

CLAT GURUKUL

GK CHRONICLE

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST

JUNE 2026

MONTHLY DIGEST

Part II • 16–30 June 2026

65 Topics • 206 Practice MCQs • Notes-Style Coverage



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the June 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 June 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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EDITORIAL DESK
CLAT Gurukul Editorial Team

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KEY TOPICS IN FOCUS

POLITY & GOVERNANCE	Concept Refresher: 51 Years Since the 1975 Emergency
LEGAL & JUDICIARY	MeitY Blocks Telegram Under Section 69A Amid NEET-UG Leak Probe
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Iran-Israel War Ebbs to Ceasefire as Hormuz Shipping Normalises
ECONOMY & BUSINESS	US Imposes New 12.5% Section 301 Tariff Even as India-US Trade Talks Continue
ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	El Niño Onset and a Stalled Monsoon Squeeze Food Prices
SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH	SHANTI Act Opens India's Nuclear Power Sector to Private Players

SECTION 01 / 11

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Concept Refresher: 51 Years Since the 1975 Emergency



June 25, 2026 marks 51 years since President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's advice, proclaimed a National Emergency under Article 352 citing 'internal disturbance.' The trigger was the Allahabad High Court's June 12, 1975 verdict unseating Indira Gandhi's 1971 election for electoral malpractice; the 21-month Emergency that followed suspended fundamental rights and remains one of the richest constitutional-history topics on judicial review and the basic structure.

QUICK FACTS

- Emergency proclaimed **25 June 1975** under Art 352, citing 'internal disturbance'
- Trigger: Allahabad HC (Justice **Jagmohanlal Sinha**), 12 June 1975 — set aside Indira Gandhi's Rae Bareilly election, 2 of 14 charges upheld, 6-year contest ban
- Justice **V.R. Krishna Iyer** (SC) granted only a conditional stay on 24 June 1975
- Emergency lasted **21 months**, revoked **21 March 1977**
- Government observes 25 June as **Samvidhan Hatya Diwas** ('Constitution Murder Day', notified 2024)
- 39th Amendment (1975)** placed the PM's election beyond judicial review — later struck down

MUST KNOW

- Indira Nehru Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975)** struck down the 39th Amendment via the basic-structure doctrine
- Only **Articles 20 and 21** survive suspension during Emergency — locked in by the 44th Amendment after ADM Jabalpur
- 44th Amendment (1978)** changed the Emergency ground from 'internal disturbance' to 'armed rebellion'
- This is the **51st anniversary** in 2026 — not the 50th

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- ADM Jabalpur v Shivkant Shukla (1976) upheld suspension of Art 21 during Emergency — widely seen as the SC's darkest hour, effectively overruled in spirit by Puttaswamy (2017)
- MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) was the preventive-detention law used for mass arrests
- Representation of the People Act 1951 s.123 defines 'corrupt practices' in elections — basis of the Allahabad HC verdict
- Article 329(b) bars courts from interfering in elections once polling begins, distinct from post-poll election petitions

CLAT / Legal Lens

Cornerstone basic-structure case — free and fair elections and judicial review recognised as unamendable basic features.

PROVISIONS

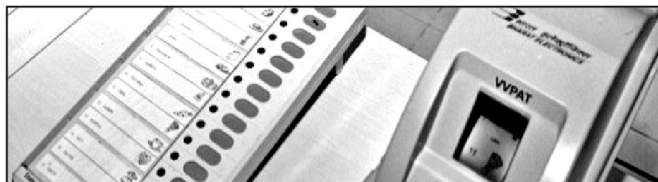
Art. 352, Art. 358, Art. 359, Art. 20, Art. 21, 39th Amendment 1975, 44th Amendment 1978

BODIES & CASES

Indira Nehru Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975), ADM Jabalpur v Shivkant Shukla (1976), Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India (2017), Representation of People Act 1951 s.123

Common Error: Do not call this the 50th anniversary in any 2026 context — the Emergency was proclaimed in 1975, so 2026 marks the 51st.

Election Symbols and the Article 324–329 Tightrope



A minor outfit called the Cockroach Janta Party seeking a cockroach as its poll symbol revived attention on how the Election Commission allots symbols under the 1968 Symbols Order, while a wrongful nomination rejection in a Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha poll reopened the classic tension between the ECI's Article 324 superintendence and Article 329(b)'s bar on judicial interference once polling begins.

QUICK FACTS

- Symbols governed by the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, issued by ECI under Art 324
- Reserved symbols** go to recognised national/state parties (lotus-BJP, hand-Congress)
- Free symbols:** a 184-item list (May 2025) given first-come to unrecognised/independent candidates
- Animal symbols barred since the 1990s** on animal-welfare grounds; BSP's elephant is grandfathered
- An MP Rajya Sabha nomination was wrongly rejected by a **Returning Officer**, reopening the Art 324 vs 329 debate
- Once polling starts, the only recourse is a delayed post-result **election petition**

MUST KNOW

- Article 324** gives ECI plenary superintendence, direction and control over elections
- Article 329(b)** bars courts from interfering once polling begins
- N.P. Ponnuswami v Returning Officer (1952)** cemented this non-interference bar
- Mohinder Singh Gill v CEC (1978)** recognised ECI's plenary Art 324 power, subject to natural justice

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The right to vote is a **statutory right** under s.62 of the RP Act 1951, not a fundamental right, though free/fair elections are part of the basic structure
- Kanhiya Lal Omar v R.K. Trivedi (1985)** upheld ECI's power to issue the Symbols Order under Art 324
- Article 142 has been suggested by scholars as a rare tool to cure clear pre-poll wrongs
- The Conduct of Elections Rules 1961 supplement the RP Act 1951 for procedural mechanics

CLAT / Legal Lens

High-frequency Legal Reasoning combo — master the Art 324 (ECI power) vs Art 329(b) (non-interference) split and its two anchor cases.

PROVISIONS

Art. 324, Art. 329(b), Art. 142, RP Act 1950, RP Act 1951

BODIES & CASES

Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, N.P. Ponnuswami v Returning Officer (1952), Mohinder Singh Gill v CEC (1978), Kanhiya Lal Omar v R.K. Trivedi (1985)

Common Error: Students treat the right to vote as a fundamental right — it is only a statutory right under s.62 RP Act 1951.

SECTION 02 / 11

LEGAL & JUDICIARY**MeitY Blocks Telegram Under Section 69A Amid NEET-UG Leak Probe****LEGAL & JUDICIARY**

MeitY temporarily blocked Telegram in India (till June 22) at the NTA's request under **Section 69A, IT Act 2000**, after the platform proved non-responsive during the probe into the May 3 NEET-UG paper leak and hosted fraudulent claims of access to the June 21 re-exam paper. Telegram, with ~150 million Indian users, moved the Delhi High Court challenging the block as disproportionate; the episode tests the State's content-blocking power against Article 19(1)(a) free speech and the proportionality standard the Supreme Court has read into internet restrictions.

QUICK FACTS

- Block ordered under **Section 69A, IT Act 2000** on NTA's request, effective till June 22.
- Telegram directed to disable **message-editing till June 30** (admins could swap PDFs to fake 'leak' evidence).
- Telegram has **~150 million** Indian users; founder Pavel Durov called the block disproportionate.
- Telegram moved the **Delhi High Court**; SG Tushar Mehta cited 'shocking material' and non-compliance.
- Justice Tejas Karia issued notice to the Centre; matter listed for **June 19**.
- Directly linked to the May 3 **NEET-UG paper leak** and the integrity of the June 21 re-exam.

MUST KNOW

- Section 69A** empowers blocking 'in interest of sovereignty/public order'; upheld in **Shreya Singhal (2015)** even as §66A was struck down.
- A §69A 'block' is legally distinct from an internet 'shutdown' under the **Telecom Suspension Rules** — never conflate the two.
- Section 79** IT Act grants intermediary safe-harbour — a separate provision from the blocking power under §69A.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Anuradha Bhasin v. Uoi (2020)** read a proportionality standard into

internet restrictions.

- Article 19(1)(a) free speech is subject to reasonable restrictions under **Article 19(2)**.
- IT Rules 2021** govern intermediary due diligence and grievance redressal.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests whether a content-specific block under §69A meets the proportionality standard demanded for restricting free speech.

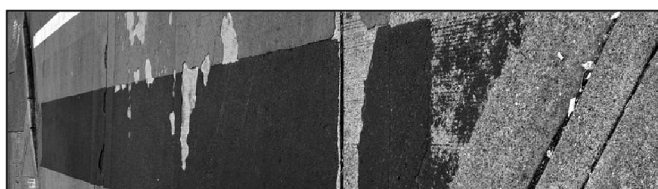
PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2)

BODIES & CASES

MeitY, NTA, Delhi High Court, Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015), Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)

Common Error: Do not confuse a §69A 'block' (content-specific) with an internet 'shutdown' under the Telecom Suspension Rules, or conflate §69A blocking power with §79 intermediary safe-harbour.

Supreme Court Reads 'Right to Walk' Into Article 21

The Supreme Court recognised walking on demarcated footpaths as a **fundamental right** that overrides the privilege of operating a motor vehicle, urging the government to legislate to give it effect. The ruling arose from a five-year-old boy's death in a road accident; the Court called unsafe roads a 'civilisational problem' and criticised the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** for being drafted almost entirely around motorists, leaving pedestrians in a legal vacuum.

QUICK FACTS

- Pedestrian deaths rose **~163%** to 36,526 in 2024; total road deaths **1,77,175** — pedestrians are 1 in 5.
- Right to walk grounded in **Article 21** (life & dignity), **Article 19(1)(d)** (freedom of movement), **Article 19(1)(a)** (public realm as expression).
- Court identified a 'legal vacuum' in the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** for pedestrian protection.
- Two-judge bench urged government to enact a **dedicated pedestrian-safety statute**.

MUST KNOW

- Classic **Article 21 expansive/purposive reading** — right to life extended to safe pedestrian mobility.
- Pair with **Olga Tellis v. BMC (1985)**: pavement dwelling = livelihood; this case: footpath = life — two distinct Art 21 milestones.
- Illustrates **separation of powers** in judicial remedy — the Court directs legislative action rather than framing rules itself.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)** established that Article 21 procedure must be fair, just and reasonable — the root of all later expansive readings.
- Other Article 21 read-ins include privacy, clean environment, and livelihood — useful for 'which right is NOT read into Art 21' MCQs.
- DPSPs (non-justiciable) often inform the content the Court reads

into Article 21.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Textbook illustration of the Court's purposive expansion of Article 21 to include a new facet of the right to life.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 19(1)(d), Article 19(1)(a)

BODIES & CASES

Motor Vehicles Act 1988, *Olga Tellis v. BMC* (1985), *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978)

Common Error: Don't confuse this with *Olga Tellis* (livelihood on pavements) — this case is about safe mobility as life, a distinct facet.

CLAT / Legal Lens

A recurring polity and legal-reasoning theme testing the distinction between identity, residence and citizenship documents.

PROVISIONS

Article 32, Articles 5-11

BODIES & CASES

UIDAI, Election Commission of India, *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017/2018), Aadhaar Act 2016 (§9), Citizenship Act 1955, Registration of Electors Rules 1960 (Form-6)

Common Error: Aadhaar Act §9 explicitly bars treating Aadhaar as citizenship proof — a frequently tested statutory limit.

SC Seeks Centre's Response on Whether Aadhaar Can Prove Citizenship

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

The Supreme Court (CJI Surya Kant & Justice V. Mohana) issued notice on a PIL challenging the use of **Aadhaar as proof of citizenship**, despite UIDAI's own 2023 notification clarifying Aadhaar proves identity only. Separately, the MEA clarified even a **passport is not standalone proof of citizenship**; citizenship is a legal status under Articles 5-11 and the Citizenship Act 1955, established by facts like birth or naturalisation, not by any single document.

QUICK FACTS

- PIL by advocate **Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay**; notice issued to Centre, states, ECI and UIDAI.
- UIDAI notification (**Aug 22, 2023**): Aadhaar proves identity, NOT citizenship/address/date of birth.
- Form-6, Registration of Electors Rules 1960** allows Aadhaar as DOB/residence proof — flagged as arbitrary.
- Aadhaar Act 2016, Section 9**: Aadhaar shall not be proof of citizenship or domicile.
- Context: the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls and the NRC debate.

MUST KNOW

- Section 9, Aadhaar Act 2016** is the statutory bar — Aadhaar is identity proof only, never citizenship proof.
- Distinguish **acquisition of citizenship** (birth, descent, registration, naturalisation) from **proof of citizenship** (evidentiary documents) — a classic CLAT trap.
- Articles 5-11** of the Constitution and the **Citizenship Act, 1955** define who is a citizen; no single document is conclusive proof.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017/2018)** defines the constitutional scope and limits of Aadhaar's use.
- Article 32 permits direct PIL enforcement of fundamental rights before the Supreme Court.
- Documents like passport, voter ID, PAN, and birth certificate are all merely evidentiary, never conclusive, of citizenship status.

Concept Refresher: Custodial Death Safeguards Under Article 21



An investigation revealed the body of Akash Delison, a 26-year-old Dalit man, lay in a Tamil Nadu mortuary for over 100 days after his family alleged custodial death; the post-mortem documented over two dozen injuries including fractures and nerve damage. The Madras High Court ruled the body could not remain indefinitely in the mortuary — a clean illustration of custodial-death jurisprudence and the State's duty to prevent custodial violence under Article 21.

QUICK FACTS

- Deceased: **Akash Delison**, 26, a Dalit man; body held over **100 days** in a TN government mortuary.
- Post-mortem found **over two dozen injuries** — tibia/fibula fractures, extensive muscle/nerve damage.
- Madras High Court** ruled the body could not remain indefinitely; directed cremation.
- DK Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)** laid down **11 arrest/custody safeguards**.
- Nilabati Behera v. State of Odisha (1993)** established public-law compensation for custodial death.
- Section 196, BNSS 2023** (successor to CrPC §176(1A)) mandates a magisterial inquiry into every custodial death.

MUST KNOW

- Custodial-death compensation is a **public-law remedy under Article 32/226** (Nilabati Behera) — distinct from an ordinary private tort suit.
- Article 21** protects both the right to life/dignity in custody AND the right to a dignified last rite (**Common Cause v. Uoi**).
- DK Basu's 11 safeguards** govern arrest and detention procedure to prevent custodial torture.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Protection of Human Rights Act 1993** mandates NHRC/SHRC reporting of custodial deaths.
- Article 20(3)** (protection against self-incrimination) is often paired with custodial-rights questions.
- This is labelled a 'Concept Refresher' — an anniversary/explainer piece, not breaking news.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Perennial CLAT legal-reasoning fodder on custodial torture, arrest safeguards, and public-law compensation.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 20(3)

BODIES & CASES

Madras High Court, DK Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997), Nilabati Behera v. State of Odisha (1993), Common Cause v. Union of India (2018), Protection of Human Rights Act 1993

Common Error: Public-law compensation (Nilabati Behera) is awarded under writ jurisdiction — do not treat it as an ordinary tort damages claim.

levies once legitimate expectation has attached.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Bail jurisprudence and administrative-law doctrines (legitimate expectation, estoppel) are recurring CLAT anchors.

PROVISIONS

Article 21, Article 19(1)(c), Article 14

BODIES & CASES

Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. State of AP (1978), Bombay High Court, Vodafone International Holdings v. UoI (2012), Industrial Disputes Act 1947, BNSS 2023 (§480)

Common Error: Section 480 BNSS 2023 has replaced Section 437 CrPC for regular bail — don't cite the repealed provision.

Round-Up: 'Bail Is the Rule' in Manesar Case; Bombay HC Quashes Retrospective Spectrum Levy



A Gurgaon court granted bail to three Richa Global Exports workers held since April 13 over the IMT Manesar violence, holding that demanding a wage hike is not itself an offence, and separating lawful wage demands from criminal rioting. Separately, the Bombay High Court set aside 2012 Cabinet decisions and DoT demand notices imposing a retrospective One-Time Spectrum Charge, applying the doctrines of legitimate expectation and promissory estoppel.

QUICK FACTS

- Bail granted to **Shyambir, Vivek Buntty, Raj Kumar**; applied '**bail is the rule, jail is the exception**' — Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. State of AP (1978).
- Grounded in **Article 21** (liberty) and **Article 19(1)(c)** (freedom of association).
- Bombay HC bench: Justices **Manish Pitale** and **Shreeram Shirsat**; set aside **2012 Cabinet decisions** and DoT demand notices.
- Applied **doctrine of legitimate expectation** and **promissory estoppel** under **Article 14** against the retrospective One-Time Spectrum Charge.
- Drew on **Vodafone International Holdings v. UoI (2012)**.

MUST KNOW

- '**Bail is rule, jail is exception**' — Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. State of AP (1978); mnemonic **WAGE-DEMAND-NOT-CRIME**.
- **Legitimate expectation + promissory estoppel** bar arbitrary retrospective State action under Article 14.
- Bail law is now governed by **Section 480, BNSS 2023** (replacing §437 CrPC).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Administrative-law trio: **Maneka Gandhi** (fair procedure), **Olga Tellis** (livelihood under Art 21), **A.K. Kraipak v. UoI (1969)** (natural justice in administrative action).
- **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** governs lawful strike/lockout procedure (to be replaced by the Code on Industrial Relations, 2020, not yet in force).
- **Indian Telegraph Act 1885, s.4** cannot underwrite retrospective

Draft Broadcasting Rules Mandate Daily Public-Interest Content on TV and Radio



MI&B released draft: **Telecommunications (Broadcasting) Rules, 2026** for public comment (deadline July 27), issued as delegated legislation under the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**, replacing the colonial-era Telegraph Act, 1885 framework. The draft mandates TV channels air at least 30 minutes daily of content of 'national importance and social relevance,' testing the free-speech dimension of broadcast regulation established in landmark case law.

QUICK FACTS

- Mandates **30 minutes/day** of 'national importance' content, **6am-11pm** window.
- Private FM/community radio must carry similar public-service content; must stay **free-to-air**.
- Channels must appoint KMPs with **security clearance**; authorisation lapses after **90+ continuous days** of suspension.
- Issued under the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**, replacing the **Telegraph Act, 1885**.
- Public comments due by **July 27, 2026**.

MUST KNOW

- **Secy, MI&B v. Cricket Association of Bengal (1995)**: airwaves are public property the State must regulate for plurality — the most-tested broadcast free-speech ruling.
- This is **delegated/subordinate legislation** — executive rule-making under a parent statute (Telecommunications Act 2023).
- Broadcast media falls under **Article 19(1)(a)**, subject to reasonable restrictions under **Article 19(2)**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Shreya Singhal v. UoI (2015)** is a related free-speech precedent on online content restrictions.
- The **Prasar Bharati Act 1990** separately governs public broadcasting autonomy.
- Ownership change in private radio requires **prior government approval**.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests delegated legislation and the free-speech jurisprudence governing broadcast media regulation.

PROVISIONS

Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(2)

BODIES & CASES

Telecommunications Act 2023, Telegraph Act 1885 (replaced), Secy, MI&B v. Cricket Association of Bengal (1995), Shreya Singhal v. Uol (2015), Prasar Bharati Act 1990

Common Error: This is subordinate/delegated legislation under the 2023 Act — do not describe it as a fresh standalone statute.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the precise statutory conditions for the merger exemption from anti-defection disqualification.

PROVISIONS

Article 102(2), Article 191(2)

BODIES & CASES

Tenth Schedule (52nd Amendment 1985), Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992), Keisham Meghachandra Singh (2020), 91st Amendment 2003

Common Error: Do not call this the 'twin test' — that term risks confusion with PMLA §45's twin bail conditions; describe it as the two grounds/conditions for the merger exemption.

TMC Rebel MPs' Claimed Merger Tests the Tenth Schedule's Disqualification Grounds

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

Twenty rebel Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MPs announced a merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India and sought separate seating from Speaker Om Birla, triggering a dispute over whether they face disqualification under the **Tenth Schedule**, added by the **52nd Amendment, 1985**. The dispute centres on **Paragraph 4's** merger exemption, which requires both that the original party itself merges AND that at least **two-thirds** of its legislature-party members agree — both conditions must be met together, since the older 'split' defence was abolished by the **91st Amendment, 2003**.

QUICK FACTS

- **20 rebel TMC MPs** claim merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPi).
- **Tenth Schedule** inserted by the **52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985**.
- **Paragraph 4** merger exemption requires: original party merges AND **two-thirds** of legislature-party members consent.
- **91st Amendment, 2003** removed the old 'split' defence — merger is now the sole escape route.
- Disqualification is decided by the **Speaker/Chairman** under **Articles 102(2) and 191(2)**.

MUST KNOW

- The Tenth Schedule's merger exemption has **two grounds that must both be satisfied** — the party itself merging, and two-thirds legislature-party consent — not a single test.
- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)** held the Speaker's anti-defection decision is subject to **judicial review**.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh (2020)** directed Speakers to decide disqualification petitions within **three months**.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The **91st Amendment (2003)** also capped Council of Ministers size and barred defectors from ministerial posts until re-election.
- Disqualification petitions arise under **Articles 102(2)** (Parliament) and **191(2)** (State Legislatures).
- The Tenth Schedule is a frequently tested Schedule for CLAT static GK on constitutional amendments.

Supreme Court Issues Notice on Punjab's Non-Implementation of RTE Act Quota



The Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and Punjab on a plea alleging Punjab failed to implement **Section 12(1)(c)** of the **RTE Act, 2009**, which mandates private unaided schools reserve 25% of entry-level seats for EWS/disadvantaged children. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notice on the plea by former bureaucrat Jagmohan Singh Raju; the RTE Act operationalises **Article 21A** (86th Amendment, 2002), reflecting the historic shift of a Directive Principle into an enforceable fundamental right.

QUICK FACTS

- Plea by former bureaucrat **Jagmohan Singh Raju** alleges non-compliance 'since inception.'
- **Section 12(1)(c), RTE Act 2009:** 25% entry-level seats reserved for EWS in private unaided schools.
- Bench: Justices **Surya Kant** and **Joymalya Bagchi**.
- **Article 21A** inserted by the **86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002;** covers ages **6-14**.
- Education is on the **Concurrent List**.

MUST KNOW

- **Article 21A** guarantees free and compulsory education (ages 6-14) as a **fundamental right**, operationalised by the RTE Act, 2009.
- Reflects the shift of the DPSP in **Article 45** into an enforceable fundamental right, first reasoned in **Unni Krishnan v. State of AP (1993)**.
- **Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan v. Uol (2012)** upheld the constitutionality of the 25% RTE quota.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 45** (DPSP) originally directed the State to provide free and compulsory education for children up to age 14, before Article 21A made it justiciable.
- Unni Krishnan (1993) first recognised a limited right to education flowing from Article 21, prior to the 86th Amendment.
- EWS/disadvantaged-group quotas under RTE differ from the separate 10% EWS reservation under the 103rd Amendment.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the evolution of education as a DPSP into an enforceable fundamental right and its statutory implementation.

PROVISIONS

Article 21A, Article 45

BODIES & CASES

RTE Act 2009 (§12(1)(c)), Unni Krishnan v. State of AP (1993), Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan v. Uol (2012)

Common Error: Don't conflate the RTE Act's 25% EWS school-entry quota with the separate 10% EWS reservation in jobs/higher education under the 103rd Amendment.

PROVISIONS

Article 15(6), Article 16(6)

BODIES & CASES

103rd Constitutional Amendment Act 2019, Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022), Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)

Common Error: The 103rd Amendment's EWS quota explicitly excludes SC/ST/OBC candidates — a frequently tested exclusion, not an oversight.

Scrutiny Grows Over EWS Rs 8-Lakh Income Bar as Privileged Candidates Clear Quota

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

An investigation found candidates from private schools, costly coaching, and MNC jobs accounted for a significant share of the **104 EWS selections** in the 2025 Civil Services Exam, renewing questions over the fairness of the **Rs 8-lakh** annual family-income ceiling. The EWS quota was introduced by the **103rd Constitutional Amendment, 2019**, inserting **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)** for 10% reservation to those outside SC/ST/OBC categories; the Supreme Court upheld it 3:2 in **Janhit Abhiyan v. Uol (2022)**.

QUICK FACTS

- **104 EWS selections** in the 2025 Civil Services Exam under scrutiny.
- Income ceiling: **Rs 8 lakh/year** gross family income (2019 DoPT memo), plus asset criteria.
- Same Rs 8-lakh figure also used as the **OBC creamy-layer** threshold.
- **103rd Amendment, 2019** inserted **Article 15(6)** and **Article 16(6)** — 10% reservation for EWS.
- **Janhit Abhiyan v. Uol (2022)**: upheld **3:2** by a five-judge bench.

MUST KNOW

- **Janhit Abhiyan (2022)** held economic-criteria reservation, even while excluding SC/ST/OBC, does **not violate** the equality code or basic structure.
- **Indra Sawhney v. Uol (1992)** set the **50% ceiling** on reservations and introduced the 'creamy layer' concept — the backdrop against which EWS is debated.
- Reservation jurisprudence (Indra Sawhney → 103rd Amendment → Janhit Abhiyan) is core CLAT constitutional-law material.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- EWS reservation applies in **both** public employment (Art 16(6)) and educational admissions (Art 15(6)).
- The Rs 8-lakh EWS ceiling currently equals the OBC creamy-layer limit, a frequent point of policy criticism.
- **Basic structure doctrine** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973) is the constitutional test any amendment like the 103rd must survive.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Core CLAT constitutional GK and legal reasoning on the basic-structure limits of reservation policy.

India Scales Up e-Courts and Tele-Law to Deliver on Article 39A's Promise of Legal Aid

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

India's 'ease of justice' drive combines **e-Courts Phase III** (paperless, AI-enabled courts tied to the new criminal laws) with **Tele-Law** (11.2M+ beneficiaries via CSCs), Nyaya Bandhu, and AI tools SUVAS/Nyaya Shruti and SUPACE. Constitutionally it rests on **Article 39A** (free legal aid) and **Article 21** (speedy trial) — access to justice converts paper rights into real ones, not optional charity.

QUICK FACTS

- **Tele-Law:** over **11.2 million** beneficiaries via Common Service Centres.
- **NJDG** (National Judicial Data Grid) gives single-click access to **340M+** case records.
- Functional court halls grew from **15,818 (2014)** to **22,712**.
- AI tools: **SUVAS/Nyaya Shruti** (translation), **SUPACE** (judicial research assistance).
- Legal foundation: **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** gave institutional shape via NALSA.

MUST KNOW

- **Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979)** first established **speedy trial** as part of Article 21.
- **M.H. Hoskot v. State of Maharashtra (1978)** recognised **free legal aid** as intrinsic to fair procedure under Article 21.
- Link every tech reform (NJDG, SUVAS) back to its constitutional right — examiners reward that bridge.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Article 39A** is a Directive Principle directing the State to secure equal justice and provide free legal aid.
- **NALSA** (National Legal Services Authority) was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- The new criminal laws — **BNS, BNSS, BSA (2023)** — form the framework e-Courts Phase III is designed around.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Access to justice converts DPSP-inspired rights (Art 39A) into enforceable Article 21 guarantees via institutional infrastructure.

PROVISIONS

Article 39A, Article 21, Article 14

BODIES & CASES

Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979), M.H. Hoskot v. State of Maharashtra (1978), Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, NALSA

Common Error: Free legal aid and speedy trial are Article 21 entitlements via case law, not merely policy schemes — don't reduce

them to administrative initiatives alone.

FIU-IND Tightens AML Rules for Crypto Exchanges Under PMLA Framework

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

FIU-IND issued updated AML/CFT guidelines for **Virtual Digital Assets** (cryptocurrencies, NFTs, tokens), bringing exchanges, custodians and wallet providers to the same compliance standard as banks — registration, KYC, Suspicious Transaction Reports, and FATF's 'travel rule.' The **PMLA, 2002** criminalises money laundering (Sections 3 & 4) and empowers the **Enforcement Directorate** to attach proceeds of crime; its constitutional validity, including the stringent twin bail conditions under Section 45, was upheld in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. UoI (2022)**.

QUICK FACTS

- Reporting entities: crypto **exchanges, custodians, wallet providers** — now bank-equivalent compliance.
- Obligations: **registration, KYC, Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR)**, FATF's 'travel rule.'
- PMLA 2002, Sections 3 & 4**: offence and punishment for money laundering.
- VDAs statutorily defined via **Section 2(47A), Income-Tax Act 1961** (inserted by the Finance Act, 2022).
- Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. UoI (2022)**: upheld PMLA's validity, including **Section 45** twin bail conditions.

MUST KNOW

- Money laundering follows three classic stages: **placement, layering, integration**.
- Keep the three actors distinct: **FIU-IND** collects & analyses financial intelligence; **ED** investigates & attaches proceeds; **FATF** sets global AML/CFT standards.
- Section 45, PMLA** imposes genuine twin conditions for bail — unlike the anti-defection context, this is a recognised statutory 'twin' test.

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- FIU-IND** functions under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- FATF is the global **Financial Action Task Force** that sets AML/CFT standards which India implements domestically.
- VDAs received income-tax recognition (2022) years before this targeted AML regulation — a useful timeline point.

CLAT / Legal Lens

PMLA, ED, FIU-IND and FATF form a recurring institutional-law cluster tested in CLAT Legal Reasoning.

BODIES & CASES

PMLA 2002 (§§3, 4, 45), Enforcement Directorate, FIU-IND, FATF, Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India (2022), Finance Act 2022 (§2(47A) ITA)

Common Error: Do not conflate FIU-IND (intelligence collection) with the Enforcement Directorate (investigation/attachment) — they are distinct bodies with distinct powers.

SECTION 03 / 11

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Iran-Israel War Ebbs to Ceasefire as Hormuz Shipping Normalises



Israel and Iran fought an intense multi-front conflict through May-June 2026 — Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites met by Iranian missile and drone barrages that briefly disrupted shipping through the **Strait of Hormuz**. A US-brokered ceasefire took hold in mid-June, Hormuz traffic returned to pre-war levels, and talks resumed on extending the 2015 **JCPOA** nuclear deal (the US had exited in 2018). The truce proved fragile: citing self-defence under **UN Charter Art. 51**, Israel later recaptured Lebanon's Beaufort Castle — its deepest incursion in 25 years — despite UNIFIL's standing mandate.

QUICK FACTS

- Hormuz carries ~**34%** of global crude trade; India sources 40-50% of its oil imports via it
- JCPOA 2015**: P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran; US withdrew unilaterally in 2018
- US-brokered ceasefire took effect mid-June 2026
- Israel recaptured **Beaufort Castle** (held 1982-2000) — deepest Lebanon incursion in 25 years
- India tracked the crisis via Indian Navy's **Operation Sankalp**
- UNIFIL** — UN Interim Force in Lebanon, deployed since 1978, backed by UNSC Res 1701 (2006)

MUST KNOW

- International law bars any coastal state from suspending **transit passage** through straits used for international navigation — unlike innocent passage, which can be suspended
- India is NOT a party to any US-Iran arrangement but remains a key stakeholder given its oil/energy exposure

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Strait of Hormuz lies between the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, bordered by Iran, Oman and the UAE
- UNIFIL was established in 1978 to monitor the Israel-Lebanon border

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the transit-passage vs innocent-passage distinction and the self-defence justification under Art. 51 — both classic UNCLOS/UN Charter CLAT questions.

PROVISIONS

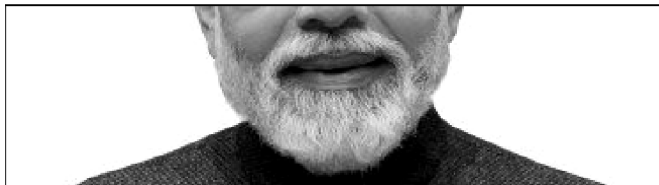
UN Charter Art. 51 (self-defence), UNCLOS 1982 Arts. 37-44 (straits regime) & Art. 38 (transit passage), UNSC Res 1701 (2006)

BODIES & CASES

UNIFIL, UNSC

Common Error: Don't confuse transit passage (cannot be suspended) with innocent passage (can be suspended in specific circumstances) — the most-tested contrast.

Modi in Seychelles: Golden Jubilee Visit Advances Vision MAHASAGAR



PM Narendra Modi undertook a three-day state visit to Seychelles (June 27-29, 2026) as Guest of Honour at the Golden Jubilee (50th) celebrations of its independence, addressing the National Assembly and holding bilateral talks with President Patrick Herminie. The visit advanced **Vision MAHASAGAR** — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions — India's 2026 successor to the 2015 **SAGAR** doctrine, widening India's Indian Ocean focus to the broader Global South.

QUICK FACTS

- Golden Jubilee: 50 years of Seychelles' independence
- Visit dates: June 27-29, 2026; bilateral counterpart: President **Patrick Herminie**
- Indian Armed Forces contingent + 2 Indian Navy ships participated in celebrations
- Indian-origin diaspora in Seychelles: ~6,000 (~5% of population)
- **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine unveiled in 2015

MUST KNOW

- **MAHASAGAR** is the successor to SAGAR — if a question gives the full form 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement', it points to MAHASAGAR, not SAGAR
- Lock the numbers: 12 nm territorial sea, 200 nm EEZ under UNCLOS

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Seychelles is a small island developing state in the Western Indian Ocean, key to India's maritime-domain awareness and anti-piracy cooperation
- India's Indian Ocean policy sits under the broader 'Neighbourhood First' framework

CLAT / Legal Lens

SAGAR (2015) vs MAHASAGAR (2026 widened version) is a recurring current-affairs-meets-static-GK pairing.

PROVISIONS

UNCLOS 1982 (territorial sea 12 nm; EEZ 200 nm)

BODIES & CASES

N/A — bilateral doctrine, not a treaty body

Common Error: Don't conflate SAGAR's original Indian Ocean scope with MAHASAGAR's expanded Global South canvas — they are staged, not identical, doctrines.

India Hosts BRICS NSA Huddle, Chairs 2026 Presidency Under 'Energy for All'



China's FM Wang Yi, Russia's NSA Sergei Shoigu and Iran's Deputy SNSC Secretary met in New Delhi (June 22-23, 2026) for a BRICS National Security Advisers' conclave hosted by India's NSA Ajit Doval, ahead of the BRICS Leaders' Summit in India this September. India holds the 2026 rotating BRICS presidency under the theme '**Sarveshaam Urjam**' (Energy for All), hosting the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram in late June.

QUICK FACTS

- BRICS members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, **South Africa (2010)**, plus Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE (since **2024 expansion**)
- India's 2026 BRICS presidency theme: 'Sarveshaam Urjam' (Energy for All)
- 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting hosted in Gurugram, Haryana
- India launched a **BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence** for Smart Grids and Energy Storage
- BRICS Leaders' Summit scheduled for September 2026, hosted by India

MUST KNOW

- BRICS is a consensus-based grouping, NOT a treaty-based organisation — no founding charter or permanent secretariat
- Its only treaty-based arm is the **New Development Bank (2014)**

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- BRIC was coined as an investment-banking term in 2001; became a formal grouping (first summit) in 2009; South Africa joined 2010
- International organisations/groupings form a recurring ~20% of CLAT's Current Affairs paper

CLAT / Legal Lens

Distinguishing a treaty-based organisation (UN, WTO, NDB) from an informal forum/grouping (BRICS, G20, SCO) is a favourite CLAT trap.

BODIES & CASES

BRICS, New Development Bank (2014)

Common Error: Don't call BRICS a 'treaty organisation' — only its NDB arm has a founding treaty; BRICS itself operates by consensus with no charter.

India's UNSC Bid Resurfaces as Guterres' Term Nears Its End

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A widely discussed commentary reframed India's claim to permanent UN Security Council membership as a test of the Council's own credibility, citing India's population, its G20 presidency, decades of UN peacekeeping contributions, and its defence spending. Separately, as Secretary-General **António Guterres** nears the end of his second term (December 2026), informal discussion has opened on his successor — a process where the UNSC recommends and the UNGA formally appoints, so a single P5 veto can block any nominee.

QUICK FACTS

- UNSC composition: 5 permanent members (**P5**: US, UK, France, Russia, China, each holding veto) + 10 non-permanent members
- Non-permanent seats expanded from 6 to **10 in 1965**
- **G4** — India, Brazil, Germany, Japan — seek permanent seats; opposed by the 'Uniting for Consensus' bloc
- Africa presses its own **Ezulwini Consensus** demand for permanent seats
- Any UN Charter amendment requires the concurrence of ALL P5 members

MUST KNOW

- Charter reform under **Art. 108** needs every P5 member's concurrence — exactly why UNSC expansion stalls despite broad General Assembly support
- For Secretary-General selection: the UNSC 'recommends' a candidate and the UNGA formally 'appoints' — a single P5 veto in the UNSC blocks any candidate

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Veto power derives from **UN Charter Art. 27**
- India's UNSC case rests on population, peacekeeping record (since 1948), its G20 presidency theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', and defence capability

CLAT / Legal Lens

UNSC reform mechanics (Art. 108 unanimity) and the SG-selection process (UNSC recommends, UNGA appoints) are the two most-tested UN institutional questions.

PROVISIONS

UN Charter Art. 23 (UNSC composition), UN Charter Art. 27 (veto), UN Charter Art. 108 (amendment), UN Charter Arts. 97-99 (Secretariat/SG)

BODIES & CASES

UNSC, G4, Uniting for Consensus, Ezulwini Consensus (African Union)

Common Error: Don't assume a simple UNGA majority can expand the UNSC or appoint an SG against a P5 veto — both require P5 concurrence or non-objection.

pandemic and border tensions — and also lies on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route reopened in 2025. In late June 2026, India and China held the 3rd round of their Strategic Economic Dialogue in Beijing and jointly attended the **SCO** Council of Heads of State, even as the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** remains a de facto, never-formally-delimited boundary.

QUICK FACTS

- Lipulekh Pass: ~17,000 ft, on the India-Nepal-China trijunction, Pithoragarh district
- Closed for cross-border trade since **2019**; reopening after 7 years
- 3rd round of the India-China **Strategic Economic Dialogue** held in Beijing, late June 2026
- Both nations attended the **SCO Council of Heads of State**, seeking a joint position on Afghanistan/counter-terrorism
- The relationship legally rests on the **Panchsheel Agreement (1954)** — Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

MUST KNOW

- **LAC** (India-China) has NO formal legal instrument delimiting it — unlike the **LoC** (India-Pakistan), formalised by the **Shimla Agreement 1972**
- Nepal claims Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura east of the Kali river citing the 1816 Sugauli Treaty; India administers the area

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Panchsheel's five principles: mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality/mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence
- **SCO** — Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a regional security/economic grouping including India, China, Russia and Central Asian states

CLAT / Legal Lens

Which India border has a formal treaty basis (LoC — Shimla 1972) vs which doesn't (LAC — no instrument) is a recurring boundary-law CLAT trap.

PROVISIONS

Panchsheel Agreement 1954, Shimla Agreement 1972, UN Charter Art. 2(4) (prohibition on use of force)

BODIES & CASES

SCO

Common Error: Don't call the LAC a 'legally delimited' boundary — it is only a de facto line of control, unlike the treaty-based LoC.

Lipulekh Border Trade Reopens After 7 Years as India-China Ties Thaw



The Lipulekh Pass, on the India-Nepal-China trijunction in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, is set to reopen for cross-border trade after seven years — shut since 2019 over the



Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov reaffirmed India as a 'high priority' partner under the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, with Russian crude now ~38% of India's oil imports (up from under 1% pre-2022) and defence cooperation spanning BrahMos, Su-30MKI, T-90 tanks, and the S-400 air-defence system. The S-400

purchase continues to carry US **CAATSA** sanctions risk, illustrating India's strategic-autonomy trade-off between cheap energy/defence access and alliance pressure.

QUICK FACTS

- Russian crude: ~**38%** of India's oil imports (May 2026), up from <1% pre-2022
- **S-400** air-defence system: 4 of 5 contracted regiments delivered
- Defence platforms: BrahMos missiles, Su-30MKI fighters, T-90 tanks, Kalashnikov rifles
- **CAATSA** = Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (a US domestic law)
- Rupee-rouble trade routed via Sberbank; Rosatom builds the **Kudankulam** nuclear plant

MUST KNOW

- The S-400 purchase remains exposed to US CAATSA sanctions — India has so far avoided sanctions via case-by-case handling, not a statutory exemption
- 'Strategic autonomy' is the doctrinal term for India's ability to source Russian energy/defence while resisting bloc alignment

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India-Russia ties are formalised under the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership'
- The 120 Vande Bharat trains deal (Gazprombank financing) has been delayed by sanctions exposure

CLAT / Legal Lens

CAATSA is a US extraterritorial sanctions law — tests how India's strategic-autonomy doctrine navigates a foreign statute with no binding force under international law but real economic consequences.

BODIES & CASES

N/A — bilateral partnership; CAATSA is US domestic law, not an international-law instrument

Common Error: Don't call CAATSA an international-law instrument — it is US domestic legislation with extraterritorial reach, not a treaty India is bound by.

Starmer Resigns as UK's Seventh PM in a Decade Since Brexit



British PM Keir Starmer resigned amid infighting over growth and cost of living, becoming the UK's seventh Prime Minister in the ten years since the 2016 Brexit referendum — despite leading Labour to its largest majority (412 seats) since 1997. The episode is a live illustration of the **Westminster parliamentary system** that India adopted at independence, where government survives only so long as it holds the confidence of the House of Commons.

QUICK FACTS

- Starmer: 7th UK PM in 10 years since the 2016 Brexit referendum
- Labour won **412 seats** in 2024 — its largest majority since Tony Blair's 1997 landslide
- Frontrunner to succeed: **Andy Burnham**, Mayor of Greater

Manchester ('King of the North')

- Burnham is not currently an MP — would need a byelection to enter Parliament
- Resignation followed infighting over economic growth and cost-of-living pressures

MUST KNOW

- India did NOT borrow a written Constitution from the UK — the UK's constitution is largely unwritten/uncodified
- India DID borrow: parliamentary form of government, the Speaker, single citizenship, and rule of law from the UK

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Westminster model: fused executive-legislature; government survives only on the confidence of the House of Commons (no fixed-term guarantee)
- Vote of no confidence and collective responsibility are core Westminster conventions

CLAT / Legal Lens

'Borrowed features' of the Indian Constitution — a perennial static-GK theme — is illustrated live by a UK political event.

Common Error: Don't say India borrowed a 'written constitution' from Britain — India's IS written; the UK's constitution is famously unwritten/uncodified.

UN Commission Finds 'Pattern Pointing to Genocidal Intent' in Gaza

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A UN Human Rights Council Independent International Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Justice (Retd.) S. Muralidhar — former Chief Justice of the Odisha High Court — found that a 'pattern of conduct' points to genocidal intent against Palestinian children in Gaza. The finding is grounded in the **Genocide Convention, 1948**, and cleanly maps the international institutional architecture: a Commission of Inquiry documents, the ICJ adjudicates state responsibility, and the ICC prosecutes individuals.

QUICK FACTS

- Commission chaired by **Justice (Retd.) S. Muralidhar** (former CJ, Odisha HC); members Florence Mumba (Zambia), Chris Sidoti (Australia)
- Governing instrument: **Genocide Convention, 1948**, Article II — defines genocide via 5 enumerated acts with 'intent to destroy... a national, ethnical, racial or religious group'
- Decisive legal element: special intent (**dolus specialis**) — why the Commission speaks of a 'pattern pointing to intent,' not a finding of guilt
- ICJ precedent: **South Africa v. Israel** — found rights 'plausible', ordered provisional measures
- Body: UN Human Rights Council Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory

MUST KNOW

- Master the institutional map: a Commission of Inquiry

DOCUMENTS; the ICJ judges STATES; the ICC prosecutes INDIVIDUALS; the UNGA debates — the most common MCQ confusion

- 'Pattern pointing to intent' is a documentary finding, NOT a judicial finding of guilt

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Genocide Convention 1948, Article II enumerates 5 acts constituting genocide when committed with special intent
- The ICJ adjudicates state responsibility; the ICC (Rome Statute) prosecutes individuals — two distinct international courts

CLAT / Legal Lens

Institution-mapping (Col vs ICJ vs ICC vs UNGA) plus the *dolus specialis* intent standard are the two testable legal concepts here.

PROVISIONS

Genocide Convention 1948, Art. II

BODIES & CASES

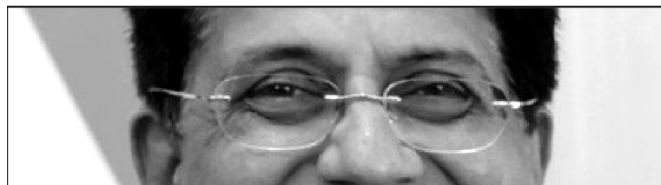
UNHRC, ICJ, ICC, UNGA

Common Error: Don't say the Commission of Inquiry 'found Israel guilty of genocide' — it found only a pattern pointing to intent; only a court (ICJ for states, ICC for individuals) can adjudicate guilt/responsibility.

SECTION 04 / 11

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

US Imposes New 12.5% Section 301 Tariff Even as India-US Trade Talks Continue



India and the US remain on parallel tracks of confrontation and negotiation. A **6 February 2026** joint statement outlined a prospective FTA (US cutting its reciprocal tariff from 25% to 10%, India opening "most" tariff categories), and on **20 February 2026** the US Supreme Court struck down the Trump administration's 18% reciprocal tariffs as based on invalid emergency powers. That ruling did not end the pressure: the USTR has separately proposed a fresh **12.5% Section 301 tariff** on Indian textiles, footwear and clothing, citing alleged "forced labour" in supply chains, with a **24 July 2026** deadline — even as India has committed to buying \$500 billion of US goods and services over five years.

QUICK FACTS

- 6 Feb 2026 joint statement: prospective FTA — US reciprocal tariff cut: **25%→10%**, India opens "most" categories, plus digital trade, IP, agri
- 20 Feb 2026: **US Supreme Court** struck down the 18% reciprocal tariffs (April 2025 executive order) as invalid
- USTR's new **12.5% Section 301 tariff** on textiles, footwear, clothing — "forced labour" allegation — deadline **24 July 2026**
- Six peers (Pakistan, Canada, Ecuador, EU, Indonesia, Mexico) got a lower **10%** rate
- India committed to buying **\$500 billion** of US goods & services over 5 years
- Rupee at record lows vs USD; FDI outflows; currency-management

pressure on RBI

MUST KNOW

- **Section 301** (US Trade Act 1974) is a unilateral US domestic-law tool against "unfair" trade practices — distinct from any WTO-sanctioned retaliation
- **MFN principle** (GATT Art. I) requires equal treatment of all WTO members; FTAs are the permitted exception under **GATT Art. XXIV**
- Current account deficit (a balance-of-payments concept) is not the same as the fiscal deficit — a frequent mix-up

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **USTR** = Office of the US Trade Representative, lead US trade-negotiation agency
- **WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)** — India has pending filings against US tariffs
- US is India's largest export market; Union Commerce Minister: **Piyush Goyal**

CLAT / Legal Lens

Section 301 is a unilateral US tool, testable against the WTO's multilateral MFN framework — a favourite protectionism-vs-multilateralism contrast.

PROVISIONS

US Trade Act 1974, s.301, GATT Art. I (MFN), GATT Art. III (National Treatment), GATT Art. XI, GATT Art. XXIV (FTA exception)

BODIES & CASES

USTR, WTO, WTO Dispute Settlement Body

Common Error: Don't confuse Section 301 (US domestic law) with a WTO-sanctioned retaliation, and don't conflate current account deficit with fiscal deficit.

India-UK CETA Takes Effect July 15 as EU Commits to Sign FTA by Year-End



India's trade diplomacy advanced on two fronts in June 2026. The India-UK CETA (signed July 2025) is confirmed to take effect on **15 July 2026**, but a dispute has emerged over UK safeguard duties on steel — India is seeking a duty-free quota worth nearly \$900 million before the safeguards take effect from 1 July, with the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) looming from 1 January 2027. Separately, at the G7 Summit in Évian, European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** said the EU would sign its long-negotiated FTA with India "by the end of the year," with talks — relaunched in 2022 after a 2013 pause — covering goods, services, investment protection and geographical indications.

QUICK FACTS

- India-UK **CETA** (signed July 2025) takes effect **15 July 2026**
- India seeking duty-free steel quota worth nearly **\$900 million** (3-yr export average) before UK safeguard duties start 1 July
- UK **CBAM** effective **1 Jan 2027** — prices carbon on aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, iron & steel to curb "carbon leakage"; EU CBAM similar scope

- India's iron & steel exports to UK: ~**\$893.4 million** in 2025-26
- At G7 Summit (Évian, France): EU to sign its FTA with India "by end of year" (2026) — announced by **Ursula von der Leyen**
- India-EU FTA talks relaunched 2022 after 2013 pause; cover goods, services, investment protection, GIs
- German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** invited Modi to Germany for a bilateral strategic partnership

MUST KNOW

- CBAM** = a carbon tariff at the border; India invokes **CBDR-RC** (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities) against it
- Integration ladder: **FTA < Customs Union < Common Market < Economic Union**
- An FTA is the WTO-permitted exception to MFN under **GATT Article XXIV**

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- G7 Summit 2026 held in Évian, France
- India-EU FTA talks span goods, services, investment protection and geographical indications
- IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) — related connectivity initiative

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests FTA architecture, CBAM as a non-tariff/carbon barrier, and CBDR-RC — a trade-meets-climate-law passage staple.

PROVISIONS

India-UK CETA 2025, WTO Agreement on Safeguards, GATT 1994 Art. XXIV, Paris Agreement (CBDR-RC)

BODIES & CASES

European Commission, WTO, UK/EU CBAM regulators

Common Error: CBAM is a carbon price at the border, not a traditional tariff, quota, or safeguard duty — don't conflate the three.

10%

- Cross-border fraud: RBI bears **65%**, bank bears **20%**
- The 5-day reporting window is the operative trigger shifting loss from customer to RBI/bank
- Builds on existing zero/limited-liability framework for unauthorised electronic transactions
- Reinforced by National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal + helpline **1930**

MUST KNOW

- The **5-day reporting window** is the highest-yield fact — prompt reporting shifts loss off the customer
- Tests RBI's rule-making power + limited-liability framework for digital-payment fraud
- Sits at the intersection of banking regulation (RBI Act 1934, Banking Regulation Act 1949) and consumer protection (Payment & Settlement Systems Act 2007)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal + helpline **1930** for fraud complaints
- Banking Ombudsman / Integrated Ombudsman Scheme relevant to banking-consumer disputes

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests RBI's regulatory rule-making authority and consumer-liability allocation in digital banking fraud — a growing CLAT theme.

PROVISIONS

RBI Act 1934, Banking Regulation Act 1949, Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007

BODIES & CASES

RBI, National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

Common Error: The compensation split differs for domestic (85%/10%) vs cross-border (65%/20%) fraud — don't apply one split to both.

RBI Notifies New Digital-Fraud Compensation Rules Effective January 2027



The Reserve Bank of India, on **24 June 2026**, notified the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks — Responsible Business Conduct) Directions, 2026, revising how victims of digital payment fraud are compensated. Effective **1 January 2027**, a bona fide victim who reports a domestic fraudulent transaction within **5 calendar days** will be compensated 85% of the net loss or Rs 25,000 (whichever is lower), with the RBI bearing this and the bank absorbing a further 10%; cross-border fraud gets a different split (RBI 65%, bank 20%). The reform builds on RBI's existing zero/limited-liability framework and is reinforced by the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and the 1930 helpline.

QUICK FACTS

- 24 June 2026: RBI notified "Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Responsible Business Conduct) Directions, 2026"
- Effective **1 January 2027**
- Domestic fraud: **5-day** reporting → compensated **85%** of net loss or Rs 25,000, whichever lower — RBI bears this, bank absorbs a further

India Becomes World's Top Ship Recycler as Sagarmala Marks 12 Years



India has become the world's largest ship-recycling nation, accounting for about **35.4%** of global ship recycling in 2025 and dismantling roughly 2.99 million gross tonnes — a 60% jump over 2024 — per UNCTAD data, meeting Maritime India Vision 2030 targets five years ahead of schedule. Around 115 facilities, concentrated at Alang in Gujarat, comply with the IMO's **Hong Kong International Convention**, which India ratified in 2019 and implements via the Recycling of Ships Act 2019. The milestone coincided with 12 years of the Sagarmala port-led development programme, alongside **11** landmark maritime laws replacing colonial-era legislation, including the Merchant Shipping Act 2025 and Indian Ports Act 2025.

QUICK FACTS

- India = world's largest ship recycler: ~**35.4%** of global ship recycling in 2025; ~2.99 million gross tonnes (60% jump over 2024)
- Met Maritime India Vision 2030 targets **5 years early**

- ~115 facilities (mainly Alang, Gujarat) comply with IMO **Hong Kong International Convention** (India ratified 2019; implemented via Recycling of Ships Act 2019)
- Sagarmala programme marks **12 years**; built 7,100+ km of port-connectivity infrastructure
- Total cargo handled at Indian ports rose **59%** to 1,668 million tonnes
- 3 Indian ports now feature in World Bank's Container Port Performance Index global top 30
- **11** landmark maritime laws enacted, incl. Merchant Shipping Act 2025 and Indian Ports Act 2025 — replacing colonial statutes

MUST KNOW

- IMO **Hong Kong Convention** entered into force June 2025; governs safe, green ship recycling
- Merchant Shipping Act 2025 and Indian Ports Act 2025 replace colonial statutes of 1958 and 1908 respectively — part of the law-decolonisation drive
- Recycling of Ships Act 2019 = India's domestic implementing statute

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Alang, Gujarat = world's largest ship-breaking yard
- IMO = UN's specialised agency for shipping
- Sagarmala = port-led development flagship scheme; Maritime India Vision 2030 / Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 = related frameworks

CLAT / Legal Lens

Links a named UN-system convention, the Basel Convention, and Indian implementing statutes, paired with a scheme (Sagarmala) plus fresh decolonising legislation.

PROVISIONS

Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships 2009 (IMO), Recycling of Ships Act 2019, Basel Convention 1989, Merchant Shipping Act 2025, Indian Ports Act 2025

BODIES & CASES

IMO, UNCTAD, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Common Error: Don't confuse the Basel Convention (hazardous waste movement generally) with the Hong Kong Convention (ship-recycling specifically) — they overlap but are separate treaties.

QUICK FACTS

- RBI Annual Report: Deputy Governor **Poonam Gupta** calls the global bond-yield reset "the single most consequential development" of the year
- US 10-year yields: **4.40%**; Japan 10-year: **2.52%** (up from 1.54% a year earlier); UK gilts: **4.93%**
- Driven by major central banks unwinding QE — a tightening process called **QT**
- FPI outflows from India: **\$580 million** year-to-date
- RBI temporarily withdrew rate restrictions on NRE deposits (3+ yrs) and fresh FCNR(B) deposits (3-5 yrs) to attract stable inflows
- MPC continues targeting CPI inflation at **4%**, within a 2-6% band, under Section 45ZB RBI Act 1934

MUST KNOW

- **FCNR(B)** deposits are foreign-currency denominated — shield NRIs from rupee depreciation; **NRE** deposits are rupee-denominated — NRI bears FX risk. A favourite trap
- Bond yields and bond prices move inversely; rising US yields make EM debt less attractive, triggering FPI outflows
- **FPI** (portfolio, "hot" money) vs **FDI** (direct, "sticky" money) — a recurring distinction

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- MPC created via a **2016 amendment** to RBI Act 1934 — 6 members (3 RBI + 3 govt-nominated), Governor casts the tie-breaker vote
- **Poonam Gupta** = RBI Deputy Governor (economic/monetary policy, since 2025); **V. Anantha Nageswaran** is the **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)** — a distinct office, a commonly confused pair
- QE = central banks buying assets to inject liquidity; reversal = QT (quantitative tightening)

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests RBI's monetary-policy mandate alongside FEMA-governed NRI deposit instruments — a macro + foreign-exchange-law crossover.

PROVISIONS

RBI Act 1934, FEMA 1999, RBI Master Directions on NRI deposits, Banking Regulation Act 1949, FRBM Act 2003, SEBI Act 1992

BODIES & CASES

RBI

Common Error: Don't reverse the FCNR(B) vs NRE currency-risk allocation — FCNR(B) is foreign-currency (no FX risk to depositor), NRE is rupee (FX risk to depositor).

RBI Flags Global Yield Reset as FPI Outflows Hit \$580 Million, Eases NRI Deposit Rules



In the RBI's Annual Report, Deputy Governor **Poonam Gupta** described the global bond-yield reset as "the single most consequential development" of the year, with US 10-year yields at 4.40%, Japan's at 2.52% and UK gilts at 4.93%, as major central banks unwind quantitative easing (QT). Since bond yields and prices move inversely, rising US yields have made emerging-market debt less attractive, contributing to **\$580 million** in FPI outflows from India year-to-date; in response, the RBI temporarily eased interest-rate restrictions on NRE and fresh FCNR(B) deposits to attract stable foreign inflows.

Telangana Becomes First State to Set Statutory Minimum Wages for Gig Workers as Bharat Taxi Launches



Via Government Order Ms No. 6, dated **30 May 2026**, Telangana became the first Indian state to bring platform-based gig workers under statutory minimum wages, operationalising the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers Act 2026 read with the central Code on Wages 2019 and Minimum Wages Act 1948; Zone-1 unskilled wage floors rise from Rs 12,750 to **Rs 16,000** per month, extending a template set by Rajasthan's 2023 Act. Separately, on **27 June**

2026, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched **Bharat Taxi** in Gujarat — India's first large-scale cooperative ride-hailing platform, offering a cooperative alternative to venture-funded aggregators.

QUICK FACTS

- Telangana GO Ms No. 6 (**30 May 2026**): first state to set statutory minimum wages for gig workers
- Operationalises Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers Act 2026, with Code on Wages 2019 and Minimum Wages Act 1948
- Zone-1 unskilled wage floor: Rs 12,750 → **Rs 16,000/month**, with tiers for semi-skilled/skilled
- Covers app-based delivery, ride-hailing, home-services aggregators
- Extends template set by **Rajasthan Platform Gig Workers Act 2023** (precursor)
- 27 June 2026: Amit Shah launched **Bharat Taxi** in Gujarat — India's first large-scale cooperative ride-hailing platform, via Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Ltd

MUST KNOW

- **Code on Social Security 2020** = first central statute to define "gig worker" and "platform worker"
- Labour = **Concurrent List Entry 22** — states can legislate subject to central law
- **Art. 43** (DPSP, living wage) + **Art. 39(d)** (equal pay) + **Art. 23** (bar on forced labour) all invoked
- 97th Amendment added **Art. 43B** (cooperatives as DPSP), but Part IXB was partly struck down in **Rajendra N. Shah v. UOI (2021)** for lacking State ratification — a sharp federalism trap

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Rajasthan Platform Gig Workers Act 2023 = India's first such state law (precursor to Telangana's)
- Bharat Taxi launched via Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited — a cooperative alternative to VC-funded aggregators

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests Concurrent List federalism (labour welfare), DPSPs on living wage/equal pay, and 97th Amendment cooperative-law doctrine — a dense Polity + Labour-law combination.

PROVISIONS

Art. 39(d), Art. 43, Art. 23, Art. 43B (97th Amendment), Concurrent List Entry 22

Common Error: Part IXB (added by the 97th Amendment) was partly struck down in Rajendra N. Shah for lack of State ratification, even though Art. 43B itself survives — don't say the whole Amendment was struck down.

India-US Critical Minerals MoU Spawns Business Task Force to Counter China Dependence



Days after India and the US signed a bilateral Critical Minerals MoU, the US-India Business Council formed a Critical Minerals Security Task Force to deepen supply-chain cooperation and reduce dependence on China, which controls roughly **90%** of global

critical-mineral processing capacity and about **60%** of rare-earth mining. The task force has identified five priority areas — lithium, recycling, synthetic graphite, feedstock and rare-earth magnets — as India, having identified 30 "critical" minerals, pursues both its National Critical Mineral Mission (2025) and overseas asset acquisition through KABIL.

QUICK FACTS

- India-US Critical Minerals MoU signed; days later, US-India Business Council formed a **Critical Minerals Security Task Force**
- China controls **~90%** of global critical-mineral processing and **~60%** of rare-earth mining
- 5 priority areas: lithium & cathode materials, recycling, synthetic graphite, feedstock development, rare-earth magnets
- India has identified **30** "critical" minerals (lithium, cobalt, rare-earth elements)
- **National Critical Mineral Mission** launched 2025 — domestic + overseas supply security
- **KABIL** (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) handles overseas critical-mineral asset acquisition
- GSI discovered a major lithium reserve in Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir

MUST KNOW

- Rare earth elements = a group of **17** chemically similar elements (e.g., neodymium, used in high-strength magnets)
- India's net-zero target: **2070** — critical minerals are central to the clean-energy transition underpinning it
- China's dominance (90% processing / 60% mining) is the strategic vulnerability driving India-US cooperation

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- KABIL = Khanij Bidesh India Limited
- GSI = Geological Survey of India
- USIBC = US-India Business Council

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests S&T-meets-economy GK: clean-energy supply-chain security, China dependence, and India-US strategic cooperation — a fast-growing CLAT theme.

BODIES & CASES

KABIL, Geological Survey of India, US-India Business Council, National Critical Mineral Mission

Common Error: Rare earth elements are not actually 'rare' in abundance — the name refers to the difficulty of extraction/processing, a common misconception trap.

Farm Groups Urge India to Hold WTO Line as US Presses for Agricultural Market Access



As the US presses India to open its agricultural market, farm groups including the Bharat Krishak Samaj — led by K.V. Biju — have urged the Prime Minister to hold India's position at the WTO, warning that subsidised US apples, almonds and cotton would undercut domestic production. The economics support caution: per OECD 2024 data, the US Producer Support Estimate stands at **+7.1%** while India's is

-14.5%, meaning Indian farmers are, on net, effectively taxed rather than subsidised relative to global prices — and India argues it retains ample headroom under WTO agricultural-subsidy rules to support them further.

QUICK FACTS

- Farm groups (Bharat Krishak Samaj, K.V. Biju) urged PM Modi to hold India's WTO position, resist opening agriculture
- Warned subsidised US apples, almonds, cotton would undercut domestic production
- India uses a **Minimum Import Price** mechanism to bar artificially cheap imports
- OECD 2024: US Producer Support Estimate (PSE) = **+7.1%**; India's PSE = **-14.5%** (Indian farmers effectively taxed, not subsidised)
- India argues it retains ample headroom under WTO agricultural-subsidy rules
- WTO Agreement on Agriculture boxes: **Amber** (trade-distorting, capped at 10% de minimis for developing countries), **Green** (non-trade-distorting), **Blue** (production-limiting)
- **Peace Clause** (2013 Bali Ministerial) shields public food-stockholding programmes from legal challenge

MUST KNOW

- **Amber Box** = trade-distorting MSP-type support, capped at 10% de minimis for developing nations (5% for developed)
- **Peace Clause** protects India's food-security stockholding from WTO disputes, pending a permanent solution
- **PSE** (Producer Support Estimate) is an OECD metric measuring support to farmers relative to global prices

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Bharat Krishak Samaj — farmer body, led by K.V. Biju
- WTO Agreement on Agriculture concluded 1995 (Uruguay Round)
- Peace Clause agreed at the Bali Ministerial Conference, 2013

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests WTO Agreement on Agriculture box mechanics (Amber/Green/Blue), de minimis limits, and the Peace Clause — static WTO law tied to a live India-US negotiation.

PROVISIONS

WTO Agreement on Agriculture 1995, Peace Clause (Bali Ministerial 2013)

BODIES & CASES

WTO, OECD, Bharat Krishak Samaj

Common Error: The de minimis cap differs by development status — 10% for developing countries (like India), 5% for developed countries — don't apply a flat number to both.

Amazon Raises India AI and Cloud Investment to \$48 Billion by 2030

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Amazon announced an additional **\$13 billion** investment to expand AI and cloud data-centre infrastructure in India, taking its cumulative committed investment to **\$48 billion by 2030**, following a meeting between CEO Andy Jassy and PM Modi. The fresh capital expands

AWS data-centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, mirroring similar large-scale India bets by Microsoft and Google as global cloud providers race to build AI infrastructure in India's fast-growing digital economy.

QUICK FACTS

- Amazon: additional **\$13 billion** investment in AI + cloud data-centre infrastructure in India
- Cumulative committed India investment now **\$48 billion by 2030**
- Announcement followed CEO **Andy Jassy's** meeting with PM Modi
- Expands AWS data-centre capacity in **Mumbai and Hyderabad**
- Supports AI services, secure cloud, digital tools for startups/SMBs
- Mirrors similar big-tech India bets by **Microsoft and Google**

MUST KNOW

- Tests FDI in technology + AI/data-centre infrastructure as a growing CLAT current-affairs theme
- Raises data-localisation and digital-sovereignty questions tied to foreign cloud investment
- AWS = Amazon Web Services, the cloud-computing arm driving this investment

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Amazon CEO: Andy Jassy
- Key India AWS hubs: Mumbai, Hyderabad
- Other major cloud/AI investors in India: Microsoft, Google

CLAT / Legal Lens

Foreign investment in AI/cloud infrastructure raises FDI policy and data-localisation questions under India's evolving digital-economy law — a soft legal lens on a largely economy story.

PROVISIONS

Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 (data-localisation context)

BODIES & CASES

AWS (Amazon Web Services)

Common Error: This is primarily a corporate-investment story with no specific statute cited in official reports — don't overstate a 'legal angle' beyond FDI/data-localisation policy context.

SECTION 05 / 11

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

El Niño Onset and a Stalled Monsoon Squeeze Food Prices

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

The **US NOAA** declared on June 11, 2026 that El Niño conditions have developed, with a 62-63% chance of strengthening into a 'very strong' event by October-January. Days after reaching Kerala on June 4, the southwest monsoon stalled over Maharashtra, pushing all-India rainfall 38% below average and reviving fears of weaker kharif output and rising food inflation.

QUICK FACTS

- **NOAA** declared El Niño conditions developed on June 11, 2026; 62-63% chance of a "very strong" event (Oct-Jan)
- Monsoon reached Kerala June 4, 2026 but stalled over **Maharashtra**; all-India rainfall 38% below average (1-17 June)
- Worst deficits: Konkan & Goa -81%, Madhya Maharashtra -80%, Vidarbha -72%, Marathwada -62%
- **IMD** blames weakened cross-equatorial flow and a suppressed **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**
- **FAO Food Price Index** at 130.8 (May 2026), still below the March 2022 peak of 160.2
- India's CPI food inflation rising to 4.78% from a -5.02% deflationary trough; vegetable-oil index +21.5% y-o-y

MUST KNOW

- **El Niño** = warm phase of **ENSO** (abnormal warming of central/eastern Pacific); typically weakens the Indian monsoon
- **FAO** is a UN specialised agency, HQ Rome, est. 1945 — issues the Food Price Index
- El Niño years risk lower kharif output; a strengthening event threatens the rabi crop too

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **ENSO** phases: El Niño (warm) vs La Niña (cool) vs Neutral
- **Walker Circulation** — Pacific atmospheric circulation pattern linked to monsoon strength
- **Rabi** (winter-sown) vs **Kharif** (monsoon-sown) cropping seasons
- CPI food inflation is measured by NSO/MoSPI

CLAT / Legal Lens

GK/geography-led; tests the El Niño-monsoon-inflation linkage and institutional identification (FAO/NOAA/IMD) rather than litigation.

PROVISIONS

Art. 21 (right to clean environment, SC extension), Art. 48A, Art. 51A(g), Disaster Management Act 2005

BODIES & CASES

IMD (Ministry of Earth Sciences), NOAA (US), FAO (UN), NDMA

Common Error: Don't confuse El Niño (warm, dry India) with La Niña (cool, wetter India) — commonly reversed in MCQs.

Delhi's Draft EV Policy 2.0 Extends Tax Relief to Strong Hybrids



Delhi's draft EV Policy 2.0 proposes a 50% road-tax waiver for strong hybrids priced up to ₹30 lakh, alongside the existing 100% waiver for pure EVs, valid till March 2030. The policy heads to Cabinet after 700+ public responses, amid comparison with UP's more generous 100% hybrid exemption and Haryana's parallel BS-VI truck-replacement concession.

QUICK FACTS

- Draft proposes a **50% road-tax waiver** for strong hybrids up to **₹30 lakh** ex-showroom; pure EVs retain a **100% waiver**
- Policy valid till **March 31, 2030**; replaces the scheme lapsing June 30,

2026

- Two-wheelers make up **67%** of Delhi's vehicle stock
- **Uttar Pradesh** gives a 100% hybrid exemption, reportedly boosting registrations there
- **Haryana's** Cabinet approved a 100% tax concession to replace pre-BS-VI NCR trucks (est. ₹400-500 crore annual revenue loss)

MUST KNOW

- Motor vehicle tax = **State List, Entry 57** (List II); environment regulation lies in the **Concurrent List**
- **FAME India Scheme** = central EV-incentive scheme; **EV30@30** targets 30% EV sales by 2030
- **Article 19(1)(g)** rights are available to citizens only — a foreign automobile manufacturer cannot invoke it

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Distinguish **Art. 48A** (DPSP, State duty) from **Art. 51A(g)** (Fundamental Duty of citizens)
- **Motor Vehicles Act 1988** plus Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 govern vehicle regulation nationally

CLAT / Legal Lens

Federal distribution of powers (motor-vehicle tax = State subject) fused with vehicular-pollution jurisprudence (M.C. Mehta v. UoI).

PROVISIONS

Art. 246 List II Entry 57, Motor Vehicles Act 1988, Art. 48A, Art. 21, Art. 19(1)(g), Art. 19(6)

BODIES & CASES

FAME-II, CAQM, NCR Planning Board

Common Error: Environment regulation is Concurrent, but motor-vehicle taxation itself is exclusively State — don't merge the two legislative heads.

Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area Notification Stalls After Twelve Years



The Centre is moving to notify Eco-Sensitive Areas across ~56,825.7 sq km (about 37%) of the Western Ghats, based on the 2013 Kasturirangan report, a dilution of the stricter 2011 Gadgil panel (~64%). Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra have agreed while Karnataka and Kerala continue to resist, even as the 2018/2024 Wayanad landslides underline the cost of delay.

QUICK FACTS

- Proposed ESA area: **~56,825.7 sq km** (~37% of the 1,64,000 sq km Western Ghats)
- Based on the **Kasturirangan HLWG report (2013)**; a dilution of the **Gadgil WGEEP report (2011)**, which proposed ~64% under ESZ-1/2/3
- Agreed: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra; near-agreement: Goa; resisting: **Karnataka, Kerala**
- Sixth draft ESA notification issued in **2024** under the **EPA 1986**
- 2018 and 2024 **Wayanad landslides** cited as evidence of the cost of delay

MUST KNOW

- Memorise the contrast: **Gadgil ~64%** (stricter) vs **Kasturirangan ~37%** (diluted) — a favourite examiner pairing
- ESAs ban mining, quarrying, red-category industries, new thermal plants; restrict construction above 20,000 sq m

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Western Ghats = one of the world's **eight "hottest" biodiversity hotspots**; a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- Centre-state environmental federalism example: notification power under EPA 1986 vs state resistance

CLAT / Legal Lens

Ecology-vs-development and Centre-State federal balance, exercised through EPA 1986's notification power.

PROVISIONS

Environment (Protection) Act 1986, Gadgil WGEEP Report 2011, Kasturirangan HLWG Report 2013, 6th Draft ESA Notification 2024

BODIES & CASES

MoEFCC, UNESCO

Common Error: Don't swap the percentages — Gadgil is the stricter/higher figure (~64%), Kasturirangan the diluted/lower one (~37%).

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Designation commits India to the **"wise use"** principle
- The **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017** form the domestic regulatory framework

CLAT / Legal Lens

High-frequency static GK (numbers, dates, rankings) layered with environmental-duty framing.

PROVISIONS

Ramsar Convention 1971, Art. 48A, Art. 51A(g), Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017

BODIES & CASES

Ramsar Secretariat, MoEFCC

Common Error: Only Keoladeo and Loktak are on India's Montreux Record — Sambhar, despite severe damage, is not listed.

India Crosses 100 Ramsar Sites, but Sambhar Lake Shows the Strain



India designated its 100th Ramsar Site — the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Surha Tal, Ballia, UP — announced on World Environment Day, June 5, 2026, giving India the most Ramsar sites in Asia and the third-most globally. Yet Sambhar Lake, a Ramsar site since 1990, has reportedly lost ~89% of its wetland area to illegal salt-pan encroachment, exposing the gap between designation and on-ground protection.

QUICK FACTS

- **100th Ramsar Site** = Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal), Ballia, UP; announced **June 5, 2026**
- Network spans **~13.87 lakh hectares**; India ranks **1st in Asia, 3rd globally** (after UK-176, Mexico-144)
- **Tamil Nadu** leads all states with **20 Ramsar sites**
- **Sambhar Lake** (Ramsar site since March 1990), India's largest inland salt lake, has lost ~89% of its wetland area to illegal salt-pan encroachment and groundwater extraction
- India's **Montreux Record** (internationally threatened sites) lists only **Keoladeo and Loktak**

MUST KNOW

- **Ramsar Convention** was signed at Ramsar, Iran, on **2 February 1971**; India joined in **1982**
- India's Montreux Record = Keoladeo + Loktak **ONLY** — a classic trap if other sites appear as options

Agri-PV and Repurposed Thermal Plants Anchor India's Renewable Push



Economist Ashok Gulati has proposed agri-photovoltaics — solar panels raised ~3.5 m above farmland so crops grow beneath while power is sold as a "third crop" — as India's renewable capacity nears 274 GW. Separately, Grid-India identified nine ageing thermal plants (~1.8 GW) for repurposing as synchronous condensers to stabilise the grid as renewable penetration rises, following a 2024 grid disturbance.

QUICK FACTS

- India's renewable capacity: **~274 GW** (March 2026); solar alone exceeds 150 GW
- **PM-KUSUM** scheme (MNRE): Component A (grid solar ≤2 MW), B (standalone pumps), C (pump solarisation)
- Farm power subsidy ≈ **Rs 1.4 lakh crore** (~85% of total); CAG puts avg. supply cost at Rs 8.5/kWh
- **Grid-India** identified **9 thermal plants (~1.8 GW)** for conversion to **synchronous condensers**
- Trigger: **June 2024** Champa-Kurukshetra HVDC link tripping caused a ~16.5 GW load reduction

MUST KNOW

- A **synchronous condenser** spins without generating power, providing grid **inertia**, reactive power and voltage support
- Agri-PV "third crop" reconciles energy security, farmer income and DPSP **Art. 48A's** environmental mandate

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **ISA** (International Solar Alliance) is a treaty-based intergovernmental body — distinct from **IRENA** (Abu Dhabi) and non-treaty groupings like the G20
- India's climate pledges: **Net Zero by 2070**; Viksit Bharat 2047

CLAT / Legal Lens

Static scheme names (PM-KUSUM) fused with DPSP Art. 48A — a recurring static-meets-current CLAT pairing.

PROVISIONS

Art. 48A, EPA 1986, EIA Notification 2006, Paris Agreement NDC, ISA Treaty Framework Agreement 2016

BODIES & CASES

MNRE, Grid-India (formerly POSOCO), NLDC/RLDCs, International Solar Alliance

Common Error: Grid-India was formerly named POSOCO — the old name may appear as a distractor option.

Record Southern Europe Heatwave Revives Debate on Paris Agreement Commitments



A record heatwave swept southern Europe in late June 2026, with temperatures exceeding 48°C in Spain and Greece, consistent with IPCC AR6's flagging of the Mediterranean as a climate hotspot. The episode has revived debate on Paris Agreement commitments, NDCs, and India's own climate jurisprudence following *M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India* (2024).

QUICK FACTS

- Southern Europe heatwave (late June 2026): temperatures exceeded **48°C** in **Spain** and **Greece**
- **IPCC AR6 (2022)** flagged the Mediterranean as a climate hotspot
- **Paris Agreement (2015)**, under UNFCCC, in force **November 2016**; Art. 2 sets "well below 2°C," "pursuing" 1.5°C
- **Kyoto Protocol (1997)** bound only Annex-I (developed) nations; Paris replaced this with universal voluntary **NDCs**
- **Glasgow COP26 Pact (2021)** called for coal "phase-down," not "phase-out"

MUST KNOW

- Paris Art. 2: "well below 2°C" is **binding** treaty language; "pursuing 1.5°C" is **aspirational** — a favourite MCQ distinction
- **M.K. Ranjitsinh v. UoI (2024)** recognised the right to be free from adverse climate effects under **Articles 14 and 21**

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **CBDR** (Common But Differentiated Responsibilities) principle from UNFCCC 1992 differentiates developed/developing obligations
- UNFCCC (1992) is the parent treaty; Kyoto (1997) and Paris (2015) are protocols/agreements under it

CLAT / Legal Lens

International climate treaty architecture (UNFCCC to Kyoto to Paris) fused with India's newest climate-rights precedent.

PROVISIONS

UNFCCC 1992, Paris Agreement 2015 — Art. 2, Kyoto Protocol 1997, Art. 14, Art. 21, *M.K. Ranjitsinh v. UoI* (2024)

BODIES & CASES

IPCC, UNFCCC Secretariat

Common Error: Glasgow COP26 diluted 'phase-out' of coal to 'phase-down' — a wording trap frequently tested verbatim.

SECTION 06 / 11

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

SHANTI Act Opens India's Nuclear Power Sector to Private Players



India's **SHANTI Act**, which received Presidential assent on 21 December 2025, ends the decades-old State monopoly on nuclear power generation under the Atomic Energy Act 1962, allowing private companies to build and operate nuclear facilities for the first time — provided they partner with a recognised technology provider. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is finalising licensing rules to apply the same safety rigour to **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** as to large plants. SMRs are being pitched as a safer, round-the-clock, low-carbon option for energy-intensive industries like steel, aluminium and cement.

QUICK FACTS

- **SHANTI Act** received Presidential assent on 21 December 2025 — opens nuclear power to private participation
- Ends the near-monopoly of NPCIL (Centre) under the **Atomic Energy Act 1962**
- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**: factory-built units generating 30-300 MWe
- **AERB** (regulator, est. 1983) to apply annual compliance monitoring to private licensees
- Licence-seekers must tie up with a recognised technology provider
- NTPC has partnered Holtec International (SMR-300 design), signed an MoU with France's EDF, and holds a Rosatom agreement for VVER reactors
- India is seeking foreign technology partnerships to build a domestic SMR ecosystem

MUST KNOW

- The **SHANTI Act** marks the first entry of private players into nuclear power generation since the Atomic Energy Act 1962 reserved it for the State
- Private licensees remain gated by AERB safety licensing — ownership opens up, but safety oversight does not loosen
- SMRs (30-300 MWe) differ from large reactors mainly in scale and factory-built modularity, not in regulatory rigour

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **AERB** = Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, constituted 1983 under the Atomic Energy Act 1962, India's nuclear safety regulator
- **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) 2010** fixes operator liability with supplier recourse in a nuclear accident
- India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement (2008) and the NSG waiver enabled India's global civil nuclear trade despite being outside the NPT
- **NPCIL** = Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, traditionally the sole operator of India's nuclear plants

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the shift from State monopoly (Atomic Energy Act 1962) to regulated private participation (SHANTI Act) — a fresh legal-current-affairs crossover on nuclear-power governance.

PROVISIONS

Atomic Energy Act 1962, SHANTI Act 2025 (assent 21 Dec 2025), Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 (CLNDA)

BODIES & CASES

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), NPCIL, IAEA

Common Error: Don't confuse the SHANTI Act (private-participation reform) with CLNDA 2010 (liability/compensation framework) — they answer different legal questions.

US Moves to Vet Frontier AI as Global Governance Debate Sharpens



The United States is moving toward mandatory government vetting of the most advanced 'frontier' AI systems — reportedly requiring developers to submit cutting-edge models for a national-security review, with a proposed 30-day window before public release. The shift, driven by the dual-use risk that top-tier AI could lower barriers to cyber-attacks, bioweapons development or disinformation, marks a move away from light-touch self-regulation toward direct state oversight. It comes against a wider global push: the UN General Assembly has set up a **Global Dialogue on AI Governance** and an IPCC-style Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, while the **EU AI Act (2024)** remains the most comprehensive risk-tiered framework.

QUICK FACTS

- US proposes mandatory national-security vetting of frontier AI models before public release (~30-day review window)
- UNGA-established **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** — IPCC-analogue, periodic assessments
- Prof. B Ravindran (IIT Madras) is the sole Indian member of this UN panel (3-year term)
- UNGA also set up a **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**
- EU AI Act (2024)**: most comprehensive risk-tiered framework — prohibited / high / limited / minimal risk categories
- New Delhi AI Impact Summit held February 2026
- India to host a **Trusted AI Commons** (partly at IIT Madras) to prevent weaker economies becoming dependent 'digital colonies'

MUST KNOW

- Memorise: IPCC-analogue UN AI panel + EU AI Act's four risk tiers + the 'digital colonies' concern — a high-probability emerging-tech GK combo
- The shift from self-regulation to state vetting of frontier AI parallels export-control logic — treating advanced AI models as strategic/dual-use assets
- Distinguish the Global Dialogue on AI Governance (deliberative forum) from the Independent Scientific Panel (technical assessment body)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- EU AI Act 2024 risk tiers: prohibited, high-risk, limited-risk, minimal-risk
- 'Digital colonies' — term for weak-capacity nations becoming dependent on foreign AI infrastructure without shared governance tools

- IT Act 2000 §79** = intermediary safe harbour; **§69** = government interception powers (commonly confused pair)
- DPDP Act 2023** = India's Digital Personal Data Protection law

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests global AI-governance architecture (UN panel, EU AI Act) alongside India's digital-law framework (IT Act, DPDP Act) — a recurring emerging-tech + legal crossover.

PROVISIONS

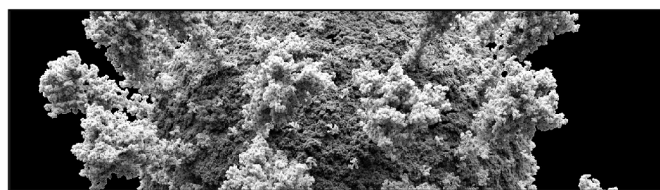
UNGA resolution on AI governance, EU AI Act 2024, IT Act 2000 §§69 & 79, DPDP Act 2023

BODIES & CASES

Independent International Scientific Panel on AI (UN), Global Dialogue on AI Governance (UNGA), IIT Madras

Common Error: Examiners often pair IT Act section numbers with the wrong function — §79 is safe harbour (protection), §69 is interception (surveillance power).

India Tightens Cough-Syrup Sales After Child Deaths; Cervavac Nears Rollout



The Union Health Ministry has removed the word 'syrup' from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, closing a licence exemption that let general stores in villages under 1,000 population sell cough syrups without a pharmacist — a response to the deaths of at least 22 children in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district from cough syrups contaminated with diethylene/ethylene glycol. Separately, **Cervavac**, India's first indigenous quadrivalent HPV vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India with the Department of Biotechnology, is likely to enter the Universal Immunisation Programme after 2027 once single-dose efficacy data are confirmed.

QUICK FACTS

- 'Syrup' removed from **Schedule K** (Drugs Rules 1945) — cough syrups sellable only through licensed pharmacies with a pharmacist present
- Trigger: deaths of 22+ children in Chhindwara, MP, from diethylene/ethylene-glycol-contaminated cough syrups (industrial-grade propylene glycol)
- Cervavac** = India's first indigenous quadrivalent HPV vaccine (Serum Institute of India + Dept of Biotechnology)
- Cervavac likely to enter the Universal Immunisation Programme after 2027, pending single-dose efficacy confirmation
- NTAGI** has recommended Cervavac's inclusion
- HPV causes ~85% of cervical cancers — India's second most common cancer among women (~75,000 deaths/year)
- Cervavac targets girls aged 14; ~1.15 crore girls turn 14 annually in India

MUST KNOW

- Schedule K** lists licence exemptions under the Drugs Rules 1945; distinct from **Schedules H/H1**, which list prescription-only drugs — keep these apart
- The Universal Immunisation Programme was launched in 1985; Mission Indradhanush (2014) strengthened its last-mile coverage
- Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker by

volume

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NTAGI = India's apex immunisation advisory body; GAVI supports global vaccine access
- Health is Entry 6, State List, Seventh Schedule — but drug regulation runs through central CDSCO/DCGI oversight
- Right to Health flows from Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Drugs and Cosmetics Act framework (Schedule K exemptions vs Schedule H/H1 prescription rules) alongside Article 21's Right to Health and India's immunisation-policy architecture.

PROVISIONS

Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Drugs Rules 1945, Schedule K (Entry 13), Article 21 (Right to Health), Seventh Schedule, State List Entry 6 (Health)

BODIES & CASES

CDSCO/DCGI, NTAGI, Serum Institute of India, ICMR

Common Error: Schedule K lists licence exemptions (now narrowed); Schedules H/H1 list prescription-only drugs — students often conflate the two.

orbits) from GSLV (heavier payloads, geosynchronous orbits) — a common confusion

- Back-to-back failures directly affect Gaganyaan's timeline since PSLV/GSLV missions feed India's human-spaceflight preparation

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- India's spaceport: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- IN-SPACe and NSIL are the newer bodies enabling private/commercial space activity in India
- Gaganyaan = India's crewed human-spaceflight mission

CLAT / Legal Lens

Static space-GK combined with institutional facts (ISRO milestones, spaceport location, IN-SPACe/NSIL roles) — a low-legal, high-yield GK topic.

BODIES & CASES

ISRO, IN-SPACe, NSIL, Satish Dhawan Space Centre

Common Error: Don't confuse PSLV (Chandrayaan-1, Mangalyaan, 104-satellite record) with GSLV (heavier communication-satellite launches).

ISRO Eyes PSLV Return to Flight After Back-to-Back Failures



ISRO is preparing another **PSLV** launch attempt around end-June/July 2026, after two consecutive failures of India's workhorse rocket — EOS-09 in January 2026 and EOS-08 in May 2025 (a third-stage anomaly). Engineers have changed the components implicated in the faults, though the full failure-assessment report remains unpublished. The extended launch pause has disrupted ISRO's broader mission calendar, including preparations for the crewed Gaganyaan programme.

QUICK FACTS

- **PSLV** = Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, ISRO's 4-stage workhorse rocket
- No PSLV launch since EOS-09 failed in January 2026; EOS-08 failed in May 2025 (third-stage anomaly)
- Comeback flagged by Union MoS (Science & Tech) Dr Jitendra Singh, targeted end-June/July 2026
- Faulty components have been changed; failure-assessment report not yet public
- Pause has disrupted ISRO's mission calendar, including the crewed **Gaganyaan** programme
- Operates from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

MUST KNOW

- PSLV previously carried Chandrayaan-1 and the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) and set a world record launching 104 satellites in one mission (2017)
- Distinguish PSLV (workhorse, medium-lift, sun-synchronous

NHAI Deploys In-House AI to Catch Faulty Highway Project Reports



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), is rolling out an in-house AI system to flag defects in **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)** before highway construction begins. Trained on NHAI's circulars, Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes and MoRTH policy documents, the tool includes a 'Technical Schedule Analyzer' reviewing DPR Schedules B and C, and can even assess defects from an uploaded photograph. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has long flagged faulty DPRs as a recurring problem, with poor project preparation contributing to cost overruns of Rs 200-300 crore on individual projects.

QUICK FACTS

- **NHAI** (under MoRTH) deploys in-house AI to audit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new highways
- Accessible to NHAI officials, consultants and contractors
- Trained on NHAI circulars, **Indian Roads Congress (IRC)** codes and MoRTH policy documents
- 'Technical Schedule Analyzer' reviews DPR Schedules B & C for technical/financial consistency
- Can flag faulty signage designs and assess defects from an uploaded photo
- Faulty DPRs linked to project-cost variations of Rs 200-300 crore per project (flagged repeatedly by Minister Nitin Gadkari)

MUST KNOW

- This is a live example of algorithmic decision-support entering public infrastructure governance — raising accountability/transparency questions about human oversight of AI-flagged decisions
- NHAI functions under MoRTH; distinguish NHAI (project-

execution body) from IRC (technical standards-setting body)

- DPR = Detailed Project Report, the foundational document before any highway project's construction begins

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- NHAI was constituted under the **National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988**
- **National Highways Act, 1956** governs declaration and development of national highways
- Indian Roads Congress (IRC) sets technical standards/codes for road engineering in India

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests AI-in-governance and algorithmic accountability — an emerging CLAT legal-reasoning theme — layered onto NHAI's statutory basis and infrastructure-cost-overrun facts.

PROVISIONS

National Highways Authority of India Act 1988, National Highways Act 1956

BODIES & CASES

NHAI, MoRTH, Indian Roads Congress (IRC)

Common Error: Don't confuse NHAI (statutory highway-executing authority under the 1988 Act) with IRC (a professional body that only sets technical standards, not a statutory regulator).

MUST KNOW

- Exascale = 10^{18} FLOPS; remember this exact order of magnitude
- TOP500 ranks machines using the LINPACK benchmark — a recurring fact pairing
- This is compute/semiconductor sovereignty GK, relevant alongside India's own National Supercomputing Mission

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- TOP500 = biannual global ranking of the fastest supercomputers (published since 1993)
- US export controls / Entity List restrict Chinese access to advanced semiconductor technology
- India's National Supercomputing Mission is the domestic policy analogue for building compute capacity

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests technology-sovereignty and semiconductor-geopolitics GK — an increasingly common CLAT theme linking AI-compute infrastructure to trade/export-control law.

BODIES & CASES

TOP500, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, National Supercomputing Centre, Shenzhen

Common Error: Don't confuse 'exascale' (10^{18} FLOPS) with 'petascale' (10^{15} FLOPS) — a factor-of-1000 difference that examiners test directly.

China's 'LineShine' Overtakes US to Top TOP500 Supercomputer List



China has displaced the United States atop the **TOP500** ranking of the world's fastest supercomputers, with its 'LineShine' system at the National Supercomputing Centre in Shenzhen surpassing the previous leader, 'El Capitan', at the US Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The June 2026 ranking, based on the LINPACK benchmark, reflects Beijing's push toward computing self-sufficiency using domestically designed chips, developed amid years of US export controls restricting China's access to advanced semiconductors. Some experts caution the achievement may say more about China's drive to project compute self-reliance than its true standing in the broader AI race, since China had skipped several recent TOP500 submission cycles.

QUICK FACTS

- China's 'LineShine' (National Supercomputing Centre, Shenzhen) topped the TOP500 list, June 2026, overtaking the US's 'El Capitan' (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory)
- Ranking based on the **LINPACK benchmark**, which measures floating-point operations per second
- LineShine built on domestically designed Chinese chips, developed amid US export controls (Entity List restrictions)
- **Exascale computing** = at least 10^{18} (a quintillion) floating-point operations per second — the frontier-supercomputing benchmark tier
- China had skipped several recent TOP500 submission cycles before this entry
- Episode highlights semiconductor/compute capacity as instruments of technological sovereignty

Rare 'Seismic Doublet' Quakes Kill Over 160 in Venezuela

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

Two powerful earthquakes — a magnitude 7.2 followed roughly 39 seconds later by a magnitude 7.5 — struck the Venezuelan coast west of Caracas, killing at least 164-188 people and trapping thousands in one of the country's deadliest natural disasters on record. The US Geological Survey (USGS) described the event as a rare **'seismic doublet'**: two independent earthquakes of comparable magnitude in close succession, rather than a single quake followed by an aftershock. Venezuela lies on the boundary between the Caribbean and South American tectonic plates, a strike-slip fault zone, and the shallow ~10 km focal depth amplified surface shaking.

QUICK FACTS

- Twin quakes: magnitude 7.2, then magnitude 7.5 about 39 seconds later, off Venezuela's coast west of Caracas
- Death toll: at least 164-188; thousands trapped — among Venezuela's deadliest disasters on record
- USGS term: **'seismic doublet'** — two independent quakes of similar magnitude in quick succession (not a main-shock/aftershock pair)
- Venezuela sits on the Caribbean-South American plate boundary, a strike-slip fault zone
- Shallow focal depth (~10 km) amplified surface shaking and worsened damage
- World leaders, including India's PM Narendra Modi, offered condolences/assistance

MUST KNOW

- Distinguish a **seismic doublet** (two independent, comparably-sized quakes) from a main-shock/aftershock sequence (one dominant quake followed by smaller tremors)
- **Strike-slip faults** = plates grind laterally past each other, unlike convergent (collision) or divergent (pulling apart) boundaries
- Shallow-focus earthquakes generally cause more surface damage than deep-focus ones of the same magnitude

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- USGS = United States Geological Survey, the global authority monitoring earthquake magnitude and depth
- Fault types: strike-slip (lateral), normal (extensional/divergent), reverse/thrust (compressional/convergent)
- India routinely extends disaster-relief diplomacy to affected nations regardless of bilateral ties — a recurring 'soft power' GK theme

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests plate-tectonics/geography GK (fault types, seismic terminology) combined with India's disaster-diplomacy practice — a recurring geography-current affairs crossover.

BODIES & CASES

US Geological Survey (USGS)

Common Error: Don't call this an 'aftershock' event — USGS specifically classified it as a seismic doublet: two independent, comparably powerful earthquakes, not a main shock followed by a lesser aftershock.

MUST KNOW

- **BrahMos** = supersonic cruise missile (India-Russia JV); **LRLACM** = India's own subsonic, longer-range cruise missile — exams test cruise-vs-ballistic and BrahMos-vs-LRLACM distinctions
- Fibre-optic drones defeat radio 'soft-kill' jamming — only physical 'hard-kill' interception works against them
- Institutional anchor: **Article 53** (Supreme Command of Armed Forces vests in the President) + **Article 73** (Union executive power on Defence, Union List Entry 1, 2, 7)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **DRDO** — Defence Research and Development Organisation, under the Ministry of Defence
- Defence indigenisation driven by **Atmanirbhar Bharat/Make in India** and the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020**
- Cruise missiles fly within the atmosphere on a guided path; ballistic missiles follow a parabolic trajectory after powered launch

CLAT / Legal Lens

Indigenous defence systems and DRDO missile programmes are recurring CLAT S&T/defence GK; procurement sits within the Defence Acquisition Procedure framework.

PROVISIONS

Article 53 (Supreme Command of Armed Forces), Article 73 (Union executive power)

BODIES & CASES

DRDO, Ministry of Defence

Common Error: Calling LRLACM 'supersonic' (it is subsonic) or conflating it with BrahMos.

SECTION 07 / 11

DEFENCE & SECURITY**DRDO Validates Layered Missile Defence as Army Chief Pushes Drone Doctrine**

Army Chief **General Upendra Dwivedi** (retiring end-June 2026) said the army's aim is to structurally absorb drones into training and operations, not just procure them, reflecting two years of accelerated UAV, loitering-munition and counter-UAS induction. Separately, on 10-11 June 2026 **DRDO** conducted three successful flight tests validating India's multi-layered **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** system and the maiden test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile, alongside the indigenous **LRLACM** cruise missile.

QUICK FACTS

- Army Chief **Gen. Upendra Dwivedi** — doctrinal shift toward structured drone integration, not just procurement
- **DRDO** flight tests (10-11 June 2026) validated multi-layered **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)**
- Maiden test of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM)**
- **LRLACM** — Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile, India's indigenous subsonic cruise missile
- Context: post-Operation Sindoor push on counter-drone systems

President Confers Gallantry Awards, Names Operation Sindoor Fallen

President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred seven Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras at Phase-I of the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (8 June) at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The ceremony marked a first: India officially named six Armed Forces personnel killed in **Operation Sindoor** (May 2025), inscribing them on the Roll of Honour at the National War Memorial.

QUICK FACTS

- President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred 7 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 29 Shaurya Chakras (8 June 2026, Rashtrapati Bhawan)
- First official naming of six personnel killed in **Operation Sindoor** (May 2025)
- Highest honour of the day: posthumous **Vir Chakra** to Rifleman Sunil Kumar, 4th Bn, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry
- Sergeant Surinder Kumar received the **Vayu Sena Medal**

MUST KNOW

- Wartime hierarchy (descending): **Param Vir Chakra** > Maha Vir Chakra > Vir Chakra
- Peacetime hierarchy (descending): **Ashoka Chakra** > Kirti Chakra > Shaurya Chakra

- **Article 18(1)** abolishes titles but carves out an exception for military/academic distinctions — upheld in *Balaji Raghavan v Uol* (1996)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Service-specific medals: **Sena Medal** (Army), **Nao Sena Medal** (Navy), **Vayu Sena Medal** (Air Force)
- President is the **Supreme Commander** of the Armed Forces
- National War Memorial commemorates fallen soldiers; the Roll of Honour records their names

CLAT / Legal Lens

Art 18(1) exception + *Balaji Raghavan v Uol* (1996) upheld civilian Padma/Bharat Ratna awards; gallantry hierarchy is the single most-tested distinction.

PROVISIONS

Article 18(1) (abolition of titles, military/academic exception)

BODIES & CASES

Rashtrapati Bhawan, National War Memorial

Common Error: Mixing up wartime (*Param Vir Chakra*) vs peacetime (*Ashoka Chakra*) top honours.

PM Modi Commissions Three Indigenous GRSE Warships in Kolkata



PM **Narendra Modi** commissioned three indigenously built naval vessels at Kolkata, all constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** — a stealth frigate, a survey vessel, and an anti-submarine warfare craft — with over **75% indigenous content**, reflecting the maturing depth of India's naval shipbuilding under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

QUICK FACTS

- **INS Dunagiri** — Project 17A stealth frigate with BrahMos missiles, MFSTAR radar, EW systems
- **INS Sanshodhak** — Survey Vessel (Large) for hydrographic mapping
- **INS Agray** — Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft with torpedoes and sonar
- All built by **GRSE**, Kolkata; over **75% indigenous content**, 200+ MSMEs involved

MUST KNOW

- **Project 17A** stealth frigates: Nilgiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, Udaygiri, Vindhyagiri, Dunagiri
- Simultaneous commissioning of a combatant, survey vessel and ASW craft from one shipyard signals shipbuilding-base maturity
- Advances **Atmanirbhar Bharat**/Make in India in defence

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **GRSE** — Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, a Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence
- **Warship Design Bureau** designs the Indian Navy's indigenous warships

CLAT / Legal Lens

Defence indigenisation and named warship classes are reliable GK fodder for self-reliance passages.

BODIES & CASES

GRSE, Ministry of Defence, Warship Design Bureau

Common Error: Mixing up the three vessel types (frigate vs survey vessel vs ASW craft) or their roles.

Kargil War, 1999: Operation Vijay Remembered 27 Years On



On the night of 28-29 June 1999, **2 Rajputana Rifles** assaulted the 'Black Rock' complex in the Drass sector during the **Kargil War**, part of **Operation Vijay** — the Indian Army's campaign to evict infiltrators across the **Line of Control** — supported by the IAF's **Operation Safed Sagar**. The war is remembered each **26 July** as Kargil Vijay Diwas.

QUICK FACTS

- **Kargil War, 1999** — India vs Pakistan, triggered by infiltration across the LoC
- **Operation Vijay** — Indian Army's eviction campaign; **Operation Safed Sagar** — IAF's parallel air campaign
- **2 Rajputana Rifles** assaulted the Black Rock complex (Three Pimples, Knoll, Lone Hill), Drass sector, night of 28-29 June 1999
- Recaptured peaks include **Tiger Hill** and **Tololing**
- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** observed **26 July** — date of formal victory declaration

MUST KNOW

- The **Line of Control (LoC)**, formalised by the **1972 Shimla Agreement**, is a military control line, NOT an internationally recognised legal border
- Gallantry precedence: **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** > Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) > Vir Chakra (VrC)
- Distinguish **Operation Vijay** (Kargil, 1999) from **Operation Meghdoot** (Siachen, 1984) and **Operation Parakram** (2001-02 standoff)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- National Highway 1A (the Drass-Kargil-Leh road) was the strategic lifeline the Kargil heights overlooked
- The Kargil War was fought at extreme high altitude, largely in the Drass-Kargil sector of Ladakh

CLAT / Legal Lens

Kargil War dates, operation names, and the LoC-vs-international-border distinction are recurring, high-frequency CLAT GK facts.

BODIES & CASES

Indian Army, Indian Air Force

Common Error: Calling the LoC an international border; or confusing *Operation Vijay* with *Operation Meghdoot/Parakram*.

SECTION 08 / 11

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

GI Tags 2026: Tripura's Queen Pineapple, Ladakh Pashmina, Assam Muga Silk



India's GI regime made news on two fronts in June 2026: Tripura showcased its already GI-tagged **Queen Pineapple** at a Delhi festival, while the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai granted fresh GI tags to Ladakh's **Pashmina Wool** and Assam's **Muga Silk**. All three fall under the GI Act 1999, India's framework for protecting products whose distinctive qualities are tied to a specific geographic origin.

QUICK FACTS

- **Tripura Queen Pineapple** — State Fruit (2018), GI-tagged; ~11,698 ha, ~1.71 lakh MT/year, ~40,000 MT surplus exported to UAE, Bangladesh, Germany, US
- Tripura Global Pineapple Festival, Delhi, June 27, 2026, ahead of International Pineapple Day
- ₹236-crore **Mission Pineapple** (2020) run under the Ministry of DoNER
- New GI tags (June 2026): **Ladakh Pashmina Wool** (Changra goat, Changthang Plateau) and **Assam Muga Silk** (Antheraea assamensis silkworm, Brahmaputra valley)
- GI Registry located in **Chennai**; tags granted under the GI Act 1999

MUST KNOW

- **Darjeeling Tea** was India's first GI-tagged product (2004) under the GI Act 1999 — the anchor fact for any GI question
- **TRIPS Article 22** covers all GIs; **Article 23** gives extra protection only to wines and spirits — a classic MCQ trap
- A GI tag means only registered producers within the specified region may use the GI mark

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Muga Silk is unique to Assam — golden sheen, cannot be replicated elsewhere
- Pashmina comes from the Changra (Changthangi) goat reared on the high-altitude Changthang Plateau
- GI Act 1999 Rules were notified in 2002; enforcing authority = GI Registry, Chennai

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Geographical Indications of Goods Act 1999, IPR fundamentals, and international GI protection via TRIPS.

PROVISIONS

GI Act 1999, TRIPS Agreement 1994 (Arts 22, 23)

BODIES & CASES

GI Registry, Chennai, Ministry of DoNER, APEDA, WTO

Common Error: Confusing TRIPS Art 22 (baseline protection, all GIs) with Art 23 (extra protection, wines & spirits only); also misremembering Darjeeling Tea's registration year (2004).

12th International Day of Yoga Observed on June 21, 2026



June 21, 2026 marked the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY), with the main national event on Red Road, Kolkata, attended by PM Modi. The Day traces to India's 2014 UNGA proposal and remains a recurring anchor for questions on UN resolutions, India's soft power, and cultural diplomacy.

QUICK FACTS

- IDY proclaimed by **UNGA Resolution 69/131** (December 11, 2014), following PM Modi's September 2014 UNGA address
- Record **177 co-sponsoring countries**; first observance was June 21, 2015
- June 21 chosen as it is the **summer solstice** — longest day in the Northern Hemisphere
- **Ministry of AYUSH** coordinates national observance
- **UNESCO** inscribed Yoga on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in **2016**
- Yoga is rooted in Patanjali's Yoga Sutras and the eight limbs (ashtanga)

MUST KNOW

- Memorise **'69/131'** and **'177 co-sponsors'** — the two most-asked IDY facts
- Pair the **2014 UNGA resolution** with the **2016 UNESCO ICH inscription** — a favourite two-fact combo

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- 2026 main event venue: Red Road, Kolkata
- Ministry of AYUSH formed in 2014 — covers Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy
- UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list operates under the 2003 ICH Convention

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests UNGA resolution mechanics, India's soft-power diplomacy, and UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage framework.

PROVISIONS

UNESCO 2003 ICH Convention

BODIES & CASES

UNGA, Ministry of AYUSH, UNESCO

Common Error: Mixing up the resolution number (69/131) with the co-sponsor count (177), or the proclamation year (2014) with the first-observance year (2015).

Concept Refresher: June's UN Days — Dialogue Among Civilisations and Anti-Drug Abuse



June carries two UN-designated observances of CLAT interest: June 10, the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations (a 2024 UNGA resolution), and June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (instituted by the UNGA in 1987), bracketed in 2026 by India's **Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah** from June 17–26.

QUICK FACTS

- **June 10** = International Day for Dialogue Among Civilizations; proclaimed by a 2024 UNGA resolution (China-led, India co-sponsor)
- UNESCO's **Silk Roads Programme** launched 1988; India has 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah**: June 17–26, 2026, culminating on June 26 (International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, instituted by UNGA in 1987)
- 2026 theme: 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan'; National De-Addiction Helpline **14446**
- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** launched 2020 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- India's substantive anti-drug law: **NDPS Act, 1985**, enforced by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**

MUST KNOW

- Chain the three: NMBA (scheme) → NDPS Act 1985 (law) → NCB (enforcing agency) — a frequent match-the-pair format
- June 10 and June 26 are both UNGA-proclaimed but in different years — don't conflate 2024 with 1987

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ('the world is one family') — India's civilisational-diplomacy motto, also the G20 theme
- SDG-16 covers peace, justice, and strong institutions
- UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1954 underlies domestic anti-drug laws like the NDPS Act

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests UN-designated observance days, UNESCO's cultural-diplomacy mandate, and India's NDPS Act enforcement architecture.

PROVISIONS

Article 47 DPSP (State duty re: intoxicating drugs)

BODIES & CASES

UNESCO, UNGA, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, NCB

Common Error: Assuming both June UN days share one proclamation year — *Dialogue Among Civilizations* is a 2024 resolution, *Anti-Drug Abuse Day* dates to 1987.

Aravalli Rock Art Find and Rakhigarhi DNA Study Deepen Harappan Research

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

Two archaeology stories converged in June 2026: wildlife enthusiasts found ancient rock carvings in the Aravalli forests of Gurugram, and the ASI sent nearly 5,000-year-old skeletons from **Rakhigarhi** — the largest known Harappan site — for DNA and

facial-reconstruction study. Together they sharpen both India's heritage-protection law and the long-running debate over Harappan/Aryan-migration ancestry.

QUICK FACTS

- Aravalli (Bhondsi, Gurugram) rock art: cup-shaped depressions, geometric grids, a large foot-shaped engraving
- Protected under the **AMASR Act, 1958** and the **Aravalli Notification, 1992**
- **Rakhigarhi** (Hisar, Haryana) — largest known Harappan site; five ~5,000-year-old skeletons studied
- Skeletal analysis by the **Anthropological Survey of India**, Kolkata; DNA sent to the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences**, Lucknow
- A 2019 genome study found **no Steppe ancestry** at Rakhigarhi — linked instead to Iranian-related and Ancient Ancestral South Indian lineages
- Mature Harappan phase: c. **2600–1900 BCE**

MUST KNOW

- Article 49 = State's duty to protect monuments; **Article 51A(f)** = citizen's fundamental duty to value heritage — recurring Polity-Culture overlap with the AMASR Act 1958
- Rakhigarhi's 'no Steppe ancestry' finding feeds directly into the **Aryan-migration debate** — a high-yield conceptual link

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Indus Valley/Harappan Civilisation: c. 3300–1300 BCE overall; mature phase 2600–1900 BCE
- Other major Harappan sites: Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Kalibangan
- ASI = custodian of protected monuments under the AMASR Act, 1958

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests AMASR Act 1958 heritage protections alongside archaeogenetics-driven revisions to Harappan history.

PROVISIONS

Article 49, Article 51A(f), AMASR Act 1958

BODIES & CASES

ASI, Anthropological Survey of India, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences

Common Error: Confusing Article 49 (State's duty) with Article 51A(f) (citizen's duty) — often tested as a pair but govern different actors.

Concept Refresher: The Mountbatten Plan and the Road to Partition

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

On June 3, 1947 — its 79th anniversary in 2026 — Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced the Partition Plan that split British India into India and Pakistan. It followed the Calcutta killings, Noakhali, and Bihar riots of 1946, which themselves traced back to the Muslim League's **Direct Action Day** after it rejected the Cabinet Mission Plan.

QUICK FACTS

- **Lord Mountbatten** arrived in Delhi March 22, 1947, mandated to transfer power by June 30, 1948
- **June 3, 1947 Plan:** Punjab & Bengal assemblies vote on partition; Sindh decides separately; NWFP referendum; Boundary Commission under **Sir Cyril Radcliffe**
- Two dominions — India and Pakistan — each with its own Constituent Assembly; transfer of power advanced to **August 15, 1947**
- **Indian Independence Act 1947** (UK Parliament, July 18, 1947) gave the plan legal effect
- Princely states acceded via the **Instrument of Accession**, devised by V.P. Menon and Sardar Patel
- Direct Action Day (**August 16, 1946**), called by the Muslim League under Jinnah after rejecting the Cabinet Mission Plan, triggered the Calcutta killings

MUST KNOW

- The **Government of India Act 1935** continued to govern both dominions until they framed their own Constitutions
- Disputed accessions — Junagadh, Hyderabad, Kashmir — form the historical basis of **Article 370** (read down in 2019)
- Sequence: Cabinet Mission Plan (rejected) → Direct Action Day (Aug 1946) → communal riots → June 3 Plan (1947) → Indian Independence Act (July 1947) → Independence (Aug 15, 1947)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Article 1 of the Constitution: 'India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States'
- Radcliffe Award drew the Indo-Pak boundary in five weeks
- Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) proposed a three-tier federal structure before its rejection led to Partition

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the legal chain from the June 3 Plan to the Indian Independence Act 1947 and the Instrument of Accession mechanism for princely states.

PROVISIONS

Indian Independence Act 1947, Government of India Act 1935, Article 1, Article 370 (read down 2019)

BODIES & CASES

Constituent Assembly, Boundary Commission

Common Error: Dating the Indian Independence Act to August 15, 1947 instead of its actual passage date, July 18, 1947 — the Act preceded Independence Day.

NCERT Restores 'Dancing Girl' Image to Class 9 Textbook



NCERT decided to restore the original, unobscured image of Mohenjo-daro's '**Dancing Girl**' bronze figurine to the Class 9 Social Science textbook's Indus Valley chapter, after reports the figure had been covered up in the new Arts Education textbook over its nudity. The episode is a fresh current-affairs hook onto core, high-recall Indus Valley Civilisation GK.

QUICK FACTS

- **Dancing Girl** — ~10.5 cm bronze statuette made by the **lost-wax (cire perdue)** casting technique
- Discovered at **Mohenjo-daro in 1926** by archaeologist **Ernest Mackay**; dated to c. **2500 BCE**
- Displayed at the **National Museum, New Delhi**
- NCERT restored the image to the opening page of the Class 9 Social Science Indus Valley chapter
- NCERT had earlier defended shading the figure, citing nudity, as 'imagination'
- Historian **Michel Danino** was involved in the textbook's development

MUST KNOW

- Dancing Girl = bronze + lost-wax (cire perdue) technique + found at Mohenjo-daro (1926) — the three facts examiners test together
- **NCERT** (established **1961**) is India's apex school-curriculum body

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Indus Valley Civilisation: c. 3300–1300 BCE overall; mature phase c. 2600–1900 BCE
- Other iconic Harappan artefacts: the **Great Bath** (Mohenjo-daro), the **Pashupati seal**, the '**Priest-King**' sculpture
- Major Harappan sites: Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, Lothal, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests static Indus Valley GK (artefacts, sites, dating) alongside NCERT's role as curriculum authority.

BODIES & CASES

NCERT, National Museum, New Delhi

Common Error: Misdating the Dancing Girl's discovery (1926, Mohenjo-daro) or mislabeling its casting technique — always 'lost-wax/cire perdue,' not carving.

India Halts Paris Auction of Chandigarh's Pierre Jeanneret Chairs



A Paris auction house withdrew a set of heritage Pierre Jeanneret-designed armchairs linked to Chandigarh, scheduled for sale on June 25, after India's diplomatic intervention and two FIRs alleging illegal export of heritage items. The episode showcases India's legal framework for protecting and repatriating cultural property, anchored in the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 and the UNESCO 1970 Convention.

QUICK FACTS

- Chairs designed by **Pierre Jeanneret**, cousin and collaborator of **Le Corbusier**, architect of Chandigarh
- Originally made for public institutions: **Panjab University** and the **Capitol Complex**
- Withdrawal pushed by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, Chandigarh Administration, and Ministry of Culture; two FIRs filed alleging illegal export

- Chandigarh's **Capitol Complex** — UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed **2016** under 'The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier'
- Archaeological Survey of India** serves as custodian under India's heritage-protection framework

MUST KNOW

- Governing law = **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972** — bans export of antiquities and underpins India's repatriation claims abroad
- UNESCO 1970 Convention** against illicit trafficking of cultural property is the international counterpart

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Le Corbusier's works span 7 countries under the same 2016 serial UNESCO inscription
- Article 49 (State duty) and Article 51A(f) (citizen duty) also apply to heritage-repatriation cases
- India's heritage-repatriation diplomacy has grown alongside high-profile antiquity returns from the US, UK and Australia

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 and the UNESCO 1970 Convention as the twin pillars of India's heritage-repatriation law.

PROVISIONS

Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972, Article 49, Article 51A(f)

BODIES & CASES

ASI, UNESCO, MEA, Ministry of Culture

Common Error: Confusing the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 (India's domestic export ban) with the UNESCO 1970 Convention (the international instrument) — know which is domestic and which is international.

Patrice Lumumba: Remembering the DRC's First Prime Minister and Anti-Colonial Icon



A Congolese footballer's goal celebration at the expanded FIFA World Cup, evoking Patrice Lumumba's iconic pose, revived public interest in the DRC's decolonisation story. **Lumumba** (1925–1961), the Democratic Republic of Congo's first democratically elected Prime Minister, led the country to independence from Belgium in 1960 and remains a defining symbol of African self-determination and pan-Africanism.

QUICK FACTS

- Patrice Emery Lumumba** (1925–1961) — first democratically elected PM of the **DRC**
- Led DRC to independence from **Belgium on June 30, 1960**
- Political vehicle: **Mouvement National Congolais (MNC)** — championed a unitary, independent Congo
- Deposed amid Cold War rivalries and secessionist crises; **assassinated in January 1961**
- His remains were returned to his family only in **2022**
- Predecessor colonial regime: **King Leopold II's Congo Free State** (established 1885), one of history's most brutal exploitation regimes

MUST KNOW

- Three anchor dates: DRC's **first PM** → **assassinated 1961** → remains returned **2022**
- Lumumba's legacy is inseparable from **pan-Africanism** and 20th-century decolonisation

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Congo Free State (1885) was King Leopold II's personal dominion, distinct from later Belgian Congo colonial administration
- DRC independence (1960) falls within the broader 'Year of Africa,' when 17 African nations gained independence
- Pan-Africanism as a movement predates decolonisation, tracing to early 20th-century thinkers like W.E.B. Du Bois

CLAT / Legal Lens

Static-GK plus values item testing decolonisation, colonial exploitation versus independent statehood, and sovereignty as a hard-won value.

Common Error: Treating the 2026 World Cup celebration as the examinable 'news' rather than the hook — the testable content is the 1960/1961/2022 decolonisation timeline itself.

MEA Puts Toshakhana Gifts Up for Public Auction for the First Time



In a first-of-its-kind move, the Ministry of External Affairs opened its **Toshakhana** (gift treasury) collection to public auction, offering around 300 gifts received by senior government functionaries during official foreign trips. The move is being read as a transparency push in how the government discloses and manages diplomatic gifts as public assets.

QUICK FACTS

- Auction runs **June 8–30, 2026**; ~300 gifts, priced ₹2,385 to ₹5.17 lakh
- Popular lots: an antique silver box, two **Rolux Yacht-Master** watches, a decorative gold-biscuit silver box from Switzerland
- Toshakhana** = gift treasury for gifts received by public functionaries from foreign dignitaries above a prescribed threshold value
- Gifts above the threshold cannot be retained personally; a recipient wanting to keep one must pay its assessed value
- Proceeds from surrendered-gift sales credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India**

MUST KNOW

- Toshakhana framework governs disposal of foreign-dignitary gifts above a threshold value — a fresh, memorable current-affairs item
- Auction proceeds flow to the **Consolidated Fund of India**, not any discretionary account

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266) is the government's principal account for all revenues and receipts
- Toshakhana rules apply uniformly to senior government functionaries,

not just the PM or President

- This is the first time MEA has opened Toshakhana gifts to public auction

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Toshakhana concept, gift-disclosure rules, and the Consolidated Fund of India as a governance/culture crossover topic.

PROVISIONS

Article 266 (Consolidated Fund of India)

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of External Affairs

Common Error: Assuming Toshakhana gifts can be freely kept by recipients — above the threshold, retention requires paying the assessed value, otherwise the item goes to auction/treasury.

SECTION 09 / 11

AWARDS & PERSONS

Neelkanth Mishra Named India's Executive Director at World Bank; Mahesh Dixit New IB Chief



On 4 June 2026, the Union Government appointed economist **Neelkanth Mishra** as India's Executive Director at the **World Bank** (Washington DC) for a three-year term, confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Separately, 1993-batch IPS officer **Mahesh Dixit** was named the next Director of the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)**, India's principal internal-security agency.

QUICK FACTS

- **Neelkanth Mishra** — appointed India's Executive Director, World Bank; 3-year term effective 4 June 2026
- **ACC (Appointments Committee of the Cabinet)** — chaired by the PM, with the Union Home Minister as the other permanent member
- **Mahesh Dixit** — 1993-batch IPS officer; named Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- **IB** functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs; handles internal/domestic intelligence
- **R&AW** (Research and Analysis Wing) handles external intelligence and reports to the PMO — distinct from IB
- World Bank is headquartered in **Washington DC**, part of the Bretton Woods institutions

MUST KNOW

- **IB vs R&AW:** IB = internal security (Ministry of Home Affairs); R&AW = external intelligence (PMO) — classic MCQ distinction
- ACC composition: **PM (Chair) + Union Home Minister** — decides top bureaucratic and security appointments
- India's Executive Director postings at the World Bank are typically for a **3-year term**

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- World Bank headquartered in **Washington DC**; part of the Bretton Woods system (est. 1944)

- Intelligence Bureau (IB) is one of the **oldest intelligence agencies in the world**, founded 1887
- Executive Directors represent member countries/constituencies on the World Bank's Board

CLAT / Legal Lens

Tests the Bretton Woods institutional architecture (World Bank/IMF) alongside India's internal appointment mechanism via the ACC.

PROVISIONS

Article 73 — Union executive power, Article 75 — appointment process

BODIES & CASES

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), World Bank, Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing, Ministry of Home Affairs

Common Error: Confusing IB (internal security, under MHA) with R&AW (external intelligence, reports to PMO) — a frequently tested distinction.

President Murmu Confers Padma Awards 2026



President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the Padma Awards 2026 at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. JMM patriarch **Shibu Soren** received the Padma Bhushan posthumously; singer Asha Yagnik and tennis legend Dr Vijay Amritraj also received the Padma Bhushan, while cricketer Rohit Sharma and IIT Madras Director Prof. Veezhinathan Kamakoti received the Padma Shri.

QUICK FACTS

- **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri** — descending order of distinction; India's civilian honours after the Bharat Ratna
- **Shibu Soren** (JMM patriarch) — Padma Bhushan, posthumous
- **Asha Yagnik & Dr Vijay Amritraj** — Padma Bhushan
- **Rohit Sharma & Prof. Veezhinathan Kamakoti** (IIT Madras Director) — Padma Shri
- **Satish Shah** (actor) — Padma Shri, posthumous
- Padma Awards conferred since **1954**, on recommendation of the Padma Awards Committee
- Announced annually on **Republic Day**; presented at investiture ceremonies later in the year

MUST KNOW

- **Balaji Raghavan v Union of India (1996)** — SC held Padma Awards are NOT 'titles' barred under Article 18, provided not used as a suffix/prefix to the recipient's name
- Padma Awards are India's **second-highest** civilian honour after the Bharat Ratna

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Padma Awards instituted in **1954**
- **Article 18** abolishes titles (barring military/academic distinctions) — the 'no titles' debate
- Three-tier hierarchy: **Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri**

CLAT / Legal Lens

Civilian honours and their constitutional status under Article 18 — a recurring static-plus-current CLAT GK theme.

PROVISIONS

Article 18 — abolition of titles

BODIES & CASES

Padma Awards Committee, Rashtrapati Bhavan

Common Error: Padma Awards are NOT unconstitutional 'titles' under Article 18 per Balaji Raghavan (1996) — a commonly misremembered holding.

CLAT / Legal Lens

Article 41 is a DPSP, not a Fundamental Right — MGNREGA/VB-G RAM-G converts it into a justiciable statutory entitlement; cite Swaraj Abhiyan v. UoI (2016) on wage-payment delays.

PROVISIONS

Article 41 (DPSP — right to work), Article 21 (right to livelihood), Article 243G, Article 37

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions

Common Error: Don't call VB-G RAM-G a Fundamental Right — it operationalises a DPSP (Art 41) via statute, exactly as MGNREGA did.

SECTION 10 / 11

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES**MGNREGA Replaced by VB-G RAM-G, Raising Guaranteed Rural Workdays to 125****REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES**

From 1 July 2026 the Centre replaced **MGNREGA** (the 2005 Act, 100 guaranteed days) with the **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)**, or **VB-G RAM-G**, raising guaranteed rural wage-employment to 125 days per household. Punjab notified the scheme on 27 June 2026, effective 1 July.

QUICK FACTS

- **125 days** guaranteed rural employment (up from 100 under MGNREGA)
- **Rs 95,692 crore** interim FY2026-27 allocation
- **Uttar Pradesh** tops allocation (Rs 9,721 cr), then West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh
- Funding shift: **60:40 Centre-State** wage sharing (90:10 for NE/Himalayan states) vs MGNREGA's 100% central funding
- Unemployment allowance payable if work not provided within **15 days**
- Effective from **1 July 2026**; Punjab notified it on 27 June 2026

MUST KNOW

- **VB-G RAM-G replaces MGNREGA** — both a name change and a funding-model change (now a CSS)
- **Article 41** (DPSP, right to work) is non-justiciable, but MGNREGA/VB-G RAM-G converts it into a statutory entitlement
- 60:40 Centre-State wage split is the key numeric trap vs the earlier 100% central funding

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- MGNREGA, 2005 = Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- **Article 37**: DPSPs are not enforceable in courts
- **Article 243G**: Panchayats empowered to implement schemes for economic development
- 73rd Amendment (1992) created the Panchayati Raj institutional base for rural scheme delivery

IIP Growth Beats Forecasts in May 2026 as Employment Rate Data Signals Labour-Market Stress

The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for May 2026 grew **5.1% y-o-y**, beating the 4.2% forecast, per MoSPI. Separately, CMIE data showed India's **Employment Rate (ER)** — the share of working-age population employed — falling to 38.7% by March 2026, a truer distress signal than the Unemployment Rate (UER).

QUICK FACTS

- IIP May 2026: **5.1%** y-o-y growth (forecast: 4.2%; April: 3.8%)
- IIP base year: **2011-12**; sectors — Manufacturing (77.6%), Mining (14.4%), Electricity (8.0%)
- **Capital Goods +11.2%** (investment recovery); **Consumer Durables -1.3%** (rural demand stress)
- **Employment Rate (ER)** fell from 42.7% (2016-17) to **38.7%** (March 2026) — CMIE
- Men's ER: 70.5% → 64.8%; Women's ER: 11.8% → **9.4%**
- **PLFS** (MoSPI, since 2017-18) is the official govt survey; **CMIE** is a private continuous series

MUST KNOW

- ER = employed ÷ working-age (15+) population — a truer distress signal than UER
- **UER can fall even as jobs shrink** because discouraged workers exit the labour force (classic trap)
- Eight Core Industries weight 40.27% within IIP — distinguish core industries from the full IIP basket

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- IIP released monthly by **MoSPI**
- PLFS replaced the earlier NSSO Employment-Unemployment Survey (EUS)
- Concepts to know: **jobless growth** and **demographic dividend**

CLAT / Legal Lens

ER vs UER, and PLFS vs CMIE data-source distinctions are the examiner's favourite counter-intuitive traps in labour-market questions.

PROVISIONS

Article 41 (DPSP — right to work)

BODIES & CASES

MoSPI, CMIE, NSSO

Common Error: A falling UER does NOT mean rising employment — always check the ER before concluding job creation.

State of India's Environment 2026 Flags Breached Planetary Boundaries and Rising Tiger Conflict



The **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** and **Down To Earth** released the **State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026** report at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue, launched by **Sunita Narain**. It warns that **7 of 9 planetary boundaries** have been breached, with ocean acidification the latest, alongside rising forest fires and human-tiger conflict.

QUICK FACTS

- **7 of 9 planetary boundaries** breached; **ocean acidification** is the 7th to be crossed
- Extreme weather on **331 of 334 days** in 2025, killing 4,419+ people
- **36%+** of India's forest cover is fire-prone (Forest Survey of India)
- **43 people killed** near tiger reserves, Jan–Jun 2025 (human-tiger conflict)
- India hosts **58 tiger reserves**, **100 Ramsar sites**, and **~75%** of the world's wild tigers
- Global forest cover has fallen to **~59%** against a 75% safe threshold

MUST KNOW

- **Planetary boundaries framework** (Stockholm Resilience Centre / Rockström, 2009) defines 9 limits
- **Project Tiger (1973)** is administered by the **NTCA** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- Tiger-human conflict is linked to **Lantana camara** invasive thickets (~50% of forest/scrubland)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- SOE report is published annually by **CSE** (Sunita Narain, director general)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, **1971**
- Art 48A (DPSP) + Art 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty) — both inserted by the 42nd Amendment, 1976

CLAT / Legal Lens

Art 48A and Art 51A(g) were both inserted by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 — always pair them in environment questions.

PROVISIONS

Article 48A (DPSP), Article 51A(g) (Fundamental Duty)

BODIES & CASES

CSE, NTCA, Forest Survey of India

Common Error: Don't confuse Ramsar sites (wetlands, 100 in India) with Tiger Reserves (58) — different counts under different conventions/laws.

PM Modi Disburses Rs 2,400 Crore to 15 Lakh Beneficiaries Under PMVBRY



On 19 June 2026 PM Modi disbursed **Rs 2,400 crore** to **15 lakh beneficiaries** under the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY)**, India's largest employment-linked-incentive (ELI) scheme, targeting 3.5 crore+ jobs over two years.

QUICK FACTS

- **Rs 2,400 crore** disbursed to **15 lakh** beneficiaries, 19 June 2026, at Vigyan Bhawan
- Introduced in the **FY2026-27 Union Budget**, outlay **~Rs 1 lakh crore**
- Target: **3.5 crore+** jobs over two years
- **Part A:** first-time employees get up to **Rs 15,000** in two DBT instalments
- **Part B:** employers get up to **Rs 3,000/month** per additional worker, for up to 4 years
- India won the **ISSA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security 2025**

MUST KNOW

- PMVBRY is India's largest **Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI)** scheme
- Distinguish Part A (employee-side benefit) from Part B (employer-side benefit)
- Routed entirely via **DBT** (Direct Benefit Transfer)

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Builds on Make in India, Skill India, PM Mudra Yojana, and the National Career Service
- Key concept: converting India's demographic dividend into formal-sector jobs

CLAT / Legal Lens

Flagship central scheme + DBT + employment-linked-incentive model are staple CLAT GK; the FY27-budget origin and the ISSA award add depth.

BODIES & CASES

EPFO, Ministry of Labour and Employment

Common Error: Don't conflate Part A (employee incentive, up to Rs 15,000) with Part B (employer incentive, up to Rs 3,000/month) — examiners swap these figures.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Launches Nirbhay Chetna to Sensitise Male Panchayat Representatives

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** launched **Nirbhay Chetna**, a first-of-its-kind programme sensitising over **17.5 lakh** male elected panchayat representatives on women's safety, via a national ToT in New Delhi (17-19 June 2026) using a cascade training model.

QUICK FACTS

- Targets **17.5 lakh+** male elected panchayat representatives
- Three-day national **Training of Trainers (ToT)**, New Delhi, **17-19 June 2026**
- Uses a **cascade model** — master-trainers train grassroots functionaries
- Constitutional base: **73rd Amendment, 1992** — inserted **Part IX / Article 243**
- Draws on the post-2012 **Nirbhaya legacy** — Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, Nirbhaya Fund
- Dovetails with **Mission Shakti** and **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**

MUST KNOW

- **73rd Amendment = Panchayats** (Part IX, Art 243) — never confuse with the 74th Amendment
- **74th Amendment = Municipalities** (Part IXA, Art 243P)
- Women's reservation in PRIs: **not less than 1/3rd**, raised to 50% in many states

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- The 73rd and 74th Amendments both took effect in 1993, giving constitutional status to local self-government
- The Nirbhaya Fund was created after the December 2012 Delhi case
- Nodal ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj

CLAT / Legal Lens

73rd Amendment = PANCHAYATS (Part IX, Art 243); 74th = MUNICIPALITIES (Part IXA, Art 243P) — never swap them in an MCQ.

PROVISIONS

Article 243 (Part IX), 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992

BODIES & CASES

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Common Error: Don't attribute Part IX to Municipalities — that's Part IXA (74th Amendment); Part IX/Art 243 is exclusively about Panchayats.

SECTION 11 / 11

STATES IN NEWS

Odisha's Free 'KG-to-PG' Education Push, Kerala's PM SHRI Climbdow



Odisha, under CM **Mohan Charan Majhi**, announced **free education from KG to PG** in all government colleges and universities — the first state to claim this full span free — at a cost of roughly Rs 30 crore, targeting economically backward students. Separately, Kerala's CPI(M)-led LDF government agreed to sign the Centre's

PM SHRI scheme MoU 'with riders' after the Centre withheld Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan funds, ending a standoff where Kerala had earlier called the scheme a vehicle to 'saffronise' education.

QUICK FACTS

- **Odisha:** free education KG-to-PG announced; cost ~**Rs 30 crore**; schooling already free up to Class 10
- Odisha to recruit **26,000+ teachers** immediately, rising to **45,000** over coming years
- **Kerala** signed the **PM SHRI** (PM Schools for Rising India) MoU 'with riders' — retains curriculum/school-selection control
- PM SHRI upgrades **14,500+** existing schools into exemplar institutions modelling **NEP 2020**
- Centre had withheld **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** funds from Kerala over its earlier PM SHRI refusal
- Both episodes fall under **education federalism** — a Concurrent List subject

MUST KNOW

- Education moved from the **State List to the Concurrent List** via the **42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976** — the root of every Centre-state education dispute
- **Mohini Jain v State of Karnataka (1992)** first read a right to education into Art 21; **Unni Krishnan v State of AP (1993)** narrowed it to free education up to age 14, paving the way for **Art 21A**
- **Art 21A** (86th Amendment, 2002) is enforced via the **RTE Act, 2009**
- DPSPs **Art 41** (right to work/education), **Art 45** (early childhood care), and **Art 46** (education of weaker sections) underpin state welfare schemes

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- **Odisha:** capital **Bhubaneswar**; CM **Mohan Charan Majhi**; Formation Day (Utkal Divas) — **1 April**
- **Kerala:** capital **Thiruvananthapuram**; CM **Pinarayi Vijayan**; Formation Day (Kerala Piravi) — **1 November 1956**
- Seventh Schedule — **Concurrent List Entry 25** covers education
- **NEP 2020** is a policy framework, not a statute

CLAT / Legal Lens

Education as a Concurrent List subject drives recurring Centre-state friction over funding and curricular control; trace the Art 21A lineage through Mohini Jain and Unni Krishnan.

PROVISIONS

Art 21A, Art 41, Art 45, Art 46, Art 246, 42nd Amendment 1976

BODIES & CASES

RTE Act 2009, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PM SHRI Scheme

Common Error: Do not confuse Mohini Jain (1992, first recognised education under Art 21) with Unni Krishnan (1993, limited it to age 14) — CLAT often swaps these case years/holdings.

Rajasthan and Haryana Sign MoU on Yamuna Water Sharing



On **29 June 2026**, the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Haryana signed an **MoU on enhanced Yamuna water sharing** under the **Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)**, a statutory inter-state body constituted under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956**. The two states chose negotiation over the slower tribunal route the Act otherwise provides, illustrating **cooperative federalism** in resolving a long-flagged Centre-state friction point.

QUICK FACTS

- MoU signed **29 June 2026** between Rajasthan and Haryana on Yamuna water sharing
- Signed under the **Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)**, a statutory inter-state coordinating body
- UYRB constituted under the **ISRWD Act, 1956**
- Yamuna flows through **six states**: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and (marginally) Rajasthan
- Sarkaria Commission (1983)** had earlier flagged inter-state water sharing as a key Centre-state friction area
- MoU route avoids the slower **tribunal mechanism** under the ISRWD Act

MUST KNOW

- Art 262** gives Parliament exclusive jurisdiction over inter-state river disputes and expressly **bars even the Supreme Court** from adjudicating them — the single most-tested fact on this topic
- Entry 56 (Union List)** empowers Parliament to regulate inter-state rivers in public interest, **overriding Entry 17 (State List)**, which ordinarily gives states control over water
- The **ISRWD Act, 1956** was enacted under Art 262 and provides for tribunal-based dispute resolution
- This MoU exemplifies **cooperative federalism** — states resolving disputes by negotiation rather than litigation

STATIC GK & GOOD TO KNOW

- Rajasthan: capital **Jaipur**; CM **Bhajan Lal Sharma**
- Haryana: capital **Chandigarh** (shared with Punjab); CM **Nayab Singh Saini**
- Yamuna originates at the **Yamunotri Glacier** (Uttarakhand) and is the largest tributary of the **Ganga**
- Water is ordinarily a **State List** subject (Entry 17), Schedule VII

CLAT / Legal Lens

Entry 56 (List I) vs Entry 17 (List II) interplay and Art 262's ouster of Supreme Court jurisdiction are among the most reliably tested constitutional-law points in CLAT.

PROVISIONS
Art 262

BODIES & CASES

ISRWD Act 1956, Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB), Sarkaria Commission 1983

Common Error: Art 262 bars the Supreme Court from hearing inter-state river disputes, but does NOT bar Parliament from legislating on the subject via a tribunal — students often wrongly assume no forum exists at all.

PERSONAL NOTES — FACTS & MISSES TO REVISE

QUESTION BANK

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. Under which Article was the 1975 National Emergency proclaimed, citing 'internal disturbance'?
 - A. Article 358
 - B. Article 352
 - C. Article 356
 - D. Article 360
2. The Allahabad High Court verdict that triggered the 1975 Emergency was delivered by which judge?
 - A. Justice P.N. Bhagwati
 - B. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer
 - C. Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha
 - D. Justice H.R. Khanna
3. Which amendment sought to place the Prime Minister's election beyond judicial review, later struck down for violating the basic structure?
 - A. 44th Amendment (1978)
 - B. 38th Amendment (1975)
 - C. 39th Amendment (1975)
 - D. 42nd Amendment (1976)
4. June 25, 2026 marks how many years since the 1975 National Emergency was proclaimed?
 - A. 49 years
 - B. 50 years
 - C. 52 years
 - D. 51 years
5. Under which Article does the ECI derive its power to issue the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968?
 - A. Article 324
 - B. Article 329(b)
 - C. Article 327
 - D. Article 320
6. Which case upheld the ECI's plenary power under Article 324 to issue the Election Symbols Order?
 - A. Mohinder Singh Gill v. CEC
 - B. Kanhaiya Lal Omar v. R.K. Trivedi (1985)
 - C. N.P. Ponnuswami v. Returning Officer
 - D. Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain
7. Which provision bars courts from interfering with elections once the polling process has begun?
 - A. Article 245
 - B. Article 324
 - C. Article 142
 - D. Article 329(b)
8. The right to vote in India is best described as:
 - A. a statutory right under the Representation of the People Act, 1951
 - B. a constitutional right under Article 324
 - C. a fundamental right under Article 19
 - D. a fundamental right under Article 21

LEGAL & JUDICIARY

9. Under which provision of the IT Act, 2000 did MeitY temporarily block Telegram?
 - A. Section 69A
 - B. Section 66A
 - C. Section 43A
 - D. Section 79
10. What directly triggered MeitY's blocking order against Telegram?
 - A. ECI's request over fake news during elections
 - B. NTA's request following non-cooperation during the NEET-UG paper leak probe
 - C. SEBI's request over fraud complaints
 - D. RBI's request over crypto scams
11. Besides the temporary block, what additional restriction was imposed on Telegram?
 - A. Permanent ban on group chats
 - B. Disabling message-editing till June 30
 - C. Blocking file-sharing entirely
 - D. Mandatory KYC for all users
12. Which statement correctly distinguishes a Section 69A block from an internet shutdown?
 - A. Section 69A and internet shutdowns are governed by the same Telecom Suspension Rules
 - B. Section 69A empowers content blocking of specific platforms, while shutdowns are governed separately by the Telecom Suspension Rules
 - C. Section 69A is only applicable to social media influencers
 - D. Section 69A empowers a full internet shutdown, not a partial block
13. The Supreme Court's 'right to walk' ruling anchors pedestrian safety on footpaths primarily in which Article?
 - A. Article 38
 - B. Article 21
 - C. Article 19(1)(g)
 - D. Article 48A
14. What rise in pedestrian deaths over the decade to 2024 did the Court's cited data show?
 - A. Roughly 25%
 - B. Roughly 63%
 - C. Roughly 163%
 - D. Roughly 100%
15. How many total road deaths were recorded in India in 2024, per the entry?
 - A. 2,00,000
 - B. 1,50,000
 - C. 36,526
 - D. 1,77,175
16. How does the 2026 'right to walk' ruling differ from Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)?
 - A. Olga Tellis dealt with footpaths as a safety right, the 2026 ruling as a livelihood right

- B. Both rulings are identical in rationale, both grounded in livelihood right
 C. Olga Tellis was overruled entirely by the 2026 judgment
 D. Olga Tellis read pavements into Article 21 as a livelihood right; the 2026 ruling reads footpaths as a life-safety right for all pedestrians

17. Per UIDAI's August 2023 notification, what does an Aadhaar number establish?

- A. Nothing legally binding
 B. Citizenship and identity both
 C. Address and date of birth conclusively
 D. Identity only, not citizenship, address, or date of birth

18. Which section of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 states that an Aadhaar number is proof of identity only?

- A. Section 7
 B. Section 33
 C. Section 57
 D. Section 9

19. Which Articles of the Constitution primarily define who is an Indian citizen?

- A. Articles 5 to 11
 B. Articles 25 to 30
 C. Articles 19 to 22
 D. Articles 14 to 18

20. Under which Rules does Form 6 permit Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence for voter registration?

- A. Aadhaar (Enrolment) Regulations, 2016
 B. Citizenship Rules, 2009
 C. Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
 D. Representation of the People Act, 1951

21. How many mandatory arrest and detention safeguards did DK Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997) lay down?

- A. Fifteen
 B. Seven
 C. Eleven
 D. Five

22. Which case established that the State owes public-law compensation for a death in custody?

- A. Joginder Kumar v. State of UP (1994)
 B. DK Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)
 C. Nilabati Behera v. State of Odisha (1993)
 D. Sunil Batra v. Delhi Administration (1978)

23. Which provision of the BNSS mandates a magisterial inquiry into every custodial death?

- A. Section 480
 B. Section 173
 C. Section 105
 D. Section 176

24. Public-law compensation awarded under Nilabati Behera for custodial death is best understood as:

- A. A full substitute that bars any private tort suit
 B. A constitutional remedy under Articles 32/226, distinct from and not a bar on separate tort or criminal proceedings
 C. Compensation payable only after criminal conviction
 D. A criminal penalty imposed on the errant police officer

25. Which landmark case established the principle 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception', applied in the Manesar bail order?

- A. State of Rajasthan v. Balchand (1977)
 B. Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)
 C. Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1978)
 D. Sanjay Chandra v. CBI (2012)

26. The Bombay High Court's retrospective spectrum-levy ruling set aside demand notices issued by which department?

- A. Department of Revenue
 B. Department of Telecommunications
 C. TRAI
 D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

27. Which 2012 case did the Bombay High Court draw on for its reasoning against the retrospective spectrum charge?

- A. Union of India v. Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers
 B. Vodafone International Holdings v. Union of India (2012)
 C. Cellular Operators Association of India v. TRAI
 D. Reliance Communications v. Union of India

28. How do 'legitimate expectation' and 'promissory estoppel' differ as doctrines restraining arbitrary State action under Article 14?

- A. Promissory estoppel is a fundamental right, legitimate expectation is not
 B. Legitimate expectation protects an expectation created by state conduct; promissory estoppel enforces a specific relied-upon promise
 C. Legitimate expectation applies only to contracts; promissory estoppel only to torts
 D. They are identical doctrines used interchangeably

29. Under which parent statute are the draft Telecommunications (Broadcasting) Rules, 2026 issued?

- A. Cable Television Networks Act, 1995
 B. Telegraph Act, 1885
 C. Prasar Bharati Act, 1990
 D. Telecommunications Act, 2023

30. What minimum daily duration of public-interest content must TV channels air under the draft broadcasting rules?

- A. 60 minutes
 B. 45 minutes
 C. 30 minutes
 D. 15 minutes

31. The draft Telecommunications (Broadcasting) Rules, 2026 are best characterised as:

- A. A constitutional amendment
 B. A standalone Act of Parliament
 C. An executive order with no statutory backing
 D. Delegated/subordinate legislation framed under a parent statute

32. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, dealing with anti-defection, was added by which constitutional amendment?

- A. 91st Amendment, 2003
 B. 52nd Amendment, 1985
 C. 42nd Amendment, 1976
 D. 44th Amendment, 1978

33. Under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule, what fraction of a party's legislature members must agree to a merger for the disqualification exemption to apply?

- A. At least two-thirds
 B. At least three-fourths
 C. A simple majority
 D. Unanimous consent

34. Which constitutional amendment removed the 'split' defence from the anti-defection law, leaving merger as the sole exemption?

- A. 52nd Amendment, 1985
- B. 99th Amendment, 2014
- C. 91st Amendment, 2003
- D. 97th Amendment, 2011

35. Which case held that a Speaker's decision on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is subject to judicial review?

- A. S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)
- B. Ravi S. Naik v. Union of India (1994)
- C. Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker, Manipur (2020)
- D. Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)

36. Which provision of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates 25% reservation for EWS/disadvantaged children in private unaided schools?

- A. Section 8
- B. Section 3(1)
- C. Section 12(1)(c)
- D. Section 19

37. Article 21A, guaranteeing free and compulsory education, was inserted by which constitutional amendment?

- A. 86th Amendment, 2002
- B. 103rd Amendment, 2019
- C. 93rd Amendment, 2005
- D. 42nd Amendment, 1976

38. The enforceable right to education under Article 21A historically evolved from which Directive Principle?

- A. Article 39A
- B. Article 47
- C. Article 41
- D. Article 45

39. In terms of chronology, which came first — Article 21A or the RTE Act, 2009?

- A. Article 21A (86th Amendment, 2002) preceded the RTE Act, 2009
- B. Both were enacted simultaneously in 2002
- C. The RTE Act, 2009 preceded Article 21A
- D. The RTE Act inserted Article 21A directly

40. The EWS reservation was introduced through which constitutional amendment?

- A. 97th Amendment, 2011
- B. 102nd Amendment, 2018
- C. 93rd Amendment, 2005
- D. 103rd Amendment, 2019

41. Which two Articles were inserted by the 103rd Amendment to provide 10% EWS reservation in education and public employment?

- A. Articles 15(6) and 16(6)
- B. Articles 16(4A) and 16(4B)
- C. Articles 15(4) and 16(4)
- D. Articles 15(5) and 16(5)

42. What is the annual family-income ceiling used to define EWS eligibility?

- A. Rs 5 lakh
- B. Rs 10 lakh
- C. Rs 6 lakh
- D. Rs 8 lakh

43. Which case upheld the constitutional validity of the EWS quota by a 3:2 majority?

- A. Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)
- B. Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India (2008)
- C. Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)
- D. M. Nagaraj v. Union of India (2006)

44. Which Directive Principle directs the State to secure equal justice and provide free legal aid?

- A. Article 41
- B. Article 38
- C. Article 46
- D. Article 39A

45. Which case first established speedy trial as part of the Article 21 right to life?

- A. Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979)
- B. M.H. Hoskot v. State of Maharashtra (1978)
- C. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)
- D. Sunil Batra v. Delhi Administration (1978)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

46. What percentage of global crude oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz?

- A. Roughly 50%
- B. Roughly 60%
- C. Roughly 20%
- D. Roughly 34%

47. The 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal was negotiated between Iran and which grouping, and which country withdrew from it in 2018?

- A. G7; France
- B. P3+1; United Kingdom
- C. P5+1; United States
- D. BRICS; Russia

48. Which UNCLOS passage regime bars a coastal state from suspending transit through straits used for international navigation, such as Hormuz?

- A. Archipelagic sea lanes passage
- B. Innocent passage
- C. Transit passage
- D. Contiguous zone passage

49. Israel's recapture of Lebanon's Beaufort Castle, its deepest incursion in 25 years, ended a period during which it had last held the castle. What was that period?

- A. 1990-2005
- B. 2006-2016
- C. 1982-2000
- D. 1975-1995

50. PM Modi's June 2026 Seychelles visit marked the Golden Jubilee of the island nation's independence, celebrating how many years?

- A. 40 years
- B. 60 years
- C. 75 years
- D. 50 years

51. Vision MAHASAGAR, advanced during Modi's Seychelles visit, is the 2026 successor to which 2015 doctrine?

- A. SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- B. Act East Policy
- C. Neighbourhood First
- D. Look East Policy

52. Under UNCLOS 1982, what is the breadth of a coastal state's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)?

- A. 12 nautical miles
- B. 200 nautical miles
- C. 24 nautical miles
- D. 350 nautical miles

53. Approximately what share of Seychelles' population is of Indian origin, per coverage of the June 2026 visit?

- A. 25%
- B. 5%
- C. 10%
- D. 15%

54. India's 2026 BRICS presidency theme, 'Sarveshaam Urjam', translates

to what?

- A. Global South Rising
- B. Unity for Growth
- C. Prosperity for All
- D. Energy for All

55. BRICS' only treaty-based institutional arm, established in 2014, is which of the following?

- A. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- B. BRICS Development Fund
- C. Contingent Reserve Arrangement Secretariat
- D. New Development Bank

56. How many new members joined BRICS in 2024, expanding it beyond the original five?

- A. Four
- B. Six
- C. Three
- D. Eight

57. India hosted the BRICS National Security Advisers' conclave in New Delhi in June 2026, chaired by which official?

- A. Amit Shah
- B. S. Jaishankar
- C. Rajnath Singh
- D. Ajit Doval

58. The G4 grouping seeking permanent UNSC seats comprises India, Brazil, Japan, and which other country?

- A. Germany
- B. Indonesia
- C. Italy
- D. South Africa

59. The UNSC's non-permanent member count was raised from six to ten in which year?

- A. 1956
- B. 1965
- C. 1971
- D. 1980

60. Amending the UN Charter to expand the Security Council, under Article 108, requires the concurrence of whom?

- A. All five permanent members
- B. Two-thirds of the UNGA only
- C. A simple UNSC majority
- D. The UN Secretary-General

61. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' second term was set to end in which month and year?

- A. June 2027
- B. March 2026
- C. September 2026
- D. December 2026

62. Cross-border trade at the Lipulekh Pass reopened in 2026 after being shut for how many years?

- A. Five years
- B. Seven years
- C. Three years
- D. Ten years

63. The 1954 Panchsheel Agreement between India and China established

which framework?

- A. A joint military patrol mechanism
- B. Five principles of peaceful coexistence
- C. A bilateral trade tariff schedule
- D. A border demarcation protocol

64. Which India-Pakistan boundary was formally delimited by a treaty instrument, unlike the India-China LAC?

- A. Radcliffe Line
- B. Sir Creek boundary
- C. International Border (Punjab sector)
- D. Line of Control, formalised by the 1972 Shimla Agreement

65. The Lipulekh Pass sits at the trijunction of India, Nepal and which other country, at roughly what altitude?

- A. China, about 17,000 feet
- B. Bhutan, about 14,000 feet
- C. Myanmar, about 12,000 feet
- D. Pakistan, about 15,000 feet

66. Approximately what share of India's oil imports came from Russia as of May 2026?

- A. 15%
- B. 50%
- C. 38%
- D. 25%

67. How many of the five contracted S-400 air-defence regiments had India received by June 2026?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Two
- D. Five

68. CAATSA, which creates sanctions risk over India's S-400 purchase, is best described as what kind of law?

- A. US domestic law with extraterritorial sanctions effect
- B. An EU council directive
- C. A binding UN Security Council resolution
- D. A multilateral WTO sanctions regime

69. Keir Starmer's resignation made him the how-many-th UK Prime Minister in the decade since the 2016 Brexit referendum?

- A. Eighth
- B. Seventh
- C. Fifth
- D. Sixth

70. Labour's 2024 election win under Starmer, with 412 seats, was its largest majority since which year?

- A. 1966
- B. 1945
- C. 1997
- D. 2005

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

71. Under the April 2025 executive order, the US imposed an 18% reciprocal tariff on India. Which legal authority did the US Supreme Court rule invalid when striking down this tariff on 20 February 2026?

- A. Section 301 of the Trade Act 1974
- B. The Countervailing Duty provisions of the Customs Tariff Act
- C. The GATT Article XXIV exception
- D. The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) emergency-powers authority

72. Under which US legal provision has the USTR proposed a fresh 12.5% tariff on Indian textiles, footwear, and clothing?

- A. IEEPA emergency powers
- B. Section 301 of the US Trade Act 1974
- C. GATT Article I (MFN)
- D. The April 2025 executive order

73. What is the USTR's deadline for the proposed 12.5% Section 301 tariff on Indian labour-intensive exports?

- A. 15 July 2026
- B. 6 February 2026
- C. 1 January 2027
- D. 24 July 2026

74. Under the 6 February 2026 India-US joint statement, how much in US goods and services has India committed to purchase over five years?

- A. \$48 billion
- B. \$500 billion
- C. \$900 million
- D. \$250 billion

75. When does the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) take effect?

- A. 15 July 2026
- B. 1 June 2026
- C. 1 January 2027
- D. 1 July 2026

76. India is seeking a duty-free steel quota of roughly what value from the UK, ahead of UK safeguard duties taking effect?

- A. \$48 billion
- B. \$500 billion
- C. \$3.64 billion
- D. \$900 million

77. When does the UK's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), covering steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser and hydrogen, become effective?

- A. 1 July 2026
- B. 15 July 2026
- C. 1 January 2027
- D. 24 July 2026

78. At which G7 Summit venue did European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen commit to sign the EU-India FTA by year-end?

- A. Muscat, Oman
- B. New Delhi
- C. Évian, France
- D. Washington DC

79. Within how many calendar days must a digital-fraud victim report the loss to qualify for maximum compensation under RBI's new 2026 Directions?

- A. Three days
- B. Seven days
- C. Ten days
- D. Five days

80. For a domestic fraudulent electronic transaction, what is the RBI's compensation contribution under the new rules effective 1 January 2027?

- A. 85% of net loss or Rs 25,000, whichever lower
- B. 65% of net loss or Rs 25,000, whichever lower
- C. 85% of net loss or Rs 50,000, whichever lower
- D. 100% of net loss

81. For cross-border fraudulent transactions, what percentage of the loss does the customer's bank absorb?

- A. 10%
- B. 85%
- C. 20%
- D. 65%

82. What was India's share of global ship recycling in 2025, making it the world's top ship-recycling nation?

- A. 90%
- B. 25%
- C. 35.4%
- D. 60%

83. Which Gujarat location hosts the world's largest concentration of ship-recycling facilities?

- A. Alang
- B. Kandla
- C. Surat
- D. Mundra

84. Which domestic legislation implements the Hong Kong International Convention on ship recycling in India?

- A. Indian Ports Act 2025
- B. Merchant Shipping Act 2025
- C. Recycling of Ships Act 2019
- D. Basel Convention

85. How many years has the Sagarmala port-led development programme completed, as marked in this review?

- A. 12 years
- B. 7 years
- C. 10 years
- D. 15 years

86. Who, as RBI Deputy Governor, described the global bond-yield reset as the year's most consequential development?

- A. Poonam Gupta
- B. Sanjay Malhotra
- C. V. Anantha Nageswaran
- D. Michael Patra

87. What level have US 10-year Treasury yields climbed to, as cited in the RBI Annual Report?

- A. 4.93%
- B. 2.52%
- C. 4.40%

D. 1.54%

88. Which NRI deposit type is rupee-denominated, leaving exchange-rate risk with the depositor?

- A. FCNR(B)
- B. NRE (Non-Resident External)
- C. EEFC
- D. NRO

89. What was the year-to-date Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) outflow figure cited for India?

- A. \$580 million
- B. \$7.1 billion
- C. \$48 billion
- D. \$900 million

90. Which state became the first in India to set statutory minimum wages for platform-based gig workers?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

91. Which central statute first legally defined the terms 'gig worker' and 'platform worker'?

- A. Industrial Disputes Act 1947
- B. Minimum Wages Act 1948
- C. Code on Wages 2019
- D. Code on Social Security 2020

92. Which state's 2023 legislation served as the precursor template for gig-worker welfare laws?

- A. Telangana
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala

93. Who launched Bharat Taxi, India's first large-scale cooperative ride-hailing platform, in Gujarat?

- A. Piyush Goyal
- B. Amit Shah
- C. Narendra Modi
- D. Nirmala Sitharaman

94. What share of global critical-mineral processing capacity does China control, per the entry?

- A. 30%
- B. 90%
- C. 17%
- D. 60%

95. How many chemically similar elements make up the 'rare earth elements' group?

- A. 30
- B. 90
- C. 5
- D. 17

96. In which location did the Geological Survey of India discover a major lithium reserve?

- A. Alang, Gujarat
- B. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- C. Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir

D. Kolar, Karnataka

97. As per OECD 2024 data, what is India's Producer Support Estimate (PSE), indicating Indian farmers are net taxed rather than subsidised?

- A. +7.1%
- B. -14.5%
- C. +14.5%
- D. -7.1%

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

98. Which agency declared on June 11, 2026 that El Niño conditions had developed?

- A. India Meteorological Department
- B. US NOAA
- C. World Meteorological Organization
- D. Food and Agriculture Organization

99. El Niño refers to which phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)?

- A. Warm phase of the Pacific
- B. Post-monsoon transitional phase
- C. Cool phase of the Pacific
- D. Neutral/La Niña phase

100. What was the FAO Food Price Index reading in May 2026?

- A. 160.2
- B. 120.5
- C. 130.8
- D. 145.0

101. IMD attributed the 2026 monsoon stall over Maharashtra chiefly to weak cross-equatorial flow and suppression of which oscillation?

- A. Indian Ocean Dipole
- B. Madden-Julian Oscillation
- C. North Atlantic Oscillation
- D. El Niño-Southern Oscillation

102. Delhi's draft EV Policy 2.0 proposes what road-tax waiver for strong hybrid vehicles priced up to ₹30 lakh?

- A. 100%
- B. 50%
- C. 25%
- D. 75%

103. Until what date is Delhi's proposed EV Policy 2.0 tax relief scheduled to remain valid?

- A. December 31, 2030
- B. March 31, 2028
- C. June 30, 2026
- D. March 31, 2030

104. Motor vehicle taxation, the subject of Delhi's EV policy, falls under which legislative list?

- A. State List (Entry 57)
- B. Concurrent List
- C. Union List
- D. Residuary powers

105. The Kasturirangan High-Level Working Group (2013) recommended Eco-Sensitive Area coverage of approximately what share of the Western Ghats?

- A. 37%
- B. 50%
- C. 20%
- D. 64%

106. The 2011 Gadgil Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report recommended Ecologically Sensitive Zone coverage of approximately what share?

- A. 64%
- B. 25%
- C. 50%
- D. 37%

107. Which two states continue to resist the Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area notification, per the entry?

- A. Maharashtra and Gujarat
- B. Tamil Nadu and Goa
- C. Karnataka and Kerala
- D. Kerala and Tamil Nadu

108. The sixth draft Eco-Sensitive Area notification for the Western Ghats, issued in 2024, derives its authority from which statute?

- A. Biological Diversity Act 2002
- B. Forest (Conservation) Act 1980
- C. Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- D. Environment (Protection) Act 1986

109. India's 100th Ramsar Site, announced on June 5, 2026, is located in which district?

- A. Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- B. Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu
- C. Sambhar, Rajasthan
- D. Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

110. Which two countries have more Ramsar sites than India, making India third-largest globally?

- A. China and Australia
- B. United Kingdom and Australia
- C. Mexico and China
- D. United Kingdom and Mexico

111. Which two Indian sites are listed on the Ramsar Montreux Record of internationally threatened wetlands?

- A. Loktak and Chilika
- B. Keoladeo and Loktak
- C. Keoladeo and Sambhar
- D. Sambhar and Chilika

112. In which year and city was the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands signed?

- A. 1975, Geneva, Switzerland
- B. 1982, New Delhi, India
- C. 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- D. 1971, Ramsar, Iran

113. Under the agri-photovoltaics model described, at what approximate height are solar panels raised to let crops grow beneath?

- A. 5 metres
- B. 3.5 metres
- C. 1.5 metres
- D. 2 metres

114. Which body identified nine thermal power plants that could be repurposed as synchronous condensers for grid stability?

- A. Central Electricity Authority
- B. Grid Controller of India
- C. International Solar Alliance
- D. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

115. The International Solar Alliance is best described as what kind of body, distinguishing it from IRENA?

- A. A treaty-based intergovernmental organisation headquartered in India
- B. An informal G20 working group
- C. A private industry consortium
- D. A UN specialised agency headquartered in Abu Dhabi

SCIENCE, TECH & HEALTH

116. The SHANTI Act, opening India's nuclear power sector to private players, received Presidential assent on:

- A. 16 May 2026
- B. 5 June 2026
- C. 21 December 2025
- D. 1 January 2026

117. Before the SHANTI Act, nuclear power generation in India was reserved exclusively for the Centre under:

- A. Atomic Energy Act 1962
- B. Atomic Energy Regulatory Act 1983
- C. Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010
- D. Electricity Act 2003

118. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), as covered under the SHANTI Act's licensing push, generate in the range of:

- A. 30-300 MWe
- B. 300-600 MWe
- C. 1-30 MWe
- D. 500-1000 MWe

119. NTPC is partnering with which company on its SMR-300 reactor design?

- A. Holtec International
- B. EDF
- C. Rosatom
- D. Westinghouse

120. Who is the sole Indian member of the UN's Independent International Scientific Panel on AI?

- A. Prof. B. Ravindran
- B. Dr. K. VijayRaghavan
- C. Prof. V. Kamakoti
- D. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar

121. The New Delhi AI Impact Summit, which preceded India's plan to host a 'Trusted AI Commons,' was held in:

- A. May 2026
- B. January 2026
- C. December 2025
- D. February 2026

122. Under the Information Technology Act 2000, intermediary safe harbour is granted under:

- A. Section 69
- B. Section 79
- C. Section 43A
- D. Section 66A

123. The EU AI Act 2024 classifies AI systems into how many risk tiers?

- A. Four
- B. Five
- C. Two
- D. Three

124. Which word did the Health Ministry remove from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945 to tighten cough-syrup sales?

- A. Injection
- B. Syrup

- C. Tablet
- D. Ointment

125. The child deaths linked to contaminated cough syrups that prompted the Schedule K amendment occurred in:

- A. Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh
- B. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Kota, Rajasthan
- D. Nagpur, Maharashtra

126. Cervavac, India's first indigenous HPV vaccine, was developed by the Serum Institute of India along with:

- A. CDSCO
- B. ICMR
- C. Department of Biotechnology
- D. AIIMS Delhi

127. Prescription-only drug classification under the Drugs Rules 1945, distinct from Schedule K's licence exemptions, falls under:

- A. Schedules P and Q
- B. Schedules M and N
- C. Schedules G and X
- D. Schedules H and H1

128. In 2017, ISRO's PSLV set a world record by launching how many satellites in a single mission?

- A. 96
- B. 100
- C. 104
- D. 108

129. Which two landmark ISRO missions has the PSLV previously carried?

- A. Chandrayaan-2 and Aditya-L1
- B. Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan
- C. Aditya-L1 and Mangalyaan
- D. Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-3

130. The extended PSLV launch pause has disrupted preparations for which of ISRO's programmes?

- A. Gaganyaan
- B. Vyommitra
- C. Antariksh
- D. Bhartiya Antariksh Station

131. NHAI, which is deploying an in-house AI tool to audit highway project reports, functions under:

- A. Ministry of Railways
- B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- C. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

132. NHAI was constituted under which legislation?

- A. Motor Vehicles Act 1988
- B. National Highways Authority of India Act 1988
- C. National Highways Act 1956
- D. Roads Development Act 1988

133. NHAI's new 'Technical Schedule Analyzer' reviews Detailed Project Report Schedules:

- A. Schedules A and D
- B. Schedules C and E
- C. Schedules B and C
- D. Schedules A and C

134. China's supercomputer that overtook the US atop the June 2026 TOP500 ranking is named:

- A. Fugaku
- B. LineShine
- C. Sunway
- D. Tianhe

135. The TOP500 ranking of the world's fastest supercomputers is based on which benchmark?

- A. SPEC benchmark
- B. LINPACK benchmark
- C. MLPerf benchmark
- D. Geekbench

136. Exascale computing, the benchmark tier for frontier supercomputing, refers to at least how many FLOPS?

- A. 10^{18} FLOPS
- B. 10^{15} FLOPS
- C. 10^{21} FLOPS
- D. 10^{12} FLOPS

137. The USGS described the Venezuela earthquakes as a rare 'seismic doublet,' meaning:

- A. Two quakes on different fault types
- B. A mainshock followed by a smaller aftershock
- C. A quake followed by a tsunami
- D. Two independent quakes of comparable magnitude in close succession

138. Venezuela's deadly earthquakes struck along the boundary between which two tectonic plates?

- A. Caribbean and South American plates
- B. North American and Caribbean plates
- C. Nazca and South American plates
- D. Cocos and Caribbean plates

139. At the Caribbean-South American plate boundary, where plates grind laterally past one another, the fault type is called:

- A. Normal fault
- B. Reverse/thrust fault
- C. Strike-slip fault
- D. Blind fault

DEFENCE & SECURITY

140. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's stated aim regarding drones is to:

- A. Procure the largest possible number of drones from foreign vendors
- B. Outsource drone operations entirely to DRDO
- C. Absorb drones into training, operations and fighting doctrine, not just procure them
- D. Replace all infantry units with autonomous drone squadrons

141. DRDO's flight tests on 10-11 June 2026 validated which capability?

- A. India's aircraft carrier launch systems
- B. India's single-layer air defence radar network
- C. India's satellite-based navigation system
- D. India's multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system

142. The 'NASM', which had its maiden test alongside the BMD trials, stands for:

- A. Naval Anti-Ship Missile
- B. Nuclear Attack Submarine Missile
- C. National Aerospace Surveillance Mission
- D. National Air-Space Monitoring system

143. How does the LRLACM differ from BrahMos?

- A. LRLACM is supersonic while BrahMos is subsonic
- B. LRLACM is a ballistic missile while BrahMos is an air-defence interceptor
- C. LRLACM = India's indigenous subsonic cruise missile; BrahMos = supersonic India-Russia missile
- D. LRLACM is a purely foreign import while BrahMos is indigenous

144. At the Phase-I Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026, how many Kirti Chakras were conferred?

- A. Ten, including four posthumous
- B. Seven, including two posthumous
- C. Five
- D. Three, none posthumous

145. The ceremony marked a first by officially releasing the names of personnel killed during which operation?

- A. Operation Meghdoot
- B. Operation Sindoor
- C. Operation Vijay
- D. Operation Safed Sagar

146. Who received the highest gallantry honour of the day, a posthumous Vir Chakra?

- A. General Bipin Rawat
- B. Sergeant Surinder Kumar
- C. General N S Raja Subramani
- D. Rifleman Sunil Kumar, 4th Battalion, Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry

147. India's wartime gallantry hierarchy is headed by the Param Vir Chakra; its peacetime counterpart is headed by:

- A. Kirti Chakra
- B. Ashoka Chakra
- C. Maha Vir Chakra
- D. Shaurya Chakra

148. PM Modi commissioned three indigenously built naval vessels at Kolkata, all constructed by:

- A. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- B. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C. Goa Shipyard Limited
- D. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

149. INS Dunagiri, one of the three commissioned vessels, is a:

- A. Survey Vessel (Large) for hydrographic mapping
- B. Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
- C. Nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine
- D. Project 17A stealth frigate armed with BrahMos missiles

150. INS Agray, one of the three commissioned vessels, belongs to which class and role?

- A. Sanshodhak-class survey vessel
- B. Kolkata-class guided-missile destroyer
- C. Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
- D. Nilgiri-class stealth frigate

151. The three vessels commissioned at Kolkata reportedly carried what level of indigenous content?

- A. Around 40 percent
- B. Exactly 50 percent
- C. Over 75 percent
- D. Under 25 percent

ART, CULTURE & HISTORY

152. Under which Act are GI tags such as those for Ladakh Pashmina and Assam Muga Silk granted in India?

- A. Copyright Act, 1957
- B. Trade Marks Act, 1999
- C. Patents Act, 1970
- D. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999

153. Which product holds the distinction of being India's first GI-tagged product, registered in 2004?

- A. Mysore Silk
- B. Darjeeling Tea
- C. Basmati Rice
- D. Kanchipuram Silk

154. Under the TRIPS Agreement, which Article reserves additional protection exclusively for wines and spirits GIs?

- A. Article 22
- B. Article 23
- C. Article 15
- D. Article 27

155. Ladakh's GI-tagged Pashmina Wool is sourced from which goat breed of the Changthang Plateau?

- A. Kaghani goat
- B. Cashmere goat
- C. Angora goat
- D. Changra goat

156. The International Day of Yoga was proclaimed via UNGA Resolution 69/131 on which date?

- A. December 11, 2014
- B. June 21, 2015
- C. December 11, 2015
- D. September 27, 2014

157. In which year did UNESCO inscribe Yoga on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

- A. 2018
- B. 2014
- C. 2016
- D. 2015

158. June 21 was chosen as International Day of Yoga because it coincides with which astronomical event?

- A. Winter solstice
- B. Autumn equinox
- C. Summer solstice in Northern Hemisphere
- D. Spring equinox

159. How many countries co-sponsored India's 2014 UNGA proposal for International Day of Yoga?

- A. 164
- B. 193
- C. 177
- D. 150

160. The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26) was instituted by the UNGA in which year?

- A. 1990
- B. 1987
- C. 2014
- D. 1985

161. Which law is India's substantive anti-drug legislation, enforced by the Narcotics Control Bureau?

- A. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- B. NDPS Act, 1985
- C. Customs Act, 1962
- D. IPC, 1860

162. The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations (June 10) was proclaimed by a 2024 UNGA resolution led by which country?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. India
- D. France

163. UNESCO's Silk Roads Programme, referenced on Dialogue Among Civilizations Day, was launched in which year?

- A. 2001
- B. 1972
- C. 1988
- D. 1995

164. Which site is described as the largest known Harappan site, from where ASI sent skeletons for DNA study?

- A. Rakhigarhi
- B. Mohenjo-daro
- C. Lothal
- D. Dholavira

165. Which constitutional provision places a duty on the State to protect monuments of national importance?

- A. Article 48A
- B. Article 49
- C. Article 51A(f)
- D. Article 21

166. The mature phase of the Harappan Civilisation is dated to approximately which period?

- A. 1900-1300 BCE
- B. 2600-1900 BCE
- C. 3300-2600 BCE
- D. 1500-1000 BCE

167. The 2019 Rakhigarhi genome study linked the population to which ancestry, notably absent one component?

- A. Iranian-related and Ancient Ancestral South Indian lineages, no Steppe ancestry
- B. East Asian and Steppe mixed ancestry
- C. Purely Steppe pastoralist ancestry
- D. Purely Ancient Ancestral South Indian ancestry only

168. Who chaired the Boundary Commission that drew the India-Pakistan border under the Mountbatten Plan?

- A. V.P. Menon
- B. Sir Cyril Radcliffe
- C. Lord Mountbatten
- D. Sardar Patel

169. 'Direct Action Day', called by the Muslim League after rejecting the

Cabinet Mission Plan, was observed on which date?

- A. June 3, 1947
- B. August 16, 1946
- C. July 18, 1947
- D. August 15, 1947

170. The Indian Independence Act, 1947, giving legal effect to the Mountbatten Plan, was passed by the UK Parliament on which date?

- A. August 15, 1947
- B. June 3, 1947
- C. March 22, 1947
- D. July 18, 1947

171. Who devised the Instrument of Accession used by princely states to join India?

- A. Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan
- B. Nehru and C. Rajagopalachari
- C. Cyril Radcliffe and Mountbatten
- D. V.P. Menon and Sardar Patel

172. The 'Dancing Girl' statuette, discovered at Mohenjo-daro in 1926, was made using which casting technique?

- A. Investment casting (modern)
- B. Die casting
- C. Lost-wax (cire perdue) technique
- D. Sand casting

173. Who discovered the 'Dancing Girl' statuette at Mohenjo-daro in 1926?

- A. Mortimer Wheeler
- B. R.D. Banerji
- C. John Marshall
- D. Ernest Mackay

174. The 'Dancing Girl' is made of which material, distinguishing it from the steatite Pashupati seal?

- A. Sandstone
- B. Terracotta
- C. Bronze
- D. Steatite

175. In which year was NCERT, India's apex school-curriculum body, established?

- A. 1950
- B. 1961
- C. 1947
- D. 1975

176. Pierre Jeanneret, designer of the auctioned Chandigarh chairs, was the cousin and collaborator of which architect?

- A. Walter Gropius
- B. Frank Lloyd Wright
- C. Le Corbusier
- D. Louis Kahn

177. Which Indian law prohibits the export of antiquities, relevant to the Chandigarh chairs controversy?

- A. Customs Act, 1962
- B. Copyright Act, 1957
- C. Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972
- D. AMASR Act, 1958

178. Chandigarh's Capitol Complex was inscribed as a UNESCO World

Heritage Site in 2016 under which listing?

- A. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier
- B. Post-Independence Indian Architecture
- C. Modernist Cities of Asia
- D. Nehru-era Planned Capitals

179. Patrice Lumumba was the first holder of which office in the newly independent Democratic Republic of Congo?

- A. Army Chief
- B. Foreign Minister
- C. Prime Minister
- D. President

180. The Democratic Republic of Congo gained independence from Belgium on which date?

- A. 1885
- B. January 1961
- C. June 30, 1960
- D. August 15, 1960

AWARDS & PERSONS

181. Who was appointed India's Executive Director at the World Bank in June 2026?

- A. Subhash Kashyap
- B. Vijay Amritraj
- C. Mahesh Dixit
- D. Neelkanth Mishra

182. What is the tenure of Neelkanth Mishra's appointment as India's Executive Director at the World Bank?

- A. Four years
- B. Five years
- C. Two years
- D. Three years

183. Besides the Prime Minister, who is the other permanent member of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)?

- A. Union Law Minister
- B. Cabinet Secretary
- C. Union Finance Minister
- D. Union Home Minister

184. Mahesh Dixit, a 1993-batch IPS officer, was named the next Director of which agency?

- A. Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)
- B. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- C. Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- D. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

185. Which Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader received the Padma Bhushan posthumously in 2026?

- A. Champai Soren
- B. Hemant Soren
- C. Shibu Soren
- D. Basant Soren

REPORTS, INDICES & SCHEMES

186. VB-G RAM-G raised guaranteed rural wage-employment from 100 days to how many days per household?

- A. 120 days
- B. 110 days
- C. 125 days
- D. 115 days

187. Which state received the largest share of the interim FY2026-27 VB-G RAM-G allocation?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Bihar
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Uttar Pradesh

188. Under VB-G RAM-G, what is the standard Centre-State wage-sharing ratio (outside NE/Himalayan states)?

- A. 75:25
- B. 100:0
- C. 90:10
- D. 60:40

189. VB-G RAM-G operationalises which non-justiciable constitutional provision as a statutory entitlement?

- A. Article 41
- B. Article 39(a)
- C. Article 43
- D. Article 47

190. What was India's IIP year-on-year growth for May 2026, as released by MoSPI?

- A. 5.1%
- B. 6.0%
- C. 4.2%
- D. 3.8%

191. The Index of Industrial Production is currently based on which base year?

- A. 2004-05
- B. 2011-12
- C. 2015-16
- D. 2017-18

192. Per CMIE data cited in the report, India's Employment Rate fell from 42.7% (2016-17) to what level by March 2026?

- A. 38.7%
- B. 35.2%
- C. 36.9%
- D. 40.1%

193. Which sector carries the largest weight in the IIP basket?

- A. Electricity
- B. Manufacturing
- C. Mining
- D. Capital Goods

194. Which organisation released the State of India's Environment 2026 report?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Forest Survey of India

- C. National Tiger Conservation Authority
- D. Centre for Science and Environment

195. How many of the nine planetary boundaries has the SoE 2026 report found to be breached?

- A. Eight
- B. Six
- C. Five
- D. Seven

196. India currently has how many tiger reserves under Project Tiger, per the report?

- A. 70
- B. 62
- C. 58
- D. 53

197. Which invasive plant species is linked to tigers moving closer to human settlements?

- A. Parthenium
- B. Prosopis juliflora
- C. Lantana camara
- D. Water hyacinth

198. Under PMVBRY, what is the maximum DBT benefit a first-time employee receives under Part A?

- A. Rs 15,000
- B. Rs 10,000
- C. Rs 12,000
- D. Rs 20,000

199. How much did PM Modi disburse under PMVBRY on 19 June 2026, and to how many beneficiaries?

- A. Rs 1,200 crore to 8 lakh
- B. Rs 3,600 crore to 20 lakh
- C. Rs 5,000 crore to 25 lakh
- D. Rs 2,400 crore to 15 lakh

200. Under PMVBRY Part B, employers receive up to how much per month for each additional worker hired?

- A. Rs 3,000
- B. Rs 5,000
- C. Rs 1,500
- D. Rs 2,000

STATES IN NEWS

201. Which Chief Minister announced Odisha's free 'KG-to-PG' education scheme covering all government colleges and universities?

- A. Naveen Patnaik
- B. Pinarayi Vijayan
- C. A. Revanth Reddy
- D. Mohan Charan Majhi

202. Education was moved from the State List to the Concurrent List by which constitutional amendment?

- A. 42nd Amendment, 1976
- B. 86th Amendment, 2002
- C. 44th Amendment, 1978
- D. 73rd Amendment, 1992

203. Kerala's LDF government agreed to sign which Centre scheme 'with riders', after earlier refusing it over curriculum-control concerns?

- A. PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India)
- B. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
- C. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- D. Ayushman Bharat

204. Article 21A, guaranteeing free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14, was inserted by which amendment?

- A. 42nd Amendment, 1976
- B. 91st Amendment, 2003
- C. 73rd Amendment, 1992
- D. 86th Amendment, 2002

205. The Rajasthan-Haryana MoU on Yamuna water sharing (29 June 2026) was signed under the aegis of which statutory body?

- A. Central Water Commission
- B. Ganga River Basin Authority
- C. Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)
- D. National Water Development Agency

206. Which Article bars even the Supreme Court from adjudicating inter-state river water disputes?

- A. Article 262
- B. Article 131
- C. Article 263
- D. Article 32

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 C	3 C	4 D	5 A	6 B	7 D	8 A	9 A	10 B
11 B	12 B	13 B	14 C	15 D	16 D	17 D	18 D	19 A	20 C
21 C	22 C	23 D	24 B	25 C	26 B	27 B	28 B	29 D	30 C
31 D	32 B	33 A	34 C	35 D	36 C	37 A	38 D	39 A	40 D
41 A	42 D	43 A	44 D	45 A	46 D	47 C	48 C	49 C	50 D
51 A	52 B	53 B	54 D	55 D	56 B	57 D	58 A	59 B	60 A
61 D	62 B	63 B	64 D	65 A	66 C	67 B	68 A	69 B	70 C
71 D	72 B	73 D	74 B	75 A	76 D	77 C	78 C	79 D	80 A
81 C	82 C	83 A	84 C	85 A	86 A	87 C	88 B	89 A	90 D
91 D	92 B	93 B	94 B	95 D	96 C	97 B	98 B	99 A	100 C
101 B	102 B	103 D	104 A	105 A	106 A	107 C	108 D	109 D	110 D
111 B	112 D	113 B	114 B	115 A	116 C	117 A	118 A	119 A	120 A
121 D	122 B	123 A	124 B	125 A	126 C	127 D	128 C	129 B	130 A
131 C	132 B	133 C	134 B	135 B	136 A	137 D	138 A	139 C	140 C
141 D	142 A	143 C	144 B	145 B	146 D	147 B	148 A	149 D	150 C
151 C	152 D	153 B	154 B	155 D	156 A	157 C	158 C	159 C	160 B
161 B	162 B	163 C	164 A	165 B	166 B	167 A	168 B	169 B	170 D
171 D	172 C	173 D	174 C	175 B	176 C	177 C	178 A	179 C	180 C
181 D	182 D	183 D	184 C	185 C	186 C	187 D	188 D	189 A	190 A
191 B	192 A	193 B	194 D	195 D	196 C	197 C	198 A	199 D	200 A
201 D	202 A	203 A	204 D	205 C	206 A				



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