Verdict:** Statement 2 is correct.

### Step 3: Analyze Statement 3

- **Statement 3:** *The laws made by ADCs require the assent of the President of India before implementation.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - Paragraph 3 of the Sixth Schedule states that laws made by ADCs require the Governor's assent, not the President's assent.
  - The Governor has the power to modify, approve, or annul laws made by ADCs.
  - The President is not directly involved in approving ADC laws.
- **Verdict:** Statement 3 is incorrect.

### Step 4: Count the Correct Statements

- Statement 1 → Correct
- Statement 2 → Correct
- Statement 3 → Incorrect

## 22. Correct Option: (b) No Act of Parliament affecting religious and social practices of Nagas can be applied unless approved by the State Legislature.

### Step 1: Understand Article 371A of the Indian Constitution

- Article 371A provides special provisions for Nagaland to protect its social, cultural, and religious practices, as well as land and resources.
- It was introduced via the 13th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962, following the 16-Point Agreement between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention.

- The key feature of **Article 371A** is that **certain central laws cannot apply to Nagaland unless approved by the State Legislature.**

#### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a):** It grants the Governor of Nagaland discretionary powers to administer the state independently.
  - **Incorrect** – The Governor of Nagaland does not have independent discretionary powers over the entire administration of the state.
  - However, the Governor has special responsibilities related to law and order, but this does not make him independent of the state government.
- **Option (b):** No Act of Parliament affecting religious and social practices of Nagas can be applied unless approved by the State Legislature.
  - **Correct** – **Article 371A(1)** states that no Parliamentary Act shall apply to Nagaland in respect of:
    - Religious or social practices of Nagas
    - Naga customary law and procedure
    - Administration of civil and criminal justice under Naga customary laws
    - Ownership and transfer of land and its resources
  - The State Legislature has the power to decide whether to implement such laws.
- **Option (c):** The Article allows for the formation of Naga Autonomous District Councils with legislative powers.
  - **Incorrect** – Unlike the Sixth Schedule, which provides Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for tribal areas in Northeast India, **Article 371A** does not create any ADCs in Nagaland.
  - Instead, it protects customary laws and governance structures unique to the Naga people.
- **Option (d):** It provides 100% reservation for Scheduled Tribes in state government jobs and educational institutions.
  - **Incorrect** – **Article 371A** does not mention any provision for 100% reservation for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in jobs and education.

- While Nagaland has high ST reservations, this is governed by separate state laws and policies, not **Article 371A.**

### 23. Correct Option: (c) Mizoram

#### Step 1: Understand the Special Status under Article 371G

- **Article 371G of the Indian Constitution** provides special provisions for Mizoram.
- It was added through the **53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986**, following the **Mizo Peace Accord (1986).**
- **Key Feature:** No Parliamentary law shall apply to Mizoram in respect of:
  - Religious or social practices of the Mizos
  - Mizo customary law and procedure
  - Ownership and transfer of land and its resources
  - Administration of civil and criminal justice involving Mizo customary law
- However, the Mizoram Legislative Assembly can decide whether to accept a Parliamentary law on these matters.

#### Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

- **Option (a): Manipur**
  - **Incorrect** – Manipur is covered under **Article 371C**, which provides for a **Hill Areas Committee** to safeguard tribal interests, but it does not have restrictions on the applicability of Central laws.
- **Option (b): Sikkim**
  - **Incorrect** – Sikkim is covered under **Article 371F**, which grants **special status due to its merger with India in 1975**, but it does not limit the applicability of Central laws like **Article 371G** does.
- **Option (c): Mizoram**
  - **Correct** – Mizoram is the state covered under **Article 371G**, which restricts the applicability of Central laws unless approved by its Legislative Assembly.
- **Option (d): Arunachal Pradesh**
  - **Incorrect** – Arunachal Pradesh is covered under **Article 371H**, which grants the Governor special powers

regarding law and order, but it does not limit the application of Central laws like Article 371G does for Mizoram.

## 24. Correct Option: (d) Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015).

**Step 1: Understand the 99th Constitutional Amendment and NJAC**

- The **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014** sought to **replace the Collegium system** with the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** for appointing judges to the **Supreme Court and High Courts**.
- The NJAC was meant to increase **executive involvement** in judicial appointments.
- However, the **Supreme Court struck it down in 2015**, citing a violation of the **Basic Structure Doctrine** (separation of powers and judicial independence).

**Step 2: Evaluate Each Option**

- **Option (a): Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case **struck down Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000**, which restricted online free speech.
  - It had **no relation to NJAC or judicial appointments**.
- **Option (b): K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case **declared the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right** under Article 21.
  - It had **no connection to the NJAC or the 99th Amendment**.
- **Option (c): Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)**
  - **Incorrect** – This case dealt with **reservations in government jobs** and upheld the **Mandal Commission's 27% OBC reservation**.
  - It had **nothing to do with judicial appointments or NJAC**.
- **Option (d): Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015)**
  - **Correct** – This is the **landmark case** in which the Supreme Court **struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the NJAC**, ruling that it **violated**

**judicial independence and the Basic Structure Doctrine.**

## 25. Correct Option: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

**Step 1: Analyze Assertion (A)**

- **Assertion (A):** *The Right to Privacy has been recognized as a Fundamental Right in India.*
- **Check Constitutional Provision:**
  - In **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**, a 9-judge bench of the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the **Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right under Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)** of the Indian Constitution.
  - This judgment **overruled earlier cases like M.P. Sharma (1954) and Kharak Singh (1962)**, which had denied privacy as a Fundamental Right.
- **Verdict: Assertion (A) is correct.**

**Step 2: Analyze Reason (R)**

- **Reason (R):** *The Supreme Court, in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), held that the Right to Privacy is an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution.*
- **Check Judicial Ruling:**
  - The Supreme Court in **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** held that **privacy is a fundamental aspect of individual autonomy, dignity, and personal liberty**, making it an **intrinsic part of Article 21**.
  - It also stated that the **Right to Privacy is not absolute** and can be subject to **reasonable restrictions based on legitimate state interests**.
- **Verdict: Reason (R) is correct.**

**Step 3: Check Whether R Correctly Explains A**

- **Does R explain A?**
  - **Yes.** The Supreme Court's ruling in **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** explicitly recognized the **Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right under Article 21**, which directly explains the assertion.
- **Verdict: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**