

CLAT GURUKUL

GK CHRONICLE

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST

JULY 2026

MONTHLY DIGEST

Part I · 1–15 July 2026

108 Topics · 400 Practice MCQs · Notes-Style Coverage



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the July 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 July 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.

— CLAT GURUKUL EDITORIAL DESK

HOW TO USE THIS ISSUE

- 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	11 topics	4
02	LEGAL & JUDICIARY	16 topics	9
03	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	13 topics	16
04	ECONOMY & BUSINESS	15 topics	22
05	ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	13 topics	28
06	SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH	14 topics	34
07	DEFENCE & SECURITY	8 topics	40
08	ART, CULTURE & HISTORY	5 topics	44
09	SPORTS	2 topics	47
10	AWARDS & PERSONS	2 topics	48
11	REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES	7 topics	49
12	STATES IN NEWS	2 topics	52
13	QUESTION BANK	400 MCQs	54
14	ANSWER KEY	Keys 1–400	79

KEY TOPICS IN FOCUS

POLITY & GOVERNANCE	Mizoram Accord at 40: Article 3, Sixth Schedule & 371G
LEGAL & JUDICIARY	FCRA Rules 2026: Tightening the Foreign-Funding Tap for NGOs
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Modi-Pezeshkian Call: Keeping the Strait of Hormuz Open
ECONOMY & BUSINESS	DGTR Anti-Dumping Probe on CRGO Electrical Steel
ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	Great Nicobar Mega-Project & the Public Trust Doctrine
SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH	IndiaAI Mission: Building Sovereign Compute

SECTION 01 / 12

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Mizoram Accord at 40: Article 3, Sixth Schedule & 371G



The **Mizoram Accord (1986)**, signed by PM **Rajiv Gandhi** and MNF leader **Laldenga**, ended two decades of insurgency. Parliament passed the **State of Mizoram Act, 1986** under **Article 3**, and Mizoram became India's **23rd state** on **20 February 1987**, with **Article 371G** safeguards and **Sixth Schedule** autonomous councils.

QUICK FACTS

- Accord signed **1986**; PM **Rajiv Gandhi** and Mizo National Front (MNF) chief **Laldenga**.
- Statehood via the **State of Mizoram Act, 1986**, enacted under **Article 3**.
- Mizoram became the **23rd state** on **20 February 1987**.
- **Article 371G** shields Mizo **customary law, religious/social practice and land ownership**.
- Mizoram has **three Sixth-Schedule autonomous district councils** (Chakma, Lai, Mara).

MUST KNOW

- **Article 3** forms new states by **simple majority**; the state legislature's view is **consulted, not binding**.
- **Sixth Schedule** covers **four NE states**: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram (autonomous district councils).
- **Article 371G** is an example of **asymmetric federalism** — special provisions for one state.
- Peace accord-to-statehood is the **model**: negotiated settlement converted into a statutory law under Art 3.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Fifth Schedule** = Scheduled Areas (governor-administered); **Sixth Schedule** = tribal autonomous councils in the NE.
- Article 371A protects **Nagaland**; 371G protects **Mizoram** — both shield customary law.
- Under Article 3, President's **recommendation** and reference of the Bill to the state legislature are required.
- Mizoram capital: **Aizawl**; carved out of the erstwhile **Assam**/Union Territory of Mizoram.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Art 3 procedure (simple majority, non-binding state view) vs Art 368 amendment; Fifth vs Sixth Schedule; asymmetric federalism.

PROVISIONS

Article 3, Article 4, Article 371G, Sixth Schedule (Art 244(2)), State of Mizoram Act 1986

BODIES & CASES

Mizo National Front (MNF), Autonomous District Councils

Common Error: Assuming the state legislature's consent is binding under Art 3 — it is only consultative; and confusing Art 3 (simple majority) with Art 368 (special majority).

One Nation One Election & the 129th Amendment Bill



One Nation One Election (ONOE) proposes synchronising **Lok Sabha** and **State Assembly** polls in a fixed cycle. The vehicle is the **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024**, plus a **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill** for Delhi and Puducherry. A **Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC)** chaired by **P.P. Chaudhary** is examining the Bills.

QUICK FACTS

- Legislative vehicle: **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024**.
- Companion **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill** covers UTs with legislatures (Delhi, Puducherry).
- **JPC** chaired by MP **P.P. Chaudhary** is holding consultations.
- Bills touch **terms/duration of legislatures** and premature **dissolution**.
- Opposition members are expected to file a **dissent note**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 83** = duration of Parliament (Lok Sabha 5 yrs); **Article 172** = duration of State Assemblies.
- **Article 356** (President's Rule) and mid-term dissolutions complicate synchronisation.
- ONOE raises a **basic-structure** question — federalism and free elections (**Kesavananda Bharati**, 1973).
- Constitutional amendment needs **Article 368** special majority; some clauses may need **state ratification**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India held simultaneous elections from **1951-52 to 1967** before the cycle broke down.
- The **Kovind Committee** (High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections) recommended ONOE.
- A JPC is an **ad hoc committee** of both Houses set up for a specific bill/inquiry.
- Election dates and conduct are managed by the **Election Commission of India (Article 324)**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Duration/dissolution of legislatures, federalism and basic-structure limits on amending power.

PROVISIONS

Article 83, Article 172, Article 356, Article 368, Article 324

BODIES & CASES

Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC), Kovind Committee, Election Commission of India, **Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala** (1973)

Common Error: Treating ONOE as a mere ordinary law — it is a constitutional amendment (Art 368), not a simple statute; and forgetting Art 83 (Parliament) vs Art 172 (Assemblies).

130th Amendment: Removing Ministers Held 30 Days in Custody



The **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025** proposes that a minister — including the PM and Chief Ministers — **arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days** for serious offences would **automatically cease to hold office**. A Parliamentary panel is expected to retain the clause; opposition members plan a **dissent note** citing misuse and the **presumption of innocence**.

QUICK FACTS

- Trigger: **arrest + 30 consecutive days** in custody for **serious offences**.
- Applies across the executive — **PM and CMs are not exempt**.
- Effect: the minister **automatically ceases to hold office** (may be reappointed on release).
- Introduced as part of a package with the **129th (ONOE) Amendment Bill**.
- Critics warn of **political vendetta** via engineered arrests.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 75** governs Union ministers; **Article 164** governs State ministers — both serve at pleasure of President/Governor.
- Clashes with **Article 21** and the **presumption of innocence** (guilt not yet proven).
- Raises **separation of powers** — executive tenure disturbed by mere custody, not conviction.
- Ministers must be members of the legislature within **six months** (Arts 75(5)/164(4)).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Under **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, disqualification follows **conviction**, not mere arrest.
- In **Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013)**, SC struck down protection allowing convicted MPs/MLAs to stay pending appeal.
- The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible to the **Lok Sabha/Assembly** (Arts 75(3)/164(2)).
- The **President/Governor** formally appoints and removes ministers on the PM's/CM's advice.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Ministerial tenure (Arts 75/164), presumption of innocence under Art 21, and separation of powers.

PROVISIONS

Article 75, Article 164, Article 21, Article 368

BODIES & CASES

Council of Ministers, Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013), Representation of the People Act 1951

Common Error: Equating 'arrest/custody' with 'conviction' — the RP Act disqualifies on conviction; this clause acts on mere detention, which is the constitutional controversy.

Midday Meals, PM POSHAN & the Right to Food



West Bengal's move to drop **eggs** from school midday meals reopened a debate about India's largest school-nutrition scheme, now branded **PM POSHAN**. The controversy links nutrition to constitutional law — the **right to food** read into **Article 21** in **PUCL v Union of India (2001)**, later crystallised in the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

QUICK FACTS

- Scheme rebranded **PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman)** in **2021**.
- Eggs are a **complete protein** — a key reason many states include them.
- Pioneer: **Tamil Nadu**; CM **K. Kamaraj** scaled the school-meal programme (**1956-57**).
- Right to food read into **Article 21** via **PUCL v Union of India (2001)**.
- Statutory anchor: **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 21** (life) has been expanded to include the **right to food and nutrition**.
- **DPSP Article 47** obliges the State to raise **nutrition and public health**.
- PUCL 'right to food' case grew out of a **PIL** during drought (2001) — a landmark on **socio-economic rights**.
- Midday Meal aids **enrolment, retention and reducing classroom hunger**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The scheme is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** shared between Centre and states.
- **NFSA 2013** gives legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains to **~two-thirds** of the population.
- Article 21A guarantees **free and compulsory education** (6-14 yrs) — linked to school retention.
- Nodal ministry: **Ministry of Education** (Department of School Education & Literacy).

CLAT / Legal Lens

Expansive reading of Art 21 (right to food), DPSP-fundamental rights interplay, and PIL as socio-economic enforcement.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 47 (DPSP), Article 21A, National Food Security Act 2013

BODIES & CASES

PUCL v Union of India (2001), Ministry of Education, PM POSHAN

Common Error: Calling the 'right to food' an express fundamental right — it is judicially read into Art 21; and confusing PM POSHAN (school meals) with NFSA/PDS ration entitlements.

CAG Audit of Delhi Discoms & Regulatory Assets

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The **Delhi** Cabinet under CM **Rekha Gupta** ordered a **CAG audit** of the capital's three discoms — **BRPL, BYPL and TPDDL** — the first since distribution was **privatised in 2002**. At issue is roughly **₹38,500 crore** in unrecovered **Regulatory Assets**, spotlighting **Article 148**, the **Electricity Act, 2003**, and public accountability.

QUICK FACTS

- Discoms: **BRPL and BYPL (BSES)**, and **TPDDL (Tata Power)**.
- First CAG audit since Delhi power distribution was **privatised in 2002**.
- About **₹38,500 crore** of accumulated **Regulatory Assets** remain unrecovered.
- A similar 2015 audit push was **blocked by the Delhi High Court**.
- Regulator: **Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC)**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 148** establishes the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** — guardian of the public purse.
- CAG's duties and powers flow from the **CAG (DPC) Act, 1971**.
- '**Regulatory Assets**' are deferred costs the regulator lets discoms recover later from consumers.
- Sector governed by the **Electricity Act, 2003**, with state regulators like **DERC**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- CAG reports are examined by the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of the legislature.
- CAG audits the accounts of the **Union and States** and reports to the President/Governor (Art 151).
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called the CAG the **most important officer** under the Constitution.
- The CAG heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department**; term is **6 years or age 65**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CAG's constitutional audit powers, accountability of privatised utilities, and legislative oversight via PAC.

PROVISIONS

Article 148, Article 149, Article 151, Electricity Act 2003, CAG (DPC) Act 1971

BODIES & CASES

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), DERC, Public Accounts Committee

Common Error: Thinking the CAG only audits government departments — statutory/GST/utility audits within its mandate are included; and confusing CAG (audit) with the Finance Commission (devolution).

- Varying board standards raise **Article 14** (equality / reasonable classification) issues.
- NEP 2020 is a **policy**, not law — implementation needs regulatory and possibly legislative steps.
- NTA conducts **NEET-UG, JEE (Main), CUET, UGC-NET** and other national tests.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Education moved from **State List to Concurrent List** via the **42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976**.
- **NEP 2020** replaced the National Policy on Education, 1986 — India's third education policy.
- NEET is mandated for **medical (MBBS/BDS)** admissions; JEE for **engineering (IITs/NITs)**.
- Entry 66 of the **Union List** covers **coordination and determination of standards** in higher education.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Education federalism (Concurrent List), equality/classification under Art 14, and Centre's power to fix higher-education standards.

PROVISIONS

Article 14, Concurrent List Entry 25, Union List Entry 66

BODIES & CASES

National Testing Agency (NTA), Ministry of Education, National Education Policy 2020

Common Error: Assuming 'education' is a State subject — it is on the Concurrent List since the 42nd Amendment; and treating NEP 2020 as binding law rather than policy.

Board Marks 50% Weightage in NEET/JEE?**POLITY & GOVERNANCE**

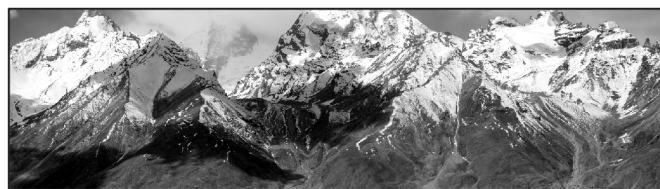
An **Education Ministry** committee is examining a proposal to give **school board marks up to 50% weightage** in NEET and JEE merit lists, alongside entrance scores. Prompted by paper-leak concerns and aligned with **NEP 2020**, it would reshape admissions run by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** and engage **Article 14** and education federalism.

QUICK FACTS

- Idea: board marks up to **50% weightage** in NEET/JEE merit alongside the entrance test.
- Aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** vision of reducing high-stakes single tests.
- Central exams are conducted by the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**, set up in **2017**.
- Reform driven by **paper-leak allegations** and evaluation errors denting exam credibility.
- Concern: **disparity across boards** (CBSE vs state boards) affecting fairness.

MUST KNOW

- **Education** is in the **Concurrent List (Entry 25)** after the **42nd Amendment (1976)**.

Ladakh: Elected Body's APAR Control Over Bureaucracy

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** revised the minutes of its Leh talks to give a proposed **elected executive body** for Ladakh **control and supervision, including the APAR**, over its civil servants. The **Apex Body Leh** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance** demand **statehood, Sixth Schedule status** and a separate public service commission — a live test of **UT governance**.

QUICK FACTS

- Revised minutes give the elected body **APAR (Annual Performance Appraisal Report)** control over officials.
- Negotiators: **Apex Body Leh (ABL)** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)**.
- Core demands: **full statehood, Sixth Schedule inclusion, separate PSC**.
- A '**sui generis**' model drawing selectively on **Article 371** is under discussion.
- Ladakh became a **UT without a legislature** under the **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 239** provides for administration of **Union Territories** by the President via an Administrator/LG.
- The **Sixth Schedule** demand seeks **autonomous district councils** to protect tribal identity.
- **Article 371** group offers **special provisions** — a template for asymmetric arrangements.

- Ladakh currently has **no legislature**, unlike UTs of Delhi, Puducherry and J&K.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** split the state into UTs of **J&K (with legislature)** and **Ladakh (without)**.
- Ladakh has two **Hill Development Councils** — **Leh** and **Kargil** (LAHDCs).
- Sixth Schedule currently applies only to **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.
- An **APAR** is the annual confidential performance rating that shapes a civil servant's career.

CLAT / Legal Lens

UT administration (Art 239), Sixth Schedule tribal autonomy, and asymmetric special provisions under Art 371.

PROVISIONS

Article 239, Article 239A, Article 371, Sixth Schedule, J&K Reorganisation Act 2019

BODIES & CASES

Apex Body **Leh, Kargil Democratic Alliance, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils**

Common Error: Assuming Ladakh has a legislature like Delhi/Puducherry — it is a UT without one; and confusing the Sixth Schedule (NE tribal councils) with the Fifth Schedule (Scheduled Areas).

- **Citizenship** is governed by the **Citizenship Act, 1955** — separate from electoral entitlement.
- The ECI is a **multi-member** body: the CEC and (currently) two Election Commissioners.
- The **NRC (Assam)** exercise illustrates the citizenship-vs-roll distinction in practice.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Nature of the right to vote (statutory vs fundamental/constitutional), due process before deletion, and roll vs citizenship.

PROVISIONS

Article 326, Article 324, Representation of the People Act 1950 (ss. 21-22), Representation of the People Act 1951, Citizenship Act 1955

BODIES & CASES

Election Commission of India, **Lal Babu Hussein v ERO** (1995), **Kuldip Nayar v Union of India** (2006)

Common Error: Equating deletion from the electoral roll with loss of citizenship — the two are legally distinct; and calling the right to vote a fundamental right (it is statutory).

SIR of Electoral Rolls: Deletions & the Right to Vote

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

The **Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls — notably in **Bihar** — triggered alarm over large-scale **deletions** and a spillover into ration, pensions and even passport access. It revives a core question: is the **right to vote** a **fundamental, constitutional or statutory** right, and does roll-deletion touch **citizenship**?

QUICK FACTS

- ECI is conducting a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls.
- The **ECINET** portal has sought applicants' **parents' details** during revision.
- Deletions can cascade into loss of **PDS ration, pensions, LPG subsidy, DBT** and passport delays.
- Former CEC **S.Y. Quraishi** flagged the 'hidden consequences' of deletions.
- Courts hold that **roll deletion does not by itself decide citizenship**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 326** guarantees **universal adult suffrage** (voting age 18 after the **61st Amendment, 1988**).
- The **right to vote** is a **statutory right** under the **RP Act, 1951** (per **Kuldip Nayar**), not a fundamental right.
- Roll preparation/revision is governed by the **RP Act, 1950** (ss. 21-22).
- **Lal Babu Hussein v ERO (1995)**: a person cannot be struck off without due **notice and hearing**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **ECI (Article 324)** superintends, directs and controls the preparation of electoral rolls.

Women's Reservation, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam & Delimitation



India's women's-reservation law — the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, the **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023** — reserves **one-third** of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats for women, yet **no seat is reserved yet**. Under new **Article 334A**, it commences only after a **delimitation** following the first **Census** after the Act.

QUICK FACTS

- Law: **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam = Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023**.
- Reserves **one-third** of seats in the **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies** (and Delhi Assembly).
- Inserts **Articles 330A, 332A** (reservation) and **334A** (commencement).
- Commencement is tied to a **delimitation after the first Census** post-enactment (Art 334A).
- Reservation to last **15 years**, with seats **rotated** after each delimitation.

MUST KNOW

- A constitutional amendment needs **Article 368** special majority (+ state ratification for federal features).
- **Delimitation** redraws constituencies under **Articles 82 and 170** based on census data.
- Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats is **frozen till the first census after 2026** (Arts 82/170, per 84th Amendment).
- The paradox: the law is **enacted but not operational** pending census + delimitation.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Reservation for women in **Panchayats** and **Municipalities** already exists via the **73rd and 74th Amendments**.
- A **Delimitation Commission** is a statutory body whose orders **cannot be questioned in court**.
- One-third reservation includes seats reserved for **SCs and STs** within the quota.
- Earlier women's-reservation bills (1996 onwards) repeatedly **lapsed**.

before 2023.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Amendment procedure (Art 368), delimitation preconditions (Arts 82/170) and delayed commencement (Art 334A).

PROVISIONS

Article 330A, Article 332A, Article 334A, Article 82, Article 170, Article 368

BODIES & CASES

Delimitation Commission, Parliament, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023

Common Error: Assuming women's reservation is already in force — it is enacted (106th Amendment) but not operational until delimitation after the next census.

Ministry of Cooperation, Bharat Taxi & Cooperative Federalism

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

At its **5th Foundation Day**, the **Ministry of Cooperation** (formed 2021) unveiled a cooperative life insurer and **Bharat Taxi**, a cooperative ride-aggregator. Cooperatives already dominate **fertiliser, sugar and milk**. The move revives the **cooperative-federalism** debate — a **State List** subject vs the **97th Amendment's** reach, settled in **Rajendra N. Shah (2021)**.

QUICK FACTS

- The **Ministry of Cooperation** was carved out in **2021** (motto: 'Sahkar se Samridhhi').
- Bharat Taxi** is pitched as India's first **cooperative taxi service**, scaling to 500 cities.
- Cooperatives lead output in **fertiliser (IFFCO/KRIBHCO)**, **sugar and milk (Amul)**.
- Cooperative societies** fall under **Entry 32, State List (Seventh Schedule)**.
- PACS** form the **base tier** of the rural cooperative-credit structure.

MUST KNOW

- Article 19(1)(c)** guarantees the freedom to form **associations, unions and cooperatives**.
- The **97th Amendment (2011)** added **Article 43-B (DPSP)** and **Part IX-B** on cooperatives.
- In **Union of India v Rajendra N. Shah (2021)**, SC struck down **Part IX-B** for single-state cooperatives (no state ratification).
- Part IX-B survives only for **multi-State cooperative societies** and UTs.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Article 43-B directs the State to promote **voluntary, democratic, autonomous, professional** cooperatives.
- Multi-State cooperatives are governed by the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- The 97th Amendment made forming cooperatives a facet of a **fundamental right** (Art 19(1)(c)).
- Amul (GCMMF)** is the classic Indian cooperative success story in dairy.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Cooperative federalism: State List subject vs central legislation, and the ratification requirement under Art 368(2) proviso.

PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(c), Article 43-B, Part IX-B, Seventh Schedule Entry 32 (State List), Article 368(2) proviso

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Cooperation, Union of India v Rajendra N. Shah (2021), Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002

Common Error: Thinking the whole 97th Amendment was struck down — only Part IX-B for single-state cooperatives fell; it stands for multi-State cooperatives; Art 43-B and 19(1)(c) survive.

Narmada Tribunal, Article 262 & Cooperative Federalism



On **7 July 2026**, **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan**, with Union Ministers **Amit Shah** and **C.R. Patil** present, settled outstanding dues of the **Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT)** Award projects. It revives inter-state water-dispute machinery — **Article 262**, the **ISRWD Act, 1956**, and the **Sardar Sarovar** project.

QUICK FACTS

- Signatories: **Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan**; the pact settles **NWDT Award dues**.
- The **NWDT** was constituted in **1969** and gave its **Award in 1979**.
- Dues cover **submerged-land compensation, R&R and cost-sharing** of the Sardar Sarovar dam.
- Amit Shah** hailed it as an example of **cooperative federalism**.
- The Sardar Sarovar dam is on the **Narmada** river in Gujarat.

MUST KNOW

- Article 262** lets Parliament provide for adjudicating **inter-state water disputes**.
- Under Art 262, Parliament may **bar the Supreme Court's jurisdiction** over such disputes.
- Enacting laws: **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** and **River Boards Act, 1956**.
- Water is Entry 17 (State List)** but subject to **Entry 56 (Union List)** for inter-state rivers.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Article 263** empowers the President to set up an **Inter-State Council** (advisory).
- Don't confuse **Art 262** (tribunal, can oust courts) with **Art 263** (Council, advisory).
- Other tribunals: **Cauvery, Krishna, Godavari, Ravi-Beas** water disputes.
- The Narmada flows west into the **Arabian Sea**; the Sardar Sarovar is a multi-state project.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Inter-state water-dispute adjudication (Art 262 vs Art 263), State List vs Union List entries on water, and cooperative federalism.

PROVISIONS

Article 262, Article 263, Seventh Schedule Entry 17 (State List), Seventh Schedule Entry 56 (Union List), Inter-State River Water Disputes Act 1956

BODIES & CASES

Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (1969; Award 1979), Sardar Sarovar Project, Inter-State Council

Common Error: Confusing Article 262 (water-dispute tribunal, may bar SC jurisdiction) with Article 263 (advisory Inter-State Council); and forgetting Entry 56 (Union) overrides Entry 17 (State) for inter-state rivers.

Article 19(1)(c), Article 19(4), Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, FCRA (Amendment) Act, 2020

BODIES & CASES

Noel Harper v. Union of India (2022), K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), Ministry of Home Affairs

Common Error: Treating 'national security' as an independent Article 19(4) ground — it is not; the three grounds are sovereignty & integrity, public order, morality.

SECTION 02 / 12

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

FCRA Rules 2026: Tightening the Foreign-Funding Tap for NGOs

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

The Union government notified the **FCRA Rules 2026**, rolling out a revamped **FCRA 2.0 portal**, stricter disclosure and renewal norms, and e-OCI-linked verification for NGOs receiving foreign contributions. They build on the **FCRA (Amendment) Act, 2020**, whose validity the Supreme Court upheld in **Noel Harper v. Union of India (2022)**. The story pits **Article 19(1)(c)** freedom of association against **Article 19(4)** reasonable restrictions.

QUICK FACTS

- Parent statute: **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**, tightened by the **2020 Amendment**.
- New **FCRA 2.0 portal** plus stricter disclosure, renewal and e-OCI-linked verification for recipient NGOs.
- Noel Harper v. Union of India (2022)** upheld the 2020 amendments as valid restrictions.
- Regulator: the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** administers FCRA registration and renewals.

MUST KNOW

- Article 19(1)(c)** guarantees the right to form associations or unions; restrictions on it flow only from **Article 19(4)**.
- Article 19(4)** permits restrictions on just THREE grounds — **sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, and morality** — 'national security' is NOT a separate head.
- Regulating foreign funding is analysed under the **proportionality** test flagged in **Puttaswamy (2017)**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- FCRA was first enacted in 1976 and re-enacted as the 2010 Act.
- Foreign contribution must be received in a single designated **State Bank of India, New Delhi** account.
- OCI = Overseas Citizen of India (a status, not dual citizenship, which India does not allow).
- Freedom of association is one of the six freedoms once listed in Article 19(1).

CLAT / Legal Lens

Free-association vs reasonable-restriction fact patterns; matching the correct Article 19(4) ground to a restriction.

PROVISIONS

US 14th Amendment vs India's Citizenship Scheme: Jus Soli or Jus Sanguinis?

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

The US Supreme Court struck down an executive order that sought to end **birthright citizenship**, holding it incompatible with the **Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause** and reaffirming **United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)** — birth on US soil confers citizenship, and no executive order can override a constitutional guarantee. India, by contrast, follows a **jus sanguinis**-inflected scheme under **Articles 5–11** and the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.

QUICK FACTS

- US model: **jus soli** (citizenship by birth on the soil), anchored in the **14th Amendment**.
- Wong Kim Ark (1898)** is the foundational US precedent on birthright citizenship.
- Indian citizenship is governed by **Articles 5–11** plus the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- An executive order cannot override a constitutional citizenship guarantee — a separation-of-powers point.

MUST KNOW

- Jus soli** = right of the soil (birthplace); **jus sanguinis** = right of blood (descent).
- India is NOT pure jus soli: for those born after **3 December 2004**, both parents must be citizens, or one a citizen and the other not an illegal migrant.
- Article 11** lets Parliament regulate citizenship by law — the source of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The 14th Amendment (1868) also carries the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses.
- India permits **OCI** status but not dual citizenship.
- Citizenship by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory are the modes under the 1955 Act.
- Articles 5–11 fall in **Part II** of the Constitution.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Comparative con-law: jus soli vs jus sanguinis, and limits on executive action against constitutional guarantees.

PROVISIONS

US Fourteenth Amendment, Articles 5–11, Constitution of India, Article 11, Citizenship Act, 1955

BODIES & CASES

United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)

Common Error: Assuming India is pure jus soli — the post-2004 rule adds a parental-status condition that the US model lacks.

UMEED at One Year: Waqf Tribunals, Rejections & Article 26



One year after the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025** launched the **UMEED** digital registration portal, roughly **11%** of waqf property applications have been rejected for documentation gaps and procedural lapses, triggering appeals in **Waqf Tribunals** and natural-justice challenges before High Courts. The dispute turns on **Article 26** — a religious denomination's right to administer its property — and the rule of **audi alteram partem**.

QUICK FACTS

- **UMEED portal** was launched under the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025** for digital registration of waqf property.
- About **11%** of applications rejected over documentation and compliance gaps.
- Appeals lie to **Waqf Tribunals** — quasi-judicial bodies under the **Waqf Act, 1995**.
- Rejections without a hearing raise **natural-justice** challenges under Article 226.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 26** gives every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs and to administer property; **Article 25** is the companion individual-freedom-of-religion provision.
- **Audi alteram partem** ('hear the other side') is a core natural-justice rule; a rejection order passed without a hearing is challengeable.
- An **ouster clause** can bar civil courts, but High Courts (Art 226) and the Supreme Court (Art 32) retain writ jurisdiction.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- A **waqf** is a permanent dedication of property for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.
- Waqf boards administer waqf properties at the state level.
- Article 26 protects denominations; Article 25 protects individuals.
- Writ jurisdiction: HC under Article 226, SC under Article 32.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Religious-property fact patterns keyed to Article 26 plus a natural-justice breach in a rejection order.

PROVISIONS

Article 26, Article 25, Article 226, Waqf Act, 1995, Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

BODIES & CASES

Waqf Tribunal

Common Error: Reaching for Article 19 or generic property rights when the operative provision for a religious institution's property is Article 26.

Supreme Court's Draft Regulations 2026: Guardrails for AI in Courts

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court warned that unregulated **Artificial Intelligence** inside courtrooms could hollow out the rule of law, after a bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe** set aside two tribunal orders built partly on AI-fabricated ('hallucinated') citations. The SC's AI Committee released the **Draft Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026**, resting on **five core principles** and applying to the SC, all High Courts and every adjudicatory court, tribunal and commission.

QUICK FACTS

- Bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe** flagged AI-**hallucinated** judgments and citations.
- The **Draft Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026** were opened for public comments.
- AI is **absolutely barred** (non-derogable) from deciding cases, bail eligibility, risk-scoring/recidivism, credibility assessment or surveilling judges and litigants.
- AI is **permitted** only for assistive tasks (e.g. translation, scheduling, research) under human oversight.

MUST KNOW

- The **five principles**: **human primacy, transparency, accountability, data protection and judicial independence**.
- Frame this as a **separation-of-powers + due-process** issue — **Article 50** (separation of judiciary from executive) and **Article 21** fair procedure.
- **Article 141** makes SC law binding on all courts; the **DPDP Act, 2023** governs the data-protection limb.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 50** is a Directive Principle urging separation of the judiciary from the executive.
- 'Hallucination' is when a generative-AI model produces confident but fabricated content.
- DPDP Act 2023 = Digital Personal Data Protection Act.
- Article 141: law declared by the Supreme Court binds all courts in India.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The five principles and the barred-vs-permitted list are prime one-mark fodder; tie AI to due process and judicial independence.

PROVISIONS

Article 50, Article 21, Article 141, Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

BODIES & CASES

Supreme Court AI Committee, Draft Regulations for Use of AI in Courts, 2026

Common Error: Assuming AI may 'assist' with bail or credibility calls — those are on the absolutely barred (non-derogable) list.

Bombay HC Quashes Externment: Peaceful Protest Is a Protected Right



A single-judge bench of the Bombay High Court (Justice **Madhav J. Jamdar**) quashed an **externment order** under the **Maharashtra Police Act** against a man externed for about seven months for organising protests. The court held that **peaceful protest** is constitutionally protected, and that externment — an extraordinary executive power — must clear a high threshold before it curtails such activity.

QUICK FACTS

- Externment order under the **Maharashtra Police Act** was **quashed** by Justice Madhav J. Jamdar.
- The petitioner had been externed for roughly **seven months** for organising protests.
- Court: **peaceful protest** flows from **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b)**.
- Externment is an **extraordinary** measure to be construed narrowly.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 19(1)(a)** protects speech; **Article 19(1)(b)** protects the right to assemble **peaceably and without arms**.
- Restrictions must satisfy **reasonableness and proportionality** under Articles 19(2)/(3).
- The judiciary acts as a constitutional check against **executive overreach**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Externment** = ordering a person to leave and stay out of a specified area for a period.
- Article 19(2) lists grounds to restrict speech; Article 19(3) restricts assembly.
- Assembly must be peaceful and unarmed to be protected.
- Right to protest is read into the assembly and speech freedoms, not a separate named right.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Speech + assembly limits and the proportionality test applied to an extraordinary police power.

PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(2), Article 19(3), Maharashtra Police Act

BODIES & CASES

Bombay High Court

Common Error: Forgetting that the assembly freedom protects only **PEACEFUL** and unarmed gatherings — violence takes it outside 19(1)(b).

The West Bengal Assembly passed two laws: one expands **preventive detention** of 'goondas' and those in 'anti-social activities' (up to **12 months**, with externment up to a year), and another lets the State recover the cost of **riot damage to public and private property** from instigators. They spotlight **Article 22** safeguards, the 'public order' concept and **strict liability**.

QUICK FACTS

- First law: expanded **preventive detention** for 'goondas'/'anti-social activities', up to **12 months**.
- Second law: mechanism to **recover riot-damage costs** from instigators and abettors.
- Preventive detention curbs liberty **without a trial**, so the Constitution surrounds it with express safeguards.
- Recovery framework echoes the **Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 22** splits into ordinary-arrest safeguards (clauses 1–2) and preventive-detention safeguards (clauses 4–7).
- Preventive detention beyond three months normally needs an **Advisory Board** to review the grounds.
- '**Public order**' is a narrower, State-focused idea than 'law and order', and lower than 'security of the State'.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Strict liability** traces to **Rylands v. Fletcher (1868)** — liability without proof of fault.
- Preventive detention detains to prevent an apprehended future threat, not to punish a past offence.
- Public order, law and order, and security of the State form three concentric circles.
- Externment removes a person from an area; preventive detention confines them.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Article 22 preventive-detention safeguards, the 'public order' threshold, and strict-liability recovery for riot damage.

PROVISIONS

Article 22, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984

BODIES & CASES

Rylands v. Fletcher (1868), West Bengal Legislative Assembly

Common Error: Confusing 'public order' with 'law and order' — a single assault is law-and-order; a disturbance affecting the community's tempo is public order.

Delhi HC: A TV Channel Can Be Sued Under Article 226 for Privacy Breach



The Delhi High Court (Justices **C. Hari Shankar** and **O.P. Shukla**) upheld a **Rs 5 lakh** compensation order against **TV Today Network** for identifying a **minor sexual-assault victim** in a 2005 broadcast, holding that a TV channel performs a '**public function**' and is amenable to **Article 226** writ jurisdiction for violating privacy. It is a rare **horizontal** extension of privacy rights against the media.

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

QUICK FACTS

- **Rs 5 lakh** compensation upheld against **TV Today Network** for naming a minor victim.
- A TV channel performing a '**public function**' can be reached under **Article 226**.
- Builds on **Kaushal Kishor (2023)** and **Puttaswamy (2017)**.
- Bench: Justices C. Hari Shankar and O.P. Shukla.

MUST KNOW

- **Vertical** application = rights enforced against the State; **horizontal** = against private parties.
- **Article 226** is wider than Article 32 — it runs against 'any person or authority' and for 'any other purpose', not only fundamental rights.
- **Puttaswamy (2017)** made **privacy** a fundamental right under Article 21; **Kaushal Kishor (2023)** allowed horizontal enforcement of Arts 19/21.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 12** defines 'State' for Part III enforcement.
- Article 32 (SC) is itself a fundamental right; Article 226 (HC) is a constitutional but not fundamental right.
- Press freedom is derived from Article 19(1)(a), limited by Article 19(2).
- Naming a minor victim of sexual assault is separately barred by law (e.g., POCSO).

CLAT / Legal Lens

Horizontal vs vertical enforcement, and the 'public function' test extending writ jurisdiction to a private broadcaster.

PROVISIONS

Article 226, Article 12, Article 21, Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2)

BODIES & CASES

Kaushal Kishor v. State of U.P. (2023), K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), Delhi High Court

Common Error: Assuming Article 226 lies only against the 'State' as defined in Article 12 — the 'public function' test can bring in private entities.

MUST KNOW

- '**Actual knowledge**' that triggers a takedown duty means a **court or government order** — a private complaint alone does not.
- Intermediaries have **no general obligation to actively monitor** content.
- The balance is **Article 19(1)(a)** free speech vs **Article 19(2)** reasonable restrictions.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)** is the landmark online-free-speech case.
- Section 66A (criminalising 'offensive' online messages) was struck down as vague and overbroad.
- An 'intermediary' includes ISPs, search engines and social-media platforms under the IT Act.
- IT Rules 2021 = Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Safe-harbour conditions, the meaning of 'actual knowledge', and the free-speech vs moderation balance.

PROVISIONS

Section 79, IT Act 2000, Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), IT Rules 2021

BODIES & CASES

Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015), Delhi High Court

Common Error: Treating a private user's complaint as 'actual knowledge' — only a court or government order triggers the takedown duty.

Google & Meta Resist the 'Super Censor' Role: Safe Harbour Under Section 79



Google and Meta are contesting a Delhi High Court petition seeking **proactive monitoring** of unlawful content, calling it 'impossible' and warning they would become a '**super censor**' if forced to pre-screen posts. They rely on the **Section 79 IT Act** safe harbour and the **IT Rules 2021** 'reasonable efforts' standard, citing **Shreya Singhal (2015)**.

QUICK FACTS

- **Section 79, IT Act 2000** gives intermediaries conditional **safe harbour** from liability for third-party content.
- Platforms argue pre-screening all content is **impossible** and would make them a 'super censor'.
- **IT Rules 2021** impose a 'reasonable efforts' **due-diligence** standard.
- **Shreya Singhal (2015)** struck down **Section 66A** and read down the takedown regime.

Custodial Torture & Article 21: The Investigator Cannot Be the Punisher



A Delhi Rouse Avenue Court rapped the **CBI** over **custodial-torture** allegations by an accused arrested on 16 June, with MLC records corroborating injuries. The court held that custodial violence assaults the rule of law and violates **Article 21**, that punishment can come only from a competent court after due process, and that **no investigating agency can be both investigator and punisher**. It ordered a fresh medical examination.

QUICK FACTS

- A Delhi Rouse Avenue Court pulled up the **CBI** over custodial-torture claims; **MLC** records noted injuries.
- Custodial violence **violates Article 21** and assaults the rule of law.
- Only a **competent court**, after due process, may punish — an agency cannot punish an accused.
- The court directed a fresh medical examination of the accused.

MUST KNOW

- **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)** laid down arrest/custody guidelines (arrest memo, informing a relative, medical check, etc.).
- **Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa (1993)** established **compensation** for custodial death as a public-law remedy.
- Match the remedy: **D.K. Basu** = guidelines, **Nilabati Behera** = compensation, **Prakash Singh (2006)** = police reforms.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 21** — protection of life, liberty and human dignity (includes protection from torture).
- **Article 20(3)** — protection against self-incrimination.
- **Article 22** — safeguards on arrest and detention.
- The CrPC has been replaced by the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Article 21 dignity, arrest safeguards and the rule of law; matching landmark cases to their specific remedies.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 20(3), Article 22

BODIES & CASES

D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997), Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa (1993), Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)

Common Error: Citing 'Section 41 BNSS' for arrest — CrPC §41 (arrest without warrant) maps to BNSS Section 35, not 41; also don't confuse Art 21 (torture) with Art 20(3) (self-incrimination) or Art 22 (arrest).

Delhi HC Clears 85 Senior Advocate Designations After Disputed 2024 Round



At a full-court meeting, the Delhi High Court approved **85 of 86** advocates as **Senior Advocates** (one dissent), following a Supreme Court direction to reconsider candidates deferred or rejected in the controversial 2024 round. A reconstituted Permanent Committee under Chief Justice **D.K. Upadhyaya** re-interviewed **232 applicants**, reaffirming the transparent, point-based system.

QUICK FACTS

- **85 of 86** advocates approved as Senior Advocates in a full-court meeting (one dissent).
- The **Permanent Committee** under CJ D.K. Upadhyaya re-interviewed **232 applicants**.
- It followed a Supreme Court direction to revisit the disputed **2024** exercise.
- Designation runs on a **point-based** assessment, not a secret ballot.

MUST KNOW

- **Section 16, Advocates Act 1961** recognises **two classes** of advocates — Senior Advocates and other advocates.
- **Indira Jaising v. Union of India (2017)** introduced the **point-based** designation system and ended the secret-ballot vote.
- Senior Advocates enjoy the **right of pre-audience** and certain restrictions (e.g., no direct client briefs).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Advocates Act, 1961** governs the legal profession in India.
- The **Bar Council of India** regulates legal education and enrolment.
- 'Pre-audience' is the order in which advocates are heard by a court.
- Article 14 non-arbitrariness underpins a transparent designation process.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Two classes of advocates, the point-based designation system, and Article 14 non-arbitrariness.

PROVISIONS

Section 16, Advocates Act 1961, Section 23(5), Advocates Act 1961, Article 14

BODIES & CASES

Indira Jaising v. Union of India (2017), Bar Council of India, Delhi High Court

Common Error: Thinking Senior-Advocate status is still decided by secret ballot — *Indira Jaising (2017)* replaced it with a point-based process.

Justice Varma Report: Does Resignation Moot a Judge's Removal?



The Lok Sabha Speaker tabled a parliamentary committee report on Allahabad HC judge Justice **Yashwant Varma**, who resigned in April after removal proceedings began — raising whether resignation makes the process moot. It tests the constitutional **removal** machinery and the balance between **judicial independence and accountability**.

QUICK FACTS

- A parliamentary committee report on Justice Yashwant Varma was tabled in the Lok Sabha.
- He had **resigned in April** after removal proceedings started.
- Core issue: whether a judge's **resignation** renders the removal process **moot**.
- Removal requires proof of '**proved misbehaviour or incapacity**'.

MUST KNOW

- The Constitution uses '**removal**', not 'impeachment'; **no removal motion has ever succeeded** against a judge in India.
- **Article 124(4)** sets the removal process for SC judges; **Article 218** extends it to High Court judges.
- Removal needs a **special majority** in each House plus a majority of the total membership, after inquiry under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 217** allows a HC judge to resign by writing to the **President**.
- 'Impeachment' is a US term; India's process is technically 'removal by address'.
- The in-house procedure is the judiciary's internal disciplinary mechanism.
- A resignation is generally a unilateral act taking effect from the stated date.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Removal grounds and process, the special-majority requirement, and mootness after a judge exits office.

PROVISIONS

Article 124(4), Article 124(5), Article 217, Article 218, Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

BODIES & CASES

Lok Sabha, Allahabad High Court

Common Error: Calling it 'impeachment' — the Constitution says 'removal'; and no such motion has ever actually succeeded in India.

Supreme Court Cracks Down on Illegal Construction & Civic Inaction



A bench of Justices **Amanullah and R. Mahadevan** pulled up Delhi-NCR civic bodies for '**face-saving exercises**' after a Rohini building collapse killed three, ordering an **IIT-led expert team** to audit unauthorised construction in Saket, Lajpat Nagar and Malviya Nagar. It links **Article 21's** right to safe housing with the court's **contempt** powers and oversight of civic enforcement.

QUICK FACTS

- Bench of Justices Amanullah and R. Mahadevan criticised civic bodies' 'face-saving exercises'.
- A **Rohini** building collapse killed three, prompting the order.
- An **IIT-led expert team** to audit unauthorised construction in Saket, Lajpat Nagar and Malviya Nagar.
- The court invoked **continuing mandamus** for ongoing supervision.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 21** has been read to include the right to **safe, dignified housing/shelter**.
- **Civil contempt** = wilful disobedience of a court order; **criminal contempt** = scandalising or lowering the court's authority.
- **Continuing mandamus** lets a court supervise compliance over time; an **amicus curiae** assists it impartially.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** classifies contempt as civil and criminal.
- PIL relaxes **locus standi**, letting public-spirited persons approach the court.
- '**Amicus curiae**' means 'friend of the court'.
- MCD and DDA are Delhi's key municipal/development authorities.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Article 21 safe-housing, PIL/continuing mandamus, and the civil-vs-criminal contempt distinction.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

BODIES & CASES

Supreme Court of India

Common Error: Confusing civil contempt (disobeying orders) with criminal contempt (scandalising the court).

'Satluj' Takedown: OTT Censorship, the CBFC Gap & Section 69A



The film '**Satluj**', a biopic on rights activist **Jaswant Singh Khaira**, premiered on **ZEE5** and was pulled from India after two days when a government **Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC)** under the IT Rules 2021 backed the ban, saying it 'whitewashes terror'. It squarely pits **Article 19(1)(a)** free speech against **Article 19(2)** reasonable restrictions in the digital age.

QUICK FACTS

- '**Satluj**' was pulled from ZEE5 in India after two days on an **IDC** recommendation.
- Theatrical films are certified by the **CBFC** under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**.
- The **Karnataka High Court (2019)** held OTT content falls **outside** the Cinematograph Act.
- Streaming is governed by the **IT Rules 2021** three-tier self-regulation plus **Section 69A** blocking.

MUST KNOW

- **Section 69A, IT Act** is the government's power to **block** online content — a post-publication measure.
- Distinguish **pre-censorship** (CBFC certification before release) from **post-publication blocking** (Section 69A).
- The **IDC** is the third tier (government oversight) under **Rule 14** of the IT Rules 2021.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- CBFC certification categories: **U, UA, A and S**.
- 'Prior restraint' means blocking expression before it is published.
- IT Rules 2021 self-regulation has three tiers: publisher, self-regulatory body, and government.
- CBFC = Central Board of Film Certification.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Free speech vs reasonable restriction online, and the CBFC-vs-IT-Rules regulatory gap for OTT.

PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2), Section 69A, IT Act, Cinematograph Act, 1952, IT Rules 2021

BODIES & CASES

Central Board of Film Certification, Karnataka High Court (2019), Bombay High Court

Common Error: Blurring CBFC pre-certification (theatrical) with Section 69A post-publication blocking (online) — they are different mechanisms.

SC to Assam: Decide 'Foreigner' Status Through a Fair Process



The Supreme Court (Justices **Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta**) set aside **27 Gauhati High Court judgments** that had upheld **ex-parte** Foreigners Tribunal orders declaring 27 Assam residents to be foreigners, and remanded the cases for fresh adjudication. Citizenship determinations, it held, must follow a '**fair, lawful and reasonable process**' and cannot be diluted by procedural shortcuts.

QUICK FACTS

- **27 Gauhati HC judgments** upholding ex-parte 'foreigner' orders were **set aside** and remanded.
- No coercive action until the **Foreigners Tribunals** decide afresh.
- Court criticised notices served merely by **affixation** and cases decided without hearing.
- Bench: Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

MUST KNOW

- **Section 9, Foreigners Act 1946** places a **reverse burden** — the person must prove they are NOT a foreigner.
- **Foreigners Tribunals** are quasi-judicial bodies constituted under the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**.
- **Maneka Gandhi (1978)** requires any procedure under Article 21 to be **fair, just and reasonable**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005)** struck down the IMDT Act, which had shifted the burden onto the State in Assam.
- Ex-parte = an order passed without hearing the affected party.
- Articles 14 (equality) and 21 (life & liberty) anchor the fair-process reasoning.
- The NRC exercise in Assam is closely linked to Foreigners Tribunal references.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Natural justice + reverse burden of proof; linking 'foreigner' declarations to Article 21 fair procedure.

PROVISIONS

Section 9, Foreigners Act, 1946, Article 14, Article 21, Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964

BODIES & CASES

Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India (2005), Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978), Supreme Court of India

Common Error: Assuming the State must prove foreignness — under Section 9, Foreigners Act 1946 the burden is on the individual to prove they are not a foreigner.

A Passport Regulates Travel, It Does Not Prove Citizenship



The MEA clarified that an Indian passport is a **travel document** issued under the **Passports Act, 1967** to regulate a citizen's departure — and is **NOT proof of citizenship**. Spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** spoke amid the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** row. Legally a passport **presupposes** citizenship rather than establishing it, and only about **8%** of Indians hold one.

QUICK FACTS

- A passport is issued under the **Passports Act, 1967** (administered by

the **MEA**).

- Citizenship is governed by the **Citizenship Act, 1955** and Part II (Arts 5–11), under the **MHA**.
- A passport **presupposes**, and does not prove, citizenship; only ~8% of Indians hold one.
- Clarification came amid the **SIR** (Special Intensive Revision) controversy.

MUST KNOW

- **Satwant Singh Sawhney v. D. Ramarathnam (1967)** held the **right to travel abroad** is part of Article 21 liberty — prompting the Passports Act, 1967.
- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)** held impounding a passport must satisfy **fair procedure** under Article 21.
- Reason it out: a passport is issued **because** one is already a citizen, so it cannot be the source-proof of citizenship.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Part II (Articles 5–11) deals with citizenship; **Article 11** empowers Parliament to legislate on it.
- MEA = Ministry of External Affairs; MHA = Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Passport Seva is the citizen-facing passport-issuance system.
- The Passports Act, 1967 followed directly from the Satwant Singh Sawhney ruling.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The travel-document vs proof-of-nationality distinction, fused with Article 21 travel-and-liberty case law.

PROVISIONS

Passports Act, 1967, Citizenship Act, 1955, Articles 5–11, Article 11, Article 21

BODIES & CASES

Satwant Singh Sawhney v. D. Ramarathnam (1967), Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978), Ministry of External Affairs

Common Error: Treating a passport as proof of citizenship — it presupposes citizenship; citizenship is proved under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

NBW vs Hafiz Saeed: Trial in Absentia Under BNSS Section 356



A **Special NIA Court in Jammu** issued a **non-bailable warrant** against LeT chief **Hafiz Saeed** on 8 July 2026 after the NIA's supplementary chargesheet named him a key conspirator in the **Pahalgam attack** (26 killed at Baisaran Valley). As Saeed is beyond Indian process in Pakistan, the case turns on **trial in absentia**, now codified in **BNSS Section 356**.

QUICK FACTS

- **Non-bailable warrant** against Hafiz Saeed by the **Special NIA Court, Jammu** (8 July 2026).
- The **Pahalgam attack** at Baisaran Valley killed **26**; TRF, a LeT proxy, was linked to it.
- LeT is proscribed under the **UAPA, 1967**; the **NIA** investigates under the **NIA Act, 2008**.
- Saeed is also the long-accused mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

MUST KNOW

- **Trial in absentia** is newly codified in the **BNSS, 2023, Section 356** — the old CrPC had no general in-absentia trial provision.
- **Proclamation of an absconder** sits in **BNSS Section 84** (old CrPC Section 82) — a separate, earlier step.
- Distinguish BNSS 356 (the NEW power) from BNSS 84 (the proclamation step).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **BNSS, 2023** replaced the CrPC, 1973 as India's criminal-procedure code.
- UAPA = Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 — India's principal anti-terror law.
- NIA = National Investigation Agency, set up after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- A non-bailable warrant compels arrest and production; bail is not a matter of right on it.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A flagship change in the new criminal codes — trial in absentia under BNSS 356 — within the UAPA/NIA anti-terror framework.

PROVISIONS

Section 356, BNSS, 2023, Section 84, BNSS, 2023, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, NIA Act, 2008

BODIES & CASES

Special NIA Court, Jammu, The Resistance Front (TRF), Lashkar-e-Taiba

Common Error: Confusing BNSS Section 356 (trial in absentia — new) with BNSS Section 84 (proclamation of an absconder — old CrPC 82).

suspended; innocent passage (through the territorial sea, Arts. 17-26) **can** be temporarily suspended for security.

- **Energy security** is treated as a vital national interest driving India's West Asia diplomacy.
- **BRICS** is an informal, consensus-based grouping of major emerging economies, not a treaty organisation.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Hormuz is bordered by **Iran** (north) and **Oman** (south, via the Musandam exclave).
- **BRICS** original five: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**; the acronym coined from these founding members.
- India follows a doctrine of **strategic autonomy**, often described as 'multi-alignment' with multiple partners.
- The **Panchsheel** (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence), 1954, remain a background pillar of Indian diplomacy.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT sets fact patterns on a strait vs a territorial sea to test whether students pick the correct passage doctrine.

PROVISIONS

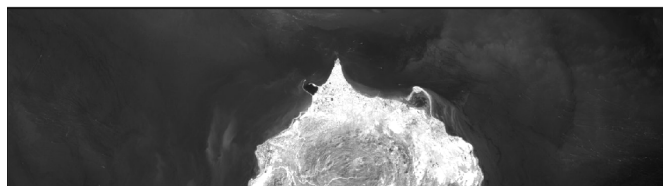
UNCLOS 1982, Article 38 (transit passage), UNCLOS 1982, Articles 17-26 (innocent passage), UN Charter Article 2(4)

BODIES & CASES

BRICS, United Nations (UNCLOS framework)

Common Error: Applying 'innocent passage' (suspendable) to a strait, where the correct rule is 'transit passage', which cannot be suspended.

SECTION 03 / 12

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**Modi-Pezeshkian Call: Keeping the Strait of Hormuz Open**

PM **Narendra Modi** spoke with Iranian President **Masoud Pezeshkian**, stressing that a **safe and open Strait of Hormuz** is vital for India's **energy security** and global trade, following a reported Iran-US understanding. India also reaffirmed its **BRICS** engagement as part of its **multipolar diplomacy**. The Strait is a critical maritime chokepoint through which much of India's oil imports pass, making its navigability a core national interest.

QUICK FACTS

- The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman**; it is the world's most important oil chokepoint.
- Under **UNCLOS 1982**, ships enjoy the right of **transit passage** through straits used for international navigation (**Art. 38**).
- **Masoud Pezeshkian** is the President of Iran; the call underlined India's stake in Gulf stability.
- India framed the outreach within its **strategic autonomy** and **multipolar** foreign-policy doctrine, reaffirming **BRICS**.

MUST KNOW

- **Transit passage** (through straits, UNCLOS Art. 38) **cannot be**

Japan-India Annual Summit: A Special Strategic Partnership Deepens

Japan's **Prime Minister** held the **Annual Summit** with PM **Narendra Modi** during a three-day India visit — the leader's first India trip since taking office. Amid 'growing uncertainty in the international situation,' both sides prioritised **economic security**: semiconductors, rare earths, critical minerals and **resilient supply chains**. Japan signalled a raised investment target for India, reflecting the roughly **1,400 Japanese companies** already operating in the country.

QUICK FACTS

- India and Japan share a **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** (elevated in 2014), reviewed at **Annual Summits**.
- Both are members of the **Quad** (with the **US** and **Australia**).
- The agenda centred on **economic security** — **semiconductors, rare earths, critical minerals** and de-risked supply chains.
- Japan announced it would raise its investment target in India (reported at **¥10 trillion**).

MUST KNOW

- A treaty India signs is an **executive act**, but **Article 253** lets **Parliament** legislate to implement it domestically.
- The **Quad** (India-US-Japan-Australia) is a diplomatic grouping, not a military alliance like NATO.
- India's **Act East Policy** (renamed from 'Look East' in 2014) anchors its engagement with Japan and the Indo-Pacific.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Quad members: India, United States, Japan, Australia;** leaders' summits since 2021.
- Capital of Japan: **Tokyo**; currency: **Yen**.
- India-Japan cooperation includes the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail** (Shinkansen technology).
- **Article 253:** Parliament may make laws to implement treaties and international agreements.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A head-of-state visit lets CLAT test the constitutional chain of treaty-making: executive signs (Art 73), Parliament implements (Art 253).

PROVISIONS

Article 253 (implementation of treaties), Article 73 (Union executive power), Article 51 (DPSP - promotion of international peace)

BODIES & CASES

Quad, Ministry of External Affairs

Common Error: Assuming a signed treaty is automatically binding law in India; treaties are not self-executing and need Art 253 legislation.

regional strategy.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Opinion-style GK passages test doctrinal vocabulary: strategic autonomy, non-alignment 2.0, multipolarity, Neighbourhood First.

PROVISIONS

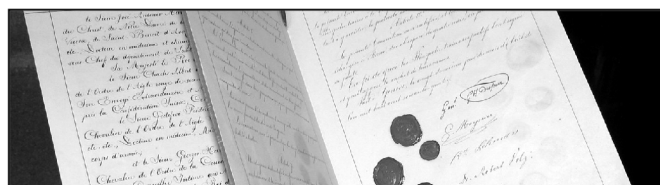
Article 51 (DPSP - promotion of international peace and security)

BODIES & CASES

SAARC, BIMSTEC, Non-Aligned Movement

Common Error: Equating strategic autonomy with isolationism or with old-style neutrality; it means independent alignment on each issue.

Russia's Kyiv Barrage and International Humanitarian Law



On **3 July 2026**, Russia launched one of the war's most devastating aerial barrages: reportedly **74 missiles and 496 drones** struck **Kyiv** and nearby areas overnight, killing at least **21 people** and damaging scores of buildings. President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** cut short a foreign trip; EU foreign-policy chief **Kaja Kallas** proposed expanded sanctions. The attack is a live case study in **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, the law governing armed conflict.

QUICK FACTS

- **IHL** (the law of armed conflict) is codified chiefly in the four **Geneva Conventions of 1949** and their **Additional Protocols (1977)**.
- The **principle of distinction** requires parties to separate **combatants** from **civilians** and military from civilian objects.
- The **principle of proportionality** bars attacks whose civilian harm is excessive relative to the military advantage.
- **Kaja Kallas** is the **EU High Representative** for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

MUST KNOW

- IHL (jus in bello) governs **how** war is fought; **UN Charter Art 2(4)** (jus ad bellum) governs the **legality of using force** at all.
- Deliberately targeting civilians or civilian infrastructure can constitute a **war crime**.
- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** can prosecute individuals for war crimes under the **Rome Statute (1998)**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Geneva Conventions (1949)** are administered with the **ICRC** (International Committee of the Red Cross, HQ Geneva).
- Capital of Ukraine: **Kyiv**; the full-scale invasion began in **February 2022**.
- The **ICC** sits in **The Hague** and tries individuals; the **ICJ** settles disputes between states.
- Core IHL principles: **distinction, proportionality, military necessity, humanity**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT uses conflict news to test IHL principles (distinction/proportionality) and the jus ad bellum vs jus in bello split.

PROVISIONS

Geneva Conventions 1949, Additional Protocol I (1977), UN Charter Article 2(4), Rome Statute 1998

The 'G2' Debate and India's Strategic Autonomy

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A widely-discussed op-ed argued that the **United States** is quietly reworking its Asia strategy — accepting that **China** cannot be 'contained' and increasingly treating Beijing as a near-equal in a so-called **'G2'**. If true, India shifts in Washington's calculus from a strategic counterweight to a large market. The prescription: India must rewire its **regional leadership** and guard its **strategic autonomy**, a debate touching **Non-Alignment 2.0**, **Neighbourhood First** and a multipolar order.

QUICK FACTS

- **'G2'** describes a hypothetical US-China condominium jointly managing global issues — India is not part of it.
- **Strategic autonomy** is India's post-Cold-War successor to **Non-Alignment**, sometimes termed **Non-Alignment 2.0**.
- **Neighbourhood First** prioritises deeper ties with India's immediate South Asian neighbours.
- The op-ed's core claim: as the US recalibrates, India's strategic weight in Washington may **reduce**.

MUST KNOW

- **Strategic autonomy** = keeping independent decision-making without being locked into any bloc; it is 'multi-alignment', not isolation.
- **SAARC** has been largely dysfunctional, pushing India toward **BIMSTEC** and bilateral regional engagement.
- A **multipolar world** (many power centres) is the order India actively advocates.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

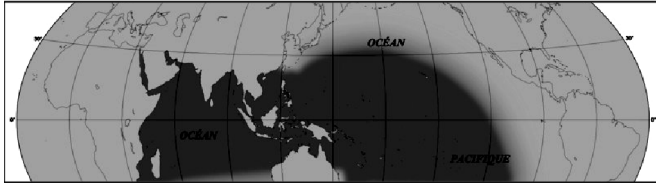
- **SAARC:** founded **1985** (Dhaka); Secretariat in **Kathmandu**; **8 members**.
- **BIMSTEC** links Bay-of-Bengal states; Secretariat in **Dhaka**.
- The original **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** was founded in **1961** (Belgrade).
- India's **Neighbourhood First** and **Act East** policies together frame its

BODIES & CASES

ICRC, International Criminal Court (Rome Statute, 1998)

Common Error: Confusing the ICC (tries individuals for crimes) with the ICJ (settles state-vs-state disputes) — different courts, different jurisdiction.

Modi's Three-Nation Indo-Pacific Tour and the 'G-Minus-Two' Order



PM **Narendra Modi** began a six-day, three-nation tour on **6 July 2026** — **Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand** — a diplomatic marathon underscoring India's expanding Indo-Pacific footprint. The New Zealand leg is historic: the **first by an Indian PM in 40 years**. The strategy advances a '**G-Minus-Two**' vision — rejecting a Sino-American duopoly while accepting a sustained US presence — resting on **ASEAN centrality, freedom of navigation** and de-risking economic interdependence.

QUICK FACTS

- The tour covered **Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand** over six days from 6 July 2026.
- '**G-Minus-Two**' = an Indo-Pacific order that resists a US-China duopoly yet keeps trade open and welcomes a US balancing role.
- ASEAN**: founded **1967**, HQ **Jakarta**, **10 members** — India is a **Sectoral Dialogue Partner (1992)**, **full Dialogue Partner (1996)**, **Strategic Partner (2012)**.
- Freedom of navigation** in the Indo-Pacific is grounded in **UNCLOS 1982**.

MUST KNOW

- IPOI** (Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative) is **India's** framework; **AOIP** (ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific) is **ASEAN's** — do not swap them.
- '**ASEAN centrality**' means ASEAN stays the hub of the region's diplomatic architecture.
- Article 51 (DPSP)** directs the State to promote international peace and respect for international law.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India-ASEAN relationship ladder: **Sectoral Dialogue Partner 1992** → full **Dialogue Partner 1996** → **Strategic Partner 2012** to **Comprehensive Strategic Partner 2022**.
- Quad** members: India, US, Japan, Australia.
- Capitals: **Jakarta** (Indonesia), **Canberra** (Australia), **Wellington** (New Zealand).
- UNCLOS 1982** sets the territorial sea (12 nm) and Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nm).

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK sets ask you to match the acronym to its author (IPOI-India, AOIP-ASEAN) and to date India's ASEAN partnership tiers.

PROVISIONS

Article 51 (DPSP), UNCLOS 1982 (freedom of navigation, EEZ)

BODIES & CASES

ASEAN, Quad, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

Common Error: Confusing IPOI (India's initiative) with AOIP (ASEAN's outlook), or misdating the 1992/2012 India-ASEAN milestones.

A US Mediation Offer and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

According to a Kremlin aide, the **US President** in a roughly **90-minute phone call** with the **Russian President** offered to help end the Russia-Ukraine war, days before a **NATO summit**. He separately spoke with Ukraine's **President Zelenskyy**, who called the exchange 'very good.' For a CLAT aspirant the partisan angle is irrelevant; the episode is a textbook illustration of one of the oldest examinable areas of public international law — the **peaceful settlement of international disputes**.

QUICK FACTS

- UN Charter Article 33** lists the means of peaceful settlement: **negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement** and resort to regional agencies.
- Mediation and good offices** involve a third party actively helping the parties reach agreement.
- Great powers frequently act as **third-party mediators** in inter-state conflicts.
- The offer came shortly before a scheduled **NATO** summit.

MUST KNOW

- Good offices** = third party merely brings the parties together; **mediation** = third party actively proposes terms — a fine but tested distinction.
- Article 33 sits in **Chapter VI** (peaceful settlement); **Chapter VII** covers coercive action against threats to peace.
- Mediation outcomes are **not binding** unless the parties agree to be bound.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **UN Charter** was signed in **San Francisco (1945)**; the UN has **six principal organs**.
- The **Security Council** has **5 permanent (P5)** and **10 non-permanent** members.
- P5: **US, UK, France, Russia, China** — each holds a **veto**.
- The **ICJ** (The Hague) is the principal judicial organ for state-vs-state disputes.

CLAT / Legal Lens

News of a mediation offer lets CLAT test the Article 33 menu of dispute-settlement methods and the good-offices/mediation line.

PROVISIONS

UN Charter Article 33 (peaceful settlement), UN Charter Chapter VI, UN Charter Chapter VII

BODIES & CASES

United Nations, NATO

Common Error: Treating mediation as binding, or confusing Chapter VI (peaceful settlement) with Chapter VII (enforcement).

India-Indonesia CSP Deepens at the Jakarta Summit

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

On **7 July 2026**, PM **Narendra Modi** met Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto** in **Jakarta** — the first leg of his three-nation Indo-Pacific tour and the first bilateral visit since the **2018 India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)**. Over a dozen pacts spanned defence (BrahMos, Astra), **critical minerals**, maritime security, space and agriculture, framed under India's **MAHASAGAR** vision and **Act East Policy**. Modi was conferred Indonesia's **Bintang Adipurna** honour.

QUICK FACTS

- A **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** is the top tier of India's bilateral partnership grades.
- Indonesia is a major producer of **nickel** (the world's largest producer — roughly half to two-thirds of global output) — key to critical-mineral supply chains.
- Sabang Port**, sought for integrated development, lies near the **Strait of Malacca** chokepoint.
- MAHASAGAR** is India's evolved maritime vision, building on the earlier **SAGAR** doctrine (2015).

MUST KNOW

- The treaty chain: **Art 51** (promote peace, DPSP) to **Art 73** (Union executive treaty power) to **Art 253** (Parliament implements treaties).
- The **Strait of Malacca** is a vital sea lane linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- India grades ties as Partnership to Strategic Partnership to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- SAGAR** = 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (2015); **MAHASAGAR** broadens it across regions.
- Capital of Indonesia: **Jakarta**; Indonesia is the world's largest **archipelagic state** and most populous Muslim-majority country.
- BrahMos** is an India-Russia joint-venture supersonic cruise missile.
- India's **Act East Policy** (2014) succeeded the **Look East Policy** (1992).

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT ties summit news to the 51-to-73-to-253 treaty chain and to UNCLOS/freedom of navigation.

PROVISIONS

Article 51 (DPSP), Article 73 (Union executive power), Article 253 (implementation of treaties)

BODIES & CASES

ASEAN, UNCLOS framework

Common Error: Thinking treaties bind India automatically; the executive signs (Art 73) but Parliament must implement (Art 253).

NATO's New 5% Spending Target and Collective Defence

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At the **Hague summit (June 2025)**, NATO allies agreed a new **5% of GDP** defence-spending target — **3.5% core defence + 1.5% security investment** — pushed by the US and reaffirmed at the July 2026 **Ankara summit**. It caps a history of rising benchmarks: a non-binding **2% guideline (Riga, 2006)**, then the **Defence Investment Pledge (Wales, 2014)** to reach 2% by 2024 after Russia's annexation of Crimea, driven further by Russia's **2022 invasion of Ukraine**. The move tests **Article 5** collective defence.

QUICK FACTS

- NATO** has **32 members** and rests on the **North Atlantic Treaty (1949)**.
- Article 5**: an armed attack on one member is treated as an attack on all — the collective-defence core.
- The new target is **5% of GDP** (3.5% core defence plus 1.5% broader security investment).
- Spending benchmarks rose: **2006 Riga 2% guideline** to **2014 Wales pledge** to the **5% target**.

MUST KNOW

- A **guideline** is non-binding; a **pledge/target** carries stronger political commitment — the distinction is examinable.
- Article 5** has been formally invoked only once — after the **9/11** attacks on the United States.
- NATO's Article 5 mirrors the logic of **collective security** under **UN Charter Chapter VII**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NATO** founded **4 April 1949**; HQ in **Brussels, Belgium**.
- Recent entrants: **Finland (2023, 31st)** and **Sweden (2024, 32nd)**.
- NATO is a **collective-defence alliance**; India is **not** a member.
- Its political head is the **Secretary General** (currently Mark Rutte).

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK sets test the NATO spending-target timeline and the Article 5 'attack on one = attack on all' rule.

PROVISIONS

North Atlantic Treaty 1949, Article 5, UN Charter Chapter VII (collective security parallel)

BODIES & CASES

NATO

Common Error: Assuming Article 5 is automatic/military; response is decided by consensus, and the 5% figure is a target, not a treaty obligation.

India-Australia Summit: CECA Fast-Track, Uranium and Defence

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

At the **3rd India-Australia Annual Summit** in **Melbourne**, PM **Narendra Modi** and PM **Anthony Albanese** signed defence, energy and critical-minerals pacts, agreed to fast-track the **CECA** trade treaty, and moved to operationalise the **2014 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement** enabling **Australian uranium** supply to India. The deals deepen Indo-Pacific security ties and diversify India's civilian nuclear fuel sources.

QUICK FACTS

- **CECA** (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) is the deeper successor to the **ECTA** (2022) interim trade deal.
- The **2014 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement** allows Australia to export uranium to India for civilian use.
- India is a **non-signatory to the NPT** yet secured a **2008 NSG waiver** permitting civil nuclear trade.
- Both India and Australia are **Quad** members.

MUST KNOW

- The **2008 NSG waiver** is what legally enables India's uranium imports despite being outside the NPT.
- **ECTA** was an early-harvest interim deal; **CECA** aims for a fuller, comprehensive agreement.
- **Pacta sunt servanda** ('agreements must be kept') is the bedrock principle of treaty law.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Quad** members: **India, US, Japan, Australia**.
- Capital of Australia: **Canberra**; the summit was held in **Melbourne**.
- **NSG** (Nuclear Suppliers Group) controls global nuclear-material and technology trade.
- India runs civil nuclear cooperation under **IAEA** safeguards on its civilian reactors.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Uranium deals let CLAT test the NPT/NSG framework and India's unique 'non-signatory with a waiver' status.

PROVISIONS

NPT (India a non-signatory), Article 253 (treaty implementation)

BODIES & CASES

Nuclear Suppliers Group (2008 waiver), IAEA, Quad

Common Error: Assuming India signed the NPT; India is a non-signatory but trades under the 2008 NSG waiver and IAEA safeguards.

years.

- The **India-NZ FTA** negotiations were launched in **March 2025** and the deal was completed in **April 2026**.
- Bilateral trade stands at roughly **US\$2.25 billion**, with scope to grow sharply under the FTA.
- Ties were raised to a **Strategic Partnership** with a '**Roadmap to 2030**'.

MUST KNOW

- An **FTA** is a treaty; under **Article 253** Parliament can legislate to give it domestic effect.
- '**Entering into treaties**' with foreign countries is **Union List Entry 14** — a central, not state, subject.
- Treaties are **executive acts** but need legislation to bind domestically — a favourite polity-IR crossover.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Capital of New Zealand: **Wellington**; largest city and summit venue: **Auckland**.
- **Christopher Luxon** is the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- **Union List Entry 14** covers treaties and agreements with foreign countries.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** conducts India's foreign relations.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Bilateral-visit: GK is tested with dates/cities plus the Art 253 / Entry 14 treaty-implementation chain.

PROVISIONS

Article 253 (implementation of treaties), Union List Entry 14 (Seventh Schedule)

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of External Affairs

Common Error: Assuming the FTA binds India on signing; it is executive-made but needs Art 253 legislation for domestic force.

Modi in New Zealand: Strategic Partnership and an FTA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PM **Narendra Modi** met New Zealand PM **Christopher Luxon** in **Auckland** — the **first visit by an Indian PM to New Zealand in 40 years** — and elevated ties to a **Strategic Partnership** with a '**Roadmap to 2030**'. It builds on the **India-New Zealand FTA** concluded in **April 2026** (after negotiations launched during Luxon's March 2025 India visit). The agenda covered trade, dairy, education, the Indian diaspora and Indo-Pacific maritime security.

QUICK FACTS

- The visit was the **first by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40**

India Assumes the BRICS 2026 Chairship



India took over the rotating **BRICS chairship** on **1 January 2026** — its **fourth turn** after 2012, 2016 and 2021 — under the theme '**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**.' The bloc's founding five (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have been enlarged by recent expansion members. India will press for reform of post-1945 institutions — the **UN Security Council**, **IMF** and **World Bank** — and defend an open, multipolar trade order amid US tariff pressures.

QUICK FACTS

- This is India's **fourth** BRICS chairship (after **2012, 2016, 2021**).
- Founding five: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**; recent entrants include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Indonesia**.
- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** is BRICS' financing arm, headquartered in **Shanghai** and headed by **Dilma Rousseff**.
- India's agenda centres on **reform of global-governance institutions** (UNSC, IMF, World Bank).

MUST KNOW

- **BRICS** is an **informal, consensus-based** grouping — not a treaty-based organisation with a charter.
- The **NDB** and the **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** are BRICS' twin financial pillars.
- India uses the platform to argue for a **permanent UNSC seat** and a fairer global order.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The term **BRIC** was coined in 2001; **South Africa** joined in 2010, making it BRICS.
- **NDB** (New Development Bank) was established in **2014**; HQ **Shanghai**; President **Dilma Rousseff** (a former Brazilian President).
- The first BRIC summit was held in **2009 (Yekaterinburg, Russia)**.
- **UNCTAD** (UN Conference on Trade and Development) is based in **Geneva**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests BRICS membership (original vs new), NDB facts (HQ Shanghai, head Rousseff) and India's UNSC-reform push.

BODIES & CASES

BRICS, New Development Bank (2014), United Nations Security Council, IMF / World Bank, UNCTAD

Common Error: Calling BRICS a treaty organisation or confusing the NDB (Shanghai) with the AIIB (Beijing).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **PCA** was established by the **Hague Convention of 1899**; it sits in **The Hague**.
- The **ICJ** is the principal judicial organ of the **UN**; the **ICC** tries individuals under the Rome Statute.
- The **South China Sea** carries a huge share of world trade and is a major flashpoint.
- India backs a **rules-based order** and **freedom of navigation** under UNCLOS.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A high-yield law-of-the-sea set testing UNCLOS zones, Annex VII arbitration and the PCA-vs-ICJ-vs-ICC distinction.

PROVISIONS

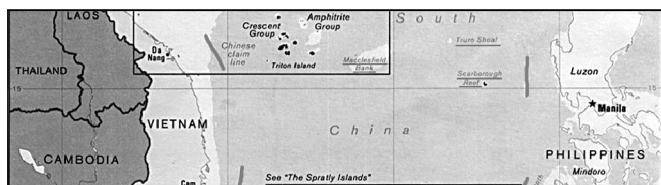
UNCLOS 1982, Annex VII (arbitration), UNCLOS 1982 (territorial sea 12 nm, EEZ 200 nm)

BODIES & CASES

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, 1899), Philippines v China (2016 Award)

Common Error: Confusing the PCA (arbitration) with the ICJ (UN principal organ) or the ICC — three separate Hague-based bodies.

South China Sea: Western and Asian States Reaffirm the 2016 UNCLOS Award



On the **10th anniversary** of the **12 July 2016** award, the US, UK, a dozen Western and Asian nations and the **27-member EU** reaffirmed that China's expansive **South China Sea** claims are illegal under international law. The ruling came from an **arbitral tribunal under Annex VII of UNCLOS**, seated at the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**, The Hague, in a case the **Philippines** initiated in 2013. It held China's '**nine-dash line**' had no legal basis.

QUICK FACTS

- The tribunal was constituted under **Annex VII of UNCLOS 1982** and administered by the **PCA** in The Hague.
- The case, **Philippines v China**, was initiated in **2013**; the award issued **12 July 2016**.
- It held China's '**nine-dash line**' and historic-rights claim had **no legal basis** under UNCLOS.
- China rejects the award as 'null and void' and 'neither accepts nor recognises it.'

MUST KNOW

- The award is **final and legally binding** on the parties but has **no built-in enforcement mechanism**.
- The **PCA** (arbitration, est. 1899) is **distinct from the ICJ** (a UN principal organ) and the **ICC**.
- UNCLOS zones: **territorial sea 12 nm**, **EEZ 200 nm**, plus the **continental shelf**.

'Guardian of Hormuz': The 20% Toll UNCLOS Forbids



On **13 July 2026**, US President **Donald Trump** declared the US was reinstating a blockade of Iranian shipping in the Persian Gulf and would keep the **Strait of Hormuz** open 'for a fee' — styling America the self-appointed '**guardian**' and proposing a toll of **20% of each ship's cargo value**. With US-Iran attacks resuming, **Brent crude** jumped over 4%. Hormuz is the world's single most important oil chokepoint, carrying roughly a fifth of global oil and gas.

QUICK FACTS

- Roughly **20 million barrels** of oil (about a fifth of global oil and gas flows) transit Hormuz daily.
- The Strait links the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman**; bordering states are **Iran** and **Oman**.
- Under **UNCLOS Art. 38**, ships enjoy the right of **transit passage** through such straits.
- **UNCLOS Art. 44** bars states bordering a strait from **hampering or suspending** transit passage.

MUST KNOW

- Transit passage through an international strait **cannot be suspended and cannot be taxed** with arbitrary tolls.
- A 20% cargo-value toll for passage has **no basis in the law of the sea**.
- Iran had earlier threatened to **close** the strait — a blockade or closure would also violate UNCLOS.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Hormuz is the world's most critical **oil chokepoint**; disruption spikes global energy prices.
- **Brent crude** is a leading global oil-price benchmark.
- The **IMO** (International Maritime Organization) is the UN's maritime-standards body.
- India is heavily **import-dependent** for crude oil, so Hormuz stability is a

core interest.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Expect a legal-reasoning set pairing UNCLOS transit passage with a toll/blockade fact pattern: cannot be suspended, cannot be taxed.

PROVISIONS

UNCLOS 1982, Article 38 (transit passage), UNCLOS 1982, Article 44 (no hampering/suspension)

BODIES & CASES

International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations (UNCLOS)

Common Error: Treating a strait like a territorial sea; transit passage (Art 38) is non-suspendable, unlike innocent passage.

SECTION 04 / 12

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

DGTR Anti-Dumping Probe on CRGO Electrical Steel



India's **DGTR** initiated an **anti-dumping investigation** into **CRGO** (cold-rolled grain-oriented) electrical steel imports over alleged below-cost pricing. CRGO is critical for **transformer** cores; domestic capacity is limited, so MSME transformer-makers fear duty-driven cost hikes while producers like JSW seek protection. The probe tests India's trade-remedy architecture under the Customs Tariff Act.

QUICK FACTS

- **DGTR** (Directorate General of Trade Remedies) sits under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**; it **recommends** duties — the **Ministry of Finance** imposes them.
- Anti-dumping duty targets imports sold below **normal value** (dumping margin = normal value – export price).
- **CRGO steel** is essential for **transformer** cores; India has limited domestic CRGO capacity.
- Legal basis: **Sections 9A–9C, Customs Tariff Act 1975** + Anti-Dumping Rules 1995.
- The **lesser-duty rule**: duty is capped at what removes injury, not necessarily the full dumping margin.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish **anti-dumping duty (ADD)** — counters below-cost dumping — from **countervailing duty (CVD)** — counters foreign subsidies.
- WTO discipline: **Article VI of GATT 1994** + the **Anti-Dumping Agreement**.
- DGTR acts in a **quasi-judicial** capacity during the investigation.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Customs duties fall under **Entry 83, Union List**.
- **Normal value** may be computed via a **non-market-economy** methodology for certain countries.
- WTO disputes are settled by the **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Objective Qs on which body recommends vs imposes duty, and ADD vs CVD.

PROVISIONS

Sections 9A–9C, Customs Tariff Act 1975, Union List Entry 83

BODIES & CASES

DGTR (Ministry of Commerce), WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement (Art. VI GATT 1994)

Common Error: Thinking DGTR imposes the duty — it only recommends; the Ministry of Finance imposes it.

GST at 10: June 2026 Collections & Article 279A

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

As **GST** enters its tenth year, June 2026 gross collections reportedly rose ~14% year-on-year to about **Rs 1.95 lakh crore**. For CLAT the constitutional machinery matters more than the headline — **Article 279A** (GST Council), **Article 246A** (concurrent taxing power) and the fiscal-federalism design that lets the Union and the States tax the same supply.

QUICK FACTS

- **Reported:** gross GST ~**Rs 1.95 lakh crore** in June 2026, up ~14% y-o-y; net ~Rs 1.62 lakh crore after refunds.
- **Article 279A** establishes the **GST Council**; **Article 246A** gives the Union and States concurrent power to tax goods/services.
- GST came via the **Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016**; rolled out **1 July 2017**.
- The GST Council is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister**; members are state finance ministers.
- Council decisions need a **three-fourths majority** — Centre holds 1/3 of votes, States together **2/3** (Art 279A(9)).

MUST KNOW

- **Union of India v. Mohit Minerals (2022)**: GST Council recommendations are **persuasive/recommendatory, not binding**.
- GST subsumed most indirect taxes but kept out petroleum products and alcohol for human consumption.
- Precise monthly figures are **reported** post-cutoff — assert the constitutional scheme, flag numbers as reported.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- GST is a **destination-based**, multi-stage, value-added tax.
- **CGST + SGST** on intra-state supply; **IGST** on inter-state supply and imports.
- The 101st Amendment inserted **Articles 246A, 269A and 279A**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Passages on cooperative fiscal federalism and the GST Council's weighted-voting formula.

PROVISIONS

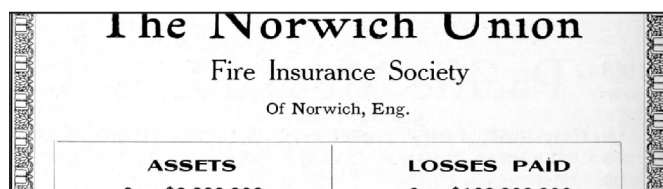
Article 279A, Article 246A, Constitution (101st Amendment) Act 2016

BODIES & CASES

GST Council, Union of India v. Mohit Minerals (2022)

Common Error: Assuming GST Council decisions bind by simple majority — they need a 3/4 weighted majority, and are only recommendatory (Mohit Minerals, 2022).

IRDAI Cracks Down on Insurance 'Dark Patterns'



IRDAI moved against "**dark patterns**" — manipulative interface designs that nudge users into buying, renewing or retaining insurance they never fully intended. Examples include hidden charges, hard-to-cancel policies and pre-ticked consent. For CLAT it is a live study in **consumer rights, unfair trade practices** and mis-selling.

QUICK FACTS

- IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) was set up under the **IRDA Act, 1999** (Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority Act); HQ **Hyderabad**.
- **Dark patterns** = deceptive UI/UX that steers users toward seller-favouring choices.
- **Reported:** in a sampled set, ~90% of platforms showed one or more dark patterns.
- IRDAI partnered the **Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI)** to monitor the sector.

MUST KNOW

- Dark patterns can amount to **unfair trade practices** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- The **CCPA** (Central Consumer Protection Authority) issued guidelines against dark patterns (2023).
- Forced/pre-ticked data consent engages the **DPDP Act, 2023** — consent must be free, specific and informed.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- IRDAI is a **statutory regulator**; peers: RBI (banking), SEBI (securities), PFRDA (pensions).
- The Consumer Protection Act 2019 created a **three-tier** redressal system (District, State, National Commissions).
- Modern law has shifted from **caveat emptor** (buyer beware) toward consumer protection.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Fact patterns on mis-selling / unfair trade practice and valid consent.

PROVISIONS

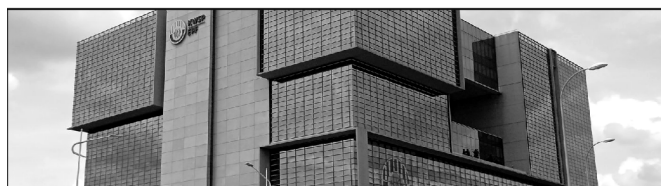
IRDA Act 1999, Consumer Protection Act 2019, DPDP Act 2023

BODIES & CASES

IRDAI, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

Common Error: Confusing IRDAI (insurance) with SEBI (securities) or RBI (banking) as the regulator.

EPF Scheme 2026 & the Code on Social Security



The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the **Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 2026** — the first comprehensive replacement of the 1952 Scheme in over seventy years. It flows from

the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, one of the four labour codes, and introduces a "**principal employer**" liability framework for contract workers.

QUICK FACTS

- EPF Scheme 2026 replaces the **EPF Scheme, 1952** (framed under the **EPF & Misc. Provisions Act, 1952**).
- It flows from the **Code on Social Security, 2020** — one of the **four labour codes**.
- Key change: the **principal employer** is made directly/subsidiarily liable for a contractor's EPF default.
- Standard EPF contribution: **12% of wages** each from employer and employee.

MUST KNOW

- The four labour codes: **Wages; Industrial Relations; Social Security; OSH & Working Conditions**.
- Worker welfare links to **Article 41** (right to work, DPSP) and **Article 21** (dignity/livelihood).
- EPF is administered by the **EPFO** under a tripartite Central Board of Trustees.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Directive Principles are **non-justiciable** (Article 37) but fundamental in governance.
- "Labour" is in the **Concurrent List** — both Centre and States can legislate.
- **Olga Tellis (1985)**: livelihood is part of the right to life under Article 21.

CLAT / Legal Lens

DPSP-to-statute translation and worker-protection reasoning.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 41 (DPSP), Code on Social Security 2020, EPF Act 1952

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Labour & Employment, EPFO

Common Error: Treating DPSPs as directly enforceable in court — they are non-justiciable (Art. 37).

Chinese Firms with India Factories Cleared for Power Bids



The Finance Ministry (order dated 24 June 2026) exempted four China-linked power-equipment makers with Indian factories from certain public-procurement registration curbs, letting them bid for critical power projects. Valid two years and expressly "not a precedent," it crystallises the tension between **national security** and India's dependence on Chinese electrical equipment.

QUICK FACTS

- **Reported:** four firms exempted — TBEA Energy, Nanjing Electric India, New Northeast Electric India, Taikai Electric (India).
- The exemption is from registration curbs on bidders from **land-bordering countries**.
- The order is **valid two years** and explicitly "not a precedent."
- Sought by the **Ministry of Power**, cleared by the **Committee of Secretaries** before Finance Ministry approval.

MUST KNOW

- **GFR 2017 (Rule 144)** restricts procurement from bidders of countries sharing a land border with India (post-2020).
- **Press Note 3 (2020)**: FDI from land-border countries needs prior **government approval** (not the automatic route).
- Core tension: **Atmanirbhar Bharat** self-reliance vs real technological dependence.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017** promotes local content.
- India shares land borders with China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Afghanistan.
- Public procurement is governed largely by executive rules (GFR), not a single statute.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Security-vs-economy balancing under procurement rules; the Press Note 3 FDI route.

PROVISIONS

General Financial Rules 2017 (Rule 144), Public Procurement (Make in India) Order 2017

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power / Committee of Secretaries

Common Error: Confusing the FDI curb (Press Note 3 = govt-approval route) with the procurement curb (GFR Rule 144) — different instruments.

Vizhinjam Port: Adani Stake Sale & Kerala's Objection

APSEZ (Adani Ports & SEZ) is moving to sell a large slice of its holding in **Vizhinjam** — India's first deep-water container transshipment port, in Kerala — and the Kerala government has objected. What looks like a routine corporate deal has opened a dispute over **contract interpretation, change-of-control clauses** and operator-vs-State power in a PPP.

QUICK FACTS

- **Vizhinjam** (Kerala) is India's first **deep-water container transshipment port**.
- It is a **public-private partnership (PPP)** between the Kerala government and an Adani group company.
- The dispute centres on a **change-of-control clause** in the concession agreement.
- A **transshipment port** transfers cargo from large mother vessels to smaller feeder ships.

MUST KNOW

- Concession agreements are governed by **contract law** — the **Indian Contract Act, 1872**.
- **Change-of-control** clauses can require State consent before an operator sells its stake.
- Deep water lets Vizhinjam capture transshipment India currently loses to foreign ports (e.g., Colombo).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- PPP models include **BOT, BOOT, DBFOT** and similar structures.

- **Major ports** fall under the Union List (Entry 27); other ports under the Concurrent List (Entry 31).
- **Sagarmala** is the flagship port-led development programme.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Contract-interpretation and PPP-governance fact patterns.

PROVISIONS

Indian Contract Act 1872, Concession agreement / change-of-control clause

BODIES & CASES

Government of Kerala, Adani Ports & SEZ (APSEZ)

Common Error: Assuming a private operator can freely transfer its stake — a change-of-control clause may bar it without State consent.

RBI Stability Report: Gold Loans & Household Debt**ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

The RBI's **Financial Stability Report** flagged a structural shift — households now treat **gold loans** as mainstream financing rather than an emergency last resort. Reported figures show NBFC and bank gold-loan books surging, raising questions about **loan-to-value** discipline, **evergreening** and household debt.

QUICK FACTS

- The **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** is published **half-yearly** by the RBI.
- **Reported:** NBFC gold loans ~+70% y-o-y (~Rs 3.29 lakh crore); bank gold loans ~+105% (~Rs 5.1 lakh crore).
- **Reported:** gold-loan share of credit rose to ~11.1% (Dec 2025) from ~5.9% (Mar 2022).
- **LTV** (loan-to-value) caps how much can be lent against gold's market value.

MUST KNOW

- **Evergreening** = rolling over/masking bad loans with fresh credit — a prudential red flag.
- A **bullet loan** is repaid as a lump sum (principal + interest) at maturity.
- The RBI regulates **NBFCs** under the **RBI Act, 1934**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The RBI is India's **central bank** (est. 1935) and banking regulator.
- The FSR carries the collective risk assessment of the **FSDC** sub-committee.
- Household debt as a share of GDP is a key financial-stability metric.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Applying definitions — LTV, evergreening, bullet loan — to fact situations.

PROVISIONS

RBI Act 1934, Loan-to-Value (LTV) prudential norms

BODIES & CASES

Reserve Bank of India, Financial Stability Report / FSDC

Common Error: Treating gold loans as unregulated (they face RBI LTV/repayment norms) or calling the FSR annual — it is half-yearly.

GCCs: A Quiet Success With a Caution

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

At the CII GCC Business Summit, **Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran** called **Global Capability Centres** a "quiet success" but warned India's edge can erode as rivals copy the model and talent stays scarce. India reportedly hosts 1,700+ GCCs and over two million jobs, nearing a \$100 billion contribution.

QUICK FACTS

- A **GCC** is an MNC's in-house offshore (captive) unit — **not** third-party outsourcing.
- The speaker is the **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), V. Anantha Nageswaran** — an advisory role in the Finance Ministry.
- Reported:** 1,700+ GCCs, 2 million+ jobs, contribution nearing \$100 billion (~2% of GDP).
- Policy push to spread GCCs to **Tier-2/Tier-3 cities** for balanced urbanisation.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish the **CEA (advisory)** from the **Finance Minister (executive)** — the CEA does not set policy or run monetary policy.
- GCCs sit in the **services economy** and attract **FDI** inflows.
- Transfer pricing + safe-harbour** rules govern how captive units price intra-group services.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The CEA heads the **Economic Division** and authors the **Economic Survey**.
- Do **NOT** confuse the CEA with an RBI Deputy Governor — different institutions entirely.
- Services form the largest sector of India's GDP.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK trap on office-holders and separating factual data from aspirational framing.

PROVISIONS

Transfer-pricing safe-harbour framework, FDI regime

BODIES & CASES

CII, Chief Economic Adviser (Finance Ministry)

Common Error: Calling the CEA an RBI Deputy Governor, or crediting the CEA with executive/policy power — the CEA (V. Anantha Nageswaran) is only an adviser.

India's WTO E-Commerce Objection: Plurilateral vs Multilateral

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

India questioned incorporating an **e-commerce pact** agreed by only a minority of WTO members into **Annex 4** of the Marrakesh Agreement. India argues a **plurilateral** deal cannot enter the **multilateral** rulebook

without all members' agreement, invoking the WTO's **consensus principle**.

QUICK FACTS

- Reported:** the e-commerce pact was agreed by ~66 of 166 WTO members.
- Annex 4** of the **Marrakesh Agreement** lists **plurilateral** agreements.
- Reported:** the WTO General Council found no consensus (18 Feb & 16 Dec 2025).
- India's stand: only **consensus** can move a plurilateral deal into the multilateral system.

MUST KNOW

- Multilateral** agreements bind **all** members; **plurilateral** agreements bind only **signatories**.
- The **Marrakesh Agreement (1994)** established the **WTO** (effective 1 Jan 1995).
- WTO decisions generally run on **consensus**, not majority voting.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions** is a recurring WTO e-commerce issue.
- Developing countries seek **policy space** and special & differential treatment.
- The WTO is headquartered in **Geneva**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Who is bound — only signatories to a plurilateral deal.

PROVISIONS

Marrakesh Agreement 1994 (Annex 4), WTO consensus principle

BODIES & CASES

World Trade Organization, WTO General Council

Common Error: Assuming a plurilateral pact binds all WTO members — it binds only those who sign it.

Gold Slide Drags Forex Reserves to 15-Month Low



Falling global gold prices cut the value of the RBI's gold holdings, pulling India's **foreign-exchange reserves** to a reported ~15-month low. Physical gold tonnage was unchanged — only **valuation** fell — a clean illustration of how mark-to-market swings hit reserves.

QUICK FACTS

- Reported:** reserves fell to ~\$666.93 billion (week ended 26 June), down ~\$5.65 billion.
- Reported:** physical gold ~880.52 tonnes was **unchanged** — the fall was valuation, not sales.
- Reserves = **FCA + Gold + SDRs + Reserve Tranche Position** with the IMF.
- FCA** (Foreign Currency Assets) is the largest component.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish a **valuation-driven** fall from actual **gold sales**.
- SDR** (Special Drawing Right) is an IMF reserve asset based on a currency basket.
- Reserves back **import cover**, rupee stability and external-sector

confidence.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **RBI** is custodian and manager of India's forex reserves.
- Import cover** measures the months of imports the reserves can fund.
- The **IMF** allocates SDRs; the Reserve Tranche is a member's readily drawable IMF quota.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Data-interpretation on reserve components and valuation effects.

PROVISIONS

RBI Act 1934 (reserve management), IMF Articles of Agreement (SDR)

BODIES & CASES

Reserve Bank of India, International Monetary Fund

Common Error: Reading the fall as India selling gold — the tonnage was unchanged; only its market valuation dropped.

June CPI Breaches RBI's 4% Target



June 2026 retail (CPI) inflation is estimated to breach the RBI's 4% central target — reportedly ~4.25% versus 3.93% in May — driven mainly by a spike in **transport** inflation from fuel and LPG price pass-through. It still sits inside the **2–6% tolerance band**, so a sharp rate cut looks unlikely.

QUICK FACTS

- Reported/estimated:** June CPI ~4.25% (CMIE), up from ~3.93% in May.
- The RBI's **flexible inflation target is 4%**, with a **2%–6% tolerance band**.
- Trigger: a **transport** inflation spike (petrol/diesel hikes) + costlier **LPG**.
- The **MPC** sets the **repo rate**; a breach above 6% would pressure a hike.

MUST KNOW

- "Within band" (2–6%) is **not** the same as "on target" (4%).
- The inflation target is set by the **Government in consultation with the RBI** under **Section 45ZA, RBI Act 1934**.
- The **MPC** has **six members** (3 RBI + 3 government-appointed); the Governor has a casting vote.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- CPI** tracks retail prices; **WPI** tracks wholesale prices.
- Persistent inflation erodes **real** growth and purchasing power.
- The inflation target is reviewed roughly every **five years**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Distinguishing the 4% target from the 2–6% band in reasoning sets.

PROVISIONS

RBI Act 1934, Section 45ZA (inflation target), MPC framework (Section 45ZB)

BODIES & CASES

Reserve Bank of India, Monetary Policy Committee

Common Error: Saying inflation 'within the band' means the target is met — 4% is the target; 2–6% is only the tolerance band.

Indian Start-up Funding Falls to \$11.7bn



Indian start-ups reportedly raised **\$11.7 billion** in 2025-26 — down ~18% year-on-year (Tracxn) — even as a possible global funding revival looms via mega-IPOs. Analysts warn of **"capital recycling"** concentrated in a few firms rather than broad-based fresh investment.

QUICK FACTS

- Reported:** \$11.7 billion raised in 2025-26, down ~18% (Tracxn).
- Reported:** net FDI into India ~\$18 billion in 2025-26 amid heavy repatriation.
- The bulk of tech capital sits at the **seed/early stage** (reported ~71%).
- Funding routes span **VC/PE** rounds and **IPOs**.

MUST KNOW

- FDI** (lasting ownership, stable) vs **FPI** (portfolio, volatile 'hot money').
- IPOs are regulated by **SEBI** under the **SEBI Act, 1992**.
- A **unicorn** is a start-up valued over **\$1 billion**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Startup India** (2016); recognition via **DPIIT**.
- FEMA, 1999** governs foreign exchange and cross-border capital flows.
- The **LRS** lets a resident remit up to **\$250,000** a year.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Repeat one-marker on FDI vs FPI and IPO regulation.

PROVISIONS

SEBI Act 1992, FEMA 1999

BODIES & CASES

SEBI, DPIIT (Startup India)

Common Error: Confusing FDI (direct, long-term ownership) with FPI (portfolio, easily reversible).

India's 8th WTO Trade Policy Review



India's 8th **Trade Policy Review (TPR)** is scheduled at the WTO in Geneva in July 2026 — a periodic peer-review of a member's trade policies. Ahead of it, an Indian delegation led by the **CBIC** showcased digital Customs and Trade Facilitation Agreement reforms. Crucially, a TPR reviews and reveals but does not enforce.

QUICK FACTS

- The **TPR** flows from the **Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM)** under **Annex 3, Marrakesh Agreement**.
- It is conducted by the **Trade Policy Review Body** (all WTO members).
- It works from two documents: the member's **policy statement** + an independent **WTO Secretariat report**.
- Reported:** the delegation led by the **CBIC** (Member-Customs Surjit

Bhujabal) showcased TFA/Customs reforms.

MUST KNOW

- The TPR improves **transparency** but does **not** adjudicate — enforcement belongs to the **Dispute Settlement Body**.
- Larger traders are reviewed more frequently than smaller ones.
- The **Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** streamlines customs procedures.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- GATT core rules: **Article I (MFN)**, **Article III (National Treatment)**, tariff bindings (Art. II).
- The WTO was established in **1995**; HQ **Geneva**.
- The **Marrakesh Agreement, 1994** is the WTO's founding treaty.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The TPR reviews but never rules — enforcement is the DSB's.

PROVISIONS

Marrakesh Agreement 1994 (Annex 3, TPRM), GATT Articles I, II, III

BODIES & CASES

World Trade Organization, Trade Policy Review Body / CBIC

Common Error: Thinking the TPR enforces rules or settles disputes — that is the Dispute Settlement Body's job.

India-UK CETA (FTA) Comes Into Force



The India-UK **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** comes into force on **15 July 2026** (signed 2025) — India's first FTA with a major European economy after Brexit. The UK grants duty-free access to ~99% of India's exports; India cuts tariffs on ~90% of lines, with Scotch whisky and cars phased in gradually.

QUICK FACTS

- CETA** = the India-UK FTA; in force **15 July 2026** (signed 2025).
- Reported:** UK duty-free on ~99% of India's exports; India cuts ~90% of tariff lines.
- A **Double Contribution Convention** exempts short-posting professionals from host social-security dues for up to 3 years.
- Whisky and cars are **phased** in gradually, not opened at once.

MUST KNOW

- An **FTA** is an **exception to MFN** (GATT Article I), permitted by **GATT Article XXIV**.
- Ladder: **FTA (own external tariffs) → Customs Union (common external tariff) → Common Market (free factor movement)**.
- Rules of origin** prevent 'trade deflection' (routing goods through the low-tariff partner).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Treaty implementation flows from **Article 253** read with **Union List Entry 14**.
- The EU is a **customs union / common market**; SAFTA and ASEAN-India are FTAs.
- India signs **FTAs/CEPAs/CECAs** — variants of preferential trade agreements.

CLAT / Legal Lens

MFN/Article XXIV doctrine and the FTA-vs-customs-union ladder.

PROVISIONS

GATT Article XXIV (FTA exception to Art I MFN), Article 253 + Union List Entry 14

BODIES & CASES

World Trade Organization, Governments of India & the UK

Common Error: Calling an FTA a customs union — an FTA keeps each member's own external tariff; a customs union has a common one.

India Bans Forced-Labour Imports (ILO / Article 23)



India prohibited imports of goods made wholly or partly with **forced labour** — the DGFT inserting a new Foreign Trade Policy paragraph via an order dated 13 July 2026 (with a 30-day delayed commencement). It follows a US Trade Representative **Section 301** finding and proposed tariffs, fusing ILO conventions, **Article 23** and trade law.

QUICK FACTS

- Reported:** a DGFT order dated 13 July 2026 amends the **Foreign Trade Policy**; 30-day delayed commencement.
- Trigger: a **USTR Section 301** finding + proposed ~12.5% tariffs (reported).
- ILO Conventions:** **No. 29 (1930)** Forced Labour + **No. 105 (1957)** Abolition of Forced Labour.
- DGFT's power flows from the **Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992**.

MUST KNOW

- Article 23** prohibits traffic in humans, **begar** and forced labour — and it binds **private parties** (a horizontal right).
- PUDR v Union of India (1982)** (Asiad Workers' case): paying below minimum wage is '**forced labour**'.
- Article 24** is the companion — no child under 14 in hazardous work.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **ILO** (est. 1919) is a UN specialised agency with a **tripartite** structure (government-employer-worker).
- DGFT** sits under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- Comparators: **US Tariff Act §307** and the **EU Forced Labour Regulation** also bar forced-labour goods.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Article 23's horizontal application + PUDR's minimum-wage-as-forced-labour holding.

PROVISIONS

Article 23, ILO Conventions No. 29 (1930) & No. 105 (1957), Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992

BODIES & CASES

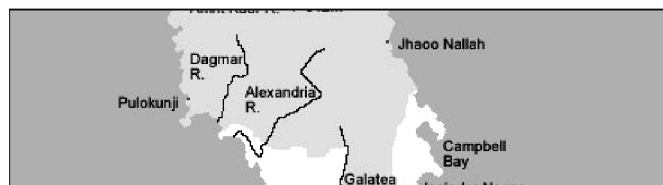
International Labour Organization, PUDR v Union of India (1982)

Common Error: Thinking Article 23 binds only the State — it also binds private individuals; and forgetting PUDR equated below-minimum-wage work with forced labour.

SECTION 05 / 12

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Great Nicobar Mega-Project & the Public Trust Doctrine



The **Great Nicobar Island** mega-development — a **transshipment port**, **international airport**, township and power plant — faces sustained legal-environmental scrutiny for its impact on tropical rainforest, the **Galathea Bay** leatherback-turtle nesting zone, and the **Shompen and Nicobarese** tribal communities. Critics invoke the **Public Trust Doctrine**, tribal **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**, the **Forest Rights Act 2006** and the **precautionary principle**, framing it as a live clash of development versus ecology.

QUICK FACTS

- Project components: mega **transshipment port**, greenfield **airport**, township and gas/solar power plant on Great Nicobar.
- Public Trust Doctrine (PTD)**: the State holds natural commons (forests, coasts, air) as **trustee** and cannot freely alienate them — **M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997)**.
- Precautionary principle** reverses the burden of proof onto the developer under scientific uncertainty — **Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. UOI (1996)**.
- Tribal consent hook: **gram sabha** FPIC under **FRA 2006**, echoing the **Niyamgiri** ruling — **Orissa Mining Corporation v. MoEF (2013)**.
- Shompen** are a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**; the area holds the **Galathea Bay** leatherback-turtle nesting site.

MUST KNOW

- PTD and the precautionary principle are **distinct** tests examiners set separately — PTD is about inalienable trusteeship; precaution is about the burden of proof under uncertainty.
- Environmental rights flow from **Article 21** (right to a healthy environment), reinforced by **Article 48A** (DPSP) and **Article 51A(g)** (Fundamental Duty).
- Tribal FPIC/gram-sabha consent is the constitutional-statutory bridge between **FRA 2006**, **PESA 1996** and Article 21.
- 'Sustainable development' balances the two, but where harm is uncertain and irreversible, the **precautionary principle** tilts toward caution.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997)** — Supreme Court imported the **Public Trust Doctrine** into Indian law.
- Vellore Citizens (1996)** — read the **precautionary principle** and **polluter-pays** into environmental law as part of sustainable development.
- Orissa Mining Corp. v. MoEF (2013)** — the **Niyamgiri** case affirming gram-sabha/FRA consent for tribal religious-cultural rights.
- Leatherback turtle** is a **Schedule I** species under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; Galathea Bay is a key nesting beach.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A fact-pattern can ask you to apply PTD (State as trustee cannot alienate commons) and the precautionary principle (developer bears the burden under uncertainty) as separate legal tests, plus tribal FPIC.

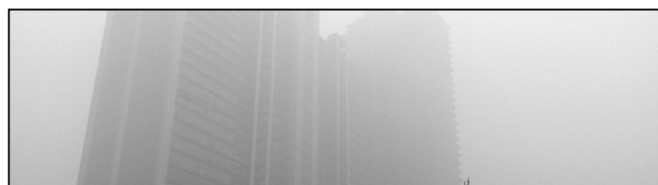
PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Forest Rights Act, 2006, PESA, 1996
BODIES & CASES

M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath (1997), Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. UOI (1996), Orissa Mining Corp. v. MoEF / Niyamgiri (2013)

Common Error: PTD and the precautionary principle are different doctrines — do not conflate them; and the Niyamgiri authority is Orissa Mining Corp. v. MoEF (2013), not M.C. Mehta.

Delhi's Winter Air-Pollution Curbs & GRAP



Ahead of winter, the National Capital Region again braces for toxic haze as meteorology traps particulate matter. Authorities have notified a **fixed-window regime** — measures mandatory each year from **1 November to 28 February** — working alongside the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**. Sitting at the crossroads of environmental statute, **Article 21** clean-air jurisprudence, the **CAQM** and landmark PILs, it is a rich Current-Affairs-plus-Legal-Reasoning topic.

QUICK FACTS

- Fixed-window curbs run **1 Nov–28 Feb**, layered over the pollution-severity-based **GRAP**.
- Measures include: bar on non-**BS-VI** vehicles from outside Delhi, fuel only to vehicles with a valid **PUCC**, and **50% office attendance** to cut vehicular load.
- Construction and demolition curbs tighten into a near-total ban in peak-pollution weeks, sparing essential projects.
- GRAP** escalates restrictions across four stages tied to **AQI** bands (Poor → Severe+).
- Enforced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR (CAQM)**, a statutory body under the **CAQM Act, 2021**.

MUST KNOW

- The **right to a clean environment / breathe clean air** is read into **Article 21** — the constitutional hook for air-quality litigation.
- The **CAQM Act, 2021** gave NCR air management a single statutory commission, replacing the earlier ad-hoc EPCA.
- Vehicular and industrial emissions are also governed by the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- GRAP is **graded and automatic** — restrictions escalate with AQI rather than requiring a fresh order each time.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India** — a series of PILs driving CNG conversion, relocation of hazardous industries and pollution control in Delhi.
- CAQM Act, 2021** created the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas.
- Air Act, 1981** — enacted after the 1972 Stockholm Conference, establishing Central and State Pollution Control Boards' air mandate.
- AQI** categories: Good, Satisfactory, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, Severe.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Passages test the Article 21 clean-air link, the statutory basis of CAQM/GRAP, and the M.C. Mehta PIL legacy as applied principles.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, CAQM Act, 2021, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

BODIES & CASES

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Central/State Pollution Control Boards, M.C. Mehta v. Union of India

Common Error: CAQM is a statutory body under the CAQM Act, 2021 (it replaced the EPCA) — do not call it a constitutional body or attribute GRAP to the Air Act alone.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, EIA Notification, 2006 (Environment (Protection) Act, 1986), Forest Rights Act, 2006, PESA, 1996

BODIES & CASES

MoEFCC / Expert Appraisal Committee, T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India (1996), ICFRE

Common Error: Forest clearance (FCA 1980) and environmental clearance (EIA under EPA 1986) are separate approvals — a project needs both; don't merge them into one.

Hasdeo Kente Coal Block Forest Clearance



On **24 June 2026**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** granted environmental clearance for mining at the **Kente Extension** coal block in **Chhattisgarh's Hasdeo-Arand**, projected at **9 million tonnes per annum**. Hasdeo-Arand — 'Central India's green lungs' — is a contiguous forest across Surguja, Korba and Surajpur. Local communities oppose the felling; the clearance reignites debate over forest diversion, tribal consent and the precautionary principle.

QUICK FACTS

- EC granted **24 June 2026** by MoEFCC on its **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** recommendation, after an in-principle Stage-I forest clearance.
- Block capacity **~9 MTPA**; coal to feed **RRVUNL** (Rajasthan) power plants; developer-operator the **Adani Group**.
- Clearance permits diversion of **~1,742.6 hectares** of forest with lakhs of trees to be felled.
- **ICFRE** conducted a prior biodiversity assessment; **Hasdeo-Arand** is a rich elephant-corridor forest landscape.
- Two-stage process: **forest clearance** under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 plus **environmental clearance** under the EIA Notification, 2006.

MUST KNOW

- Forest diversion needs Central approval under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**; large projects need EC after an EIA under the EIA Notification, 2006 (framed under the EPA, 1986).
- In **Scheduled Areas**, **gram sabha** consent under **FRA 2006** and **PESA 1996** is central to the legality of forest diversion.
- **T.N. Godavarman (1996)** broadened 'forest' to its dictionary meaning, extending FCA protection beyond notified forests.
- The **precautionary principle** is invoked against clearing an ecologically sensitive, carbon-rich landscape.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** requires prior Central Government approval to divert forest land for non-forest use.
- **EIA Notification, 2006** (under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986) mandates appraisal and public consultation for listed projects.
- **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India (1996)** — the 'continuing mandamus' forest case.
- **ICFRE** = Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, under MoEFCC.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the difference between forest clearance (FCA 1980) and environmental clearance (EIA), plus tribal FRA/PESA consent and the precautionary principle in a biodiversity hotspot.

PROVISIONS

Project Tiger: Reviving Struggling Reserves



The 18th anniversary of tiger reintroduction at the **Sariska Tiger Reserve** (Alwar, Rajasthan) spotlighted two new assessments: a **road map** for managing India's **58 tiger reserves** and a lessons-learnt review of **12 reintroduction initiatives** since Sariska's first-ever reintroduction in **2008**. India's tiger numbers rose from **1,411 (2006)** to **3,682 (2022)**, but gains are concentrated in a few healthy reserves while others struggle — a second-generation challenge of ecological resilience.

QUICK FACTS

- India's tiger population: **1,411 (2006) → 3,682 (2022 All India Tiger Estimation)**, ~75% of the world's wild tigers.
- **58 tiger reserves**; a management road map plus a review of **12 reintroduction** efforts since 2008.
- **Sariska** hosted India's **first tiger reintroduction (2008)** after local extinction; Alwar, Rajasthan.
- Numerical success masks a **structural imbalance** — many reserves remain sink/low-density habitats.
- Administered by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under **Project Tiger (1973)**.

MUST KNOW

- The **NTCA** is a **statutory body** under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** — constituted u/s **38L** with powers u/s **38O** (2006 amendment); tiger reserves are notified u/s **38V–38W**.
- **Project Tiger** was launched in **1973** (first at Jim Corbett) as India's flagship tiger-conservation scheme.
- The reserve model uses a **core (critical tiger habitat)** and **buffer zone** structure.
- The tiger is a **Schedule I** species (WLPA) and listed in **CITES Appendix I**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **All India Tiger Estimation** is conducted every **four years** by NTCA with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- **NTCA** operates under the MoEFCC; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 gives it statutory backing (constituted u/s 38L, powers u/s 38O).
- Tiger conservation icons: **International Tiger Day** is 29 July; India is party to the **Global Tiger Forum**.
- **Sariska** and **Panna** are noted cases of successful tiger reintroduction after local extinction.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the statutory basis of the NTCA, the 1973 launch of Project Tiger, the core-buffer model and reintroduction science as static-plus-current GK.

PROVISIONS

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (NTCA: Ss 38L/38O; tiger reserves: Ss 38V–38W), Article 48A, Article 51A(g)

BODIES & CASES

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Project Tiger (1973), Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

Common Error: NTCA is statutory under the WLP, 1972 (2006 amendment) — not a mere executive scheme; and Project Tiger (scheme, 1973) is distinct from NTCA (body, 2006).

Article 48A, Article 21, National Food Security Act, 2013

BODIES & CASES

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences

Common Error: El Nino = warm phase (weak monsoon); La Nina = cool phase (usually stronger monsoon) — candidates routinely swap the two.

Direct-Seeded Rice & the El Nino Monsoon



In 2026 the southwest monsoon opened weak — June rainfall ran (as reported) well below normal, among the lowest on record — with the **IMD** forecasting a below-normal July, against the backdrop of a strengthening **El Nino**. In this uncertain rainfall regime, **Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR)** — sowing seed directly rather than transplanting from flooded nurseries — is spreading as a water-saving, labour-light hedge for India's most water-hungry staple, tying together water security and food security.

QUICK FACTS

- **DSR** sows rice seed directly into the field, skipping the flooded nursery and puddled-transplanting stage.
- Benefits: **lower water use**, less labour, faster sowing and reduced methane emissions from flooded paddies.
- Driver: a weak early monsoon and a strengthening **El Nino** (warm phase of **ENSO**), which is linked to deficient Indian rainfall.
- Adoption is rising in the **basmati belts** of north-west India as an adaptation to erratic rains.
- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** issues the monsoon outlook that shapes kharif sowing decisions.

MUST KNOW

- **El Nino** years are statistically linked to **weak/deficient** Indian monsoons, drought and heat; **La Nina** years tend wetter.
- Rice is water-intensive; DSR is promoted for **groundwater conservation**, especially in over-exploited Punjab-Haryana aquifers.
- Food security is anchored by the **National Food Security Act, 2013**; monsoon shocks stress the kharif crop and buffer stocks.
- State's duty to protect environment (**Article 48A**) frames water-conservation and climate-adaptation policy.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **ENSO** (El Nino-Southern Oscillation) is a Pacific ocean-atmosphere cycle with El Nino (warm) and La Nina (cool) phases.
- **Kharif** crops are monsoon-sown (Jun–Sep); rice, maize, cotton, soybean are major kharif crops.
- **IMD** (est. 1875) operates under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- **National Food Security Act, 2013** gives subsidised foodgrain entitlements to ~two-thirds of the population.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A crossover of environmental science and policy: link ENSO/monsoon to water conservation, food security and the State's Article 48A duty in reasoning passages.

PROVISIONS

E20 Ethanol Blending & the Food-vs-Fuel Debate

max 5% anhydrous ethanol	anhydrous ethanol	max 15% anhydrous ethanol	anhydrous ethanol	max 85% anhydrous ethanol	100% Brazilian hydrous ethanol (contains on average 5.3 vol % water)
min 95% gasoline	min 90% gasoline	min 85% gasoline	min 75% gasoline	min 15% gasoline	

India reached a **20% ethanol-petrol blend (E20)** by around **April 2026**, well ahead of its 2030 target, under the **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme**. Officials say E20 is 'here to stay', ruling out a return to E10. But converting grain and cane into fuel in a top rice-producing nation reopens a genuine **food-vs-fuel** debate, alongside concerns over mileage, older-vehicle compatibility and feedstock choice — a model environment-and-policy topic.

QUICK FACTS

- **E20** = petrol blended with **20% ethanol**; the blend rose in steps (5% → 10% → 20%) under the EBP Programme.
- Policy anchor: **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018** (amended 2022, which advanced the 20% target to 2025-26).
- Concerns: reported **mileage drop** and material-compatibility issues in vehicles made before E20 readiness (~post-April-2023 vehicles are E20-tuned).
- Feedstock is shifting from water-heavy **sugarcane/rice** toward **maize, damaged grains and 2G (cellulosic) ethanol**.
- **BIS** issued specifications for higher blends; the Finance Ministry gave excise relief to certain higher-blend fuels.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish **1G ethanol** (from food crops — sugarcane, grain) from **2G ethanol** (from crop residue/cellulosic waste) — the food-vs-fuel tension eases with 2G.
- **Article 48A** (State's duty to protect the environment) frames the clean-energy rationale for blending.
- Ethanol blending advances **energy security** (cuts crude imports) and lowers tailpipe emissions.
- The food-vs-fuel trade-off is a classic **proportionality** frame: public benefit vs private inconvenience.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme** is run by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas with oil-marketing companies.
- **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018** classifies biofuels (1G/2G/3G) and set blending goals, amended in 2022.
- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the national standards body under the BIS Act, 2016.
- Ethanol is a **renewable** biofuel; higher blends need engine and fuel-system compatibility.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Connects Article 48A to the food-vs-fuel trade-off; distinguish 1G vs 2G ethanol and frame E20 as a proportionality question in reasoning passages.

PROVISIONS

Article 48A, National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 (amended 2022), BIS Act, 2016

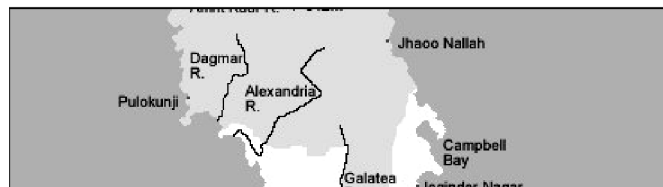
BODIES & CASES

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Common Error: The 20% blend is E20 (not E10); and the 2018 Biofuels Policy was amended in 2022 (advancing, not creating, the 20% target).

Common Error: The CRZ/ICRZ Notification is not a standalone statute — it is subordinate legislation under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Great Nicobar's Indira Point: CRZ Clearance



A convention centre and museum planned at **Indira Point** — India's **southernmost point**, on Great Nicobar — alongside lighthouse redevelopment, requires clearance from the **Andaman & Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority** and the Environment Ministry. The site falls under **ICRZ-IA/IVA** and a coral-reef survey was conducted. Part of the larger Great Nicobar mega-project (port, airport, power plant, township), it tests CRZ/ICRZ law, EIA and PVTG tribal rights in one fact pattern.

QUICK FACTS

- **Indira Point** is India's **southernmost tip**, on Great Nicobar in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Coastal works need clearance under the **CRZ/ICRZ Notification** issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ)-IA** is ecologically most sensitive — development is barred except specified uses.
- Clearance is routed through the **A&N Coastal Zone Management Authority**; an **EIA** underpins the mega-project.
- Local **PVTGs** — the **Shompen and Nicobarese** — anchor the tribal-rights dimension (**Article 46**).

MUST KNOW

- The **CRZ/ICRZ regime** derives its statutory power from **Section 3** of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (delegated rule-making).
- CRZ/ICRZ categories grade the coast by sensitivity; **ICRZ-IA** is the strictest 'no-development' band.
- **Article 46** directs the State to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections — relevant to PVTGs.
- Coastal development balances **Article 19(1)(g)** (trade/occupation), **Article 21** and **Article 48A** (sustainable development).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** is the umbrella 'framework' law enacted after the Bhopal disaster; Section 3 empowers the Centre to issue rules/notifications.
- **PVTGs** (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) are the most vulnerable tribal communities; the Shompen are one such group.
- **Indira Point** was earlier called Pygmalion Point/Parson Point; it is on Great Nicobar.
- **Andaman & Nicobar** is a Union Territory administered by a Lieutenant Governor.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Trace CRZ/ICRZ clearances to their statutory source — the EPA 1986, Section 3 rule-making power — and layer in EIA and PVTG rights.

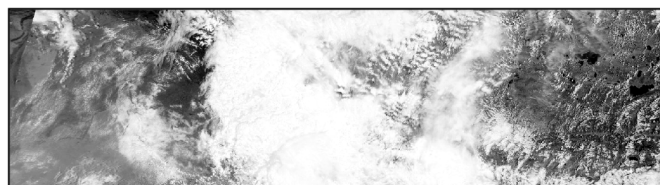
PROVISIONS

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (Section 3), Article 21, Article 48A, Article 46, Article 19(1)(g)

BODIES & CASES

Andaman & Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority, MoEFCC

Missing Link Landslide, Sponge Cities & 'Act of God'



A landslide hit the **Rs 6,695-crore 'Missing Link'** on the **Pune-Mumbai Expressway** after intense rain, shutting the Mumbai-bound carriageway for over 18 hours; Pune saw a cluster of landslides and Lonavala recorded extreme 24-hour rainfall. Mumbai's concretised, reclaimed geography worsens flooding, reviving interest in **'sponge city'** planning. The event bundles tort law (**act of God**), disaster law (**NDMA**), NGT jurisdiction and urban-planning policy.

QUICK FACTS

- The **Missing Link** (~Rs 6,695 crore) is a tunnel-and-viaduct stretch cutting the ghat section of the Pune-Mumbai Expressway.
- Intense rain triggered a landslide and multi-day carriageway closure; a cluster of landslides hit the Pune region.
- **'Act of God' (vis major)** is a limited tort defence — it fails wherever **negligence** contributed to the harm.
- **'Sponge city'** planning uses permeable pavements and blue-green infrastructure to absorb and slow stormwater.
- Disaster response runs through the **NDMA/SDMA/DDMA** structure under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

MUST KNOW

- The **act-of-God defence** requires an **unforeseeable, irresistible natural** cause with **no human negligence** — foreseeable rain plus poor slope-cutting defeats it.
- The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** created the **NDMA** (chaired by the PM), with State and District authorities below it.
- The **National Green Tribunal**, under the **NGT Act, 2010**, has jurisdiction over environmental disputes.
- Over-concretisation and loss of permeable ground worsen **urban flooding** and tree-fall risk.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Vis major / act of God** is a recognised defence in the law of torts and under strict-liability exceptions.
- **NDMA** is chaired by the Prime Minister; the Disaster Management Act, 2005 is the governing law.
- **NGT** (2010) is a specialised environmental tribunal with principal bench in New Delhi; it applies the precautionary and polluter-pays principles.
- **Sponge city** is a stormwater-management concept popularised in urban China and now discussed in Indian cities.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The act-of-God defence is a favourite tort question: check foreseeability and negligence before accepting it; layer in NDMA/NGT roles.

PROVISIONS

Disaster Management Act, 2005, National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

BODIES & CASES

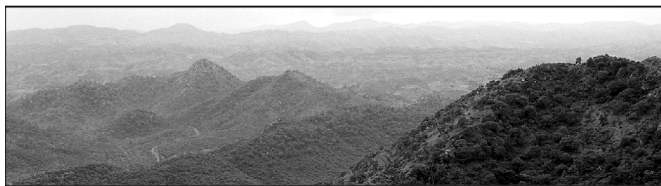
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Green Tribunal (NGT)

Common Error: 'Act of God' is not automatic for any natural event — it fails if human negligence (e.g., unsafe slope-cutting) contributed to the

damage.

Common Error: 'Reserved forest' (a category under the Indian Forest Act, 1927) is different from diversion approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 — don't merge the two statutes.

Delhi Ridge Revival & the Aravalli 'Green Lungs'



Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched a drive to plant **70 lakh trees** in Delhi and revive the **Ridge**, under the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' initiative. Delhi aims to restore about **6,300 hectares** of Ridge forest over four years — planting native species and removing invasive **vilayati kikar (Prosopis juliflora)**. The Ridge (~7,777 ha, four zones), the northern extension of the **Aravallis**, is a reserved forest and Delhi's 'green lungs'.

QUICK FACTS

- Drive to plant **70 lakh trees** in Delhi under '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**', launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Aim: revive ~**6,300 ha** of the Ridge over four years with legal protection and native planting.
- The **Delhi Ridge** (~7,777 ha, four zones) is the **northern extension of the Aravalli range**, a **reserved forest**.
- Native species (banyan, neem, gular, arjun, jamun) replace the invasive **vilayati kikar (Prosopis juliflora)**.
- The **Ridge Management Board** oversees the four Ridge zones.

MUST KNOW

- **Reserved forest** status flows from the **Indian Forest Act, 1927**; diverting such land needs approval under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**.
- **T.N. Godavarman (1996)** gave 'forest' its **broad dictionary meaning**, so protection is not limited to formally notified forests.
- Pair **Article 48A** (State's Directive Principle to protect environment) with **Article 51A(g)** (citizen's Fundamental Duty).
- The **Aravallis** act as a barrier against desertification from the Thar; degradation worsens Delhi-NCR air and dust.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Aravalli Range** is one of the world's oldest fold mountains; the Delhi Ridge is its northernmost extension.
- **Indian Forest Act, 1927** classifies forests as Reserved, Protected and Village forests.
- **Prosopis juliflora** ('vilayati kikar') is an invasive alien species that displaces native vegetation.
- **M.C. Mehta** litigation and Supreme Court orders have repeatedly protected Aravalli/Ridge land from encroachment.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Pair Article 48A with Article 51A(g), and recall T.N. Godavarman for the broad 'forest' definition when a passage discusses tree-felling or diversion.

PROVISIONS

Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Article 48A, Article 51A(g), Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

BODIES & CASES

T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India (1996), Ridge Management Board, M.C. Mehta cases

El Nino 2026 Forecast & the Power Grid Advisory

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The Union **Power Ministry** moved to advise states, **SLDCs**, generation/transmission firms and the **CEA** on mitigating **El Nino** effects — maintaining coal stocks, securing thermal-plant water, shifting farm demand to **daytime solar** hours and pre-empting outages. A weak monsoon cuts **hydro and wind** output, threatening grid stability and energy security. Forecasters (as reported) flag a strengthening El Nino during late 2026, sharpening the demand-supply risk.

QUICK FACTS

- Advisory focus: coal-stock buffers, thermal-plant **water security**, demand shifting to daytime solar and pre-emptive maintenance.
- A weak monsoon lowers **hydro and wind** generation, stressing the grid during peak demand.
- **El Nino** is the warm phase of **ENSO**; forecasters (as reported) warn of a strong event later in 2026.
- **ENSO** threshold: El Nino when the Nino-3.4 sea-surface temperature anomaly is **≥ +0.5°C**; 'strong' beyond ~+2°C.
- Coordination spans the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** and **State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs)**.

MUST KNOW

- The causal chain: **Pacific warming (El Nino) → weak Indian monsoon → lower hydro/wind + higher cooling demand → grid stress**.
- Grid balance relies on the **thermal-hydro-renewable** energy mix plus demand-side/load management.
- **Energy security** is a key policy goal; centre-state coordination runs through CEA and SLDCs.
- Climate-resilient power infrastructure is an adaptation priority under India's climate commitments.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **ENSO** (El Nino-Southern Oscillation) has warm (El Nino) and cool (La Nina) phases affecting the monsoon.
- **NOAA** (US) and **IMD/IITM Pune** issue ENSO and monsoon forecasts.
- **CEA** is the technical advisory body under the Ministry of Power; **SLDCs** despatch power within states.
- Hydropower depends on reservoir inflows; a deficient monsoon directly cuts hydro generation.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Assertion-reason and passage items test the ENSO definitions/thresholds and the Pacific-warming to weak-monsoon to grid-stress cause-effect chain.

PROVISIONS

Energy security (policy), Climate-resilient infrastructure (policy)

BODIES & CASES

Central Electricity Authority (CEA), State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs), NOAA / IMD / IITM Pune

Common Error: El Nino (warm phase, +0.5°C or more in Nino-3.4) weakens the monsoon; do not confuse it with La Nina (cool phase), which usually

strengthens it.

Monsoon 'Rain Break': IMD Flags a Week-Long Lull



The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** forecast a week-long '**rain break**' across most of the country, with the cumulative all-India deficit widening (as reported) to about **40%** in early July. After an early advance, the southwest monsoon weakened, leaving the peninsula, north-west and central India dry, while a cyclonic circulation kept the east and north-east under heavy rain. A 'break monsoon' is a normal intra-seasonal phase when the **monsoon trough** shifts north.

QUICK FACTS

- IMD flagged a **week-long 'rain break'** with the all-India deficit widening (reported) to **~40%** in early July.
- A '**break monsoon**' occurs when the **monsoon trough** shifts north to the Himalayan foothills — drying the plains, soaking the sub-Himalayan belt.
- A **cyclonic circulation** over the north-east region drove 'extremely heavy rain' there even amid the wider lull.
- Rainfall is '**deficient**' when it is below **90% of the Long Period Average (LPA)**.
- The southwest (summer) monsoon runs **June–September** and retreats in October–November.

MUST KNOW

- LPA bands:** 'normal' monsoon = **96–104%** of LPA; below 90% is 'deficient', above 110% is 'excess'.
- Monsoon drivers include **ENSO** (El Nino/La Nina) and the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**; a **positive IOD** can offset an El Nino.
- The **ITCZ shift** and monsoon-trough movement explain onset, active and break phases.
- Orographic (relief) rainfall** on windward slopes explains high totals along the Western Ghats and north-east.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- IMD** was established in **1875**, is headquartered in New Delhi, and works under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is a difference in sea-surface temperature between the western and eastern Indian Ocean.
- The **ITCZ** (Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone) is a low-pressure belt whose seasonal shift drives the monsoon.
- El Nino** years usually bring a weaker Indian monsoon; a positive IOD can partly counteract this.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Geography/Environment GK and data-based comprehension: match LPA percentage bands to 'normal/deficient/excess', and link ENSO + IOD to monsoon strength.

BODIES & CASES

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences

Common Error: 'Normal' is 96–104% of LPA and 'deficient' is below 90% — a common error is treating any below-100% figure as 'deficient'.

Half of Tiger Reserves Lack Notified ESZs: NTCA



An **NTCA** status report revealed that only about **half** of India's tiger reserves have notified **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**. Of **58 notified tiger reserves** across **18 states** (over **82,000 sq km**), only **29** have final ESZ notifications while **29** await them. Since India holds **~75%** of the world's wild tigers, the gap matters: cores are protected under wildlife law but reserve edges lack the buffer 'shock absorbers' the ESZ regime provides.

QUICK FACTS

- Only **29 of 58** tiger reserves have **final ESZ notifications**; the other 29 are pending.
- The 58 reserves span **18 states** and over **82,000 sq km**; India holds **~75%** of the world's wild tigers.
- Tiger reserves are constituted under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Ss 38V–38W)** — the **core-and-buffer** 'critical tiger habitat' model.
- ESZs** are declared around protected areas under **Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- ESZs are '**shock absorbers**' that regulate (not fully ban) mining, large construction and polluting industry within a notified radius.

MUST KNOW

- Two different statutes: **reserves under the WLPA, 1972; ESZ buffers under the EPA, 1986** — a classic CLAT trap.
- The **NTCA** is the statutory body under the MoEFCC that administers **Project Tiger (1973)**.
- The Supreme Court in **T.N. Godavarman (2022)** directed a minimum **1-km ESZ** around protected areas, later modified/relaxed.
- Un-notified edges leave habitat corridors exposed to mining and unregulated construction.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- ESZ (Eco-Sensitive Zone)** is a regulated transition buffer around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- Critical tiger habitat** (core) is kept inviolate; the buffer permits regulated human use.
- NTCA** is constituted u/s **38L** and exercises its powers u/s **38O**; tiger reserves are notified u/s **38V–38W** (2006 amendment).
- T.N. Godavarman** is the long-running Supreme Court forest/wildlife case guiding ESZ orders.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Distinguish the two statutes — reserves under the WLPA, 1972 and ESZ buffers under the EPA, 1986 — and recall the T.N. Godavarman minimum-ESZ order.

PROVISIONS

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Ss 38V–38W), Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (Section 3)

BODIES & CASES

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), In re: T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad (2022 ESZ order), MoEFCC

Common Error: Tiger reserves are notified under the WLPA, 1972, but ESZs are notified under Section 3 of the EPA, 1986 — different laws for core and buffer.

CBAM: Carbon Border Tax vs CBDR-RC



India and the **United Kingdom** are in talks over the UK's **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, a carbon border tax New Delhi views as a unilateral trade barrier. A CBAM levies imports on the greenhouse-gas emissions **embedded** in their production to prevent '**carbon leakage**'. The UK announced (Dec 2023) a CBAM from **2027** — the second major economy after the **EU**. India's exposure (reported ~**£775 million**) centres on steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement.

QUICK FACTS

- **CBAM** = a carbon tax on imports' **embedded emissions**, designed to stop **carbon leakage** (industry shifting to lax-regulation countries).
- The **UK** announced its CBAM in December 2023, starting **2027** — the second after the **European Union**.
- India's exposure (reported ~**£775m**) is concentrated in **iron and steel, aluminium, fertiliser and cement**.
- India argues CBAM violates **CBDR-RC** and amounts to '**green protectionism**'.
- India is weighing '**rebalancing**' / **retaliatory duties** in response.

MUST KNOW

- **CBDR-RC** (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities) — under the **UNFCCC** and **Paris Agreement, 2015** — is India's core climate objection: a uniform carbon cost ignores differentiated duties.
- The trade-law objection invokes **WTO** norms — the **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN)** rule and **National Treatment (GATT Article III)**.
- Hold two poles: **CBDR-RC** (climate/UNFCCC) and **MFN/National Treatment** (trade/WTO) — examiners test them from different angles.
- CBAM sits at the **environment-and-trade crossover**, a favourite for principle-application passages.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Paris Agreement, 2015** — adopted under the UNFCCC (COP21); operates on nationally determined contributions and CBDR-RC.
- **UNFCCC** was adopted at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**; CBDR-RC is one of its founding principles.
- **MFN** (GATT Article I) and **National Treatment** (GATT Article III) are core WTO non-discrimination rules.
- The **EU** was the first major economy to adopt a CBAM; the UK followed.

CLAT / Legal Lens

An environment-and-trade crossover: apply CBDR-RC (Paris/UNFCCC) for the climate objection and MFN/National Treatment (WTO/GATT) for the trade objection.

PROVISIONS

Paris Agreement, 2015 (UNFCCC), CBDR-RC principle, GATT Article III (National Treatment), WTO MFN rule (GATT Article I)

BODIES & CASES

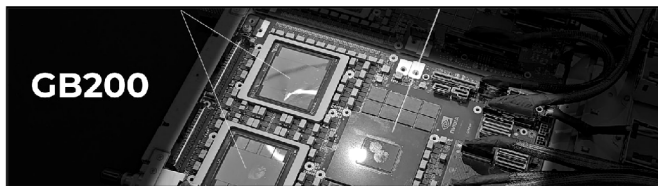
UNFCCC, World Trade Organization (WTO)

Common Error: CBDR-RC belongs to climate law (UNFCCC/Paris), while MFN and National Treatment are WTO/GATT trade principles — keep the two frameworks separate.

SECTION 06 / 12

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

IndiaAI Mission: Building Sovereign Compute



The **IndiaAI Mission** aims to build domestic AI computing capacity — subsidised **GPUs**, national data centres and indigenous foundation models — to cut dependence on foreign cloud providers and keep Indian data under domestic legal control. This is framed as **digital sovereignty**, and it directly engages data-protection law, the **DPDP Act 2023** and Article 21 privacy jurisprudence.

QUICK FACTS

- **IndiaAI Mission** is an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (**MeitY**) to build a national AI compute and model ecosystem.
- Core idea = **data sovereignty**: keeping Indian citizens' data physically and legally within Indian jurisdiction.
- Pillars include subsidised **GPU compute**, national data centres and support for **indigenous foundation models**.
- Legal backbone = **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, distinguishing **Data Fiduciary** (decides how data is processed) from **Data Principal** (the individual).
- Comparative frame = the **EU AI Act**'s risk-based, tiered regulation of AI systems.

MUST KNOW

- Under the DPDP Act 2023, the entity deciding the purpose and means of processing is the **Data Fiduciary**; the individual whose data it is, is the **Data Principal**.
- Privacy is a fundamental right under **Article 21** per **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** (nine-judge bench).
- **Digital sovereignty** = a State's ability to control data, infrastructure and technology within its own legal order.
- RBI's **Regulatory Sandbox** is a controlled testing environment for fintech/AI innovation before full rollout.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- IT Act, 2000 is the parent statute for cyber-law; DPDP Act 2023 is the dedicated data-protection law.
- Puttaswamy (2017) unanimously held privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty under Article 21.
- EU AI Act classifies AI into unacceptable, high, limited and minimal risk tiers.
- GPUs (Graphics Processing Units) are the hardware backbone for training large AI models.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT links AI-governance passages to the DPDP Act 2023 for statute, Puttaswamy (2017) for the constitutional privacy foundation, and the EU AI Act for comparative risk-based regulation.

PROVISIONS

Article 21 (Right to Privacy), Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, Information Technology Act, 2000

BODIES & CASES

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), RBI Regulatory Sandbox Framework, EU AI Act (comparative)

Common Error: Do not swap the roles: the **Data Fiduciary** controls processing, the **Data Principal** is the individual — reversing them is the

classic error:

First UN Global Scientific Panel On AI



For the first time, a single global scientific voice on **artificial intelligence** has emerged. A newly constituted **UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** released a preliminary report warning that unchecked AI progress may carry **catastrophic risks**. Co-chaired by Turing Award-winning computer scientist **Yoshua Bengio**, it is meant to be the evidence base governments consult before they regulate — a case study in **soft-law** global governance.

QUICK FACTS

- The **UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** is (as reported) the first genuinely global scientific assessment of AI's risks and opportunities.
- Co-chaired by **Yoshua Bengio**, a **Turing Award** laureate and pioneer of deep learning; it draws on roughly forty experts across regions.
- Its mandate is deliberately narrow: **inform** policymakers with consensus evidence, **not** make policy itself.
- The preliminary report flags a **policymakers' dilemma** — regulation needs evidence, but AI moves faster than the science can measure it.
- It is designed as an AI analogue of the **IPCC** — an authoritative scientific reference point for governments.

MUST KNOW

- This is a model of **soft law**: authoritative guidance that shapes conduct without being legally binding.
- Compare with the **IPCC** (climate science) — both give governments a shared evidence base before hard regulation.
- The Turing Award is often called the 'Nobel Prize of Computing', given by the ACM.
- Contrast the panel's advisory role with the **EU AI Act**, which is binding hard law.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun shared the 2018 Turing Award for deep learning.
- The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is the template for a global scientific advisory body.
- Soft law = non-binding norms; hard law = enforceable statute/treaty.
- The UN General Assembly has driven multilateral processes on AI governance.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT tests this as global **soft-law** governance of a transnational technology — contrast an advisory scientific panel (IPCC-style) with binding hard law (EU AI Act).

BODIES & CASES

UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, IPCC (comparative), EU AI Act (comparative)

Common Error: The panel *advises*; it does not legislate or enforce. Calling it a regulator or law-maker is wrong.

Gene Therapy Brought Under CLAA Regulation

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

An amendment to the **Drugs Rules, 1945** (reported July 2026) brings **stem-cell-derived products**, **gene-therapeutic products** and **xenografts** under the **Central Licensing Approving Authority (CLAA)** framework. It closes a regulatory grey zone: cell and gene therapies barely existed when the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** was enacted. The move sits at the intersection of administrative regulation and the Article 21 right to health.

QUICK FACTS

- The **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** is the foundational statute for drugs, cosmetics and medical devices; the **Drugs Rules, 1945** are its subsidiary legislation.
- The amendment (reported) brings **stem-cell-derived products**, **gene-therapeutic products** and **xenografts** under central licensing.
- The approving body is the **Central Licensing Approving Authority (CLAA)** — centralising oversight of these advanced therapies.
- It responds to **CAR-T-style** therapies where a patient's own immune cells are re-engineered to fight cancer.
- Frame = the evolving **right to health** read into Article 21.

MUST KNOW

- The Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 + Drugs Rules, 1945 form India's core drug-regulation regime.
- **Xenograft** = tissue/organ transplanted from one species to another (e.g., animal to human).
- **Gene therapy** treats disease by modifying a patient's genes; **stem-cell therapy** uses cells that can develop into many cell types.
- Right to health is a facet of the **Article 21** right to life.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- CDSCO is India's central drug regulator; DCGL heads it.
- The Act of 1940 pre-dates cell/gene therapy, hence the need to amend subsidiary rules.
- Subordinate legislation (rules) can be updated faster than the parent Act.
- Article 21 has been judicially expanded to include health, dignity and a clean environment.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests how **delegated/subordinate legislation** (Drugs Rules) updates an old parent Act, plus the Article 21 right to health for biomedical innovation.

PROVISIONS

Article 21 (right to health), Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Drugs Rules, 1945 (amended)

BODIES & CASES

Central Licensing Approving Authority (CLAA), CDSCO / DCGL

Common Error: The change is to the **Drugs Rules, 1945** (subordinate legislation), not a fresh Act of Parliament — don't call it a new statute.

VPN Jurisdiction Vs Digital Rights

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

Reported moves in early July 2026 show the Centre pushing to assert jurisdiction over **VPN providers** (local presence, compliance officers) and to curb risk-prone **messaging-app features**. This collides with constitutional protections for **privacy**, **speech** and access to information. It is a live stress-test of the **IT Act, 2000**, the **IT Rules, 2021** and the right-to-privacy jurisprudence.

QUICK FACTS

- The framework (reported) would require **VPN providers** to establish a **physical presence** in India with local compliance/liaison officers.
- It builds on the **2022 CERT-In directive** requiring VPN firms to store user data (names, emails, IPs, purpose) for **five years**.
- **CERT-In** is India's national nodal agency for cybersecurity incidents under the IT Act.
- The State also sought rollback of certain **messaging-platform features** it deemed risk-prone.
- Tension = surveillance/security vs **Article 19(1)(a)** speech and **Puttaswamy** privacy.

MUST KNOW

- Free speech under **Article 19(1)(a)** is subject only to **reasonable restrictions** under **Article 19(2)**.
- **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)** applied **proportionality** to internet restrictions.
- Privacy is a fundamental right per **Puttaswamy (2017)**, with a proportionality test for State intrusion.
- The **IT Rules, 2021** govern intermediaries and digital media due diligence.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- A VPN (Virtual Private Network) masks a user's IP and encrypts traffic.
- CERT-In = Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, under MeitY.
- The IT Act, 2000 is the parent cyber-law statute.
- Proportionality asks: legitimate aim, suitable, necessary, and balanced means.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT frames VPN/messaging curbs as a clash between State security powers and Article 19(1)(a)/Article 21, tested through the **proportionality** doctrine.

PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a) & 19(2), Information Technology Act, 2000, IT Rules, 2021

BODIES & CASES

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020), CERT-In

Common Error: Speech restrictions must fit the **closed list** in Article 19(2); a vague 'public interest' ground is not one of them.

E-Rickshaw BMS Apps Blocked Under Section 69A



The Union Government directed **Apple** and **Google** to remove at least seven **battery-management (BMS) apps** after reports that they were exploited to remotely disable **e-rickshaws** via Bluetooth-connected Battery Management Systems. The order (reported), issued by **MeitY**, used the emergency content-blocking power under **Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000** — spotlighting IoT cybersecurity and intermediary liability.

QUICK FACTS

- The block used **Section 69A**, the IT Act's power to block public access to information in the interest of sovereignty, security or public order.
- Procedure is governed by the **IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access) Rules, 2009**.
- The order was issued by the Ministry of Electronics & IT (**MeitY**); IT Minister is **Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
- The apps (reported: BAT-BMS, Lossigy, Epoch Li, Smart BMS) were of foreign origin; **Delhi Police** opened an inquiry.
- A **BMS** (Battery Management System) is the electronic brain controlling an EV battery — a live **IoT** cybersecurity risk.

MUST KNOW

- **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)** struck down Section 66A but **upheld Section 69A** with its procedural safeguards.
- Section 69A blocking must follow the 2009 Rules — a committee, reasons and confidentiality.
- Intermediaries (Apple/Google app stores) must comply with lawful government blocking orders.
- IoT = Internet of Things: everyday devices networked and remotely controllable.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Section 66A (offensive messages) was struck down as unconstitutional in **Shreya Singhal (2015)**.
- Section 69A survives as the lawful blocking power.
- MeitY is the nodal ministry for IT and electronics.
- e-rickshaws are a fast-growing segment of India's EV ecosystem.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT uses this to test the **Section 69A** blocking power, the 2009 Blocking Rules, and the **Shreya Singhal** safeguards against arbitrary censorship.

PROVISIONS

Section 69A, Information Technology Act, 2000, IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access) Rules, 2009

BODIES & CASES

Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015), MeitY, Delhi Police

Common Error: It was **Section 66A** that was struck down in **Shreya Singhal** — **Section 69A was upheld**. Don't confuse the two.

CDSCO Bans 16 Irrational FDC Drugs



India's **CDSCO**, acting through the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**, notified a ban on **16 fixed-dose combination (FDC)** drugs whose claimed therapeutic advantages lack scientific evidence (reported July 2026). The banned list spans antibiotic combinations and steroidal creams. The move targets **irrational** formulations and the growing threat of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, engaging Article 21.

QUICK FACTS

- **16 FDCs** banned (reported) for lacking evidence that the combination outperforms single-agent therapy.
- An **FDC** = a formulation with two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio in one dose.
- The ban targets **irrational** FDCs — bundles whose combined action is not therapeutically justified.
- Regulator = **CDSCO**; the ban power flows from the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**.
- Rationale includes curbing **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** from unjustified antibiotic combinations.

MUST KNOW

- The Centre's power to prohibit drugs in the public interest is under **Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- Rational FDCs are vital in HIV, TB and hypertension therapy; only **irrational** ones are banned.
- **AMR** = microbes evolving resistance to drugs, a major public-health threat.
- Access to safe medicine links to the Article 21 right to health.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **CDSCO** = Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, India's national drug regulator.
- **DCGI** heads **CDSCO** and approves/bans drugs.
- Section 26A empowers banning a drug in public interest.
- India has run a decade-long campaign against irrational FDCs.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the **Section 26A** banning power, the **CDSCO/DCGI** regulatory hierarchy, and **AMR** as a public-health justification under Article 21.

PROVISIONS

Section 26A, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, Article 21 (right to health)

BODIES & CASES

CDSCO, **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**

Common Error: The ban power is **Section 26A** (prohibition in public interest) of the 1940 Act — not a new law; and only **irrational FDCs** are targeted, not **FDCs** as a class.

The **EAC-PM** discussed the **India Energy Stack (IES)**, a **Ministry of Power** initiative to create shared technical specifications — a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** — letting power-sector systems exchange data securely. It extends the **Aadhaar-UPI** DPI model into energy while respecting electricity's **Concurrent List** status via common standards, not central override — a study in cooperative federalism.

QUICK FACTS

- **IES** = shared, interoperable technical standards (a **DPI**) for the power sector, discussed by the **EAC-PM** (reportedly chaired by R.S. Sharma).
- It coordinates a renewable-heavy grid, **distributed energy resources** and dynamic pricing.
- **DPI** lineage: **Aadhaar** (identity) → **UPI** (payments) → **IES** (energy).
- Electricity is a **Concurrent List** subject — both Centre and States can legislate.
- Model = **cooperative federalism**: common standards, not centralised control over State DISCOMs.

MUST KNOW

- **Electricity** is Entry 38 of the **Concurrent List (List III)**, Seventh Schedule.
- Legislative power distribution is under **Article 246** read with the Seventh Schedule.
- **Article 254** governs repugnancy between Union and State laws on a Concurrent subject.
- **DPI** = open, interoperable digital rails (like Aadhaar/UPI) that many players can build on.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **EAC-PM** is the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
- **UPI** is run by **NPCI**; **Aadhaar** by **UIDAI**.
- The 2006 Integrated Energy Policy is an early foundation for energy planning.
- **DISCOMs** (distribution companies) are largely State-run.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT ties **IES** to the **Concurrent List** and cooperative federalism — common standards respecting State authority over distribution, not a centralising takeover.

PROVISIONS

Article 246 and Seventh Schedule (Concurrent List), Article 254 (repugnancy)

BODIES & CASES

EAC-PM, **Ministry of Power**

Common Error: Electricity is on the **Concurrent List**, not the Union List. **IES** coordinates via **standards**, so it does not override State powers.

Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Found In Ghaziabad Sewage



A sewage sample from **Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad** (reported early June) tested positive for **vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV)** through routine **environmental surveillance**. Authorities mapped ~12 high-risk neighbourhoods and ran **ASHA**-led house-to-house **OPV** drives for under-5 children under **NCDC** and **WHO** coordination — a reminder that 'polio-free' does not mean zero risk.

India Energy Stack: DPI For The Power Sector

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

QUICK FACTS

- The sample carried **VDPV**, not wild poliovirus — detected via **sewage (environmental) surveillance**.
- WPV** (wild poliovirus) circulates naturally; **VDPV** arises when the weakened oral-vaccine virus mutates in under-immunised populations.
- India was certified **wild-poliovirus-free in 2014** by the WHO.
- Response = mapping high-risk clusters and **ASHA-led OPV** immunisation for under-5s.
- Coordination by **NCDC** (National Centre for Disease Control) with **WHO**.

MUST KNOW

- 'Polio-free' means free of **wild** poliovirus; **VDPV** can still emerge, so surveillance must continue post-certification.
- Public health** is a State List subject, with Union/NCDC coordination for communicable-disease control.
- GPEI** (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) launched in 1988.
- India's **Pulse Polio** programme began in 1995.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- OPV = Oral Polio Vaccine (live attenuated); IPV = Inactivated Polio Vaccine (injectable).
- ASHA = Accredited Social Health Activist, a frontline community health worker.
- WHO certified India polio-free in March 2014.
- Environmental surveillance samples sewage to detect silent virus circulation.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT frames this around the right to health (Article 21) and health federalism — public health is a State subject, but communicable disease needs Union/NCDC and WHO coordination.

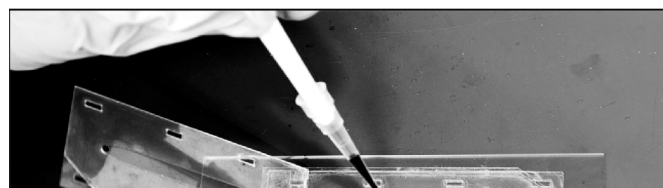
PROVISIONS

Article 21 (right to health), State List (public health) with Union/NCDC coordination

BODIES & CASES

NCDC, WHO, GPEI

Common Error: Do not conflate 'polio-free' (wild virus) with 'zero risk' — VDPV shows surveillance is still needed after certification.

ICMR-IIT Bombay Build A 'Placenta-On-Chip'

Researchers at **ICMR-NIRRH (Mumbai)** and **IIT Bombay** built a lab-grown '**placenta-on-chip**' — an **organ-on-chip** platform that mimics the human placenta using placental and endothelial cells on a porous membrane. It produces the hormone **beta-hCG** and mimics glucose transport, letting scientists study how drugs, nutrients and pollutants cross from mother to foetus — a safer, animal-testing alternative.

QUICK FACTS

- An **organ-on-chip** places living cells on an engineered microdevice to mimic a real organ.
- The chip recreates the placenta's cellular architecture and produces **beta-hCG**, the pregnancy hormone.
- It models how substances cross the **placental barrier** from mother to foetus.

- It offers an **alternative to animal testing** and targets conditions like **gestational diabetes** and **pre-eclampsia**.
- Built by **ICMR-NIRRH** (National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health) with **IIT Bombay**.

MUST KNOW

- ICMR** is India's apex biomedical research body.
- The placenta acts as a barrier, but many drugs still cross it — hence safer testing matters.
- Pregnant women are often excluded from drug trials, raising research-ethics and Article 21 questions.
- The device is a static, reproducible standard-lab tool (not an implant).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- ICMR = Indian Council of Medical Research, founded 1911 (as IRFA), HQ New Delhi.
- IIT Bombay is a premier engineering/research institute.
- Beta-hCG is the hormone detected by pregnancy tests.
- Organ-on-chip technology reduces reliance on animal models.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT links this to Article 21's expanded right to health and to biomedical research ethics — informed consent and the exclusion of pregnant women from drug trials.

PROVISIONS

Article 21 (right to life and health)

BODIES & CASES

ICMR-NIRRH, IIT Bombay

Common Error: It is a research/testing tool (organ-on-chip), not an artificial placenta implanted in patients — don't overstate its clinical use.

Jharkhand's AI Governance Policy 2026-2031

Jharkhand unveiled a roadmap to adopt **AI across governance** — a proposed **Jharkhand AI Policy 2026-2031** with (reported) about **Rs 1,150 crore** over five years, three flagship systems (**CM-DIP**, **HNVS**, **CMAS**) and 14 MoUs. It tests AI in e-governance, **algorithmic accountability**, data privacy under the DPDP Act, and federalism — especially where automated decisions could deny welfare.

QUICK FACTS

- A State-level **Jharkhand AI Policy 2026-2031** (reported) with roughly **Rs 1,150 crore** outlay over five years.
- Flagship systems (reported): **CM-DIP** (real-time programme monitoring), **HNVS** and **CMAS** (minerals analytics).
- It signals States, not just the Centre, building AI e-governance capacity.
- Legal frame = **DPDP Act 2023** consent and **data-fiduciary** duties.
- Key risk = **algorithmic welfare denial** without natural justice.

MUST KNOW

- Algorithmic accountability**: automated welfare decisions must respect **natural justice** (fair hearing).
- Privacy is protected under **Article 21** per **Puttaswamy (2017)**.
- Under the **DPDP Act 2023**, processing personal data generally

needs **consent**; the State can be a data fiduciary.

- States driving AI reflects **cooperative** and **competitive** federalism.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Jharkhand is a mineral-rich State (coal, iron ore); hence minerals-analytics systems.
- DPI / India Stack = open digital rails for governance.
- Natural justice: audi alteram partem (hear the other side) and nemo judex in causa sua.
- The DPDP Act 2023 is India's dedicated data-protection statute.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT links AI welfare-denial scenarios to privacy, natural justice and DPDP consent/data-fiduciary duties — not merely the rupee figures.

PROVISIONS

Article 21 (right to privacy), Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

BODIES & CASES

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

Common Error: Focus on the **rights angle** (privacy + natural justice in automated decisions), not the headline crore figures, which are the exam distractor.

India's First Hydrogen Train On Jind-Sonipat Route



India's first **Hydrogen Train** ('hyd rail') is set to run (reported flag-off 17 July) on the **Jind-Sonipat** route in Haryana, making India (as reported) among the small group of nations operating hydrogen trains. A **hydrogen fuel cell** generates electricity from hydrogen and oxygen to drive traction motors, so the only by-product is **water vapour** — zero carbon emissions, aligned with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

QUICK FACTS

- Route: **Jind-Sonipat** in **Haryana**, an 89-km stretch (reported), run initially as a special inaugural service.
- A **hydrogen fuel cell** converts hydrogen + oxygen into electricity; the only by-product is **water vapour**.
- Result = **zero CO₂** tailpipe emissions ('hyd rail' = hydrogen-powered rail).
- India joins a **small group of countries** running hydrogen trains; **Germany** pioneered the first commercial hydrogen passenger train (Alstom Coradia iLint, 2018).
- Aligned with the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** and Indian Railways' **net-zero** carbon goal.

MUST KNOW

- Mechanism: fuel cell → electricity → traction motors; emission = **only water vapour**.
- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** was launched in 2023 to make India a green-hydrogen hub.
- Indian Railways targets becoming a **net-zero carbon emitter**.
- 'Green' hydrogen is produced using renewable electricity (electrolysis of water).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- A fuel cell differs from a battery — it needs a continuous fuel supply (hydrogen).

- Haryana hosts the inaugural route.
- Japan's and Germany's railways were early adopters of hydrogen trains.
- Green hydrogen is central to India's decarbonisation strategy.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Science & Tech GK — remember the fuel-cell mechanism (electricity + only water vapour) and the National Green Hydrogen Mission linkage.

BODIES & CASES

National Green Hydrogen Mission, Indian Railways

Common Error: A hydrogen train runs on a **fuel cell**, not by **burning** hydrogen; and the by-product is water vapour, not **CO₂**.

ISRO Clears Key Gaganyaan Crew-Module Tests



ISRO completed key qualification tests for the **Gaganyaan** human-spaceflight programme — a float-inflation test of the **Crew Module Up-righting System (CMUS)**, an umbilical separation test, and Apex-Cover separation qualification. The first uncrewed flight, **Gaganyaan-1**, will carry the humanoid robot **Vyommitra**. Gaganyaan aims to make India the **fourth** nation to fly an indigenous crewed mission.

QUICK FACTS

- Tests cleared (reported): **CMUS** float-inflation (rights the capsule after splashdown), umbilical separation, and Apex-Cover separation qualification.
- An **Integrated Main Parachute Air Drop Test (IMAT)** was conducted at **ADRDE, Sheopur (MP)** (reported early July).
- First uncrewed mission **Gaganyaan-1 (G1)** will carry the humanoid robot **Vyommitra**, not an astronaut.
- Goal: a **three-member crew** to a roughly **400 km Low Earth Orbit** for up to three days.
- Success would make India the **fourth** country (after USSR/Russia, USA, China) to fly an indigenous crewed mission.

MUST KNOW

- ISRO** was founded in **1969**, HQ **Bengaluru**, under the **Department of Space**.
- Vyommitra** is ISRO's humanoid robot for uncrewed test flights.
- CMUS** ensures the crew module floats upright after ocean splashdown.
- Gaganyaan is India's first indigenous human-spaceflight programme.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- LEO (Low Earth Orbit) is roughly 160-2,000 km altitude.
- Only the USSR/Russia, USA and China have flown indigenous crewed missions so far.
- The Department of Space reports directly to the Prime Minister.
- Splashdown = a capsule landing in the sea, recovered by ships.

CLAT / Legal Lens

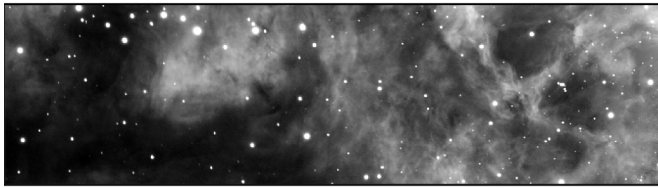
High-frequency Science & Tech GK — remember India would be the 4th nation with an indigenous crewed mission and the Vyommitra/CMUS/IMAT test vocabulary.

BODIES & CASES

ISRO, Department of Space, ADRDE (DRDO)

Common Error: *Gaganyaan-1 is uncrewed and carries the robot Vyommitra — it does not carry astronauts; the crewed flight follows later.*

Sugar Molecule Erythrulose Detected In Space



Astronomers detected, for the first time, a sugar molecule called **erythrulose** in the **interstellar medium** — a gas cloud near the Milky Way's centre, roughly 25,000 light-years away (reported in **Nature Astronomy**). Using radio telescopes to read each molecule's spectroscopic 'fingerprint', the find strengthens the astrobiology case that life's chemical building blocks are widespread in the galaxy.

QUICK FACTS

- The molecule is **erythrulose**, a sugar; it was found in the **interstellar medium** (gas and dust between stars).
- Location (reported): a gas cloud near the Milky Way's centre, about **25,000 light-years** from Earth.
- Detected by reading each molecule's unique **spectroscopic fingerprint** using **radio telescopes**.
- Published (reported) in the peer-reviewed journal **Nature Astronomy**.
- Significance: sugars are building blocks of genetic material, supporting the **origin-of-life** / astrobiology hypothesis.

MUST KNOW

- Astrobiology** studies the origin and possibility of life beyond Earth.
- The idea that comets/asteroids can deliver life's building blocks to planets is a key astrobiology theme.
- Space activities operate under the **Outer Space Treaty, 1967**.
- The UN body for space is **COPUOS** (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- A light-year is the distance light travels in one year (~9.46 trillion km).
- Radio telescopes detect radio-frequency emissions from space.
- Nature Astronomy is a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
- NASA's OSIRIS-REx returned asteroid samples relevant to origin-of-life chemistry.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT may pair the radio-astronomy discovery with space-law bodies — the Outer Space Treaty (1967) and COPUOS — and origin-of-life science.

BODIES & CASES

Nature Astronomy (journal), Outer Space Treaty, 1967, UN COPUOS

Common Error: *The sugar was detected remotely by radio telescopes in a gas cloud, not physically collected — don't say a probe brought it back.*

Indian-Origin Astronaut Anil Menon Reaches The ISS



NASA astronaut **Anil Menon**, born in Minneapolis to Indian and Ukrainian immigrant parents, launched (reported 14 July 2026) aboard **Soyuz MS-29** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome**, Kazakhstan, for an eight-month **International Space Station** mission. An emergency-medicine physician and former **SpaceX** medical director, his flight adds to India's growing space diaspora alongside Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

QUICK FACTS

- Anil Menon** — NASA astronaut of **Indian-Ukrainian** descent, born in Minneapolis, selected by NASA in **December 2021**.
- Launched (reported) on **Soyuz MS-29** from **Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan**, with Russian cosmonauts.
- It is his **first spaceflight** — an eight-month mission to the **ISS**.
- He was **SpaceX's first medical director** (Crew Dragon Demo-2) before joining NASA; he is a USAF flight surgeon.
- Adds to India's space diaspora — after **Kalpana Chawla** and **Sunita Williams**.

MUST KNOW

- The **Soyuz** launches from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan (leased by Russia).
- The **ISS** is a multinational orbiting laboratory in Low Earth Orbit.
- Menon links to **Gaganyaan** and Axiom-4's Shubhanshu Shukla for India-diaspora space questions.
- Space cooperation runs on the **Outer Space Treaty (1967)** and ISS intergovernmental agreements.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Kalpana Chawla was the first woman of Indian origin in space (died in the Columbia disaster, 2003).
- Sunita Williams is an Indian-American NASA astronaut.
- Baikonur Cosmodrome is the world's oldest and largest operational spaceport.
- The ISS is operated jointly by NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA and CSA.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK/diaspora item — remember Soyuz launches from Baikonur (Kazakhstan) and link Menon to Gaganyaan, Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

BODIES & CASES

NASA, Outer Space Treaty (1967), ISS intergovernmental agreements

Common Error: *Menon is a NASA (US) astronaut of Indian origin, not an ISRO astronaut; and Soyuz launches from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, not Russia.*

SECTION 07 / 12

DEFENCE & SECURITY

Gen Dhiraj Seth Takes Over as 31st Chief of Army Staff

DEFENCE & SECURITY

General **Dhiraj Seth** assumed charge as the **31st Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**, heading the Indian Army. The office sits within a constitutional design where **Article 53(2)** vests the supreme command of the Defence Forces in the **President**, exercised on the aid and

advice of the Council of Ministers. The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and Department of Military Affairs coordinate tri-service jointness above the individual service chiefs.

QUICK FACTS

- **COAS** is a **four-star General** and the professional head of the Indian Army (one of three service chiefs).
- **Article 53(2)**: supreme command of the Defence Forces is vested in the **President** as titular Commander-in-Chief.
- Real executive control of defence rests with the **Council of Ministers** via **Article 74** — civilian supremacy over the military.
- The **CDS** (post created 2019) heads the **Department of Military Affairs** and drives inter-service integration.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish **formal/titular command** (President, Art 53) from **effective command** (elected Cabinet, Art 74) — a classic CLAT trap.
- **Defence** is a **Union subject** (List I, Entries 1–2) under Article 246 — only Parliament legislates on the armed forces.
- Civilian control of the military is a foundational feature of India's constitutional scheme, not a statutory afterthought.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- First **CDS**: General **Bipin Rawat** (assumed office 1 January 2020).
- Three service chiefs: **COAS** (Army), **CNS** (Navy), **CAS** (Air Force) — all four-star officers.
- **Kargil Review Committee (1999)**, chaired by K. Subrahmanyam, spurred higher-defence reforms including the later CDS post.
- President of India is the **Supreme Commander** of the armed forces (ceremonial); Army Day is 15 January.

CLAT / Legal Lens

CLAT passages on civil-military relations test whether students separate the President's titular supreme command (Art 53) from the Cabinet's effective control (Art 74).

PROVISIONS

Article 53(2) (Constitution of India), Article 74, Article 246 (Union List, Entries 1–2)

BODIES & CASES

Chief of Defence Staff / Department of Military Affairs (2019), Kargil Review Committee (1999)

Common Error: Treating the President as the real decision-maker on defence; the President acts only on Council of Ministers' advice (Art 74).

INS Trikand Foils Piracy Bid in the Gulf of Aden



The Indian Navy's stealth frigate **INS Trikand**, deployed on anti-piracy patrol, intervened to foil a piracy attempt on a merchant vessel in the **Gulf of Aden**, near the Horn of Africa. Its boarding team inspected the ship, neutralised the threat and confirmed the crew's safety. Piracy on the high seas is a crime of **universal jurisdiction** under the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1982)**, allowing any state's warship to intervene.

QUICK FACTS

- **INS Trikand** is a **Talwar-class** guided-missile stealth frigate of the Indian

Navy.

- The **Gulf of Aden** links the **Red Sea** to the **Arabian Sea**, a key Suez Canal trade artery and a long-standing piracy corridor off Somalia.
- Pirates are treated as **hostis humani generis** ('enemies of all mankind'), attracting **universal jurisdiction**.
- India runs sustained anti-piracy deployments in the region to protect sea lines of communication and Indian-crewed vessels.

MUST KNOW

- **UNCLOS Article 101** defines piracy; **Article 105** allows any state to seize a pirate ship on the high seas and prosecute.
- Piracy under UNCLOS must occur on the **high seas** (or beyond any state's jurisdiction) and involve **two vessels** and private ends.
- The **SUA Convention 1988** supplements UNCLOS for unlawful acts against maritime navigation, including in territorial waters.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **UNCLOS 1982** is the 'constitution of the oceans'; India is a party.
- Zones under UNCLOS: **Territorial Sea (12 nm)**, **Contiguous Zone (24 nm)**, **EEZ (200 nm)**, then the high seas.
- The Gulf of Aden lies between **Yemen** and **Somalia/Djibouti**; the choke point at its mouth is the **Bab-el-Mandeb** strait.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Anti-piracy actions are the go-to hook for testing UNCLOS piracy provisions, universal jurisdiction and the maritime-zones framework.

PROVISIONS

UNCLOS 1982, Articles 100–107 (esp. 101 definition, 105 seizure), SUA Convention 1988

BODIES & CASES

Indian Navy, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Common Error: Confusing piracy (high-seas, universal jurisdiction) with armed robbery at sea (within territorial waters, coastal-state jurisdiction).

DAC Clears ~Rs 52,000 Crore Defence Acquisitions

DEFENCE & SECURITY

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, cleared capital acquisition proposals worth about **Rs 52,000 crore** for the Army, Navy and Air Force in a single sitting — spanning electronic warfare, missile defence, drones and maritime surveillance. The DAC is the apex decision-making body for defence procurement, and its first-stage nod is called **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**. The clearances reinforce the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** push for indigenous defence manufacturing.

QUICK FACTS

- The **DAC** is the **highest decision-making body** for capital acquisitions of the armed forces, headed by the **Defence Minister**.
- It was constituted in **2001**, following the **Kargil War** review and the Group of Ministers' recommendations on national security.
- **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** is the DAC's first-stage approval that formally kicks off a procurement case.
- Acquisitions are governed by the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**, which replaced the earlier Defence Procurement Procedure.

MUST KNOW

- **DAP 2020** prioritises indigenous categories (Buy Indian-IDDM first)

to advance **Atmanirbhar Bharat**/Make in India.

- Capital procurement is an **executive function**; large outlays still flow from Parliament's control over the purse (Consolidated Fund).
- Multi-domain modernisation (land, sea, air, cyber, electromagnetic) is the doctrinal thread linking such single-day clearances.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Rajnath Singh** is India's Defence Minister.
- **IDDM** = Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured — the most-preferred acquisition category under DAP 2020.
- India has issued successive **positive indigenisation ('negative import') lists** to curb defence imports.
- Defence R&D is led by the **DRDO**; ordnance/production by **DPSUs** and the corporatised ordnance-factory entities.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Procurement stories test the DAC's role, the AoN stage and the link between defence policy and Atmanirbhar Bharat under the Union List.

PROVISIONS

Article 246 (Defence, Union List Entries 1-2), Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020

BODIES & CASES

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC, 2001), Ministry of Defence, DRDO

Common Error: Assuming the DAC finally sanctions purchases; AoN is only the first 'in-principle' approval, not a signed contract or cabinet clearance.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), set up under the **AFT Act 2007**, adjudicates service disputes of the forces.
- Recruitment/service of the forces flows from **Defence** being a Union subject (List I).
- Agnipath was notified across all three services with a common short-service framework.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The retention debate lets CLAT test Article 33's carve-out for the forces and why equality claims are read differently in the military context.

PROVISIONS

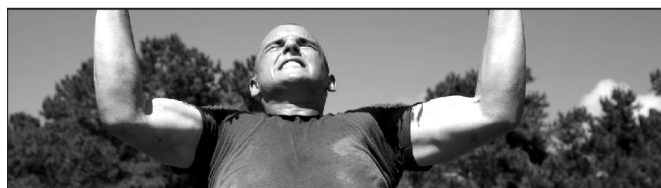
Article 33 (restriction of forces' fundamental rights), Article 14 (equality), Army Act 1950 / Navy Act 1957 / Air Force Act 1950

BODIES & CASES

Agnipath scheme (2022), Armed Forces Tribunal (2007)

Common Error: Applying ordinary Article 14 employment-equality reasoning to soldiers while ignoring Article 33's power to curtail their rights.

Forces Seek Higher Agniveer Retention Under Agnipath



India's armed forces are preparing to seek a **larger share of Agniveers** to be absorbed as permanent, regular soldiers after their four-year tenure. The **Agnipath scheme (2022)** enrolls recruits below officer rank for a **four-year** short-service term, retaining only up to about **25%** as regular cadre; the rest exit with a **Seva Nidhi** package but no pension. The debate engages the Constitution's special treatment of the armed forces under **Article 33**.

QUICK FACTS

- **Agnipath**, launched in **2022**, is the recruitment model for soldiers below officer rank in the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Recruits, called **Agniveers**, serve a **four-year** tenure; currently up to **~25%** per service are retained as regulars.
- Non-retained Agniveers receive a lump-sum **Seva Nidhi** and skill certificates but no pension or permanent status.
- Stated aims: lower the average age of the forces, reduce long-term **pension** burden, and build a trained reserve.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 33** lets Parliament **restrict or abrogate fundamental rights** of the armed forces to ensure discipline and duty.
- Because of Art 33 and service statutes, armed-forces employment is treated very differently from ordinary **Article 14** public employment.
- Service conditions are set by the **Army Act 1950**, Navy Act 1957 and Air Force Act 1950, not general labour law.

AI Warfare and Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS)



Analysts warn that a new trinity — **Artificial Intelligence, autonomy and algorithmic warfare** — is reshaping deterrence, turning battlefield lethality into 'a software enterprise'. Cheap, mass-produced AI drones (illustrated by Europe's Helsing) are displacing costly manned platforms. This spotlights **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**, or 'killer robots', which can select and engage targets without meaningful human control — raising unresolved questions under **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**.

QUICK FACTS

- **LAWS** are weapon systems that can **select and engage targets** without meaningful human control.
- Core IHL principles at stake: **distinction** (combatant vs civilian), **proportionality** and **precaution**.
- The global regulatory debate runs under the **UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW, 1980)** via a Group of Governmental Experts.
- Key worry: an **accountability gap** — who is responsible when an autonomous machine unlawfully kills?

MUST KNOW

- **Additional Protocol I (1977), Article 36** requires every new weapon to be reviewed for compliance with international law.
- The **Martens Clause** subjects even un-regulated weapons to the 'principles of humanity' and the 'dictates of public conscience'.
- Many states demand 'meaningful human control' as the legal-ethical benchmark for any autonomous weapon.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **Geneva Conventions 1949** and their Additional Protocols form the core of IHL / the laws of armed conflict.
- IHL is enforced via the **ICRC** (guardian of the Conventions) and, for individuals, the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- The **CCW 1980** also regulates mines, incendiary weapons and blinding lasers.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Autonomous-weapons passages hook onto the Martens Clause, Article 36 reviews and the IHL trio of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

PROVISIONS

Additional Protocol I (1977), Article 36 (weapons review), Geneva Conventions 1949, CCW 1980

BODIES & CASES

ICRC, UN CCW Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, International Criminal Court

Common Error: Assuming a weapon is lawful simply because no treaty bans it; the Martens Clause and Article 36 reviews still apply.

INS Mahendragiri: Seventh & Final Project 17A Stealth Frigate



The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahendragiri (F38) at Visakhapatnam, the **seventh and final ship built** under **Project 17A** (Nilgiri-class), with Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** as chief guest. Designed by the Navy's **Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL)**, it carries a stealth hull, integrated combat system and over **75% indigenous content** — a flagship of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in warship-building and India's blue-water ambitions.

QUICK FACTS

- **Project 17A** is a class of **seven** Nilgiri-class stealth frigates; **INS Mahendragiri** is the **seventh and final ship built** (INS Vindhyagiri commissions later).
- Built by two premier shipyards: **Mazagon Dock (MDL)**, Mumbai and **Garden Reach (GRSE)**, Kolkata.
- Uses **CODOG** propulsion (diesel for cruising, gas turbine for high speed) and an advanced stealth/sensor suite.
- Named after **Mahendragiri**, a prominent peak of the **Eastern Ghats** in Odisha.

MUST KNOW

- **Project 17A** is the follow-on to **Project 17 (Shivalik-class)** frigates, with enhanced stealth and modern weapons.
- **75%+ indigenous content** makes P-17A a showcase of **Atmanirbhar Bharat / Make in India** in defence.
- **Defence shipbuilding** runs through Ministry-of-Defence **DPSUs** (MDL, GRSE), reflecting Defence as a Union subject.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **MDL (Mumbai)** and **GRSE (Kolkata)** are the two main frigate-building defence PSUs.
- Frigate pennant/designations begin with 'F'; INS Mahendragiri carries pennant **F38**.
- The **Nilgiri-class** name recalls an earlier Leander-class frigate line, revived under Project 17A.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Commissioning stories test the Project 17 -> 17A lineage, the two builder-shipyards and the indigenous-content link to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

PROVISIONS

Article 246 (Defence, Union List), Make in India / Atmanirbhar Bharat defence procurement policy

BODIES & CASES

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Warship Design Bureau

Common Error: Mixing up Project 17 (Shivalik-class) with Project 17A (Nilgiri-class), or attributing the build to a single shipyard.

India's Warship Surge Powers the Blue-Water Navy



India's warship-building programme has become a flagship of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**: the Navy has commissioned a wave of warships since December 2024, with dozens more under construction almost entirely in **Indian shipyards**. The centrepiece is **Project 17A**, the **Nilgiri-class** stealth frigates built jointly by **MDL** and **GRSE** with over 75% indigenous content, armed with **BrahMos** missiles — signalling India's rise as a self-reliant blue-water naval power.

QUICK FACTS

- Almost all of the Navy's new warships are being built **domestically**, reflecting a decisive indigenisation push.
- **Project 17A** frigates are armed with **BrahMos** supersonic missiles, a multi-function radar and medium-range SAMs.
- Builders **MDL (Mumbai)** and **GRSE (Kolkata)** compressed delivery timelines using modular construction and simulation.
- Next-generation programmes include **Project 17B** frigates and **Project 15B (Visakhapatnam-class)** destroyers.

MUST KNOW

- A **blue-water navy** can sustain operations across open oceans — the strategic goal underpinning the warship surge.
- Indigenous shipbuilding is anchored by the **positive indigenisation lists** and DAC/AoN procurement decisions.
- **BrahMos** is an Indo-Russian supersonic cruise missile; a naval mainstay for surface-strike roles.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Project 15B** = Visakhapatnam-class guided-missile destroyers; **Project 17A** = Nilgiri-class frigates.
- Key naval commands: Western (Mumbai), Eastern (Visakhapatnam), Southern (Kochi).
- India's aircraft carriers include **INS Vikramaditya** and the indigenous **INS Vikrant**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

The warship surge ties Project 17A to Atmanirbhar Bharat, DAC/AoN procurement and the blue-water-navy doctrine for GK and reasoning sets.

PROVISIONS

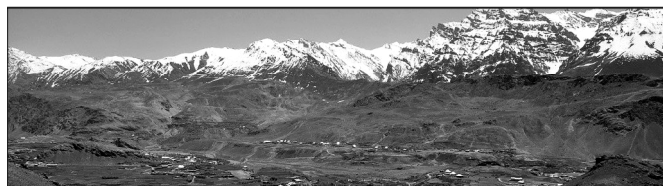
Article 246 (Defence, Union List), Make in India / Atmanirbhar Bharat

BODIES & CASES

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), Mazagon Dock (MDL), Garden Reach (GRSE)

Common Error: Confusing destroyers (Project 15B) with frigates (Project 17A), or crediting the surge to imports rather than indigenous yards.

Shaurya Vijay Yatra to Kargil Flagged Off



Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** flagged off the **Shaurya Vijay Yatra**, a commemorative motorcycle expedition, from the **National War Memorial** in New Delhi ahead of **Kargil Vijay Diwas (26 July)**. The multi-day ride of serving and retired personnel and their families crosses the northern Himalayas to culminate at the **Kargil War Memorial** in **Dras, Ladakh**, carrying sacred soil from the memorial. Its motto: 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute'.

QUICK FACTS

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is observed on **26 July**, marking India's 1999 victory.
- The 1999 war was fought under **Operation Vijay** along the **Line of Control (LoC)** in Kargil, J&K/Ladakh.
- Indian forces recaptured strategic heights such as **Tiger Hill** and **Tololing**.
- The **Kargil War Memorial** is at **Dras, Ladakh**; riders carry sacred soil from the National War Memorial to offer there.

MUST KNOW

- The **National War Memorial**, New Delhi, was inaugurated in **2019** near India Gate.
- The **LoC** is the military control line in J&K/Ladakh, distinct from the internationally recognised **International Border**.
- India's highest wartime gallantry award is the **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)**, conferred by the **President**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Peacetime highest gallantry award: the **Ashoka Chakra**; wartime: the **Param Vir Chakra**.
- Kargil PVC awardees include **Capt Vikram Batra** and **Rifleman Sanjay Kumar**.
- The **Kargil Review Committee (1999)** examined intelligence and border-management failures after the war.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Commemoration stories fix dates and places — 26 July, Operation Vijay (1999), the LoC, Dras memorial and the gallantry-award hierarchy.

PROVISIONS

Gallantry awards conferred by the President (constitutional head of the armed forces)

BODIES & CASES

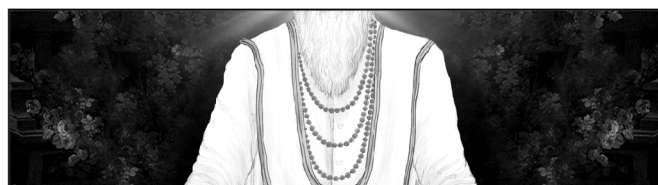
Indian Armed Forces, National War Memorial (2019), Kargil War Memorial, Dras

Common Error: Confusing the LoC with the International Border, or the wartime Param Vir Chakra with the peacetime Ashoka Chakra.

SECTION 08 / 12

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

Kabir the Rationalist: Nirguna Bhakti Meets Indian Knowledge Systems



A renewed debate over **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** has revived interest in **Kabir** (c. **1440–1518 CE**), the Varanasi weaver-poet of the **Nirguna Bhakti** tradition. Historian **Purushottam Agrawal** (in *Akath Kahani Prem Ki*) reads Kabir not merely as a devotional saint but as a **rationalist** who questioned ritual, caste, and orthodoxy in both Hinduism and Islam — a corrective to nostalgic accounts of the medieval Bhakti movement.

QUICK FACTS

- **Kabir** (c. 1440–1518 CE) — a **julaha** (weaver) of **Varanasi**, traditionally held a disciple of **Ramananda**.
- He belonged to the **Nirguna** (formless-God) stream of the **Bhakti movement**, writing terse **dohas** in vernacular Hindi, not Sanskrit.
- His verses were absorbed into the Sikh scripture **Guru Granth Sahib**; the **Bijak** is the core text of the Kabir Panth.
- Kabir satirised ritualism, caste hierarchy and clerical authority in **both Hindu and Islamic orthodoxy** — a syncretic, reformist voice.
- **Purushottam Agrawal's** *Akath Kahani Prem Ki* frames Kabir as an interrogator of how knowledge is validated.

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish **Nirguna** saints (Kabir, Guru Nanak, Dadu, Ravidas) from **Saguna** saints (Surdas, Tulsidas, Mirabai).
- Kabir is a shared inheritance of **Hindu, Muslim and Sikh** traditions — a stock example of medieval **syncretism**.
- The **Bhakti–Sufi** movements are high-frequency CLAT static GK; pair Kabir (North) with the wider bhakti geography.
- **IKS** is a policy theme under **NEP 2020** — expect current-affairs framing of India's intellectual heritage.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Guru Nanak** (1469–1539), founder of Sikhism, shares Kabir's Nirguna, anti-ritual outlook.
- The **Guru Granth Sahib** was compiled by **Guru Arjan Dev** in 1604 and includes bhagats like Kabir and Ravidas.
- **Ramananda**, a Vaishnava reformer of the Ganga plain, is the traditional guru linking many North-Indian bhakti saints.
- Bhakti in the South began earlier with the **Alvars** (Vishnu) and **Nayanars** (Shiva) of Tamil country.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK/RC passages on Bhakti-era syncretism, IKS revival and NEP 2020; secularism as a constitutional value.

PROVISIONS

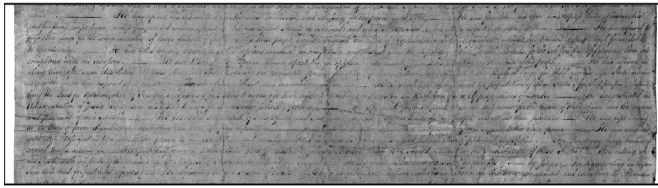
Article 25 (freedom of conscience and religion), Articles 25–28 (religious freedom)

BODIES & CASES

Kabir Panth, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) division, Ministry of Education

Common Error: Do NOT swap Nirguna and Saguna, and never say Kabir wrote in Sanskrit — his medium was vernacular Hindi.

US Declaration of Independence at 250: The Natural-Rights Blueprint



As the **US Declaration of Independence** (adopted **July 4, 1776** by the **Second Continental Congress**) nears its **250th anniversary in 2026**, its natural-rights philosophy remains foundational to modern constitutionalism. Drafted principally by **Thomas Jefferson**, it declared all men equal and endowed with unalienable rights to **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness** — distilling the **social-contract** and natural-rights theory of **John Locke** and **Rousseau** that later echoed in India's Preamble and Fundamental Rights.

QUICK FACTS

- Adopted **4 July 1776** by the **Second Continental Congress**; **Thomas Jefferson** was the principal drafter.
- Proclaimed unalienable rights to **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness** — Enlightenment natural-rights theory.
- Philosophically rooted in **John Locke's** social contract; Locke's triad was 'life, liberty and **property**'.
- The **250th (semiquincentennial)** anniversary falls in **2026**.
- It influenced the **French Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789)** and later constitutional bills of rights.

MUST KNOW

- India's **Fundamental Rights** concept and a justiciable bill of rights were inspired by the **US Constitution**.
- Article 21** ('life and personal liberty') is India's closest analogue to the 'life and liberty' formulation.
- Contrast US '**due process of law**' with India's '**procedure established by law**' (Article 21).
- Distinguish the **Declaration (1776)** from the **US Constitution (1787)** and the **Bill of Rights (1791)**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- John Locke's** *Two Treatises of Government* supplied the social-contract and natural-rights framework.
- India borrowed **Fundamental Rights** from the USA, **Directive Principles** from Ireland, and **parliamentary form** from the UK.
- Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)** read 'due process' substance into Article 21.
- The Preamble's **Liberty, Equality, Fraternity** triad traces to the **French Revolution**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Comparative constitutionalism, natural-rights/social-contract theory in legal-reasoning and GK.

PROVISIONS

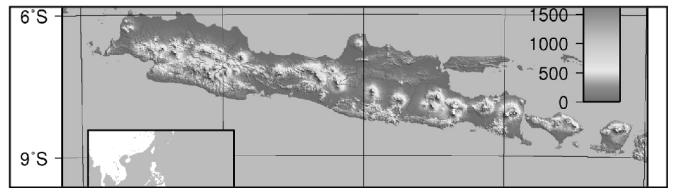
Article 21, Article 14

BODIES & CASES

Second Continental Congress, Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)

Common Error: India follows '*procedure established by law*' (not the American '*due process*'), and took FRs from the US — not Directive Principles (those are from Ireland).

Prambanan: India Aids Restoration of Java's Great Shaivite UNESCO Temple



During **PM Modi's Yogyakarta visit**, India agreed to help restore **Prambanan**, the **9th-century Shaivite (Hindu)** temple complex on **Java** and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Dated to c. **856 CE** and built under the **Sanjaya dynasty** of the **Mataram Kingdom** (its Buddhist rivals, the **Sailendra** dynasty, built nearby Borobudur), Prambanan sits near the Buddhist monuments of Sewu and Buraḥ — a vivid emblem of **Hindu-Buddhist coexistence** and India's historic cultural footprint in Southeast Asia.

QUICK FACTS

- Prambanan** is a **9th-century Shaivite Hindu** complex on **Java**, Indonesia, dated c. **856 CE**.
- Built by the **Sanjaya dynasty** (Hindu) of the Mataram Kingdom; the Buddhist **Sailendra** dynasty built nearby Borobudur.
- Its temples honour the **Trimurti**, with the tallest shrine dedicated to **Shiva**.
- Thomas Stamford Raffles** documented the ruins during British rule over Java; the main temple was restored in **1953**.
- India offered restoration help during **PM Modi's visit to Yogyakarta** — an act of **cultural diplomacy**.

MUST KNOW

- Contrast **Prambanan (Hindu/Shavite)** with nearby **Borobudur (Buddhist)** — both on Java, both UNESCO sites.
- Prambanan illustrates the **Indianisation ('Greater India')** of Southeast Asia and India's **soft power**.
- UNESCO World Heritage status flows from the **World Heritage Convention, 1972**.
- Temple diplomacy (Angkor Wat, My Son, Prambanan) is a recurring current-affairs + static-GK crossover.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Borobudur**, the world's largest Buddhist monument, was built by the **Sailendra** dynasty on Java.
- Angkor Wat** (Cambodia), built by **Suryavarman II**, is a Vishnu temple and a Greater-India landmark.
- UNESCO** is headquartered in **Paris**; the World Heritage Convention dates to **1972**.
- The **Cham** temples of **My Son** (Vietnam) are another Shaivite marker of India's cultural reach.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, cultural-heritage diplomacy and India's Indo-Pacific soft power.

PROVISIONS

World Heritage Convention, 1972

BODIES & CASES

UNESCO, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

Common Error: Prambanan is **HINDU (Shaivite)**; Borobudur is **BUDDHIST** — do not confuse the two Javanese monuments.

Jodhpur Mojari (Jooti) Wins the GI Tag: Craft as Collective Right

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

The Centre granted a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag to **Jodhpur's Mojari** — the nearly **200-year-old** handcrafted leather footwear also called **Jooti**. The **GI Registry** issued it to the **Jodhpur Handicraft Exporters Association** and the **Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan**. With over **35,000 artisans** across some **5,000 households**, the tag offers legal protection against imitation and reinforces that a GI is a **collective community right**, not a private trademark.

QUICK FACTS

- **Jodhpur Mojari (Jooti)**, a ~200-year-old leather footwear craft, received a **GI tag**.
- Granted to the **Jodhpur Handicraft Exporters Association** and **Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan**.
- About **400 manufacturers**, **35,000+ artisans** and **5,000 households** are linked to the craft.
- A GI marks a product whose quality or reputation is tied to its **geographical origin**.
- It is a **collective right** of the producer community — distinct from an individually owned trademark.

MUST KNOW

- A GI is a **community/collective right**, never owned by a single firm or person.
- Distinguish **GI vs trademark vs patent** — GI is origin-linked and communal.
- GIs are administered under the **GI Act, 1999** (in force 2003) by the **GI Registry, Chennai**.
- **Darjeeling tea** was India's **first GI-tagged** product.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Other famous GIs: **Banarasi saree**, **Kanchipuram silk**, **Mysore silk**, **Pochampally Ikat**.
- GI protection flows from the WTO's **TRIPS** agreement, which India implemented via the 1999 Act.
- A GI registration is valid for **10 years** and is renewable.
- The **GI Registry** functions under the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (**CGPDTM**).

CLAT / Legal Lens

IPR-and-culture GK; GI as a collective community right, contrasted with trademarks and patents.

PROVISIONS

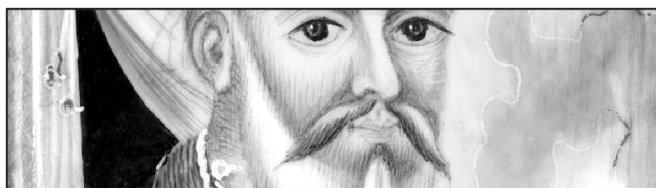
Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999

BODIES & CASES

GI Registry, Chennai, CGPDTM / Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks

Common Error: Never call a GI the property of one manufacturer — it belongs to the whole producer community of the region.

Emily Eden's 'Princes & People of India': The Company School Lens



Princes and People of India: Portraits by Emily Eden runs at **DAG** on Janpath, **New Delhi**, until **1 August 2026**. **Emily Eden** was the sister of **George Eden, Earl of Auckland, Governor-General of India (1836–1842)**. Touring North India (**1837–1842**) with his entourage, she produced about **two dozen (24) hand-coloured lithographs** — of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, the Rajas of Patiala and Nahan, and Delhi under the last Mughal — in the colonial **Company School** picturesque tradition.

QUICK FACTS

- **Emily Eden** was the sister of **George Eden, Earl of Auckland, Governor-General of India 1836–1842**.
- She travelled through North India from **1837 to 1842**, producing about **24 hand-coloured lithographs**.
- Her subjects included **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** of the Sikh Empire at Lahore, and the Rajas of **Patiala** and **Nahan**.
- She documented Delhi under the last Mughal, **Bahadur Shah Zafar**.
- The exhibition at **DAG**, New Delhi (until 1 Aug 2026), draws on the **Eden Family Archives**.

MUST KNOW

- The **Company School** was a hybrid Indo-European painting style serving British patrons in colonial India.
- The office of **Governor-General** predates the **Viceroy** title, which was introduced only in **1858**.
- **Maharaja Ranjit Singh**, the 'Lion of Punjab', founded the Sikh Empire and died in **1839**.
- **Bahadur Shah Zafar**, the last Mughal, was exiled to Rangoon after the **Revolt of 1857**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Lord Auckland's** tenure saw the disastrous **First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842)**.
- The **Viceroy** title began with **Lord Canning** under the **Government of India Act, 1858**.
- The **Company School** flourished at centres like Delhi, Murshidabad, Patna and Thanjavur.
- **DAG** (Delhi Art Gallery) is a leading Indian gallery focused on modern and colonial-era Indian art.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Colonial administration + art history GK: Company School, Governor-General/Viceroy timeline, princely states.

PROVISIONS

Government of India Act, 1858 (introduced the Viceroy), Charter Act, 1833 (created the Governor-General of India)

BODIES & CASES

DAG (Delhi Art Gallery), Eden Family Archives

Common Error: 'Governor-General' is NOT the same as 'Viceroy' — the Viceroy designation appeared only after 1858; Ranjit Singh died in 1839.

SECTION 09 / 12

SPORTS

Adille Sumariwalla Enters World Athletics Presidency Race



Adille Sumariwalla — a former Indian 100m national-record holder, **1980 Moscow Olympian** and current **Vice-President of World Athletics** — has announced his candidacy for the **World Athletics presidency**, seeking to succeed Britain's **Sebastian (Seb) Coe**. A rare Indian to reach the top of global sports administration, he has pushed reforms in Indian athletics and campaigned to criminalise doping, signalling India's rising voice in world sport governance.

QUICK FACTS

- **Adille Sumariwalla** declared his run for the **World Athletics presidency**, currently held by **Sebastian Coe**.
- He is a serving **Vice-President of World Athletics** and a former long-time **President of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**.
- **World Athletics** was formerly the **IAAF** (founded 1912); it was **renamed 'World Athletics' in 2019**; HQ in **Monaco**.
- He is a **1980 Moscow Olympics** sprinter and a former Indian **100m national-record holder**.
- Agenda themes: decentralised training, the **'Neeraj Chopra effect'**, building bench strength, and criminalising doping.

MUST KNOW

- IAAF → **World Athletics (rebranded 2019)** is a very common one-line GK trap.
- **Neeraj Chopra**: javelin **GOLD at Tokyo 2020** and **SILVER at Paris 2024** — do NOT say 'gold at Paris'.
- India's sporting horizon: **Asian Games, 2027 World Athletics Championships, 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**, and a mooted **Ahmedabad 2036 Olympics** bid.
- Anti-doping architecture: **WADA** (global) and India's **NADA**, backed by the **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **World Athletics**: global governing body for track and field; ex-IAAF; HQ **Monaco**.
- **Sebastian Coe**: two-time Olympic 1500m champion; World Athletics president since 2015.
- **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**: national governing body for athletics in India.
- India's 2036 Olympic ambition is centred on **Ahmedabad**; the 2028 Games go to **Los Angeles**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Rotating culture/awards & sports-governance GK — 'firsts', body rebrands, and Indians heading global federations.

PROVISIONS

National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 (India)

BODIES & CASES

World Athletics (ex-IAAF, 1912; renamed 2019), Athletics Federation of India (AFI), WADA / NADA

Common Error: IAAF became 'World Athletics' in 2019 (not 'IAF'); and Neeraj Chopra's Paris 2024 medal was SILVER, not gold.

India Women Win Their First-Ever Test at Lord's



On **13 July 2026**, the **Indian women's cricket team** won their **first-ever Test match at Lord's**, the 'Home of Cricket', beating **England by 270 runs**. Captained by **Harmanpreet Kaur**, India controlled all four innings — a landmark 'first' at the sport's most iconic venue that lifts the profile of women's cricket in India.

QUICK FACTS

- India beat **England by 270 runs at Lord's** — their first Test win at the venue.
- Captain: **Harmanpreet Kaur**; India batted first for **285**, with **Yastika Bhatia's 113** and a **Smriti Mandhana** half-century.
- England were dismissed for **170**; India declined the follow-on and declared at **341/7**.
- England folded for **186** chasing; pacer **Kranti Gaud** took a **seven-wicket match haul (5/37 & 2/54)**.
- Off-spinner **Sneh Rana** sealed it with **4/42** in the final innings.

MUST KNOW

- **Lord's** ('Home of Cricket', St John's Wood, London) is **owned by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.
- Key institutional split: **MCC = custodian of the Laws of Cricket**; **ICC = governs international cricket**.
- India's national body is the **BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)**.
- Sporting 'firsts' and MCC-vs-ICC distinctions are recurring GK one-markers.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**: founded 1787; owns Lord's and frames the **Laws of Cricket**.
- **International Cricket Council (ICC)**: global governing body of cricket; HQ **Dubai**.
- **BCCI**: India's national cricket board.
- Lord's is named after **Thomas Lord** and is called the 'Home of Cricket'.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Sports-GK 'firsts' plus the institutional distinction between the MCC (owner of Lord's + Laws) and the ICC (global governance).

BODIES & CASES

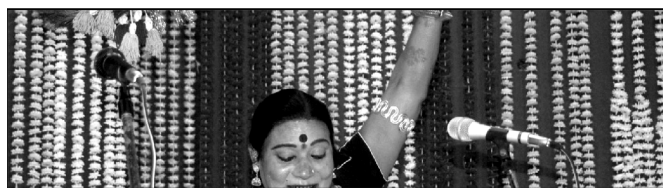
Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), International Cricket Council (ICC), Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

Common Error: Do NOT conflate MCC and ICC: MCC owns Lord's and writes the Laws of Cricket; the ICC merely governs international cricket.

SECTION 10 / 12

AWARDS & PERSONS

Teejan Bai, Pandavani Legend, Passes Away at 70



Teejan Bai (born 1956, Ganiyari village near **Bhilai, Chhattisgarh**), the legendary exponent of **Pandavani** — the sung storytelling of the **Mahabharata** — passed away in early July 2026 at the age of **70**. Performing in the theatrical, standing **Kapalik style** with a raised **tambura**, she carried a regional folk tradition to global stages and became one of very few artists honoured with all **three grades of the Padma awards**.

QUICK FACTS

- **Pandavani** is a **Chhattisgarhi folk narrative art** — a lead singer narrates and enacts **Mahabharata (Pandava) episodes** with a chorus and instrumentalists.
- Its two styles are **Vedamati** (seated) and **Kapalik** (standing, dramatic); Teejan Bai popularised the **Kapalik style**.
- She received all three Padma grades: **Padma Shri (1988)**, **Padma Bhushan (2003)** and **Padma Vibhushan (2019)**.
- She was also honoured by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- Playwright **Habib Tanvir** is widely credited with bringing her Pandavani to national and international audiences.

MUST KNOW

- **Padma Vibhushan** is India's **second-highest civilian award** (after the **Bharat Ratna**) — Teejan Bai's highest honour.
- Correct civilian-award order: **Bharat Ratna > Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri**.
- **Padma Awards were instituted in 1954**; they are **announced on the eve of Republic Day** and **conferred later by the President**.
- Pandavani is native to **Chhattisgarh** and draws its content from the **Mahabharata** — a classic art-form-to-state pairing.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (est. 1952, New Delhi): India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- **Pandavani** (Mahabharata) and **Panthi** are among Chhattisgarh's best-known folk forms.
- Bharat's civilian honours were **instituted in 1954**; Padma awards come in three grades — Vibhushan, Bhushan and Shri.
- The **tambura** (a drone string instrument) is the signature prop-and-instrument of a Pandavani performer.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Culture + awards GK: match the folk form to its home state, and know the exact Padma hierarchy and the announce-vs-confer distinction.

BODIES & CASES

Padma Awards (instituted 1954; conferred by the President of India), Sangeet Natak Akademi (1952)

Common Error: Padma awards are **ANNOUNCED** on Republic Day eve but **CONFERRED LATER** by the President — not handed over on 26 January; and Padma Vibhushan is the 2nd-highest (not the highest) civilian award.

Girish Bharadwaj, the 'Bridge Man of India', Passes at 76



Girish Bharadwaj (1950-2026), the **Padma Shri** awardee celebrated as the **'Bridge Man of India'**, died on **7 July 2026** in **Sullia, Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka)**, aged **76**. A **mechanical engineer**, he built his first **hanging footbridge over the Payaswini River at Aramburu in 1989** and went on to erect scores of low-cost **suspension footbridges** across Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha — a lifetime of **appropriate technology** connecting India's remotest villages.

QUICK FACTS

- Known as the **'Bridge Man of India'** for pioneering cheap, durable **suspension footbridges** for isolated hamlets.
- His **first hanging footbridge** was built over the **Payaswini River at Aramburu, Sullia, in 1989**.
- He built a large number of such bridges across four states — reports variously cite **over a hundred to more than 300** — improving rural access to schools, markets and hospitals.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 2017**, India's **fourth-highest civilian award**.
- His work is a model of **'appropriate technology'** — simple, affordable engineering suited to local needs.

MUST KNOW

- **Padma Shri** is the **fourth-highest civilian award**; order: **Bharat Ratna > Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri**.
- **Padma Awards were instituted in 1954** and are given in the fields of art, social work, public affairs, science, etc.
- They are **announced on the eve of Republic Day (26 January)** but are **conferred later by the President of India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Appropriate technology** and **rural connectivity** are the recurring civics themes attached to his life.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Sullia / Dakshina Kannada** lies in coastal **Karnataka**; the **Payaswini (Chandragiri) River** flows through the region.
- Civilian honours **instituted 1954**; the **Padma awards have three grades** (Vibhushan, Bhushan, Shri).
- **Bharat Ratna** is the highest civilian award; Padma awards rank below it.
- A person is one of the routine 'Person in News / Obituary' items CLAT tests via a single distinctive tag ('Bridge Man of India').

CLAT / Legal Lens

Person-in-news + awards GK: link the epithet ('Bridge Man of India') to the person and the exact Padma grade/year.

BODIES & CASES

Padma Awards (instituted 1954; conferred by the President of India)

Common Error: Padma awards are **ANNOUNCED** on Republic Day eve and **CONFERRED LATER** by the President; Padma Shri is the 4th-highest (lowest of the three Padma grades), not a standalone 'highest' honour.

SECTION 11 / 12

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

Digital India at 11: DBT and the JAM Trinity

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

The **Digital India** programme (launched **1 July 2015**) completed **11 years** in July 2026. Its backbone is the **JAM trinity** — **Jan Dhan** accounts, **Aadhaar** identity and **Mobile** connectivity — which routes **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** straight to beneficiaries, cutting leakage. Cumulative DBT is reported to have crossed **roughly Rs 51 lakh crore**, even as Aadhaar-linked delivery keeps privacy and exclusion concerns alive.

QUICK FACTS

- **Digital India** launched **1 July 2015**; completed **11 years** in 2026.
- **JAM trinity** = Jan Dhan + Aadhaar + Mobile — the rails for DBT.
- Cumulative **DBT** reported at **~Rs 51 lakh crore** (figure as reported).
- **Aadhaar Act, 2016** is the statutory basis for biometric identity.
- Chief exclusion risk: **authentication failures** denying benefits to genuine poor.

MUST KNOW

- **Puttaswamy I (2017)**: a **nine-judge** bench held privacy a **fundamental right** under **Article 21**.
- **Puttaswamy II (2018)**: a **five-judge** bench **upheld** the Aadhaar Act but struck down **Section 57** (barring private entities from demanding Aadhaar).
- The **proportionality test** — legality, legitimate aim, necessity/least-restrictive means, balancing — governs privacy-limiting laws.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** is India's dedicated data-protection statute.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **DBT** replaces in-kind subsidy leakage with cash/kind transfer to verified bank accounts.
- **PM Jan Dhan Yojana (2014)** drove financial inclusion / zero-balance accounts.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000** is the parent cyber-law; Section 43A/rules once governed data.
- **UIDAI** issues Aadhaar; it is a statutory body under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.

CLAT / Legal Lens

LR passages test the proportionality framework and whether an Aadhaar-linked mandate is a valid, least-restrictive limitation of privacy under Art 21.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Section 57 Aadhaar Act 2016, Aadhaar Act 2016, Information Technology Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023

BODIES & CASES

Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2018), UIDAI

Common Error: Conflating the two Puttaswamy verdicts — 2017 (nine judges, privacy = FR) vs 2018 (five judges, Aadhaar upheld but Sec 57 struck) — or wrongly saying Aadhaar was struck down entirely.

VB-G RAM G Scheme Replaces MGNREGA



The Centre notified wage rates under the new **Viksit Bharat Rozgar Aajeevika Gramin (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025**, the framework that replaces the two-decade-old **MGNREGA, 2005**. The shift is structural: from a **demand-driven legal guarantee** of work to a **centrally-controlled, allocation-based scheme**. Reported wages are **Rs 300/day** across 21 states, with a special **Rs 450/day** in certain high-altitude Sikkim panchayats.

QUICK FACTS

- **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** replaces the **MGNREGA, 2005** framework.
- Wages reported at **Rs 300/day** for 21 states; **Rs 450/day** in high-altitude Sikkim panchayats (e.g., Lachung, Lachen, Gnathang).
- Nature of change: **demand-driven guarantee** → **allocation-based scheme**.
- MGNREGA gave up to **100 days** of guaranteed unskilled wage work per rural household per year.
- Under MGNREGA, if work was not provided within **15 days**, an **unemployment allowance** was payable.

MUST KNOW

- MGNREGA was a **rights-based / justiciable legal guarantee**; an allocation-based scheme is a policy entitlement, not a legal right to work.
- The **right to work** is a **Directive Principle (Article 41)**, not a fundamental right — hence not directly enforceable.
- **Article 39(a)** directs the State to secure an adequate **means of livelihood** for all citizens.
- Replacing a statutory guarantee raises **welfare-state** and **federalism** questions over Centre-vs-State control of rural employment.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- MGNREGA (2005) was renamed 'Mahatma Gandhi' NREGA in 2009; it is demand-driven and self-selecting.
- **Gram Sabha / Gram Panchayat** are the key local units for social audit and works planning.
- DPSP (Part IV, Arts 36-51) are **non-justiciable** but 'fundamental in governance'.
- Sikkim became India's 22nd state (1975); its high-altitude terrain justifies special wage rates.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the distinction between a justiciable statutory guarantee and a non-enforceable DPSP, and whether the 'right to work' can be read into Article 21.

PROVISIONS

Article 41, Article 39(a), Article 21, MGNREGA 2005, VB-G RAM G Act 2025

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Rural Development, Gram Sabha (social audit)

Common Error: Calling the right to work a fundamental right — it is a Directive Principle (Art 41); and confusing MGNREGA's demand-driven guarantee with an allocation-based scheme.

UDAN's Next Phase & Viability Gap Funding



On **4 July 2026**, the Prime Minister launched the next phase of the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)** scheme at **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**, committing roughly **Rs 29,000 crore** to expand regional air connectivity. UDAN, formally the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)**, was first launched in **2016** under the **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016** to make flying affordable in smaller towns.

QUICK FACTS

- Next phase launched **4 July 2026** at **Jodhpur**; outlay **~Rs 29,000 crore**.
- Package: **100 new aerodromes, 200 heliports** in hilly/aspirational districts, and route **viability gap funding (VGF)**.
- UDAN = **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik**; formally the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)**.
- Launched **2016** under **NCAP 2016** by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Atmanirbhar push via indigenous **HAL Dhruv** helicopters and **Dornier** aircraft.

MUST KNOW

- Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** subsidises the loss on thin routes so airlines fly otherwise-unviable sectors.
- UDAN caps fares on RCS routes and reserves a share of seats at concessional fares.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister: **Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu**.
- Aviation/airports illustrate **cooperative federalism** — land and clearances often need State support.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is the implementing agency for many RCS airports.
- Civil aviation is a **Union List** subject (air navigation and aircraft).
- NCAP 2016** was India's first integrated civil aviation policy.
- DGCA** is the regulator for civil aviation safety.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK/policy questions on VGF as a PPP subsidy tool and UDAN's aim of 'democratising' air travel; occasional federalism framing.

PROVISIONS

Union List (Seventh Schedule) – aircraft & air navigation

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI), DGCA

Common Error: Mistaking UDAN's launch year (2016, not 2014/2017) or expanding UDAN wrongly — it is 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik', and RCS is its formal name.

The **World Inequality Report (WIR) 2026**, from the **World Inequality Lab** at the **Paris School of Economics**, revived debate on how inequality is measured. Writing on it, economist **Bina Agarwal** argues policy fixates on **income inequality** (earnings) while neglecting **wealth inequality** (assets like land and housing) — which is more durable because assets pass by **inheritance**, and is deeply **gendered**.

QUICK FACTS

- WIR 2026** is produced by the **World Inequality Lab**, Paris School of Economics.
- Associated economists: **Thomas Piketty, Lucas Chancel, Gabriel Zucman**.
- Core distinction: **income inequality** (earnings) vs **wealth inequality** (assets).
- Wealth inequality is more durable because assets transfer by **inheritance**, not effort.
- In much of the Global South, women own only about **12-16%** of land in rural landowning households.

MUST KNOW

- Article 39(b)**: material resources of the community to serve the **common good**; **Article 39(c)**: prevent **concentration of wealth**.
- Article 15(3)** permits **special provisions for women**; **Article 14** guarantees equality before law.
- Article 300A**: right to property is now a **constitutional/legal right**, not a fundamental right (post-44th Amendment, 1978).
- A related **UN report 'Counting What Counts' (2025)** stresses uncounted/unpaid work and assets.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **World Inequality Database** underpins the Lab's estimates.
- PLFS** (Periodic Labour Force Survey) is released by **MoSPI**.
- Gini coefficient measures inequality; 0 = perfect equality, 1 = maximal inequality.
- The 44th Amendment (1978) deleted the right to property from Fundamental Rights (Art 31/19(1)(f)).

CLAT / Legal Lens

DPSP-based reasoning: does an inheritance/wealth tax or women's land-rights measure serve Art 39(b)-(c), aided by Art 15(3)?

PROVISIONS

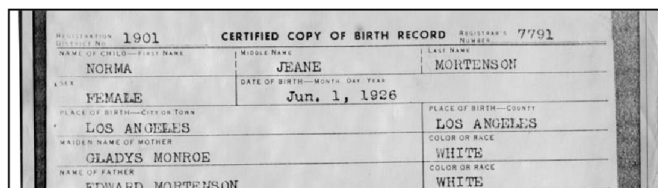
Article 39(b), Article 39(c), Article 15(3), Article 14, Article 300A

BODIES & CASES

World Inequality Lab (Paris School of Economics), UN 'Counting What Counts' (2025), MoSPI (PLFS 2023-24)

Common Error: Confusing *income inequality* (wages) with *wealth inequality* (assets); or calling the right to property a fundamental right — it is Art 300A, a constitutional right since 1978.

World Inequality Report 2026 & India's Gender Wealth Gap



India recorded over **99%** of estimated births and deaths in **2024**, per **Civil Registration System (CRS)** data from the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**. Birth registration hit **99.4%** and death registration **99.9%**.

up from **56%/48%** in 2014. The turnaround is credited to the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**, which digitised and centralised the parent **RBD Act, 1969**.

QUICK FACTS

- **CRS** crossed **99%** for both births and deaths in **2024**.
- Birth registration **99.4%**, death registration **99.9%** (vs **56%/48%** in 2014).
- **RBD Act, 1969** first made reporting every birth/death **compulsory within 21 days**.
- **RBD (Amendment) Act, 2023** created a **digital, real-time national database**.
- Data is maintained by the **Registrar General of India (RGI)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

MUST KNOW

- The **2023 amendment** makes the **digital birth certificate** a **single document** to prove date and place of birth for admissions, jobs, Aadhaar, voter rolls, etc.
- Watch the statute pair: parent **RBD Act 1969** vs amending **Act of 2023** — not a new standalone Act.
- Universal registration links to **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and welfare targeting.
- The **RGI** also conducts the **Census** of India.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Census of India** and the **CRS** both sit under the **RGI, Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- A birth certificate is a **rights gateway** - the first legal identity document.
- 'Vital statistics' (births/deaths) fall under the **Concurrent List**.
- The Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates rates like **IMR/MMR**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Passages tie the 2023 amendment to DPI and welfare delivery; GK tests the 1969-vs-2023 statute distinction and the RGI's role.

PROVISIONS

Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969, Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act 2023, Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule) - vital statistics

BODIES & CASES

Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs

Common Error: Treating the 2023 law as a brand-new standalone statute — it amends the 1969 Act; and confusing **RGI (Home Ministry)** with **MoSPI**.

MoSPI Launches Index of Services Production



India's **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released its first-ever **Index of Services Production (ISP)** on **14 July 2026**, on an experimental trial basis. The ISP is a monthly indicator of short-term growth in the **services sector** — over **half of India's Gross Value Added (GVA)** — and is the services counterpart to the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**.

QUICK FACTS

- **ISP** is MoSPI's first-ever services-output index, launched **14 July 2026** (trial).

- It is the **services-sector counterpart** to the long-running **IIP**.
- Base year **2024-25**; covers about **60%** of formal services.
- Built from **GST returns and administrative data** (not surveys), using a fixed-weight **Laspeyres** design.
- Early trial: **Accommodation & food services** fastest at **37.2%**; **Air transport** contracted **13.9%**.

MUST KNOW

- Services contribute **more than 50%** of India's **GVA** — hence the need for a high-frequency gauge.
- **GVA** (output minus intermediate consumption, at basic prices) differs from **GDP** ($GDP = GVA + \text{net taxes on products}$).
- A **Laspeyres index** uses **fixed base-year weights**.
- Chief Economic Adviser **V. Anantha Nageswaran** welcomed the indicator.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **IIP** tracks industrial output (mining, manufacturing, electricity); base year 2011-12.
- The **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** guides official statistics.
- **MoSPI / NSO** are the Union government's nodal statistical agencies.
- MoSPI also releases the **CPI**, **PLFS** and **GDP/GVA** estimates.

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK/economics questions link **ISP** to the **IIP** and test the **GVA-vs-GDP** distinction and base-year 2024-25.

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), National Statistical Office (NSO), National Statistical Commission (NSC)

Common Error: Confusing **GVA** with **GDP**, or calling the **ISP** the counterpart of the **CPI** — it mirrors the **IIP**; and forgetting it is *experimental/trial, not final*.

PM-Vidyalaxmi Education Loan Scheme



PM-Vidyalaxmi is a **Central Sector Scheme** approved by the Union Cabinet in **November 2024** to give meritorious students **collateral-free and guarantor-free** education loans for higher studies. Being a Central Sector Scheme, it is **funded entirely by the Union government**, unlike Centrally Sponsored Schemes whose costs are shared with States. It covers about **860 top institutions** chosen via **NIRF**.

QUICK FACTS

- **PM-Vidyalaxmi: Central Sector Scheme**, approved **Nov 2024**; 100% Union-funded.
- Offers **collateral-free, guarantor-free** loans for higher education.
- Covers **~860 Quality Higher Education Institutions** selected via **NIRF** rankings; **~22 lakh students/year**.
- **75% credit guarantee** to banks on loans up to **Rs 7.5 lakh**.
- **3% interest subvention** on loans up to **Rs 10 lakh** for family income up to **Rs 8 lakh**.

MUST KNOW

- **Central Sector** = 100% Union-funded; **Centrally Sponsored** = cost shared with States — a frequent MCQ distinction.

- Higher education rests on **Article 41 (DPSP)**, a directive to provide education within economic capacity — not a fundamental right.
- Article 21A** guarantees free and compulsory education only for children aged **6-14** (elementary), not higher education.
- The scheme advances **NEP 2020's** goal of raising the **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NIRF** (National Institutional Ranking Framework) launched 2015 by the Education Ministry.
- Article 21A** was inserted by the **86th Amendment (2002)**; RTE Act followed in 2009.
- Education is a **Concurrent List** subject (since the 42nd Amendment, 1976).
- NEP 2020 targets a 50% GER in higher education by 2035.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests Central Sector vs Centrally Sponsored schemes and placing higher education under DPSP Art 41 rather than the FR in Art 21A.

PROVISIONS

Article 41, Article 21A, Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule) - education

BODIES & CASES

Union Cabinet (approval Nov 2024), Ministry of Education, NIRF

Common Error: Claiming higher education is a fundamental right — Art 21A covers only ages 6-14; and confusing Central Sector (100% Union) with Centrally Sponsored (cost-shared) schemes.

- Sits inside the wider '**freebies vs welfare**' debate and the **Model Code of Conduct** concerns around poll-timed cash schemes.
- Compare with MP's **Ladli Behna Yojana** — the template for state women's cash-transfer schemes.
- Wrong exclusion of eligible women can raise **Article 14** arbitrariness questions.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- CAG — Article 148**; audits Union and State finances; reports laid before legislatures.
- Aadhaar Act, 2016** underpins Aadhaar-based DBT; **JAM trinity** = Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile.
- Maharashtra**: capital Mumbai (Nagpur is the winter/second capital); CM Devendra Fadnavis.
- S. Subramaniam Balaji v State of Tamil Nadu (2013)** — Supreme Court on election freebies.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A DBT-eligibility passage can test Article 14 (arbitrary exclusion), CAG's Article 148 audit role, and the freebies-vs-welfare debate as principles applied to a fact pattern.

PROVISIONS

Article 14, Article 148, Aadhaar Act, 2016

BODIES & CASES

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), S. Subramaniam Balaji v State of TN (2013)

Common Error: CAG is a constitutional body under Article 148 (not 149 — that only defines its duties/powers); and the freebies case is S. Subramaniam Balaji (2013), not a directive holding freebies unconstitutional.

SECTION 12 / 12

STATES IN NEWS

Maharashtra Trims 92 Lakh From 'Ladki Bahin' After Verification Drive

STATES IN NEWS

Maharashtra (capital **Mumbai**; CM **Devendra Fadnavis**) removed about **92 lakh** beneficiaries from the **Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana** after a verification drive — roughly **38%** of the scheme's peak base of **2.43 crore** women. The scheme pays **Rs 1,500/month** to women aged **21–65** from families earning below **Rs 2.5 lakh**, and is widely credited with the ruling alliance's 2025 Assembly win. Exclusions turned on **e-KYC/Aadhaar** gaps, income caps and duplication.

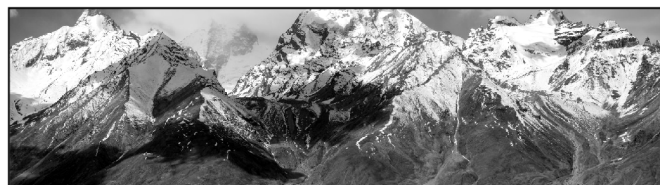
QUICK FACTS

- About **92 lakh** beneficiaries cut, ~**38%** of the peak **2.43 crore** base.
- Biggest reason: **e-KYC not completed** (~62 lakh, ~67% of the cuts).
- Others: family income above **Rs 2.5 lakh** (~16 lakh); overlap with **Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar** pension (~3.6 lakh); >2 beneficiaries per family; age above 65; even male beneficiaries (~29,000).
- Benefit: **Rs 1,500/month** to women aged **21–65** below the **Rs 2.5 lakh** income line.
- The **CAG** had earlier flagged deficiencies in the scheme's budget control.

MUST KNOW

- Delivered via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** with **Aadhaar seeding** and **e-KYC** — leakage/exclusion both flow from data quality.

Ladakh To Get Autonomous Hill Councils In All 7 Districts



Ladakh — a **Union Territory without a legislature** (capital **Leh**), administered by a **Lieutenant Governor** — announced that each of its **seven districts** will get an **Autonomous Hill Development Council (AHDC)**, extending elected local self-governance beyond Leh and Kargil for the first time. Ladakh was expanded from two to seven districts (five new districts approved in 2024, notified in 2026), when **Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass** were notified. Until now only two Councils existed (**Leh since 1995, Kargil since 2003**), leaving five districts with no elected local tier.

QUICK FACTS

- An **AHDC** to be constituted in each of Ladakh's **seven districts** — a step toward democratic decentralisation.
- Ladakh grew from **two to seven districts** (five approved 2024, notified 2026) (**Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar, Drass** added to Leh and Kargil).
- Existing councils: **LAHDC Leh (1995)** and **LAHDC Kargil (2003)**; the five new districts had no elected tier.
- Legal hook: **Section 3(1)** of the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997** lets the government constitute a council per district via **Official Gazette notification**.
- Ladakh has **no legislative assembly**, so AHDCs are the main elected democratic layer.

MUST KNOW

- Ladakh became a **UT** on **31 October 2019** under the **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, after **Article 370** was read down/abrogated.
- Ties into the demand to bring Ladakh under the **Sixth Schedule** (tribal-area safeguards) and for **statehood**.
- AHDCs are statutory (Act of Parliament), not constitutional bodies like Sixth Schedule ADCs.
- Councils deepen the **73rd/74th Amendment** ethos of grassroots governance in a UT setting.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Ladakh:** UT since 31 Oct 2019, no legislature, administered by a Lieutenant Governor; capital Leh.
- **Sixth Schedule** (Articles 244(2), 275(1)) provides Autonomous District/Regional Councils for tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Article 371-type** special provisions cover special arrangements for several states; being invoked in the Ladakh safeguards debate.
- **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019** split the former state into UTs of J&K (with legislature) and Ladakh (without).

CLAT / Legal Lens

A polity-plus-legal-reasoning combo: distinguish statutory AHDCs from constitutional Sixth Schedule councils, and connect UT reorganisation, Article 370 and special-provisions demands.

PROVISIONS

Article 370 (read down/abrogated 2019), Sixth Schedule (Articles 244(2), 275(1)), Article 371

BODIES & CASES

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997 (Section 3(1)), Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

Common Error: Sixth Schedule ADCs (constitutional) are not the same as Ladakh's AHDCs (created by the 1997 statute); and Ladakh currently has NO Sixth Schedule status — it is only a demand.

PERSONAL NOTES — FACTS & MISSES TO REVISE

QUESTION BANK

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. The Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986 was signed between the Government of India, Government of Mizoram, and the Mizo National Front. The Accord led to Mizoram achieving full statehood under which Act?

- A. The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act 1971
- B. The State of Mizoram Act 1986
- C. The Mizoram Statehood (Special Provisions) Act 1987
- D. The States Reorganisation Act 1956

2. Under Article 3 of the Constitution, Parliament may form new states or alter boundaries of existing states. Which of the following is a correct procedural requirement under Article 3?

- A. A simple majority bill in Parliament with a Presidential recommendation suffices; the concerned legislature is consulted but its concurrence is not binding
- B. A constitutional amendment under Article 368 with ratification by half the state legislatures is required
- C. A two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament plus the consent of the concerned state legislature is mandatory
- D. A bill must be introduced in Parliament on the recommendation of the President, and the concerned state legislature must give its consent

3. The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for Autonomous District Councils in tribal areas. Mizoram's tribal areas are governed under:

- A. Neither the Fifth nor the Sixth Schedule; Mizoram tribal areas are governed only by ordinary State legislation
- B. The Fifth Schedule exclusively
- C. Article 244A which creates a fully autonomous state within a state
- D. The Sixth Schedule, with Autonomous District Councils having legislative powers over specified matters

4. Article 11 of the Indian Constitution gives Parliament the power to:

- A. Grant citizenship to stateless persons under international refugee law without ordinary legislative procedure
- B. Confer fundamental rights on foreign nationals residing in India
- C. Override the Supreme Court's rulings on citizenship disputes by a simple majority
- D. Make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all matters relating to citizenship

5. The 'One Nation One Election' proposal is primarily sought to be implemented through which Bill?

- A. 126th Constitution Amendment Bill
- B. 130th Constitution Amendment Bill
- C. 129th Constitution Amendment Bill
- D. 128th Constitution Amendment Bill

6. A common legal-reasoning framing of ONOE asks whether synchronising the electoral calendar:

- A. Is barred by Article 356
- B. Erodes federalism and thus the basic structure, or merely streamlines logistics
- C. Requires a referendum
- D. Automatically violates Article 21

7. The Joint Committee of Parliament examining the ONOE Bills is chaired by:

- A. Om Birla
- B. Ram Nath Kovind

C. Arjun Ram Meghwal

D. P.P. Chaudhary

8. In S.R. Bommai v. Union of India, the Supreme Court held that:

- A. Federalism is not part of the basic structure
- B. State Assemblies cannot be dissolved
- C. The proclamation of President's Rule under Article 356 is subject to judicial review
- D. Article 356 can never be judicially reviewed

9. The 130th Constitution Amendment Bill proposes automatic removal of a minister held in custody for how many consecutive days for serious offences?

- A. 45 days
- B. 60 days
- C. 15 days
- D. 30 days

10. The Bill's removal clause is proposed to apply to which of the following?

- A. Ministers including the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers
- B. Only Members of Parliament, not Ministers
- C. Only the Prime Minister
- D. Only State Ministers

11. The opposition's dissent note primarily warned that the 30-day custody clause could be misused for:

- A. Judicial overreach
- B. Political vendetta
- C. Electoral fraud
- D. Fiscal mismanagement

12. The corresponding provision that State Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Governor is:

- A. Article 164
- B. Article 166
- C. Article 167
- D. Article 163

13. Which recent state decision to remove eggs from school midday meals reopened the nutrition debate?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. West Bengal
- C. Kerala
- D. Bihar

14. Under which Chief Minister did Tamil Nadu launch a full-scale school feeding programme in 1956?

- A. M.G. Ramachandran
- B. K. Kamaraj
- C. C. Rajagopalachari
- D. M. Karunanidhi

15. Which 2013 statute created a legal framework for subsidised food grains, reinforcing the right to food?

- A. Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- B. Public Distribution Act, 2013
- C. Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- D. National Food Security Act, 2013

16. Historically, the pioneering region for school feeding in India (an experiment in 1920) was the:

- A. Bombay Presidency
- B. Madras Presidency
- C. Bengal Presidency
- D. Punjab province

17. TPDDL, one of the Delhi discoms, stands for:

- A. Trans Power Delhi Distribution Limited
- B. Tata Power Delhi Delivery Limited
- C. Total Power Delhi Distribution Limited
- D. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited

18. BRPL and BYPL are Delhi discoms. BRPL stands for:

- A. Bharat Rajdhani Power Limited
- B. BSES Regulatory Power Limited
- C. Bombay Rajdhani Power Limited
- D. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited

19. The Delhi Cabinet ordered a CAG audit of its electricity distribution companies (discoms) over unrecovered Regulatory Assets worth approximately:

- A. ₹28,500 crore
- B. ₹48,500 crore
- C. ₹38,500 crore
- D. ₹18,500 crore

20. 'Regulatory Assets' in electricity distribution refer to:

- A. Physical infrastructure assets owned by the regulator
- B. Assets seized by DERC for non-compliance
- C. Subsidies given directly to consumers
- D. Accumulated financial shortfalls of discoms allowed by the regulator to be recovered in future tariff revisions

21. A 9-member committee constituted by the Education Ministry to recommend 50% weightage to board marks in admissions is primarily aimed at addressing which problem?

- A. Over-dependence on coaching institutes and high stakes of a single exam
- B. Declining enrollment in Class 11 science streams
- C. Shortage of medical and engineering colleges
- D. Lack of uniformity in CBSE and ICSE syllabi

22. Giving 50% weightage to Class 12 board marks in NEET/JEE could potentially disadvantage students from which type of educational backgrounds, raising equity concerns?

- A. Urban private school students who also attend coaching
- B. Students from state boards, rural schools, or weaker boards with lower average marks
- C. Students who opted for the CBSE board over ICSE
- D. Students who have repeated Class 12 to improve scores

23. The National Education Policy 2020 advocates for which of the following approaches to assessment and examinations?

- A. Mandatory coaching centre certification for all Class 12 students
- B. Reduction of the school curriculum to focus only on STEM subjects
- C. Increased reliance on a single high-stakes entrance exam
- D. Holistic, 360-degree multi-dimensional assessment replacing board exams

24. JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) is the national-level entrance test for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes at IITs, NITs, and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions. JEE is conducted by:

- A. IIT Bombay on rotation
- B. UPSC
- C. NTA
- D. AICTE

25. The Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) are

organisations that have been pressing for which of the following demands for Ladakh?

- A. Inclusion in the North-East special category for central funding
- B. Statehood, Sixth Schedule tribal protections, and a separate Public Service Commission
- C. Full merger with Jammu & Kashmir
- D. Special economic zone status and tax concessions only

26. The Ministry of Home Affairs revised talks minutes on Ladakh reportedly offered the proposed elected body control over civil servants' ACRs (Annual Confidential Reports). What is the significance of control over ACRs?

- A. It determines the annual development budget allocation for the region
- B. It transfers judicial powers over government employees to the elected body
- C. It gives the elected body influence over the career progression and postings of bureaucrats serving in Ladakh
- D. It allows the body to directly recruit officers from the open market

27. Article 371 of the Indian Constitution, which provides special provisions for certain states, is structurally similar in intent to the Sixth Schedule demand in that both mechanisms aim to achieve which purpose?

- A. Granting full statehood to all Union Territories
- B. Creating elected bodies with exclusive jurisdiction over natural resources
- C. Protecting the social and cultural identity of specific communities or regions through special legislative or administrative arrangements
- D. Ensuring uniform application of all central laws without exception

28. The demand for a separate Public Service Commission for Ladakh is primarily aimed at ensuring which of the following?

- A. That local residents of Ladakh have a dedicated recruitment body for civil services, reducing dependence on JKPS or UPSC for all posts
- B. That the central government's ability to post All India Service officers in Ladakh is completely curtailed
- C. That only retired military officers can be posted as administrators in Ladakh
- D. That all civil service exams in Ladakh are conducted in the Ladakhi language only

29. In Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995), the Supreme Court held that a person's name cannot be struck off the electoral roll without:

- A. A referendum
- B. A court order
- C. Prior inquiry and opportunity of hearing
- D. Approval of the Governor

30. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that deletion of a name from the electoral roll:

- A. does not by itself determine citizenship
- B. automatically cancels the person's citizenship
- C. cancels the person's Aadhaar number
- D. conclusively determines citizenship status

31. Under which Act are electoral rolls prepared, as distinct from the Act governing the conduct of elections?

- A. Aadhaar Act, 2016
- B. Representation of the People Act, 1951
- C. Representation of the People Act, 1950
- D. Citizenship Act, 1955

32. Which statute governs the preparation and revision of electoral rolls in India?

- A. The Aadhaar Act, 2016
- B. The Citizenship Act, 1955
- C. The Representation of the People Act, 1950

D. The Passports Act, 1967

33. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was enacted as which Constitution Amendment Act?

- A. The 101st Amendment Act, 2016
- B. The 100th Amendment Act, 2015
- C. The 103rd Amendment Act, 2019
- D. The 106th Amendment Act, 2023

34. What proportion of seats does the women's reservation law provide in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies?

- A. One-fourth
- B. Two-thirds
- C. One-third
- D. One-half

35. The commencement of the women's reservation is tied to a delimitation exercise to be undertaken after the first Census conducted after which year?

- A. 2031
- B. 2011
- C. 2021
- D. 2026

36. The freeze on readjusting the number of Lok Sabha seats among States until the first Census after 2026 was effected by which amendment?

- A. The 61st Amendment
- B. The 84th Amendment (2001)
- C. The 73rd Amendment
- D. The 42nd Amendment

37. In Union of India v Rajendra N Shah (2021), the Supreme Court held Part IX-B unconstitutional to the extent it applied to:

- A. Only agricultural credit cooperatives
- B. Multi-State cooperative societies
- C. All cooperative societies without exception
- D. Cooperative societies operating wholly within a single state

38. 'Cooperative societies' appears as which Entry of which List under the Seventh Schedule?

- A. Entry 7, State List
- B. Entry 32, State List
- C. Entry 20, Concurrent List
- D. Entry 44, Union List

39. At the Ministry of Cooperation's Foundation Day event, which existing joint venture was cited as the model for the proposed cooperative life-insurance company?

- A. LIC-NAFED
- B. IFFCO-Tokio
- C. Amul-HDFC
- D. NABARD-GIC

40. For a constitutional amendment to validly alter matters touching State List entries such as cooperation, what special procedure is generally required?

- A. Ratification by at least half the State legislatures under the proviso to Article 368(2)
- B. Simple majority in both Houses of Parliament only
- C. Presidential assent alone, without Parliamentary vote
- D. A national referendum under Article 368

41. The July 2026 pact on outstanding Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award dues was signed by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and which fourth state?

- A. Chhattisgarh

B. Karnataka

C. Uttar Pradesh

D. Rajasthan

42. If a state insists on approaching the Supreme Court directly to resolve a river-water dispute that Parliament has, by law, excluded from courts, the likely position is:

- A. The Court must hear it under Article 32
- B. Only the High Court may hear it
- C. The dispute goes to the Finance Commission
- D. The Court's jurisdiction may be validly barred under Article 262

43. Which constitutional article deals specifically with the adjudication of inter-state river water disputes?

- A. Article 263
- B. Article 262
- C. Article 246
- D. Article 280

44. 'Water' as a subject appears in Entry 17 of which list, subject to Entry 56 of the Union List?

- A. State List
- B. Residuary powers
- C. Union List
- D. Concurrent List

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

45. In K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), the Supreme Court held that the right to privacy under Article 21 must satisfy which test when restricted by the State?

- A. The compelling interest test borrowed from US jurisprudence requiring the State to show a compelling government interest
- B. The reasonableness test under Article 19(6): the restriction must be a reasonable restriction imposed in public interest
- C. The rational nexus test: the restriction must have a rational connection to a legitimate State aim
- D. The proportionality test: the restriction must be sanctioned by law, necessary, proportionate to the aim, and include procedural safeguards

46. The FCRA Amendment Act 2020 introduced a key restriction that organisations registered under FCRA cannot transfer received foreign contribution to:

- A. Other persons or organisations, even if those organisations are also FCRA-registered
- B. Their own branch offices in other states
- C. Overseas partner organisations for joint projects approved by the Central Government
- D. Any bank account other than the designated SBI FCRA account

47. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise and propagate religion. This right is subject to:

- A. The discretion of the President without any legislative sanction
- B. Restrictions only by the Supreme Court and not by Parliament
- C. Conditions imposed by National Minorities Commission only
- D. Public order, morality and health, and other fundamental rights in Part III

48. If an FCRA-registered organisation uses foreign contribution for activities prejudicial to national interest, the Central Government may, under Section 14 of FCRA:

- A. Immediately confiscate all assets of the organisation without providing an opportunity of hearing
- B. Refer the matter to the High Court for a mandatory injunction order
- C. Only issue an advisory; criminal sanctions require a separate FIR under IPC
- D. Suspend registration for a period not exceeding 180 days and eventually cancel it after an inquiry

49. In United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898), the US Supreme Court held that:

- A. The 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause applies only to freed slaves and their descendants
- B. Congress may by statute restrict birthright citizenship to children of lawful residents
- C. Children of foreign diplomats born on US soil are US citizens by birth
- D. A child born in the United States to parents who are subjects of China is a US citizen, affirming jus soli

50. The principle of jus soli as opposed to jus sanguinis determines citizenship by:

- A. Jus soli — naturalisation after residence; jus sanguinis — birth in a territory
- B. Both principles are identical in their legal effect under international law
- C. Jus soli — place of birth; jus sanguinis — bloodline or descent from parents
- D. Jus soli — descent from parents; jus sanguinis — place of birth

51. The Citizenship Act 1955 in India provides for acquisition of citizenship by birth. After the 2003 Amendment, a person born in India is a citizen only if:

- A. Both parents are citizens of India, or one parent is a citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant
- B. At least one parent is a citizen of India, regardless of the other parent's status
- C. The person was born before 1987, after which only children of citizens qualify
- D. The person has resided in India for five years after birth and applied for citizenship

52. An executive order in the US purporting to restrict birthright citizenship would be subject to constitutional challenge primarily because:

- A. International customary law prohibits any state from restricting birthright citizenship unilaterally
- B. Executive orders on immigration require Senate confirmation to be valid
- C. The President lacks any executive power over immigration matters, which belong exclusively to Congress
- D. The 14th Amendment's text is self-executing and an executive order cannot override a constitutional provision; only a constitutional amendment can alter it

53. The Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025 amended the Waqf Act 1995. Which of the following changes was a key feature of the 2025 amendment in terms of administrative law?

- A. Vesting all waqf properties in the Central Government
- B. Banning new waqf creations after 2025
- C. Abolition of Waqf Tribunals and transfer of jurisdiction to civil courts
- D. Introduction of mandatory registration of waqf properties in a centralised portal and reconstitution of State Waqf Boards

54. A Waqf Tribunal constituted under the Waqf Act exercises which type of jurisdiction?

- A. Exclusive constitutional jurisdiction comparable to the Supreme Court under Article 32
- B. Advisory jurisdiction to guide Parliament on legislation relating to religious endowments
- C. Original criminal jurisdiction over religious offences
- D. Quasi-judicial and civil jurisdiction to determine disputes regarding waqf properties

55. An aggrieved party wishing to challenge a Waqf Tribunal's order before the High Court would most appropriately invoke which constitutional provision?

- A. Article 143 — advisory opinion of Supreme Court
- B. Article 226 — High Court's writ jurisdiction
- C. Article 32 — Supreme Court's writ jurisdiction
- D. Article 131 — original jurisdiction of Supreme Court

56. The principle of audi alteram partem (natural justice) requires that in any Waqf Tribunal proceeding:

- A. Decisions of the Tribunal become final without any possibility of appeal
- B. Proceedings must be conducted exclusively in the language specified by the Central Government
- C. The Tribunal must always be chaired by a retired High Court judge
- D. Both parties to a dispute must be given an opportunity to be heard before an adverse order is passed

57. Under the draft regulations, AI is PERMITTED (with human control) for which task?

- A. Assessing witness credibility
- B. Monitoring judicial officers
- C. Legal research and drafting assistance
- D. Determining bail eligibility

58. The Draft Regulations were released on 3 June 2026 and were open for public comments until:

- A. 3 July 2026
- B. 20 June 2026

- C. 31 May 2026
- D. 1 June 2026

59. Which Supreme Court bench set aside NCLT/NCLAT orders for relying on AI-generated fake judgments?

- A. Justices B R Gavai & Surya Kant
- B. Justices P S Narasimha & Alok Aradhe
- C. Justices D Y Chandrachud & Sanjiv Khanna
- D. Justices Hima Kohli & A S Oka

60. Which of the following is an 'absolute and non-derogable' prohibition under the draft AI regulations?

- A. Using AI for transcription
- B. Using AI for translation of judgments
- C. Using AI to decide cases or determine bail eligibility
- D. Using AI for legal research

61. The Supreme Court's ruling in the Ramlila Maidan case (2012), referenced in the context of the right to protest, primarily held which of the following?

- A. That the right to peaceful assembly is a fundamental right and the police cannot use force to disperse peaceful protesters without adequate justification
- B. That only trade unions have an enforceable right to protest on public land
- C. That the police have absolute discretion to disperse any public gathering
- D. That protests in public places are inherently unlawful and require prior court permission

62. The Bombay HC characterised externment as an 'extraordinary power'. In the context of judicial review, this characterisation implies which of the following?

- A. That externment orders can never be challenged in any court of law
- B. That the power must be exercised sparingly, with strict procedural compliance and compelling justification, and is subject to close judicial scrutiny
- C. That only the Supreme Court, and not High Courts, can review externment orders
- D. That externment automatically triggers suspension of all other fundamental rights of the concerned person

63. The Bombay High Court judgment on externment and the right to peaceful protest was delivered by which judge?

- A. Justice B N Srikrishna
- B. Justice Rohinton Nariman
- C. Justice M J Jamdar
- D. Justice D Y Chandrachud

64. Under which Maharashtra state law does the police exercise the power of 'externment', which was challenged in the Bombay HC judgment?

- A. The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act
- B. The Maharashtra Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act
- C. The Maharashtra Public Security Act
- D. The Maharashtra Police Act

65. Under West Bengal's new 'Public Safety' preventive-detention framework, what is the reported maximum period of detention?

- A. 24 months
- B. 12 months
- C. 6 months
- D. 9 months

66. The West Bengal riot-damage recovery law is reportedly modelled on the framework first enacted by which state?

- A. Bihar
- B. Madhya Pradesh

- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

67. Which constitutional article deals with protection against arrest and detention, including preventive-detention safeguards?

- A. Article 23
- B. Article 22
- C. Article 20
- D. Article 21

68. A minor scuffle affecting only two individuals is best classified in constitutional jurisprudence as a matter of:

- A. Law and order
- B. Preventive detention
- C. Security of the State
- D. Public order

69. Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) is significant to this case because it established that:

- A. Media houses are 'State' under Article 12
- B. Freedom of the press is an absolute right
- C. Writ petitions cannot lie against private companies
- D. The right to privacy is a Fundamental Right under Article 21

70. Which two judges comprised the Delhi High Court bench that upheld the compensation order against TV Today Network?

- A. Justices D Y Chandrachud and Sanjiv Khanna
- B. Justices Rajiv Shukdhakar and Tara Vitasta Ganju
- C. Justices Manmohan and Amit Mahajan
- D. Justices C Hari Shankar and O P Shukla

71. How much compensation was TV Today Network directed to pay for identifying a minor sexual assault victim?

- A. Rs 10 lakh
- B. Rs 2 lakh
- C. Rs 1 lakh
- D. Rs 5 lakh

72. Which Constitution Bench judgment held that Articles 19 and 21 can, in certain circumstances, be enforced horizontally against private persons?

- A. Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)
- B. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)
- C. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
- D. Kaushal Kishor v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2023)

73. According to Shreya Singhal, an intermediary's obligation to take down content is triggered only upon 'actual knowledge', meaning:

- A. A user petition signed by 100 or more people
- B. A court order or notification by an appropriate government authority
- C. Media reports flagging the content as controversial
- D. Any private individual's complaint alleging illegality

74. A private individual emails a platform demanding takedown of a post, without any court order or government notification. Applying Shreya Singhal, is the platform obligated to act on 'actual knowledge'?

- A. Yes, any user complaint automatically creates actual knowledge
- B. No, because actual knowledge requires a court order or government notification, not a private complaint
- C. Yes, but only if the complainant is a verified account
- D. No, because intermediaries have absolute immunity regardless of source

75. Under the IT Rules, 2021, what standard are intermediaries required to meet regarding unlawful content?

- A. Pre-certification of every post before publication
- B. Absolute guarantee of zero unlawful content

- C. 'Reasonable efforts' to ensure they do not host such content
D. Strict liability regardless of due diligence

76. What term have Google and Meta used before the Delhi High Court to describe the risk of being forced to proactively monitor all content?

- A. 'Digital gatekeeper'
B. 'Algorithmic judge'
C. 'Super censor'
D. 'Content sheriff'

77. Which landmark 1997 case laid down 11 guidelines to prevent custodial torture during arrest and detention?

- A. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India
B. A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras
C. D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal
D. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala

78. In which case did the Supreme Court award compensation for custodial death, developing the remedy of monetary compensation for rights violations?

- A. Olga Tellis v. BMC
B. Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan
C. Bandhua Mukti Morcha
D. Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa

79. If a State legislature passed a law immunising police from any liability for custodial injuries, a court would most likely strike it down primarily because it:

- A. Offends Article 300A on property
B. Violates Article 21 and the rule of law
C. Exceeds the State List
D. Breaches Article 301 on trade

80. A Delhi (Rouse Avenue) court recently observed that an investigating agency cannot assume which dual role?

- A. Jailer and magistrate
B. Investigator and punisher
C. Witness and complainant
D. Prosecutor and judge

81. The landmark judgment that replaced the 'full-court secret ballot' with a point-based assessment system was delivered in which case?

- A. Bar Council of India v A.K. Balaji
B. Indira Jaising v Union of India (2017)
C. Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v Union of India
D. S.P. Gupta v Union of India

82. Which senior advocate resigned from the committee amid the controversial 2024 designation process?

- A. Alok Prasanna Kumar
B. Indira Jaising
C. D K Upadhyaya
D. Sudhir Nandrajog

83. How many deferred or rejected applicants were interviewed one-on-one by the reconstituted committee?

- A. 86
B. 85
C. 166
D. 232

84. How many advocates did the Delhi High Court full court approve for designation as Senior Advocates?

- A. 66
B. 232

- C. 86
D. 85

85. A 1978 Supreme Court ruling held that a judge's resignation is:

- A. A unilateral act effective on the date the judge chooses
B. Subject to Parliamentary approval
C. Effective only after Presidential acceptance
D. Void if a removal motion is pending

86. Who tabled the parliamentary committee report on Justice Yashwant Varma in the Lok Sabha?

- A. The Law Minister
B. The Chief Justice of India
C. Speaker Om Birla
D. The Prime Minister

87. Which Article extends the Article 124(4) removal machinery for Supreme Court judges to judges of the High Courts?

- A. Article 219
B. Article 215
C. Article 218
D. Article 222

88. The statutory framework for the 'investigation and proof of misbehaviour or incapacity' of a judge is supplied by which Act?

- A. The Judges (Protection) Act, 1985
B. The Judicial Standards and Accountability Act
C. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
D. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

89. The expert team was asked to assess unauthorised construction specifically in which areas?

- A. Karol Bagh, Chandni Chowk and Daryaganj
B. Saket, Lajpat Nagar and Malviya Nagar
C. Dwarka, Janakpuri and Uttam Nagar
D. Rohini, Pitampura and Shalimar Bagh

90. The Court's warning to initiate proceedings for non-compliance with its earlier directions concerned which kind of contempt?

- A. Civil contempt for wilful disobedience of a court order
B. Contempt of Parliament
C. Criminal contempt for scandalising the court
D. No contempt, merely a fine

91. Which bench of the Supreme Court pulled up the civic authorities?

- A. Justice Amanullah and Justice A.S. Bopanna
B. Justice R. Mahadevan and Justice Sanjiv Khanna
C. Justice Amanullah and Justice R. Mahadevan
D. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli

92. The Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) that reviewed 'Satluj' functions under:

- A. the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021
B. the Cinematograph Act, 1952
C. the Cable TV Networks Act
D. the Press and Registration of Books Act

93. Assertion (A): The government is considering making CBFC certification mandatory for OTT films. Reason (R): A Karnataka HC ruling had held OTT content outside the Cinematograph Act's reach.

- A. Both A and R true and R correctly explains A
B. A true, R false
C. A false, R true
D. Both A and R false

94. Which body certifies films for theatrical release under the Cinematograph Act, 1952?

- A. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)
- B. Press Council of India
- C. National Human Rights Commission
- D. Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI)

95. Which two judges formed the Supreme Court Bench that set aside the 27 Gauhati High Court judgments on 13 July 2026?

- A. Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta
- B. Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and J.B. Pardiwala
- C. Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai
- D. Justices Abhay Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan

96. A tribunal declares X a foreigner after serving notice only by pasting it on a village noticeboard and holding no hearing. Applying the SC's reasoning, the order is most likely:

- A. Liable to be set aside for violating fair procedure and natural justice
- B. Valid, because tribunals are not bound by natural justice
- C. Valid, since Section 9 of the Foreigners Act shifts the burden onto the individual
- D. Valid, since foreigners have no fundamental rights

97. In which landmark case did the Supreme Court strike down the IMDT Act, 1983 and uphold the Foreigners Act framework for Assam?

- A. Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha v Union of India (2014)
- B. State of Assam v Moslem Mondal (2013)
- C. Abdul Kuddus v Union of India (2019)
- D. Sarbananda Sonowal v Union of India (2005)

98. The Foreigners Tribunals whose orders were challenged are constituted under which order?

- A. The Citizenship Rules, 2009
- B. The Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964
- C. The Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950
- D. The Registration of Foreigners Order, 1939

99. A person is asked to prove Indian citizenship and produces only a valid passport. Applying the MEA's legal position, the passport is best treated as:

- A. Relevant identity/travel documentation but not conclusive proof of citizenship
- B. Proof of foreign nationality
- C. Conclusive proof of citizenship on its own
- D. Proof of voter eligibility under the Citizenship Act

100. Which ministries respectively issue the passport and administer citizenship law in India?

- A. Home Ministry issues passports; External Affairs administers citizenship
- B. External Affairs issues passports; Home Ministry administers citizenship
- C. Law Ministry issues passports; Election Commission administers citizenship
- D. External Affairs issues both passports and citizenship certificates

101. According to the MEA's clarification, an Indian passport is primarily a document that:

- A. Conclusively proves Indian citizenship
- B. Regulates the departure of citizens and enables foreign travel
- C. Confers citizenship by naturalisation
- D. Replaces the National Register of Citizens

102. Trial in absentia of a proclaimed offender is expressly codified under which provision of the new criminal codes?

- A. Section 6 of the NIA Act, 2008
- B. Section 164 of the CrPC, 1973
- C. Section 356 of the BNSS, 2023

D. Section 43D of the UAPA, 1967

103. A terror accused deliberately stays abroad to avoid an Indian trial. Applying the new law, the court may:

- A. Transfer the case to an international tribunal
- B. Do nothing until he is extradited
- C. Convict him automatically without any trial
- D. Proceed with a trial in absentia under BNSS Section 356 after following safeguards

104. The formal proclamation against a person who is absconding is provided for under:

- A. Section 25 of the NIA Act, 2008
- B. Section 356 of the BNSS, 2023
- C. Section 120B of the IPC
- D. Section 84 of the BNSS, 2023

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

105. Regarding UNCLOS and the Strait of Hormuz, which statement is INCORRECT?

- A. Submarines exercising transit passage must navigate on the surface
- B. Both Iran and Oman share territorial waters through which the Strait passes
- C. The regime of transit passage permits aircraft overflight as well as maritime transit
- D. Transit passage cannot be suspended even for security reasons unlike innocent passage

106. Iran is a member of BRICS as of 2024. Which of the following statements correctly describes the legal character of BRICS?

- A. BRICS is a permanent security council constituted under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter
- B. BRICS is a treaty-based international organisation with binding dispute-resolution mechanisms
- C. BRICS functions as a regional trade bloc governed by WTO Appellate Body rules
- D. BRICS is an informal intergovernmental forum without a founding charter or compulsory arbitration

107. India imports a significant share of its crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Which of the following best describes India's strategic-autonomy doctrine in the context of energy security?

- A. Mandating that all crude imports must be insured by Indian state entities
- B. Diversifying energy sources, suppliers and routes to avoid dependence on any single power or choke-point
- C. Exclusive reliance on Gulf oil suppliers irrespective of geopolitical tensions
- D. Joining formal military alliances to guarantee freedom of navigation in Persian Gulf

108. Under UNCLOS, the right of transit passage through international straits such as the Strait of Hormuz applies to which category of waters?

- A. Exclusive Economic Zones where navigation is restricted
- B. Contiguous zones subject to customs control
- C. Straits used for international navigation connecting one part of the high seas to another
- D. Internal waters of the coastal state

109. The summit's focus on semiconductors, rare earths and resilient supply chains reflects which contemporary strategic concept?

- A. Import substitution
- B. Autarky
- C. Non-alignment
- D. Economic security / critical minerals

110. During the July 2026 Annual Summit, Japan raised its India investment target to approximately which figure?

- A. Yen 10 trillion
- B. Yen 15 trillion
- C. Yen 7 trillion
- D. Yen 5 trillion

111. India's engagement with Japan on the Indo-Pacific is an extension of which of India's foreign-policy doctrines?

- A. Panchsheel
- B. Gujral Doctrine
- C. Act East Policy
- D. Look West Policy

112. A joint statement issued after a bilateral summit is best described in

law as:

- A. A binding treaty enforceable in domestic courts
- B. An expression of political intent, not automatically binding under international law
- C. A UN Security Council resolution
- D. A constitutional amendment

113. The op-ed contends the shifting US strategy lowers India's value in Washington's eyes by treating India more as a:

- A. Military ally
- B. Market rather than a counterweight
- C. Strategic counterweight to China
- D. Nuclear partner

114. The 2012 report reframing India's foreign policy for a multipolar world was titled:

- A. Panchsheel Doctrine
- B. Look East Policy
- C. Gujral Doctrine
- D. Non-Alignment 2.0

115. The op-ed argues the US now treats China as a de-facto equal, an arrangement sometimes labelled:

- A. AUKUS
- B. The 'G2'
- C. The Quad
- D. The G7

116. India's policy of prioritising strong ties with its immediate South Asian neighbours is known as:

- A. Indo-Pacific Pivot
- B. Act Far East
- C. Neighbourhood First
- D. Connect Central Asia

117. Ukraine declared a national day of mourning following the large-scale Russian missile and drone offensive. Which NATO summit was scheduled the following week where the Ukraine conflict was expected to be a central agenda item?

- A. Madrid Summit
- B. Ankara Summit (Türkiye)
- C. Washington D.C. Summit
- D. Brussels Summit

118. The EU's Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas, who called for tougher sanctions on Russia after the Kyiv strikes, is the EU's:

- A. President of the European Commission
- B. Secretary-General of NATO
- C. High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- D. President of the European Council

119. The principle of 'distinction' in International Humanitarian Law requires belligerents to distinguish between which two categories?

- A. Civilians and civilian objects vs. military objectives
- B. Offensive and defensive military operations
- C. Combatants and prisoners of war
- D. Nuclear and conventional weapons

120. The Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 are primarily aimed at protecting which of the following in armed conflict?

- A. Persons who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities
- B. The right of states to acquire new territory
- C. Commercial shipping in international waters
- D. State sovereignty and territorial borders

121. PM Narendra Modi's July 2026 six-day tour covered three countries in the Indo-Pacific. Which of the following correctly lists all three countries visited?

- A. Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand
- B. Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand
- C. New Zealand, Australia, Japan
- D. Indonesia, Australia, Sri Lanka

122. Modi's eastward tour has been framed around a 'G Minus Two' strategy, which chiefly means:

- A. Excluding two ASEAN members
- B. A grouping of two economies
- C. Rejecting a Sino-American G2 condominium over global affairs
- D. A two-tier tariff plan

123. The Quad grouping, relevant to India's Indo-Pacific strategy, comprises which four countries?

- A. India, USA, Australia, South Korea
- B. India, USA, Japan, Australia
- C. India, USA, Japan, China
- D. India, Japan, Australia, France

124. Christopher Luxon, who hosted PM Modi during the New Zealand leg of the July 2026 tour, holds which position in the New Zealand government?

- A. Prime Minister
- B. President
- C. Foreign Minister
- D. Governor-General

125. The US President's roughly 90-minute call with the Russian President, in which he offered to help end the war, was reportedly made on which occasion?

- A. Thanksgiving
- B. New Year's Day
- C. US Independence Day
- D. Russian Victory Day

126. In the same round of diplomacy, the US President also spoke with the Ukrainian President, describing the exchange as:

- A. 'A total failure'
- B. 'Very good'
- C. 'Postponed indefinitely'
- D. 'Highly classified'

127. An 'LEO ISR constellation', part of India's plans, refers to a network of satellites used mainly for:

- A. Weather-controlled cloud seeding
- B. Broadcasting entertainment channels
- C. Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
- D. Providing free public Wi-Fi Russia-Ukraine War & Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

128. The call reportedly came shortly ahead of a NATO summit hosted in which country?

- A. Lithuania
- B. Belgium
- C. Turkey
- D. Poland

129. If a comparative question asked aspirants to match each Indo-Pacific partner on this tour to its current trade-relationship stage, which pairing is correct?

- A. Indonesia-CSP anchored; Australia-ECTA maturing to CECA; New Zealand-FTA talks
- B. All three-FTA talks only

- C. Indonesia-CECA signed; Australia-CSP only; New Zealand-ECTA
- D. Indonesia-FTA talks; Australia-CSP anchored; New Zealand-ECTA

130. MAHASAGAR is described in the tour's framing as the successor to which earlier maritime doctrine?

- A. Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
- B. SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- C. Look East Policy
- D. Neighbourhood First Policy

131. Jakarta was the FIRST leg of Modi's three-nation Indo-Pacific tour. Which two other countries did the tour cover?

- A. Malaysia and Singapore
- B. Australia and New Zealand
- C. Vietnam and the Philippines
- D. Japan and South Korea

132. Which trade instrument governs India-Australia economic ties, with discussions now advancing toward a fuller CECA?

- A. Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (already signed)
- B. Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- C. Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), signed 2022
- D. Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

133. At the 2006 Riga Summit, NATO members agreed on which defence-spending guideline?

- A. A binding 5% of GDP target
- B. A non-binding 2% of GDP guideline
- C. A binding 3% of GDP guideline
- D. No spending guideline was set at Riga

134. The 2014 Wales Summit's 'Defence Investment Pledge' committed members to reach 2% of GDP defence spending by which year, and was triggered chiefly by which event?

- A. 2024; Russia's annexation of Crimea
- B. 2030; the Iraq War
- C. 2020; the Syrian civil war
- D. 2022; the Arab Spring

135. Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty has been formally invoked only once in NATO's history — after which event?

- A. The 2014 annexation of Crimea
- B. The Kosovo conflict of 1999
- C. The September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States
- D. Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine

136. How is the new 5% of GDP NATO spending target split?

- A. 2.5% core defence + 2.5% security investment
- B. 3.5% core defence + 1.5% security-related investment
- C. 4% core defence + 1% security investment
- D. 5% entirely on core defence with no separate security component

137. The third India–Australia Annual Summit, where PMs Modi and Albanese signed a joint statement and several pacts, was held in which city?

- A. Melbourne
- B. Canberra
- C. New Delhi
- D. Sydney

138. India's ability to import uranium despite not signing the NPT rests on a 2008 waiver granted by which body?

- A. Nuclear Suppliers Group
- B. World Trade Organization
- C. International Atomic Energy Agency
- D. United Nations Security Council

139. The India–Australia interim trade pact ECTA, on which CECA builds, came into force in which year?

- A. 2008
- B. 2022
- C. 2014
- D. 2020

140. Which four countries make up the Quad, referenced in the summit's strategic backdrop?

- A. India, Australia, United States, Japan
- B. India, Australia, United States, South Korea
- C. India, Australia, Japan, France
- D. India, Australia, United States, United Kingdom

141. The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement referenced in the visit was signed in:

- A. January 2026
- B. July 2026
- C. March 2025
- D. April 2026

142. During the visit, India and New Zealand elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership and adopted the:

- A. Auckland Declaration
- B. Roadmap to 2030
- C. Act East Charter
- D. Vision 2047

143. India completed the India–New Zealand FTA in:

- A. March 2025
- B. July 2026
- C. April 2026
- D. January 2026

144. India–New Zealand FTA negotiations were formally launched in:

- A. April 2026
- B. January 2026
- C. June 2024
- D. March 2025

145. The five original BRICS members are Brazil, Russia, India, China and:

- A. South Africa
- B. Singapore
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. South Korea

146. Assertion (A): India uses BRICS to advocate a multipolar trade order. Reason (R): India faces US tariff pressures and seeks to defend open trade.

- A. Both A and R false
- B. A true, R false
- C. A false, R true
- D. Both A and R true and R explains A

147. Through BRICS, India pushes reform of global institutions such as the UNSC, the IMF and the:

- A. WTO
- B. World Bank
- C. ASEAN
- D. NATO

148. The 2016 South China Sea arbitral award was rendered by a tribunal constituted under which part of UNCLOS?

- A. Part XV Section 1
- B. Annex VIII
- C. Annex VII

D. Annex VI

149. China's expansive claim over the South China Sea, held to have no legal basis, is popularly known as the:

- A. McMahon Line
- B. Line of Actual Control
- C. Radcliffe Line
- D. Nine-dash line

150. The 2016 arbitration was administered by which institution seated at The Hague?

- A. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- B. International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- C. International Criminal Court (ICC)
- D. WTO Appellate Body

151. China's official position on the 2016 award is best described as:

- A. Partial acceptance
- B. Full compliance
- C. Appeal to the ICJ
- D. Neither accepts nor recognises it — 'null and void'

152. Assertion (A): Neither the US nor Iran can lawfully levy a passage fee on ships crossing the Strait of Hormuz. Reason (R): UNCLOS guarantees an unimpeded right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation. Choose the correct option.

- A. A is true, R is false
- B. Both A and R are true and R correctly explains A
- C. A is false, R is false
- D. A is false, R is true

153. On 13 July 2026, US President Donald Trump styled the United States as the 'guardian' of which strategic waterway, threatening to charge ships for safe passage?

- A. Strait of Hormuz
- B. Strait of Malacca
- C. Bab-el-Mandeb
- D. Suez Canal

154. A shipping company argues it need not pay the US 20% Hormuz fee. Which is the STRONGEST legal basis for refusing?

- A. Transit passage under UNCLOS cannot be suspended or subjected to arbitrary tolls
- B. The freight forwarder never signed a contract
- C. The fee violates the WTO's most-favoured-nation rule
- D. The vessel flies a neutral flag

155. What passage fee did Trump propose to levy on all ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz?

- A. A flat USD 1 million per vessel
- B. 20% of cargo value
- C. 10% of cargo value
- D. A tonnage-based toll

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

156. Which of the following correctly describes the 'lesser duty rule' recommended under WTO anti-dumping disciplines?

- A. Anti-dumping duty is fixed by WTO dispute settlement panels, not by the importing country's domestic authority
- B. Anti-dumping duty should not exceed the dumping margin and, where a lesser amount is sufficient to remove injury, that lesser amount is desirable
- C. Anti-dumping duty should be equal to the full dumping margin even if a lesser amount suffices to remove injury
- D. Anti-dumping duty is always set at 5% irrespective of the calculated dumping margin

157. The WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement (Article VI of GATT 1994) requires that before imposing anti-dumping duties, a member must establish:

- A. Dumping alone, since injury is presumed once dumping margin exceeds 5%
- B. Both dumping and a threat to national security arising from import dependence
- C. Injury to domestic industry alone, since dumping is assumed when exports surge
- D. Dumping, material injury to domestic industry, and a causal link between dumping and injury

158. A tension inherent in anti-dumping investigations on steel inputs like CRGO is that higher duties benefit domestic steel producers but can harm:

- A. The DGTR's revenue since anti-dumping duty collections go to the exporting government
- B. WTO non-discrimination obligations since MFN tariffs must be reduced simultaneously
- C. Downstream users such as transformer manufacturers who face increased input costs
- D. Steel-exporting countries whose market share is reduced

159. The 'non-market economy' methodology in anti-dumping investigations is invoked when:

- A. The domestic industry in India fails to submit cost of production data within the stipulated time
- B. The product under investigation is a commodity traded on international commodity exchanges
- C. The exporting country's domestic prices are considered unreliable because prices are state-controlled and do not reflect market forces
- D. The exporting country refuses to participate in the DGTR's questionnaire process

160. Gross GST collections in June 2026 rose about 14% year-on-year to roughly which figure?

- A. Rs 1.45 lakh crore
- B. Rs 2.43 lakh crore
- C. Rs 1.62 lakh crore
- D. Rs 1.95 lakh crore

161. Which Article of the Constitution provides for the Goods and Services Tax Council?

- A. Article 246A
- B. Article 279A
- C. Article 269A
- D. Article 268A

162. Which Article confers concurrent power on the Union and States to levy GST?

- A. Article 246A
- B. Article 265
- C. Article 269A
- D. Article 279A

163. The June 2026 surge in collections was primarily driven by a sharp rise in:

- A. Refund reversals
- B. Domestic GST
- C. Import revenue (roughly 35% up)
- D. Compensation cess

164. IRDAI partnered which body to help monitor the sector for dark patterns?

- A. National Insurance Academy
- B. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
- C. Insurance Institute of India
- D. Institute of Public Auditors of India

165. 'Forced data-sharing consent' in a dark pattern most directly violates the free and informed consent requirement of which 2023 law?

- A. Aadhaar Act, 2016
- B. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
- C. Information Technology Act, 2000
- D. Telecom Act, 2023

166. Manipulative design that misleads a consumer would most directly amount to an 'unfair trade practice' under which statute?

- A. Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- B. Sale of Goods Act, 1930
- C. Contract Act, 1872
- D. Companies Act, 2013

167. Which 2023 Indian statute governs the processing of digital personal data and is directly relevant to AI systems handling personal information?

- A. Information Technology Act, 2000
- B. Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
- C. Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- D. Competition Act, 2002

168. The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme 2026 was notified under which legislation?

- A. Code on Social Security, 2020
- B. Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- C. Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965
- D. Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952

169. The EPF Scheme 2026 replaces which earlier scheme?

- A. Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976
- B. Workmen's Compensation Scheme, 1923
- C. Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995
- D. Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952

170. The 'principal employer' concept in labour law means the employer is responsible for compliance even when work is done through:

- A. A foreign subsidiary
- B. An apprentice under the Apprentices Act
- C. A contractor or sub-contractor on the employer's premises
- D. A government-sponsored trainee

171. Which body administers the Employees' Provident Fund in India?

- A. Central Board of Trustees only
- B. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
- C. Ministry of Labour and Employment directly
- D. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

172. TBEA Energy, Nanjing Electric India, New Northeast Electric India, and Taikai Electric—the four firms permitted to bid for power tenders in July 2026—are all associated with which country of origin?

- A. Japan

- B. South Korea
- C. Taiwan
- D. China

173. The tension highlighted by the July 2026 decision to allow Chinese power equipment firms to bid for tenders is best described as a conflict between which two policy objectives?

- A. Atmanirbhar Bharat's goal of reducing import dependence and the practical need for affordable power-sector equipment amid concerns about import alternatives
- B. Central government revenue maximisation versus state government spending autonomy
- C. Foreign exchange reserve management and export promotion
- D. Environmental protection targets and industrial output growth

174. Press Note 3 (2020) requires entities from which category of countries to obtain prior government approval before making FDI in India?

- A. Countries that have not signed a bilateral investment protection agreement with India
- B. Countries that share a land border with India
- C. All countries that are not members of the G20
- D. Countries classified as tax havens by the OECD

175. The General Financial Rules (GFR) govern public procurement in India. Which ministry is primarily responsible for framing and revising the GFR?

- A. Ministry of Law and Justice
- B. Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

176. Vizhinjam, at the centre of a major stake-sale, is significant as India's first:

- A. Inland container depot
- B. Deep-water transshipment port
- C. Fishing-only harbour
- D. Nuclear-powered port

177. A 'transshipment' port primarily serves to:

- A. Manufacture ships and submarines
- B. Store crude oil in strategic reserves
- C. Transfer cargo between larger and smaller vessels for onward shipment
- D. Generate tidal electricity

178. Adani Ports (APSEZ) reportedly agreed to sell 49% of the Vizhinjam venture to which company?

- A. Singapore's PSA International
- B. France's CMA CGM
- C. Switzerland's MSC Group
- D. Denmark's Maersk

179. Kerala's contention was that a change of ownership at the port of 25% or more, affecting national security or public interest, requires:

- A. Prior government approval
- B. Only a press release
- C. Approval of the port workers' union alone
- D. No approval whatsoever

180. A gold-loan NBFC wants to lend as high a proportion of the gold's value as regulations permit. The regulatory ceiling on this proportion is called the:

- A. Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
- B. Marginal Cost of Funds (MCLR)
- C. Loan-to-Value (LTV) cap
- D. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)

181. The RBI FSR describes borrowers now treating gold loans as a

mainstream tool rather than a last resort. This is best characterised as which of the following?

- A. A structural shift
- B. A cyclical downturn
- C. A regulatory arbitrage
- D. A liquidity trap

182. The RBI's Financial Stability Report is published under the framework of which statute governing the central bank?

- A. FEMA, 1999
- B. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- C. SARFAESI Act, 2002
- D. RBI Act, 1934

183. NBFC gold loans rose to Rs 3.29 lakh crore from what earlier figure?

- A. Rs 1.00 lakh crore
- B. Rs 1.94 lakh crore
- C. Rs 2.50 lakh crore
- D. Rs 3.00 lakh crore

184. How does the article distinguish the roles of the Chief Economic Adviser and the Finance Minister?

- A. Both hold equal executive authority over the Budget
- B. The CEA is an advisory in-house economist; the Finance Minister is a Cabinet minister with executive authority
- C. The Finance Minister advises while the CEA commands
- D. The CEA sets tax rates while the Finance Minister writes the Economic Survey

185. The Union Budget 2026-27 supported GCCs by expanding which tax framework?

- A. The customs duty drawback scheme
- B. The GST composition scheme
- C. The angel tax exemption
- D. The transfer-pricing safe-harbour framework

186. Who is the Chief Economic Adviser who cautioned that the advantage built by India through GCCs 'can also erode'?

- A. V Anantha Nageswaran
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. Raghuram Rajan
- D. Krishnamurthy Subramanian

187. An agreement signed by only a subset of WTO members, binding only those who join, is called a:

- A. Bilateral agreement
- B. Preferential agreement
- C. Multilateral agreement
- D. Plurilateral agreement

188. Which annex of the Marrakesh Agreement is the specific list of plurilateral trade agreements?

- A. Annex 2
- B. Annex 3
- C. Annex 4
- D. Annex 1

189. A multilateral WTO agreement is best described as one that:

- A. Applies only to developed countries
- B. Is voluntary for all members
- C. Binds only signatory members
- D. Binds every member of the organisation and is compulsory

190. According to the RBI's weekly data, India's foreign exchange reserves fell to what level in the week ended 26 June?

- A. \$102.54 billion
- B. \$666.93 billion
- C. \$5.65 billion
- D. \$880.52 billion

191. The recent fall in reserves was driven mainly by:

- A. The falling market value of India's gold holdings
- B. A run on the rupee
- C. Large-scale sale of foreign government bonds
- D. Heavy RBI intervention to defend the currency

192. Which of the following is described as the largest component of India's foreign exchange reserves?

- A. Reserve Tranche Position (RTP)
- B. Gold
- C. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- D. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

193. A country's inflation crosses the upper tolerance bound of its 4%+/-2% target. Applying the framework, the central bank is most likely to:

- A. Hike the policy rate to rein in prices
- B. Cut the policy rate to boost growth
- C. Abolish the target
- D. Take no action

194. Assertion (A): The RBI is unlikely to sharply cut rates in the near term. Reason (R): At ~4.25%, inflation is still within the tolerance band but above the 4% central target.

- A. Both true, R does not explain A
- B. Both A and R true, R explains A
- C. A true, R false
- D. A false, R true

195. June 2026 retail (CPI) inflation is likely to breach which RBI target?

- A. 6%
- B. 8%
- C. 4%
- D. 2%

196. Which correctly distinguishes FDI from FPI?

- A. FPI always exceeds FDI by law
- B. FDI is short-term portfolio investment; FPI is a controlling stake
- C. FDI involves lasting management interest; FPI is passive investment in securities
- D. They are identical

197. According to Tracxn, Indian start-ups raised how much in 2025-26?

- A. \$75 billion
- B. \$18 billion
- C. \$11.7 billion
- D. \$57.8 billion

198. The report noted that about 71% of the large pool of foreign capital sits at which stage?

- A. Late / growth stage
- B. Debt
- C. Seed / early stage
- D. Pre-IPO

199. Which Indian body led the delegation showcasing digital Customs reforms in Geneva ahead of the TPR?

- A. Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- B. Reserve Bank of India
- C. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- D. NITI Aayog

200. Which body actually conducts a Trade Policy Review at the WTO?

- A. General Council sitting as the Trade Policy Review Body
- B. WTO Secretariat acting alone
- C. Dispute Settlement Body
- D. Ministerial Conference

201. The Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) was created by which legal instrument?

- A. Article XXIV of GATT
- B. The Havana Charter, 1948
- C. The Doha Declaration, 2001
- D. Annex 3 of the Marrakesh Agreement, 1994

202. A Free Trade Agreement is permitted under WTO rules as an exception to the Most-Favoured-Nation obligation by virtue of:

- A. GATT Article I
- B. GATT Article XXIV
- C. GATS Article II
- D. The Agreement on Agriculture

203. Two countries remove tariffs between themselves but each keeps its own tariff on imports from outsiders, with no free movement of labour. This arrangement is best described as a:

- A. Common Market
- B. Free Trade Agreement
- C. Monetary Union
- D. Customs Union

204. The Double Contribution Convention accompanying CETA mainly benefits Indian professionals by:

- A. Waiving UK income tax permanently
- B. Removing all visa requirements
- C. Granting automatic UK citizenship
- D. Exempting them from host-country social-security contributions for up to three years

205. The Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) principle, to which an FTA is an exception, requires a country to:

- A. Give the lowest tariff only to its closest ally
- B. Impose the same tariff on all its own exports
- C. Protect only its infant industries
- D. Extend the same tariff treatment to all WTO members

206. The long-standing United States provision used to bar imports made with forced labour is:

- A. Section 307 of the Tariff Act
- B. Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act
- C. Chapter 11 of NAFTA
- D. Section 5 of the Sherman Act

207. In People's Union for Democratic Rights v Union of India (1982), the Supreme Court held that:

- A. Forced labour applies only to physical coercion
- B. Article 23 binds only the State, not private employers
- C. Paying less than the minimum wage amounts to 'forced labour' under Article 23
- D. Bonded labour is outside the scope of Article 23

208. The ILO Convention that prohibits forced labour as a means of political coercion, labour discipline or discrimination is:

- A. Convention No. 87 (1948)
- B. Convention No. 182 (1999)
- C. Convention No. 29 (1930)
- D. Convention No. 105 (1957)

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

209. If the Great Nicobar project requires diversion of forest land, which legislation mandates prior approval from the Central Government and necessitates compensatory afforestation?

- A. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986
- B. The Forest Conservation Act 1980 (now Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam 2023)
- C. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006
- D. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972

210. The Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996) case is significant for which contribution to Indian environmental law?

- A. It held that environmental clearances are administrative decisions immune from judicial review
- B. It gave constitutional status to the precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principle as part of sustainable development
- C. It overruled the absolute liability principle established in M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (1987)
- D. It introduced the public trust doctrine for the first time into Indian jurisprudence

211. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in India is conducted under the powers of which legislation?

- A. The Forest Conservation Act 1980
- B. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986
- C. The Biological Diversity Act 2002
- D. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972

212. The concept of 'sustainable development' in the context of the Great Nicobar project and Indian environmental jurisprudence means:

- A. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- B. Development that prioritises economic growth over environmental protection whenever GDP targets are at risk
- C. Development funded exclusively through domestic resources to avoid foreign debt obligations
- D. Sustaining the current level of industrial production irrespective of environmental impact through technological substitution

213. The statutory body coordinating Delhi-NCR air quality management is the CAQM, established under which Act?

- A. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- B. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- C. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- D. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act, 2021

214. The escalating framework of curbs triggered by worsening air quality is known as:

- A. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- B. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
- C. Odd-Even Scheme
- D. Air Quality Early Warning System

215. Delhi's fixed winter anti-pollution regime notified for 2026 runs during which period?

- A. 15 November to 15 March
- B. 1 November to 28 February
- C. 1 October to 31 January
- D. 1 December to 31 March

216. Under the winter regime, fuel was to be dispensed only to vehicles holding a valid:

- A. Registration Certificate (RC)
- B. Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC)
- C. Fitness Certificate
- D. Insurance Certificate

217. The Kente Extension coal block for which environmental clearance was granted in June 2026 is located in which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Odisha
- D. Madhya Pradesh

218. The EIA Notification, 2006 is issued under which parent legislation?

- A. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- B. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- C. Environment Protection Act, 1986
- D. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

219. Forest diversion for non-forest use in India requires approval under which legislation?

- A. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- B. Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- C. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- D. Environment Protection Act, 1986

220. The term 'MDO' in the context of the Kente Extension coal block refers to:

- A. Ministry of Development and Operations
- B. Mine Development Officer
- C. Mine Developer and Operator
- D. Mineral Dispatch Order

221. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established under the provisions of which legislation?

- A. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- B. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- C. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- D. The Indian Forest Act, 1927

222. India's first tiger reintroduction at Sariska Tiger Reserve took place in the year

- A. 2006
- B. 2008
- C. 2010
- D. 2007

223. The tiger population in India in 2006 was approximately 1,411. According to the 2022 census, it had risen to approximately

- A. 2,500
- B. 2,967
- C. 3,682
- D. 4,100

224. Sariska Tiger Reserve, site of India's milestone tiger reintroduction programme, is located in

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Uttarakhand

225. June's southwest monsoon rainfall was reported to be about how much below normal, making it among the lowest on record?

- A. About 39.8% below normal
- B. About 19.8% below normal
- C. About 49.8% below normal

D. About 29.8% below normal

226. Compared with the traditional puddling-and-transplanting method, the Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR) technique primarily helps to save:

- A. Electricity and diesel only
- B. Land and seed
- C. Water and labour
- D. Fertiliser and pesticide

227. The legislation that provides subsidised foodgrains to a large section of the population, supported by FCI stocks, is the:

- A. Essential Commodities Act
- B. National Food Security Act
- C. Public Distribution Regulation Act
- D. Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act

228. Rice sown during the southwest monsoon season is classified as which type of crop?

- A. Perennial crop
- B. Rabi crop
- C. Kharif crop
- D. Zaid crop

229. The programme's shift of feedstock away from sugarcane and rice towards maize and millets is intended primarily to:

- A. Ease pressure on food and water-intensive crops
- B. Lower the blending percentage
- C. Raise the ethanol excise duty
- D. Increase petrol import dependence

230. Which of the following is cited as a technical risk of running higher ethanol blends in non-compatible vehicles?

- A. Increased top speed
- B. Lower engine temperature only
- C. A modest (~6-7%) mileage drop plus corrosion of some engine/fuel-system parts
- D. Improved fuel economy

231. Only vehicles manufactured after which cut-off are described as E20-compatible?

- A. Post-April 2019
- B. Post-April 2023
- C. Post-January 2025
- D. Post-April 2020

232. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is backed by which national policy?

- A. National Policy on Biofuels 2018
- B. National Auto Policy 2015
- C. National Green Hydrogen Mission
- D. National Solar Mission

233. The Environmental Impact Assessment for the larger Great Nicobar mega-project (port, airport, power plant, township) was prepared by:

- A. Anna University alone
- B. The Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority
- C. Vimta Labs (Hyderabad), commissioned by ANIIDCO
- D. The Ministry of Home Affairs

234. Which two authorities' clearance is being sought for the lighthouse-linked convention centre and museum at Indira Point?

- A. State Pollution Control Board and NGT
- B. Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority and the Union Environment Ministry
- C. Ministry of Tribal Affairs and UNESCO

D. Andaman Administration and the Supreme Court

235. Indira Point, the site of the proposed convention centre and museum, is located on which island and marks what geographic distinction?

- A. Car Nicobar Island; India's westernmost point
- B. Little Andaman Island; India's easternmost point
- C. North Andaman Island; India's northernmost point
- D. Great Nicobar Island; India's southernmost point

236. Which institution conducted the coral-reef survey required before clearance could be considered at Indira Point?

- A. Zoological Survey of India
- B. IIT-Madras
- C. WAPCOS
- D. Anna University

237. Which statute establishes the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and is chaired by the Prime Minister?

- A. Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897
- B. National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- C. Disaster Management Act, 2005
- D. Environment Protection Act, 1986

238. In tort law, the Latin term used for the 'act of God' defence invoked for the Missing Link landslide is:

- A. Novus actus interveniens
- B. Res ipsa loquitur
- C. Vis major
- D. Volenti non fit injuria

239. The 'Missing Link' section that was struck by a landslide is part of which expressway?

- A. Mumbai–Nashik Expressway
- B. Pune–Mumbai Expressway
- C. Mumbai–Ahmedabad Expressway
- D. Pune–Bengaluru Expressway

240. The 'act of God' (vis major) defence fails and shifts toward a finding of negligence when:

- A. The affected structure is less than one year old
- B. Human negligence — such as inadequate engineering, poor drainage design, or ignored warnings — contributed to the harm
- C. The incident occurs during an officially declared monsoon season
- D. The rainfall recorded is higher than the historical monthly average

241. Amit Shah launched a plantation and Ridge-revival drive targeting how many trees?

- A. 50 lakh trees
- B. 1 crore trees
- C. 35 lakh trees
- D. 70 lakh trees

242. Which pair of constitutional provisions is MOST directly relevant to citizens' and the State's duty to protect forests like the Ridge?

- A. Article 14 and Article 19
- B. Article 48A and Article 51A(g)
- C. Article 21 and Article 32
- D. Article 25 and Article 26

243. A student argues the Ridge deserves stronger protection as forest land even if not officially recorded. Which Supreme Court case established that 'forest' must be understood by its dictionary meaning?

- A. Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar
- B. Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum case
- C. M.C. Mehta v. Union of India

D. T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India

244. The Delhi Ridge was declared a 'reserved forest' in which year, under the Indian Forest Act 1927?

- A. 1994
- B. 2006
- C. 1980
- D. 1986

245. Why is shifting farm power demand to daytime hours recommended?

- A. Because hydropower peaks only at midday
- B. Because wind generation is strongest at noon
- C. Because it lets the grid absorb abundant daytime solar output
- D. Because coal is cheapest at night

246. A weak monsoon strains the power grid in which combination of ways?

- A. Solar generation collapses while wind surges
- B. Hydropower rises while demand falls
- C. Hydropower and wind generation fall while cooling and irrigation demand rise
- D. Coal demand falls while nuclear output rises

247. El Nino is officially declared when the Nino 3.4 sea-surface temperature is at least ____ above average.

- A. 2.0 degrees C
- B. 0.5 degrees C
- C. 3.0 degrees C
- D. 1.0 degrees C

248. Around 14 July, cyclonic activity was forecast to bring extremely heavy rain over which region?

- A. Northwest India (Rajasthan)
- B. Central India
- C. North Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh / the Northeast
- D. South peninsula

249. For IMD purposes, seasonal rainfall is 'normal' when it lies within which band of the Long Period Average (LPA)?

- A. 96–104% of LPA
- B. 80–90% of LPA
- C. 90–96% of LPA
- D. 104–110% of LPA

250. A 'break monsoon' phase occurs when the monsoon trough shifts to:

- A. The Arabian Sea
- B. The Himalayan foothills
- C. The Bay of Bengal
- D. Central India

251. Under which statute are tiger reserves constituted in India, including the core/buffer 'critical tiger habitat' model?

- A. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- B. Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- C. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- D. Biological Diversity Act, 2002

252. Eco-Sensitive Zones around protected areas are declared under which legal provision?

- A. Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- B. Article 48A of the Constitution
- C. Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- D. Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

253. Eco-Sensitive Zones are best described as which of the following around protected areas?

- A. Zones where all human activity is permanently banned
- B. 'Shock absorbers' or transition buffers that regulate certain activities
- C. Core breeding zones with no buffer function
- D. Revenue forests open to commercial logging

254. India's core climate objection to CBAM rests on which principle?

- A. Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)
- B. The polluter-pays principle
- C. The precautionary principle
- D. The public-trust doctrine

255. A Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is best described as:

- A. A levy on imports based on the carbon emissions embedded in their production
- B. A tax on domestic electricity consumption
- C. A ban on all fossil-fuel imports
- D. A subsidy for renewable-energy exporters

256. Faced with the UK CBAM eroding its export gains, India is reported to be weighing:

- A. Withdrawing from the Paris Agreement
- B. 'Rebalancing' or retaliatory duties to protect its exporters
- C. Abolishing all import tariffs
- D. Joining the UK CBAM as a member

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

257. The IndiaAI Mission approved by the Union Cabinet includes a component on 'sovereign compute'. This primarily refers to:

- A. Transferring ownership of undersea data cables to state-owned entities to achieve data sovereignty
- B. Mandating that all AI models used in India be trained exclusively on data generated within Indian territory
- C. Building domestic AI computing infrastructure (GPU clusters) owned or controlled by India to reduce dependence on foreign cloud providers
- D. Ensuring that India's diplomatic communications are encrypted using domestically developed algorithms

258. Under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, a 'Data Principal' refers to:

- A. The chief compliance officer of a data fiduciary responsible for oversight
- B. The Central Government authority responsible for framing data protection rules
- C. A significant data fiduciary processing data of more than 10 million users
- D. The individual to whom personal data relates and who has rights regarding that data

259. Under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, a 'Data Fiduciary' is defined as:

- A. Any person who alone or in conjunction with others determines the purpose and means of processing personal data
- B. A third-party auditor that certifies compliance with data localisation requirements
- C. The individual to whom personal data relates
- D. The government-appointed regulator overseeing compliance with data protection norms

260. The IndiaAI Mission's focus on developing indigenous foundational AI models is most directly relevant to which concern in data governance?

- A. Reducing strategic dependence on foreign-controlled large language models for critical government applications and reducing data outflows
- B. Preventing individual users from accessing foreign AI services through domestic internet regulation
- C. Eliminating the need for international data transfer agreements entirely
- D. Fulfilling India's obligations under the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services for the IT sector

261. Who co-chairs the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI that released the first global scientific assessment of AI's risks?

- A. Demis Hassabis
- B. Sam Altman
- C. Geoffrey Hinton
- D. Yoshua Bengio

262. A CLAT passage argues 'we must not regulate AI until harm is proven.' The precautionary principle would MOST directly counter this by asserting that:

- A. Regulation should always follow, never precede, technological maturity
- B. Only hard law can regulate emerging technology
- C. Lack of full scientific certainty is not a reason to postpone preventive measures against serious risk
- D. Courts, not legislatures, must regulate AI

263. The 'policymakers' dilemma' the panel identifies is best described as which of the following?

- A. AI is cheaper than human labour but less accurate
- B. Regulation needs evidence, yet science struggles to keep pace with AI
- C. AI training data is running out
- D. Nations disagree on AI ownership rules

264. The panel is frequently described using an analogy to which existing global scientific body?

- A. The IAEA
- B. The IPCC (for climate)
- C. The WHO
- D. The WTO

265. Stem-cell products, gene-therapeutic products and xenografts have been brought under the Central Licensing Authority (CLAA) framework by amending which rules?

- A. Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945
- B. Pharmacy Practice Regulations, 2015
- C. Medical Devices Rules, 2017
- D. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority Rules, 2013

266. Under the existing regulatory framework before this amendment, advanced cell and gene therapies in India were primarily governed under which schedule/guidance of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act?

- A. Schedule Y (clinical trials) alone
- B. Schedule H (prescription drugs)
- C. Schedule M (GMP)
- D. New Drug and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019

267. The parent legislation under which the Drugs Rules 1945 are framed is:

- A. Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
- B. Pharmacy Act, 1948
- C. Medical Devices Act, 2017
- D. Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

268. Bringing stem-cell and gene therapies under a joint Centre-State regulation (with Centre holding primary licensing power for new biological entities) serves which key policy objective?

- A. Reducing the price of all medicines in India
- B. Allowing state governments to approve drugs faster than the Centre
- C. Ensuring uniform safety standards and preventing unregulated sale of unproven therapies
- D. Eliminating the need for clinical trials for biologics

269. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) establishes a framework for the processing of personal data. The fundamental right to privacy from which it derives its constitutional basis was upheld in which Supreme Court judgment?

- A. Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India
- B. Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India
- C. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India
- D. K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India (2017)

270. The Centre's proposed framework requiring VPN providers to have a local India presence is aimed primarily at ensuring:

- A. Integration of VPN services with Aadhaar authentication
- B. Lower subscription prices for Indian consumers
- C. That VPN companies can be compelled to respond to Indian law enforcement requests and data orders
- D. Promotion of Indian-owned VPN businesses

271. The CERT-In directive of 2022 required VPN providers operating in India to mandatorily store subscriber data for how long?

- A. 5 years
- B. 6 months
- C. 1 year
- D. 30 days

272. The 'username' feature in messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram, which prompted government notices, raises legal concerns primarily because it could:

- A. Constitute unfair competition under Competition Act 2002

- B. Violate copyright laws on usernames
- C. Increase data consumption on mobile networks
- D. Enable users to communicate without sharing their phone numbers, potentially complicating law-enforcement traceability

273. The IT Minister who oversaw the order to remove the Chinese-origin BMS apps from Indian app stores was

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Ravi Shankar Prasad
- C. Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- D. Ashwini Vaishnaw

274. Under which section of the Information Technology Act, 2000, can the government direct blocking of mobile applications on grounds of national security or public order?

- A. Section 72A
- B. Section 43A
- C. Section 79
- D. Section 69A

275. The Indian government recently ordered Apple and Google to remove several battery-management apps used in e-rickshaws because they were found to

- A. Charge users for premium features without consent
- B. Transmit GPS location of e-rickshaws to rival operators
- C. Drain e-rickshaw batteries faster than normal
- D. Allow remote switching off of e-rickshaws over Bluetooth by malicious actors

276. BMS, in the context of the e-rickshaw Bluetooth hack controversy, stands for

- A. Battery Management System
- B. Bluetooth Management System
- C. Bus Management Software
- D. Battery Monitoring Service

277. A Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) drug is best defined as a pharmaceutical formulation that

- A. Requires a fixed prescription period as mandated by DCGI
- B. Is manufactured at a fixed government-approved price
- C. Combines two or more active ingredients in a single dosage form
- D. Contains a fixed shelf life of at least five years

278. The regulatory authority in India empowered to ban or restrict FDC drugs under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 is the

- A. Drugs Controller General of India
- B. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
- C. Central Drugs Testing Laboratory
- D. Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

279. The Indian government recently banned 16 FDC drugs citing concerns that included irrational combinations and contribution to

- A. Violation of TRIPS Agreement obligations
- B. Drug-induced liver injuries only
- C. Excess dependence on imported pharmaceutical raw materials
- D. Antimicrobial Resistance and increased adverse effects

280. AMR, a key concern raised in the FDC drug ban debate, stands for

- A. Antimicrobial Resistance
- B. Approved Medicine Registry
- C. Antibiotic Monitoring Record
- D. Advanced Medicine Regulation

281. In the DPI lineage described (Aadhaar to UPI to domain-specific stacks), which sequence is correct?

- A. IES -> Aadhaar -> UPI
- B. Aadhaar (identity) -> UPI (payments) -> domain stacks including IES
- C. UPI (identity) -> Aadhaar (payments) -> IES
- D. Aadhaar and UPI were launched simultaneously with IES

282. Which body chaired the meeting on the India Energy Stack, and who chairs the IES initiative itself?

- A. EAC-PM discussed it; IES chaired by R S Sharma
- B. Ministry of Power; chaired by the Cabinet Secretary
- C. NITI Aayog; chaired by Amitabh Kant
- D. Finance Ministry; chaired by the RBI Governor

283. The IES's approach of creating voluntary common technical standards for a sector run by many independent state-level DISCOMs, without displacing their authority, best illustrates:

- A. Unitary centralisation
- B. Presidential overreach under Article 356
- C. Cooperative federalism
- D. Competitive federalism

284. Electricity, as a subject for legislation, is placed in which list of the Seventh Schedule?

- A. Union List
- B. Concurrent List
- C. State List
- D. Residuary List

285. A VDPV detection through environmental surveillance most accurately indicates which of the following?

- A. Wild polio has returned to India
- B. A local immunisation coverage gap allowed the weakened vaccine strain to circulate and evolve
- C. The 2014 polio-free certification was factually incorrect
- D. The oral polio vaccine itself directly causes paralytic disease in most vaccinated children

286. What strain of poliovirus was identified in the Ghaziabad sample?

- A. Sabin-attenuated original strain
- B. Type-1 circulating wild strain
- C. Vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV)
- D. Wild poliovirus (WPV)

287. In which locality was the sewage sample that tested positive for poliovirus collected?

- A. Vasundhara, Ghaziabad
- B. Loni, Ghaziabad
- C. Indirapuram, Ghaziabad
- D. Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad

288. Which grassroots health workforce conducted the house-to-house OPV drives in Ghaziabad?

- A. Anganwadi workers
- B. ANM nurses only
- C. ASHA workers
- D. Civil Defence volunteers

289. The transparent chip uses a porous membrane seeded with which cells to mimic the placental barrier?

- A. Red blood cells only
- B. Bone marrow stem cells
- C. Neuronal and glial cells
- D. Human placental and endothelial cells

290. A key ethical advantage claimed for the placenta-on-chip in drug testing is that it:

- A. Allows testing directly on pregnant women
- B. Reduces reliance on animal models
- C. Eliminates the need for regulatory approval
- D. Removes the need for informed consent

291. If a pregnant patient's right to safe testing of a drug before it reaches her baby is framed as a health right, it is most closely anchored in which Fundamental Right?

- A. Article 300A (right to property)
- B. Article 21 (right to life, read to include health)
- C. Article 19 (freedom of speech)
- D. Article 25 (freedom of religion)

292. The placenta-on-chip was primarily developed to study the transfer of what between mother and baby?

- A. Only antibodies
- B. Only oxygen
- C. Drugs, nutrients and pollutants
- D. Only genetic material

293. The three flagship systems announced by Jharkhand were CM-DIP, HNVS and:

- A. Crop Management Analytics System (CMAS)
- B. Critical Minerals Administration System (CMAS)
- C. Citizen Mobile Access Suite (CMAS)
- D. Central Monsoon Alert Service (CMAS)

294. What is the proposed investment under the Jharkhand AI Policy 2026-2031?

- A. About ₹10,000 crore over three years
- B. About ₹1,150 crore over five years
- C. About ₹500 crore over ten years
- D. About ₹99,639 crore over five years

295. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 treats government bodies in many contexts as:

- A. Data fiduciaries
- B. Data auditors
- C. Data processors only
- D. Data principals

296. Assertion (A): The Hydrogen Train supports Railways' net-zero goal. Reason (R): It produces zero carbon-dioxide emissions.

- A. A false, R true
- B. Both true, R does not explain A
- C. A true, R false
- D. Both A and R true, R explains A

297. The Hydrogen Train aligns with which national mission?

- A. National Solar Mission
- B. National Green Hydrogen Mission
- C. National Biofuels Policy
- D. National Hydrel Mission

298. What is the ONLY emission from a hydrogen fuel-cell train?

- A. Nitrogen oxides
- B. Water vapour
- C. Carbon dioxide
- D. Sulphur dioxide

299. The Integrated Main Parachute Air Drop Test (IMAT) conducted on 7 July 2026 took place at ADRDE in:

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Thiruvananthapuram
- C. Sheopur (Madhya Pradesh)

D. Sriharikota

300. The Crew Module Up-righting System (CMUS) tested by ISRO ensures that the capsule:

- A. Turns upright after splashdown
- B. Ignites retro-rockets
- C. Deploys parachutes
- D. Separates its heat shield

301. On completing an indigenous crewed spaceflight, India would become the fourth nation to do so, after:

- A. China, USA and India already
- B. USA, France and Russia
- C. USSR/Russia, USA and China
- D. USA, China and Japan

302. The first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1) will carry which humanoid robot instead of an astronaut?

- A. Kalpana
- B. Sophia
- C. Aryabhata
- D. Vyommitra

303. Assertion (A): The detection of erythrulose in space strengthens astrobiology's origin-of-life inquiry. Reason (R): Sugars are a key building block of genetic material, being a cousin to a key DNA ingredient. Choose the correct option.

- A. A is true, R is false
- B. A is false, R is true
- C. Both A and R are false
- D. Both A and R are true and R correctly explains A

304. The newly detected interstellar sugar was found near the centre of which galaxy?

- A. Andromeda
- B. Triangulum
- C. Whirlpool
- D. Milky Way

305. Astronomers recently detected which sugar molecule in the interstellar medium for the first time?

- A. Glucose
- B. Ribose
- C. Erythrulose
- D. Fructose

306. Before becoming a NASA astronaut, Anil Menon notably served as:

- A. SpaceX's first medical director for Crew Dragon Demo-2
- B. An ISRO scientist
- C. A cosmonaut trainer at Roscosmos
- D. A NASA flight director

307. Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon launched to the ISS aboard which spacecraft?

- A. Crew Dragon
- B. Boeing Starliner
- C. Soyuz MS-29
- D. Shenzhou-19

308. Which Indian-origin astronaut, associated with the Axiom-4 mission, is cited alongside India's space diaspora?

- A. Rakesh Sharma
- B. Shubhanshu Shukla
- C. Kalpana Chawla
- D. Ravish Malhotra

DEFENCE & SECURITY

309. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) were established primarily to:

- A. Create a fourth service alongside Army, Navy and Air Force
- B. Replace the three service chiefs with a single military commander
- C. Transfer operational command from civilian Ministry of Defence to uniformed personnel
- D. Achieve jointness among the three services, facilitate Integrated Theatre Commands, and provide single-point military advice

310. Article 53(2) of the Constitution vests the supreme command of the Defence Forces in the President. This power is exercised:

- A. Concurrently by the President and the Supreme Court under judicial oversight
- B. Directly by the President without any ministerial advice
- C. As regulated by Parliament through law, meaning the President acts on Council of Ministers' advice
- D. Through the Chief of Defence Staff who is constitutionally independent

311. Under Article 74 of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers aids and advises the President. This means that in defence matters:

- A. Defence policy is jointly decided by the President and the CDS without Cabinet involvement
- B. The Cabinet is responsible for all defence decisions, with the President bound by their advice
- C. The President may override Cabinet advice on operational deployments
- D. The President chairs all meetings of the Chiefs of Staff Committee personally

312. The principle of civil-military relations embedded in the Indian constitutional framework holds that:

- A. Civilian supremacy over the military is maintained, with the armed forces accountable to elected government
- B. The Supreme Court functions as the appellate body for all courts-martial decisions
- C. Parliament cannot legislate on matters of military discipline as they fall under the President's exclusive domain
- D. Military commanders have independent authority over budgeting and deployment free from civilian oversight

313. The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a multinational naval partnership that conducts counter-piracy and maritime security operations primarily in which region?

- A. Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean
- B. South China Sea and Pacific Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. North Atlantic and Mediterranean

314. The MV Golden Arsenal was targeted by pirates approximately 200 nautical miles northeast of which African nation near the Gulf of Aden?

- A. Yemen
- B. Eritrea
- C. Djibouti
- D. Somalia

315. Under UNCLOS 1982, piracy on the high seas is defined as an illegal act of violence or detention committed for private ends by the crew or passengers of a private ship against which targets?

- A. Only against ships flying the flag of an enemy state
- B. Any ship within the Exclusive Economic Zone of any state
- C. Another ship or aircraft, or persons or property on board, on the high seas or outside any state's jurisdiction
- D. Only against ships carrying commercial cargo

316. The high seas, where universal jurisdiction over piracy applies, are defined under UNCLOS as those areas:

- A. Beyond the exclusive economic zone (beyond 200 nm from the baseline) of any state
- B. Between 12 and 200 nautical miles from the baseline
- C. Only in areas not covered by any continental shelf
- D. Within 12 nautical miles of any coast

317. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which cleared approximately ₹52,000 crore in defence procurement in July 2026, is chaired by which official?

- A. The Chief of Defence Staff
- B. The Defence Secretary
- C. The Defence Minister
- D. The Prime Minister

318. Among the systems cleared in the July 2026 DAC approvals, 'Akash Tarang' is categorised as which type of system?

- A. A hypersonic cruise missile
- B. A maritime surveillance drone
- C. A medium-range surface-to-air missile
- D. An anti-UAV electronic warfare system

319. Gen Dhiraj Seth took charge as the new Chief of the Indian Army around the time of the July 2026 DAC approvals. Which of the following best describes the role of the Army Chief in the DAC?

- A. Chairperson of the DAC with full veto power
- B. A non-member adviser with no formal standing in procurement
- C. The officer who signs all defence contracts on behalf of the Government
- D. A member of the DAC representing the Army's service-specific capability requirements

320. The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, invoked frequently in the context of DAC approvals, most directly aims to achieve which goal in the defence sector?

- A. Privatising all defence public-sector units
- B. Establishing joint ventures only with NATO member countries
- C. Expanding military sales to foreign nations
- D. Reducing import dependence and building indigenous defence manufacturing capability

321. As per the reported proposal, which service is seeking the highest retention of Agniveers after four years?

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. Coast Guard
- C. Army
- D. Navy

322. Under the current Agnipath framework, what percentage of Agniveers is retained in permanent service after the four-year tenure?

- A. 75%
- B. 50%
- C. 10%
- D. 25%

323. In which year was the Agnipath scheme for recruitment into the armed forces launched?

- A. 2021
- B. 2020
- C. 2023
- D. 2022

324. What is the length of the short-service tenure that an Agniveer serves under the Agnipath scheme?

- A. 4 years

- B. 5 years
- C. 2 years
- D. 3 years

325. Article 36 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the Geneva Conventions requires States to:

- A. Register weapons with the UN
- B. Conduct legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare
- C. Share weapons technology
- D. Ban all drones

326. The German start-up featured as mass-producing cheap AI-powered war machines for Ukraine is:

- A. Anduril
- B. Palantir
- C. Rheinmetall
- D. Helsing

327. 'LAWS' in the context of autonomous warfare stands for:

- A. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems
- B. Light Armoured Weapon Squadrons
- C. Legally Automated Weapons Standards
- D. Low-Altitude Warfare Systems

328. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) are primarily debated at the international level under which framework?

- A. The Paris Agreement on climate
- B. The World Trade Organization dispute mechanism
- C. The UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
- D. The Universal Postal Union

329. INS Mahendragiri was designed by which body and built by which shipyard?

- A. Designed by DRDO; built by GRSE
- B. Designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau; built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C. Designed by IIT-Madras; built by L&T
- D. Designed by a foreign shipyard; built by Cochin Shipyard

330. Project 17A is the direct follow-on programme to Project 17, which produced which class of frigates?

- A. Shivalik-class
- B. Talwar-class
- C. Nilgiri-class
- D. Kolkata-class

331. The seven ships built under Project 17A collectively form which class, named after its lead ship?

- A. Kamorta-class
- B. Visakha
- C. Mahendragiri-class
- D. Nilgiri-class

332. Assertion (A): Project 17A reflects indigenous defence manufacturing. Reason (R): The frigates are designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Indian shipyards MDL and GRSE.

- A. A true, R false
- B. Both true, R does not explain A
- C. Both A and R true, R explains A
- D. A false, R true

333. The Navy compressed P-17A delivery timelines from about 90 months to roughly 72 months mainly by using: (choose the best combination)

- A. Modular construction, advanced simulation and public-private partnerships

- B. Importing complete hulls from abroad
- C. Reducing indigenous content
- D. Building only a single ship at a time

334. Project 17A stealth frigates belong to which class of the Indian Navy?

- A. Nilgiri-class
- B. Shivalik-class
- C. Kolkata-class
- D. Visakha

335. Which two shipyards build the Project 17A frigates?

- A. Cochin Shipyard and Hindustan Shipyard
- B. Goa Shipyard and L&T; Kattupalli
- C. MDL Mumbai and GRSE Kolkata
- D. Mazagon Dock and Cochin Shipyard

336. Who flagged off the 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' motorcycle expedition in July 2026?

- A. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Chief of Defence Staff
- D. President of India

337. The Shaurya Vijay Yatra travels from the National War Memorial to which destination?

- A. Wagah Border, Punjab
- B. Kargil War Memorial, Dras
- C. Siachen Base Camp
- D. India Gate, New Delhi

338. India's highest wartime gallantry award, conferred on several Kargil heroes, is the:

- A. Ashoka Chakra
- B. Param Vir Chakra
- C. Kirti Chakra
- D. Shaurya Chakra

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

339. The scholar Purushottam Agrawal, author of 'Akath Kahani Prem Ki: Kabir Ki Kavita Aur Unka Samay', is a noted contemporary authority on Kabir. The title of this work translates to:

- A. A Comparative Study of Sufism and Bhakti
- B. The Complete Works of Kabir in Modern Hindi
- C. The Ineffable Story of Love: Kabir's Poetry and His Times
- D. Kabir and the Rationalist Tradition of India

340. Kabir, the 15th-century mystic poet, was born into which community and worked as which artisan?

- A. Brahmin community, goldsmith
- B. Muslim weaver (julaha) community
- C. Rajput community, carpenter
- D. Kshatriya community, blacksmith

341. Kabir's spiritual lineage is often associated with which guru who himself combined Hindu and Muslim elements in his devotional practice?

- A. Shankaracharya
- B. Ramananda
- C. Vallabhacharya
- D. Ramanuja

342. Kabir's devotional philosophy is best described as 'nirguna bhakti', which refers to devotion directed towards:

- A. The goddess Shakti in her fierce manifestation
- B. An attributeless, formless Absolute beyond name and form
- C. A personal God with attributes and form (saguna)
- D. Idol worship and temple rituals

343. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's 'Social Contract' theory, which influenced Enlightenment thinkers behind the Declaration of Independence, holds that political authority is legitimate only if it is based on

- A. The natural superiority of an educated ruling class
- B. Military strength and territorial conquest
- C. Hereditary monarchy sanctioned by divine right
- D. An agreement among free individuals to form a political community

344. The Declaration of Independence states that all men are endowed with certain unalienable Rights. Which of the following correctly lists the three rights enumerated in the Declaration?

- A. Life, Security, and the pursuit of Justice
- B. Life, Liberty, and Property
- C. Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity
- D. Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness

345. The philosopher whose idea of government requiring the 'consent of the governed' and natural rights including life, liberty, and property most directly influenced the Declaration of Independence was

- A. Montesquieu
- B. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- C. John Locke
- D. Thomas Hobbes

346. The US Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. In 2026, it marks its

- A. 200th anniversary
- B. 250th anniversary
- C. 275th anniversary
- D. 225th anniversary

347. Prambanan is chiefly associated with which dynasty of the Mataram Kingdom?

- A. The Pallava and Chalukya dynasties
- B. The Sanjaya dynasty (Hindu)
- C. The Chola and Pandya dynasties
- D. The Majapahit and Srivijaya dynasties

348. Prambanan is principally a temple complex of which tradition, with its tallest shrine dedicated to Shiva?

- A. Jain
- B. Shaivite Hindu
- C. Theravada Buddhist
- D. Vaishnavite Hindu

349. India's offer to help restore Prambanan is best characterised as an act of:

- A. Military cooperation
- B. Cultural diplomacy and soft power
- C. Trade protectionism
- D. Hard power projection

350. The Jodhpur Mojari GI tag was granted to which entities?

- A. Individual shopkeepers
- B. A single export firm
- C. Jodhpur Handicraft Exporters Association and Gram Vikas Seva Sansthan
- D. The Rajasthan government only

351. Jodhpur's Mojari, which won a GI tag, is which kind of product?

- A. Handcrafted leather footwear
- B. Blue pottery
- C. Wooden toys
- D. Handwoven silk saree

352. Assertion (A): A GI tag protects a product tied to a specific origin. Reason (R): It is a collective right that cannot be owned by one individual.

- A. A false, R true
- B. Both A and R true, R explains A
- C. A true, R false
- D. Both true, R does not explain A

353. Emily Eden was the sister of which colonial administrator?

- A. Lord Dalhousie
- B. Warren Hastings
- C. Lord Curzon
- D. Lord Auckland (George Eden), Governor-General

354. Eden's works are associated with which colonial-era painting tradition?

- A. Bengal School
- B. Tanjore School
- C. Company School / 'picturesque' tradition
- D. Kangra miniature school

355. The exhibition 'Princes & People of India: Portraits by Emily Eden' is on view at which venue?

- A. National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
- B. Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
- C. DAG, New Delhi
- D. Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

SPORTS

356. Adille Sumariwalla, who entered the World Athletics presidency race, currently holds which post in that body?

- A. Treasurer
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary-General
- D. President

357. Sumariwalla is bidding to succeed which outgoing World Athletics president?

- A. Juan Antonio Samaranch
- B. Thomas Bach
- C. Sebastian Coe
- D. Lamine Diack

358. Sumariwalla represented India as an Olympian sprinter at which Games?

- A. 1984 Los Angeles
- B. 1988 Seoul
- C. 1976 Montreal
- D. 1980 Moscow

359. Lord's Cricket Ground, the 'Home of Cricket', is owned and administered by which body that is also custodian of the Laws of Cricket?

- A. England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)
- B. International Cricket Council (ICC)
- C. Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)
- D. Surrey County Cricket Club

360. Which India pacer took a seven-wicket match haul (5/37 and 2/54) in the Lord's Test?

- A. Kranti Gaud
- B. Smriti Mandhana
- C. Sneha Rana
- D. Yastika Bhatia

361. The global governing body that regulates international cricket, including the ICC Women's Championship, is the:

- A. International Cricket Council
- B. Board of Control for Cricket in India
- C. Marylebone Cricket Club
- D. Asian Cricket Council

362. Assertion (A): India Women's 2026 win was their first-ever Test victory at the Lord's ground. Reason (R): It was the first Women's Test India ever played at Lord's, so no earlier win at that venue was possible.

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

AWARDS & PERSONS

363. As an oral tradition retelling an epic through solo narration with music, Pandavani is best classified as a form of:

- A. Martial art
- B. Classical temple architecture
- C. Folk storytelling and performance
- D. Miniature painting

364. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, which Teejan Bai received in 1995, is India's national recognition in the field of:

- A. Performing arts (music, dance, drama)
- B. Scientific research
- C. Literature
- D. Sports

365. Teejan Bai (1956-2026) was a legendary exponent of which folk performance tradition?

- A. Kalbelia
- B. Ottamthullal
- C. Pandavani
- D. Yakshagana

366. Teejan Bai's Padma awards progression was Padma Shri (1988), then Padma Bhushan (2003), then Padma Vibhushan (2019). This reflects that the Padma Bhushan ranks:

- A. Above the Padma Vibhushan
- B. Above the Padma Shri but below the Padma Vibhushan
- C. Equal to the Bharat Ratna
- D. Below the Padma Shri

367. In the hierarchy of civilian honours, the Padma Shri ranks:

- A. Above the Bharat Ratna
- B. Below the Padma Bhushan
- C. Above the Padma Bhushan
- D. Equal to the Padma Vibhushan

368. Girish Bharadwaj, who died on 7 July 2026, was popularly known by what title?

- A. Waterman of India
- B. Metro Man of India
- C. Bridge Man of India
- D. Missile Man of India

369. Bharadwaj built his first hanging footbridge in 1989 over which river?

- A. Tunga River
- B. Kaveri River
- C. Payaswini River
- D. Netravati River

370. Padma awards are conventionally announced on which occasion and conferred by whom?

- A. Republic Day; the President
- B. Independence Day; the Prime Minister
- C. Gandhi Jayanti; the Vice-President
- D. Constitution Day; the Chief Justice

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

371. In the Aadhaar constitutional validity judgment of 2018 (Puttaswamy II), the Supreme Court held that Aadhaar authentication by private entities is:

- A. Valid as Parliament had explicitly authorised it under the Aadhaar Act
- B. Unconstitutional because Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act allowing private entities to use Aadhaar violated the right to privacy
- C. Permitted only for banks and financial institutions under RBI regulation
- D. Permitted if the private entity obtains user consent

372. In Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), the Supreme Court unanimously held that:

- A. The right to privacy is only a statutory right and not a fundamental right
- B. Parliament has no power to legislate on biometric data under the Constitution
- C. Aadhaar is unconstitutional as it violates the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21
- D. The right to privacy is a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution

373. The JAM trinity refers to the combination of three instruments that underpin Direct Benefit Transfer in India. JAM stands for:

- A. Jan Dhan, Access, Mobile
- B. Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Microfinance
- C. Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile
- D. Jan Seva, Aadhaar, Market

374. The proportionality test articulated in Puttaswamy (2017) requires that any State intrusion on privacy must satisfy which conditions?

- A. Legality, legitimate aim, proportionality (necessity and balancing), and procedural guarantees
- B. Only parliamentary authorisation and judicial pre-clearance
- C. Parliamentary majority, state ratification, and treaty compliance
- D. Presidential assent, Cabinet approval, and Supreme Court certification

375. Certain high-altitude Sikkim gram panchayats were notified a higher wage of:

- A. Rs 350/day
- B. Rs 450/day
- C. Rs 500/day
- D. Rs 300/day

376. The new VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 replaces which earlier landmark rural employment law?

- A. MGNREGA, 2005
- B. Land Acquisition Act, 2013
- C. Right to Education Act, 2009
- D. Food Security Act, 2013

377. 'VB-G RAM G' is the abbreviation for which scheme?

- A. Viksit Bharat Gram Rojgar Aabhiyan
- B. Vishwas Bharat Grameen Rozgar Ayojana
- C. Viksit Bharat Rozgar Aajeevika Gramin
- D. Village Basic Grameen Rural Aajeevika Mission

378. MGNREGA's core legal feature that the new framework dismantles was a guarantee of how many days of wage employment?

- A. 200 days
- B. 150 days
- C. 100 days
- D. 50 days

379. The UDAN scheme's full form, reflecting its aim of making air travel

affordable for ordinary citizens, is

- A. Urban Development of Aviation Nodes
- B. Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik
- C. Unifying Domestic Aviation Network
- D. Unified Development of Aerodrome Network

380. Which indigenous aircraft are included in the UDAN expansion to serve regional and remote routes?

- A. HAL Dhruv and Dornier
- B. HAL Chetak and ATR-72
- C. HAL HJT-36 and Bombardier Q400
- D. HAL Tejas and Dornier

381. PM Modi launched the next phase of UDAN with an outlay of approximately ₹29,000 crore at which airport in July 2026?

- A. Jaisalmer Airport
- B. Jodhpur Airport
- C. Bikaner Airport
- D. Udaipur Airport

382. The 'Viability Gap Funding' mechanism under UDAN is designed to

- A. Provide low-interest loans to aerodrome developers
- B. Compensate passengers for delays on regional routes
- C. Subsidise airlines to operate commercially unviable but socially important routes
- D. Fund airport construction costs entirely

383. Assertion (A): Wealth inequality is driven mainly by inheritance rather than by earnings. Reason (R): Wealth comprises assets such as land, housing and financial holdings that are largely transferred across generations. Choose the correct option.

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

384. Which UN report, released in May 2026, is linked to the debate on measuring what statistics leave uncaptured, including women's unpaid and asset contributions?

- A. State of the World's Children
- B. Human Development Report
- C. World Social Report
- D. Counting What Counts

385. Economists Thomas Piketty, Lucas Chancel and Gabriel Zucman are most closely associated with which of the following?

- A. The Human Development Index
- B. The Global Hunger Index
- C. The Multidimensional Poverty Index
- D. The World Inequality Database

386. Which statute first made the registration of births and deaths legally compulsory in India?

- A. Aadhaar Act, 2016
- B. Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969
- C. Census Act, 1948
- D. Citizenship Act, 1955

387. A child born in 2024 needs a single foundational document for school admission, a driving licence and Aadhaar enrolment. Under the RBD (Amendment) Act 2023, which document now suffices for all of these?

- A. Ration card
- B. PAN card
- C. Domicile certificate
- D. Birth certificate

388. The Registrar General of India (RGI), which maintains the civil registration database, functions under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Law & Justice
- C. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

389. The Index of Services Production (ISP) launched in July 2026 is the services-sector counterpart to which existing indicator?

- A. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- B. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)
- C. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- D. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

390. Why is measuring services output inherently harder than measuring industrial output?

- A. Services are not taxed
- B. Services are excluded from GDP
- C. Services often lack physical units of measurement
- D. Services have no employment data

391. The ISP was released on an 'experimental/trial' basis primarily to:

- A. Avoid publishing any official data
- B. Bypass the National Statistical Commission
- C. Replace the GDP series permanently
- D. Test robustness and consistency of the methodology before formal adoption

392. A Central Sector Scheme differs from a Centrally Sponsored Scheme mainly because:

- A. It is implemented only by states
- B. It is funded by the Finance Commission
- C. It requires a constitutional amendment
- D. Its cost is borne entirely by the Union government

393. What is the defining financial feature of the loans offered under PM-Vidyalaxmi?

- A. Zero interest for all students
- B. Collateral-free and guarantor-free loans
- C. Loans only for foreign study
- D. Loans disbursed as outright grants

394. The right to education as a Fundamental Right under Article 21A of the Constitution extends to which stage?

- A. Higher education only
- B. Elementary education (ages 6-14) only
- C. Professional and technical education
- D. All stages up to postgraduation

STATES IN NEWS

395. The single largest reason for removal (about 62 lakh cases) was:

- A. Age above 65
- B. e-KYC not completed
- C. Male beneficiaries
- D. Family income above Rs 2.5 lakh

396. Eligibility for the scheme was restricted to women from families with annual income below:

- A. Rs 2.5 lakh
- B. Rs 1 lakh
- C. Rs 5 lakh
- D. Rs 8 lakh

397. The Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana provides a monthly cash transfer of:

- A. Rs 2,500
- B. Rs 1,000
- C. Rs 2,000
- D. Rs 1,500

398. Before this announcement, which two districts of Ladakh already had Autonomous Hill Development Councils?

- A. Changthang and Kargil
- B. Nubra and Zaskar
- C. Sham and Drass
- D. Leh and Kargil

399. The constitution of a Council in every district is enabled by Section 3(1) of which statute?

- A. The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019
- B. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997
- C. The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- D. The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963

400. Assertion (A): Extending elected Hill Development Councils to all seven districts advances democratic decentralisation in Ladakh. Reason (R): Since 2019 Ladakh has a directly elected legislative assembly of its own. Which is correct?

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A
- B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A
- C. A is false but R is true
- D. A is true but R is false

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 B	2 A	3 D	4 D	5 C	6 B	7 D	8 C	9 D	10 A
11 B	12 A	13 B	14 B	15 D	16 B	17 D	18 D	19 C	20 D
21 A	22 B	23 D	24 C	25 B	26 C	27 C	28 A	29 C	30 A
31 C	32 C	33 D	34 C	35 D	36 B	37 D	38 B	39 B	40 A
41 D	42 D	43 B	44 A	45 D	46 A	47 D	48 D	49 D	50 C
51 A	52 D	53 D	54 D	55 B	56 D	57 C	58 B	59 B	60 C
61 A	62 B	63 C	64 D	65 B	66 D	67 B	68 A	69 D	70 D
71 D	72 D	73 B	74 B	75 C	76 C	77 C	78 D	79 B	80 B
81 B	82 D	83 D	84 D	85 A	86 C	87 C	88 D	89 B	90 A
91 C	92 A	93 A	94 A	95 A	96 A	97 D	98 B	99 A	100 B
101 B	102 C	103 D	104 D	105 A	106 D	107 B	108 C	109 D	110 A
111 C	112 B	113 B	114 D	115 B	116 C	117 B	118 C	119 A	120 A
121 A	122 C	123 B	124 A	125 C	126 B	127 C	128 C	129 A	130 B
131 B	132 C	133 B	134 A	135 C	136 B	137 A	138 A	139 B	140 A
141 D	142 B	143 C	144 D	145 A	146 D	147 B	148 C	149 D	150 A
151 D	152 B	153 A	154 A	155 B	156 B	157 D	158 C	159 C	160 D
161 B	162 A	163 C	164 D	165 B	166 A	167 B	168 A	169 D	170 C
171 B	172 D	173 A	174 B	175 C	176 B	177 C	178 C	179 A	180 C
181 A	182 D	183 B	184 B	185 D	186 A	187 D	188 C	189 D	190 B
191 A	192 C	193 A	194 B	195 C	196 C	197 C	198 C	199 C	200 A
201 D	202 B	203 B	204 D	205 D	206 A	207 C	208 D	209 B	210 B
211 B	212 A	213 D	214 B	215 B	216 B	217 B	218 C	219 A	220 C
221 A	222 B	223 C	224 C	225 A	226 C	227 B	228 C	229 A	230 C
231 B	232 A	233 C	234 B	235 D	236 A	237 C	238 C	239 B	240 B
241 D	242 B	243 D	244 A	245 C	246 C	247 B	248 C	249 A	250 B
251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260

B	C	B	A	A	B	C	D	A	A
261 D	262 C	263 B	264 B	265 A	266 D	267 D	268 C	269 D	270 C
271 A	272 D	273 D	274 D	275 D	276 A	277 C	278 A	279 D	280 A
281 B	282 A	283 C	284 B	285 B	286 C	287 D	288 C	289 D	290 B
291 B	292 C	293 B	294 B	295 A	296 D	297 B	298 B	299 C	300 A
301 C	302 D	303 D	304 D	305 C	306 A	307 C	308 B	309 D	310 C
311 B	312 A	313 A	314 C	315 C	316 A	317 C	318 D	319 D	320 D
321 D	322 D	323 D	324 A	325 B	326 D	327 A	328 C	329 B	330 A
331 D	332 C	333 A	334 A	335 C	336 A	337 B	338 B	339 C	340 B
341 B	342 B	343 D	344 D	345 C	346 B	347 B	348 B	349 B	350 C
351 A	352 B	353 D	354 C	355 C	356 B	357 C	358 D	359 C	360 A
361 A	362 D	363 C	364 A	365 C	366 B	367 B	368 C	369 C	370 A
371 B	372 D	373 C	374 A	375 B	376 A	377 C	378 C	379 B	380 A
381 B	382 C	383 C	384 D	385 D	386 B	387 D	388 D	389 C	390 C
391 D	392 D	393 B	394 B	395 B	396 A	397 D	398 D	399 B	400 D

Jot down the facts and misses you want to revise before the exam.

[illegible]

Jot down the facts and misses you want to revise before the exam.

[illegible]

Jot down the facts and misses you want to revise before the exam.

[illegible]



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