

CLAT GURUKUL

# GK CHRONICLE

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST

APRIL 2026

MONTHLY DIGEST

April 2026 Edition

101 Topics • 400 Practice MCQs • Notes-Style Coverage



## EDITOR'S NOTE

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Welcome to the April 2026 edition of the CLAT Gurukul GK Chronicle. Every month our editorial desk reads the national dailies cover to cover, then does the harder work: cutting the noise. A single story that ran for twenty days appears here once, told in full — so you revise the development, not the repetition.

Each entry is written the way CLAT actually tests it. The story gives you the facts; the CLAT Focus box beside it gives you the exam scaffolding — the constitutional and statutory provisions in play, the organisations and bodies involved, the static-GK linkages a paper-setter loves to draw, and the common error that trips students in the hall. Read the story for understanding, then commit the CLAT Focus box to memory.

This issue distils April 2026's most important national and world affairs into a curated set of stories across polity, law, international relations, the economy, the environment, science, defence, culture, sport and more, followed by a full question bank to test yourself. Read it with a pen. Mark every miss. Those misses are your revision list for the month.

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— CLAT GURUKUL EDITORIAL DESK

## HOW TO USE THIS ISSUE

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- 1 Read each story once for context, then re-read the **CLAT Focus** box — exam-ready material: the provisions, organisations, static-GK linkages, and the common error a paper-setter is likely to exploit.
- 2 Attempt the **Question Bank** section-by-section after finishing that section's stories, not all at once at the end of the month.
- 3 Check your answers against the **Answer Key** and log every miss — misses are your personal revision list.
- 4 Scan the QR codes on the back cover to download this issue as a PDF or to hear an audio explainer for any story.

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# CONTENTS

|    |                            |            |    |
|----|----------------------------|------------|----|
| 01 | POLITY & GOVERNANCE        | 10 topics  | 4  |
| 02 | LEGAL & JUDICIARY          | 18 topics  | 9  |
| 03 | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS    | 21 topics  | 18 |
| 04 | ECONOMY & BUSINESS         | 11 topics  | 27 |
| 05 | ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY      | 13 topics  | 32 |
| 06 | SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH     | 7 topics   | 38 |
| 07 | DEFENCE & SECURITY         | 7 topics   | 42 |
| 08 | ART, CULTURE & HISTORY     | 5 topics   | 46 |
| 09 | AWARDS & PERSONS           | 4 topics   | 48 |
| 10 | REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES | 2 topics   | 51 |
| 11 | STATES IN NEWS             | 3 topics   | 52 |
| 12 | QUESTION BANK              | 400 MCQs   | 54 |
| 13 | ANSWER KEY                 | Keys 1–400 | 81 |

## KEY TOPICS IN FOCUS

|                         |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| POLITY & GOVERNANCE     | 16th Finance Commission Tilts the Purse Toward Local Bodies                      |
| LEGAL & JUDICIARY       | Custodial Deaths: Death Sentence for 9 Sathankulam Cops                          |
| INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Trump's Iran Ultimatum: The UN Charter Meets the Enrichment Line                 |
| ECONOMY & BUSINESS      | RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25%, Cuts FY27 Growth to 6.9%                           |
| ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY   | Delhi's Winter Pollution Plan: CAQM, GRAP and the Right to Clean Air             |
| SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH  | Kalpakkam PFBR-500 Goes Critical — India Enters Stage 2 of the Nuclear Programme |

## SECTION 01 / 11

## POLITY &amp; GOVERNANCE

## 16th Finance Commission Tilts the Purse Toward Local Bodies

## POLITY &amp; GOVERNANCE

The **16th Finance Commission** (chaired by **Arvind Panagariya**, award period 2026–31) recommended a larger share of central transfers for **rural and urban local bodies**, sharpening a **fiscal-federalism** tussle. States protest that bigger local-body grants shrink their own discretionary funds. Under **Article 280**, the President constitutes a Finance Commission every five years to recommend **tax devolution** between the Centre and States, reigniting the vertical-versus-horizontal devolution debate.

## QUICK FACTS

- **Article 280**: President constitutes a Finance Commission **every 5 years** to recommend Centre–State tax devolution and grants-in-aid.
- **73rd Amendment (1992)** added **Part IX** and the **11th Schedule (29 subjects)**, constitutionalising **Panchayati Raj**; **74th Amendment (1992)** added **Part IXA** and the **12th Schedule (18 subjects)** for municipalities.
- **Article 243-I** requires a **State Finance Commission** (constituted by the Governor) every 5 years for panchayat finances; **Article 243-Y** extends this to municipalities.
- **Vertical devolution** = Centre→State; **horizontal devolution** = inter-State distribution using a formula (population, income distance, area, forest cover).
- The FC is a **constitutional, recommendatory** body — its recommendations are not binding but conventionally accepted.

## MUST KNOW

- Finance Commission is **constitutional (Art 280)**; NITI Aayog is only executive — a classic contrast pair.
- Local-body grants flow largely as **tied/untied grants**, distinct from the divisible-pool devolution share to States.
- State Finance Commissions (Art 243-I / 243-Y), not the central FC, primarily decide State-to-local-body devolution.
- The 15th FC recommended States' share of the divisible pool at **41%** (reduced from 42% after J&K's reorganisation).

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- First Finance Commission (1951) chaired by **K.C. Neogy**.
- 11th Schedule = panchayat subjects; 12th Schedule = municipal subjects — easily swapped in exams.
- Panchayati Raj model traces to the **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)**.
- Local self-government is a **State List** subject (Entry 5, List II).

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves the Art 280 / Art 243-I split and the 11th vs 12th Schedule mapping; expect a comprehension passage on fiscal federalism testing which body recommends what.

## PROVISIONS

Article 280, Article 243-I, Article 243-Y, 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992), 74th Constitutional Amendment (1992), Eleventh

Schedule, Twelfth Schedule

## BODIES &amp; CASES

16th Finance Commission (2026), State Finance Commission, Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)

**Common Error:** Students wrongly assume the central Finance Commission fixes local-body devolution — it is the **State Finance Commission (Art 243-I/243-Y)** that primarily does so. Also do not confuse the 11th Schedule (panchayats) with the 12th (municipalities).

## 1,511 Delhi Colonies Regularised on 'As-Is-Where-Is' Basis



The Centre announced regularisation of **1,511 unauthorised colonies** in Delhi from **April 24** on an '**as-is-where-is**' basis, dropping the requirement of a layout plan and permitting convenience shops up to **20 sq m**. **Forest land, the Yamuna floodplain (Zone O) and protected areas are excluded**. The move dovetails with a **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** push for mixed-use, high-density zones near mass transit, touching Delhi's unique constitutional status under **Article 239AA**.

## QUICK FACTS

- **1,511 colonies** regularised from **24 April**; **no layout plan** needed; convenience shops up to **20 sq m** allowed.
- Excluded: **forest land, Yamuna floodplain (Zone O)** and protected/heritage areas.
- Builds on the **PM-UDAY scheme (2019)** for conferring ownership/mortgage rights in unauthorised colonies.
- **TOD** promotes compact, mixed-use development around metro/transit corridors, aligned with **Master Plan Delhi 2041** (FAR-based).
- Legal spine: **Delhi Development Act, 1957** (which created the **DDA**).

## MUST KNOW

- **Article 239AA** (inserted by the **69th Amendment, 1991**) gives Delhi the status of NCT with a Legislative Assembly of limited competence — **land, police and public order stay with the Centre**.
- The **74th Amendment (1992)** — **Art 243P–243ZG** — constitutionalised municipalities; **Art 243Q** deals with their constitution.
- Regularisation versus planned development is a core urban-governance tension examiners frame as policy comprehension.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- DDA operates under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- Zone O in Delhi's Master Plan denotes the **Yamuna riverbed/floodplain**.
- FAR (Floor Area Ratio) governs permissible built-up area per plot.
- Delhi's 'services' control was settled by the SC in **GNCTD v Union of India (2023)**, later altered by the GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests Delhi's asymmetric federalism under Art 239AA and the 74th Amendment's municipal framework through current-affairs

comprehension.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 239AA, 69th Constitutional Amendment (1991), 74th Constitutional Amendment (Art 243P–243Q), Delhi Development Act, 1957

#### BODIES & CASES

Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GNCTD v Union of India (2023)

**Common Error:** Do not treat Delhi as a full-fledged State — under **Art 239AA** it is a Union Territory with a legislature, and **land/police/public order** remain with the Centre, not the elected government.

## Bengal SIR: 27 Lakh Voters Deleted, 'Logical Discrepancy' Flagged

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

In the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of West Bengal's electoral rolls, of **60.67 lakh** names under adjudication, **27.16 lakh (45.21%)** were deleted, cutting the electorate from **7.66 crore to 6.77 crore**. Deletions peaked in minority-dominated **Murshidabad** and **North 24 Parganas**. The **Election Commission** cited software-generated '**logical discrepancies**', and the Supreme Court directed publication of a **supplementary list** amid disenfranchisement fears.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **27.16 lakh (45.21%)** of adjudicated names deleted; total electorate fell **7.66 crore → 6.77 crore**.
- Highest deletion rate in **North 24 Parganas (55.08%)**; largest absolute cut in **Murshidabad (~4.55 lakh)**.
- EC attributed cuts to **software 'logical discrepancies'** (algorithmic matching) in the SIR.
- **Supreme Court** directed the EC to publish a **supplementary list** for appeals.
- Electoral rolls are prepared under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, and the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**.

#### MUST KNOW

- **Article 324** vests **superintendence, direction and control** of elections and rolls in the EC; **Article 326** guarantees **universal adult franchise** (18+).
- Deletion of a voter **without a hearing violates natural justice** — **Lal Babu Hussein v ERO (1995)**.
- The **right to vote is a statutory right** under the RPA, not a fundamental right (Kuldip Nayar / PUCL line), though the exercise of franchise engages free-speech values.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- RPA 1950 = preparation of electoral rolls; RPA 1951 = conduct of elections — a frequently swapped pair.
- SIR is an intensive door-to-door revision, distinct from the routine annual summary revision.
- Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) maintains the roll for each constituency.
- The EC is a permanent, multi-member constitutional body (CEC + ECs) since 1993.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

A prime legal-reasoning fact pattern: mass roll deletion without individual notice tests natural justice (*audi alteram partem*) against Art 324 powers.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 324, Article 326, Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Secs 21–23), Registration of Electors Rules, 1960

#### BODIES & CASES

Election Commission of India, Lal Babu Hussein v Electoral Registration Officer (1995), Supreme Court of India

**Common Error:** Students call the right to vote a fundamental right — it is a **statutory right** under the RPA 1950/1951; only the right to contest/vote is regulated by statute while the EC's roll power flows from **Art 324**, not the RPA.

## Constitutional Morality Cannot Be Selective, Argues Ideas Debate

### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A widely discussed opinion piece argued that a **constitutional democracy cannot afford selective moral outrage** about political violence: both **left-wing (Naxal)** and **right-wing (lynching/communal)** extremism threaten **Article 19** and **Article 21** rights equally. It invoked **B.R. Ambedkar's** concept of '**constitutional morality**' — the discipline that all institutions and citizens must operate within the constitutional framework and the **rule of law**, applied without partisan double standards.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Constitutional morality** = fidelity to constitutional means and values, popularised by **Ambedkar** (borrowing from historian **George Grote**).
- The Supreme Court revived the phrase in **Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India (2018)** while decriminalising consensual same-sex conduct.
- **Article 19(1)(a)** protects free speech, subject to **Article 19(2)** reasonable restrictions; **Article 21** protects life and personal liberty against state and non-state harm.
- **Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015)** struck down **Section 66A of the IT Act** for chilling online speech.
- The **rule of law** (Dicey) demands **equality before the law** — Article 14.

#### MUST KNOW

- Constitutional morality is a **judicially used interpretive doctrine**, not an enforceable free-standing right.
- Free speech restrictions must fall within the **eight enumerated grounds** of Art 19(2) and be 'reasonable'.
- **KS Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017)** anchored the right to privacy in Art 21 and constitutional morality reasoning.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Ambedkar cited constitutional morality in his 'Draft Constitution' speech (Nov 1948).
- Sec 66A was struck for vagueness and overbreadth — a landmark free-speech case.
- Art 19(2) grounds: sovereignty/integrity, security, foreign relations, public order, decency/morality, contempt, defamation, incitement to

offence.

- Naxalism is often addressed under UAPA-type preventive laws, raising free-speech chilling-effect concerns.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT frames constitutional morality and Art 19/21 through opinion-passage comprehension and case-linkage — expect matching of doctrine to landmark judgment.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 19, Article 21, Article 14, Section 66A, IT Act, 2000 (struck down)

#### BODIES & CASES

Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India (2018), KS Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015)

**Common Error:** Constitutional morality is **not** a codified fundamental right a citizen can directly sue on — it is an interpretive principle. Also, Art 19(2) has **eight** specified grounds; courts cannot add new ones.

## Women's Reservation Push: Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Moves Toward Implementation



The Cabinet advanced a fresh constitutional amendment (reported as the **131st Amendment Bill**) to **operationalise 33% women's reservation** in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies using **Census 2011** data, so implementation need not wait for a fresh census. The already-enacted **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** — the **106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023** (introduced as the 128th Amendment Bill) — inserted Articles **330A, 332A and 334A**. Reports say Lok Sabha strength could rise from **543 to 816** after delimitation.

#### QUICK FACTS

- The enacted law is the **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 = Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**; it was tabled as the **128th Amendment Bill**.
- Reserves **one-third (33%)** of seats in the **Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the Delhi Assembly** for women, with **SC/ST sub-reservation** (Art 330A/332A).
- **Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils are EXCLUDED**.
- It is operative only **after the first census post-commencement and consequent delimitation** (Art 82); the April 2026 bill seeks to base this on **Census 2011**.
- Duration set at **15 years**, with seat rotation, and its constitutional basis includes **Article 15(3)** (special provisions for women).

#### MUST KNOW

- Women's reservation here is **horizontal** in effect — the SC/ST quota in Art 330/332 is itself sub-reserved for women via **Art 330A/332A** ('reservation within reservation').
- Panchayats and municipalities **already** have 33% (many States 50%) women's reservation via the **73rd/74th Amendments** (Art 243D/243T).
- Delimitation of constituencies is governed by **Article 82** and is presently frozen till the first census after 2026 (84th Amendment).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam received assent on 28 September 2023.
- New Articles: **330A** (Lok Sabha), **332A** (Assemblies), **334A** (commencement & 15-year term).
- Art 15(3) is an exception to Art 15(1)'s non-discrimination guarantee.
- 84th Amendment (2001) froze inter-State seat allocation using 1971 census till the first census after 2026.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

A marquee CLAT item: expect questions distinguishing the enacted 106th Amendment from its bill number, and testing the census-plus-delimitation precondition.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 330A, Article 332A, Article 334A, Article 239AA, Article 15(3), Article 82, 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023, 73rd/74th Amendments (Art 243D/243T)

#### BODIES & CASES

Union Cabinet, Delimitation Commission, Election Commission of India

**Common Error:** The enacted Act is the **106th Amendment**, not the '128th' (that was only the Bill number) nor the '131st' (the 2026 follow-on bill). Also, reservation is **not yet in force** — it triggers only after the post-commencement census and delimitation; and the **Rajya Sabha is excluded**.

## EC to Examine Opposition's Model Code Complaint Against PM

#### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The **Election Commission** began examining a **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** complaint by CPI(M)'s Sandosh Kumar and 700+ activists over the PM's **April 18** broadcast that criticised the Opposition for blocking the **131st Amendment (women's reservation)** mid-polls. The complaint tests the MCC's enforceability: though **non-statutory**, the Supreme Court has lent it '**statutory colour**', and the EC can act under its **Article 324** plenary powers.

#### QUICK FACTS

- MCC is a **non-statutory, consensual code** operative from the announcement of elections till results.
- **S. Subramaniam Balaji v Govt of Tamil Nadu (2013)** gave the MCC a degree of '**statutory colour**' and addressed poll freebies.
- The EC's enforcement authority flows from **Article 324** (plenary superintendence), not from a dedicated MCC statute.
- **RPA 1951, Sec 123** defines **corrupt practices**; **Sec 126** imposes a **48-hour silence period** before polling.
- EC remedies range from **censure/advisory** to reprimand — it cannot directly disqualify for a mere MCC breach.

#### MUST KNOW

- The MCC has **no direct penal force**; serious violations may separately attract RPA 1951 or IPC/BNS provisions.
- **Anoop Baranwal v Union of India (2023)** mandated a CEC/EC appointment panel (later modified by the 2023 Act) to bolster EC independence.
- **Mohinder Singh Gill v CEC (1978)** held Art 324 is a reservoir of

power subject to natural justice and rule of law.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- MCC's origins trace to Kerala (1960) and it evolved through EC consensus.
- The 48-hour 'silence period' (Sec 126) bars election campaigning and exit-poll broadcast near polling.
- Art 324 makes the EC the guardian of free and fair elections.
- The EC issues 'advisories' and can shift/cancel polls in extreme cases.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the MCC's peculiar 'non-statutory yet enforceable' character and the source of EC power (Art 324, not statute).

##### PROVISIONS

Article 324, Representation of the People Act, 1951 (Secs 123, 126)

##### BODIES & CASES

Election Commission of India, S Subramaniam Balaji v Govt of Tamil Nadu (2013), Mohinder Singh Gill v CEC (1978), Anoop Baranwal v Union of India (2023)

**Common Error:** The MCC is **not a law** — the EC cannot 'convict' anyone under it. Its bite comes from **Art 324** plenary power plus related RPA offences; do not say the MCC itself carries criminal penalties.

- RPA 1950 = rolls; RPA 1951 = conduct/corrupt practices — a classic swap trap.
- Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 govern roll preparation mechanics.
- The EC conducts general elections in multiple phases for security and logistics.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Expect a fact-plus-doctrine question: turnout data as flavour, with the tested point being the source of EC power (Art 324) and the Art 324/325/326 trio.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 324, Article 325, Article 326, Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Secs 21–25), Representation of the People Act, 1951, 61st Constitutional Amendment (1988)

##### BODIES & CASES

Election Commission of India, Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013)

**Common Error:** The EC's roll-revision power flows from **Art 324**, not merely from the RPA 1950; and the voting age is **18** via the **61st** (not 62nd) Amendment.

## Record Phase-1 Turnout as SIR Trims Rolls 11.63%

#### POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**Phase-1** of the Lok Sabha polls recorded historic turnouts — **92.9% in West Bengal** and **85.1% in Tamil Nadu** — even as the **Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** removed **11.63% of entries** nationwide. The Opposition alleged disenfranchisement; the EC defended the exercise under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, with its plenary authority resting on **Article 324**.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Phase-1 turnout: **West Bengal 92.9%**, **Tamil Nadu 85.1%** — record highs.
- SIR removed **11.63%** of roll entries nationwide, prompting disenfranchisement complaints.
- Rolls are prepared under **RPA 1950 (Secs 21–25)**; elections are conducted under **RPA 1951**.
- **Article 325** mandates **one general electoral roll** with no discrimination on religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326** guarantees adult suffrage; the voting age was lowered to **18** by the **61st Amendment (1988/89)**.

#### MUST KNOW

- The EC's power over rolls is **plenary under Art 324**; the RPA supplies the procedure, not the source of authority.
- **Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013)** struck down RPA Sec 8(4), so a convicted legislator is **disqualified immediately**.
- One-general-roll (Art 325) plus adult franchise (Art 326) together underpin universal, non-discriminatory suffrage.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- 61st Amendment (1988) came into force 28 March 1989, lowering voting age from 21 to 18.

## AAP Rajya Sabha Defections Revive the Tenth Schedule



Seven of ten **AAP Rajya Sabha MPs** joined the BJP on 25 April 2026, reviving debate over the **Anti-Defection Law**. The **Tenth Schedule**, inserted by the **52nd Amendment (1985)**, disqualifies legislators for defection; the **91st Amendment (2003)** deleted the earlier **one-third split** exception, so today only a **two-thirds merger** escapes disqualification. Since 7 of 10 is above two-thirds, the defectors likely fall within the protected merger threshold.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Tenth Schedule** = Anti-Defection Law, added by the **52nd Amendment (1985)**.
- **91st Amendment (2003)** abolished the **1/3rd split** defence (old Para 3); only a **2/3rd merger (Para 4)** now protects.
- **Para 2(1)(a): voluntarily giving up** party membership = disqualification, even without formal resignation.
- The **Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman)** decides disqualification petitions, acting as a **tribunal**.
- **Articles 102(2) and 191(2)** read with the Tenth Schedule govern disqualification of MPs and MLAs.

#### MUST KNOW

- **Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu (1992)**: the Speaker's decision is **quasi-judicial and subject to judicial review**; Para 7 (ouster of courts) was struck for want of ratification.
- The **7/10** ratio is **exactly the two-thirds boundary** examiners love — 2/3 of 10 = 6.67, so 7 qualifies as a valid merger.
- Post-2003, there is **no lawful 'split'** — only a **merger of two-thirds** of the legislature party.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The Anti-Defection Law aimed to curb the 1960s–70s 'Aya Ram Gaya Ram' floor-crossing.

- **Ravi S. Naik v Union of India (1994)** clarified 'voluntarily giving up' can be inferred from conduct.
- The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Vice-President) decides such petitions for the Upper House.
- 91st Amendment also capped the Council of Ministers at 15% of the House strength.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

A marquee CLAT topic: expect the exact two-thirds merger arithmetic and the judicial-review status of the Speaker's decision.

**PROVISIONS**

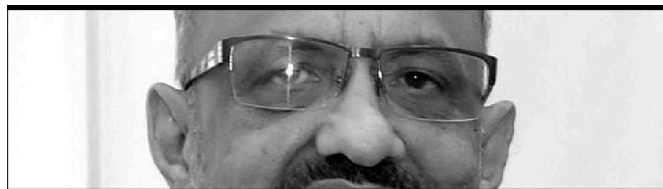
Tenth Schedule, Article 102(2), Article 191(2), 52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985), 91st Constitutional Amendment (2003)

**BODIES & CASES**

Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu (1992), Ravi S. Naik v Union of India (1994)

*Common Error: After the 91st Amendment (2003) the one-third split exception is GONE — only a two-thirds merger is valid. Also, the Speaker acts as a tribunal but the decision is reviewable (Kihoto), not final and unquestionable.*

## NITI Aayog Reconstituted; Ashok Lahiri Named Vice-Chairperson



The government **reconstituted NITI Aayog** on 25 April 2026, appointing former Chief Economic Adviser **Ashok Lahiri** as **Vice-Chairperson** (replacing Suman Bery), with a new slate of full-time members. The move refocuses attention on the **Planning Commission vs NITI Aayog** distinction: NITI Aayog is a **non-statutory, non-constitutional executive think-tank** created by a **2015 Cabinet Resolution**, championing **cooperative and competitive federalism**.

**QUICK FACTS**

- NITI Aayog was established on **1 January 2015** by a **Cabinet Resolution**, replacing the **Planning Commission (1950 resolution)**.
- It is **non-statutory and non-constitutional** — a purely executive advisory body.
- **Ashok Lahiri** (ex-CEA, ex-15th Finance Commission member) is the new **Vice-Chairperson**, replacing **Suman Bery**.
- The **Prime Minister is Chairperson**; the Vice-Chairperson holds **Cabinet Minister rank**.
- It is an **indicative/advisory** body — it does **not** allocate funds (unlike the erstwhile Planning Commission).

**MUST KNOW**

- **NITI Aayog has no constitutional or statutory backing**; the **Finance Commission (Art 280)** is constitutional — a favourite contrast.
- **Article 282** permits discretionary Union/State grants for any public purpose — the route for Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- NITI Aayog's mandate is **cooperative + competitive federalism** and policy formulation, not central planning.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- NITI = National Institution for Transforming India.

- Governing Council includes all Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors.
- Planning Commission was set up in 1950; Five-Year Plans ended with the 12th Plan (2012–17).
- NITI Aayog publishes indices like SDG India Index and the Aspirational Districts Programme.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT tests the statutory/constitutional status distinction: NITI Aayog (executive) versus Finance Commission (Art 280, constitutional), plus the Art 282 grants route.

**PROVISIONS**

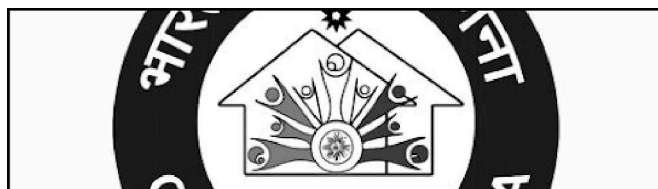
Article 282, Article 280 (Finance Commission — contrast)

**BODIES & CASES**

NITI Aayog (Cabinet Resolution, 2015), Planning Commission (1950)

*Common Error: NITI Aayog is neither constitutional nor statutory — do not confuse it with the constitutional Finance Commission (Art 280). It advises; it does not allocate or disburse funds.*

## Census 2027 Begins: India's First Fully Digital, Caste-Enumerated Count



**Phase 1 (House-Listing Operation)** of **Census 2027** began on **16 April** — India's first **fully digital** census via a mobile app, deploying over **1 lakh enumerators** (mostly teachers). Five heatstroke deaths in Dhenkanal, Odisha prompted an MHA SOP. **Phase 2 (population enumeration)** runs **Feb–Mar 2027** with reference date **1 March 2027**. It will be the **first caste enumeration since 1931**, conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **Phase 1 (House-Listing)** from **16 April**; **Phase 2 (population enumeration)** Feb–Mar 2027, reference date **1 March 2027** (1 Oct 2026 for snow-bound areas).
- First **fully app-based/digital** census; first **caste enumeration since 1931**.
- Conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**; the census is a **Union List** subject (**Entry 69, Seventh Schedule**) under **Article 246**.
- Administered by the **Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RGCCI)**, an office under the **MHA**.
- The 2021 census was postponed due to COVID; India has held a **decennial census since 1881**.

**MUST KNOW**

- **Section 15, Census Act 1948** makes individual records **confidential/'fiduciary'** — not open to inspection and not admissible as evidence, even before courts.
- **Article 82** ties **delimitation** of constituencies to census figures — high stakes for seat redistribution.
- Reservation arithmetic interacts with the **50% ceiling** of **Indra Sawhney v Union of India (1992)**; caste data feeds this debate.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Digital collection engages the **DPDP Act, 2023** (data-protection overlay) for the first time.

- 1881 = first synchronous census; conducted every 10 years since.
- Census is a Union subject; population data drive delimitation, grants and welfare targeting.
- The RGCCI also runs the Civil Registration System and NPR.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the federal-list placement of census (Union List Entry 69), Art 82 delimitation linkage, and confidentiality under Sec 15 of the Census Act.

#### PROVISIONS

Census Act, 1948 (Section 15), Article 82, Article 246, Seventh Schedule, Union List Entry 69, DPDP Act, 2023

#### BODIES & CASES

Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India (RGCCI), Ministry of Home Affairs, *Indra Sawhney v Union of India* (1992)

**Common Error:** Census is a **Union List** subject (Entry 69), **not Concurrent**; and under **Sec 15** individual returns are confidential — **even courts cannot compel disclosure of individual records.**

#### SECTION 02 / 11

### LEGAL & JUDICIARY

#### Custodial Deaths: Death Sentence for 9 Sathankulam Cops



A court awarded the **death penalty** to nine Tamil Nadu police officers for the 2020 custodial torture and killing of a father-son duo, **P. Jayaraj and J. Bennicks**, at **Sathankulam**, Thoothukudi. The men were arrested over allegedly keeping a shop open past lockdown hours and died of injuries in custody. The verdict invoked **Article 21** - the right to life includes dignity even in police custody - and found the mandatory **DK Basu** arrest safeguards flagrantly violated.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Victims: **P. Jayaraj and J. Bennicks**, Sathankulam, Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu), June 2020.
- Nine officers convicted; murder charge under **Section 302 read with 34 IPC** (common intention -> joint liability).
- Safeguards breached: **no arrest memo, no medical examination, no production before a magistrate within 24 hours.**
- Grounded in **DK Basu v State of WB (1997)** - 11 mandatory arrest guidelines.
- **NHRC**, a statutory body under the **PHRA 1993**, monitors custodial deaths nationwide.

#### MUST KNOW

- **DK Basu (1997)** = the leading case on arrest safeguards; guidelines are now largely codified (arrest memo, medical exam, informing family).
- **Article 22(1)/(2)** guarantees grounds of arrest and production before a magistrate within 24 hours (excluding travel time).
- Custodial death engages **Article 21** - dignity survives even in custody; compensation is a public-law remedy (*Nilabati Behera*,

1993).

- **NHRC** = National Human Rights Commission, created by the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.**

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NHRC is chaired by a former CJI or a Supreme Court judge; HQ in New Delhi.
- *Nilabati Behera v State of Odisha* (1993) established compensation for custodial death as an Article 32/226 remedy.
- Section 302 IPC now corresponds to Section 103 of the BNS 2023.
- 'Rarest of rare' doctrine for death penalty comes from *Bachan Singh v State of Punjab* (1980).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Custodial-violence questions test Article 21 dignity + *DK Basu* safeguards + Article 22 arrest rights together - a classic legal-reasoning fact pattern.

#### PROVISIONS

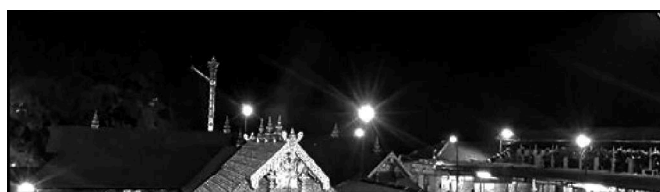
Article 21, Article 22, Section 302 IPC, Section 34 IPC, Protection of Human Rights Act 1993

#### BODIES & CASES

*DK Basu v State of West Bengal* (1997), *Nilabati Behera v State of Odisha* (1993), NHRC

**Common Error:** Students confuse the 24-hour magistrate-production rule (Art 22) with the *DK Basu* 'inform family' timeline; and forget that preventive detention (Art 22(3)) is exempt from Art 22(1)-(2).

#### Sabarimala: 9-Judge Bench Reframes Religion vs Equality



A **nine-judge Constitution Bench** heard the reference arising from the **Sabarimala review** (*Kantaru Rajeevaru, 2020*), revisiting how far the State can regulate religious practice. **Justice B.V. Nagarathna**, the sole woman on the bench, questioned barring women aged 10-50 from the Ayyappa temple, remarking that **Article 17** (untouchability) cannot apply to a 'just three-day' menstrual exclusion. The core tension: **Article 25** religious freedom vs **Article 17** and **Article 14** equality, and who decides what is an 'essential religious practice'.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Nine-judge bench flowing from the *Kantaru Rajeevaru (2020)* reference; larger benches can overrule smaller ones.
- Origin: *Indian Young Lawyers Assn v State of Kerala (2018)* - 4:1 allowed women of all ages into Sabarimala.
- Justice **Nagarathna** flagged whether **Art 17** untouchability fits a temporary exclusion.
- Central question: does the **Essential Religious Practices (ERP) test** or constitutional morality prevail?
- ERP test traces to *Shirur Mutt (1954)*; refined in *Durgah Committee (1961)*.

#### MUST KNOW

- **Article 25** is subject to public order, morality, health AND other fundamental rights; **Article 26** is subject ONLY to public order,

morality, health - a CLAT-favourite distinction.

- A **nine-judge bench** can overrule five-judge ERP precedents - bench strength decides precedential weight.
- The **ERP test** (Shirur Mutt) lets courts decide what is 'essential' to a religion - heavily criticised as judges doing theology.
- Sabarimala (2018) linked exclusion to **Puttaswamy (2017)** privacy/dignity and constitutional morality.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Sabarimala's deity is Lord Ayyappa; the temple is in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala.
- CJI Surya Kant referenced/led the bench in 2026.
- Article 17 abolishes untouchability 'in all its forms' and is enforceable against private persons too.
- The 2018 verdict was 4:1, with Justice Indu Malhotra dissenting.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Art 25 vs Art 26 restriction difference, the ERP test, and how bench strength (9 judges) can unsettle a 5-judge ruling.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 15, Article 17, Article 25, Article 26

##### BODIES & CASES

Indian Young Lawyers Assn v State of Kerala (2018), Shirur Mutt (1954), Kantaru Rajeevaru Reference (2020), Durgah Committee v Hussain Ali (1961)

*Common Error: Students say Art 26 is 'subject to other fundamental rights' - it is NOT; only Art 25 is. Also, a temporary exclusion is not automatically 'untouchability' under Art 17.*

- **Article 26(b)** lets a religious denomination manage its own affairs - a possible shield for the religious clause.
- Fundamental rights (Art 14) bind the **State**; applying them to a private trust needs a 'State'/public-function hook.
- Charitable public trusts in Maharashtra are governed and supervised by the **Charity Commissioner** (BPT Act 1950).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Noel Tata became chairman of Tata Trusts in 2024 after Ratan Tata's death.
- Tata Trusts hold roughly two-thirds of Tata Sons, the group holding company.
- Zoroastrianism (Parsi faith) traces to prophet Zarathushtra; Parsis migrated to India c. 8th-10th century.
- The Indian Trusts Act 1882 governs private trusts; public/charitable trusts fall under state Public Trusts Acts.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests trust-law basics (settlor's intent, trustee duties) alongside the Art 14 vs Art 26 tension and the State-action requirement for fundamental rights.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 26, Indian Trusts Act 1882, Bombay Public Trusts Act 1950

##### BODIES & CASES

Charity Commissioner (Maharashtra), Tata Sons v Cyrus Mistry (2021)

*Common Error: Students assume Art 14 automatically strikes down any religion-based clause; fundamental rights bind the State, and a private trust may invoke Art 26(b) denominational autonomy.*

## Tata Trusts: Non-Zoroastrian Trustee Row Tests Trust Law



Tata Trusts chairman **Noel Tata** asked non-Zoroastrian trustees **Vijay Singh and Venu Srinivasan** to step down from the **Bai Hirabai Trust**, citing religious restrictions in the **trust deed**. Srinivasan resigned; Vijay Singh refused. A former CJI had opined there was no legal bar, and the **Charity Commissioner** was drawn in. The dispute pits the **settlor's intent** in a private trust deed against an **Article 14** equality challenge to religion-based trustee eligibility.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Bai Hirabai Trust is one of the philanthropic trusts within the **Tata Trusts** group.
- Deed clause restricts trusteeship to **Zoroastrians (Parsis)**; challenged as discriminatory.
- **Indian Trusts Act 1882** (Sec 11-20) codifies trustee duties and the binding force of settlor's intent.
- **Bombay Public Trusts Act 1950** gives the **Charity Commissioner** supervisory power over public trusts.
- Governance backdrop: **Tata Sons v Cyrus Mistry (2021 SC)**.

#### MUST KNOW

- A **settlor's intent** expressed in the trust deed binds future trustees - but may be tested against public policy and Art 14 for public/charitable trusts.

## SC Raps Tribunal Vacancies, Invokes Article 142

#### LEGAL & JUDICIARY

The **Supreme Court** pulled up the government over long-standing vacancies crippling appellate tribunals such as **CESTAT**, **NCLAT** and **AFT**, with pendency exceeding **1.5 lakh cases**. Invoking **Article 142** to do 'complete justice', the Court directed appointments and reminded the Centre of the **L. Chandra Kumar (1997)** mandate that High Court judicial review is part of the basic structure. Tribunals cannot oust the writ jurisdiction of constitutional courts.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Affected tribunals: **CESTAT** (customs/excise), **NCLAT** (company law), **AFT** (armed forces).
- Pendency flagged at over **1.5 lakh cases** due to unfilled posts.
- Court used **Article 142** to direct appointments.
- **Article 323A** (administrative tribunals) inserted by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**; **Article 323B** covers other tribunals.
- Independence standards from the **Madras Bar Assn** line (2014, 2020, 2021).

#### MUST KNOW

- **L. Chandra Kumar v Union of India (1997)**: HC judicial review under **Art 226/227** is part of the **basic structure** - tribunals are supplemental, not substitutes.
- **Article 323A** = administrative/service tribunals set up by

Parliament; **Article 323B** = other tribunals (tax, industrial, rent).

- Parts of the **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021** (tenure, age, service conditions) were struck down for undermining independence.
- **Article 142** gives the SC plenary power to pass any order for complete justice.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The 42nd Amendment (1976) added Part XIV-A (Arts 323A/323B) to the Constitution.
- NCLAT hears appeals from the NCLT and CCI (competition matters).
- The Armed Forces Tribunal was created by the AFT Act, 2007.
- Article 227 gives High Courts superintendence over all courts and tribunals in their territory.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tribunals + basic structure is a high-yield combo: Art 323A/323B, L. Chandra Kumar, and HC writ jurisdiction as an inviolable feature.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 323A, Article 323B, Article 142, Article 226, Article 227

##### BODIES & CASES

L. Chandra Kumar v Union of India (1997), Madras Bar Assn v Union of India, CESTAT, NCLAT, AFT

**Common Error:** Students think tribunals can exclude High Court writ jurisdiction; L. Chandra Kumar held Art 226/227 review is basic structure and cannot be ousted.

apprehension of bias'.

- Natural justice has two pillars: **nemo judex in causa sua** (rule against bias) and **audi alteram partem** (hear the other side).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Pecuniary bias, even trivial, generally disqualifies automatically.
- The SCAORA / NJAC case (2015) discussed judges' duty to sit unless there is real bias.
- Kejriwal is the AAP leader; the excise-policy case involves ED/CBI probes.
- Natural justice is read into 'procedure established by law' under Article 21 (Maneka Gandhi, 1978).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Perfect vehicle to test the rule against bias, the objective test, and natural justice under Arts 14/21.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 21

##### BODIES & CASES

Ranjit Thakur v Union of India (1987), State of WB v Shivananda Pathak (1998), SCAORA v Union of India (2015)

**Common Error:** Students treat recusal as a litigant's entitlement or apply a subjective/actual-bias test; the correct standard is a reasonable apprehension judged objectively.

## Delhi HC Rejects Kejriwal Recusal Plea: Bias Is Objective



The **Delhi High Court**, in a 79-page order by **Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma**, refused **Arvind Kejriwal's** plea for the judge to recuse herself in the Delhi excise-policy case. The Bench held that **unfounded apprehensions of bias** do not justify recusal and that abdicating a case on baseless grounds would itself be improper. It reaffirmed that the test for bias is **objective** - whether a fair-minded observer would reasonably apprehend bias - and that recusal is a matter of judicial conscience, not a litigant's comfort.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Order by **Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma**; context = excise/liquor policy case.
- Held: recusal is **not a litigant's right**; the test is reasonable apprehension of bias.
- Maxim applied: **Nemo judex in causa sua** (no one a judge in his own cause).
- **Ranjit Thakur v Union of India (1987)** - reasonable apprehension of bias, not actual bias, is the standard.
- Bias taxonomy: **pecuniary, personal, subject-matter**.

#### MUST KNOW

- The bias test is **objective** (fair-minded reasonable observer), not subjective to the aggrieved party.
- **Recusal is not a right of the litigant** - a judge must not abdicate merely because a party is uncomfortable.
- **Ranjit Thakur (1987)** is the leading Indian authority on 'reasonable

## SC Rejects Umar Khalid Bail Review: UAPA 43D(5) Bar Holds



The **Supreme Court** dismissed the review petition against denial of bail to **Umar Khalid** in the Delhi Riots **UAPA** conspiracy case, with the accused having spent **5+ years** in custody and the trial yet to begin. The Court reiterated the stringent **Section 43D(5) UAPA** bar - bail is barred where the court, on a prima facie reading of the case diary, believes the accusation is true. The order sharpens the tension between **Article 21** (speedy trial, liberty) and anti-terror bail thresholds.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Section 43D(5) UAPA**: bail refused if accusations appear **prima facie true**.
- **NIA v Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali (2019)**: prosecution material taken at **face value** for bail.
- **Union of India v K.A. Najeed (2021)**: prolonged incarceration + Art 21 can **override** the 43D(5) bar.
- Over **5 years** in custody; trial not yet commenced.
- Review sought under **Article 137** (SC's power to review its own judgments).

#### MUST KNOW

- Under **Watali**, courts do NOT weigh evidence at the bail stage - they take the prosecution's material as it stands.
- **Najeed** carves a narrow constitutional escape: long custody + trial delay can defeat a statutory bail bar via Art 21.
- General rule: **'bail is the rule, jail the exception'** (State of Rajasthan v Balchand, 1977) - but UAPA inverts the default.

- **Article 137** review is limited; a further remedy is a **curative petition** (Rupa Ashok Hurra, 2002).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- UAPA = Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; amended 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists.
- The NIA (National Investigation Agency) was set up after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- Right to speedy trial was read into Art 21 in Hussainara Khatoon (1979).
- Curative petition is the last judicial remedy after a review is dismissed.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the UAPA bail bar (Watali) vs the Art 21 exception (Najeeb) and the limited scope of Article 137 review.

##### PROVISIONS

Section 43D(5) UAPA, Article 21, Article 22, Article 137

##### BODIES & CASES

NIA v Watali (2019), Union of India v K.A. Najeeb (2021), NIA

*Common Error: Students assume 'bail is the rule' applies to UAPA; Sec 43D(5) reverses it, and Najeeb relief is narrow, fact-specific relief for prolonged custody - not a general dilution of the bar.*

- **RPA 1951** supplies the machinery (election petitions, grounds of disqualification).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Citizenship is a Union subject; Articles 5-11 deal with citizenship in the Constitution.
- OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) was introduced by the 2005 amendment to the Citizenship Act.
- Article 11 empowers Parliament to regulate citizenship by law - hence the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Recusal here echoes the objective 'reasonable apprehension of bias' standard.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests citizenship law (Arts 5-11, Art 9), legislator disqualification (Art 102/191), and the executive's role under Sec 9(2).

##### PROVISIONS

Article 9, Article 102(1)(d), Article 191(1)(d), Citizenship Act 1955 Section 9, Representation of the People Act 1951

##### BODIES & CASES

Izhar Ahmad Khan v Union of India (1962), Allahabad High Court

*Common Error: Students equate OCI with dual citizenship; OCI is NOT citizenship, and the acquisition question under Sec 9(2) is for the Central Government to decide, not a writ court.*

## Allahabad HC Judge Recuses in Rahul Gandhi Citizenship PIL



An **Allahabad High Court** judge recused from a **PIL** seeking the disqualification of **Rahul Gandhi** on the allegation that he holds British citizenship; the matter was listed before another bench. The plea invokes **Article 9** (voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship terminates Indian citizenship) and **Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955**. India does not permit dual citizenship - the case turns on whether any foreign nationality was voluntarily acquired.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Judge recused; PIL relisted before another bench (no ruling on merits).
- **Article 9** - voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship ends Indian citizenship.
- **Citizenship Act 1955, Sec 9(2)** - the **executive** (Central Govt), not courts, determines the fact of acquisition.
- **Article 102(1)(d)/191(1)(d)** - disqualification of an MP/MLA who is not an Indian citizen.
- **Izhar Ahmad Khan v Union of India (1962)** upheld Sec 9 and the executive enquiry.

#### MUST KNOW

- India does **NOT** allow dual citizenship; **OCI** is a long-term residency card, not citizenship - Art 9 is not triggered by OCI.
- Under **Sec 9(2)**, whether a person voluntarily acquired foreign citizenship is decided by the **Central Government**, not a writ court.
- Disqualification of legislators for non-citizenship flows from **Art 102(1)(d)** (MPs) and **Art 191(1)(d)** (MLAs).

## Priyadarshini Mattoo Convict's Premature Release Under BNSS



**Santosh Singh**, convicted of the 1996 rape-murder of law student **Priyadarshini Mattoo** (conviction confirmed in 2010), was granted **premature release** under the remission provisions of the **BNSS 2023**. The victim's family challenged it in writ jurisdiction. Remission is an executive power exercised by the 'appropriate government', but it is judicially reviewable and must respect victims' rights, as reaffirmed in **Bilkis Bano (2024)**.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Convict: **Santosh Singh**; victim: **Priyadarshini Mattoo** (1996 case).
- Release under **BNSS Sec 473-474** (formerly **CrPC 432-433**) - remission/commutation by the appropriate govt.
- **BNSS Sec 475** (old **CrPC 433A**): minimum **14 years** actual imprisonment for life convicts in heinous offences.
- **Bilkis Bano v Union of India (2024)** quashed Gujarat's premature releases and reaffirmed victims' rights.
- Executive pardon powers: **Article 72** (President), **Article 161** (Governor).

#### MUST KNOW

- The remission policy applicable is the one **in force at the time of conviction** (UoI v Sriharan, 2015).
- Executive clemency is **judicially reviewable** on **Maru Ram (1981)** grounds - it cannot be arbitrary.
- 'Appropriate government' for remission depends on where the offence was tried and the executive power involved (Sriharan).
- A life sentence means imprisonment for the **remainder of**

**natural life** unless remitted (Gopal Vinayak Godse, 1961).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The Priyadarshini Mattoo case is a landmark in India's fight against acquittals influenced by delay/power.
- BNSS 2023 replaced the CrPC 1973 with effect from 1 July 2024.
- Article 72 pardon covers court-martial and central-law offences; Article 161 covers state-law offences.
- Pardon, commutation, remission, respite and reprieve are the five clemency forms.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests remission/commutation (BNSS vs old CrPC section numbers), pardon powers (Art 72/161), and judicial review of clemency.

##### PROVISIONS

BNSS Section 473, BNSS Section 474, BNSS Section 475, Article 72, Article 161

##### BODIES & CASES

Union of India v V. Sriharan @ Murugan (2015), Bilkis Bano v Union of India (2024), Maru Ram v Union of India (1981)

**Common Error:** Students apply the remission policy existing at the time of the release application; Sriharan holds the policy at the time of conviction governs. Also, Art 72/161 pardons are distinct from BNSS statutory remission.

existing law rather than a new offence.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- BNS 2023 replaced the IPC 1860 from 1 July 2024.
- Tehseen Poonawalla (2018) issued preventive, remedial and punitive guidelines against mob lynching.
- Shaheen Abdullah (2022) directed suo motu action against hate speech.
- Reasonable restrictions on speech are exhaustively listed in Art 19(2).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the IPC->BNS mapping of hate-speech sections and the Art 19(1)(a)/19(2) free-speech balance with the Amish Devgan test.

##### PROVISIONS

BNS Section 196, BNS Section 197, BNS Section 299, Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2)

##### BODIES & CASES

Pravasi Bhalai v Union of India (2014), Tehseen Poonawalla v Union of India (2018), Amish Devgan v Union of India (2020)

**Common Error:** Students conflate 153A/153B/295A; each has distinct scope and mens rea, and all now sit under new BNS section numbers (196/197/299).

## SC Pulls Up UP Police Over 'Sec 153B' in Noida Hate Crime

#### LEGAL & JUDICIARY

A Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta** asked the **UP Police** why **Section 153B IPC** (now **BNS Sec 197**) was omitted from the FIR against those who assaulted a Muslim cleric, **Kazeem Ahmad Sherwani**, in **Noida in 2021** 'in the name of religion'. **Section 295A** (now **BNS Sec 299**) was also in play. The case tests how hate-crime and communal-enmity provisions map onto the new criminal codes.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Bench: Justices **Vikram Nath & Sandeep Mehta**; incident: 2021 Noida assault on cleric Kazeem Ahmad Sherwani.
- IPC 153A/153B -> BNS Sec 196/197** (promoting enmity; imputations prejudicial to national integration).
- IPC 295A -> BNS Sec 299** (deliberate acts to outrage religious feelings).
- Free-speech frame: **Art 19(1)(a)** vs **Art 19(2)** reasonable restrictions (public order, decency, morality).
- Hate-speech guidance: **Tehseen Poonawalla (2018)** (mob lynching), **Amish Devgan (2020)** (hate-speech test).

#### MUST KNOW

- Sec 153B** targets 'imputations prejudicial to national integration' - a **structural** harm - while **295A** needs deliberate, malicious intent to outrage religious feelings; different mens rea.
- Under the new codes: **153A->196, 153B->197, 295A->299 BNS**.
- Amish Devgan (2020)** test weighs context, content, extent and the status of the speaker.
- Pravasi Bhalai (2014)** - courts pressed for strict enforcement of

## SC in I-PAC Case: 'CM Intervention Puts Democracy in Peril'

#### LEGAL & JUDICIARY

Hearing the **I-PAC / ED** matter on political-consultancy funding, the **Supreme Court** observed that a Chief Minister's intervention in an **ED probe** 'puts democracy in peril', flagging pressure on judicial officers. West Bengal's **Article 131** suit against the ED probe was debated. The case foregrounds separation of powers and the limits of executive interference in investigations.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Context: **I-PAC** (political consultancy) and an **ED** probe under **PMLA 2002**.
- Article 131** - SC's **exclusive original jurisdiction** in Centre-State / inter-state disputes.
- Article 32** - right to constitutional remedies (a fundamental right itself, 'heart and soul' - Ambedkar).
- State of WB v Union of India (1963)** - scope of Art 131 and federal disputes.
- ED powers upheld in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary (2022)**.

#### MUST KNOW

- Article 131** suits can be filed **only by governments** (Centre/State) - private parties are excluded.
- Article 32** is itself a fundamental right - it cannot be suspended except under Art 359 during Emergency.
- Separation of powers** is part of the **basic structure** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973); **Art 50 DPSP** seeks to separate judiciary from executive.
- PMLA Sec 3 & 50** confer the ED's attachment and summons powers (Vijay Madanlal, 2022).

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- ED = Enforcement Directorate, enforcing PMLA and FEMA.
- Article 131 excludes certain disputes from SC's original jurisdiction (e.g., some pre-Constitution treaty matters).
- PMLA = Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
- Art 50 (Directive Principle) directs the State to separate the judiciary from the executive in public services.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests Art 131 original jurisdiction (only governments as parties), Art 32 remedies, and separation of powers as basic structure.

## PROVISIONS

Article 32, Article 131, Article 50, PMLA 2002

## BODIES &amp; CASES

State of WB v Union of India (1963), Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v Union of India (2022), Enforcement Directorate

**Common Error:** Students think private parties can invoke Art 131; only the Centre/States can. And Art 131 is 'exclusive original' - not appellate - jurisdiction.

in 2021.

- The 2021 amendment raised the general limit from 20 to 24 weeks for specified categories.
- Puttaswamy (2017) recognised privacy, including decisional autonomy, under Art 21.
- POCSO 2012 mandates reporting of sexual offences against minors.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the MTP 24-week ceiling, the medical-board vs constitutional-court route beyond it, and Art 21 reproductive autonomy.

## PROVISIONS

MTP Act 1971 (2021 Amendment) Section 3, Section 3B, Article 21, Article 142, POCSO Act 2012

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Suchita Srivastava v Chandigarh Admn (2009), X v Principal Secretary GNCTD (2022), Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017)

**Common Error:** Students state '20 weeks' (pre-2021 limit) or think doctors alone can terminate post-24-week; beyond 24 weeks needs a Medical Board or a constitutional court (Art 142).

## SC Lets 15-Year-Old Terminate 28-Week Pregnancy

## LEGAL &amp; JUDICIARY

The **Supreme Court** permitted a **15-year-old rape survivor** to terminate a **28-week pregnancy** - beyond the **MTP Act's 24-week ceiling** - grounding the order in **Article 21** reproductive autonomy, a risk-to-life assessment, and **parens patriae** jurisdiction. Only constitutional courts can authorise such post-24-week terminations, on a medical board's opinion.

## QUICK FACTS

- Survivor aged **15**; pregnancy at **28 weeks** (~7 months).
- **MTP Act 1971 (2021 Amendment)**: outer limit **24 weeks** for specified categories under **Sec 3B**.
- Beyond 24 weeks, only a **Medical Board** route for substantial foetal abnormality - else a constitutional court.
- Grounded in **Article 21** reproductive autonomy + **parens patriae** (state as guardian of a minor).
- Rights basis: **Suchita Srivastava (2009)**, **X v Principal Secretary (2022)**, **Puttaswamy (2017)**.

## MUST KNOW

- MTP outer limit is **24 weeks** (post-2021) for the seven Sec 3B categories, including survivors of rape and minors.
- Post-24-week terminations are authorised only via a **Medical Board** (foetal abnormality) or by a **constitutional court using Art 142 + Art 21**.
- **X v Principal Secretary (2022)** extended MTP benefits to **unmarried/single women** and read marital rape into MTP for this purpose.
- **Suchita Srivastava (2009)** recognised a woman's reproductive choice as part of personal liberty.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- MTP = Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971; major amendment

## Karnataka Sub-Classifies SC Quota: 5.25/5.25/4.5



Karnataka notified **sub-categorisation** of its 15% Scheduled Caste quota into **5.25% (Group A, most marginal)**, **5.25% (Group B)** and **4.5% (Group C)**. This was enabled by **State of Punjab v Davinder Singh (2024, 7-judge)**, which overruled **E.V. Chinnaiah (2004)** and permitted States to sub-classify SCs on empirical heterogeneity data - while the **Presidential List under Article 341** stays untouched.

## QUICK FACTS

- Split within the 15% SC quota: **5.25% (A) + 5.25% (B) + 4.5% (C)**.
- **Davinder Singh (2024, 7J)** allowed SC sub-classification; **overruled E.V. Chinnaiah (2004, 5J)**.
- E.V. Chinnaiah had held SCs to be a single **homogeneous class** - now overruled.
- Empirical-data threshold traces to **Indra Sawhney (1992)**.
- **Article 341** - Presidential List of SCs; States cannot vary it.

## MUST KNOW

- Sub-classification is **within** the 15% SC quota, not in addition to it.
- States may sub-classify SCs on **empirical heterogeneity data**, but cannot add/remove castes from the **Art 341 Presidential List** - only Parliament can (Art 341(2)).
- **Davinder Singh (2024)** overruled Chinnaiah; the majority also floated the **'creamy layer within SC/ST'** idea (obiter, contested).
- **Jarnail Singh (2018)** applied creamy-layer exclusion to SC/ST in promotions.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Art 15(4) and 16(4) enable special provisions and reservations for SEBC/SC/ST.
- Indra Sawhney (1992) capped total reservation at 50% (absent extraordinary circumstances).

- Article 341 lets the President specify Scheduled Castes by public notification, per State.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes functions under Article 338.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Tests SC sub-classification (Davinder Singh overruling Chinnaiiah), the Art 341 Presidential List, and the 50% ceiling.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 15(4), Article 16(4), Article 341, Article 46

**BODIES & CASES**

State of Punjab v Davinder Singh (2024), E.V. Chinnaiiah v State of AP (2004), Indra Sawhney v Union of India (1992), Jarnail Singh v Lachhmi Narain Gupta (2018)

**Common Error:** Students think States can alter the Art 341 list; only Parliament can. Also, sub-classification is within the existing SC quota, not extra reservation.

Act, 1988.

- MV (Amendment) Act 2019 sharply raised penalties for traffic violations.
- Article 142 was famously used in the Bhopal gas, Ayodhya and cleanup-directive cases.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

A single fact pattern tests Art 142 'complete justice', Art 21 expansion (safe roads), and Olga Tellis natural-justice-before-demolition.

**PROVISIONS**

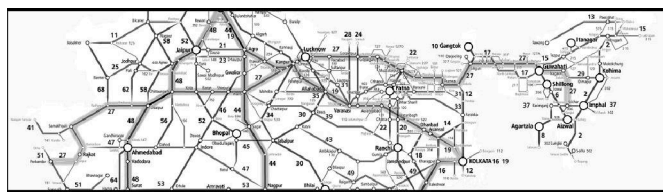
Article 142, Article 21, NHAI Act 1988, Motor Vehicles Act 1988

**BODIES & CASES**

Olga Tellis v Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985), SCBA v Union of India (1998), M.C. Mehta v Union of India

**Common Error:** Students think Art 142 can override any statute; SCBA v UoI (1998) held it cannot override an express statutory bar, and it binds only parties before the Court.

## SC's 13-Point Highway Safety Directive Under Article 142



On 13 April 2026 the **Supreme Court** issued a **13-point highway-safety directive** after fatal crashes including the Telangana Ranga Reddy bus-into-trailer collision and a Rajasthan bus-lorry pile-up (19 dead). Invoking **Article 142** ('complete justice') and **Article 21** (right to life includes safe roads), it ordered removal of unauthorised structures within **60m residential / 75m commercial** of National Highways within **60 days**, plus ATMS surveillance and e-Challan rollout.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Trigger: Ranga Reddy (Telangana) and Rajasthan highway crashes; **19 killed** in one.
- Directive issued **13 April 2026; 13 points**.
- Demolish unauthorised structures within **60m residential / 75m commercial** of NHs within **60 days**.
- Tech: **ATMS** (Advanced Traffic Management System) surveillance + **e-Challan**.
- Powers used: **Article 142 + Article 21**; statutory base **NHAI Act 1988 + MV Act 1988**.

**MUST KNOW**

- Article 142** binds only the parties before the SC and **cannot override an express statutory bar** (SCBA v Union of India, 1998).
- Demolition **without notice** violates **Olga Tellis v BMC (1985)** - the 60-day window is the natural-justice safeguard.
- Article 21** has been expanded to include a clean/safe environment and safe roads (M.C. Mehta line).
- One fact pattern lets examiners test Art 142, Art 21 expansion, executive-judicial overlap, and Olga Tellis together.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Olga Tellis (1985) held the right to livelihood is part of Art 21 and pavement-dwellers deserve pre-eviction notice.
- NHAI = National Highways Authority of India, set up under the NHAI

## Section 69A IT Act: Blocking Orders Double to ~24,000



Content-blocking orders under **Section 69A of the IT Act** roughly **doubled to ~24,000 in 2025**, driven by AI deepfakes and election misinformation. A **Blocking Committee** under the Secretary, **MeitY** (with MHA/MEA/MoD and CERT-In) clears requests, while a **Designated Officer** can issue interim emergency blocks **without hearing the originator**. The procedure sits at the Art 19(1)(a) free-speech vs Art 19(2) restriction frontier.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Section 69A IT Act 2000** - power to block public access to information.
- Blocking orders rose to **~24,000 in 2025** (roughly double), linked to **AI deepfakes**.
- Five grounds: **sovereignty, defence, friendly relations, public order, and investigation of offences**.
- IT (Blocking) Rules 2009** set up the committee + emergency route; interim blocks skip the originator's hearing.
- Upheld in **Shreya Singhal (2015)**, which struck down Sec 66A.

**MUST KNOW**

- Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015)** struck down **Sec 66A** (vague) but **upheld Sec 69A** for having procedural safeguards.
- The **Blocking Rules 2009** do not mandate **hearing the originator** in emergencies - this is under fresh legal challenge.
- Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** requires **proportionality** and publication of internet-restriction orders.
- Only **Art 19(2)** grounds (sovereignty, public order, decency, etc.) can restrict speech under Art 19(1)(a).

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- MeitY = Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- CERT-In is the national cyber-incident response agency.
- Sec 66A was struck down for being unconstitutionally vague and overbroad.

- The IT Act, 2000 is India's primary cyber-law statute.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests Sec 69A blocking (upheld in *Shreya Singhal*), the Sec 66A strike-down, and proportionality (*Anuradha Bhasin*).

#### PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Section 69A IT Act 2000

#### BODIES & CASES

*Shreya Singhal v Union of India* (2015), *Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India* (2020), MeitY, CERT-In

**Common Error:** Students say *Shreya Singhal* struck down Sec 69A; it struck down Sec 66A and upheld 69A. Also, the emergency Blocking Rules do not require hearing the originator.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the free-speech (Art 19) vs religious-freedom (Art 25) balance and the mens-rea requirement of 295A/BNS 299.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Article 25, BNS Section 299, IPC Section 295A

#### BODIES & CASES

*Ramji Lal Modi v State of UP* (1957), *S. Veerabadran Chettiar v E.V. Ramaswami* (1958), Supreme Court of India

**Common Error:** Students think any insult to religion is punishable under 295A; only **DELIBERATE** and **MALICIOUS** acts qualify (*Ramji Lal Modi*), and mere careless remarks are not caught.

## Punjab Anti-Sacrilege Law & the Blasphemy Debate



Punjab passed a stringent **anti-sacrilege law** on 13 April 2026 - desecration of the **Guru Granth Sahib** can carry a life term. The debate revives whether **blasphemy-type offences** (BNS Sec 299, old IPC 295A) belong in a modern free-speech regime. The Supreme Court had stayed proceedings in a related case, and legal scholars flagged the retention of blasphemy provisions as a colonial relic. It pivots **Art 19(1)(a)** free speech against **Art 25** religious freedom.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Punjab anti-sacrilege Bill (13 Apr 2026): desecration of religious texts can attract a **life term**.
- **BNS Sec 299** (old **IPC 295A**) - deliberate acts to outrage religious feelings.
- SC stayed proceedings in a related blasphemy-type prosecution.
- **Ramji Lal Modi v State of UP (1957)** upheld 295A as a reasonable restriction under Art 19(2).
- Free-speech tension: **Art 19(1)(a)** vs **Art 25** (religious freedom).

#### MUST KNOW

- **295A / BNS 299** requires **deliberate and malicious** intent - not every offence to religious feeling is punishable (*S. Veerabadran Chettiar*, 1958).
- **Ramji Lal Modi (1957)** upheld 295A because it targets only aggravated, intentional insults.
- State legislation on 'public order' is a State List subject, but criminal law is Concurrent - so a State anti-sacrilege law must still fit Art 19(2)/25.
- Blasphemy has been abolished in most democracies; India retains a mens-rea-based version (295A/BNS 299).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the central scripture and living Guru of Sikhism.
- Sikhism was founded by **Guru Nanak**; the tenth Guru, **Gobind Singh**, installed the Granth as eternal Guru.
- Criminal law and criminal procedure are in the Concurrent List.
- BNS 2023 replaced the IPC 1860 from 1 July 2024.

## 9-Judge Bench: Public Roads Can't Be Blocked for Religion

#### LEGAL & JUDICIARY

A **nine-judge Constitution Bench** led by CJI **Surya Kant** held that public roads cannot be blocked for religious processions, and that the State **can regulate the secular activities associated with religion** under **Article 25(2)(a)**. The Bench reaffirmed the **essential-religious-practices test** (*Shirur Mutt*, 1954) and the *Sabarimala* line on constitutional morality, balancing religious freedom against public order and the right to move freely.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Nine-judge bench led by CJI **Surya Kant**.
- Holding: **public roads cannot be blocked** for religious processions.
- **Article 25(2)(a)** - the State may regulate **secular** activities associated with religion.
- Reaffirmed **ERP test (Shirur Mutt, 1954)** and *Sabarimala*'s constitutional-morality reasoning.
- **Article 19(1)(d)** - right to move freely - engaged by road blockages.

#### MUST KNOW

- **Article 25(2)(a)** lets the State regulate **secular** activity associated with religious practice - roads and traffic are quintessentially secular.
- A **nine-judge bench** binds all smaller benches; only a co-equal or larger bench can disturb its ratio.
- **Article 25(1)** freedom of conscience/practice is subject to public order, morality and health.
- The **ERP test (Shirur Mutt)** still governs what counts as an 'essential' religious practice.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Article 25(2)(b) additionally allows social-welfare reform and throwing open Hindu religious institutions to all classes.
- Constitutional morality gained prominence in *Sabarimala* (2018) and the *Navtej Johar* (2018) rulings.
- Article 26 protects a denomination's right to manage its own religious affairs.
- CJI **Surya Kant** led major Constitution benches in 2026.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Tests the secular-vs-religious distinction under Art 25(2)(a), the ERP test, and how bench strength (9 judges) sets binding authority.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 25, Article 25(2)(a), Article 26, Article 19(1)(d)

**BODIES & CASES**

Shirur Mutt (1954), Indian Young Lawyers Assn (Sabarimala, 2018), Supreme Court of India

**Common Error:** Students think the State cannot touch anything 'connected' to religion; Art 25(2)(a) permits regulating the **SECULAR** activities associated with religious practice, not the belief itself.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Tests THOTA brain-death recognition alongside Art 21 end-of-life jurisprudence (Aruna Shanbaug, Common Cause, living wills).

**PROVISIONS**

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act 1994, THOT Rules 2014, Article 21

**BODIES & CASES**

Aruna Shanbaug v Union of India (2011), Common Cause v Union of India (2018), NOTO

**Common Error:** Students cite *Gian Kaur (1996)* as the final word that there is no 'right to die'; *Common Cause (2018)* recognised passive euthanasia and advance directives as part of Art 21 dignity.

## SC on Brain-Death Test: Apnea vs Angiogram + EEG



The **Supreme Court** considered the methodology for declaring **brain-stem death**, with a petitioner challenging exclusive reliance on the **Apnea test** and pressing for **cerebral angiogram + EEG** corroboration. The statutory regime is the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994** (THOTA) with the **THOT Rules 2014** (Form 10, four-member expert panel). The case sits at the intersection of bioethics, Article 21 and organ-transplant law.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Issue: adequacy of the **Apnea test** alone for declaring brain-stem death.
- Petitioner sought **cerebral angiogram + EEG** corroboration.
- Statute: **THOTA 1994** recognises brain-stem death; **THOT Rules 2014** prescribe **Form 10** and a **4-member panel**.
- Rights frame: **Article 21** - right to life and dignity (end-of-life jurisprudence).
- Linked cases: **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)**, **Common Cause v UoI (2018)**.

**MUST KNOW**

- **THOTA 1994** is the first Indian law to statutorily recognise **brain-stem death**, enabling deceased-donor organ transplants.
- **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)** allowed **passive euthanasia** under strict safeguards; **Common Cause (2018)** recognised the **living will / advance directive** and passive euthanasia as part of Art 21 dignity.
- Brain-stem death is legally distinct from cardiac death and requires a certified panel under the THOT Rules.
- Art 21's 'right to life' has been read to include the **right to die with dignity** (Common Cause, 2018).

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- THOTA was amended in 2011 to add 'Tissues' and strengthen the regulatory framework.
- NOTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation) coordinates organ transplantation in India.
- *Gian Kaur (1996)* held the right to life does NOT include a right to die - later nuanced by *Common Cause (2018)*.
- The Apnea test checks the absence of spontaneous breathing when the ventilator is withdrawn.

## SC: Existing Hate-Speech Law Is Already Adequate

**LEGAL & JUDICIARY**

A Bench of Justices **Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta** refused a PIL seeking **new offences** against hate speech, holding that existing provisions - **IPC 153A/295A/505 (now BNS 196/197/299/353)** - are already 'antithetical to fraternity' and adequate. Citing the **267th Law Commission Report (2017)** and separation-of-powers limits, the Court said creating new crimes is Parliament's job, not the judiciary's. It reaffirmed the **Pravasi Bhalai (2014)** line of strict enforcement.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Bench: Justices **Vikram Nath & Sandeep Mehta**; PIL for new hate-speech offences **rejected**.
- Existing law: **IPC 153A/295A/505 -> BNS 196/197/299/353**.
- Relied on the **267th Law Commission Report (2017)** on hate speech.
- Reason: **separation of powers** - courts don't legislate new crimes.
- Continued the **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v UoI (2014)** line.

**MUST KNOW**

- The Court will **not legislate new offences** - the remedy for gaps is Parliament (separation of powers).
- **Amish Devgan (2020)** laid down a hate-speech test: context, content, extent, and status of the speaker.
- Free-speech questions turn on **Art 19(1)(a) vs Art 19(2)** reasonable restrictions (public order, decency, morality).
- Distinguish the '**incitement**' standard (Brandenburg-style) from the older '**tendency**' test in Indian speech jurisprudence.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory advisory body; its reports are recommendatory.
- *Pravasi Bhalai (2014)* declined to create a new offence but urged enforcement of existing law.
- **IPC 505 (BNS 353)** covers statements conducing to public mischief.
- 'Fraternity' appears in the Preamble to the Constitution.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Tests judicial restraint / separation of powers, the IPC->BNS hate-speech mapping, and the Art 19(1)(a)/19(2) balance.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), BNS Section 196, BNS Section 197, BNS Section 299, BNS Section 353

#### BODIES & CASES

Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v Union of India (2014), Amish Devgan v Union of India (2020), Law Commission of India

**Common Error:** Students expect courts to create new crimes to fill gaps; the SC holds that is Parliament's domain, and existing 153A/295A/505 (BNS 196/197/299/353) already cover hate speech.

#### SECTION 03 / 11

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Trump's Iran Ultimatum: The UN Charter Meets the Enrichment Line



US President Trump gave Iran an ultimatum in early April 2026 — halt uranium enrichment or face military action — invoking **Article 51** self-defence. The **JCPOA (2015)** had already collapsed after the US withdrew in 2018, and Iran was enriching to **60%**. With the **Strait of Hormuz** (a fifth of global oil) at risk, **UNSC Chapter VII** enforcement was debated but stalled by the Russia-China veto.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Art 51 UN Charter** — inherent right of individual or collective self-defence; must be **proportionate** and reported to the UNSC.
- **JCPOA (2015)** — Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and the **P5+1**; US withdrew in 2018.
- Iran enriching to **60% purity**; weapons-grade is ~90%.
- **UNSC Chapter VII** — sanctions (**Art 41**) and force (**Art 42**); any P5 member can veto.
- **Art 2(4)** bars the threat or use of force against a state's territorial integrity.
- **Strait of Hormuz** — ~20% of global oil transit; closure would breach **UNCLOS Art 38** transit passage.

#### MUST KNOW

- Self-defence under Art 51 needs an 'armed attack' first — a pre-emptive strike on enrichment is legally contested.
- Only the UNSC (Ch VII), not a single state, can lawfully authorise collective enforcement force.
- P5 veto (Art 27) is why Chapter VII action against Iran stalled.
- Hormuz is a strait for international navigation — Art 38 transit passage is non-suspendable.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- P5+1 = US, UK, France, Russia, China + Germany (E3+3).
- IAEA is the UN nuclear watchdog verifying enrichment (HQ Vienna).
- Iran is a party to the NPT; Israel is not.
- Hormuz lies between Iran and Oman/UAE, ~21 nm (~39 km) at its narrowest.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT legal-reasoning passages love the Art 2(4) prohibition vs Art 51 exception, and the non-suspendable transit-passage rule for straits.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 UN Charter, Article 2(4) UN Charter, Article 41 & 42 UN Charter (Chapter VII), Article 27 UN Charter (veto), UNCLOS Article 38

#### BODIES & CASES

United Nations Security Council, IAEA, JCPOA / P5+1 (2015), ICJ Nicaragua v US (1986)

**Common Error:** Students assume any state can invoke Chapter VII enforcement — only the UNSC can; Art 51 self-defence needs a prior armed attack, not a mere threat.

## Why Force Can't Win: Sovereignty, R2P and the Limits of War

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

An April 2026 editorial argued that despite US-Israeli military dominance, lasting victory over Iran is impossible. **Westphalian sovereignty (1648)** and **Art 2(4)** of the UN Charter bar forcible regime change, while Iran's vast geography (~1.65 million sq km, ~87 million people) makes occupation impractical. It invoked the **R2P** debate and the Iraq (2003) and Afghanistan (2001-21) parallels to show military 'victory' rarely holds.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Art 2(4)** — members must refrain from force against territorial integrity or political independence.
- **Westphalian sovereignty (1648)** — each state has exclusive authority within its territory; the basis of modern international law.
- **Responsibility to Protect (R2P, 2005)** — a UNGA doctrine; sovereignty is not absolute if a state fails to protect its people.
- **Jus ad bellum** (right to go to war) vs **jus in bello** (conduct in war) are the two branches of IHL.
- **ICJ Nicaragua v US (1986)** — force against a sovereign state violates customary international law.

#### MUST KNOW

- R2P is a doctrine, not binding law, and needs UNSC authorisation to trigger force — it cannot justify unilateral intervention.
- Nicaragua v US established that the Art 2(4) ban is also customary international law, binding even outside the Charter.
- 'Regime change by force' has no lawful basis in the UN Charter.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Peace of Westphalia (1648) ended the Thirty Years' War.
- R2P has three pillars: state responsibility, international assistance, timely collective response.
- ICJ is the UN's principal judicial organ, seated at The Hague.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the sovereignty vs intervention tension — when (if ever) force is lawful, and the customary status of the Art 2(4) ban.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 2(4) UN Charter; Article 51 UN Charter

#### BODIES & CASES

International Court of Justice, ICJ Nicaragua v US (1986), UN General Assembly (R2P, 2005)

**Common Error:** Treating R2P as a legal right to intervene; it is a political doctrine requiring UNSC sanction, not a standalone use-of-force authority.

## The West Asia Blind Spot in India's Indo-Pacific Play



An April 2026 editorial argued India's Indo-Pacific strategy has a blind spot — West Asia. The **QUAD** (India-US-Japan-Australia) focuses on China in the Pacific but sidelines the Persian Gulf, where India has ~8.5 million diaspora, ~\$130 billion annual trade and ~85% of its crude imports. It urged that **Act East (2014)** be matched by an 'Act West', and that the **SAGAR** doctrine extend westward.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **QUAD** — India-US-Japan-Australia strategic dialogue for a 'free and open Indo-Pacific'; excludes West Asia.
- **SAGAR (2015)** — 'Security and Growth for All in the Region', India's Indian Ocean neighbourhood vision.
- **Act East Policy (2014)** — upgrade of the 1991 Look East Policy; deepens ASEAN/Japan/Korea ties.
- **Art 51 DPSP** — the State shall promote international peace and just relations between nations.
- **UNCLOS (1982)** — governs freedom of navigation and the EEZ (200 nm); India ratified in 1995.

#### MUST KNOW

- SAGAR is India's Indian Ocean maritime doctrine — often confused with the Sagarmala port project.
- QUAD is a strategic dialogue, NOT a military alliance or treaty organisation.
- Art 51 DPSP is the constitutional hook for India's foreign-policy conduct.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Look East (1991, Narasimha Rao) became Act East (2014).
- GCC = Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman.
- India's EEZ extends 200 nautical miles under UNCLOS.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT pairs India's foreign-policy doctrines (SAGAR, Act East, QUAD) with the Art 51 DPSP directive to promote international peace.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 DPSP, UNCLOS (1982)

#### BODIES & CASES

QUAD, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), ASEAN

**Common Error:** Confusing SAGAR (maritime security doctrine) with Sagarmala (port-led development), and treating QUAD as a formal alliance.

## Kharg Island Struck, Hormuz Resolution Vetoed



In April 2026 the US struck **Kharg Island**, Iran's main oil-export hub, as the war escalated. A Bahrain-sponsored UNSC resolution to protect **Strait of Hormuz** shipping was backed 11-2 but **vetoed by China and Russia**. Iran called for millions of volunteers to form human chains around power plants, and global energy markets braced for a supply shock through the 21-km chokepoint.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Kharg Island** handles the bulk of Iran's crude-oil exports in the Gulf.
- UNSC vote was **11-2**; China and Russia used the **Art 27 veto** to block it.
- **Strait of Hormuz** — ~20% of world oil transits this ~21-km-wide passage.
- **Art 51** self-defence must be proportionate; **Art 2(4)** bars force against territorial integrity.
- **UNCLOS Art 87** — freedom of the high seas (navigation and overflight).

#### MUST KNOW

- A single P5 veto (Art 27) defeats a substantive resolution however many others support it.
- Freedom of navigation (UNCLOS Art 87) and transit passage make blockading Hormuz legally fraught.
- Nicaragua v US supplies the proportionality test for self-defence.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- P5 = US, UK, France, Russia, China (permanent, veto-holding).
- UNSC has 15 members (5 permanent + 10 elected for 2 years).
- Kharg Island lies in the northern Persian Gulf, off Iran's coast.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT uses vetoed-resolution stories to test the P5 veto mechanics and freedom-of-navigation vs blockade legality.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 27 UN Charter (veto), Article 2(4) UN Charter, Article 51 UN Charter, UNCLOS Article 87

#### BODIES & CASES

UN Security Council, ICJ Nicaragua v US (1986)

**Common Error:** Assuming a 11-2 majority 'passes' — a P5 veto on a substantive matter overrides any majority.

## The 'Bombay School' Returns: India's Maritime Case for the Gulf



An April 2026 editorial urged India to revive the **'Bombay School'** of geopolitics — a maritime-focused doctrine treating the Arab Gulf as India's natural outer ring of defence. With ~9 million Indians in the Gulf, ~\$80 billion in remittances and ~40% of oil imports routed via the **Strait of Hormuz**, it argued Gulf engagement is existential and that an Indo-Pacific strategy is incomplete without West Asia.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Bombay School** (Elphinstone/Malcolm lineage) is maritime and Gulf-facing, vs the continental **Delhi School**.
- ~9 million Indians in the Gulf; ~\$80 billion in annual remittances.
- ~40% of India's oil imports transit the Strait of Hormuz.
- **GCC** — six-nation Gulf bloc and a major Indian trade partner.
- **Art 51 DPSP** — promote international peace and security.

#### MUST KNOW

- The Bombay-vs-Delhi School debate frames India's maritime vs continental strategic choice.
- Energy security (Hormuz dependence) is the concrete driver of India's Gulf outreach.
- UNCLOS freedom of navigation underpins India's stake in an open Hormuz.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- GCC = Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman (est. 1981).
- India's largest overseas diaspora concentration is in the Gulf.
- Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT connects India's strategic doctrines and energy security to the Art 51 DPSP peace directive and UNCLOS navigation rules.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 51 DPSP, UNCLOS (1982)

##### BODIES & CASES

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), QUAD

*Common Error: Reading the 'Bombay School' as a literal institution — it is a strategic-thought tradition, not a body or treaty.*

- **IHL principles** — distinction, proportionality and military necessity govern conduct in armed conflict.
- **Geneva Conventions (1949)** — the 4th Convention protects civilians in war zones.

#### MUST KNOW

- IHL (jus in bello) applies regardless of who started the war — distinction and proportionality bind all parties.
- UNCLOS Art 38 means Iran cannot lawfully block Hormuz transit passage.
- A ceasefire is not a peace treaty — hostilities can resume on lapse.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The four Geneva Conventions (1949) are the core of IHL; ICRC is their custodian.
- Lebanon's capital is Beirut; Hezbollah operates from southern Lebanon.
- IEEPA is a US domestic statute (International Emergency Economic Powers Act).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the difference between jus ad bellum (lawfulness of war) and jus in bello (IHL rules that apply to all sides).

##### PROVISIONS

Article 51 UN Charter, UNCLOS Article 38, Geneva Conventions 1949 (IHL)

##### BODIES & CASES

ICRC, United Nations

*Common Error: Assuming the 'aggressor' loses IHL protection — civilians and combatants of every party remain protected under the Geneva Conventions.*

## A Two-Week Ceasefire — Then Israel Strikes Lebanon

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

On 8 April 2026 the US and Iran agreed a **two-week ceasefire**, ending 39 days of war that killed over 3,000 (including 8 Indians). But Israel then struck Lebanon, killing 112 and wounding 837 in Beirut. Trump threatened a 50% tariff via the **IEEPA (1977)**, the **Strait of Hormuz** stayed closed, and Pakistan emerged as a key mediator.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **39-day war** ended by a two-week ceasefire; 3,000+ killed including 8 Indians.
- Israel's Beirut strikes: **112 killed, 837 wounded**.
- **IEEPA 1977** — grants the US President power to impose sanctions/tariffs in a national emergency.

## The Islamabad Channel: Pakistan Brokers a US-Iran Truce



A Tharoor editorial noted that **Pakistan brokered the US-Iran ceasefire**, hosting the foreign ministers of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with the Army Chief and PM playing pivotal roles. Tharoor argued India must champion peace regardless of the broker — 'a neighbour's mediation does not diminish our standing' — and recalibrate its multilateral engagement.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Pakistan hosted the foreign ministers of **Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt** to broker the truce.
- **Art 51 DPSP** — promote international peace and just relations between nations.
- **Panchsheel (1954)** — the five principles of peaceful coexistence.
- **Good offices vs mediation vs arbitration** — three dispute-settlement modes of rising formality.
- **Vienna Convention (1961)** — the legal framework for diplomatic relations.

**MUST KNOW**

- Good offices merely facilitate talks; mediation proposes terms; arbitration delivers a binding award — a favourite CLAT ladder.
- Art 33 of the UN Charter lists peaceful dispute-settlement methods (negotiation, mediation, arbitration, judicial settlement).
- NAM/strategic autonomy is India's doctrinal basis for non-alignment.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Panchsheel was articulated in the 1954 India-China Agreement on Tibet.
- NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) was founded at Belgrade in 1961.
- ICJ Statute Art 36 governs the Court's contentious jurisdiction.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT tests the hierarchy of peaceful dispute-settlement modes and the Panchsheel principles.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 51 DPSP, Article 33 UN Charter, ICJ Statute Article 36

**BODIES & CASES**

Non-Aligned Movement, International Court of Justice

*Common Error: Equating 'good offices' with binding arbitration — good offices only bring parties to the table; only arbitration/adjudication binds.*

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Fujairah is one of the seven UAE emirates, outside the Gulf.
- Chabahar is developed by India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL).
- The Corfu Channel case (UK v Albania) was the ICJ's first contentious case.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

The transit-passage vs innocent-passage suspension rule is a recurring CLAT legal-reasoning distinction.

**PROVISIONS**

UNCLOS Part III (Articles 34-45), UNCLOS Article 38, UNCLOS Article 25, Article 2(4) & 51 UN Charter

**BODIES & CASES**

ICJ Corfu Channel (UK v Albania, 1949)

*Common Error: Saying transit passage can be suspended like innocent passage — Art 44 makes strait transit passage non-suspendable.*

## India-Ukraine Defence Framework and Strategic Autonomy

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

In April 2026 India and Ukraine signed a framework on **defence technology, counter-drone systems and demining**, while India kept balancing its Russia ties through **strategic autonomy**. New Delhi reaffirmed its 'dialogue and diplomacy' line and pledged no arms exports that would breach a UN embargo, staying 'on the side of peace'.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Framework covers **defence tech, counter-drone systems and demining**.
- **Strategic autonomy** — India's independent foreign-policy doctrine (Nehruvian lineage).
- **Art 51 DPSP** — promote international peace and respect for international law.
- **UN Charter Art 25** — UNSC decisions (including sanctions) are binding on members.
- **UNGA Res ES-11/1 (2022)** deplored Russia's aggression; **India abstained**.

**MUST KNOW**

- UNGA resolutions are recommendatory (Art 10-14); only UNSC decisions under Ch VII bind (Art 25).
- India abstained on ES-11/1, reflecting strategic autonomy — abstention is neither a 'yes' nor a 'no'.
- An emergency special session (ES) is convened under the 'Uniting for Peace' procedure when the UNSC is deadlocked.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- 'Uniting for Peace' (1950) lets the UNGA act when the UNSC is vetoed into deadlock.
- India was a UNSC non-permanent member in 2021-22.
- The Geneva Conventions (1949) form the core of IHL.

## Engineering Around a Chokepoint: Gulf Bypass Routes



Amid Iran tensions in April 2026, the **UAE and Saudi Arabia** accelerated pipelines and ports to bypass the **Strait of Hormuz**, scaling up the **Fujairah** and **Yanbu** terminals. Roughly 20% of global oil flows through the ~21-km chokepoint, so bypass routes and India's **Chabahar** alternative gained strategic weight.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **Fujairah** (UAE, on the Gulf of Oman) and **Yanbu** (Saudi Arabia, on the Red Sea) bypass Hormuz.
- **Hormuz** — ~20% of global oil through a ~21-km-wide strait.
- **UNCLOS Art 38** — right of **transit passage** through international straits, which is **non-suspendable**.
- **Innocent passage** (territorial sea, Art 17-19) CAN be suspended (Art 25); transit passage cannot.
- **Chabahar Port** (Iran) is India's route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.

**MUST KNOW**

- Transit passage through a strait (Art 38) is non-suspendable; innocent passage in the territorial sea (Art 25) can be suspended — a CLAT-favourite distinction.
- Corfu Channel (1949) is the classic ICJ case on innocent passage and state responsibility.
- India's ~85% crude import dependence ties energy security to Art 51 DPSP.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT tests the binding UNSC vs recommendatory UNGA distinction and the meaning of an abstention.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 51 DPSP, UN Charter Article 25, UN Charter Article 2(4), Geneva Conventions 1949

**BODIES & CASES**

UN General Assembly (Res ES-11/1), UN Security Council

*Common Error: Treating UNGA resolutions as binding — only UNSC decisions bind members under Art 25.*

## The Tуска Seizure: Hot Pursuit or Piracy on the High Seas?



On 19 April 2026 the **USS Spruance** intercepted the Iran-flagged **MV Tуска** in the Gulf of Oman, disabling its engine room and boarding after a six-hour chase. Iran called it '**piracy**'; the US cited its 13 April blockade of Iranian ports. The clash raised deep **UNCLOS** questions on the freedom of the high seas and the limits of hot pursuit.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **UNCLOS Art 87** — freedoms of the high seas (navigation, overflight).
- **UNCLOS Art 110** — right of visit (piracy, slavery, unauthorised broadcasting, statelessness).
- **UNCLOS Art 111** — hot pursuit must **begin in the pursuing state's own waters** and be continuous.
- A **blockade** is a Law of Armed Conflict institution; peacetime 'quarantine' is legally contested.
- **San Remo Manual (1994)** restates modern naval-warfare rules.

**MUST KNOW**

- Hot pursuit (Art 111) must start in the pursuing state's internal/territorial waters and be unbroken — a high-seas boarding without this basis risks being piracy.
- Right of visit (Art 110) is limited to defined grounds; it is not a general boarding power.
- State (government/warship) vessels enjoy sovereign immunity on the high seas.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Piracy under UNCLOS Art 101 requires a private act for private ends on the high seas.
- The Gulf of Oman connects the Strait of Hormuz to the Arabian Sea.
- Corfu Channel (1949) is the leading case on freedom of navigation.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT legal-reasoning sets love the hot-pursuit conditions and the piracy definition (private ends, high seas).

**PROVISIONS**

UNCLOS Articles 87, 110, 111, UNCLOS Article 101 (piracy), Article 2(4) & 51 UN Charter

**BODIES & CASES**

San Remo Manual (1994), ICJ Nicaragua v US (1986), ICJ Corfu Channel (1949)

*Common Error: Calling any warship boarding on the high seas 'lawful enforcement' — without a valid Art 110 ground or continuous hot pursuit from coastal waters, it can be unlawful.*

## Pope vs President: The Holy See's Place in International Law



**Pope Leo XIV** (70, the first American pontiff) called Trump-era deportation policies 'inhuman'; Trump branded the Pope 'weak on crime'. The row spotlighted the **Holy See's** unique status — a non-territorial sovereign subject of international law, distinct from tiny **Vatican City State** (~0.49 sq km), yet holding diplomatic ties with 180+ states.

**QUICK FACTS**

- The **Holy See** is a subject of international law, distinct from **Vatican City State**.
- **Lateran Treaty (1929)** created Vatican City and recognised papal sovereignty.
- The Holy See is a party to the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)**.
- It has diplomatic relations with **180+ states** and observer status at the UN.
- India-Vatican relations date to **1948**.

**MUST KNOW**

- Statehood is defined by the Montevideo criteria (population, territory, government, capacity for relations) — NOT by size.
- The Holy See (not Vatican City) is the sovereign entity that conducts diplomacy.
- The Holy See is a UN Permanent Observer, not a member state.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Montevideo Convention (1933) sets the four criteria for statehood.
- Vatican City is the world's smallest sovereign state (~0.49 sq km).
- A papal envoy is called a 'nuncio'; the mission is a 'nunciature'.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT uses the Holy See to test that statehood depends on the Montevideo criteria, not territory size, and the concept of non-territorial sovereignty.

**PROVISIONS**

Lateran Treaty 1929, Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, Montevideo Convention 1933, Article 51 DPSP

**BODIES & CASES**

Holy See, United Nations (Permanent Observer)

*Common Error: Conflating the Holy See with Vatican City State, and assuming a tiny territory cannot be a sovereign subject of international law.*

## India-Nordic Summit in Oslo: Arctic, Blue Economy, De-escalation



India will host the **9th India-Nordic Summit** in **Oslo in May 2026** with Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland. The agenda spans West Asia de-escalation, Ukraine reconstruction, climate tech, **Arctic policy** and the Blue Economy, and reaffirms India's Arctic observer status and its **Arctic Policy 2022**.

### QUICK FACTS

- Nordic Five = **Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland**; venue is Oslo.
- India's Arctic Policy 2022** has six pillars (science, environment, economy, etc.).
- India is an **Observer on the Arctic Council** since 2013.
- Blue Economy** aligns with **SDG 14** (life below water).
- Svalbard Treaty (1920)** — India is a signatory; it permits scientific research on Svalbard.

### MUST KNOW

- India's research station Himadri (Ny-Alesund, Svalbard) operates since 2008 under the Svalbard Treaty.
- The Arctic Council has 8 members and 13 observers, India among them — India is an observer, not a member.
- UNCLOS governs the continental shelf and EEZ claims relevant to the Arctic.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Arctic Council members: US, Russia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland (Ottawa Declaration 1996).
- India also runs Antarctic stations (Maitri, Bharati) and a Himalayan one (Himansh).
- Oslo is the capital of Norway.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT GK favours Arctic Council membership vs observer status and India's polar-station names.

#### PROVISIONS

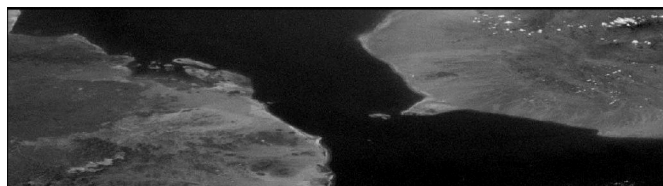
Article 51 DPSP, UNCLOS 1982, Svalbard Treaty 1920

#### BODIES & CASES

Arctic Council (Ottawa Declaration 1996)

**Common Error:** Calling India an Arctic Council 'member' — India is only an Observer (since 2013); the 8 members are Arctic littoral/near-Arctic states.

## Hormuz Seizure: 22 Indians Aboard and UNCLOS Art 38



Iran's IRGC seized a commercial vessel near the **Strait of Hormuz** in late April 2026, with **22 Indian** seafarers aboard. India's Defence Minister offered a mediator role and put the **Op Sindhu** evacuation contingency on standby. Hormuz — ~20% of world oil through a ~21-km strait — is the textbook **UNCLOS Art 38** transit-passage flashpoint.

### QUICK FACTS

- IRGC** (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) seized the vessel; **22 Indians** aboard.
- UNCLOS Art 38** — transit passage through straits used for international navigation is **non-suspendable**.
- UNCLOS Art 44** — states bordering straits must not hamper or suspend transit passage.
- Op Sindhu** — Indian naval evacuation framework (cf. Op Raahat, Yemen 2015).
- Hormuz carries ~20% of world oil through a ~21-km-wide chokepoint.

### MUST KNOW

- Transit passage (Art 38/44) CANNOT be suspended; innocent passage in the territorial sea (Art 25) CAN — the CLAT-favourite distinction.
- Corfu Channel (1949) grounds freedom of navigation and state responsibility.
- India's Op-named evacuations (Raahat, Ganga, Kaveri, Sindhu) are recurring GK.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Op Raahat (2015) evacuated Indians from Yemen; Op Ganga (2022) from Ukraine; Op Kaveri (2023) from Sudan.
- Hormuz lies between Iran and Oman/UAE.
- The IRGC is distinct from Iran's regular army (Artesh).

### CLAT / Legal Lens

The non-suspendable transit passage vs suspendable innocent passage rule is one of CLAT's most-tested UNCLOS points.

#### PROVISIONS

UNCLOS Part III (Articles 34-45), UNCLOS Article 38, UNCLOS Article 44, UNCLOS Article 25, Article 2(4) & 51 UN Charter

#### BODIES & CASES

ICJ Corfu Channel (UK v Albania, 1949)

**Common Error:** Applying the innocent-passage suspension rule (Art 25) to a strait — Hormuz is governed by non-suspendable transit passage (Art 38/44).

## Doval-Powell Talks: Terror, Extradition and Roadmap 2030

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

NSA **Ajit Doval** met UK NSA **Jonathan Powell** in April 2026 on terrorism, Khalistani extremism in the UK and maritime security. They reaffirmed the **India-UK Roadmap 2030** and Vision 2035, reviewed the FTA track, and invoked the shared counter-terror framework anchored in **UNSC Resolution 1373**.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **India-UK Roadmap 2030** (2021) is a 10-year bilateral framework; Vision 2035 extends it.
- **UAPA 1967** — India's terror-designation law; Sec 35 allows designating individual terrorists.
- **MLAT (India-UK, 1992)** — Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty for evidence-sharing.
- **Extradition Act 1962 (India) + Extradition Act 2003 (UK)** govern surrender of fugitives.
- **UNSC Res 1373 (2001)** — the binding global counter-terrorism framework.

**MUST KNOW**

- Extradition under the India-UK treaty needs dual criminality AND a prima facie case; the UK adds a human-rights bar — why the Mallya/Nirav Modi cases stretch.
- UNSC Res 1373 is binding (Chapter VII), obliging states to criminalise terror financing.
- UAPA Sec 35 lets the government designate individuals (not just organisations) as terrorists.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- The Nijjar killing and Pannun plot are the diaspora-security irritants in play.
- An FTA is a Free Trade Agreement; the India-UK FTA was under negotiation.
- Ajit Doval is India's National Security Adviser.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT tests the twin extradition conditions (dual criminality + prima facie case) and the binding force of UNSC Res 1373.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 51 DPSP, UAPA 1967 (Section 35), Extradition Act 1962, UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001)

**BODIES & CASES**

India-UK Roadmap 2030, UN Security Council

*Common Error: Assuming extradition is automatic on request — it needs dual criminality, a prima facie case, and survives human-rights objections.*

- **Innocent passage** (territorial sea, Art 17-19) CAN be suspended (Art 25).
- Hormuz — ~21% of global oil through a ~21-km-wide strait between Iran and Oman/UAE.

**MUST KNOW**

- Special envoys operate under diplomatic-relations norms (VCDR 1961) even without formal accreditation.
- Transit passage (Art 38) is non-suspendable; innocent passage (Art 25) can be suspended — distinct regimes.
- Carrier strike group deployments do not by themselves legalise force; Art 2(4)/51 still apply.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- A carrier strike group centres on an aircraft carrier plus escorts.
- Hormuz is bordered by Iran (north) and Oman/UAE (south).
- VCDR 1961 is the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT keeps testing the non-suspendable transit passage vs suspendable innocent passage distinction using Hormuz.

**PROVISIONS**

UNCLOS Part III (Articles 34-45), UNCLOS Article 38, UNCLOS Article 25, Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, Article 2(4) & 51 UN Charter

**BODIES & CASES**

ICJ Corfu Channel (1949)

*Common Error: Treating Hormuz like ordinary territorial sea — as an international strait it attracts the non-suspendable Art 38 transit-passage regime.*

## BRICS Splits on West Asia: A 'Chair's Summary', Not a Declaration



In April 2026 BRICS issued a **Chair's Summary** (not a Joint Declaration) on West Asia — repeating the 2023 Ukraine no-consensus pattern. India's **strategic-autonomy** posture kept it inside the bloc without endorsing Iran/Russia language. A foreign-ministers' meet was set for May 14-15, with China presiding in 2027.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **BRICS** — Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa; **expanded in 2024** (Egypt, UAE, Iran, Ethiopia).
- A **Chair's Summary** reflects no consensus; a **Joint Declaration** signals agreement (morally binding).
- India invoked **strategic autonomy** (post-NAM) to avoid aligning with either bloc.
- **Art 51 DPSP** — promote international peace and respect for international law.
- FM meet: **May 14-15; China chairs BRICS in 2027.**

**MUST KNOW**

- A 'Chair's Summary' is issued when members cannot agree — it is non-binding and not a consensus document.
- BRICS Joint Declarations bind only morally, not legally.

## Witkoff and Kushner to Pakistan: A Hormuz Backchannel



In late April 2026 Trump sent envoys **Witkoff and Kushner** to Pakistan for an Iran-US backchannel on **Hormuz**, with three US carrier strike groups in the region (the highest since 2003). Hormuz — governed by **UNCLOS Art 38** transit passage — carries ~21% of global oil through a ~21-km chokepoint.

**QUICK FACTS**

- US deployed **three carrier strike groups** — the largest concentration since 2003.
- **UNCLOS Art 38** — transit passage in international straits is **non-suspendable**.
- **UNCLOS Art 44** — no suspension or impediment of transit passage.

- Strategic autonomy is India's doctrine of refusing bloc alignment (Cold War/NAM lineage).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- BRIC coined by Jim O'Neill (2001); South Africa joined in 2010 to make BRICS.
- The 2024 expansion added Egypt, UAE, Iran and Ethiopia.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) is the BRICS bank, headquartered in Shanghai.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the Chair's Summary vs Joint Declaration distinction and India's strategic-autonomy doctrine.

##### PROVISIONS

Article 51 DPSP, UN Charter Articles 2(4), 2(7), 33, 51, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969

##### BODIES & CASES

BRICS, Non-Aligned Movement

*Common Error: Reading a 'Chair's Summary' as a binding BRICS decision — it merely records discussion where no consensus was reached.*

## Talks Stall: Iran Threatens Hormuz as Trump Cancels Trip



On 25 April 2026 Iran's FM Araghchi met Pakistan's PM, but Trump cancelled the Witkoff/Kushner Iran visit. Iran rejected 'maximalist' US demands and threatened to close the **Strait of Hormuz** — carrying a fifth of global oil and major LNG flows. With the **JCPOA** collapsed and Chabahar in play, the item fuses IR, maritime law and India's energy security.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **UNCLOS Art 38** — transit passage through international straits; **non-suspendable** (Art 44).
- **Innocent passage** (Art 17-19) CAN be suspended (Art 25).
- **JCPOA 2015** — the Iran nuclear deal; the US withdrew in 2018.
- **IAEA safeguards** verify Iran's declared nuclear material.
- India's **Chabahar (IPGL)** route bypasses Pakistan; Hormuz is ~21 nm (~39 km) wide.

#### MUST KNOW

- Iran cannot lawfully 'close' Hormuz — Art 38/44 make transit passage non-suspendable.
- The JCPOA is a political commitment, not a formal treaty — hence easy US withdrawal in 2018.
- Chabahar gives India a Pakistan-free route to Afghanistan/Central Asia.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The IAEA is the UN nuclear watchdog (HQ Vienna).
- Chabahar is in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province, on the Gulf of Oman.
- LNG = liquefied natural gas.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests whether a strait state can lawfully close a strait — it cannot; transit passage is non-suspendable.

##### PROVISIONS

UNCLOS Article 38, UNCLOS Article 44, UNCLOS Article 25, JCPOA 2015

##### BODIES & CASES

IAEA, India Ports Global Ltd (Chabahar)

*Common Error: Believing Iran can legally close Hormuz — threatening closure is a political lever; but Art 38/44 forbid suspending transit passage.*

## ASEAN Chair Presses Myanmar on Suu Kyi and the Five-Point Consensus

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The **Philippines** (ASEAN Chair 2026) welcomed Myanmar's amnesty as positive and urged the release of **Aung San Suu Kyi**, reaffirming ASEAN's **Five-Point Consensus (April 2021)**. The **Tatmadaw** coup of 1 February 2021 had ousted the NLD government that won the 2020 polls, leaving ASEAN's non-interference model under strain.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **ASEAN Charter (2008)** gave ASEAN legal personality.
- **Five-Point Consensus (2021)** — cessation of violence, dialogue, humanitarian aid, ASEAN envoy, envoy visit.
- **Treaty of Amity & Cooperation (TAC, 1976)** enshrines non-interference.
- **India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership (2022)**; India is a partner, not a member.
- Tatmadaw coup: **1 February 2021**; NLD had won the 2020 election.

#### MUST KNOW

- ASEAN runs on consensus and non-interference (TAC 1976) — which is why the Five-Point Consensus is non-binding.
- India is an ASEAN Strategic Partner; NOT a member.
- Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- ASEAN has 10 members (Timor-Leste admitted as the 11th full member (Oct 2025)); HQ Jakarta.
- 'Tatmadaw' is the name of Myanmar's armed forces.
- Myanmar's capital is Naypyidaw.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests ASEAN's consensus/non-interference model and why its Five-Point Consensus lacks binding force.

##### PROVISIONS

ASEAN Charter 2008, Five-Point Consensus 2021, Treaty of Amity & Cooperation 1976

##### BODIES & CASES

ASEAN, India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership 2022

*Common Error: Calling India an 'ASEAN member' — India is only a Strategic Partner; ASEAN decisions bind only by consensus.*

## Doval in Abu Dhabi: 'Think West' as Hormuz Simmers



NSA **Ajit Doval** met UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed** on 26 April 2026 after a Saudi visit, as Hormuz-closure scenarios threatened Indian energy supplies. With ~4.7 million Indians in the UAE and the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** under review, the outreach fused India's 'Think West' policy with UNCLOS and energy security.

### QUICK FACTS

- Doval met **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed** (UAE President) after a Saudi Arabia visit.
- ~4.7 million Indians live in the UAE — India's largest Gulf community.
- The **India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** was under review.
- Hormuz closure** scenarios threaten India's crude and LNG supplies.
- Art 51 DPSP** — promote international peace and security.

### MUST KNOW

- India's 'Look West / Think West' policy targets the Gulf, mirroring Act East.
- UNCLOS transit passage keeps Hormuz legally open despite closure threats.
- The India-UAE CEPA (2022) is the trade backbone of the partnership.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India-UAE signed CEPA in 2022 (India's first Gulf trade pact).
- UAE capital is Abu Dhabi; it is a federation of seven emirates.
- India's Gulf diaspora sends the bulk of its inward remittances.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT links India's Gulf diplomacy to Art 51 DPSP and UNCLOS transit passage through Hormuz.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 DPSP, UNCLOS Article 38

#### BODIES & CASES

India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, GCC

*Common Error: Assuming a strait state can lawfully block Hormuz — transit passage (Art 38) cannot be suspended, so closure threats are political, not legal.*

## UNSC Reform Push: Baerbock in Delhi and the G-4 Question

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNGA President **Annalena Baerbock** visited Delhi on 28 April 2026 and met EAM Jaishankar. Talks centred on **UN80 reform**, a revived push for **G-4** permanent UNSC seats (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan), and a veiled dig at a Trump 'Board of Peace' initiative seen as bypassing the UN.

### QUICK FACTS

- UNGA** — one country, one vote; resolutions are non-binding.
- UNSC** — 5 permanent + 10 non-permanent; the P5 hold the veto.
- G-4** = India, Brazil, Germany, Japan (mutual UNSC-seat backers).
- Coffee Club / Uniting for Consensus** opposes new permanent seats.
- Charter amendment for UNSC reform runs through **Art 108-109**.

### MUST KNOW

- UNSC reform needs a Charter amendment (Art 108): 2/3 of the UNGA PLUS ratification by 2/3 of members INCLUDING all P5 — any P5 veto kills it.
- The UNGA President is elected for ONE year by simple majority, rotating among five regional groups.
- India has served eight non-permanent UNSC terms.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The Ezulwini Consensus (2005) is the African Union's common UNSC-reform position.
- The Razali Plan (1997) proposed expanding the UNSC.
- The 'Coffee Club' (Uniting for Consensus) is led by Italy, Pakistan and others.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the Charter-amendment route to UNSC reform and the recommendatory UNGA vs binding UNSC distinction.

#### PROVISIONS

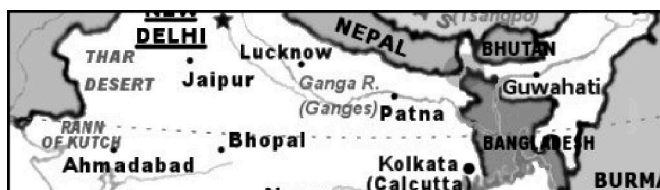
UN Charter Articles 23-27 (UNSC), UN Charter Articles 108-109 (amendment)

#### BODIES & CASES

UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, G-4, Uniting for Consensus (Coffee Club)

*Common Error: Thinking a UNGA vote alone can reform the UNSC — Art 108 needs 2/3 of members AND all P5 to ratify, so any P5 veto blocks it.*

## A Political Envoy to Dhaka: Trivedi and the Agrément Rule



India named former Union Minister **Dinesh Trivedi** as High Commissioner to **Dhaka**, breaking the career-IFS tradition, while Bangladesh sent career diplomat M Riaz Hamidullah to Delhi. The move followed the Tarique Rahman government replacing the Yunus interim regime. Appointment of a Head of Mission is governed by the **agrément** procedure under the **VCDR 1961**.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Dinesh Trivedi** — a political appointee, not a career IFS officer — named HC to Dhaka.
- **Agrément** — the receiving state's prior consent to a Head of Mission (VCDR 1961, Art 4).
- Bangladesh reciprocated with a career diplomat, **M Riaz Hamidullah**.
- MEA appointments flow from the Union executive power under **Art 73**.
- **India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA, 2015)** is a key bilateral marker.

#### MUST KNOW

- Under VCDR Art 4(2), a receiving state need NOT give reasons for refusing agrément — it is pure sovereign discretion.
- Political appointees to high-stakes capitals are a recognised (if rare) Indian practice — cf. Mani Shankar Aiyar.
- Executive power over foreign affairs vests in the Union under Art 73/246 (Union List).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India-Bangladesh irritants: Teesta water-sharing, NRC, Rohingya.
- A 'High Commissioner' is the title used between Commonwealth countries (not 'Ambassador').
- The LBA (2015) exchanged enclaves via the 100th Constitutional Amendment.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the agrément procedure and the Commonwealth 'High Commissioner' vs 'Ambassador' distinction.

#### PROVISIONS

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 (Article 4), Article 73 (Union executive power), Land Boundary Agreement 2015

#### BODIES & CASES

Ministry of External Affairs, SAARC

**Common Error:** Assuming agrément refusal must be reasoned — under VCDR Art 4(2) the receiving state may refuse without any reason.

to about **\$85/barrel**. The rupee was seen averaging **94/\$**; the **World Bank** raised its India forecast to 6.6%, and equities jumped nearly 4% — the biggest single-day rise in eleven months — after a ceasefire.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Repo rate held at 5.25%** with a **neutral** policy stance.
- **FY27 GDP** cut to **6.9%** (down from 7.6%); World Bank at 6.6%.
- Crude near **\$85/bbl**; rupee projected to average **94/\$**.
- The **MPC** has **6 members** (3 RBI + 3 external) under **Sec 45ZB, RBI Act 1934**.
- Inflation-targeting mandate: **CPI 4%** with a **±2% band**.

#### MUST KNOW

- Repo rate is the rate at which the **RBI lends** to commercial banks; a hold signals the RBI is balancing growth against imported inflation.
- The flexible **inflation-targeting framework** (4% ±2%) rests on an RBI-Government agreement operationalised via Sec 45ZA/45ZB of the RBI Act.
- Monetary policy (RBI, repo rate) is the counterpart to **fiscal policy** (Government, Union Budget under Art 112).
- Higher crude widens the **Current Account Deficit** because India imports ~85% of its oil.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- RBI established 1935 under the **RBI Act 1934**; headquartered in **Mumbai**.
- The MPC decides by majority; the RBI Governor has a casting vote.
- Art 112 covers the **Annual Financial Statement** (Union Budget).
- 'Neutral' stance = RBI may move rates either way depending on data.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT pairs monetary policy (RBI/repo) against fiscal policy (Budget/Art 112) and tests the statutory basis and composition of the MPC.

#### PROVISIONS

Section 45ZB RBI Act 1934, Section 45ZA RBI Act 1934, Article 112, Article 280

#### BODIES & CASES

Reserve Bank of India, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), World Bank

**Common Error:** The MPC is statutory under the RBI Act, NOT a constitutional body; and repo-rate decisions are the RBI's, not the Finance Ministry's.

#### SECTION 04 / 11

### ECONOMY & BUSINESS

#### RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25%, Cuts FY27 Growth to 6.9%



The **RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.25%** with a **neutral stance**, and trimmed its **FY27 GDP forecast to 6.9%** (from 7.6%) as the Iran conflict pushed **crude**

#### India-South Korea Upgrade CEPA, Eye \$50bn Trade by 2030



India and South Korea finalised an **upgraded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, targeting **\$50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030**. The deal deepens cooperation in **semiconductors, green hydrogen and defence** and signals an Indo-Pacific realignment. A CEPA is broader than a plain FTA — it also covers **services, investment and intellectual property**. Treaty implementation flows from Parliament's power under **Article 253**.

## QUICK FACTS

- Upgraded **India-Korea CEPA**; trade goal **\$50bn by 2030**.
- Focus sectors: **semiconductors, green hydrogen, defence**.
- CEPA** is wider than an FTA — adds services, investment and IP.
- FTAs/CEPAs are permitted as an exception to **WTO MFN** under **GATT Art XXIV**.
- Implemented via Parliament's treaty power under **Art 253**.

## MUST KNOW

- Art 253** lets Parliament legislate on ANY subject — even a State List item — to implement an international treaty (ratio of **Maganbhai Ishwarbhai Patel v Uoi, 1969**).
- GATT Art XXIV** is the exception that allows regional trade agreements to depart from the **Most-Favoured-Nation** rule (Art I).
- Rules of Origin** prevent 'trade deflection' — third countries routing goods through an FTA partner to dodge tariffs.
- Art 51(c) DPSP obliges the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- India's FTA push since 2022: **Australia ECTA, UAE CEPA, EFTA TEPA**, plus Korea/Japan CEPAs.
- MFN = treat all trading partners equally; FTA = preferential access for partners only.
- Treaty-making is an executive act (Art 73); implementation may need legislation (Art 253).

## CLAT / Legal Lens

A recurring Legal-Reasoning + IR pairing: Art 253 treaty implementation and the WTO MFN/Art XXIV exception for FTAs.

## PROVISIONS

Article 253, Article 51(c), Article 73, Schedule VII List I Entry 14, GATT Article XXIV, GATT Article I

## BODIES &amp; CASES

World Trade Organization, Maganbhai Ishwarbhai Patel v Union of India (1969)

**Common Error:** A CEPA is NOT the same as a narrow FTA — it also covers services, investment and IP; and Art 253 can override the usual Centre-State legislative division only to implement a treaty.

- Banks penalised for **KYC/AML failures**, not for committing the fraud.
- Ordered under the **RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021** ('one nation, one ombudsman').
- '**Digital arrest**' is a scam tactic — no such lawful process exists in India.

## MUST KNOW

- Banks were made to compensate even though the fraud was **third-party**: a **KYC/AML failure is a breach of statutory duty**, and damages flow from negligence.
- Applicable penal law: **BNS Sec 318/319** (cheating, replacing IPC 415/420) and **IT Act 2000 Sec 66D** (cheating by personation using a computer resource).
- Mule accounts** and layered transfers attract **PMLA 2002** (proceeds of crime).
- The **RBI Master Directions on KYC 2016** mandate risk-based customer due diligence.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021** merged three earlier RBI ombudsman schemes into one free grievance channel.
- The **Banking Regulation Act 1949** underpins RBI supervision of banks.
- BNS/BNSS/BSA (2023) replaced IPC/CrPC/Evidence Act from July 2024.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests statutory duty of care and vicarious liability — banks compensate for KYC/AML negligence even where the fraudster is a stranger.

## PROVISIONS

BNS Section 318, BNS Section 319, IT Act 2000 Section 66D, PMLA 2002, Article 19(1)(g)

## BODIES &amp; CASES

RBI Integrated Ombudsman, Reserve Bank of India

**Common Error:** Liability here is regulatory/civil for negligence, NOT criminal complicity — the banks did not commit the cheating; they failed their due-diligence duty.

## RBI Ombudsman Orders 5 Banks to Pay Rs 1.3 cr Over Rs 22.9 cr 'Digital Arrest' Scam

## ECONOMY &amp; BUSINESS

A **78-year-old retired banker** lost **Rs 22.9 crore** in one of India's biggest '**digital arrest**' scams — funds moved through **4,236 transactions** across **7 layers, 47 banks** and **811 mule accounts**. The **RBI Integrated Ombudsman** ordered **Axis, City Union, ICICI, IndusInd** and **Yes Bank** to pay **Rs 1.3 crore** (about 5-7.5% of the sums diverted through them) for **KYC/AML lapses**.

## QUICK FACTS

- Victim lost **Rs 22.9 cr**; five banks ordered to pay **~Rs 1.3 cr**.
- Fraud spanned **4,236 transactions, 7 layers, 47 banks, 811 mule accounts**.

## Moody's Cuts India Growth to 6% on West Asia Energy Shock



**Moody's** cut its **FY27 growth forecast to 6%** (from 6.8%) while retaining India's **Baa3** rating (lowest investment grade). The **rupee breached 95.50/\$** as **FPIs sold \$13.6bn in March and \$6.2bn in April**. **Ammonia WPI rose 22% month-on-month** and headline **WPI hit a 38-month high**, since the **Strait of Hormuz** carries ~50% of India's crude and 40% of its fertiliser imports.

## QUICK FACTS

- Moody's:** FY27 growth cut to **6%**; rating held at **Baa3**.
- Rupee breached 95.50/\$**; equity outflows of **\$13.6bn (Mar) + \$6.2bn (Apr)**.
- Headline **WPI at a 38-month high**; ammonia WPI up 22% m-o-m.
- Hormuz carries **~50% of India's crude** and **40% of fertiliser** imports.
- India faces a **twin-deficit** risk — Current Account plus Fiscal Deficit.

**MUST KNOW**

- **Baa3** is Moody's LOWEST investment-grade notch — a downgrade would push India to 'junk'/speculative grade.
- **FPIs** ('hot money') can exit quickly, unlike long-term **FDI** — sudden outflows weaken the rupee.
- Fiscal discipline is governed by the **FRBM Act 2003** deficit glide-path.
- Higher energy import bills widen the **Current Account Deficit** and pressure the currency.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- **Art 360 Financial Emergency** is distinct from National (Art 352) and State (Art 356) Emergencies — and has NEVER been invoked.
- The 'Big Three' rating agencies: **Moody's, S&P, Fitch**.
- **Art 112** = Union Budget; **Art 266** = Consolidated Fund of India.
- Forex dealings are regulated by **FEMA 1999**.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Static-GK favourite: Art 360 Financial Emergency (never used) and the twin-deficit concept, tied to sovereign credit ratings.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 112, Article 266, Article 360, FRBM Act 2003, FEMA 1999, Banking Regulation Act 1949

**BODIES & CASES**

Moody's Investors Service, Reserve Bank of India

*Common Error: A sovereign rating downgrade is NOT a Financial Emergency; Art 360 is a constitutional emergency provision separate from market ratings, and has never been invoked.*

- 'Core inflation' strips out volatile food and fuel; 'sticky' core keeps the RBI cautious on rate cuts.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- Sample sectoral caps: **defence 74%, insurance 74%** (automatic route thresholds).
- **Balance of Payments** = Current Account + Capital Account + errors & omissions.
- **Art 292** governs Union borrowing; **Art 112** the Union Budget.
- The RBI Bulletin is a monthly RBI publication of research and data.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT tests the FDI-vs-FPI distinction and the components of Balance of Payments, with FEMA as the governing statute.

**PROVISIONS**

Section 45ZB RBI Act 1934, FEMA 1999, FRBM Act 2003, Article 112, Article 292, Consolidated FDI Policy 2020

**BODIES & CASES**

Reserve Bank of India, DPIIT (Dept. for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)

*Common Error: FDI is not the same as FPI — the 10% equity + management-participation test separates them; do not treat all foreign inflows as FDI.*

## RBI April Bulletin: Energy Shock Warning, Net FDI Hits \$4.6bn

**ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

The **RBI's April Bulletin** warned that the West Asia war transmits to India through **energy prices, trade routes and financial flows**. Yet **net FDI in February hit \$4.6 billion — a 45-month high** — and the rupee stabilised near **94.1/USD**. The Bulletin flagged that **core inflation remains sticky** and the MPC's real-rate gap is narrowing.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **Net FDI (Feb) = \$4.6bn**, a **45-month high**.
- Rupee stabilised around **94.1/USD**.
- **Core inflation** described as sticky; real-rate gap narrowing.
- War transmits via **energy, trade routes and financial flows**.
- **MPC** operates under **Sec 45ZB, RBI Act 1934** (6 members; 4% ±2% target).

**MUST KNOW**

- **Net FDI = gross inflows – outflows – repatriation** — a rise signals investor confidence despite the energy shock.
- **FDI vs FPI**: FDI needs **10%+ equity plus management participation**; below 10% it is Foreign Portfolio Investment.
- FDI is regulated by **FEMA 1999** via the **automatic** and **approval** routes; sectoral caps are set in the Consolidated FDI Policy (DPIIT).

## RBI Cancels Paytm Payments Bank Licence Under BR Act Sec 22(4)



The **RBI cancelled the licence of Paytm Payments Bank** (an associate of One97 Communications) under **Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act 1949** (licence cancellation) after earlier **Section 35A** directions, citing **single-PAN multi-account violations, KYC/AML failures** and persistent non-compliance. It is the **first cancellation of a payments-bank licence**, with migration circulars issued to protect customers.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **First-ever** cancellation of a **payments-bank licence** in India.
- Cancellation under **Sec 22(4), BR Act 1949**; the earlier deposit-freeze used **Sec 35A** directions 'in public interest'.
- Grounds: **single-PAN multi-account** misuse and **KYC/AML** failures.
- Payments banks can take deposits up to **Rs 2 lakh** per customer but **cannot lend**.
- Payments banks also **cannot issue credit cards** (RBI Guidelines 2014).

**MUST KNOW**

- **Sec 35A** gives the RBI power to issue **directions** 'in public interest'; a banking **licence is cancelled under Sec 22(4)** — distinguish the two (courts give RBI wide deference, per the PMC Bank line).
- **Payments banks** accept demand deposits (capped Rs 2 lakh) and offer payments/remittances, but are barred from **lending** and credit cards.
- **Sec 22** BR Act governs the grant of a banking licence; **Sec 36** the RBI's power to inspect.
- KYC/AML obligations flow from **PMLA 2002** and RBI Master

## Directions.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Payments banks were created on the **Nachiket Mor Committee** recommendation; guidelines issued 2014.
- The **Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007** governs payment systems oversight by RBI.
- Any RBI action affecting a business engages **Art 19(1)(g)** subject to reasonable restrictions under **Art 19(6)**.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests RBI's statutory supervisory powers (Sec 35A) and the regulatory character of banking as a business under Art 19(1)(g)/19(6).

## PROVISIONS

Section 35A Banking Regulation Act 1949, Section 22 Banking Regulation Act 1949, Section 36 Banking Regulation Act 1949, PMLA 2002, Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, Article 19(1)(g), Article 19(6)

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Reserve Bank of India, Paytm Payments Bank

**Common Error:** Payments banks CAN accept deposits (up to Rs 2 lakh) but CANNOT lend or issue credit cards — a common confusion with small finance banks, which can lend.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- SEBI established 1988, made statutory in **1992**; headquartered in **Mumbai**.
- **74th Amendment (1992)** inserted Part IXA and Art 243P-243ZG for municipalities.
- RBI is the **sister regulator** that handles banking and payments-bank licensing.
- FSDC's sub-committee is chaired by the RBI Governor.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

Blends capital-markets regulation, cooperative federalism (Art 243Q ULBs) and the statutory-vs-non-statutory regulator distinction.

## PROVISIONS

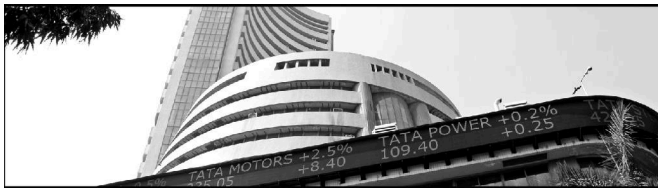
SEBI Act 1992, PMLA 2002, Article 243Q, RBI Act 1934

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

**Common Error:** Do not confuse SEBI with RBI — banking/payments-bank licensing is RBI's job; and FSDC is chaired by the Finance Minister and is non-statutory, not a SEBI body.

## FM Sitharaman Asks SEBI to Drive Common KYC and Municipal Bonds



At the **SEBI Foundation Day (25 April 2026, Mumbai)**, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** asked **SEBI** to push a **standardised common-KYC** across financial regulators and to deepen the **Municipal Bond** market in coordination with the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**. SEBI's **Cyber Resilience Framework** has been live since April 2025.

## QUICK FACTS

- **Common KYC** push for a single, portable identity check across regulators.
- Deepen **Municipal Bonds**, issued by urban local bodies for infrastructure.
- **SEBI** is a **statutory** regulator under the **SEBI Act 1992**.
- Municipalities have constitutional status via **Art 243Q (74th Amendment)**.
- **SEBI Cyber Resilience Framework** operational since April 2025.

## MUST KNOW

- **SEBI** is **statutory** (SEBI Act 1992), NOT a constitutional body; it regulates the securities/capital market.
- The **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** is a **non-statutory** apex body (executive resolution, 2010) **chaired by the Finance Minister**.
- **Municipal bonds** are debt instruments issued by **Urban Local Bodies** to fund civic infrastructure.
- KYC/AML obligations for market intermediaries flow from the **PMLA 2002**.

## India-New Zealand Sign Free Trade Agreement

## ECONOMY &amp; BUSINESS

India and New Zealand **signed a Free Trade Agreement on 27 April 2026**. **New Zealand removes tariffs on 100% of Indian exports** while India cuts duty on **95% of NZ imports**; NZ committed **\$20 billion of investment over 15 years**. This is India's **fourth major FTA** after Australia ECTA, UAE CEPA and EFTA TEPA, with **dairy** a sensitive carve-out.

## QUICK FACTS

- FTA signed **27 April 2026**; NZ tariff-free on **100%** of Indian exports.
- India cuts duty on **95%** of NZ imports; NZ pledges **\$20bn/15 yrs** investment.
- India's **4th fast-track FTA** since 2022 (mnemonic **AUNZE**: Australia-UAE-NZ-EFTA).
- **Dairy** kept as India's sensitive carve-out.
- FTAs are a **GATT Art XXIV** exception to the WTO **MFN** rule (Art I).

## MUST KNOW

- An **FTA** is an **exception to Most-Favoured-Nation** treatment and must cover 'substantially all trade' under **GATT Art XXIV**.
- The **dairy carve-out** illustrates the political limits of the 'substantially all trade' test.
- Treaty implementation uses Parliament's power under **Art 253**; treaty-making is executive under **Art 73**.
- The FTA is part of India's **Indo-Pacific** strategy and a counterweight to China.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- India's post-2022 FTAs: **Australia ECTA (2022)**, **UAE CEPA (2022)**, **EFTA TEPA (2024)**, now New Zealand.
- **EFTA** = Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland (not the EU).
- New Zealand is a **Five Eyes** ally but not a Quad member.

- MFN and National Treatment are the two core WTO non-discrimination pillars.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

High-yield Legal-Reasoning + IR pairing: the WTO MFN rule (Art I) and its FTA exception (Art XXIV), plus Art 253 treaty implementation.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 253, Article 73, GATT Article XXIV, GATT Article I

#### BODIES & CASES

World Trade Organization, India-Australia ECTA (2022)

**Common Error:** An FTA does not breach WTO law — it is a permitted Art XXIV exception to MFN, provided it covers 'substantially all trade'.

## UAE Exits OPEC and OPEC+ Amid Strait of Hormuz Crisis



The UAE announced its exit from OPEC and OPEC+ during the escalating Strait of Hormuz crisis. OPEC was founded at the 1960 Baghdad Conference by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Venezuela (HQ Vienna); OPEC+ added Russia and others under a 2016 Declaration of Cooperation. The Strait of Hormuz carries roughly one-fifth of the world's crude, so the exit disturbs the production-quota system.

#### QUICK FACTS

- UAE quits both OPEC and OPEC+ during the Hormuz crisis.
- OPEC: founded 1960 Baghdad (Saudi, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Venezuela); HQ Vienna.
- OPEC+: 2016 Declaration of Cooperation adding Russia and others.
- Strait of Hormuz (~21 nm (~39 km) wide, Iran-Oman) carries ~20% of global crude.
- OPEC is a cartel, NOT a UN body.

#### MUST KNOW

- The Strait of Hormuz is a strait used for international navigation — under UNCLOS Art 38 the right of transit passage cannot be suspended (Art 44).
- Contrast: innocent passage in the territorial sea can be suspended (Art 25) — a favourite CLAT distinction.
- The UAE exit weakens the OPEC+ production-quota mechanism that manages global oil prices.
- For India, Hormuz disruption is an energy-security risk (Chabahar/IPGL is a partial alternative route).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- OPEC ≠ OPEC+ ≠ GECF (Gas Exporting Countries Forum).
- Indonesia has left OPEC twice (2009 and 2016).
- OPEC's founding members number 5; the group later expanded (membership fluctuates).
- JCPOA (2015) is the Iran nuclear deal linked to the wider crisis.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

IntlOrg + Maritime Law crossover: UNCLOS transit passage (non-suspendable) vs innocent passage (suspendable), tied to India's energy

security.

#### PROVISIONS

UNCLOS 1982 Article 38, UNCLOS 1982 Article 44, UNCLOS 1982 Article 25, OPEC Statute 1960

#### BODIES & CASES

OPEC, OPEC+, Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)

**Common Error:** OPEC is a cartel of oil producers, NOT a UN organ; and transit passage through Hormuz cannot be suspended, unlike innocent passage in the territorial sea.

## ED Attaches Rs 3,034 cr in RCOM Bank-Fraud Case Under PMLA

#### ECONOMY & BUSINESS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) provisionally attached assets worth Rs 3,034 crore in the RCOM bank-fraud case under Section 5 of the PMLA, 2002. The attachment covers Reliance Anil Ambani Group (RAAG) industrial properties and Risee Trust holdings; the case originated in a CBI FIR over alleged loan diversion.

#### QUICK FACTS

- ED provisionally attaches Rs 3,034 cr under PMLA Sec 5.
- Assets include RAAG industrial properties and Risee Trust holdings.
- Predicate origin: a CBI FIR alleging bank-loan diversion.
- PMLA structure: Sec 3 offence, Sec 5 attachment, Sec 17 search, Sec 19 arrest.
- The ED is statutory under the PMLA and FEMA.

#### MUST KNOW

- A Section 5 attachment is only provisional — it must be confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority within 180 days, or it lapses.
- Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v UOI (2022) upheld PMLA's broad powers and the reverse burden under Sec 24.
- The ECIR is NOT equivalent to an FIR; the accused has no automatic right to a copy (also affirmed in 2022).
- Money laundering under Sec 3 attaches to the 'proceeds of crime' generated from a scheduled predicate offence.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The ED functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- PMLA offences require a predicate/scheduled offence (here, the CBI-investigated fraud).
- The Adjudicating Authority and the Appellate Tribunal sit above provisional attachment.
- Reliance Communications (RCOM) entered insolvency proceedings earlier.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Core economic-offence cluster: PMLA machinery (offence, attachment, adjudication) and the constitutional issues settled in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary.

#### PROVISIONS

PMLA 2002 Section 3, PMLA 2002 Section 5, PMLA 2002 Section 8, PMLA 2002 Section 17, PMLA 2002 Section 19, PMLA 2002 Section 24

**BODIES & CASES**

Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v Union of India (2022)

**Common Error:** A Sec 5 attachment is provisional, not final — it lapses unless confirmed within 180 days; and an ECIR is not an FIR, so the accused cannot demand a copy as of right.

classic exam error.

SECTION 05 / 11

**ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY****Rupee Trade Settlement Saves ~Rs 14,000 cr Forex in February**

RBI data showed Indian traders settled about **\$1.5 billion (Rs 14,057 crore)** of imports in **rupees in February 2026**, taking the FY26 total to about **\$15 billion over 11 months**. This leans on the **RBI's October 2022 framework** permitting **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)**, with 30+ countries onboarded. **RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar** reported the figures on 8 April.

**QUICK FACTS**

- About **\$1.5bn (Rs 14,057 cr)** of imports settled in **INR in Feb 2026**.
- FY26 rupee-settled imports **~\$15bn** across 11 months.
- Enabled by the **RBI October 2022 INR-settlement framework** and **SRVAs**.
- **30+ countries** onboarded for rupee trade settlement.
- Reported by **RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar** on 8 April.

**MUST KNOW**

- **Vostro** = 'your account with us' (a foreign bank's INR account held in India); **Nostro** = 'our account with you' — an easy single-best-answer trap.
- **INR internationalisation** eases **Current Account Deficit** and **Balance-of-Payments** pressure by reducing dollar dependence.
- Trade settlement uses **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** under the RBI's 2022 framework.
- The **SDR basket** comprises **USD, EUR, CNY, JPY, GBP** — the rupee is NOT in it.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- **FEMA 1999** distinguishes **current-account** (freely permitted) from **capital-account** transactions.
- The **RBI Act 1934** gives the RBI sole authority to issue currency and run monetary policy.
- **SDR** = Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's reserve asset.
- T. Rabi Sankar is an **RBI Deputy Governor** (not a Governor or a Ministry official).

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Tests exchange-rate management, the Vostro/Nostro distinction, and how rupee-invoicing links to Balance of Payments and the SDR basket.

**PROVISIONS**

RBI Act 1934, FEMA 1999, Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992

**BODIES & CASES**

Reserve Bank of India, International Monetary Fund

**Common Error:** Vostro is a foreign bank's rupee account held in India (not 'our' account abroad, which is Nostro) — reversing the two is a

**Delhi's Winter Pollution Plan: CAQM, GRAP and the Right to Clean Air**

In April 2026 the Delhi Government unveiled a comprehensive **winter pollution action plan** after AQI crossed 500+ in November 2025. The plan leans on the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in NCR, a statutory body that triggers the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** in four escalating stages based on AQI severity. It ties air quality to the constitutional promise of a clean environment under Articles 21 and 48A.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **CAQM Act 2021** created a statutory commission for air quality in Delhi-NCR — it **replaced the EPCA** and overrides state pollution boards.
- **GRAP** has 4 stages: Stage I (AQI 201-300 Poor), Stage II (301-400 Very Poor), Stage III (401-450 Severe), Stage IV (450+ Severe Plus).
- November 2025 saw Delhi **AQI cross 500+** (beyond the AQI scale ceiling of 500).
- Source split (as cited): **stubble burning ~32%**, industry ~30%, vehicles ~28%, construction ~10%.
- Legal anchors: **Art 21** (clean air), **Art 48A** (DPSP), **Art 51A(g)** (fundamental duty).

**MUST KNOW**

- CAQM is a **statutory** commission (CAQM Act 2021), not constitutional — and it superseded the earlier **Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA)**.
- Right to clean air flows from **Art 21** as expanded in the **MC Mehta v Union of India** line of cases.
- GRAP is an **emergency, AQI-triggered** protocol — remember the 4-stage AQI bands.
- Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 remains the parent statute; CAQM sits above SPCBs for NCR.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- AQI categories: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very Poor (301-400), Severe (401-500).
- CAQM covers Delhi + adjoining areas of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and UP.
- **MC Mehta v UOI (1987)** is the fountainhead of India's environmental Art 21 jurisprudence.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT pairs the statutory CAQM/GRAP machinery with the Art 21 + Art 48A read-together doctrine; expect a legal-reasoning passage on whether GRAP curbs are 'reasonable restrictions'.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), CAQM in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981

#### BODIES & CASES

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), *MC Mehta v Union of India* (1987)

**Common Error:** Students wrongly call CAQM a constitutional body or say it replaced the CPCB — it is statutory and replaced the EPCA, not the CPCB.

**Common Error:** Confusing 'offering to host' with a 'formal bid', or mixing up COP numbers and host cities (COP28 Dubai vs COP33 2028).

## India No Longer Keen to Host COP33 (2028)



In April 2026 reports indicated India is **no longer inclined to host COP33**, the 2028 UN climate conference. PM Modi had signalled interest at **COP28 in Dubai (Dec 2023)** but India never lodged a formal bid. A **COP (Conference of the Parties)** is the annual decision-making meeting of the UNFCCC's 198 parties, where climate finance, mitigation and adaptation commitments are negotiated.

#### QUICK FACTS

- The **COP** is the supreme decision-making body of the **UNFCCC (1992)**, meeting annually since **COP1 Berlin 1995**.
- PM Modi first floated hosting at **COP28 Dubai (2023)**; no formal bid followed.
- UNFCCC has 198 parties** (197 states + the EU).
- Hosting rotates among 5 UN regional groups; the Asia-Pacific group would slot COP33.
- India last hosted a major UN climate meet: **COP8 in New Delhi (2002)**.

#### MUST KNOW

- UNFCCC 1992 → Kyoto Protocol 1997 → Paris Agreement 2015** is the treaty sequence examiners test.
- The **Paris Agreement (2015, COP21)** set the 1.5-2°C goal and the **NDC** (Nationally Determined Contributions) architecture.
- COP presidency is held by the host country for that year (e.g. UAE for COP28, Azerbaijan COP29, Brazil COP30 Belem 2025).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- UNFCCC was adopted at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**; secretariat at Bonn, Germany.
- India's updated NDC targets ~45% emissions-intensity cut by 2030 and net-zero by 2070.
- COP28 (2023) operationalised the Loss & Damage Fund and agreed a first 'global stocktake'.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT current-affairs likes the COP host/number sequence and the UNFCCC-Kyoto-Paris chain; Art 51(c) (respect for international law) frames India's treaty conduct.

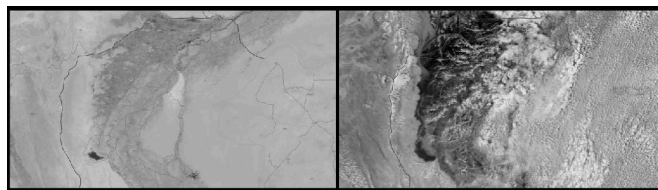
#### PROVISIONS

Article 51(c), UNFCCC 1992, Paris Agreement 2015

#### BODIES & CASES

Conference of the Parties (COP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

## Loss & Damage Fund Runs Short of Pledges



The UNFCCC's **Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund**, operationalised at **COP28 (Dubai 2023)**, faces a severe pledge shortfall — only about **\$700 million** against a need running into hundreds of billions. Developing countries invoke the **CBDR-RC principle**, and India pushes for an automatic replenishment mechanism linked to **Article 8 of the Paris Agreement**, which addresses loss and damage without creating liability.

#### QUICK FACTS

- L&D Fund was **operationalised at COP28 (Dubai 2023)**; the **World Bank** is its interim host.
- Only ~**\$700 million** pledged so far — a fraction of assessed need.
- Paris Agreement Art 8** covers loss and damage; its accompanying decision explicitly **excludes liability and compensation**.
- Precursor: **Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), 2013**.
- Developing nations rely on **CBDR-RC** — Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

#### MUST KNOW

- Loss & Damage ≠ Liability/Compensation** — the Paris Art 8 decision text bars any basis for legal liability. Classic CLAT trick.
- The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is separate from the L&D Fund, though both sit under UNFCCC's financial mechanism.
- CBDR-RC originates from the **1992 Rio Declaration** and UNFCCC framing.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- UNFCCC 1992 Art 2 aims to stabilise GHG concentrations at a safe level.
- GCF is headquartered in Songdo, South Korea.
- Kyoto Protocol 1997 imposed binding cuts only on developed (Annex-I) countries.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

A favourite legal-reasoning hook: distinguish 'loss and damage' assistance from 'liability/compensation', and separate the L&D Fund from the GCF.

#### PROVISIONS

Paris Agreement 2015 Article 8, Paris Agreement Article 9, UNFCCC 1992 Article 2, Kyoto Protocol 1997

#### BODIES & CASES

Loss and Damage Fund, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Warsaw International Mechanism (2013)

**Common Error:** Assuming the L&D Fund creates a legal right to compensation from developed nations — Paris Art 8's decision text explicitly rules that out.

## Delhi's Real-Time Source Apportionment Study



In April 2026 an IIT Delhi-led **real-time Source Apportionment study** identified vehicles, construction dust and **secondary aerosols** as the top contributors to Delhi's PM<sub>10</sub>. The DPCC deployed ceilometers across six sites, with a Sonipat supersite as reference. The work feeds into NCAP targets and rests on the Air Act 1981 and the Art 21 right to clean air.

### QUICK FACTS

- Study led by **IIT Delhi**; identifies vehicular, construction and **secondary aerosol** sources of PM<sub>10</sub>.
- **DPCC (Delhi Pollution Control Committee)** deployed ceilometers at 6 sites; Sonipat supersite = reference.
- **NCAP (National Clean Air Programme, 2019)** targets up to 40% particulate reduction.
- Statutory base: **Air Act 1981** (CPCB/SPCBs) and **Environment (Protection) Act 1986** (NAAQS).
- Right to clean air affirmed in **Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991)**.

### MUST KNOW

- **Polluter Pays** and **Precautionary Principle** are part of Indian law via **Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v UOI (1996)**.
- **NAAQS** (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) are set under the EPA 1986 framework.
- Source apportionment = scientifically attributing pollution to sources — key for targeted GRAP/NCAP action.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NCAP originally targeted 20-30% PM reduction by 2024 (base 2017), later revised to 40% by 2025-26.
- CPCB is a statutory body under the Water Act 1974; it also administers the Air Act 1981.
- Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v UOI (1996) also cemented the Polluter Pays principle.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the source of the 'right to clean air' (Subhash Kumar, Art 21) and which case imported Polluter Pays / Precautionary (Vellore Citizens 1996).

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, Environment (Protection) Act 1986

#### BODIES & CASES

IIT Delhi, DPCC / CPCB, Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991), Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v UOI (1996)

**Common Error:** Attributing Polluter Pays to MC Mehta alone — the doctrine was formally adopted into Indian law in Vellore Citizens (1996).

## 8th India International Water Week (Sept 22-26, 2026)



The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** announced the **8th India International Water Week** in New Delhi from **22-26 September 2026**, themed '**Climate-Resilient Water Management**'. Over 150 countries are invited, with side events on groundwater, river rejuvenation and **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**. The event spotlights water governance, a subject where constitutional federalism (State vs Union) is heavily tested.

### QUICK FACTS

- Hosted by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**; **8th edition**, New Delhi, 22-26 Sept 2026.
- Theme: **Climate-Resilient Water Management**; 150+ countries invited.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (2019)** — 'Har Ghar Jal', tap water to every rural household — features via a 2.0 push.
- Right to water flows from **Art 21** (Subhash Kumar 1991; Narmada Bachao Andolan 2000).
- Aligns with **SDG 6** — Clean Water and Sanitation by 2030.

### MUST KNOW

- **Water is a State subject** — Schedule VII, **List II Entry 17** — but inter-state rivers fall to the Union under **List I Entry 56**.
- **Art 262** lets Parliament bar even the Supreme Court from inter-state river-water disputes; the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956** sets up tribunals.
- National Water Policy 2012 pushes basin-level planning and ecological flows.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Jal Shakti Ministry was formed in 2019 by merging water-related ministries.
- Jal Jeevan Mission target: functional household tap connections to all rural homes.
- Cauvery and Krishna tribunals are examples of Art 262 machinery in action.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

A high-value federalism trap: water = State subject (Entry 17) but inter-state rivers = Union (Entry 56), with Art 262 ousting SC jurisdiction.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 262, Schedule VII List II Entry 17, Schedule VII List I Entry 56, Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956

#### BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991), SDG 6 (UN)

**Common Error:** Saying the Supreme Court can hear inter-state river-water disputes — Art 262 + the 1956 Act route them to tribunals and can bar the SC.

## NGT Orders Action on Arsenic & Fluoride in Groundwater

### ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

In April 2026 the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** directed States and UTs to file action plans to mitigate **arsenic and fluoride contamination** in groundwater, invoking the Art 21 right to life. **Bihar alone** reported 4,709 arsenic-hit and 3,789 fluoride-hit wards, with the **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** mandated to coordinate. The order underlines the NGT's statutory teeth in environmental enforcement.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **NGT** ordered States/UTs to submit arsenic-fluoride mitigation action plans.
- **Bihar**: 4,709 arsenic-affected + 3,789 fluoride-affected wards.
- **CGWA** (under EPA 1986, Sec 3(3)) mandated to coordinate.
- Right to clean water read into **Art 21** (Subhash Kumar 1991).
- Water pollution governed by the **Water Act 1974** (CPCB/SPCBs).

#### MUST KNOW

- NGT was created by the **NGT Act 2010**; it has **original jurisdiction (Sec 14)** and **appellate jurisdiction (Sec 16)**.
- An appeal from the NGT lies **directly to the Supreme Court (Sec 22)** — NOT to a High Court. Classic CLAT trap.
- NGT must dispose of cases within 6 months; it applies sustainable development, Polluter Pays and Precautionary principles.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NGT principal bench sits in New Delhi, with zonal benches (Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai).
- WHO safe limits: arsenic 0.01 mg/L, fluoride 1.5 mg/L.
- CGWA regulates groundwater extraction nationally under EPA 1986.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves NGT structure: original (S.14) vs appellate (S.16) jurisdiction, and the appeal-to-SC route under S.22.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), NGT Act 2010 (Secs 14, 16, 22), Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974, Environment (Protection) Act 1986

#### BODIES & CASES

National Green Tribunal (NGT), Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991)

**Common Error:** Thinking NGT appeals go to the High Court — they go straight to the Supreme Court under Section 22.

## Study: Climate Extremes to Hit 36% of Land-Animal Habitats by 2085



A **Nature Ecology & Evolution** study (led from Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, PIK) projects that **36% of terrestrial vertebrate habitats** will face climate-extreme exposure by **2085**. Modelling **33,936 species** across 794 ecoregions, it stresses India's obligations under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992)** and the constitutional environment duties in Articles 48A and 51A(g).

#### QUICK FACTS

- **36% of land vertebrate habitats** projected exposed to climate extremes by **2085**.
- Study modelled **33,936 species** across **794 ecoregions**.
- Published in **Nature Ecology & Evolution**; PIK (Potsdam)-led.
- India ratified the **CBD 1992** in 1994; domesticated via the **Biological Diversity Act 2002**.
- Constitutional hooks: **Art 48A** (DPSP), **Art 51A(g)** (duty).

#### MUST KNOW

- **Art 48A** (protect environment/wildlife) was inserted by the **42nd Amendment 1976**; it is a DPSP — non-justiciable directly but enforceable read with Art 21.
- **Art 51A(g)** is the ONLY fundamental duty on the environment.
- **CBD 1992** is the parent treaty; **Cartagena Protocol (2000)** and **Nagoya Protocol (2010)** build on it.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Biological Diversity Act 2002 set up the NBA (Chennai), SBBs and BMCs.
- CBD was opened at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit alongside UNFCCC.
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022) set the 30x30 conservation goal.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the DPSP-vs-duty distinction (Art 48A vs 51A(g)) and the CBD-Cartagena-Nagoya treaty tree.

#### PROVISIONS

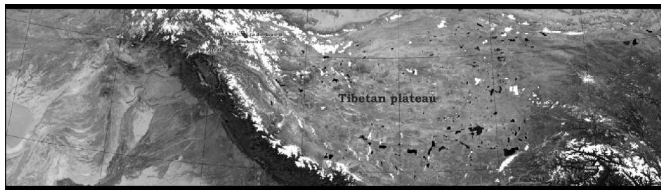
Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Article 21, Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Biological Diversity Act 2002

#### BODIES & CASES

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991), T N Godavarman v UOI (1996)

**Common Error:** Treating Art 48A or Art 51A(g) as directly enforceable — they become enforceable only when read with Art 21 (Subhash Kumar 1991).

## ICIMOD: 27% Drop in Hindu Kush Himalaya Snow Persistence



In April 2026 ICIMOD reported a fourth straight year of decline in Hindu Kush Himalaya snow, with a **27% fall in snow persistence**. The cryosphere loss threatens **240 million mountain people** and **1.65 billion downstream** across the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong basins. It links directly to India's climate commitments and the Art 21 + 48A environmental doctrine.

### QUICK FACTS

- **27% drop** in HKH snow persistence — a **4th consecutive year** of decline.
- Affects **240 million** mountain people and **1.65 billion** downstream.
- Feeds **six major river basins**: Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Yellow, Mekong.
- **ICIMOD** = 8-country regional body, HQ **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- Domestic response: **NMSHE**, one of 8 missions under the **NAPCC 2008**.

### MUST KNOW

- The HKH is called the '**Third Pole**' — the largest ice mass outside the polar regions.
- ICIMOD's 8 member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan.
- Treaty chain: **UNFCCC 1992 → Kyoto 1997 → Paris 2015**; IPCC AR6 (2021-23) flags cryosphere risk.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NAPCC 2008 has 8 missions incl. National Solar Mission, NMSHE, and National Water Mission.
- Gangotri glacier (Uttarakhand) feeds the Ganga; Himalayan glaciers are retreating rapidly.
- ICIMOD was established in 1983, based in Kathmandu.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

Static-GK hook on the 'Third Pole' and ICIMOD members, plus the Art 21+48A read-together environmental doctrine.

#### PROVISIONS

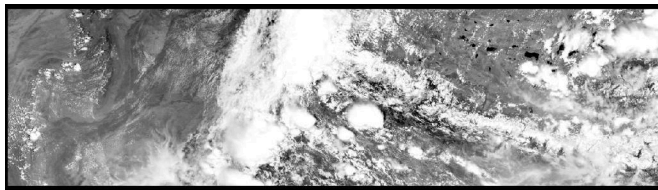
Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Article 21, UNFCCC 1992, Paris Agreement 2015

#### BODIES & CASES

ICIMOD, NMSHE / NAPCC (2008), Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v UOI (1996)

**Common Error:** Confusing ICIMOD (Kathmandu, Himalayan cooperation) with IPCC (UN climate science body) or NAPCC missions with international treaties.

## IMD Monsoon 2026: Rain Extremes Doubling Since 2016



In April 2026 data showed **extreme rainfall events** surging from 89 (2016) to 181 (2024), with a major rain disaster every year since **Kedarnath 2013** — Wayanad, Chennai, Kerala and more. The **16th Finance Commission** noted floods consumed 55% of state SDRF spend (2019-24). The trend frames the Art 21 clean-environment right alongside the **Disaster Management Act 2005**.

### QUICK FACTS

- **Extreme rainfall events**: 89 (2016) → **181 (2024)**, roughly doubling.
- IMD threshold for 'extreme' rainfall: **>21 cm in 24 hours**.
- Floods consumed **55% of state SDRF spend (2019-24)** per the 16th Finance Commission.
- Disaster sequence cited: Kedarnath 2013, Chennai 2015, Kerala 2018, Wayanad 2024.
- **MoES** is nodal ministry; **NDMA** coordinates disaster response.

### MUST KNOW

- The **Disaster Management Act 2005** set up the NDMA (PM chairs), SDMA and DDMA.
- **Extreme rainfall is a State-specific disaster** — not on the Centre's notified disaster list. CLAT trap.
- Right to a clean environment sits in **Art 21** (Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar 1991).

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- SDRF = State Disaster Response Fund; NDRF = National Disaster Response Fund (financial), distinct from the NDRF force.
- IMD (est. 1875) is under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- 16th Finance Commission is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

Pairs disaster-law federalism (DM Act 2005, State-specific disasters) with the Art 21 clean-environment right.

#### PROVISIONS

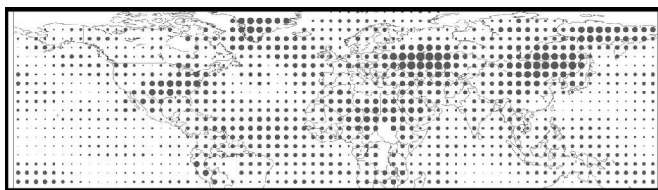
Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Disaster Management Act 2005

#### BODIES & CASES

India Meteorological Department (IMD), NDMA, 16th Finance Commission, Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991)

**Common Error:** Assuming extreme rainfall/heatwave is a centrally-notified disaster — states must specifically declare it from their own SDRF.

## Delhi Heat Action Plan 2026



In April 2026 the Delhi Government unveiled its **2026 Heat Action Plan** amid 42°C (3.1°C above normal). Measures include cool rooms at 30+ hospitals, ORS for schoolchildren, misting and anti-smog guns at sites, and a **12-3 pm construction ban** on severe-heat days. Heatwaves test Art 21 right-to-life jurisprudence and the federal design of the Disaster Management Act 2005.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Heat Action Plan launched amid **42°C (3.1°C above normal)**.
- Cool rooms at **30+ hospitals**; ORS for school children; misting/anti-smog guns.
- 12-3 pm construction ban** on severe-heat days.
- IMD heatwave threshold: **≥40°C in the plains** with a departure from normal.
- Ahmedabad (2013)** pioneered India's first Heat Action Plan.

#### MUST KNOW

- Heatwave is a State-specific disaster** — NOT in the original DM Act 2005 schedule of notified disasters.
- India Cooling Action Plan (2019)** was the world's first such national plan.
- Right to life (Art 21) + DPSP Art 47 (raise standard of living / public health) frame heat governance.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NDMA Heatwave Guidelines issued 2019 (revised 2024).
- NDMA is chaired by the Prime Minister under the DM Act 2005.
- India Cooling Action Plan targets cooling-demand and refrigerant transitions (Kigali Amendment link).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Frequent CLAT pairing of Art 21 right-to-life with DM Act federalism — who declares and funds a heatwave disaster.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 47, Disaster Management Act 2005

#### BODIES & CASES

NDMA, Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991)

**Common Error:** Believing heatwaves are centrally-notified disasters — they are declared State-specifically, funded from the SDRF.

## International Big Cat Alliance: Delhi Summit



The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** — headquartered in New Delhi under MoEFCC and MEA — is hosting a **Global Big Cat Summit on 1 June 2026**, after the 4th India-Africa Forum (31 May). Launched by PM Modi on **9 April 2023** marking 50 years of Project Tiger and modelled on the International Solar Alliance, the IBCA is a treaty-based intergovernmental body covering 7 big-cat species.

#### QUICK FACTS

- IBCA HQ** in New Delhi (MoEFCC + MEA); modelled on the **International Solar Alliance**.
- Launched by PM Modi on **9 April 2023**, marking **50 years of Project Tiger**.

- Cabinet ratified the IBCA treaty on **29 Feb 2024**; ~24 member countries (10 African).
- Covers **7 big-cat species** — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, puma, jaguar (5 found in India).
- Global Big Cat Summit set for **1 June 2026**, after the 4th India-Africa Forum (31 May).

#### MUST KNOW

- IBCA is the **first treaty-based intergovernmental body HQ in India since the International Solar Alliance (2015)**.
- Project Tiger (1973)** is a centrally-sponsored scheme; the **NTCA (2005/2006)** is its statutory oversight body under the WPA 1972.
- Big cats fall under **WPA 1972 Schedule I** (highest protection); international trade is regulated by **CITES (1973)**.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Cheetah reintroduction began at Kuno National Park (MP) in 2022.
- Puma and jaguar are the two of the 7 species not found in India.
- The International Solar Alliance (2015) was co-founded by India and France, HQ Gurugram.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Static/current pairing: IBCA as ISA-style treaty body HQ in India, plus Art 48A/51A(g) conservation-diplomacy framing.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (Schedule I), CITES 1973, IBCA Treaty 2023

#### BODIES & CASES

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), NTCA, International Solar Alliance

**Common Error:** Confusing the 7 IBCA species (5 in India) or thinking IBCA replaces Project Tiger/NTCA — it is a separate intergovernmental alliance.

## Uttarakhand Forest Fires: 144 Hectares Burnt Since February

#### ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

By late April 2026 **Uttarakhand** had recorded forest fires across **144 hectares since February**, with Garhwal worst-hit. **Chir pine-needle fuel**, a dry winter and high winds drove the spread, while the Forest Department's response was constrained by the diversion procedure under the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980**. The episode implicates Art 48A, Art 51A(g) and the Godavarman 'forest' definition.

#### QUICK FACTS

- 144 hectares** burnt since February 2026; **Garhwal** worst-hit.
- Fuel driver: **chir pine needles** plus dry winter and high winds.
- FCA 1980** requires central permission for forest-land diversion.
- Art 48A** and **Art 51A(g)** inserted by the **42nd Amendment 1976**.
- Compensatory afforestation funds managed under **CAMPA 2016**.

#### MUST KNOW

- T N Godavarman v UOI (1996)** widened 'forest' to its **dictionary**

meaning, not just notified forests.

- Forest fires are notified disasters under the **DM Act 2005** only if the state specifically declares them.
- FCA 1980 (recently the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam) mandates Centre's nod before diversion of forest land.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Uttarakhand's forests are dominated by chir pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) in lower Himalayas.
- CAMPA = Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.
- Forest is on the Concurrent List (Entry 17A) after the 42nd Amendment 1976.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the Godavarman 'dictionary meaning of forest' and FCA 1980 diversion; forest fires as a State-declared disaster.

##### PROVISIONS

Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Disaster Management Act 2005

##### BODIES & CASES

T N Godavarman v UOI (1996), CAMPA, State Forest Department

*Common Error:* Assuming only government-notified land is 'forest' — Godavarman (1996) extended it to the ordinary dictionary meaning.

(statutory under WPA 1972).

- Kanha lies in the Maikal range of the Satpura hills; India has 50+ tiger reserves.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Static-plus-current: WPA Schedule I protection, NTCA as a statutory body, and the Art 48A/51A(g) conservation duties.

##### PROVISIONS

Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (Schedule I), WPA Amendment 2006 (NTCA), Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Biological Diversity Act 2002

##### BODIES & CASES

NTCA, National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), MC Mehta v UOI (public trust doctrine)

*Common Error:* Calling the NTCA a constitutional body or conflating it with the NBWL — the NTCA is statutory under the WPA 1972 (s.38L).

#### SECTION 06 / 11

### SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

#### Kalpakkam PFBR-500 Goes Critical — India Enters Stage 2 of the Nuclear Programme



India's **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)**, a 500 MWe sodium-cooled reactor at **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**, achieved **criticality** in April 2026. Designed by **IGCAR** and built by **BHAVINI**, it operationalises **Stage 2** of Homi Bhabha's **three-stage nuclear programme** (1958), moving India toward its vast **thorium** reserves and greater energy self-reliance.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **PFBR** = 500 MWe **sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor**; 'breeder' means it produces more fissile fuel (**Pu-239**) than it consumes.
- Designed by **IGCAR** (Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research); built and operated by **BHAVINI** (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd).
- Realises **Stage 2** of the three-stage plan: Stage 1 **PHWRs** (natural uranium) → Stage 2 **FBRs** (plutonium) → Stage 3 **thorium** (U-233 from Th-232).
- India holds roughly **25% of the world's thorium** reserves — the strategic rationale for the closed fuel cycle.
- All atomic activity is governed by the **Atomic Energy Act 1962**; the **DAE** reports directly to the Prime Minister.

#### MUST KNOW

- The **three-stage programme** was conceived by **Homi Bhabha in 1958** — sequence U → Pu → Th is a classic prelims fact.
- India is **outside the NPT** but accepts **IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards** only on its **civilian** reactors (separation plan under the 2008 123 Agreement).
- **Article 51A(j)** makes developing **scientific temper** a Fundamental Duty — the ready constitutional hook for any S&T story.
- The **2008 NSG Waiver** was India-specific and enabled uranium imports despite non-NPT status.

#### Kanha: Tigress and Four Cubs Found Dead



Between 21-29 April 2026, tigress **T-141** and her **four cubs (~1 year old)** were found dead at **Kanha Tiger Reserve**, Madhya Pradesh, with a preliminary cause of respiratory infection and an **NTCA** team probing. Kanha (~940 sq km core) inspired Kipling's Jungle Book. The deaths engage Art 48A, Art 51A(g) and the WPA 1972 protection regime for Schedule I species.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **T-141 tigress + 4 cubs** (~1 yr) found dead at Kanha, 21-29 April 2026.
- Preliminary cause: **respiratory infection**; **NTCA** probing.
- **Tiger is a Schedule I species** under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
- Kanha core ~940 sq km; MP is the '**Tiger State**' with 785 tigers.
- **AITE 2022**: India has **3,682 tigers** (~75% of the world's).

#### MUST KNOW

- **Project Tiger (1973)** is centrally-sponsored; the **WPA 2006 Amendment** created the **NTCA** (WPA s.38L).
- **NTCA is a STATUTORY body** (under the WPA 1972), NOT constitutional — often confused with the NBWL.
- Public-trust doctrine (MC Mehta line) and the Precautionary Principle apply to disease outbreaks among apex predators.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **AITE** = All India Tiger Estimation, conducted every four years (latest 2022).
- **NBWL** = National Board for Wildlife, chaired by the Prime Minister

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- **DAE** founded 1954; first chairman **Homi J. Bhabha**; India's first reactor was **Apsara** (1956, Asia's first).
- **CLNDA 2010** (Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act) channels liability to the operator with a supplier right-of-recourse.
- **Kalpakkam** also hosts **MAPS** (Madras Atomic Power Station) and the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**.
- **AERB** is the nuclear safety regulator; **IAEA** (Vienna) administers international safeguards.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the science-plus-governance cluster: who regulates (AERB), who is liable (CLNDA channels to operator), and India's NPT-outsider-but-safeguarded status. Art 51A(j) is the constitutional bridge.

## PROVISIONS

Article 51A(j), Atomic Energy Act 1962, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), IGCAR, BHAVINI, AERB, IAEA, Nuclear Suppliers Group (2008 Waiver), 123 Agreement (2008)

**Common Error:** Students confuse the **AERB** (safety regulator) with the **DAE** (executive department), and wrongly say India 'signed the NPT' — India has NOT signed the NPT.

## MeitY Tightens AI-Labeling Rules on Deepfakes and Synthetic Content

## SCIENCE, TECH &amp; HEALTH

**MeitY** proposed amendments to the **IT Rules 2021** requiring a 'continuously and clearly visible' **AI label** covering at least **10% of content duration**, after a Feb 2026 consultation found compliance 'inconsistent'. The rules target **deepfakes** and introduce due-diligence norms on **Synthetically Generated Information (SGI)**, tightening intermediary obligations rather than banning content outright.

## QUICK FACTS

- Amendments sit under the **IT Act 2000 / IT Rules 2021**; consultation window closed **7 May 2026**.
- Mandate: an AI label 'continuously and clearly visible' on at least **10% of the duration** of synthetic content.
- Introduces the category **SGI (Synthetically Generated Information)** — a broader bucket than deepfakes.
- Adds **due-diligence** obligations on intermediaries (grievance officer, compliance officer under Rules 2021).
- Regulator is **MeitY** (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).

## MUST KNOW

- **Section 79, IT Act** gives intermediaries **safe-harbour immunity** conditional on due diligence — labelling is a due-diligence condition.
- **Shreya Singhal (2015)** struck down Sec 66A and read down **Sec 69A** blocking powers with procedural safeguards.
- **Puttaswamy (2017)** recognised **informational privacy** under Article 21 — relevant to synthetic-media harms.

- Labelling is **content-neutral**, so it is far likelier to survive **Art 19(2)** review than an outright ban.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- **Kaushal Kishor (2023)** — grounds of restriction under **Art 19(2)** are exhaustive; no new grounds can be added.
- **Kunal Kamra v Union of India (Bombay HC 2024)** struck down the IT Rules 'Fact Check Unit' amendment.
- A **deepfake** is synthetic media impersonating a real person; **SGI** also covers wholly generated content.
- IT Rules 2021 were notified 25 Feb 2021 and have been amended multiple times (2022, 2023, 2026).

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT frames this as a free-speech-vs-regulation problem: does a mandatory label reasonably restrict Art 19(1)(a)? Labelling being content-neutral, it fits the Art 19(2) proportionality test better than bans.

## PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Article 21, Section 79 IT Act 2000, Section 69A IT Act 2000

## BODIES &amp; CASES

MeitY, Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015), Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), Kunal Kamra v Union of India (Bombay HC 2024)

**Common Error:** Students think MeitY can add its own restriction grounds — but **Kaushal Kishor** holds Art 19(2) grounds are exhaustive; a label is a condition, not a new ground.

## 'Mythos' AI Model Leak — DPDP Extraterritoriality and Bank Cyber-Alerts

## SCIENCE, TECH &amp; HEALTH

A reported leak of a next-generation AI model ('**Mythos**') via a whistleblower ('**Project Glasswing**') triggered data-protection and AI-safety alarms. India invoked the **extraterritorial reach of the DPDP Act 2023**, cited **IT Act Sec 66** for unauthorised access, and issued a **CERT-In** advisory; the Finance Minister directed **banks** to harden cybersecurity against AI-assisted phishing and deepfake fraud.

## QUICK FACTS

- **DPDP Act 2023** applies **extraterritorially** when processing targets offering of goods/services to **Data Principals in India**.
- **Sec 66, IT Act 2000** covers computer-related offences; **Sec 43** imposes civil penalty for unauthorised access.
- **CERT-In** (the national computer emergency response team) issued a security advisory to the sector.
- **MeitY** sought clarification on the model's misuse potential; the **Finance Minister** directed banks to fortify cyber posture.
- Comparators cited: **EU AI Act 2024** (risk-tiered) and the **India AI Mission (2024)**, funded ~**Rs 10,372 crore**.

## MUST KNOW

- **DPDP Act 2023** key roles: **Data Fiduciary** (decides purpose/means), **Data Processor**, **Data Principal** — learn the definitions.
- The **EU AI Act** uses four tiers: **prohibited / high-risk / limited-**

**risk / minimal-risk.**

- **Puttaswamy (2017)** makes privacy a fundamental right under **Article 21** — the anchor for data-breach claims.
- **Safe harbour** (Sec 79) and its reading in **Shreya Singhal (2015)** govern intermediary liability for leaked/hosted content.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- **DPDP Act 2023** received assent on **11 Aug 2023**; it establishes the **Data Protection Board of India**.
- **IndiaAI Mission** pillars include compute capacity, a **Safety Institute**, and sovereign foundational models.
- **CERT-In** operates under MeitY; its 2022 directions mandate **6-hour** incident reporting.
- The **EU AI Act (2024)** is the world's first comprehensive horizontal AI law.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

CLAT can test jurisdiction: can Indian law reach a foreign AI developer? DPDP's extraterritorial clause plus Puttaswamy's Art 21 privacy right supply the reasoning chain for cross-border data harms.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 21, Section 66 IT Act 2000, Section 43 IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, Section 79 IT Act 2000

**BODIES & CASES**

MeitY, CERT-In, Data Protection Board of India, IndiaAI Mission (2024), Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), EU AI Act 2024

*Common Error: Students assume DPDP applies only inside India — but it explicitly reaches **foreign processing** that targets offering goods/services to Data Principals in India.*

**Online Gaming Rules 2026 — OGAI Regulator Live from May 1**

MeitY notified the **Online Gaming Rules 2026** under the **IT Act 2000**, creating the **Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)** as the sector regulator, effective **1 May 2026**. **Esports** is carved out as a legitimate sport; real-money games must pass a **skill test**, with mandatory **age-gating** and **KYC**. The framework rides on the Union's IT powers rather than State gambling law.

**QUICK FACTS**

- New regulator: **OGAI (Online Gaming Authority of India)**, effective **1 May 2026**.
- **Real-money games** must clear a **skill test**; **KYC** and **age-gating** are mandatory.
- **Esports** recognised as a legitimate **sport** (distinct from real-money gaming).
- Framework is under the **IT Act 2000** (Sec 79 safe harbour, Sec 69A blocking), not the Public Gambling Act.
- **GST of 28% on full face value** (from Aug 2023) continues to apply to real-money gaming.

**MUST KNOW**

- **Skill vs Chance** is decisive: games of **skill** are protected trade under **Art 19(1)(g)**; games of **chance** can be banned.

- **Gambling/betting is a STATE subject** — **List II, Entry 34** — yet OGAI acts under Union IT law (this Centre-State tension is high-yield).
- **RMD Chamarbaugwala (1957)** and **K R Lakshmanan (1996)** are the leading skill-game precedents (rummy, horse-racing).
- **DPDP Act 2023** consent norms apply, especially for **minors'** data in KYC/age-gating.

**STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW**

- **Public Gambling Act 1867** is colonial-era and a State subject; many States have their own gaming laws (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka bans litigated).
- **Art 19(6)** permits reasonable restrictions on the right to trade under Art 19(1)(g).
- The IT Rules were first amended for online gaming in **April 2023** (self-regulatory bodies) before the 2026 rules.
- **K R Lakshmanan v State of Tamil Nadu (1996)** held horse-racing a game of skill.

**CLAT / Legal Lens**

Classic federalism-plus-rights item: gambling is a State subject (Entry 34), but OGAI regulates via Union IT law by treating online gaming as an intermediary/technology matter, and skill-games get Art 19(1)(g) protection.

**PROVISIONS**

Article 19(1)(g), Article 19(6), List II Entry 34 (State List), IT Act 2000, Public Gambling Act 1867

**BODIES & CASES**

OGAI (Online Gaming Authority of India), MeitY, RMD Chamarbaugwala v Union of India (1957), K R Lakshmanan v State of Tamil Nadu (1996)

*Common Error: Students say the Centre 'has no power over gambling' — true for betting under Entry 34, but online gaming is regulated as an **IT/intermediary** matter under the Union IT Act, sidestepping the State-subject bar.*

**Skyroot's Vikram-1 — India's First Private Orbital Launch Vehicle****SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH**

On **25 April 2026** at **Sriharikota**, **Skyroot Aerospace** advanced its **Vikram-1** orbital rocket. A multi-stage solid-plus-liquid vehicle capable of **350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, it uses carbon-composite structures and a **3D-printed engine**. Named after **Dr Vikram Sarabhai**, it follows the suborbital **Vikram-S** (18 Nov 2022) and marks India's first **private orbital** attempt, enabled by the **Indian Space Policy 2023**.

**QUICK FACTS**

- **Skyroot Aerospace** (Hyderabad) built **Vikram-1**; payload capacity **~350 kg to LEO**.
- Multi-stage **solid + liquid** propulsion; carbon-composite body and a **3D-printed engine**.
- Named after **Dr Vikram Sarabhai**, the 'father of the Indian space programme'.
- Follows **Vikram-S**, India's first private (suborbital) rocket, launched **18 Nov 2022**.
- Enabled by the **Indian Space Policy 2023** opening the sector to

private players.

#### MUST KNOW

- **IN-SPACe (2020)** is the single-window authoriser/regulator for private space activity.
- **NSIL (2019)** is the commercial arm of the **Department of Space**; **ISRO** remains the R&D agency.
- Under the **Outer Space Treaty 1967**, there is **no national sovereignty** in outer space.
- Under the **Liability Convention 1972**, the **launching State** is liable for damage caused by its space objects.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Vikram Sarabhai** founded **ISRO (1969)**; **Sriharikota** hosts the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**.
- Five UN space treaties include the **Registration Convention 1976** (UN registry of objects).
- **Agnikul Cosmos** (Chennai) is the other leading Indian private launch startup (Agnibaan).
- **LEO** is roughly 160-2,000 km altitude — the orbit for most small-satellite launches.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the space-governance cluster: OST 1967 bars sovereignty, the Liability Convention makes the launching State liable, and IN-SPACe/NSIL show the domestic private-sector opening — good for GK and international-law reasoning.

#### PROVISIONS

Outer Space Treaty 1967, Liability Convention 1972, Registration Convention 1976, Indian Space Policy 2023

#### BODIES & CASES

ISRO, IN-SPACe, NSIL, Department of Space, United Nations (COPUOS)

**Common Error:** Students confuse **IN-SPACe** (regulator/authoriser) with **NSIL** (commercial arm) and **ISRO** (R&D agency) — three distinct bodies under the Department of Space.

cloud providers.

- Exposes how **US OFAC** and **EU** sanctions can bind Indian firms via cloud dependencies.

#### MUST KNOW

- Distinguish **data sovereignty** (jurisdictional/legal control) from **data localisation** (physical storage location).
- **Puttaswamy (2017)** anchors the data-sovereignty debate in the Art 21 privacy right.
- **RBI (April 2018)** mandated **payment-data localisation** — store payment data only in India.
- **DPDP Act 2023** allows cross-border transfer except to government-blacklisted countries (negative-list model).

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Section 43A, IT Act 2000** imposes compensation for negligent handling of sensitive personal data.
- **OFAC** (Office of Foreign Assets Control) is the US sanctions enforcer under the Treasury.
- **CERT-In** is the nodal agency for cyber-incident response in critical infrastructure.
- 'Sovereign cloud' aligns with the wider **Atmanirbhar Bharat** / digital self-reliance push.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT can frame extraterritoriality: how do EU/US sanctions bind an Indian company through a US cloud vendor? Puttaswamy's data-sovereignty reasoning and DPDP's transfer regime supply the answer.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 19, Article 21, Section 43A IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023

#### BODIES & CASES

Delhi High Court, Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), RBI, CERT-In, US OFAC, European Union

**Common Error:** Students equate **data localisation** with **data sovereignty** — localisation is about where data is stored; sovereignty is about whose law controls it.

## Made-in-India Sovereign Cloud Push — the Nayara Wake-up Call



The government is weighing a policy mandating that **telecom, energy and banking** firms use a **Made-in-India cloud**, after **Microsoft** abruptly blocked **Nayara Energy** (49.13% Rosneft-owned) on **5 Aug 2025** citing 'automated legacy compliance' with the **EU's 18th sanctions package**. Nayara sued in the **Delhi High Court** and services were restored, exposing the extraterritorial reach of foreign sanctions through cloud infrastructure.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Trigger: **Microsoft** suspended **Nayara Energy's** services on **5 Aug 2025** over EU sanctions compliance.
- Nayara is **~49.13% owned by Rosneft** (Russia); it litigated in the **Delhi HC** and services were restored.
- Policy idea: mandate **domestic ('sovereign') cloud** for critical sectors (telecom/energy/banking).
- The **IT Ministry** sought clarity on the **jurisdictional nexus** of foreign

## Jodhpur's AI School Assessment — PARAKH, NEP 2020 and Child-Data Consent

#### SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

**Phase 2** of the **Competency-Based Census Assessment Pilot** ran in **Jodhpur**, covering **~1,000 schools** across 15 blocks, Classes 6-9, five subjects and **70,000+ students**. An **AI app** cut grading from hours to **5-7 minutes**, awarding 0-3 stars per topic and generating personalised report cards. Anchored in **NEP 2020** and **PARAKH (NCERT)**, it spotlights **Art 21A** education rights and **DPDP** child-data safeguards.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Scale: **~1,000 schools**, 15 blocks, Classes **6-9**, 5 subjects, **70,000+ students**, 3+ lakh assessments.
- The **AI app** reduced grading time to **5-7 minutes**, giving **0-3 stars** per topic plus personalised report cards.
- Anchored in **NEP 2020** (competency-based learning) and **PARAKH**,

the assessment unit under **NCERT**.

- Partners included District Admin, Education Dept, **DIET**, EdOptimize and **Central Electronics Ltd (CEL)**.
- Raises **Art 14** arbitrariness concerns over algorithmic bias in AI grading.

#### MUST KNOW

- PARAKH = Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development** — a unit under **NCERT**, not a statutory body.
- Article 21A** guarantees free and compulsory education (6-14 yrs); operationalised by the **RTE Act 2009**.
- Section 29, RTE Act 2009** covers curriculum and evaluation procedure — the hook for assessment reform.
- Section 9, DPDP Act 2023** requires **verifiable parental consent** before processing children's data.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NEP 2020** replaced the 1986 policy; introduced the **5+3+3+4** school structure.
- Unni Krishnan v State of AP (1993)** held education a fundamental right, leading to the **86th Amendment (2002)** inserting Art 21A.
- NCERT (1961)** is the apex body for school-education curriculum and research.
- DIET** = District Institute of Education and Training (teacher training).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT can pair rights and tech: Art 21A/RTE guarantees quality evaluation, while AI grading triggers Art 14 arbitrariness and DPDP s.9 child-consent questions — a rich reasoning cluster.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21A, Article 14, Section 29 RTE Act 2009, Section 9 DPDP Act 2023

#### BODIES & CASES

NCERT, PARAKH, NEP 2020, Unni Krishnan v State of Andhra Pradesh (1993)

*Common Error: Students treat PARAKH as a statutory regulator — it is only a unit under NCERT, created administratively via NEP 2020, not by any Act of Parliament.*

#### SECTION 07 / 11

## DEFENCE & SECURITY

### Pahalgam One Year On — The Ridge-Holding Doctrine & Intelligence Grid



One year after the **Baisaran meadow attack** near Pahalgam (Apr 22, 2025; **26 killed**) that triggered **Operation Sindoor**, the Kashmir Valley has been re-tiled with **43 new Temporary Operating Bases (TOBs)** at 3,000-9,000 ft, an **Aadhaar-linked QR database** for 50,000+ tourism workers, and a doctrinal shift from '**holding the road**' to '**holding the ridge**' — dominating the high ground and forest belts insurgents use for infiltration.

#### QUICK FACTS

- 43 new Temporary Operating Bases** established across the Valley at **3,000-9,000 ft** altitude.
- Aadhaar-linked QR-code database** profiles **50,000+** tourism-sector workers for verification.
- Doctrine changed from '**holding the road**' (road-centric convoy security) to '**holding the ridge**' (dominating high ground).
- Grid combines **drones**, **facial-recognition devices (FRDs)** and ground bases into an intelligence-led counter-terror network.
- Follows the **J&K Reorganisation Act 2019** security architecture after abrogation of **Article 370**.

#### MUST KNOW

- Article 355** casts a duty on the **Union** to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance — the basis for central security deployment.
- A national Emergency under **Article 352** was **not** invoked; its threshold is 'armed rebellion', far higher than routine internal disturbance.
- Mass surveillance databases must clear the **Puttaswamy (2017)** four-prong proportionality test: legality, legitimate aim, proportionality, and procedural safeguards.
- AFSPA 1958** confers armed-forces powers in 'disturbed areas'; **UAPA Sec 43D(5)** bars bail where the accusation appears *prima facie* true.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NIA Act 2008** created the National Investigation Agency after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- NSA 1980** (National Security Act) permits preventive detention up to 12 months.
- Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Uol (1998)** upheld AFSPA's constitutionality with safeguards.
- J&K became two Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh) under the **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019**.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT can pair the surveillance grid with the Puttaswamy proportionality test and the Article 355 Union-duty clause. Expect a legal-reasoning passage on privacy vs national security.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 355, Article 352, Article 21, UAPA 1967 (Sec 43D(5)), AFSPA 1958, NSA 1980, NIA Act 2008, J&K Reorganisation Act 2019

#### BODIES & CASES

K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Uol (1998), Hitendra Vishnu Thakur v State of Maharashtra (1994), National Investigation Agency (NIA)

*Common Error: Confusing Article 352 (national Emergency, needs 'armed rebellion') with Article 355 (Union's duty to protect States) — deploying central forces relies on Art 355, not a declared Emergency.*

### India-Japan Defence — Tokyo Eases Its Arms-Export Curbs

#### DEFENCE & SECURITY

Japan relaxed its long-standing **Three Principles on defence-equipment transfer**, permitting arms exports to **17 countries including India** as part of a **Quad**-led counterbalance to China. The move accelerates the **India-Japan 2+2** dialogue, opening jet-trainer and patrol-vessel deals and deepening the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** across the Indo-Pacific.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Japan eased its **arms-export Three Principles**, clearing defence exports to **17 countries**, India among them.
- Deals in play: **jet trainers** and **patrol vessels**, advanced via the **2+2** (foreign + defence ministers) format.
- Framed within the **Quad** (India-US-Japan-Australia) maritime and technology agenda.
- Builds on the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership** (2006, upgraded 2014).
- Aligns with India's **SAGAR** doctrine and Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision.

#### MUST KNOW

- The **Quad is NOT a treaty alliance** like NATO — it is an informal, consultative strategic forum with no mutual-defence obligation.
- Article 9** of Japan's 1947 Constitution renounces war, but a **2014 Cabinet reinterpretation** permits collective self-defence and eased export rules.
- For India, **Article 51 (DPSP)** directs the State to promote international peace — the constitutional hook for defence diplomacy.
- Government-to-government defence buys route through the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Quad** was first floated in 2007 and revived in 2017; leaders' summits began in 2021.
- Japan's post-war pacifism rests on **Article 9**; its military is styled the **Self-Defence Forces**, not an 'army'.
- SAGAR** = Security and Growth for All in the Region (2015), India's Indian Ocean neighbourhood doctrine.
- The **2+2 dialogue** format pairs foreign and defence ministers of two countries.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the Quad-vs-NATO distinction and Japan's pacifist Article 9. Watch for a comparison item on 'alliance' vs 'consultative forum'.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 (DPSP), Article 9 (Japan's Constitution, 1947), UN Charter Article 2(4), UN Charter Article 51, DAP 2020

#### BODIES & CASES

Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership

**Common Error:** Assuming the Quad is a military alliance with an Article 5-style collective-defence clause — it has no binding mutual-defence commitment.

## DRDO Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms at VRDE



DRDO Chairman **Samir V. Kamat** unveiled the **Advanced Armoured Platforms** (tracked and wheeled variants) at the **Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE), Ahilyanagar**, on **25 April 2026**. Designed for emerging armed-forces requirements, the platforms advance **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in defence and the indigenisation of combat vehicles.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Unveiled at **VRDE, Ahilyanagar** (Maharashtra) on **25 April 2026** by DRDO chief **Samir V. Kamat**.
- Two configurations shown: **tracked** (off-road) and **wheeled** (road) armoured platforms.
- Developed under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** defence-indigenisation push.
- DRDO** was established in **1958** and functions under the **Department of Defence R&D (DDR&D), Ministry of Defence**.
- Procurement to flow through the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** categories.

#### MUST KNOW

- DRDO is NOT a statutory body** — it is an executive arm of the MoD's DDR&D, created by government order, not by an Act.
- DAP 2020** replaced DPP 2016 and prioritises the '**Buy (Indian-IDDM)**' (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category.
- The **Strategic Partnership (SP) Model 2017** selects **one Indian private firm per platform segment** to partner a foreign OEM.
- Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs)** ban imports of listed items after set deadlines, forcing domestic sourcing.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Defence** is a Union subject — **Seventh Schedule, List I (Union List), Entry 1**.
- VRDE** is DRDO's combat-vehicles lab; **Ahilyanagar** is the renamed Ahmadnagar.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat** ('self-reliant India') was launched in **August 2020**.
- DRDO's flagship systems include **Agni/Prithvi** missiles, **Tejas LCA** avionics, and **Arjun MBT**.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT clusters DRDO + DAP 2020 + SP Model + PILs as one 'defence indigenisation' theme, often with the Union-List placement of defence.

#### PROVISIONS

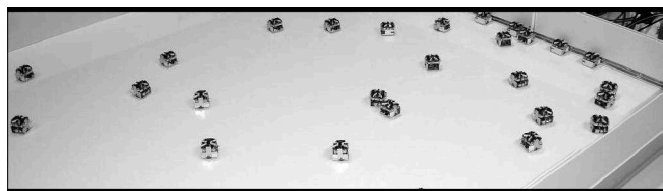
Article 246, Seventh Schedule List I Entry 1 (Defence), DAP 2020, Strategic Partnership Model 2017

#### BODIES & CASES

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO, 1958), Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE), Ministry of Defence — DDR&D

**Common Error:** Calling DRDO a 'statutory body' — it is an executive organisation under the MoD, not created by a Parliamentary statute.

## China's 'Atlas' Drone Swarm — 96 UAVs, One Operator



The Chinese PLA tested 'Atlas', a drone-swarm system launching **96 drones from a single platform** controlled by **one operator** at sub-3-second intervals — engineered for **Taiwan, the South China Sea and the LAC**. Built by state electronics giant **CETC**, it sits alongside China's **Jiu Tian 'mothership'** and rivals US swarm programmes, sharpening the counter-drone challenge for India after **Operation Sindoor**.

### QUICK FACTS

- **Atlas: 96 drones** from **one launch platform, one operator**, at **sub-3-second** release intervals.
- Built by **CETC** (China Electronics Technology Group Corporation).
- Benchmarked against US swarms — **Perdix (103, 2016)** and **OFFSET (250+ target)**; complements China's **Jiu Tian** drone mothership.
- Targeted theatres: **Taiwan, South China Sea, and the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- Raises **Eastern Ladakh** swarm-threat and **counter-UAS** concerns for India.

### MUST KNOW

- **Defence and armed forces** fall under **Seventh Schedule, List I (Union List)** — counter-drone regulation is a Union subject.
- India's **Operation Sindoor** (May 2025) generated real-world **counter-drone / counter-UAS** lessons now shaping doctrine.
- Drone swarms compress the decision cycle, pressuring **layered air-defence** (guns + missiles + electronic warfare).
- Autonomous swarms revive debate on **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)** and meaningful human control under international humanitarian law.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **PLA** = People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of China.
- The **LAC** is the de facto India-China boundary; **Eastern Ladakh** saw the 2020 Galwan standoff.
- India regulates civil drones via the **Drone Rules 2021** and the **Digital Sky** platform.
- **UAS** = Unmanned Aerial System; **counter-UAS** covers detection, jamming and kinetic kill.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

A likely 'national security' GK item — CLAT can link emerging counter-drone frameworks to defence as a Union subject and LAWS debates in international law.

#### PROVISIONS

Seventh Schedule List I (Union List) — Defence, Article 246, Drone Rules 2021

#### BODIES & CASES

People's Liberation Army (PLA), CETC (China), DGCA (India, drone regulation)

**Common Error:** Treating military/counter-drone regulation as a State matter — defence and armed forces are firmly on the Union List, and civil-drone rules are central too.

## India-Italy Defence Roadmap Amid the Hormuz Squeeze



Italian Defence Minister **Guido Crosetto** visited India on **28-29 April 2026** ahead of PM Modi's late-May Italy trip. The **2025-29 Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP)** agreed by **Modi and Meloni** (Nov 2024) mandates a **Defence Industrial Roadmap**. Urgency rose after Iran's **28 Feb closure of the Strait of Hormuz** — a chokepoint carrying **~20% of the world's oil and 30% of Asia's energy**.

### QUICK FACTS

- Italy's Defence Minister **Guido Crosetto** in India **28-29 April 2026**; Modi to visit Italy in late May.
- **2025-29 Joint Strategic Action Plan** (Modi-Meloni, Nov 2024) mandates a **Defence Industrial Roadmap**.
- **Strait of Hormuz** closed by Iran on **28 Feb** after the US-Israel-Iran conflict.
- Hormuz carries **~20% of global oil** and roughly **30% of Asia's energy** supplies.
- Positions Italy as India's gateway to **Mediterranean** security post-Hormuz disruption.

### MUST KNOW

- Hormuz is a **strait used for international navigation**: under **UNCLOS Part III**, the right of **transit passage cannot be suspended** by the coastal state.
- **Transit passage** (through straits, non-suspendable) differs from **innocent passage** (through territorial sea, which CAN be suspended).
- **Article 253** empowers Parliament to legislate to implement treaties/international agreements — even on State-List subjects.
- **Article 51 (DPSP)** directs India to promote international peace and respect for international law.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Strait of Hormuz** (~21 nm at its narrowest) links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- India imports the bulk of its crude via West Asia — energy security is a strategic priority.
- **IPOI** = Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (2019), India's cooperative maritime framework.
- **UNCLOS 1982** came into force in 1994; India ratified it in **1995**.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves the transit-passage-vs-innocent-passage distinction and Article 253's treaty-implementation power. Expect an UNCLOS legal-reasoning passage.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 (DPSP), Article 253, UNCLOS 1982 Part III (Articles 34-45), India-Italy JSAP 2025-29

#### BODIES & CASES

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), Quad, International Maritime Organization

**Common Error:** Saying a coastal state can 'close' or suspend transit passage through an international strait — UNCLOS transit passage is non-suspendable (unlike innocent passage).

**Common Error:** Confusing the SCO Secretariat (Beijing) with RATS HQ (Tashkent), or dating India's full membership to 2005 (that was observer status; full membership came in 2017).

## Rajnath Singh at the SCO Defence Ministers' Meet, Bishkek



Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** led the Indian delegation to the **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 28 April 2026**. Against the backdrop of the West Asia war and **Operation Sindoor**, India pressed its **zero-tolerance-for-terror** line — a pointed message to Pakistan — while engaging a forum that uniquely seats **both China and Pakistan** alongside India.

### QUICK FACTS

- **Rajnath Singh** led India at the **SCO Defence Ministers' Meet, Bishkek, 28 April 2026**.
- Agenda: **international peace, counter-terrorism and defence cooperation**.
- India stressed **zero tolerance for terrorism**, an implicit counter-Pakistan message.
- India became a **full SCO member in 2017** (Astana summit), joining alongside **Pakistan**.
- The SCO's counter-terror arm, **RATS**, is headquartered in **Tashkent**.

### MUST KNOW

- The **SCO** is the only major multilateral platform seating India with **both China and Pakistan** — a diplomatic balancing test.
- India joined as a **full member in 2017**; earlier it was an observer (since 2005).
- SCO consensus documents are **political commitments**, not binding treaties — no enforcement mechanism against members.
- Defence diplomacy flows from **Article 51 (DPSP)**: promoting international peace and honourable relations between nations.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **SCO** = Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, founded **2001** (successor to the Shanghai Five, 1996).
- **RATS** = Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, HQ **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
- SCO's permanent Secretariat is in **Beijing**; **Bishkek** is the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- Founding members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; India and Pakistan joined in 2017, Iran in 2023.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests SCO membership timeline, RATS location and the fact that it is a non-binding forum — often paired with India's strategic-autonomy posture.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 51 (DPSP), Seventh Schedule List I Entry 10 (foreign affairs), Article 253

#### BODIES & CASES

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)

## DRDO Vikram VT-21 — India's Next-Gen Infantry Combat Vehicle



DRDO unveiled the **Vikram VT-21 Advanced Armoured Platform**, an **Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV)** meant to replace the Soviet-era **BMP-2**. Co-developed by **DRDO's VRDE** with **Bharat Forge** and **Tata Advanced Systems**, it comes in **8-wheeled and tracked** variants with a crewless **30mm remote turret**, **Nag ATGM**, and **STANAG Level 4-5** protection — anchoring the **FICV** programme under **DAP 2020**.

### QUICK FACTS

- **Vikram VT-21** ICV to replace the 1980s Soviet-era **BMP-2** fleet.
- Co-developed by **DRDO VRDE + Bharat Forge + Tata Advanced Systems** (public-private).
- Two variants: **8-wheeled** (road) and **tracked** (off-road); modular and amphibious.
- Armament: crewless **30mm remote turret**, **7.62mm PKT MG**, and **Nag ATGM**; **STANAG Level 4-5** armour.
- Indigenous content rises from **65% to 90%**; a **3-year trial cycle** precedes induction.

### MUST KNOW

- **DAP 2020** (Defence Acquisition Procedure) is NOT the same as the older **DPP** (Defence Procurement Procedure) — a common naming trap.
- Indigenous content is measured by **value, not weight** — a key definitional point.
- The category cascade prioritises **Buy (Indian-IDDM) > Buy (Indian) > Buy (Global)**.
- The VT-21 anchors the **FICV (Future Infantry Combat Vehicle)** programme under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **DRDO** (est. 1958) works under the **DDR&D, MoD**; its chairman is **Samir V. Kamat**.
- **STANAG** = NATO Standardization Agreement; Level 4-5 denotes higher ballistic/mine protection.
- The **BMP-2** is a Soviet/Russian tracked ICV inducted by India from the 1980s.
- **Nag** is a DRDO third-generation, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile.

### CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Atmanirbhar procurement doctrine and DAP 2020 category cascade — a strategic-autonomy hook that spills into IR and economy questions.

#### PROVISIONS

DAP 2020, Defence of India Act 1962, Arms Act 1959, Seventh Schedule List I Entry 1 (Defence)

#### BODIES & CASES

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bharat Forge, Tata Advanced Systems

**Common Error:** Confusing DAP 2020 (Acquisition) with DPP (Procurement), or assuming indigenous content is measured by weight rather than value.

SECTION 08 / 11

## ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

### Jotirao Phule Bicentenary: The Reformer Behind Constitutional Equality



**11 April 2026** launched the two-year bicentenary commemorations of **Jotirao (Jyotiba) Phule** (his bicentenary itself falls on **11 April 2027**) (1827-1890), the Maharashtra social reformer whose anti-caste and anti-patriarchal work is read as a moral foundation for India's later **constitutional equality**. His 1873 tract **Gulamgiri** (Slavery) linked Indian caste oppression to global slavery, and dedicated the book to American abolitionists. With his wife **Savitribai Phule**, he opened one of India's first schools for girls (Pune, 1848) and founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj** (1873).

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Jotirao Phule** born **11 April 1827**, Pune; died **28 November 1890** — 11 Apr 2026 **launches** the commemorations; the **bicentenary** is **11 April 2027**.
- **Gulamgiri (1873)** connected Indian caste to Black slavery; dedicated to American abolitionists.
- Founded **Satyashodhak Samaj** (Society of Truth-Seekers) in **1873** for lower-caste uplift.
- With **Savitribai Phule** opened a girls' school in **Pune (1848)**; she is called India's first woman teacher.
- Given the title **Mahatma** in **1888**; his ideas influenced **Dr B.R. Ambedkar**, who named Phule one of his three gurus.

#### MUST KNOW

- Phule pre-figured constitutional values of **equality (Art 14)** and **abolition of untouchability (Art 17)** decades before the Constitution.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873)** and **Gulamgiri (1873)** share the same year — a favourite pairing trap.
- Ambedkar's three gurus: **Buddha, Kabir, Phule** — a recurring one-liner.
- Savitribai Phule + Fatima Sheikh ran the girls' school; **Savitribai Phule Pune University** is named for her.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Contemporary reform bodies: **Brahmo Samaj** (Raja Ram Mohan Roy, 1828), **Arya Samaj** (Dayananda, 1875), **Prarthana Samaj** (1867).
- Phule's **Gulamgiri** appeared during the US Reconstruction era after the 1865 abolition of slavery.
- **Savitribai Phule Pune University** (renamed 2014) was formerly the University of Poona.
- Ambedkar's motto '**Educate, Agitate, Organise**' echoes Phule's

education-first reform.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT frames Phule as the intellectual lineage of the equality code — Arts 14-18 and the DPSP duty (Art 46) to promote weaker sections. Passages test who influenced whom in the reform-to-Constitution chain.

#### PROVISIONS

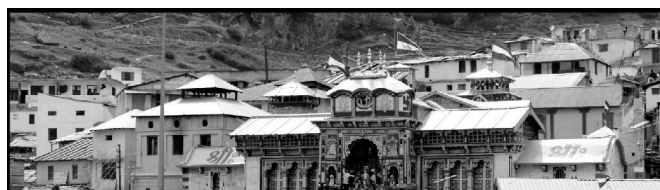
Article 14, Article 15, Article 17, Article 46

#### BODIES & CASES

Satyashodhak Samaj (1873), Savitribai Phule Pune University

**Common Error:** Do NOT confuse Jotirao Phule with the later Dalit leaders; and do NOT date *Gulamgiri* to the 1857 revolt — it is 1873. Phule was a reformer, never a member of the Constituent Assembly.

### Char Dham Yatra 2026 Opens: Faith Meets Himalayan Fragility



The **Char Dham Yatra 2026** opened in Uttarakhand as the portals of **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri** reopened on **Akshaya Tritiya (23 April)**, with **Kedarnath** and **Badrinath** following. The state deployed some **10,000 personnel** for crowd and disaster management. Because the Garhwal Himalaya lies in **Seismic Zone IV-V** and is ecologically fragile, the pilgrimage revives the recurring tension between **religious freedom (Arts 25-26)** and the state's duty to protect **life and the environment (Art 21)**.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Uttarakhand's **Chhota Char Dham** = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
- Portals opened on **Akshaya Tritiya**; Gangotri/Yamunotri first, then Kedarnath and Badrinath.
- About **10,000 personnel** deployed; the region sits in **Seismic Zone IV-V**.
- Sources: **Yamuna** from Yamunotri, **Ganga (Bhagirathi)** from Gangotri near **Gaumukh/Gangotri glacier**.
- **Badrinath** (Alaknanda) is dedicated to Vishnu; **Kedarnath** is one of the 12 **Jyotirlingas** of Shiva.

#### MUST KNOW

- **Art 25** (individual) is subject to public order, morality, health **AND other Part III rights**; **Art 26** (denominations) is subject **ONLY** to public order, morality, health.
- **Adi Shankara's original Char Dham** = **Badrinath (N), Dwarka (W), Puri (E), Rameswaram (S)** — distinct from Uttarakhand's Chhota Char Dham.
- **Essential Religious Practices (ERP)** doctrine from **Shirur Mutt (1954)** is being re-examined by a **9-judge SC bench**.
- **Disaster Management Act 2005** vests NDMA/SDMA with seismic-preparedness mandates; pilgrim safety is read into **Art 21**.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Kedarnath was devastated in the **June 2013** flash floods; reconstruction ongoing.

- **Jyotirlingas:** Kedarnath is the northernmost of the 12.
- **Panch Prayag** of the Alaknanda: Vishnuprayag, Nandprayag, Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag, Devprayag.
- **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980** governs eco-sensitive zones across the Himalayan pilgrim routes.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves the Art 25 vs Art 26 distinction and the ERP doctrine. The story lets a passage pit religious freedom against Art 21 safety and environmental duty in a seismic zone.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 25, Article 26, Section 6 Disaster Management Act 2005, Section 2 Forest (Conservation) Act 1980

#### BODIES & CASES

Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments v. Sri Lakshmindra Thirtha Swamiar of Sri Shirur Mutt (1954), NDMA / SDMA

*Common Error: Art 25 is subject to OTHER fundamental rights; Art 26 is NOT. And do not merge the two Char Dhams — Adi Shankara's four dhams span the country; the Uttarakhand set is the Chhota Char Dham.*

## Virli Khandar Dig: 69 Iron-Age Megalithic Burials in Vidarbha



An excavation at **Virli Khandar** (Pauni tehsil, **Bhandara district, Maharashtra**), led by **Prof. Prabash Sahu** of **RTMNU, Nagpur**, documented **69 megalithic burials** (4 excavated so far). Diggers found **composite stone circles and menhirs**, a striking cluster of about **50 inverted pots** (23 pairs = 46 vessels), plus **etched carnelian beads, a gold earring, and copper and iron objects**. **AMS radiocarbon dating** is under way. Megalithic culture in India is an **Iron Age** (not Stone Age) phenomenon and a perennial history MCQ theme.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Site: **Virli Khandar**, Pauni tehsil, **Bhandara, Maharashtra** (Vidarbha region).
- **69 megalithic burials** mapped; 4 excavated; excavation by **RTMNU (Nagpur Univ.)**.
- Finds: **stone circles + menhirs**, ~50 **inverted pots**, **etched carnelian beads**, gold earring, copper + iron objects.
- Dating by **AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry)** radiocarbon method — in progress.
- **Megalithic = Iron Age** in India (c. 1500 BCE - 500 CE); **menhir** = single upright standing stone.

#### MUST KNOW

- Indian **megaliths are Iron Age**, NOT Stone/Neolithic — the most common trap.
- **ASI** was founded in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham** (first Director-General).
- **AMASR Act 1958** protects centrally protected monuments; the **2010 Amendment** created the **100 m prohibited + 200 m regulated** zones.
- **Art 49 (DPSP)** is state-facing and non-justiciable; **Art 51A(f) (Fundamental Duty)** is citizen-facing — do not swap them.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Carnelian beads** are a marker of Harappan-era craft/trade networks.
- Megalithic types: **cairn circle, dolmen, menhir, cist, sarcophagus**.
- South Indian megalithic sites: **Adichanallur (TN), Brahmagiri, Maski (Karnataka)**.
- **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972** regulates trade and export of antiquities.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT pairs heritage-protection statutes (AMASR 1958, ASI's mandate) with the Art 49 DPSP / Art 51A(f) duty split, and tests the Iron-Age dating of megaliths as a static history fact.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 49, Article 51A(f), Section 4 AMASR Act 1958, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972

#### BODIES & CASES

Archaeological Survey of India (1861), Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU)

*Common Error: Art 49 is a Directive Principle (state duty, non-justiciable); Art 51A(f) is a Fundamental Duty (citizen). And megaliths are Iron Age, never Stone Age.*

## Goencho Saib Row: BNS §299 and the Limits of Free Speech



A YouTuber, **Gautam Khattar** (linked to the Sanatan Dharma Raksha Samiti), was booked under **Section 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** for allegedly derogatory remarks about **St Francis Xavier** at an 18 April event in **Mormugao, Goa**, and brought from Himachal on transit remand. The **Archdiocese of Goa** cited the hurt sentiments of lakhs of Goans. Xavier (**1506-1552**), a **Spanish Jesuit**, reached Goa in **1542**; his body has lain in the **Basilica of Bom Jesus** since 1624 and is shown at a decennial exposition.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **St Francis Xavier** (1506-1552), Spanish **Jesuit** missionary; reached **Goa in 1542**; venerated as **Goencho Saib** ('Lord of Goa').
- His relics rest in the **Basilica of Bom Jesus**, Old Goa (a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**) since 1624.
- Case registered under **BNS §299** — the successor to **IPC §295A** — for outraging religious feelings.
- The **Solemn Exposition** of the relics is held roughly every **10 years** (decennial).
- **BNS 2023** replaced the **IPC 1860** from **1 July 2024**.

#### MUST KNOW

- **BNS §299** retains the **IPC §295A** standard: only '**deliberate and malicious**' intention (mens rea) is punishable — burden on the prosecution.
- **Ramji Lal Modi v. State of UP (1957)** upheld §295A as a reasonable restriction under **Art 19(2)**.
- Free speech (**Art 19(1)(a)**) is limited by the eight grounds in **Art 19(2)**, including public order.
- Goa was integrated via **Operation Vijay (Dec 1961)** and the **12th Constitutional Amendment, 1962**.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Goa became a **State** on **30 May 1987** (previously a Union Territory with Daman & Diu).
- The **Basilica of Bom Jesus** is part of the '**Churches and Convents of Goa**' UNESCO site (inscribed 1986).
- St Francis Xavier co-founded the **Society of Jesus (Jesuits)** with Ignatius of Loyola.
- Goa's **Portuguese** rule lasted about **451 years** (1510–1961).

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT uses this to test the free-speech vs religious-feelings balance — the mens rea of 'deliberate and malicious' intent under BNS §299 (ex-IPC §295A) and its Art 19(2) validity in *Ramji Lal Modi*.

## PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Article 25, Section 299 Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Twelfth Amendment 1962

## BODIES &amp; CASES

*Ramji Lal Modi v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (1957), Archdiocese of Goa

**Common Error:** Not all offensive speech is criminal — §299/§295A needs **DELIBERATE** and **MALICIOUS** intent, not mere hurt sentiment. Do not equate it with sedition, and remember Goa's integration is the 12th Amendment (1962), not the 10th.

## Piprahwa Relics in Ladakh: Buddha Purnima and Repatriation Diplomacy



On **Buddha Purnima (1 May 2026)**, the **Ministry of Culture** began a two-week exposition of the **Piprahwa relics** on the banks of the Indus at **Leh, Ladakh**. The relics come from **Piprahwa (Uttar Pradesh)**, where **William Claxton Peppé's 1898** dig yielded a sandstone casket, five reliquary urns, and a **Brahmi inscription** naming the **Sakya clan and the Buddha**. India recently secured the remaining Peppé lot from a **2025 Sotheby's auction**, spotlighting repatriation diplomacy under the **UNESCO 1970 Convention**.

## QUICK FACTS

- Buddha Purnima / Vesak** marks the Buddha's **birth, enlightenment and mahaparinirvana** — all on the same full-moon day.
- Piprahwa (UP): W.C. Peppé's 1898** excavation found urns + a **Brahmi inscription** referencing the **Sakya** relics of the Buddha.
- Relics have been held by the **Indian Museum, Kolkata** and formerly by **King Rama V of Thailand**.
- India retrieved the remaining **Peppé gems** from a **2025 Sotheby's (Hong Kong)** auction.
- Ladakh Buddhist heritage on show: **Tiri (Mauryan), Sani (Kushan/Kanishka)** stupas, **Mulbekh Maitreya** rock-relief.

## MUST KNOW

- UN recognised Vesak in 1999** as an international day; Buddha Purnima falls on the **Vaisakha full moon**.
- The **Brahmi** script (Piprahwa inscription) is the parent of most Indian scripts; deciphered by **James Prinsep (1837)**.
- Ashoka** is credited with **redistributing the Buddha's relics** into 84,000 stupas — the relic-redistribution doctrine.
- Art 49 (DPSP)** obliges the State to protect monuments of

national importance; the **UNESCO 1970 Convention** targets illicit cultural-property trade.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Great stupa sites: **Sanchi, Sarnath, Amaravati, Bharhut**; Sanchi's Great Stupa began under Ashoka.
- Sarnath** = first sermon (Dhammachakra Pravartana); **Bodh Gaya** = enlightenment; **Kushinagar** = mahaparinirvana; **Lumbini** = birth.
- AMASR Act 1958** and the **ASI** govern protection of such sites; **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972** controls antiquity export.
- Kanishka** (Kushan) convened the **4th Buddhist Council** and patronised Mahayana Buddhism.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT pairs the Art 49 DPSP heritage duty and AMASR Act with the international-law angle — the **UNESCO 1970 Convention** on illicit trafficking and India's repatriation of the **Piprahwa** relics from **Sotheby's**.

## PROVISIONS

Article 49, Article 51A(f), Section 4 AMASR Act 1958, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972

## BODIES &amp; CASES

UNESCO 1970 Convention on illicit cultural property, Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture

**Common Error:** **Buddha Purnima** commemorates **THREE** events on one day (birth, enlightenment, death) — not just birth. And **Piprahwa** is in **UP (Kapilavastu region)**, not Bihar; the relics are **Sakya**, tied to the Buddha's clan.

## SECTION 09 / 11

## AWARDS & PERSONS

### India Bags 4 Medals at Mundial do Queijo Brasil 2026 — The GI Lesson



At the **Mundial do Queijo Brasil 2026** (a world cheese championship in Brazil), Indian artisanal cheeses won **4 medals** — Mumbai-based Eleftheria's **Gulmarg Brie** (Mausam Narang) took a **SuperGold**, and **Ladakh Yak Churpi** made from **Changpa** pastoralist milk (Thenlay Nurboo) also medalled. The wins spotlight India's **Geographical Indication (GI)** regime — the **GI Act, 1999** read with the WTO's **TRIPS Agreement (Art 22-24)** — as a tool to protect region-linked produce.

## QUICK FACTS

- Event: **Mundial do Queijo Brasil 2026** (Brazil) — India won **4 medals**, including a **SuperGold** for **Gulmarg Brie**.
- Governing law: **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999**, in force from 2003.
- Sec 22** GI Act deals with **infringement**; **Sec 39** provides **civil and criminal penalties**.
- Darjeeling Tea (2003)** was India's **first registered GI**; **Banglar Rasogolla** was granted GI in **2017**.
- GI registration is administered by the **GI Registry, Chennai**, under

the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.

#### MUST KNOW

- A **GI** is **community/collective-owned** — no single individual owns it, unlike a **trademark** (which is private property).
- TRIPS Art 23** gives **enhanced (absolute) protection** to **wines and spirits** — no need to prove consumer confusion — broader than the general **Art 22** standard.
- GI protection flows from India's obligations under **TRIPS Art 22-24**; Art 51(c) DPSP directs the State to foster respect for international law.
- Products like **Ladakh Yak Churpi** and Kashmir-zone cheeses are potential future **Indian GI** candidates.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- First Indian GI: **Darjeeling Tea (2003)**; other famous GIs — Mysore Silk, Kanchipuram Saree, Tirupati Laddu, Basmati Rice.
- GI tag validity: **10 years**, renewable indefinitely.
- TRIPS is administered by the **WTO** (est. 1995), the successor to **GATT**.
- India joined the **WTO on 1 January 1995** as a founding member.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT often tests GI vs trademark distinctions and the TRIPS Art 22 (general) vs Art 23 (wines/spirits, absolute) split. The GI Act 1999 and its 2003 commencement, plus 'first GI = Darjeeling Tea', are standard factual hooks.

#### PROVISIONS

Section 22, GI Act 1999, Section 39, GI Act 1999, TRIPS Articles 22-24, Article 51(c)

#### BODIES & CASES

Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, World Trade Organization (WTO), Darjeeling Tea GI (2003), Banglar Rasogolla GI (2017)

**Common Error:** Students wrongly treat a GI as privately owned like a trademark — a GI is community-owned and cannot be assigned or licensed to an individual. Also, note the Act is of 1999 but came into force in 2003.

## Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Inducted into US Army War College Hall of Fame



**General Upendra Dwivedi**, the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**, was inducted into the **US Army War College International Fellows Hall of Fame** (Carlisle, Pennsylvania) — becoming the **3rd Indian** to earn the honour after Gen **V K Singh** and Gen **Bikram Singh**. The recognition underscores the deepening **India-US defence partnership**, built on the three 'foundational' agreements — **LEMOA (2016)**, **COMCASA (2018)** and **BECA (2020)** — alongside the **Quad** and the bilateral **Yudh Abhyas** exercise.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Honouree: **Gen Upendra Dwivedi**, **Chief of Army Staff** (took office **30 June 2024**).
- Award: induction into the **US Army War College Hall of Fame**, located at **Carlisle, Pennsylvania**.
- He is the **3rd Indian** so honoured, after Gen **V K Singh** and Gen

**Bikram Singh**.

- Foundational India-US pacts: **LEMOA (2016)**, **COMCASA (2018)**, **BECA (2020)**.
- Key India-US army exercise: **Yudh Abhyas**; naval multilateral variant **Malabar** (with the Quad partners).

#### MUST KNOW

- LEMOA** = Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016) — mutual access to military logistics/refuelling.
- COMCASA** = Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018); **BECA** = Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for geospatial intelligence (2020).
- The **Quad** comprises **India, USA, Japan and Australia** — a strategic, not a military-alliance, grouping.
- The **COAS** is appointed by the **President**; the President is the **Supreme Commander** of the Armed Forces under **Article 53(2)**.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Supreme Command of the Defence Forces vests in the **President** under **Art 53(2)**, exercised on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- India's tri-services are coordinated by the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**, a post created in **2019** (first CDS: Gen Bipin Rawat).
- The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) was revived in **2017**.
- Malabar naval exercise began in **1992** (India-US), later expanded to all four Quad nations.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the constitutional command structure of the armed forces — the President as Supreme Commander (Art 53) — and current-affairs GK on India-US foundational defence agreements (LEMOA/COMCASA/BECA) and their years.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 53(2), Article 53(1)

#### BODIES & CASES

Indian Army, US Army War College, Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)

**Common Error:** Students confuse the three foundational pacts and their years, or wrongly assume the President's Supreme Command means personal operational control — it is exercised on ministerial advice and regulated by law under Art 53(3).

## Raghu Rai (1942-2026): India's Master Photojournalist Passes Away

#### AWARDS & PERSONS

**Raghu Rai**, one of India's greatest **photojournalists**, passed away in April 2026. A **Padma Shri** (1972), he became the **first Indian** inducted into the elite **Magnum Photos** cooperative (1977), nominated by **Henri Cartier-Bresson**. His lens chronicled the **1971 Bangladesh refugee crisis**, the **1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy**, and **Operation Blue Star (1984)**, and he authored **40+ photo-books**. He was cremated at Delhi's **Lodhi** crematorium, with the PM praising his 'extraordinary sensitivity'.

## QUICK FACTS

- Awarded the **Padma Shri** in **1972** for photography.
- First Indian** member of **Magnum Photos** (co-op founded 1947) — inducted 1977, nominated by **Henri Cartier-Bresson**.
- Documented the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984)**, **Bangladesh refugees (1971)**, and **Operation Blue Star (1984)**.
- Long stints with **The Statesman** and **India Today**; authored **40+ books**.
- His Bhopal photo-archive became a landmark record cited in **Union Carbide** victim advocacy.

## MUST KNOW

- Padma awards** (Vibhushan/Bhushan/Shri) are **NOT 'titles'** barred by **Article 18** — settled in **Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996)**.
- Padma awards **cannot be used as a prefix or suffix** to one's name; misuse can lead to forfeiture.
- Press/photographic freedom flows from **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression), subject to **Art 19(2)** reasonable restrictions.
- Magnum Photos** was founded in **1947** by Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger and David Seymour.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Padma awards were **instituted in 1954**; three tiers — Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri.
- Highest civilian award is the **Bharat Ratna** (also instituted 1954).
- Fundamental Duty **Art 51A(f)** — to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- The **Press Council of India** is a statutory body under the **Press Council Act, 1978**.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

A recurring CLAT Legal Reasoning bait: whether Padma awards violate the Art 18 abolition of titles. Balaji Raghavan (1996) held they are State recognitions of merit, not hereditary 'titles', provided they are not used as name suffixes.

## PROVISIONS

Article 18, Article 19(1)(a), Article 51A(f), Press Council Act, 1978

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996), Magnum Photos, Press Council of India

**Common Error:** Students wrongly think Padma awards are unconstitutional under Art 18 or that they may be appended to one's name (e.g. 'Padma Shri X') on official documents — the Supreme Court barred exactly that misuse.

lifetime contribution to **Indian classical music**. The award, a **private** (non-governmental) recognition, is often contrasted in exams with the State's apex cultural body, the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**.

## QUICK FACTS

- Award: **Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026** — **13th edition**, instituted by **Lokmat** in **2014**.
- Named in memory of **Jyotsna Darda**.
- Honourees: **Sumitra Guha** (Hindustani vocal, a **Padma Shri**) and **Pt Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** (**Gwalior gharana**).
- It is a **private award**, not a government/State honour.
- The **Gwalior gharana** is regarded as the **oldest khayal gharana** of Hindustani music.

## MUST KNOW

- Padma Awards** are **NOT statutory** — instituted by a **Presidential warrant in 1954**; suspended **1977-1980**, then restored.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)**, est. **1953**, is India's national academy for music, dance and drama — **autonomous**, under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- Padma awards **cannot** be used as a suffix/prefix to a name — **Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996)**.
- Distinguish a **private award** (Sur Jyotsna) from a **State honour** (Padma) and a **State academy award** (SNA).

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- Three national academies (1953-54): **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (performing arts), **Sahitya Akademi** (letters), **Lalit Kala Akademi** (fine arts).
- Major khayal gharanas: **Gwalior** (oldest), Agra, Kirana, Patiala, Jaipur-Atrauli.
- Fundamental Duty **Art 51A(f)** — to value and preserve India's rich composite culture.
- The **Ministry of Culture** oversees the autonomous cultural academies and the Archaeological Survey of India.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests the private-vs-State nature of awards and the Padma-award jurisprudence (Art 18). It also links to static culture GK — SNA (1953) as the apex performing-arts body and gharana traditions.

## PROVISIONS

Article 51A(f), Article 18

## BODIES &amp; CASES

Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953), Ministry of Culture, Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996)

**Common Error:** Students assume the Sur Jyotsna award is a government honour or conflate it with the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards — Sur Jyotsna is a private (Lokmat) award, while the SNA is an autonomous State body.

## Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026 — 13th Edition Honours Classical Maestros



The **13th edition** of the **Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards 2026** — instituted by the **Lokmat** media group in memory of **Jyotsna Darda** — honoured **Padma Shri Sumitra Guha** (Hindustani vocal) and **Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** of the **Gwalior gharana** for their

## SECTION 10 / 11

## REPORTS, INDICES &amp; SCHEMES

## ICMR–TISS Study: 35% of Indian Adults Hit by Second-Hand Smoke

## REPORTS, INDICES &amp; SCHEMES

A joint ICMR–TISS study found that **35% of Indian adults are exposed to second-hand (passive) smoke** in public places, exposing patchy enforcement of the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003**. The report urges tighter smoke-free zones and stronger pictorial warnings, reviving the debate on passive smoking as a violation of a non-smoker's **Article 21** right to health under India's **WHO FCTC** commitments.

## QUICK FACTS

- **35%** of Indian adults exposed to second-hand smoke in public spaces (ICMR–TISS study).
- Study jointly by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)**.
- Governing law: **COTPA 2003** — regulates smoking in public places, advertising and packaging.
- India ratified the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** in **2004**.
- Report flags **uneven enforcement** and seeks larger pictorial health warnings and wider smoke-free zones.

## MUST KNOW

- **COTPA sections trap:** Sec 4 = ban on smoking in public places; Sec 5 = ban on tobacco advertising; Sec 6 = ban on sale to minors/near schools; Sec 7 = mandatory pictorial warnings.
- **Murli S. Deora v Union of India (2001)** — SC held smoking in public places violates the **Article 21** right of non-smokers.
- **Article 47 (DPSP)** — State duty to improve public health and prohibit intoxicants injurious to health.
- **Article 253** — Parliament's power to make laws to implement international treaties; FCTC ratification → COTPA.

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- WHO FCTC (2003) is the world's first public-health treaty negotiated under the WHO.
- **Virender Gaur v State of Haryana (1995)** read the right to a healthy environment into Article 21.
- ICMR is India's apex biomedical research body under the Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
- COTPA repealed the earlier Cigarettes Act, 1975.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves the passive-smoking-as-Article-21 link (Murli Deora) and the DPSP-to-statute chain (Art 47 + Art 253 → COTPA). Reports like this appear as legal-reasoning passages testing rights of non-smokers.

## PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 47, Article 253, Section 4 COTPA 2003, Section 5 COTPA 2003, Section 7 COTPA 2003

## BODIES &amp; CASES

ICMR, TISS, WHO FCTC (2004 ratification), Murli S. Deora v Union of India (2001), Virender Gaur v State of Haryana (1995)

*Common Error: Confusing COTPA section numbers — students swap Sec 4 (public-place smoking ban) with Sec 5 (advertising ban) or Sec 7 (pictorial warnings). Also wrongly dating FCTC ratification: India signed in 2003 but ratified in 2004.*

## FLFPR &amp; PM MITRA: Apparel Jobs as a Lever for Women's Work



Data show India's **Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** at **32.4%**, far below **Vietnam's 68.6%**. The **apparel** sector generates **55 women's jobs per ₹1 crore** invested (vs 27 for autos, 14 for steel), making textiles a powerful equaliser. Yet female-surplus states like Bihar, UP, Jharkhand and Odisha host almost no **PM MITRA** textile parks, spotlighting a gap between economic geography and women-centric industrial policy.

## QUICK FACTS

- India's **FLFPR = 32.4%** vs **Vietnam's 68.6%** (source: PLFS-based analysis, The Indian Express).
- Apparel creates **55 women jobs per ₹1 crore** — versus **27** (autos) and **14** (steel).
- **PM MITRA = 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel** parks scheme (Ministry of Textiles).
- Female-surplus states (Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Odisha) have almost no PM MITRA parks — only one in UP.
- Bihar's **girl school-dropout rate 25.9%** vs boys' 8.7%; an ELS-type wage subsidy of ~₹5,000/month proposed for women workers.

## MUST KNOW

- **Scheme trap:** **PM MITRA** (2021, Ministry of Textiles) = plug-and-play textile parks; **PMKVY** (2015, Ministry of Skill Development) = skilling scheme — they are NOT the same.
- PM MITRA's **7 park sites** (announced 2023): Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh.
- Equal-work jurisprudence: **Article 39(d)** (equal pay for equal work) + **Article 14** and **15(3)** (special provisions for women).
- Statutory backbone for women's work: **Equal Remuneration Act 1976** and **Maternity Benefit Act 1961** (amended 2017 → 26 weeks paid leave).

## STATIC GK &amp; GOOD TO KNOW

- FLFPR is measured by the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** of the National Statistical Office (NSO/MoSPI).
- Textiles is among India's largest employers, second only to agriculture.
- **Article 39(a)** — DPSP directing that citizens have the right to adequate means of livelihood.
- India is one of the world's largest textile and apparel exporters.

## CLAT / Legal Lens

A classic mains-style passage: equal-work jurisprudence (Art 14, 15(3), 39(d)) fused with economic geography. CLAT can test the constitutional basis for pro-women protective provisions and distinguish the two textile schemes.

## PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 15(3), Article 39(a), Article 39(d), Equal Remuneration Act 1976, Maternity Benefit Act 1961

#### BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Textiles (PM MITRA), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (PMKVY), NSO/PLFS (MoSPI)

**Common Error:** Equating PM MITRA with PMKVY — MITRA is a park/infrastructure scheme under the Ministry of Textiles, PMKVY is a skilling scheme under the Ministry of Skill Development. Also misreading Art 15(3) as violating equality: it is a permitted special provision FOR women, not reverse discrimination.

#### SECTION 11 / 11

### STATES IN NEWS

## Madhya Pradesh Clears 4x LARR Compensation for Ken-Betwa Displaced



On 23 April 2026 the **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** (CM Mohan Yadav, capital Bhopal) approved compensation at **four times** the norm under the **LARR Act 2013** for land acquired for the **Ken-Betwa River Link Project**, part of a Rs 33,985-crore infrastructure push. The package extends **rehabilitation and resettlement** beyond the Schedule II statutory minima, easing acquisition in the Bundelkhand region where Ken and Betwa waters are being interlinked.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **Ken-Betwa Link** is India's **first river-interlinking project** under the **National Perspective Plan (NPP)**; the **Daudhan Dam** sits on the Ken in **Panna Tiger Reserve**.
- Compensation formula lives in **Sections 26-30, LARR 2013** - market value times a multiplier (up to **2x** in rural areas) plus **100% solatium**.
- The state sanctioned **4x** the base compensation, well above the statutory floor, plus enhanced **R&R** entitlements (Schedule II) and infrastructure amenities (Schedule III).
- The interlinking connects the **Ken** (surplus) to the **Betwa** (deficit) basin, both tributaries of the **Yamuna**, benefiting drought-prone **Bundelkhand** across MP and UP.
- Total project outlay flagged at **Rs 33,985 crore**; foundation stone was laid at Khajuraho (Dec 2024).

#### MUST KNOW

- **Right to property is NOT a fundamental right** - the **44th Amendment 1978** deleted Art 19(1)(f) and Art 31 and relocated it to **Article 300A** (a constitutional/legal right).
- Under Art 300A the State can deprive a person of property only **by authority of law**, not by executive fiat.
- LARR 2013 mandates a **Social Impact Assessment (SIA)** and **consent thresholds** (70% for PPP, 80% for private projects).
- Ken-Betwa needed **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980** clearance and **EIA Notification 2006** environmental clearance because it cuts through a tiger reserve.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Full name: **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013** (replaced the

colonial Land Acquisition Act 1894).

- MP capital **Bhopal**; CM **Mohan Yadav**; Governor **Mangubhai C. Patel**.
- River interlinking is coordinated by the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- Panna Tiger Reserve is a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** known for a successful tiger reintroduction.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT loves testing that the right to property migrated from a fundamental right (Art 19/31) to a bare constitutional right under Art 300A via the 44th Amendment, and that LARR 2013 governs fair compensation plus consent and SIA.

#### PROVISIONS

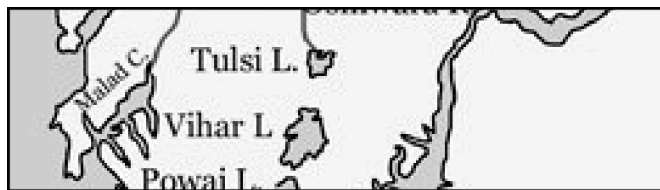
Article 300A, Article 19(1)(f) (repealed), Article 31 (repealed), Sections 26-30 LARR Act 2013, Schedule II LARR Act 2013, Forest (Conservation) Act 1980

#### BODIES & CASES

National Water Development Agency (NWDA), Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority, 44th Constitutional Amendment (1978)

**Common Error:** Students wrongly call the right to property a fundamental right or cite Article 21 for property. It is a constitutional right under Article 300A only; deprivation still needs 'authority of law'.

## Maharashtra Cancels 14 Lake Projects, Invokes Public Trust Doctrine



On 28 April 2026 **Maharashtra Environment Minister Pankaja Munde** cancelled approvals for **14 lake projects** sanctioned under the **State Lake Conservation Plan (SLCP)**, live since 2006-07. Eleven were cleared during the Shinde government and three under the earlier MVA regime; of the Rs 244.15 crore sanctioned, Rs 73.31 crore already released is to be **recovered with interest**. The stated reason: project reports were not in the prescribed SLCP format.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **14 lake projects** scrapped under the **State Lake Conservation Plan (SLCP)**, a scheme running since **2006-07**.
- Split: **11 approved under the Shinde tenure**, **3 under the Aaditya Thackeray (MVA) period**.
- Financials: total **Rs 244.15 crore** sanctioned; **Rs 73.31 crore** already disbursed, now to be recovered with interest.
- Reason cited: detailed project reports were **not in the prescribed SLCP format**.
- Lake work involves **desilting** and **ecosystem protection**, engaging the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017**.

#### MUST KNOW

- The move squarely tests the **Public Trust Doctrine (PTD)** from **M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997)** - the State holds water bodies, forests and air **in trust** for the public.
- Under PTD the State **cannot privatise, alienate or destroy** a natural water body without a **compelling public interest**.
- **Article 48A** (DPSP) and **Article 51A(g)** (Fundamental Duty) both direct protection of the environment; **Article 243W** gives urban local bodies charge of such civic amenities.
- Wetlands are protected under the **Wetlands (C&M) Rules 2017**

and, if listed, the **Ramsar Convention 1971**.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997)** imported the Public Trust Doctrine into Indian law over the Span Motels case on the Beas river.
- Maharashtra capital **Mumbai** (winter/second capital Nagpur); CM **Devendra Fadnavis**.
- **Ramsar Convention** (1971, Iran) is the intergovernmental treaty on wetlands; India has 80+ Ramsar sites.
- Mnemonic: **SLCP-PTD** = State Lake Conservation Plan meets Public Trust Doctrine.

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

A ready-made hook to test the Public Trust Doctrine and the twin environmental provisions (Art 48A DPSP + Art 51A(g) Fundamental Duty), a favourite CLAT pairing.

#### PROVISIONS

Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Article 243W, Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017

#### BODIES & CASES

M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997), Ramsar Convention (1971), Wetlands International

*Common Error: Students confuse the two: Art 48A is a Directive Principle binding the State, while Art 51A(g) is a Fundamental Duty of citizens. The PTD case is Kamal Nath (1997), not the older Oleum gas or Ganga pollution matters.*

## Ganga Expressway Opens: 594 km, Meerut to Prayagraj, India's Longest



On 28 April 2026 the PM inaugurated the **Ganga Expressway** - a **594-km, 6-lane** (expandable to 8), access-controlled highway from **Meerut to Prayagraj** crossing **12 Uttar Pradesh districts** at a cost of about **Rs 36,230 crore**. Built by **UPEIDA**, it is now **India's longest expressway**, overtaking UP's own Purvanchal Expressway, and is pitched as a spine for cooperative federalism and BharatMala convergence.

#### QUICK FACTS

- **594 km, 6-lane** (expandable to 8), **access-controlled**, running **Meerut to Prayagraj** through **12 districts**.
- Cost **~Rs 36,230 crore**; executed by the **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)**.
- Now **India's longest expressway**, surpassing UP's **Purvanchal Expressway** (~341 km).
- Governed by **State law (UPEIDA)**, NOT by the **NHAI Act 1988**, which covers national highways only.
- Land acquisition still triggered the **RFCTLARR Act 2013** - Social Impact Assessment plus consent thresholds.

#### MUST KNOW

- **National highways** = **Union List (List I) Entry 23**; other roads incl. **state expressways** = **State List (List II) Entry 13** — so a state expressway is validly built by the state (UPEIDA). (Concurrent List Entry 23 is 'social security', NOT highways.)
- The **NHAI Act 1988** and NHAI apply only to **national highways**,

not to state expressways like this one.

- Land for any acquisition, state or central, still attracts **RFCTLARR 2013** compensation, R&R, SIA and consent norms.
- Fits within the Centre's **BharatMala Pariyojana (2017)** road-connectivity umbrella and PPP/TOT (Toll-Operate-Transfer) financing.

#### STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- UP capital **Lucknow**; CM **Yogi Adityanath**; Governor **Anandiben Patel**.
- **Prayagraj** (formerly Allahabad) is the Sangam/Kumbh city at the Ganga-Yamuna confluence.
- Earlier UP expressways: **Yamuna, Agra-Lucknow, Purvanchal, Bundelkhand, Gorakhpur Link**.
- Concurrent List sits in the **Seventh Schedule**; on conflict, Union law prevails (Article 254).

#### CLAT / Legal Lens

Great vehicle to test the Seventh Schedule: highways are Concurrent (Entry 23), so a State can build an expressway under its own authority, while national highways are a Union subject via the NHAI Act.

#### PROVISIONS

Concurrent List Entry 23 (Seventh Schedule), Article 254, RFCTLARR Act 2013, NHAI Act 1988

#### BODIES & CASES

UPEIDA, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), BharatMala Pariyojana (2017)

*Common Error: Students assume every expressway is an NHAI/national-highway project. State expressways (Ganga Expressway/UPEIDA) are built under state law; NHAI Act 1988 covers national highways only, though RFCTLARR 2013 still governs land acquisition.*

#### PERSONAL NOTES — FACTS & MISSES TO REVISE

# QUESTION BANK

## POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**1. The vertical devolution of taxes from the Centre to States is based on the Finance Commission's recommendation regarding:**

- A. The share of States in the net proceeds of Union taxes under Article 270
- B. The Goods and Services Tax Council's recommendations
- C. The Planning Commission's five-year plan allocations
- D. The Inter-State Council's directives under Article 263

**2. If the Finance Commission recommends increased devolution directly to local bodies at the expense of State allocations, this raises concerns about:**

- A. Violation of Article 14 (equality before law)
- B. Erosion of fiscal federalism and the autonomy of States in managing local governance
- C. The jurisdiction of the Comptroller and Auditor General
- D. The applicability of the FRBM Act to local bodies

**3. States have argued that direct Finance Commission grants to local bodies bypass State authority. This tension is best resolved under which constitutional principle?**

- A. The doctrine of colourable legislation
- B. The principle of cooperative federalism requiring consultation with States
- C. The doctrine of repugnancy under Article 254
- D. The principle of territorial nexus

**4. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments added the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules respectively. The Eleventh Schedule lists subjects for:**

- A. Municipalities
- B. Panchayats
- C. District Planning Committees
- D. State Finance Commissions

**5. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy primarily aims to:**

- A. Restrict construction near metro stations
- B. Promote high-density mixed-use development along mass transit corridors
- C. Build exclusive residential zones away from transit
- D. Convert agricultural land to industrial use

**6. The Master Plan for Delhi 2041 (MPD-2041) was prepared under the framework of:**

- A. Town and Country Planning Act
- B. Delhi Development Act, 1957
- C. RERA 2016
- D. Delhi Municipal Corporation Act Public Trusts Act & Charity Commissioner

**7. The Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in TOD zones in Delhi is typically:**

- A. Lower than non-TOD areas
- B. Higher than non-TOD areas to encourage density
- C. Equal to non-TOD areas
- D. Not regulated at all

**8. Regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi was enabled by which**

**recent central legislation?**

- A. The NCR Planning Board Act
- B. The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Act, 2019
- C. The Delhi Rent Control Act
- D. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

**9. Principle: Deletion of an elector's name without notice violates natural justice (Lal Babu Hussein). Art 324 empowers EC to superintend elections. Facts: Bengal SIR drops X's name from the roll citing 'logical discrepancy' without notice. X discovers this 3 days before poll. Decision:**

- A. X can approach the HC under Art 226 for violation of natural justice and statutory procedure under RPA 1950
- B. X has no remedy as elections have commenced
- C. X must file an election petition after the poll
- D. Only the EC can correct the error; courts are barred

**10. In Lal Babu Hussein v ERO (1995), the Supreme Court held that before an elector's name is deleted from the roll:**

- A. No hearing is required as citizenship is a matter of record
- B. Only a civil suit can challenge deletion
- C. Principles of natural justice (notice + hearing) must be observed
- D. Only the Election Commission can decide

**11. Deletion of 27 lakh voters from the West Bengal rolls raises concerns primarily under:**

- A. Right to property under Art 300A
- B. Right to vote as part of the constitutional framework under Art 326
- C. Right to freedom of speech under Art 19
- D. Right against forced labour under Art 23

**12. Article 324 of the Constitution vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections in:**

- A. The Election Commission of India
- B. The Union Parliament
- C. The President
- D. The Law Ministry

**13. Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees:**

- A. Right to freedom of religion
- B. Equality before the law and equal protection of the laws
- C. Right against exploitation
- D. Right to constitutional remedies

**14. In Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018), the Supreme Court:**

- A. Upheld Section 377 IPC in its entirety
- B. Decriminalised consensual homosexual acts between adults by reading down Section 377
- C. Declared the entire IPC unconstitutional
- D. Left the matter to Parliament

**15. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (originally the Untouchability (Offences) Act) was enacted to:**

- A. Implement Article 14
- B. Give effect to Article 17 by prescribing penalties for untouchability practices
- C. Regulate temple management
- D. Establish the National Commission for SCs

**16. Article 17 makes the practice of untouchability:**

- A. A civil wrong only
- B. An offence punishable in accordance with law
- C. Subject to reasonable restrictions
- D. Applicable only in government institutions

**17. The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) provides for:**

- A. Women's reservation in panchayats only
- B. 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, contingent on delimitation after the next Census
- C. 50% reservation for women in Rajya Sabha
- D. Reservation in judicial services

**18. The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) provides for reservation of seats for women in:**

- A. Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies only
- B. Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly
- C. Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and all State Legislatures
- D. Panchayats and Municipalities only

**19. The MHA directive to clear the 90-day forensic backlog is directly linked to the right under Article 21 because:**

- A. Delayed forensic reports violate the right to privacy
- B. Speedy trial is a component of the right to life and personal liberty, and forensic delays impede it
- C. Article 21 mandates a specific time limit for all government services
- D. Forensic science is a fundamental right under Article 21A

**20. The Green Climate Fund, established under the UNFCCC, is intended to:**

- A. Fine countries that exceed their emission targets
  - B. Assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices
  - C. Fund nuclear energy projects exclusively in developing countries
  - D. Replace the World Bank as the primary development finance institution
- BNS 2023, BSA 2023, NFSU, Mobile Forensics, Art 21, ICJS, Conviction Rate

**21. Principle: Under Art 324, EC has plenary power to regulate elections; MCC, though non-statutory, can be enforced via censure and advisory directions. Facts: Opposition complains that PM's mid-campaign broadcast amounts to an MCC violation by raising political issues during silence period. Decision:**

- A. EC can examine the complaint; the MCC applies to all political actors and EC may censure or issue directions under Art 324
- B. EC has no jurisdiction as PM is not a candidate in the local seat
- C. Only courts can adjudicate MCC breaches
- D. Only Parliament can act

**22. Mohinder Singh Gill v CEC (1978) established that:**

- A. EC has no power beyond statute
- B. EC's plenary power under Art 324 fills statutory gaps and is bound by natural justice
- C. Elections cannot be challenged
- D. Only Parliament regulates elections

**23. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is:**

- A. A statute passed by Parliament
- B. A constitutional schedule
- C. A non-statutory document given enforceable colour via Art 324 and party consensus
- D. A UN treaty

**24. Anoop Baranwal v UoI (2023) directed:**

- A. Appointment of CEC/ECs by a panel of PM, LoP and CJI until Parliament legislates
- B. Online voting
- C. Abolition of EC
- D. Statutory insulation of EC budget

**25. Consider the following statements: I. Booths showing turnout above 90% automatically trigger a fresh poll under the RoPA. II. 'Logical discrepancy' is an ECI-coined term referring to internal inconsistencies between enrolment data, polling data and Form-17C entries. Which is/are correct?**

- A. II only
- B. I only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

**26. The plenary power of the Election Commission of India to superintend, direct and control elections flows from which constitutional provision?**

- A. Article 324
- B. Article 326
- C. Representation of the People Act 1950
- D. Article 329

**27. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is a statutory exercise carried out under which law?**

- A. Representation of the People Act 1951
- B. Representation of the People Act 1950
- C. Registration of Electors Rules 1960 only
- D. The Constitution's Article 325

**28. Article 326 of the Constitution guarantees which of the following?**

- A. A single common electoral roll
- B. Adult (universal) suffrage for those 18 and above
- C. Reservation of seats for weaker sections
- D. The delimitation of constituencies

**29. Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu (1992) held that:**

- A. The Speaker acting under the Tenth Schedule functions as a Tribunal whose decisions are subject to judicial review on limited grounds
- B. The Tenth Schedule is unconstitutional
- C. Speaker's decisions are completely final
- D. Defection cases lie exclusively before the Supreme Court

**30. Ravi S. Naik v Union of India (1994) clarified the meaning of:**

- A. 'Original political party' under Para 1
- B. 'Voluntarily giving up membership' — held to include conduct from which an inference can be drawn, not just formal resignation
- C. The Speaker's procedural powers
- D. The merger threshold

**31. The 91st Amendment Act 2003 made which key change to the anti-defection regime?**

- A. Increased the split exception threshold from 1/3 to 2/3
- B. Lowered the merger threshold to 1/4
- C. Made the Speaker's decision final and unreviewable
- D. Deleted Paragraph 3 (which permitted a 1/3 split) of the Tenth Schedule

**32. Raghav Chadha's pending Private Member's Bill (Aug 2022) seeks to:**

- A. Raise the split/merger threshold to a three-fourths (3/4) majority
- B. Abolish the Tenth Schedule entirely
- C. Transfer disqualification jurisdiction from Speaker to ECI
- D. Reduce the disqualification period to one year

**33. Which body, abolished by NITI Aayog's creation, used to draft Five-Year Plans for India?**

- A. The Planning Commission, established in 1950
- B. The Finance Commission
- C. The National Development Council alone
- D. The Inter-State Council

**34. Who was appointed Vice-Chairperson of the reconstituted NITI Aayog in April 2026?**

- A. Suman Bery
- B. Ashok Lahiri
- C. Arvind Panagariya
- D. Rajiv Kumar

**35. NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission, is best described as a:**

- A. Constitutional body under Article 280
- B. Statutory body under a Parliament Act
- C. Non-statutory, non-constitutional executive body
- D. Regulatory authority under SEBI Act

**36. Discretionary grants by the Union or a State for any public purpose, a tool associated with NITI Aayog schemes, are enabled by:**

- A. Article 280
- B. Article 282
- C. Article 275
- D. Article 293

**37. The Census in India is conducted under which law?**

- A. Census Act 1948
- B. Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969
- C. Aadhaar Act 2016
- D. DPDP Act 2023

**38. The subject of 'Census' falls under which List of the Seventh Schedule?**

- A. State List
- B. Union List (Entry 69)
- C. Concurrent List
- D. Residuary powers

**39. The 2027 Census is significant as the first to include caste enumeration since which year?**

- A. 1951
- B. 1931
- C. 1941
- D. 1961

**40. Individual census records enjoy strong confidentiality under Section 15 of the Census Act, meaning they are:**

- A. Freely available under RTI
- B. Not admissible as evidence and not open to inspection
- C. Shared with all State governments
- D. Published online after five years

## LEGAL & JUDICIARY

**41. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution protects the right to life and personal liberty. In the context of custodial deaths, the Supreme Court has held that Article 21:**

- A. Protects only against State action, not against private individuals
- B. Includes the right to live with human dignity, extending to humane treatment in custody
- C. Can be suspended during a proclamation of Emergency under Article 352
- D. Does not apply to persons arrested under preventive detention laws

**42. The award of death penalty for custodial murder by police officers would fall under which sentencing doctrine as articulated by the Supreme Court?**

- A. The 'rarest of rare' doctrine from Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)
- B. The mandatory minimum sentencing doctrine
- C. The 'collective conscience' test from Kehar Singh v. Union of India
- D. The deterrence-only theory as per Jagmohan Singh v. State of U.P.

**43. Which of the following D.K. Basu guidelines requires that the arrestee be subjected to medical examination at the time of arrest?**

- A. Guideline requiring memo of arrest to be attested by a family member
- B. Guideline requiring the arrestee to be examined at the time of arrest with injuries recorded
- C. Guideline requiring production before a magistrate within 24 hours
- D. Guideline requiring information to be given to a next friend

**44. In Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa (1993), the Supreme Court established the principle that:**

- A. Custodial death is a non-compoundable offence requiring mandatory life imprisonment
- B. The State is strictly liable to pay compensation for custodial death as a public law remedy under Article 21
- C. Police officers are personally liable but the State bears no vicarious responsibility
- D. Compensation for custodial death can only be claimed through a civil suit

**45. The Supreme Court's 2018 Sabarimala judgment (Indian Young Lawyers Assn v. State of Kerala) was decided by a bench of:**

- A. 3 judges
- B. 5 judges
- C. 7 judges
- D. 9 judges

**46. Indian Young Lawyers Association v State of Kerala (Sabarimala, 2018) held:**

- A. Exclusion violated Art 14, 15, 17, 25 and was not saved as ERP
- B. Women aged 10-50 could be excluded
- C. Sabarimala is outside judicial review
- D. Only Parliament can decide

**47. Durgah Committee, Ajmer v Syed Hussain Ali (1961) qualified the ERP test by saying:**

- A. Superstitious or extraneous accretions that are not essential/integral to the religion are not protected
- B. Any practice claimed as religious is protected
- C. Only majority practices are essential
- D. No practice is essential

**48. The Sabarimala review petition was referred to a larger bench primarily to consider:**

- A. Whether temples can charge entry fees
- B. The interplay between religious freedom and gender equality/anti-exclusion rights
- C. Whether the Kerala government can regulate temples
- D. The age limit for temple entry

**49. If a trust deed specifies that trustees must be Zoroastrian, appointment of a non-Zoroastrian trustee would:**

- A. Automatically be void
- B. Be a potential breach of trust requiring adjudication by the Charity Commissioner or court
- C. Be valid because the Constitution prohibits religious discrimination
- D. Have no legal consequence DPSP, UNCLOS & Indo-Pacific

**50. The controversy regarding a non-Zoroastrian trustee in Tata Trusts raises the question of:**

- A. Whether trusts can hold foreign assets
- B. Whether the trust deed's religious/community restrictions on trusteeship are legally enforceable
- C. Whether trusts must pay income tax
- D. Whether the government can nationalise private trusts

**51. The power of the Charity Commissioner to remove a trustee under the Bombay Public Trusts Act arises under:**

- A. Section 41D
- B. Section 47
- C. Section 50(1)
- D. Section 37

**52. A 'public trust' under the Bombay Public Trusts Act is one created for:**

- A. The benefit of the settlor's family only
- B. A public, religious or charitable purpose
- C. Commercial profit-making activities
- D. Government departmental use

**53. Principle: Judicial review under Art 226/227 is basic structure (L. Chandra Kumar). Art 142 allows SC to do complete justice. Facts: CESTAT has 60% vacancies causing 2-year pendency. PIL filed. Decision:**

- A. SC cannot interfere as appointments are executive
- B. HC has no jurisdiction at all
- C. Only Parliament can fix vacancies
- D. SC can invoke Art 142 to direct time-bound appointments, safeguarding access to justice under Art 14/21 Nemo judex in causa sua; Ranjit Thakur (1987); Art 14/21

**54. L. Chandra Kumar v Uol (1997) held that:**

- A. Tribunals are completely independent of High Courts
- B. Judicial review under Art 226/227 is part of the basic structure and cannot be ousted by tribunals
- C. Parliament can abolish HC writ jurisdiction
- D. Tribunals can overrule High Courts

**55. The Madras Bar Association v Uol line of cases (2014, 2020, 2021) dealt primarily with:**

- A. Tribunal independence - qualifications, tenure, selection
- B. Bar council elections
- C. Advocate discipline
- D. Legal aid

**56. Consider: (I) Tribunals cannot oust HC Art 226 jurisdiction. (II) Art 323A allows only Parliament to legislate. (III) Art 142 is unlimited and**

**overrides statutes. Correct:**

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I and II only

**57. Principle: Recusal requires a 'reasonable apprehension' of bias in an objective observer (Ranjit Thakur). Recusal without reason is an abdication (SCAORA). Facts: A litigant seeks recusal citing the judge's past public speeches on judicial reform; no direct link to the case or parties. Decision:**

- A. Recusal must be ordered as a matter of right
- B. Recusal is discretionary and must follow the litigant's wishes
- C. Recusal must be refused - no reasonable apprehension of bias arises from abstract public views
- D. The Chief Justice alone decides

**58. Principle: A judge recuses only on real, objectively apprehended bias (Ranjit Thakur). Arts 14 and 21 guarantee an unbiased adjudicator. Facts: A party seeks recusal of a HC judge alleging 'adverse rulings' in earlier unrelated matters. Decision:**

- A. The judge must recuse to avoid controversy
- B. Recusal is automatic on request
- C. Adverse rulings alone do not establish bias; the judge should decline recusal to uphold judicial duty
- D. The matter goes to the Chief Justice for reassignment in all cases UAPA Sec 43D(5); NIA v Watali (2019); K.A. Najeeb (2021); Art 21/137

**59. In Ranjit Thakur v Uol (1987), the Supreme Court held the test for bias is:**

- A. Actual proof of bias by the litigant
- B. Reasonable apprehension of bias in the mind of a fair-minded observer
- C. Subjective feelings of the party
- D. Majority public opinion

**60. Ranjit Thakur v Uol (1987) laid down the test of bias as:**

- A. Actual proven bias
- B. Reasonable apprehension of bias in a fair-minded observer
- C. Subjective discomfort of the litigant
- D. Majority of judges' view

**61. In NIA v Zahoar Ahmad Shah Watali (2019), the Supreme Court held that at the bail stage under UAPA:**

- A. The court takes the prosecution material at face value without weighing its probative worth
- B. The court should conduct a mini-trial
- C. Cross-examination is mandatory
- D. The prosecution must prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt

**62. Principle: Sec 43D(5) UAPA creates a prima-facie bail bar (Watali), but prolonged pre-trial custody can invoke Art 21 (Najeeb). Facts: X is in custody for 5+ years under UAPA; trial has not commenced due to no fault of his; 700 witnesses listed. Decision:**

- A. Bail is absolutely barred by Watali
- B. Only Parliament can amend UAPA
- C. Only presidential pardon applies
- D. Bail can be granted under Najeeb reading Sec 43D(5) harmoniously with Art 21 for incarceration-becoming-punitive

**63. Union of India v K.A. Najeeb (2021) held that:**

- A. Sec 43D(5) UAPA is unconstitutional
- B. Prolonged incarceration without trial can constitutionally override Sec 43D(5) under Art 21
- C. UAPA bail is impossible

D. Only HC can grant UAPA bail

**64. Consider: (I) Watali adopts prima facie face-value test. (II) Najeed is a narrow Art 21 override. (III) Review jurisdiction under Art 137 is broad. Correct:**

- A. I and II only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**65. Principle: Art 9 + Sec 9 Citizenship Act bar dual citizenship; Art 102(1)(d) disqualifies MPs who are not Indian citizens. Facts: PIL alleges an MP voluntarily acquired British citizenship. The MP denies and contests. Decision:**

- A. The HC can declare the MP disqualified on PIL
- B. Only Parliament can decide
- C. Determination must follow Sec 9 executive inquiry; disqualification follows an election petition before the HC under RPA 1951
- D. Only the Speaker can decide

**66. Izhar Ahmad Khan v Uol (1962) upheld:**

- A. Passport seizure without inquiry
- B. The right to dual citizenship
- C. PIO status as full citizenship
- D. The constitutional validity of Sec 9 of the Citizenship Act and the executive procedure to determine loss of citizenship

**67. Under RPA 1951, an election petition challenging disqualification on citizenship grounds is filed in:**

- A. The Supreme Court
- B. The High Court of the State concerned
- C. The Election Commission
- D. The Central Administrative Tribunal

**68. Section 9 of the Citizenship Act 1955 provides that:**

- A. Citizenship by descent is automatic
- B. Indian citizenship terminates on voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship; executive inquiry decides contested cases
- C. Overseas Citizenship is equal to full citizenship
- D. Only Parliament can strip citizenship

**69. Principle: BNSS 473-475 permit remission but require 14-year floor in heinous life cases (BNSS 475 / 433A). Bilkis Bano and Sriharan constrain arbitrary remission. Facts: Life convict X (convicted of rape-murder in Delhi) is granted premature release by State Y, which was not the trial state. Victim's family files writ. Decision:**

- A. Premature release is final; no remedy
- B. Only Parliament can intervene
- C. Writ lies; remission by non-'appropriate government' is liable to be quashed under Bilkis Bano and Sriharan
- D. Only Supreme Court suo motu

**70. Bilkis Bano v Uol (2024) held that:**

- A. Gujarat was not the 'appropriate government' in a case tried in Maharashtra after SC transfer; remission orders quashed
- B. Remission cannot be granted in rape cases at all
- C. CrPC 432 is unconstitutional
- D. Only the President can remit

**71. Consider: (I) BNSS 473 replicates CrPC 432 on remission. (II) Premature release is an unfettered executive power. (III) Victim's rights are increasingly recognised under Art 21. Correct:**

- A. I, II and III
- B. II only

C. I and III only

D. I only

**72. Union of India v V. Sriharan @ Murugan (2015, Constitution Bench) held all of the following EXCEPT:**

- A. State government can remit sentence in CBI-investigated cases without central concurrence
- B. A court can award life imprisonment beyond 14 years without remission
- C. CrPC 432 permits State government remission
- D. 'Life imprisonment' means imprisonment for the remainder of natural life

**73. Principle: Sec 153B/BNS 197 targets imputations prejudicial to national integration (structural harm); Sec 295A/BNS 299 targets deliberate outrage of religious feelings (individual/community harm). Both can co-exist. Facts: A cleric is assaulted 'in the name of religion'; the FIR originally cited only Sec 295A. The SC asks why 153B was omitted. Decision:**

- A. 153B cannot be added post-FIR
- B. Investigating authority may add 153B (BNS 197) if facts disclose the offence, subject to court supervision - adding charges during investigation is lawful
- C. Only a new FIR is permissible
- D. Sec 153B is repealed

**74. Amish Devgan v Uol (2020) identified key variables for hate-speech assessment:**

- A. Only intent of the speaker
- B. Only audience size
- C. Content, context, extent/reach, and status of the speaker and addressee
- D. Only the medium

**75. Consider: (I) Sec 153B/BNS 197 protects the structural value of national integration. (II) Sec 295A/BNS 299 requires deliberate and malicious intent. (III) An FIR can add additional charges during investigation subject to procedural safeguards. Correct:**

- A. I only
- B. I, II and III
- C. II only
- D. I and II only

**76. Art 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions on speech for all EXCEPT:**

- A. Public order
- B. Economic efficiency
- C. Sovereignty and integrity of India
- D. Decency or morality

**77. Article 131 of the Constitution deals with:**

- A. Writ jurisdiction of SC
- B. Advisory jurisdiction
- C. Appellate jurisdiction
- D. Original jurisdiction of SC in Centre-State / inter-State disputes

**78. Which of the following is NOT covered by the 106th Amendment's reservation?**

- A. Lok Sabha
- B. State Legislative Assemblies
- C. Rajya Sabha
- D. Delhi Legislative Assembly

**79. Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v Union of India (2022) upheld which PMLA provisions?**

- A. Sections 5, 17, 19 and reverse burden under s.24
- B. Only Section 3
- C. Only Section 45 bail conditions
- D. Struck down the Act wholly

**80. Assertion (A): A State Govt can file a suit under Art 131 challenging Central agencies' overreach. Reason (R): Federal balance is part of the basic structure.**

- A. Both true, R doesn't explain A
- B. Both true, R explains A
- C. A true, R false
- D. Both false

**81. Under the MTP Act as amended in 2021, the outer gestational limit for termination (with a medical board for foetal abnormality) is generally:**

- A. 20 weeks
- B. 24 weeks
- C. 28 weeks
- D. 12 weeks

**82. The Supreme Court authorised the 28-week termination beyond the statutory ceiling by invoking which powers?**

- A. Article 32 and Article 226
- B. Article 21 read with Article 142
- C. Article 14 and Article 15
- D. Article 19 and Article 25

**83. Which case recognised a woman's right to make reproductive choices as part of her personal liberty under Article 21?**

- A. Suchita Srivastava v Chandigarh Administration (2009)
- B. Vishaka v State of Rajasthan (1997)
- C. Shayara Bano v Union of India (2017)
- D. Joseph Shine v Union of India (2018)

**84. The doctrine under which constitutional courts act as guardian for those unable to protect their own interests (as for the minor here) is called:**

- A. Doctrine of eclipse
- B. Parens patriae
- C. Doctrine of severability
- D. Doctrine of pith and substance

**85. Which of the following is NOT a ground of disqualification under Para 2 of the Tenth Schedule?**

- A. Criticising one's party leadership in Parliament
- B. Voting or abstaining contrary to the direction of the political party (whip), without prior permission
- C. Switching to an independent candidate's status after being elected on a party ticket
- D. Voluntarily giving up membership of one's political party

**86. Sub-classification of Scheduled Castes by States was permitted by the Supreme Court in which 2024 judgment?**

- A. E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh
- B. State of Punjab v Davinder Singh
- C. Indra Sawhney v Union of India
- D. Jarnail Singh v Lachhmi Narain Gupta

**87. The list of Scheduled Castes for a State under Article 341 can be varied only by:**

- A. The State legislature
- B. Parliament by law
- C. The President by ordinary notification
- D. The Supreme Court

**88. The 50% ceiling on reservations, relevant to sub-quota arithmetic, was laid down in which case?**

- A. Indra Sawhney v Union of India (1992)
- B. Kesavananda Bharati (1973)
- C. M R Balaji (1963)
- D. Champakam Dorairajan (1951)

**89. The 'e-Challan' system, expanded by the SC's directive, is enabled chiefly under which statutory framework?**

- A. The Information Technology Act, 2000 only
- B. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 read with Section 136A and IT-Act provisions on electronic records
- C. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 alone
- D. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 alone

**90. The Supreme Court's power to pass any order necessary for doing 'complete justice' in a matter before it is contained in:**

- A. Article 32
- B. Article 142
- C. Article 226
- D. Article 136

**91. The requirement of notice and hearing before demolition of dwellings, relevant to the highway directive, was affirmed in:**

- A. Olga Tellis v Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)
- B. Maneka Gandhi v Union of India (1978)
- C. A K Gopalan v State of Madras (1950)
- D. Bandhua Mukti Morcha (1984)

**92. The SC directive linked road safety to which fundamental right?**

- A. Right to equality under Article 14
- B. Right to life under Article 21
- C. Freedom of movement under Article 19(1)(d)
- D. Right against exploitation under Article 23

**93. Under the IT (Blocking Rules) 2009, the 'Designated Officer' may pass an interim/emergency blocking order under:**

- A. Rule 7 (regular procedure)
- B. Rule 12 only
- C. Rule 9 — emergency cases where delay is not acceptable; subject to Committee post-facto review within 48 hours
- D. No emergency power exists

**94. The Blocking Committee under the IT (Blocking Rules) 2009 includes representatives from MEITY plus:**

- A. Only MHA and MEA
- B. Officers from MHA, MEA, MoD, Ministry of Law & Justice, MIB and CERT-In
- C. Only the Cabinet Secretariat
- D. Only the PMO

**95. Article 19(2) of the Constitution permits 'reasonable restrictions' on free speech on all of the following grounds EXCEPT:**

- A. Sovereignty and integrity of India
- B. Public order
- C. Friendly relations with foreign states
- D. Economic interests of the state

**96. Consider: (I) Sec 69A grounds are co-extensive with Art 19(2). (II) Blocking orders are confidential under Rule 16, 2009 Rules. (III) Anuradha Bhasin requires proportionality. Correct:**

- A. II only
- B. II and III only

- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**97. Mahendra Singh Dhoni v Yerraguntla Shyamsundar (2017) clarified that under §295A:**

- A. Mens rea is presumed
- B. Only criminal courts can entertain such complaints
- C. Mens rea (deliberate and malicious intention) is essential — mere statements without deliberate intent to outrage do not attract the offence
- D. All speech offending religion is punishable

**98. Compared to Pakistan's blasphemy law (PPC §295-B/C), Punjab's Anti-Sacrilege Bill is criticised for:**

- A. Being narrower in scope
- B. Going further than Pakistan's PPC §295-B by penalising acts beyond mere desecration of a specific scripture and by prescribing severe minimum sentences
- C. Being identical to Pakistan's
- D. Decriminalising sacrilege

**99. The Supreme Court stayed proceedings against journalist Vineet Pereira (a comparator blasphemy case) on:**

- A. 10 April 2026
- B. 13 April 2026
- C. 1 January 2026
- D. 21 March 2026

**100. Punjab's Anti-Sacrilege Bill was passed by the State Assembly on:**

- A. 13 April 2026
- B. 10 April 2026
- C. 1 May 2026
- D. 27 March 2026

**101. Article 25(2)(a) permits the State to regulate or restrict any:**

- A. Religious practice
- B. Economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practice
- C. Essential religious practice
- D. Right to propagate religion

**102. Which 1954 case first articulated the essential religious practices test?**

- A. Shirur Mutt case
- B. Ratilal Panachand case
- C. Sardar Syedna case
- D. Durgah Committee case

**103. The doctrine evolved by the SC to test whether a practice is protected under Article 25 is the:**

- A. Basic Structure Doctrine
- B. Essential Religious Practices Doctrine
- C. Pith and Substance Doctrine
- D. Colourable Legislation Doctrine

**104. Right to freedom of religion is subject to all EXCEPT:**

- A. Public order
- B. Morality
- C. Health
- D. Economic interest

**105. The SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) was founded in:**

- A. 1996

- B. 2001
- C. 2005
- D. 2017

**106. Aruna Shanbaug case (2011) is associated with:**

- A. Brain death donation
- B. Passive euthanasia guidelines
- C. Active euthanasia
- D. Living will

**107. The Common Cause v. UOI (2018) judgment recognised the right to:**

- A. Active euthanasia
- B. Living will and passive euthanasia
- C. Mercy killing by doctors
- D. Suicide

**108. The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted in:**

- A. 1985
- B. 1994
- C. 2002
- D. 2011

**109. The Supreme Court declined to create new hate-speech offences, reasoning that doing so would breach which doctrine?**

- A. Doctrine of basic structure
- B. Separation of powers / judicial restraint
- C. Doctrine of eclipse
- D. Doctrine of colourable legislation

**110. Free speech under Article 19(1)(a) may be restricted on grounds such as public order and decency under which clause?**

- A. Article 19(2)
- B. Article 19(6)
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 14

**111. The older IPC hate-speech provisions (153A, 295A, 505) now largely correspond to offences under which new code?**

- A. Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita
- B. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
- C. Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam
- D. Code of Criminal Procedure

**112. Which case is a leading precedent laying down the test for hate speech in India?**

- A. Amish Devgan v Union of India (2020)
- B. Shreya Singhal v Union of India (2015)
- C. Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar (1962)
- D. Romesh Thappar v State of Madras (1950)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**113. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) of 2015 primarily required Iran to:**

- A. Dismantle all centrifuges and permanently halt uranium enrichment
- B. Limit uranium enrichment to 3.67% and reduce centrifuge numbers in exchange for sanctions relief
- C. Transfer all enriched uranium stockpiles to Russia unconditionally
- D. Allow permanent US military bases on Iranian soil for verification

**114. Chapter VII of the UN Charter empowers the Security Council to take enforcement action. Under Article 42, this includes:**

- A. Issuing advisory opinions on legal disputes
- B. Taking military action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security
- C. Imposing economic sanctions through the General Assembly
- D. Authorising regional organisations to independently declare war

**115. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the right of 'transit passage' through international straits means that:**

- A. Only warships of UN member States may pass
- B. All ships and aircraft enjoy freedom of navigation for continuous and expeditious transit
- C. Coastal States may impose tolls for passage through the strait
- D. Transit is permitted only during peacetime and must cease during armed conflict

**116. The US withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018. Which of the following best describes the legal consequence of this withdrawal?**

- A. The JCPOA automatically became void for all parties
- B. The UN Security Council Resolution 2231 endorsing the JCPOA was simultaneously repealed
- C. The US reimposed unilateral sanctions, but the JCPOA remained in force for other parties
- D. Iran was immediately released from all IAEA inspection obligations

**117. The argument that 'military victory prospects against Iran are weak' finds support in international law through the principle that:**

- A. Customary international law prohibits war against oil-producing States
- B. The UN Charter requires that military force be a last resort and have a reasonable prospect of achieving its legitimate aim
- C. The ICJ has ruled that no State may use force against Iran specifically
- D. The JCPOA provides Iran with immunity from military attack

**118. If a State issues a unilateral military ultimatum against another sovereign State without Security Council authorisation, this most directly violates which principle of international law?**

- A. The principle of non-intervention under Article 2(7) of the UN Charter
- B. The prohibition of the threat or use of force under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter
- C. The principle of sovereign equality under Article 2(1) of the UN Charter
- D. The obligation of pacific settlement under Article 33 of the UN Charter

**119. The concept of 'anticipatory self-defence' in international law, often invoked by the US, is best associated with which doctrinal formulation?**

- A. The Nuremberg Principles
- B. The Caroline Test (necessity, proportionality, immediacy)

- C. The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine
- D. The Lotus Principle of sovereign freedom

**120. Iran's rejection of a ceasefire proposal in the context of an ongoing military threat can be analysed under which framework of international humanitarian law?**

- A. The Geneva Conventions apply only after a ceasefire is formally accepted
- B. Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions applies to non-international armed conflicts regardless of ceasefire status
- C. A ceasefire rejection automatically constitutes a war crime
- D. The Hague Regulations prohibit States from rejecting ceasefire offers

**121. The argument that the Indo-Pacific strategy is incomplete without West Asia is based on the recognition that:**

- A. West Asia is a member of the QUAD
- B. West Asia's energy resources, strategic waterways and India's diaspora make it integral to India's maritime and economic security
- C. UNCLOS applies only in the West Asian maritime zone
- D. The Indo-Pacific region formally includes all countries west of the Suez Canal

**122. India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, when extended to the Indo-Pacific, emphasises which of the following?**

- A. Exclusive focus on South Asian countries only
- B. Primacy of relations with immediate neighbours while building concentric circles of engagement extending to the Indo-Pacific and West Asia
- C. Withdrawal from all international organisations to focus domestically
- D. Military dominance over neighbouring countries' maritime zones

**123. Under UNCLOS, the 'freedom of navigation' in the Indo-Pacific means that:**

- A. Only QUAD member navies may operate in the Indo-Pacific region
- B. All States enjoy freedoms of navigation and overflight on the high seas
- C. Coastal States may deny passage to warships of any country
- D. Freedom of navigation applies only in the territorial seas of coastal States

**124. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) comprises which four countries?**

- A. India, China, Japan, Australia
- B. India, US, Japan, Australia
- C. India, US, UK, France
- D. India, US, Japan, South Korea

**125. The US justification for strikes on Kharg Island most likely relies on which doctrine?**

- A. Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
- B. Pre-emptive self-defence under customary international law
- C. Humanitarian intervention
- D. UN Chapter VII enforcement action

**126. Which of the following is NOT a valid ground for use of force under the UN Charter?**

- A. Self-defence under Article 51
- B. UNSC authorization under Chapter VII
- C. Protection of nationals abroad as customary right
- D. Regime change to install democratic government

**127. The concept of 'freedom of navigation' under UNCLOS is found in:**

- A. Part II (Territorial Sea)

- B. Part VII (High Seas)
- C. Part XI (The Area)
- D. Part IV (Archipelagic States)

**128. Which country holds veto power in the UNSC and has historically blocked resolutions against Iran?**

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Japan

**129. The 'Bombay School' of Indian strategic thought emphasises:**

- A. Continental defence and land borders
- B. Maritime trade, naval power, and westward engagement with the Gulf and Indian Ocean
- C. Nuclear deterrence as the sole strategy
- D. Isolation and non-alignment

**130. The Artemis Accords are:**

- A. A UN treaty binding on all member states
- B. A set of bilateral/multilateral agreements between NASA and partner nations on principles for lunar exploration
- C. An agreement between only the US and Russia
- D. A military alliance for space defence

**131. The Artemis II mission, launched by NASA, aims to:**

- A. Land astronauts on Mars
- B. Send astronauts around the Moon (lunar flyby) as a crewed test flight
- C. Deploy a space station on the Moon
- D. Conduct asteroid mining

**132. The concept of 'Indo-Pacific' in India's strategic framework was formally articulated in the:**

- A. Look East Policy 1991
- B. Act East Policy 2014
- C. SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine
- D. Non-Aligned Movement principles

**133. Israel's strikes on Beirut during the ceasefire period could potentially violate which of the following principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)? (I) Principle of Distinction (II) Principle of Proportionality (III) Principle of Military Necessity Select the correct answer:**

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**134. Article 51A(g), a Fundamental Duty, enjoins every citizen of India to:**

- A. Develop a scientific temper and spirit of inquiry
- B. Protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and have compassion for living creatures
- C. Safeguard public property and abjure violence
- D. Uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India

**135. Trump's announcement of a 50% tariff on arms suppliers to Iran relates to which constitutional power of the US President?**

- A. Commander-in-Chief powers under Article II of the US Constitution
- B. Treaty-making power under Article II, Section 2
- C. Executive authority to regulate foreign commerce, delegated by Congress through statutes like IEEPA
- D. Inherent executive privilege recognized in United States v. Nixon

**136. The 'stance' of monetary policy, when described as 'accommodative',**

**means the MPC is signalling that:**

- A. It is more likely to raise rates in the next meeting
- B. It is more likely to cut rates or hold, but not raise
- C. It will maintain a neutral position regardless of economic data
- D. Fiscal policy will take the lead and monetary policy will remain passive UNFCCC 1994, Paris Agreement 2015, Kyoto Protocol 1997, Art 48A, Art 51A(g), CBDR, NDC

**137. Article 51 of the Indian Constitution (DPSP) directs the State to:**

- A. Maintain a standing army for national defence
- B. Promote international peace and security, maintain just and honourable relations between nations, and foster respect for international law
- C. Enter into military alliances with like-minded democracies
- D. Prioritise bilateral relations with neighbouring countries over multilateral diplomacy

**138. The 2-week US-Iran ceasefire was brokered under diplomatic channels. Under international law, a ceasefire agreement is best classified as:**

- A. A treaty requiring ratification under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
- B. A binding UN Security Council resolution under Chapter VII
- C. A political arrangement that may or may not have binding legal force depending on its terms
- D. A customary international law obligation enforceable by the ICJ

**139. Article 39(b) of the Constitution directs the State to ensure that:**

- A. All citizens have the right to adequate means of livelihood
- B. The ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as to best subserve the common good
- C. There is equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- D. Workers participate in the management of industries

**140. If a person in Kishtwar challenges the VPN ban, the most appropriate writ petition would be:**

- A. Mandamus under Article 226 to direct the government to restore VPN access
- B. Habeas Corpus under Article 226
- C. A writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution before the High Court of J&K; and Ladakh
- D. Certiorari under Article 32 directly before the Supreme Court Art 51 DPSP, Panchsheel, Good Offices vs Mediation vs Arbitration, NAM, India's Foreign Policy

**141. The Corfu Channel case (ICJ 1949, UK v Albania) established:**

- A. Doctrine of sovereign immunity
- B. Right of innocent passage through international straits and state responsibility for harm originating from its territory
- C. Prohibition of anticipatory self-defence
- D. Right of hot pursuit

**142. Principle: UNCLOS Art 38 guarantees non-suspendable transit passage; UN Charter Art 2(4) prohibits use of force absent Art 51 or UNSC authorisation. Facts: Iran announces a 'toll' for oil tankers passing through Hormuz and threatens force against non-payers. Decision:**

- A. The toll is lawful under sovereignty
- B. This is purely a domestic matter
- C. Only the UNGA can respond
- D. The toll and coercive measures violate Art 38 UNCLOS and Art 2(4) UN Charter; states may seek remedies including ICJ and collective measures

**143. Consider: (I) Hormuz is a strait used for international navigation. (II) Transit passage through Hormuz can be unilaterally suspended by Iran.**

(III) UNCLOS binds parties and reflects much customary law. Correct:

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**144. The key legal difference between innocent passage and transit passage is:**

- A. Both can be suspended
- B. Transit passage cannot be suspended; innocent passage can under Art 25 UNCLOS
- C. Innocent passage is only for warships
- D. Transit passage applies to high seas

**145. Article 51 DPSP lists all of the following objectives EXCEPT:**

- A. Ensure trade surplus with all nations
- B. Maintain just and honourable relations between nations
- C. Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations
- D. Promote international peace and security

**146. UNGA Resolution ES-11/1 (March 2022):**

- A. Authorised force against Russia
- B. Deplored Russia's aggression against Ukraine and demanded withdrawal - recommendatory only
- C. Created new international court
- D. Was passed by UNSC

**147. Consider: (I) UNSC decisions under Ch VII are binding (Art 25). (II) UNGA resolutions are recommendatory. (III) UNGA can bind states in matters of peace and security. Correct:**

- A. II only
- B. I and II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**148. The binding source of International Humanitarian Law (laws of war) in international armed conflict is primarily:**

- A. Geneva Conventions 1949 and Additional Protocols, plus customary IHL
- B. UNGA resolutions
- C. Rome Statute only
- D. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

**149. The doctrine of 'hot pursuit' under Art 111 UNCLOS requires:**

- A. Pursuit may begin anywhere on the high seas
- B. Pursuit must begin in the pursuing state's internal waters, territorial sea or contiguous zone and be continuous
- C. Only UN Security Council authorisation
- D. Only flag-state consent

**150. Corfu Channel (UK v Albania, ICJ 1949) established:**

- A. State responsibility for mines in territorial waters through which innocent passage passes
- B. Freedom of navigation does not exist
- C. Warships cannot use straits
- D. Piracy is not a crime

**151. Article 110 UNCLOS ('right of visit') permits a warship to board a foreign vessel on the high seas in all EXCEPT:**

- A. Piracy
- B. Slave trade
- C. Routine commercial inspection
- D. Unauthorised broadcasting

**152. Article 87 of UNCLOS deals primarily with:**

- A. Territorial sea limits
- B. Continental shelf
- C. Freedoms of the high seas (navigation, overflight, laying cables)
- D. EEZ resources

**153. Principle: The Holy See possesses international legal personality; sovereign states accept or reject diplomatic critique under principles of reciprocity and non-interference. Facts: A foreign President publicly tells the Pope to 'stick to morality'; the Pope had criticised deportation policy as 'inhuman'. Decision:**

- A. Public exchange between a head of state and the Pope is within the political domain; no breach of international law arises from either speech
- B. The Pope's criticism violates international law
- C. The UN must intervene
- D. Only the ICJ can decide

**154. The criteria for statehood in customary international law are articulated in:**

- A. UN Charter
- B. The Montevideo Convention 1933 - population, territory, government, capacity for relations
- C. Geneva Conventions
- D. UDHR

**155. Consider: (I) Statehood does not depend on size. (II) Diplomatic relations confer a measure of international personality. (III) The Pope's spiritual authority per se is a source of international legal obligation. Correct:**

- A. II only
- B. I, II and III
- C. I and II only
- D. III only

**156. The Holy See is:**

- A. The same entity as Vatican City State
- B. An NGO
- C. A private religious body
- D. A sui generis subject of international law, distinct from but linked to Vatican City

**157. The 3rd India-Nordic Summit (2026) was hosted by:**

- A. Stockholm, Sweden
- B. Copenhagen, Denmark
- C. Helsinki, Finland
- D. Oslo, Norway

**158. India is an Observer at which Arctic body?**

- A. Arctic Ocean Commission
- B. Arctic Council
- C. Polar Research Forum
- D. Svalbard Treaty Organisation

**159. The Nordic countries include which of the following?**

- A. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- B. Only Norway & Sweden
- C. Norway, Sweden, Russia
- D. Baltic states only

**160. India's research station in the Arctic is named:**

- A. Maitri
- B. Bharati
- C. Dakshin Gangotri

D. Himadri

**161. Assertion (A): All straits used for international navigation fall under Art 38 transit passage. Reason (R): Transit passage is codified in UNCLOS Part III.**

- A. A true, R false
- B. Both true, R doesn't explain A
- C. Both true, R explains A
- D. Both false

**162. Article 38 of UNCLOS deals with:**

- A. Innocent passage
- B. Continental shelf
- C. EEZ
- D. Transit passage through straits used for international navigation

**163. Transit passage differs from innocent passage in that:**

- A. It cannot be suspended and includes submerged submarines & overflight
- B. It is slower
- C. It applies only in EEZ
- D. Only merchant ships allowed

**164. Operation Sindhu (2025) was launched to:**

- A. Counter Somali pirates
- B. Evacuate Indians from Iran-Israel conflict zone
- C. Supply flood aid
- D. A joint exercise

**165. Consider the following statements: I. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, requires the receiving State to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against intrusion or damage. II. Its Article 41 obliges diplomats to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. Both I and II
- C. II only
- D. Neither I nor II

**166. Extradition of fugitives between India and the UK requires the satisfaction of which twin legal tests?**

- A. Double jeopardy and res judicata
- B. Dual criminality and a prima facie case
- C. Mens rea and actus reus
- D. Sovereign immunity and comity

**167. Which Indian statute is chiefly used to designate individuals and organisations as terrorists?**

- A. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967
- B. National Security Act 1980
- C. Extradition Act 1962
- D. Foreigners Act 1946

**168. Directive Principle Article 51 of the Constitution directs the State to, among other things:**

- A. Provide free legal aid
- B. Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations
- C. Organise village panchayats
- D. Secure a uniform civil code

**169. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?**

- A. Transit passage — UNCLOS Part III Articles 34-45
- B. Transit passage — UNCLOS Part II Articles 17-19

C. Innocent passage — UNCLOS Part III Articles 34-45

D. Archipelagic sea-lanes passage — UNCLOS Part XV

**170. Passage of ships and aircraft through the Strait of Hormuz is governed by which UNCLOS regime?**

- A. Innocent passage under Article 17
- B. Transit passage under Article 38
- C. High-seas freedom under Article 87
- D. Archipelagic sea-lanes passage

**171. A key legal distinction between transit passage and innocent passage under UNCLOS is that:**

- A. Both may be freely suspended by the coastal state
- B. Transit passage cannot be suspended, while innocent passage can be
- C. Innocent passage applies only to warships
- D. Transit passage requires prior authorisation

**172. The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran and which neighbouring state(s)?**

- A. Iraq and Kuwait
- B. Oman and the UAE
- C. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain
- D. Qatar and Yemen

**173. Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 provides which key principle relevant to multilateral declarations?**

- A. Universal jurisdiction for all crimes
- B. Lex posterior derogat priori only
- C. Pacta sunt servanda — treaties in force are binding upon parties and must be performed in good faith
- D. Right of self-determination only

**174. Article 46 of the Indian Constitution is a Directive Principle that obliges the State to:**

- A. Ensure equal pay for equal work
- B. Provide for old-age pensions
- C. Promote with special care the educational and economic interests of weaker sections, particularly SCs and STs, and protect them from social injustice
- D. Free legal aid 66F

**175. When BRICS members cannot agree on a joint position, the presiding country issues a:**

- A. Binding Joint Declaration
- B. Chair's Summary (non-binding)
- C. UN Security Council resolution
- D. Memorandum of Understanding

**176. India's refusal to align with either bloc within BRICS reflects which foreign-policy doctrine rooted in the Non-Aligned Movement?**

- A. Panchsheel
- B. Strategic autonomy
- C. Gujral Doctrine
- D. Look East Policy

**177. The Strait of Hormuz lies between which two States?**

- A. Iran and Saudi Arabia
- B. Iraq and Kuwait
- C. Iran and Oman, with the UAE on the southern coast
- D. Yemen and Djibouti

**178. MoEFCC stands for:**

- A. Ministry of Energy, Fuels and Climate Change

- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of External Affairs and Foreign Cooperation Council
- D. Ministry of Earth and Coastal Cooperation

**179. Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz would primarily disrupt which global commodity flow?**

- A. Wheat and grain shipments
- B. Roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and major LNG flows
- C. Container electronics trade
- D. Rare-earth mineral exports

**180. The 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, whose collapse underlies this crisis, is known as the:**

- A. JCPOA
- B. New START
- C. NPT
- D. CTBT

**181. The headquarters of the ASEAN Secretariat is located in:**

- A. Bangkok, Thailand
- B. Singapore
- C. Jakarta, Indonesia
- D. Manila, Philippines

**182. Which of the following is NOT a recognised ground of disqualification under Para 2 of the Tenth Schedule?**

- A. Criticising one's party's policy in a press interview
- B. Voting or abstaining contrary to the party whip without prior permission and condonation
- C. An independent member joining a political party after election
- D. Voluntarily giving up membership of one's political party

**183. ASEAN's response to the Myanmar crisis is framed by which 2021 instrument?**

- A. The Bali Concord
- B. The Five-Point Consensus
- C. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation
- D. The ASEAN Charter

**184. India's relationship with ASEAN, which it is not a member of, is best described as a:**

- A. Full membership
- B. Strategic Partnership
- C. Military alliance
- D. Customs union

**185. India's 'Look West' policy refers to:**

- A. Trade with the EU
- B. Strategic and economic engagement with West Asia / Gulf region (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel and GCC)
- C. Engagement with Latin America
- D. Engagement with North America

**186. The Strait of Hormuz, vital for Gulf oil exports, is governed by which UNCLOS provision on passage?**

- A. Article 17 — innocent passage
- B. Article 38 — transit passage through straits used for international navigation (non-suspendable)
- C. Article 87 — high seas freedoms
- D. Article 76 — continental shelf

**187. India's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with the UAE was elevated in:**

- A. 2010
- B. 2017
- C. 2022 (along with the CEPA)
- D. 2024

**188. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprises which six member states?**

- A. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman
- B. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Oman
- C. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon
- D. All Arab League members

**189. The 'Uniting for Consensus' (Coffee Club) opposing G-4 includes:**

- A. UK and France
- B. Italy, Pakistan, Mexico, South Korea
- C. US and Russia
- D. Germany and Brazil

**190. The G-4 group lobbying for permanent UNSC seats comprises:**

- A. India, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt
- B. India, Japan, Germany, Brazil
- C. India, Germany, Italy, Japan
- D. India, Nigeria, Brazil, Japan

**191. The Ezulwini Consensus represents the demand of which bloc on UNSC reform?**

- A. African Union
- B. Caribbean Community
- C. ASEAN
- D. SAARC

**192. Annalena Baerbock currently holds which office?**

- A. UN Secretary-General
- B. President of the UN General Assembly
- C. German Foreign Minister
- D. High Commissioner for Human Rights

**193. The appointment and reception of ambassadors and High Commissioners is governed by which international instrument?**

- A. Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969
- B. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961
- C. Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963
- D. UN Charter 1945

**194. The prior consent of the receiving state to a proposed head of a diplomatic mission is called:**

- A. Persona non grata
- B. Agrément
- C. Exequatur
- D. Letter of credence

**195. Dinesh Trivedi's appointment as High Commissioner was notable because he is:**

- A. A serving military officer
- B. A political appointee rather than a career IFS diplomat
- C. A retired Supreme Court judge
- D. A foreign national

**196. The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement that exchanged enclaves came into effect in which year?**

- A. 2011
- B. 2015
- C. 2019

D. 2005

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

**197. A widening Current Account Deficit (CAD) due to high crude oil prices impacts India by:**

- A. Strengthening the rupee due to higher export earnings
- B. Putting depreciation pressure on the rupee and increasing external borrowing needs
- C. Reducing the fiscal deficit as import duties increase revenue
- D. Having no impact as India's forex reserves are unlimited

**198. If CPI inflation is at 4.6% and the RBI's target is 4% with a band of +/- 2%, which statement is correct?**

- A. Inflation is outside the tolerance band, requiring an emergency MPC meeting
- B. Inflation is within the tolerance band of 2-6%
- C. The RBI must mandatorily cut rates to bring inflation to exactly 4%
- D. The government must issue a directive to the RBI under Section 7

**199. When the RBI 'holds' the repo rate at 5.25%, it means:**

- A. Banks must maintain 5.25% of deposits as cash reserves with the RBI
- B. The rate at which the RBI lends to commercial banks against government securities remains unchanged
- C. The interest rate on government bonds is fixed at 5.25%
- D. The inflation target has been set at 5.25%

**200. Which of the following landmark cases upheld the validity of reservation for women in local bodies under Article 15(3)?**

- A. Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)
- B. K. Krishna Murthy v. Union of India (2010)
- C. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)
- D. Shayara Bano v. Union of India (2017) MPC, RBI Act Sec 45ZB, Repo Rate 5.25%, Inflation 4.6%, World Bank 6.6%

**201. Principle: Art 253 empowers Parliament to implement any treaty over any subject. Art 51(c) DPSP directs respect for international law. Facts: India signs CEPA with South Korea requiring opening of legal services (a State-concurrent subject). Decision:**

- A. Implementation requires amending the Constitution
- B. Only the concerned State can legislate
- C. Parliament can legislate for implementation under Art 253 notwithstanding State List entries, subject to basic structure
- D. The treaty is void

**202. A CEPA typically differs from an FTA in that:**

- A. A CEPA is narrower
- B. CEPAs are illegal under WTO
- C. A CEPA covers services, investment and IP in addition to goods; broader than a traditional FTA
- D. CEPAs exclude services

**203. Entry 14 of List I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule covers:**

- A. Defence
- B. Citizenship
- C. Foreign trade only
- D. Entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing them

**204. Rules of Origin (RoO) in an FTA/CEPA are designed to:**

- A. Ban foreign goods
- B. Set sanitary standards
- C. Determine the 'origin' of goods to prevent trade deflection and ensure only qualifying goods get preferential tariffs

D. Fix currency rates

**205. RBI's KYC Master Directions 2016 mandate:**

- A. One-size-fits-all KYC
- B. Only physical KYC
- C. No KYC for small accounts
- D. Risk-based customer due diligence with periodic updation

**206. IT Act 2000 Sec 66D punishes:**

- A. Cheating by personation using a computer resource
- B. Hacking
- C. Sending obscene messages
- D. Identity theft only

**207. The RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme came into force in:**

- A. 2006
- B. 2021 (One Nation, One Ombudsman)
- C. 2014
- D. 2018

**208. Consider: (I) Vicarious liability of banks can arise for KYC failures leading to loss. (II) The Ombudsman can only dismiss complaints, not grant compensation. (III) The Ombudsman's award up to Rs 20 lakh is binding on banks after acceptance. Correct:**

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. II and III only

**209. Principle: RBI Act + FRBM Act govern macro stability; Art 360 provides an internal Financial Emergency tool but is never invoked. Facts: Rating agency cuts India's FY27 growth forecast, citing West Asia energy shock; rupee breaches a psychological barrier. Decision for a policy authority:**

- A. Invoke Art 360 forthwith
- B. Respond through MPC action, targeted fiscal measures within FRBM glide-path, and strategic petroleum-reserve utilisation - Art 360 is not triggered
- C. Impose capital controls under Art 19(6)
- D. Scrap FEMA

**210. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was introduced by:**

- A. Banking Regulation Act amendment 2006
- B. FEMA 1999
- C. Finance Act 2014
- D. RBI Act amendment 2016

**211. Consider: (I) A 22 % m-o-m rise in ammonia WPI is an input-cost shock. (II) Rupee depreciation raises the local-currency cost of imports. (III) A sovereign rating downgrade automatically violates Art 360. Correct:**

- A. I and II only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. III only

**212. FRBM Act 2003 mandates:**

- A. Zero deficit immediately
- B. Abolition of borrowings
- C. Only revenue deficit controls
- D. A glide path for fiscal deficit with targets and review provisions

**213. Consider the following statements: I. A widening CAD with falling FDI inflows typically weakens the Rupee, other things being equal. II. The**

**Finance Commission's recommendations on tax devolution are binding on Parliament. Which is/are correct?**

- A. II only
- B. I only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

**214. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI is a statutory body constituted under which provision?**

- A. Section 45ZB of the RBI Act 1934
- B. Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act 1949
- C. FEMA 1999
- D. The FRBM Act 2003

**215. India's flexible inflation-targeting framework requires the RBI to keep CPI inflation at:**

- A. 6% within a band of +/- 2%
- B. 4% within a band of +/- 2%
- C. 2% within a band of +/- 4%
- D. 5% with no tolerance band

**216. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India is regulated primarily under which statute?**

- A. Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999
- B. FRBM Act 2003
- C. Companies Act 2013
- D. RBI Act 1934

**217. Which is the primary statute under which RBI itself was established?**

- A. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- B. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- C. FEMA, 1999
- D. FRBM Act, 2003 (2024)

**218. Which framework is used by the Reserve Bank of India to mandate cyber-resilience in scheduled commercial banks?**

- A. Companies Act, 2013 only
- B. FEMA Master Directions only
- C. RBI Cyber Security Framework for Banks (2016, periodically updated)
- D. Indian Evidence Act, 1872 Architecture

**219. The RBI cancelled the Paytm Payments Bank licence exercising its power to issue directions in the public interest under which provision?**

- A. Section 22 of the BR Act 1949
- B. Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act 1949
- C. Section 45ZB of the RBI Act 1934
- D. Section 3 of PMLA 2002

**220. Under the RBI's 2014 guidelines, a Payments Bank is permitted to:**

- A. Lend and issue credit cards
- B. Accept demand deposits up to Rs 2 lakh per customer but not lend
- C. Undertake project finance
- D. Issue its own currency

**221. The Reserve Bank of India was established under the:**

- A. FEMA, 1999
- B. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- C. Companies Act, 1956
- D. RBI Act, 1934

**222. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) derives its statutory status from:**

- A. The Constitution's Article 243

- B. The SEBI Act 1992
- C. The Companies Act 2013
- D. The RBI Act 1934

**223. Municipal bonds, promoted at the SEBI event, are typically issued by:**

- A. The Reserve Bank of India
- B. Urban Local Bodies for infrastructure
- C. The Union Government
- D. Public-sector banks

**224. Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities) received constitutional status through which provision inserted by the 74th Amendment?**

- A. Article 243Q
- B. Article 243G
- C. Article 280
- D. Article 40

**225. India's FTA with Australia (April 2022) is officially titled:**

- A. ECTA — Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (an early-harvest framework)
- B. CEPA
- C. TEPA
- D. EPA

**226. Match the FTA with its partner: India-Australia (2022) is known as:**

- A. ECTA — Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement
- B. CEPA
- C. TEPA
- D. EPA

**227. Article XXIV of GATT 1994 is the:**

- A. Exception that permits Free Trade Areas and Customs Unions despite the MFN obligation, subject to coverage of 'substantially all the trade'
- B. Anti-dumping article
- C. Subsidies article
- D. Safeguards article

**228. Dairy was excluded from India's tariff cuts in the NZ FTA primarily because:**

- A. There is no Indian dairy industry
- B. WTO bars dairy in FTAs
- C. India sought to protect ~80 million dairy farmer households and small-scale producers given NZ's globally competitive dairy industry (Fonterra, etc.)
- D. NZ refused to discuss dairy

**229. OPEC's founding members were Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and:**

- A. UAE
- B. Qatar
- C. Venezuela
- D. Libya

**230. The Strait of Hormuz lies between which two countries?**

- A. Iran and Oman
- B. Saudi Arabia and Iran
- C. UAE and Qatar
- D. Iran and Iraq

**231. The UAE announced exit from OPEC/OPEC+ in April 2026. OPEC was founded in:**

- A. 1948
- B. 1960

- C. 1973
- D. 1990

**232. RATS, the SCO's counter-terror body, stands for:**

- A. Regional Anti-Terror Structure
- B. Russian Anti-Terror Squad
- C. Regional Asia Treaty Security
- D. Regional Alliance for Tactical Security

**233. In Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. UOI (2022) the SC upheld:**

- A. Twin bail conditions of PMLA
- B. Strike-down of Section 45
- C. Quashing of ECIR
- D. Repeal of Section 50

**234. RCOM (Reliance Communications) was promoted by:**

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Anil Ambani
- C. Subrata Roy
- D. Vijay Mallya

**235. The Adjudicating Authority under PMLA is established under Section:**

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 8

**236. Section 5 of PMLA deals with:**

- A. Search and seizure
- B. Provisional attachment of property
- C. Punishment
- D. Arrest

**237. The RBI framework permitting international trade settlement in Indian Rupees uses which type of account?**

- A. Nostro accounts
- B. Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVA)
- C. Escrow accounts
- D. Non-Resident External accounts

**238. In banking terminology, a 'Vostro' account refers to:**

- A. Our account held with a foreign bank
- B. A foreign bank's account held with us
- C. A joint escrow account
- D. A central-bank reserve account

**239. Rupee internationalisation primarily helps ease pressure on which external-sector metric?**

- A. Fiscal deficit
- B. Current Account Deficit / Balance of Payments
- C. Repo rate
- D. Statutory Liquidity Ratio

**240. Foreign-exchange transactions in India are regulated under which statute?**

- A. FEMA 1999
- B. FERA 1973
- C. RBI Act 1934
- D. SEBI Act 1992

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

**241.** The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi's air pollution is enforced by the CAQM and categorises air quality into stages. Under GRAP Stage IV ('Severe Plus'), which of the following measures can be imposed?

- A. Advisory to reduce outdoor activities only
- B. Ban on entry of trucks (except essential), closure of schools, halt on construction activities
- C. Fines on individuals for not wearing masks outdoors
- D. Mandatory relocation of all industries from Delhi-NCR

**242.** The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas was established by the CAQM Act, 2021 to:

- A. Replace the National Green Tribunal in environmental adjudication
- B. Provide a statutory framework for coordinated action to combat air pollution in NCR
- C. Monitor water quality in the Yamuna river basin
- D. Regulate vehicular emissions standards nationally

**243.** The Supreme Court's MC Mehta cases (vehicular pollution in Delhi) led to which significant policy outcome?

- A. Complete ban on all motor vehicles in Delhi
- B. Conversion of Delhi's public transport fleet to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
- C. Establishment of a new Ministry of Urban Transport
- D. Mandatory use of electric vehicles for all Government officials

**244.** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established under the NGT Act, 2010. Its jurisdiction covers disputes related to:

- A. All civil and criminal matters involving environmental harm
- B. Environmental protection, forest conservation, and other natural resources, including enforcement of legal rights relating thereto
- C. Only industrial pollution cases referred by the Supreme Court
- D. International environmental disputes involving India

**245.** Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023 (formerly Section 144 CrPC) empowers a District Magistrate to:

- A. Arrest any person without a warrant in cognizable offences
- B. Issue orders in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger to prevent disturbance of public tranquility
- C. Conduct searches of private premises without judicial authorization
- D. Detain persons preventively for up to one year

**246.** Article 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions on free speech on grounds including: (I) Sovereignty and integrity of India (II) Public order (III) Defamation (IV) Right to privacy Which are correct?

- A. I, II, and III only
- B. I, II, and IV only
- C. II, III, and IV only
- D. I, II, III, and IV

**247.** In *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020), the Supreme Court held that:

- A. Internet shutdowns are absolutely prohibited under the Constitution
- B. Access to the internet is a fundamental right, and any restriction must be proportionate, necessary, and subject to judicial review
- C. The government has unfettered discretion to impose internet shutdowns in J&K;
- D. VPN usage is illegal in India under all circumstances

**248.** India's 'Look West' policy in the context of West Asia focuses on: (I)

Energy security (II) Diaspora welfare (approximately 8.5 million Indians in the Gulf) (III) Counterterrorism cooperation Select the correct answer:

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. I and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**249.** The Loss & Damage Fund is hosted on an interim basis by:

- A. World Bank
- B. UNDP
- C. UNEP
- D. IMF Environment

**250.** UNFCCC was adopted at:

- A. Stockholm 1972
- B. Rio Earth Summit 1992
- C. Kyoto 1997
- D. Paris 2015

**251.** The Loss & Damage Fund was operationalised at:

- A. COP26 Glasgow
- B. COP28 Dubai
- C. COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh
- D. COP29 Baku

**252.** The Kyoto Protocol differs from the Paris Agreement primarily because:

- A. Kyoto had binding targets for Annex-I countries only
- B. Kyoto has only voluntary targets
- C. Paris is binding on all
- D. Kyoto covers all GHGs, Paris doesn't

**253.** The 'Polluter Pays' principle was first explicitly adopted by the Indian SC in:

- A. Subhash Kumar
- B. Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v Uol (1996)
- C. Rural Litigation Kendra
- D. T.N. Godavarman

**254.** M.C. Mehta v Union of India cases are associated with:

- A. Reservation
- B. Anti-defection
- C. Right to Education
- D. Environmental jurisprudence (Ganga pollution, Oleum gas, vehicular pollution)

**255.** NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) was launched in:

- A. 2019
- B. 2017
- C. 2015
- D. 2021

**256.** The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act was enacted in:

- A. 1974
- B. 1981
- C. 1986
- D. 2010

**257.** Water is primarily a subject under which List?

- A. State List (Entry 17)
- B. Union List
- C. Concurrent List

D. Residuary

**258. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide:**

- A. Irrigation to all farms
- B. Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household
- C. River interlinking
- D. Free piped LPG

**259. India International Water Week is organised by:**

- A. Ministry of Environment
- B. Ministry of Agriculture
- C. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- D. NITI Aayog

**260. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act was enacted in:**

- A. 1956
- B. 1950
- C. 1976
- D. 2002

**261. Consider the following statements regarding the NGT's powers: I. The NGT can award compensation to victims of environmental damage and order restitution of the environment. II. Appeals from the NGT lie directly to the Supreme Court. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. Both I and II
- C. II only
- D. Neither I nor II

**262. The right to clean and unpolluted water was read into the right to life (Art 21) by the Supreme Court in which case?**

- A. Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum (1996)
- B. Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991)
- C. M C Mehta v Union of India (1987)
- D. Olga Tellis v BMC (1985)

**263. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), tasked with regulating groundwater, is constituted under which law?**

- A. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974
- B. Environment (Protection) Act 1986
- C. National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- D. Wildlife Protection Act 1972

**264. The Cartagena Protocol (2000) and the Nagoya Protocol (2010) are ancillary instruments under which parent treaty?**

- A. Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992
- B. UNFCCC, 1992
- C. Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969
- D. Ramsar Convention, 1971

**265. Article 48A, which directs the State to protect and improve the environment, was inserted by which constitutional amendment?**

- A. 42nd Amendment (1976)
- B. 44th Amendment (1978)
- C. 73rd Amendment (1992)
- D. 1st Amendment (1951)

**266. The only Fundamental Duty specifically concerning protection of the natural environment is:**

- A. Article 51A(a)
- B. Article 51A(g)
- C. Article 51A(j)
- D. Article 51A(c)

**267. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which India implements through the Biological Diversity Act 2002, was opened for signature in which year?**

- A. 1972
- B. 1992
- C. 2002
- D. 2015

**268. The April 2026 report on a 27% drop in Hindu Kush Himalaya snow persistence was released by which body?**

- A. ICIMOD
- B. IPCC
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. IMD

**269. The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is one of the eight missions under which framework?**

- A. National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008)
- B. National Environment Policy 2006
- C. Paris Agreement 2015
- D. Namami Gange

**270. Which international climate agreements form the correct chronological sequence?**

- A. Paris 1992, Kyoto 1997, UNFCCC 2015
- B. UNFCCC 1992, Kyoto 1997, Paris 2015
- C. Kyoto 1992, Paris 1997, UNFCCC 2015
- D. UNFCCC 1997, Paris 2005, Kyoto 2015

**271. Article 48A directing environmental protection is classified in the Constitution as a:**

- A. Fundamental Right
- B. Directive Principle of State Policy
- C. Fundamental Duty
- D. Preamble declaration

**272. Consider: (I) Climate change has increased extreme rainfall events. (II) DM Act 2005 creates a three-tier (NDMA-SDMA-DDMA) structure. (III) Right to a healthy environment is a Fundamental Right under Art 21. Correct:**

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**273. Under the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations on disaster management financing:**

- A. 100% Central funding for all disasters
- B. No Central support for state disasters
- C. Only Central PSUs fund disasters
- D. States receive a State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), with 55% earmarked for hydro-meteorological hazards (floods, cyclones)

**274. Subhash Kumar v State of Bihar (1991) recognised:**

- A. Right to information
- B. Right to property
- C. Right to a pollution-free environment as part of Art 21 — right to life includes the right to enjoyment of pollution-free water and air
- D. Right to silence

**275. Consider: (I) Heatwaves disproportionately affect outdoor workers, the elderly and low-income groups. (II) Right to a healthy environment under Art 21 includes protection from extreme heat. (III) Heatwave Action Plans are issued by the Ministry of Defence. Correct:**

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I and II only

**276. NDMA's Heatwave Guidelines (2019, updated 2024) call for:**

- A. Reactive response only
- B. Centralised Delhi-only response
- C. Proactive State Heatwave Action Plans, vulnerability mapping, early warning, cool roofs, cooling centres, ORS distribution and worker protections
- D. Insurance-based response only

**277. Common interventions in a Heat Action Plan include all EXCEPT:**

- A. Cool rooms / cooling centres
- B. Misting and shaded waiting areas at bus stops
- C. Mandatory air-conditioning in all private homes
- D. ORS distribution and rescheduling outdoor work hours

**278. Ahmedabad's 2013 Heat Action Plan was significant because it was:**

- A. India's first city-level Heat Action Plan, developed after the 2010 heatwave that killed 1,300+ people, and a global model under WHO/NRDC
- B. A national plan
- C. A water plan
- D. A pollution plan

**279. Consider: (I) Drone swarms can saturate traditional air defences. (II) Drone Rules 2021 are administered by DGCA + MoCA. (III) Defence is a State List subject. Correct:**

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I and II only

**280. Consider: (I) IBCA is headquartered in India. (II) The Cheetah is currently listed in Schedule I of WPA 1972. (III) IBCA is modelled on the International Solar Alliance. Correct:**

- A. II only
- B. I and II only
- C. I only
- D. I, II and III

**281. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was conceived primarily to:**

- A. Conserve seven big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Snow Leopard, Leopard, Jaguar, Puma, Cheetah) through a multi-country platform headquartered in India
- B. Trade in big cat parts
- C. Promote zoo cooperation only
- D. Limit big cat range

**282. CITES, which regulates international wildlife trade, came into force in:**

- A. 1948
- B. 1975 (signed at Washington 1973; India is a party since 1976)
- C. 1992
- D. 2002

**283. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established under:**

- A. Environment Protection Act 1986
- B. Forest Conservation Act 1980
- C. Wildlife Protection Act 1972 as amended in 2006
- D. Biodiversity Act 2002

**284. The chir pine (Pinus roxburghii) is implicated in Uttarakhand fires because of its:**

- A. Hardwood
- B. Highly flammable resinous needles
- C. Deep tap roots
- D. Slow growth

**285. The corresponding Fundamental Duty regarding environment is found in:**

- A. Article 51A(f)
- B. Article 51A(g)
- C. Article 51A(h)
- D. Article 51A(i)

**286. Article 48A is a:**

- A. Fundamental Right
- B. Directive Principle of State Policy
- C. Fundamental Duty
- D. Schedule

**287. India became a full member of the SCO in:**

- A. 2005
- B. 2015
- C. 2017
- D. 2019

**288. The tiger is listed under which Schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, granting it the highest protection?**

- A. Schedule I
- B. Schedule II
- C. Schedule III
- D. Schedule IV

**289. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was created by which measure?**

- A. Project Tiger 1973 resolution
- B. The 2006 Amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- C. The Biological Diversity Act 2002
- D. A NITI Aayog resolution

**290. Project Tiger, under which reserves like Kanha operate, was launched in:**

- A. 1972
- B. 1973
- C. 1985
- D. 1991

**291. Kanha Tiger Reserve, where the deaths occurred, is located in which State?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Chhattisgarh

## SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

**292. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam represents which stage of India's nuclear programme?**

- A. Stage I — Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors using natural uranium
- B. Stage II — Fast Breeder Reactors using plutonium and breeding uranium-233 from thorium
- C. Stage III — Thorium-based reactors using uranium-233
- D. It is not part of the three-stage programme

**293. The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement (123 Agreement), signed in 2008, allowed India to:**

- A. Join the NPT as a nuclear-weapon state
- B. Access civilian nuclear technology, fuel, and reactors from the international market while maintaining its military nuclear programme
- C. Develop intercontinental ballistic missiles with US technology
- D. Become a permanent member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group

**294. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam represents which stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme?**

- A. Stage I -- Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors using natural uranium
- B. Stage II -- Fast Breeder Reactors using plutonium
- C. Stage III -- Thorium-based reactors
- D. It falls outside the three-stage programme as an experimental project

**295. India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy primarily focuses on:**

- A. Strengthening ties with SAARC countries and the immediate neighbourhood through connectivity, development assistance, and diplomatic engagement
- B. Imposing trade sanctions on neighbouring countries that do not align with India's foreign policy
- C. Military dominance in the South Asian region
- D. Merging SAARC with BIMSTEC Atomic Energy Act 1962, IGCAR, BHAVINI, Thorium, 123 Agreement, NSG Waiver, IAEA, NPT

**296. Principle: Regulation affecting speech must satisfy Art 19(2) and (per Puttaswamy) proportionality; labelling is content-neutral. Facts: MeitY proposes mandatory 'continuously visible' AI labels on 10 % of content duration for deepfakes/SGI. Decision:**

- A. Rule is likely valid - it is content-neutral, targets a legitimate aim (decency/public order), and is proportionate; precise design matters
- B. Rule is facially unconstitutional
- C. Only Parliament can regulate
- D. Intermediaries cannot be regulated

**297. Kunal Kamra v Uol (Bombay HC 2024) held:**

- A. Art 19(2) is exhaustive and the IT Rules 'Fact Check Unit' amendment was unconstitutional
- B. Deepfakes are protected speech
- C. All IT Rules are void
- D. Only the Centre can regulate speech

**298. 'Synthetically Generated Information' (SGI) in the draft amendments primarily refers to:**

- A. All digital content
- B. Encrypted data
- C. Content created, modified or manipulated by AI, including deepfakes
- D. Personal data

**299. IT Rules 2021 impose on significant social media intermediaries:**

- A. Appointment of Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Officer, Resident Grievance Officer, periodic compliance reports

- B. No obligations
- C. Only tax reporting
- D. Only data audit

**300. Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017) held:**

- A. Aadhaar is unconstitutional
- B. Internet shutdowns are illegal
- C. Right to Privacy is a fundamental right under Art 21
- D. Data localisation is mandatory

**301. Consider the following statements: I. AI-governance discussions in India currently sit at the intersection of the IT Act, DPDP and sectoral regulators like SEBI and RBI, without a dedicated AI statute. II. The 'Mythos' leak reportedly revealed undisclosed internal red-team findings, implicating responsible-disclosure obligations for deploying entities. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. Both I and II
- C. II only
- D. Neither I nor II

**302. Which of the following is NOT a principle under the EU AI Act's high-risk systems?**

- A. Absolute automated decision-making
- B. Transparency
- C. Risk management system
- D. Human oversight

**303. The EU AI Act classifies AI systems by:**

- A. Colour code
- B. Sectoral silos
- C. Risk tiers (unacceptable / high / limited / minimal)
- D. Country of origin

**304. Consider the following statements: I. Platforms classified as 'significant social media intermediaries' under the IT Rules have additional due-diligence obligations, which the 2026 Rules extend in modified form to online gaming intermediaries. II. Aadhaar-based KYC is a mandatory onboarding requirement under the 2026 Rules for online money games. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

**305. Consider the following statements: I. Kedarnath, another of the Uttarakhand Char Dham, is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Shiva. II. Gangotri and Yamunotri mark the revered sources of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna respectively in tradition. Which is/are correct?**

- A. Both I and II
- B. II only
- C. I only
- D. Neither I nor II

**306. Consider the following statements regarding the 9-judge reference: I. A smaller bench cannot refer review petitions to a larger bench for authoritative exposition of law. II. The present reference seeks to harmonise the tests evolved in Shirur Mutt, Durgah Committee and Shayara Bano. Which is correct?**

- A. I only
- B. Neither I nor II
- C. Both I and II
- D. II only

**307. Dr Vikram Sarabhai, after whom Skyroot's launcher series is named,**

is regarded as:

- A. The father of India's nuclear programme
- B. The father of the Indian space programme
- C. The first Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission only
- D. The first Director of IIT Bombay

**308. Skyroot's Vikram-1 rocket is named after which pioneer of the Indian space programme?**

- A. Dr A P J Abdul Kalam
- B. Dr Vikram Sarabhai
- C. Dr Homi Bhabha
- D. Dr Satish Dhawan

**309. The single-window regulator that authorises and supervises private space activity in India is:**

- A. ISRO
- B. IN-SPACe
- C. NSIL
- D. Antrix Corporation

**310. Under the Outer Space Treaty 1967, outer space and celestial bodies are:**

- A. Open to national appropriation by use or occupation
- B. Not subject to national sovereignty or appropriation
- C. Owned by the launching state
- D. Governed solely by the launching company

**311. Microsoft's blocking of services to Nayara Energy occurred on:**

- A. 1 January 2026
- B. 27 April 2026
- C. 13 April 2026
- D. 5 August 2025 — following the EU's 18th sanctions package which created a jurisdictional nexus

**312. Consider: (I) Puttaswamy 2017 elevated privacy to a Fundamental Right. (II) DPDP Act 2023 has fully replaced IT Act §43A. (III) Sovereign cloud means data and processing are subject only to Indian law. Correct:**

- A. I and II only
- B. I and III only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**313. The RBI's data localisation circular for payment system data was issued in:**

- A. August 2024
- B. January 2020
- C. May 2014
- D. April 2018 — requiring all payment-system data to be stored only in India (with conditional cross-border processing for foreign-leg transactions)

**314. The India-Mediterranean-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was announced at:**

- A. G7 Hiroshima 2023
- B. BRICS 2024
- C. QUAD 2024
- D. G20 New Delhi Summit September 2023, alongside the US, EU, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany and Italy

**315. The AI-based school assessment pilot in Jodhpur is anchored in which national education framework?**

- A. National Curriculum Framework 2005
- B. National Education Policy 2020

- C. Right to Education Act 2009 alone
- D. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

**316. The right to free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14 is guaranteed by which Article?**

- A. Article 21A
- B. Article 45
- C. Article 41
- D. Article 29

**317. Concerns over algorithmic bias in AI grading most directly engage which constitutional guarantee against arbitrariness?**

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 25
- D. Article 32

**318. PARAKH, the body linked to the assessment reform, functions under which institution?**

- A. UGC
- B. NCERT
- C. CBSE
- D. AICTE

## DEFENCE & SECURITY

**319. Puttaswamy (2017) four-prong proportionality test for privacy-affecting action requires:**

- A. Only legality
- B. Legality, legitimate aim, proportionality (suitability + necessity), procedural safeguards
- C. Only necessity
- D. Only judicial approval

**320. Article 355 of the Constitution casts a duty on the Union to:**

- A. Consult States on all security matters
- B. Protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance
- C. Levy security taxes
- D. Appoint Governors

**321. Article 352 (National Emergency) can now be invoked on the ground of:**

- A. Economic crisis
- B. Communal violence
- C. Political instability
- D. Armed rebellion (replaces 'internal disturbance' by 44th Amd 1978)

**322. AFSPA 1958 was judicially examined in:**

- A. Kesavananda Bharati (1973)
- B. Kedar Nath (1962)
- C. Maneka Gandhi (1978)
- D. Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v Uol (1998)

**323. Consider the following statements regarding PM Takaichi's policy shift: I. She is Japan's first woman Prime Minister and has announced an accelerated review of the 'Three Principles' to permit fully-finished lethal exports to select partners. II. India has been named among the prospective partners for Japanese submarine-technology transfer. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. Both I and II
- C. II only
- D. Neither I nor II

**324. Consider the following statements: I. Over 80% of the oil shipped through Hormuz heads to Asian markets, including India, China, Japan and South Korea. II. India meets roughly one-fourth of its oil-import needs via Hormuz-transit cargoes. Which is/are correct?**

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. Neither I nor II
- D. Both I and II

**325. The Quad grouping, central to the India-Japan defence context, is best described as:**

- A. A collective-defence military alliance like NATO
- B. A binding treaty organisation under the UN
- C. An informal consultative strategic forum of four democracies
- D. A trade bloc regulating tariffs

**326. DDR&D, the parent department under which DRDO functions, is part of the:**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of External Affairs
- C. Ministry of Defence

D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**327. The DRDO's Advanced Armoured Platforms were unveiled at the VRDE, which stands for:**

- A. Vehicle Research and Development Establishment
- B. Vehicles Research and Development Establishment
- C. Vessel Research and Design Enterprise
- D. Vibration Research and Defence Estate

**328. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 gives highest priority to which procurement category?**

- A. Buy (Global)
- B. Buy (Indian-IDDM)
- C. Buy and Make (Global)
- D. Lease

**329. The DRDO, which developed these platforms, is:**

- A. A constitutional body
- B. A statutory body under a Parliament Act
- C. An arm of the Ministry of Defence's DDR&D, not a statutory body
- D. A public-sector undertaking under NITI Aayog

**330. The Jiu Tian 'Mothership' is a Chinese:**

- A. Naval carrier
- B. High-altitude UAV designed to launch swarms of smaller drones — extending stand-off swarm reach
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank platform

**331. China's CETC 'Atlas' drone swarm reportedly fielded:**

- A. 10 drones
- B. 96 drones — claimed as the largest networked autonomous swarm demonstration to date
- C. 300 drones
- D. 1,000 drones

**332. Operation Sindoor (2025) reinforced the importance of:**

- A. Manned bombers
- B. Drone warfare, precision strike, counter-drone capabilities and integrated air defence — given the centrality of UAVs in modern conflict
- C. Cavalry
- D. Submarines

**333. Article 246 read with Schedule VII Entry 1 of List I (Union List) covers:**

- A. Public health
- B. Defence of India and every part thereof — including preparation for defence and demobilisation
- C. Police
- D. Local government

**334. Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto's India visit (April 2026) finalised:**

- A. An end to defence cooperation
- B. A purely cultural treaty
- C. An India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 with a Defence Industrial Roadmap
- D. An immigration agreement only

**335. Consider: (I) UNCLOS Art 38 transit passage cannot be unilaterally suspended. (II) Italy is the rotating EU Council Presidency holder in April 2026. (III) IPOI was launched in 2019. Correct:**

- A. I and II only

- B. I and III only
- C. I, II and III
- D. II only

**336. UNCLOS Part III Article 38 governs:**

- A. Innocent passage
- B. Continental shelf
- C. Transit passage through straits used for international navigation — non-suspendable, applicable to all ships and aircraft
- D. Deep seabed mining

**337. Operation Sindoor (2025) primarily reinforced the strategic importance of:**

- A. Manned bombers
- B. Ballistic missile defence only
- C. Cavalry units
- D. Drone warfare, precision strike and integrated air defence in modern conflict

**338. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh leads the Indian delegation to the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting on 28 April 2026 at:**

- A. Astana
- B. Beijing
- C. Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan — current SCO chair)
- D. Moscow

**339. India and Pakistan were jointly inducted as full SCO members at:**

- A. Tashkent 2016
- B. Astana Summit June 2017
- C. Bishkek 2019
- D. Samarkand 2022

**340. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO is headquartered at:**

- A. Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
- B. Beijing
- C. Moscow
- D. Bishkek

**341. Consider: (I) India is a full member of the SCO. (II) The SCO has a single military command. (III) India's accession to the SCO was approved at the Tashkent Summit 2016 (process), with full membership at Astana 2017. Correct:**

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**342. The DRDO Vikram VT-21 Infantry Combat Vehicle is designed to replace which Soviet-era platform?**

- A. T-72 tank
- B. BMP-2
- C. BTR-80
- D. T-90

**343. The VT-21 programme falls under which broader defence-acquisition programme for combat vehicles?**

- A. FICV (Future Infantry Combat Vehicle)
- B. FRCV (Future Ready Combat Vehicle)
- C. Project 75I
- D. QRSAM

**344. Under DAP 2020, indigenous content in a defence platform is measured by:**

- A. Weight of Indian-made parts
- B. Value of Indian content
- C. Number of components
- D. Number of Indian workers

## ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

**345.** Phule's book 'Gulamgiri' (Slavery), published in 1873, was dedicated to:

- A. Queen Victoria
- B. The people of the United States who fought to free Black slaves
- C. Karl Marx
- D. Mahatma Gandhi

**346.** Jyotirao Phule is primarily known for his work in:

- A. Military reform and modernisation
- B. Social reform against caste discrimination and advocacy for universal education
- C. Economic liberalisation
- D. Drafting the Indian Penal Code

**347.** Article 21A was inserted by which Constitutional Amendment?

- A. The 44th Amendment
- B. The 73rd Amendment
- C. The 86th Amendment
- D. The 93rd Amendment

**348.** Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of:

- A. Religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
- B. Economic status only
- C. Political affiliation
- D. Language and dialect

**349.** Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees:

- A. Right to property
- B. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice & propagation of religion
- C. Right to manage religious affairs
- D. Right to education

**350.** BIS Seismic Zone-5 (highest risk) covers which of the following Char Dham regions?

- A. Only Badrinath
- B. Only Kedarnath
- C. Higher Himalayan region including parts of Uttarakhand Char Dham route
- D. None

**351.** The 'Essential Religious Practices' (ERP) test originated in:

- A. Keshavananda Bharati
- B. Shirur Mutt case (1954)
- C. Sabarimala case
- D. Shah Bano

**352.** The four Char Dham of Uttarakhand are:

- A. Puri, Rameswaram, Dwarka, Badrinath
- B. Kashi, Ayodhya, Mathura, Haridwar
- C. Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath
- D. Somnath, Dwarka, Puri, Rameswaram

**353.** A 'menhir' is best described as:

- A. A type of carnelian bead
- B. A cave painting site
- C. A ceremonial pottery type
- D. A tall, upright single standing stone, often associated with megalithic burials

**354.** The megalithic burials excavated at Virli Khanda in Vidarbha belong to which archaeological age?

- A. Palaeolithic Age
- B. Iron Age
- C. Chalcolithic Age
- D. Neolithic Age

**355.** Protection of ancient monuments and archaeological sites of national importance is governed by which law?

- A. Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972
- B. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958
- C. Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- D. Forest Conservation Act 1980

**356.** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861 under which official?

- A. Lord Curzon
- B. Alexander Cunningham
- C. John Marshall
- D. Mortimer Wheeler

**357.** Goa-based YouTuber Suman Khattar was booked under BNS §299 for remarks on:

- A. St. Francis Xavier (Goencho Saib) — outraging the religious feelings of Goan Catholics
- B. PM Modi
- C. A film actor
- D. A political party

**358.** Principle: §295A IPC / BNS §299 is constitutional only as a Ramji Lal Modi 'public order' restriction with mens rea (Mahendra Singh Dhoni); Art 19(2) does not allow 'religious sentiment' as a free-standing ground. Facts: A YouTuber makes a satirical video critiquing a religious practice. Police register a sacrilege FIR without alleging deliberate or malicious intent. Decision:

- A. FIR is valid as the video is offensive
- B. FIR is liable to be quashed under §482 CrPC / Art 226 — the 'deliberate and malicious' mens rea is
- C. Only the Supreme Court can quash
- D. Religious offence is strict liability

**359.** The body of St. Francis Xavier rests at:

- A. Old Goa Cathedral
- B. St. Paul's, London
- C. Vatican City
- D. The Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa — interred there since 1624; a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986

**360.** Section 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 corresponds to which IPC section?

- A. IPC §124A
- B. IPC §295A — deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings
- C. IPC §377
- D. IPC §498A

**361.** The Piprahwa relics, exposed at Leh for Buddha Purnima, were first excavated in 1898 by:

- A. Alexander Cunningham
- B. William Claxton Peppe
- C. John Marshall
- D. Aurel Stein

**362. Buddha Purnima (Vesak) marks which events in the Buddha's life?**

- A. Only his birth
- B. His birth, enlightenment and mahaparinirvana
- C. Only his first sermon
- D. His renunciation alone

**363. The 1970 UNESCO Convention, relevant to India's relic repatriation, concerns:**

- A. Protection of world heritage sites
- B. The means of prohibiting illicit import and export of cultural property
- C. Intangible cultural heritage
- D. Underwater cultural heritage

**364. Directive Principle Article 49 obliges the State to protect:**

- A. Forests and wildlife
- B. Monuments and objects of artistic or historic interest of national importance
- C. Village panchayats
- D. The environment

## AWARDS & PERSONS

**365. Which of the following best describes Yak Churpi from Ladakh, in the context of GI eligibility?**

- A. A trademark of a single corporation
- B. A copyright-protected musical work
- C. A patentable pharmaceutical compound
- D. A traditional fermented yak-milk cheese closely linked to Changpa pastoralist communities — a candidate for GI protection given its terroir-linked character

**366. Geographical Indications in India are protected under which statute?**

- A. Trade Marks Act 1999
- B. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999
- C. Copyright Act 1957
- D. Patents Act 1970

**367. Which was the first product to be registered as a Geographical Indication in India?**

- A. Basmati Rice
- B. Darjeeling Tea
- C. Banglar Rasogolla
- D. Alphonso Mango

**368. A distinguishing feature of a Geographical Indication, compared with a trademark, is that a GI is:**

- A. Owned by a single manufacturer
- B. Community-owned and cannot be individually owned
- C. Valid only for ten years worldwide
- D. Automatically protected without registration

**369. Which Indian Army Chief was inducted into the US Army War College Hall of Fame in April 2026?**

- A. Gen Manoj Pande
- B. Gen Upendra Dwivedi
- C. Gen M M Naravane
- D. Gen Bipin Rawat

**370. The India-US foundational agreement signed in 2016 enabling reciprocal use of military logistics facilities is:**

- A. COMCASA
- B. LEMOA
- C. BECA
- D. GSOMIA

**371. The 2020 India-US foundational agreement providing geospatial intelligence sharing is:**

- A. BECA
- B. LEMOA
- C. COMCASA
- D. CISMOA

**372. 'Yudh Abhyas', referenced in India-US defence ties, is a:**

- A. Naval exercise with Japan
- B. Bilateral India-US army exercise
- C. Air-force exercise with France
- D. Cyber-defence pact

**373. The Padma Awards were instituted in:**

- A. 1954 — alongside Bharat Ratna (Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri)
- B. 1947
- C. 1972
- D. 1992

**374. Balaji Raghavan v Union of India (1996) held that:**

- A. Padma awards and Bharat Ratna are NOT 'titles' within Art 18 — they are 'decorations' for service; cannot be used as suffixes/prefixes to names
- B. Padma awards are unconstitutional 'titles' under Art 18
- C. Padma awards are titles of nobility
- D. Padma awards are unreviewable

**375. Consider: (I) Photography enjoys Art 19(1)(a) protection as 'speech and expression'. (II) Padma Bhushan is higher than Padma Shri. (III) The Press Council of India was established under the Press Council Act 1978. Correct:**

- A. I and III only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**376. The hierarchy of Padma awards (highest to lowest) is:**

- A. Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri (with Bharat Ratna above all)
- B. Padma Shri > Padma Bhushan > Padma Vibhushan
- C. All are equal
- D. Padma Bhushan > Padma Vibhushan > Padma Shri

**377. The Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards are instituted by:**

- A. Sangeet Natak Akademi
- B. Sakal Media Group
- C. ITC SRA
- D. Spic Macay

**378. Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit belongs to which gharana?**

- A. Patiala
- B. Kirana
- C. Gwalior
- D. Jaipur-Atrauli

**379. The Gwalior gharana is generally considered the:**

- A. Youngest gharana
- B. Oldest khayal gharana
- C. Only female-led gharana
- D. Carnatic gharana

**380. Sumitra Guha is a renowned exponent of which genre?**

- A. Carnatic vocal
- B. Hindustani vocal (Kirana/Carnatic blend)
- C. Kathak
- D. Sitar

## REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

**381. Principle:** Art 21 read with Art 47 secures public health; COTPA 2003 implements WHO FCTC; Murli Deora recognises passive-smoking harm. **Facts:** Study shows 35% of adults exposed to second-hand smoke in public spaces. **A PIL seeks stricter enforcement of Sec 4 COTPA. Decision:**

- A. Court can direct stricter enforcement invoking Art 21/47 + COTPA Sec 4; mandamus lies to enforce a statutory duty
- B. Court cannot intervene in legislative policy
- C. PIL is not maintainable in health matters
- D. Only Parliament can act

**382. Murli S. Deora v Uol (2001) held that:**

- A. Smoking is a fundamental right
- B. COTPA is unconstitutional
- C. Smoking in public places violates Art 21 of non-smokers who are subjected to passive smoking
- D. Tobacco industry has protected speech

**383. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) was adopted in:**

- A. 1999
- B. 2015
- C. 2003 (India ratified in 2004)
- D. 2020

**384. Consider: (I) Passive smoking violates non-smokers' Art 21 (Murli Deora). (II) COTPA implements India's FCTC obligations. (III) Art 47 is justiciable in the same way as a fundamental right. Correct:**

- A. I and II only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I only

**385. Principle:** Art 21 includes right to a pollution-free, climate-secure environment (Subhash Kumar; MC Mehta); DM Act 2005 imposes duty on State to prepare and respond. **Facts:** 2026 monsoon delivers extreme events in Wayanad-style flash flood zones; State has no DDMA-approved plan and no early warning network. **Decision:**

- A. Court cannot intervene — DM is policy
- B. Court may issue mandamus invoking Art 21 + DM Act 2005 directing preparation of DDMA plans, early warning systems and SDRF deployment
- C. Only the Centre can intervene
- D. Only the IMD can be approached

**386. PM MITRA stands for:**

- A. PM Mega Investment Textile Region Authority
- B. PM Manufacturing IT Region
- C. PM Mineral and Infrastructure Trade Region
- D. Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks scheme

**387. Consider: (I) Hormuz transit passage cannot be unilaterally suspended. (II) UAE is India's third-largest trade partner. (III) OCI cardholders enjoy voting rights. Correct:**

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I and II only

**388. The Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India in**

2024-25 (PLFS) is approximately:

- A. 12%
- B. 55%
- C. Around 32-34% (rising from ~23% in 2017-18)
- D. 70%

## STATES IN NEWS

**389. LARR Act, 2013 stands for:**

- A. Land Acquisition and Resettlement Rules
- B. Land Acquisition Reform Rules
- C. Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act
- D. Land Access Redress Rules

**390. Under LARR 2013, compensation for rural land may go up to how many times the market value?**

- A. Twice
- B. Up to 4 times
- C. Up to 6 times
- D. 10 times

**391. Sections 26-28 of LARR Act deal with:**

- A. SIA
- B. R&R entitlements
- C. Determination of market value & compensation multipliers
- D. Penalties

**392. The Ken-Betwa Link Project involves:**

- A. Two rivers in MP/UP with Panna Tiger Reserve concerns
- B. A Himalayan tunnel
- C. Godavari-Krishna link
- D. A canal in Punjab

**393. Consider: (I) Public Trust Doctrine forms part of Article 21 jurisprudence. (II) Wetlands Rules 2017 are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. (III) Cancellation of approved environmental projects without justification can be judicially reviewed under Art 226. Correct:**

- A. II only
- B. I and II only
- C. I only
- D. I, II and III

**394. Maharashtra Environment Minister Pankaja Munde scrapped how many State Lake Conservation Programme (SLCP) projects in April 2026?**

- A. 5
- B. 30
- C. 20
- D. 14

**395. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was signed at Ramsar, Iran in:**

- A. 1971 (entered into force 1975); India joined 1982
- B. 1992 Rio
- C. 1997 Kyoto
- D. 2002 Johannesburg

**396. Article 243W of the Constitution deals with:**

- A. Panchayats only
- B. Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities — including the 12th Schedule subjects (e.g. urban environmental protection, water bodies)
- C. Tribal areas
- D. Cooperative societies

**397. The Ganga Expressway will have airstrip facility for emergency**

aircraft landing near:

- A. Meerut
- B. Shahjahanpur
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Hardoi

398. Bharatmala Pariyojana is a programme for the development of:

- A. Railways
- B. National highways
- C. Inland waterways
- D. Ports

399. UPEIDA stands for:

- A. UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority
- B. UP Express Infrastructure and Development Agency
- C. UP Economic Industrial Development Authority
- D. UP Engineering and Infrastructure Development Authority

400. The Ganga Expressway is being constructed by:

- A. NHAI
- B. UPEIDA
- C. DMRC
- D. NHIDCL

PERSONAL NOTES — FACTS & MISSES TO REVISE

# ANSWER KEY

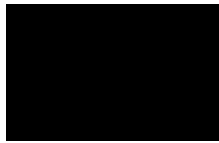
Detailed explanations for every question are available in the CLAT Gurukul LMS — scan the “Ask The Explainer” QR on the back cover.

|                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1<br><b>A</b>   | 2<br><b>B</b>   | 3<br><b>B</b>   | 4<br><b>B</b>   | 5<br><b>B</b>   | 6<br><b>B</b>   | 7<br><b>B</b>   | 8<br><b>B</b>   | 9<br><b>A</b>   | 10<br><b>C</b>  |
| 11<br><b>B</b>  | 12<br><b>A</b>  | 13<br><b>B</b>  | 14<br><b>B</b>  | 15<br><b>B</b>  | 16<br><b>B</b>  | 17<br><b>B</b>  | 18<br><b>B</b>  | 19<br><b>B</b>  | 20<br><b>B</b>  |
| 21<br><b>A</b>  | 22<br><b>B</b>  | 23<br><b>C</b>  | 24<br><b>A</b>  | 25<br><b>D</b>  | 26<br><b>A</b>  | 27<br><b>B</b>  | 28<br><b>B</b>  | 29<br><b>A</b>  | 30<br><b>B</b>  |
| 31<br><b>D</b>  | 32<br><b>A</b>  | 33<br><b>A</b>  | 34<br><b>B</b>  | 35<br><b>C</b>  | 36<br><b>B</b>  | 37<br><b>A</b>  | 38<br><b>B</b>  | 39<br><b>B</b>  | 40<br><b>B</b>  |
| 41<br><b>B</b>  | 42<br><b>A</b>  | 43<br><b>B</b>  | 44<br><b>B</b>  | 45<br><b>B</b>  | 46<br><b>A</b>  | 47<br><b>A</b>  | 48<br><b>B</b>  | 49<br><b>B</b>  | 50<br><b>B</b>  |
| 51<br><b>A</b>  | 52<br><b>B</b>  | 53<br><b>D</b>  | 54<br><b>B</b>  | 55<br><b>A</b>  | 56<br><b>D</b>  | 57<br><b>C</b>  | 58<br><b>C</b>  | 59<br><b>B</b>  | 60<br><b>B</b>  |
| 61<br><b>A</b>  | 62<br><b>D</b>  | 63<br><b>B</b>  | 64<br><b>A</b>  | 65<br><b>C</b>  | 66<br><b>D</b>  | 67<br><b>B</b>  | 68<br><b>B</b>  | 69<br><b>C</b>  | 70<br><b>A</b>  |
| 71<br><b>C</b>  | 72<br><b>A</b>  | 73<br><b>B</b>  | 74<br><b>C</b>  | 75<br><b>B</b>  | 76<br><b>B</b>  | 77<br><b>D</b>  | 78<br><b>C</b>  | 79<br><b>A</b>  | 80<br><b>B</b>  |
| 81<br><b>B</b>  | 82<br><b>B</b>  | 83<br><b>A</b>  | 84<br><b>B</b>  | 85<br><b>A</b>  | 86<br><b>B</b>  | 87<br><b>B</b>  | 88<br><b>A</b>  | 89<br><b>B</b>  | 90<br><b>B</b>  |
| 91<br><b>A</b>  | 92<br><b>B</b>  | 93<br><b>C</b>  | 94<br><b>B</b>  | 95<br><b>D</b>  | 96<br><b>B</b>  | 97<br><b>C</b>  | 98<br><b>B</b>  | 99<br><b>A</b>  | 100<br><b>A</b> |
| 101<br><b>B</b> | 102<br><b>A</b> | 103<br><b>B</b> | 104<br><b>D</b> | 105<br><b>B</b> | 106<br><b>B</b> | 107<br><b>B</b> | 108<br><b>B</b> | 109<br><b>B</b> | 110<br><b>A</b> |
| 111<br><b>B</b> | 112<br><b>A</b> | 113<br><b>B</b> | 114<br><b>B</b> | 115<br><b>B</b> | 116<br><b>C</b> | 117<br><b>B</b> | 118<br><b>B</b> | 119<br><b>B</b> | 120<br><b>B</b> |
| 121<br><b>B</b> | 122<br><b>B</b> | 123<br><b>B</b> | 124<br><b>B</b> | 125<br><b>B</b> | 126<br><b>D</b> | 127<br><b>B</b> | 128<br><b>B</b> | 129<br><b>B</b> | 130<br><b>B</b> |
| 131<br><b>B</b> | 132<br><b>C</b> | 133<br><b>D</b> | 134<br><b>B</b> | 135<br><b>C</b> | 136<br><b>B</b> | 137<br><b>B</b> | 138<br><b>C</b> | 139<br><b>B</b> | 140<br><b>B</b> |
| 141<br><b>B</b> | 142<br><b>D</b> | 143<br><b>A</b> | 144<br><b>B</b> | 145<br><b>A</b> | 146<br><b>B</b> | 147<br><b>B</b> | 148<br><b>A</b> | 149<br><b>B</b> | 150<br><b>A</b> |
| 151<br><b>C</b> | 152<br><b>C</b> | 153<br><b>A</b> | 154<br><b>B</b> | 155<br><b>C</b> | 156<br><b>D</b> | 157<br><b>D</b> | 158<br><b>B</b> | 159<br><b>A</b> | 160<br><b>D</b> |
| 161<br><b>A</b> | 162<br><b>D</b> | 163<br><b>A</b> | 164<br><b>B</b> | 165<br><b>C</b> | 166<br><b>B</b> | 167<br><b>A</b> | 168<br><b>B</b> | 169<br><b>C</b> | 170<br><b>B</b> |
| 171<br><b>B</b> | 172<br><b>B</b> | 173<br><b>D</b> | 174<br><b>C</b> | 175<br><b>B</b> | 176<br><b>B</b> | 177<br><b>B</b> | 178<br><b>B</b> | 179<br><b>B</b> | 180<br><b>A</b> |
| 181<br><b>A</b> | 182<br><b>B</b> | 183<br><b>B</b> | 184<br><b>B</b> | 185<br><b>B</b> | 186<br><b>B</b> | 187<br><b>B</b> | 188<br><b>A</b> | 189<br><b>B</b> | 190<br><b>B</b> |
| 191<br><b>A</b> | 192<br><b>B</b> | 193<br><b>B</b> | 194<br><b>B</b> | 195<br><b>B</b> | 196<br><b>B</b> | 197<br><b>B</b> | 198<br><b>B</b> | 199<br><b>B</b> | 200<br><b>B</b> |
| 201<br><b>C</b> | 202<br><b>C</b> | 203<br><b>D</b> | 204<br><b>C</b> | 205<br><b>D</b> | 206<br><b>A</b> | 207<br><b>B</b> | 208<br><b>A</b> | 209<br><b>B</b> | 210<br><b>D</b> |
| 211<br><b>A</b> | 212<br><b>D</b> | 213<br><b>B</b> | 214<br><b>A</b> | 215<br><b>B</b> | 216<br><b>A</b> | 217<br><b>A</b> | 218<br><b>C</b> | 219<br><b>B</b> | 220<br><b>B</b> |
| 221<br><b>D</b> | 222<br><b>B</b> | 223<br><b>B</b> | 224<br><b>A</b> | 225<br><b>A</b> | 226<br><b>A</b> | 227<br><b>A</b> | 228<br><b>C</b> | 229<br><b>C</b> | 230<br><b>A</b> |
| 231<br><b>B</b> | 232<br><b>A</b> | 233<br><b>A</b> | 234<br><b>B</b> | 235<br><b>C</b> | 236<br><b>B</b> | 237<br><b>B</b> | 238<br><b>B</b> | 239<br><b>B</b> | 240<br><b>A</b> |
| 241<br><b>B</b> | 242<br><b>B</b> | 243<br><b>B</b> | 244<br><b>B</b> | 245<br><b>B</b> | 246<br><b>A</b> | 247<br><b>B</b> | 248<br><b>D</b> | 249<br><b>A</b> | 250<br><b>B</b> |
| 251             | 252             | 253             | 254             | 255             | 256             | 257             | 258             | 259             | 260             |

|                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>B</b>        | <b>A</b>        | <b>B</b>        | <b>D</b>        | <b>A</b>        | <b>B</b>        | <b>A</b>        | <b>B</b>        | <b>C</b>        | <b>A</b>        |
| 261<br><b>B</b> | 262<br><b>B</b> | 263<br><b>B</b> | 264<br><b>A</b> | 265<br><b>A</b> | 266<br><b>B</b> | 267<br><b>B</b> | 268<br><b>A</b> | 269<br><b>A</b> | 270<br><b>B</b> |
| 271<br><b>B</b> | 272<br><b>C</b> | 273<br><b>D</b> | 274<br><b>C</b> | 275<br><b>D</b> | 276<br><b>C</b> | 277<br><b>C</b> | 278<br><b>A</b> | 279<br><b>D</b> | 280<br><b>D</b> |
| 281<br><b>A</b> | 282<br><b>B</b> | 283<br><b>C</b> | 284<br><b>B</b> | 285<br><b>B</b> | 286<br><b>B</b> | 287<br><b>C</b> | 288<br><b>A</b> | 289<br><b>B</b> | 290<br><b>B</b> |
| 291<br><b>B</b> | 292<br><b>B</b> | 293<br><b>B</b> | 294<br><b>B</b> | 295<br><b>B</b> | 296<br><b>A</b> | 297<br><b>A</b> | 298<br><b>C</b> | 299<br><b>A</b> | 300<br><b>C</b> |
| 301<br><b>A</b> | 302<br><b>A</b> | 303<br><b>C</b> | 304<br><b>A</b> | 305<br><b>D</b> | 306<br><b>C</b> | 307<br><b>C</b> | 308<br><b>B</b> | 309<br><b>B</b> | 310<br><b>B</b> |
| 311<br><b>D</b> | 312<br><b>B</b> | 313<br><b>D</b> | 314<br><b>D</b> | 315<br><b>B</b> | 316<br><b>A</b> | 317<br><b>A</b> | 318<br><b>B</b> | 319<br><b>B</b> | 320<br><b>B</b> |
| 321<br><b>D</b> | 322<br><b>D</b> | 323<br><b>D</b> | 324<br><b>A</b> | 325<br><b>C</b> | 326<br><b>B</b> | 327<br><b>B</b> | 328<br><b>B</b> | 329<br><b>C</b> | 330<br><b>B</b> |
| 331<br><b>B</b> | 332<br><b>B</b> | 333<br><b>B</b> | 334<br><b>C</b> | 335<br><b>B</b> | 336<br><b>C</b> | 337<br><b>D</b> | 338<br><b>C</b> | 339<br><b>B</b> | 340<br><b>A</b> |
| 341<br><b>A</b> | 342<br><b>B</b> | 343<br><b>A</b> | 344<br><b>B</b> | 345<br><b>B</b> | 346<br><b>B</b> | 347<br><b>C</b> | 348<br><b>A</b> | 349<br><b>B</b> | 350<br><b>C</b> |
| 351<br><b>B</b> | 352<br><b>C</b> | 353<br><b>A</b> | 354<br><b>B</b> | 355<br><b>B</b> | 356<br><b>B</b> | 357<br><b>A</b> | 358<br><b>B</b> | 359<br><b>D</b> | 360<br><b>B</b> |
| 361<br><b>B</b> | 362<br><b>B</b> | 363<br><b>B</b> | 364<br><b>B</b> | 365<br><b>D</b> | 366<br><b>B</b> | 367<br><b>B</b> | 368<br><b>B</b> | 369<br><b>B</b> | 370<br><b>B</b> |
| 371<br><b>A</b> | 372<br><b>B</b> | 373<br><b>A</b> | 374<br><b>A</b> | 375<br><b>C</b> | 376<br><b>A</b> | 377<br><b>B</b> | 378<br><b>C</b> | 379<br><b>B</b> | 380<br><b>B</b> |
| 381<br><b>A</b> | 382<br><b>C</b> | 383<br><b>C</b> | 384<br><b>A</b> | 385<br><b>B</b> | 386<br><b>D</b> | 387<br><b>D</b> | 388<br><b>C</b> | 389<br><b>C</b> | 390<br><b>B</b> |
| 391<br><b>C</b> | 392<br><b>A</b> | 393<br><b>D</b> | 394<br><b>D</b> | 395<br><b>A</b> | 396<br><b>B</b> | 397<br><b>B</b> | 398<br><b>B</b> | 399<br><b>A</b> | 400<br><b>B</b> |

Jot down the facts and misses you want to revise before the exam.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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