

MARCH 2026 • PART II

Rights, Reserves & Global Reports

Five more stories that CLAT 2027 will test – with every angle decoded.

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Flagship Stories

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Articles Invoked

03

Global Benchmarks

02

Key Acts Covered

The Next Five Stories

Policy, public health, economy & digital governance – all in one hour.

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SC Status After Religious Conversion

Article 341, 1950 Order, Balakrishnan Commission

07

World Tuberculosis Day 2026

Robert Koch, NTEP, End TB Strategy

08

India's Forex Reserves Decline

RBI intervention, FEMA, import cover

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Social Media Addiction Trial (USA)

Section 230, First Amendment, minor harm

10

World Air Quality Report 2025

IQAir, PM2.5, India's rank

Scheduled Caste Status After Religious Conversion

"Does caste survive a change of faith? The Constitution's most unresolved question."

Article 341

1950 Order

Soosai

K.P. Manu

Balakrishnan Commission

Includes: Hindus (1950), Sikhs (1956), Buddhists (1990) • Excludes: Christians, Muslims

The Legal Architecture

Article 341 + the Presidential Order that defines SC boundaries.

ARTICLE 341 — THE FOUNDATION

- ▶ President specifies which castes are SCs
- ▶ President acts after consultation with Governor
- ▶ Parliament may by law amend the list
- ▶ Notifications state-specific (varies by state)
- ▶ Judicial review on who qualifies is limited

📌 **SC status is NOT automatic — it is legally defined & restricted.**

1950 PRESIDENTIAL ORDER — EVOLUTION

1950

HINDUS ONLY

Original Constitution (SCs) Order restricted SC status to Hindus.

1956

SIKHS ADDED

Amendment extends SC status to Sikhs.

1990

BUDDHISTS ADDED

Further amendment — Buddhists included.

Now

EXCLUDED

Christians & Muslims — NOT eligible (as of 2026).

Three Judgments That Define the Law

Commit these case names + ratios – CLAT staple.

Soosai v. Union of India



SC STATUS DENIED to Christian converts. Court required PROOF that social discrimination persists after conversion to sustain claim.

Indra Sawhney v. Union of India



Clarified RESERVATION PRINCIPLES. Distinguished SCs from OBCs. Laid down 50% cap & creamy layer concept (OBC).

K.P. Manu v. Scrutiny Committee



RECONVERSION to Hinduism → SC status MAY be restored, provided the community accepts the person back.

⚡ **K. G. Balakrishnan Commission (2022) — examining SC status for Dalit Christians & Muslims. Still under policy review.**

The Great Debate

Two principled positions, both constitutional.

✓ FOR INCLUDING CONVERTS

- Social discrimination survives religion change
- Converts still face untouchability-like practices
- Equality (Art 14) requires substantive outcomes
- Non-discrimination (Art 15) cuts across faiths
- Secularism = benefits shouldn't depend on religion
- Supports Freedom of Religion (Art 25)

✗ AGAINST INCLUDING CONVERTS

- Caste is tied to Hindu social structure
- Conversion removes caste-based disabilities
- SC category historically linked to Hindu hierarchy
- Risk of POLICY MISUSE for strategic conversion
- Religious identity ≠ social backwardness test
- Soosai precedent: need proof of continuing harm

World Tuberculosis Day 2026

"24 March – the day Robert Koch revealed the bacillus. 144 years on, India still carries the world's heaviest TB burden."

1882

KOCH DISCOVERY

24 MAR

OBSERVANCE

2025

INDIA TARGET

2030

GLOBAL TARGET

The Disease — Cause, Spread, Symptoms

Memorise these triplets – CLAT asks them exactly.

2026 THEME

"Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver"

Political commitment • Increased funding • Strengthening healthcare delivery

CAUSATIVE AGENT

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Discovered by Robert Koch in 1882

MAIN SITE & SPREAD

Pulmonary TB — affects LUNGS primarily

Airborne: coughing, sneezing droplets

KEY SYMPTOMS

Persistent cough • Weight loss

Fever • Night sweats

India's Burden + Global Response + Rights

Three questions CLAT recycles every year.

INDIA

HIGHEST TB BURDEN GLOBALLY

National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- ✓ Free diagnostic + treatment
- ✓ Nikshay Portal (digital)
- ✓ Nikshay Poshan Yojana (nutrition)
- ✓ Target: Eliminate by 2025
- ✓ Ahead of global target (2030)
- ✓ DOTS + BPaL regimens

GLOBAL EFFORTS

Led by WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

END TB STRATEGY (2015-2035)

- Reduce TB deaths by 95% (by 2035)
- Reduce incidence drastically
- Zero catastrophic costs
- Person-centred care
- Multi-sectoral action
- Research & innovation

LEGAL & POLICY

Right to Health

Derived from Article 21 — access to healthcare

Public Health Laws

Govt can enforce isolation + free treatment

Ethical Issues

Mandatory treatment vs individual liberty

Anti-Stigma

Discrimination against TB patients unlawful

2026 Flashpoints & Memory Hook

Drug-resistance, poverty, stigma – CLAT's favourite triad.

A**DRUG-RESISTANT TB**

Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) rising. Also XDR-TB. Hardest to treat.

B**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS**

Poverty + Malnutrition + Overcrowding = the iron triangle of TB spread.

C**AWARENESS GAP**

Late diagnosis → higher transmission. Stigma suppresses reporting.

**MEMORY HOOK**

"Koch 1882 — 24 March — NTEP 2025 — WHO 2030"

Four-number chain you can recall in 3 seconds during the exam.

India's Forex Reserves Decline

"From a \$645 bn peak to a painful slide – when RBI sells dollars, the rupee buys time."

\$645 bn

2024 PEAK

4

RESERVE COMPONENTS

~10-11 M

IMPORT COVER

RBI 1934

GOVERNING ACT

Anatomy of Foreign Exchange Reserves

Owned by RBI. Four components. One job: stabilise the rupee.

PURPOSE

Stabilise currency • Manage external shocks • Ensure import cover • Build investor confidence

THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF RESERVES

01

Foreign Currency Assets

LARGEST share. USD, EUR, GBP, JPY holdings in deposits, T-bills, bonds.

02

Gold Reserves

Physical gold (some held abroad with Bank of England, BIS).

03

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)

International reserve asset created by IMF — a basket of 5 currencies.

04

Reserve Position in IMF

India's quota-linked entitlement with the IMF, drawable on demand.

Why Did the Reserves Fall?

Four forces pulled the pile down. Two are internal, two external.

A	RBI INTERVENTION RBI SELLS DOLLARS to prevent sharp fall of the Indian Rupee. Every intervention = reserves bleed.	INTERNAL
B	STRONG US DOLLAR US Federal Reserve tightening → dollar strengthens → CAPITAL OUTFLOWS from India (FPIs sell).	EXTERNAL
C	GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY Wars, inflation, oil prices → investors flee to "safe assets" (US Treasuries, gold).	EXTERNAL
D	TRADE DEFICIT Imports > Exports. HIGH OIL IMPORTS worsen it. Deficit financed partly from reserves.	INTERNAL

 **LEGAL: RBI manages reserves under Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 + Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.**

Risks of Falling vs Measures to Defend

The seesaw India navigates every quarter.



RISKS OF DEPLETING RESERVES

Currency Depreciation

Rupee weakens; imports cost more

Imported Inflation

Oil + commodities costlier in INR

Investor Confidence

FPIs flee; sovereign ratings at risk

BoP Crisis (extreme)

Echoes of 1991 when reserves hit ~2 weeks cover

✓ GOVT + RBI COUNTER-MEASURES

Dollar Sales by RBI

Targeted, to smooth volatility

FDI + FPI Attraction

Stable long-term capital inflows

Export Promotion

PLI schemes, RoDTEP, trade pacts

Reserve Diversification

More gold; currency basket mix

Social Media Addiction Trial (USA)

"Are platforms products – or publishers? A legal war for the attention of a generation."

Meta

TikTok

Snap

Google

Section 230

First Amendment

Consolidated under Multi-District Litigation (MDL) in U.S. federal courts

The Three Legal Claims vs Two Defenses

Know the pincer: product liability + negligence + consumer protection.

PLAINTIFF CLAIMS (vs Platforms)

Product Liability

Algorithms maximise engagement → encourage compulsive usage.
"Defective design" harming users.

Negligence

Failure to WARN users of risks & to PROTECT MINORS from harm.

Consumer Protection

Misleading users about safety. Lack of transparency in algorithms.

COMPANY DEFENSES

Section 230 — Communications Decency Act

Protects platforms from liability for user-generated content. "We are PLATFORMS, not PUBLISHERS."

First Amendment

Regulation may restrict EXPRESSION — over-regulation unconstitutional.

User Autonomy

Usage is voluntary; platforms aren't responsible for individual behaviour.

Public Health vs Free Speech — and India's Mirror

The fight goes global. What does Indian law say?

CORE LEGAL CONFLICT

Protecting Minors' Mental Health ✂ *Protecting Digital Free Speech*

FOCUS ON MINORS — DOCUMENTED HARMS

-  Mental health harm (rising in teens)
-  Depression, anxiety clusters
-  Reduced attention span
-  Sleep deprivation
-  Body image / self-esteem impact
-  Schools & parents joined lawsuits

INDIAN CONTEXT — NO DIRECT EQUIVALENT YET

-  Information Technology Act, 2000
-  IT Rules, 2021 (intermediary guidelines)
-  Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
-  Duty of care + age-gating proposals
-  Algorithm transparency under debate
-  Platform accountability = live policy issue

World Air Quality Report 2025

"Delhi tops the capitals. India tops the polluted rankings. Only 14% of cities meet WHO."

IQAir

PUBLISHER

PM2.5

KEY INDICATOR

5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

WHO LIMIT

14%

CITIES MEETING WHO

The Report + The Invisible Killer

Who publishes it, and why PM2.5 is the pollutant that matters.

THE REPORT

Released annually by IQAir (Swiss)

- 📍 Measures global air pollution using PM2.5
- 📍 Coverage: 100+ countries
- 📍 Coverage: thousands of cities worldwide
- 📍 Benchmark: WHO Air Quality Guidelines
- 📍 Widely cited by UNEP, WHO, governments
- 📍 March 2026 report = data from 2025

PM2.5 — THE KEY INDICATOR

Fine particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns

- 🫁 Penetrates lungs AND bloodstream
- 💔 Linked to lung disease, heart disease, stroke
- 👴 Especially harmful to children & elderly
- 🏠 WHO SAFE LIMIT: $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (annual average)
- 🌍 Most countries vastly EXCEED this limit
- 🔥 Sources: fossil fuels, vehicles, crop burning

Global Findings + India's Performance

Where the world stands, and how India compares.

TOP POLLUTED COUNTRIES 2025

1	Bangladesh
2	Pakistan
3-6	India (ranges by dataset)
—	Chad
—	Asia = most polluted region globally
—	Only ~14% cities meet WHO standard

INDIA — ON THE FRONT LINE

Average PM2.5 = ~10× WHO safe limit

DELHI — most polluted capital in the world

- 6-10 of world's most polluted cities are Indian
- Cities: Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad
- Northern India = pollution hotspot
- INDO-GANGETIC PLAIN worst affected
- Causes: crop burning, construction dust
- Traffic emissions + winter inversion

Clean Air — A Constitutional Right

Three Articles that weaponise the AQI report.

Article 21

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT — RIGHT TO LIFE

Includes right to CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. Subhash Kumar, M.C. Mehta line of cases. Pollution violates dignity.

Article 48A

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLE

State to PROTECT & IMPROVE environment, safeguard forests & wildlife. Added by 42nd Amendment (1976).

Article 51A(g)

FUNDAMENTAL DUTY

Every citizen's duty to protect & improve natural environment. Citizen + State share the burden.

 **"IQAir measures, WHO judges, Article 21 enforces — Delhi lives on the edge of all three."**

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 6 • SC Status & Religion

Presidential Orders, the commission lineage, and the SC/ST numbers.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

SC Status & Religion — The Facts CLAT Loves

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

CONSTITUTIONAL & STATUTORY

- Article 341 — SCs (President); Article 342 — STs (President)
- Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950
- Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950
- Pondicherry Order, 1951
- Para 3: originally Hindus only; amended 1956 (Sikhs); 1990 (Buddhists)
- Art 25 Explanation II: 'Hindu' includes Sikh, Buddhist, Jain
- Art 15(4), 16(4): reservation enabling provisions; Art 17: untouchability

KEY COMMISSIONS

- Kaka Kalelkar Commission (1953) — 1st Backward Classes Commission
- Mandal Commission (1979-80) — OBC 27% reservation
- Ranganath Misra Commission (2004-07) — RECOMMENDED SC status for Dalit Christians/Muslims
- Sachar Committee (2005-06) — Muslim socio-economic status
- K. G. Balakrishnan Commission (2022) — CURRENTLY examining SC for converts
- K.G. Balakrishnan — 37th CJI (2007-10), 1st Dalit CJI
- National Commission for SCs — under Article 338

LANDMARK CASES & DATA

- Punjabrao v. D.P. Meshram (1965) — conversion & caste
- Ganpat v. Returning Officer (1975)
- Kailash Sonkar v. Maya Devi (1984) — reconversion
- Soosai v. UOI (1985) — burden of proof on convert
- Indra Sawhney v. UOI (1992) — Mandal judgment
- K.P. Manu v. Scrutiny Committee (2015) — reconversion restores SC status
- SC population: ~16.6% of India (Census 2011); ~20 crore

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Topic 7 • World TB Day

Koch's bacillus, BCG, India's NTEP timeline, new drug regimens.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

World TB Day — The Facts CLAT Loves

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

DISCOVERY & VACCINE

- Robert Koch — German microbiologist; announcement 24 Mar 1882, Berlin
- Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine — 1905
- Isolated *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Koch's Postulates — rules to link microbe to disease
- BCG vaccine — Albert Calmette + Camille Guérin (1921)
- India introduced BCG in 1948; compulsory for infants
- Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) — BCG at birth

INDIA PROGRAMMES TIMELINE

- National TB Programme (NTP) — 1962
- Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) — 1997
- DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course) — 1997
- Renamed National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) — 2020
- Nikshay Portal — digital case management
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana — ₹500/month DBT for nutrition
- PM TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan — launched 9 Sept 2022

GLOBAL & DRUG LANDSCAPE

- WHO End TB Strategy — launched 2014 (2016-2035 horizon)
- Targets: 95% reduction in TB deaths + 90% in incidence by 2035
- SDG 3.3 target: end TB epidemic by 2030
- India target: eliminate TB by 2025 (5 yrs ahead of SDG)
- India accounts for ~27% of global TB cases
- Drug-resistant types: MDR, Pre-XDR, XDR
- New drugs: Bedaquiline, Delamanid; BPAL regimen (6-month oral)

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Topic 8 • Forex Reserves & RBI

From the 1991 crisis to today's 4th-largest reserves – the full arc.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Forex Reserves & RBI — The Facts CLAT Loves

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

RBI INSTITUTIONAL FACTS

- RBI founded: 1 April 1935; RBI Act 1934
- Nationalised: 1 January 1949
- HQ: Mumbai; Central Board + 4 Local Boards
- 1st Governor: Osborne Smith (1935-37)
- 1st Indian Governor: C. D. Deshmukh (1943-49)
- Current Governor: Sanjay Malhotra (Dec 2024–)
- Previous: Shaktikanta Das (2018-24); issues currency, monetary policy, forex

1991 CRISIS & REFORMS

- Forex reserves fell to ~USD 1.2 billion
- Covered only ~2 weeks of imports
- 47 tonnes of gold pledged — Bank of England + UBS (Switzerland)
- PM P.V. Narasimha Rao + FM Dr. Manmohan Singh
- LPG reforms — Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation (24 July 1991)
- FERA 1973 → replaced by FEMA 1999
- WTO entry (1 Jan 1995) + rupee convertibility on current account (1994)

IMF / SDR / GLOBAL RANK

- IMF founded: 1944 Bretton Woods Conference; HQ Washington DC
- India — founding member (1945)
- SDR basket (2022 revision): USD 43.4%, EUR 29.3%, CNY 12.3%, JPY 7.6%, GBP 7.4%
- India's quota at IMF: ~2.75% (8th largest shareholder)
- India forex: ~4th-5th globally (after China, Japan, Switzerland)
- Peak: ~USD 645 bn (Sept 2024)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023 replaces FTP 2015-20

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Topic 9 • Digital Platforms & Law

Section 230, Shreya Singhal, and India's IT regulation stack.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Digital Platforms & Law — The Facts CLAT Loves

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

US LANDSCAPE

- Section 230, Communications Decency Act (1996) — '26 words that made the internet'
- Core: platforms NOT liable for user-generated content
- Gonzalez v. Google (2023) — ISIS content case
- Twitter v. Taamneh (2023) — aiding terrorism claim rejected
- NetChoice v. Paxton (2024) — state content-moderation laws
- First Amendment — free speech limit on regulation
- FTC + state Attorneys General cases vs Meta on teen harm

INDIA'S REGULATORY STACK

- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Sec 79 — safe harbour for intermediaries
- Sec 69A — blocking power (upheld in Shreya Singhal)
- IT Rules, 2021 (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code)
- Amendments 2022, 2023, 2024 — grievance appellate committees
- Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023
- Proposed Digital India Act — to replace IT Act 2000

KEY CASES & GLOBAL PEERS

- Shreya Singhal v. UOI (2015) — struck down Sec 66A (chilling effect)
- Anuradha Bhasin v. UOI (2020) — internet shutdown review
- Puttaswamy v. UOI (2017) — privacy foundation
- UK Online Safety Act, 2023 — Ofcom regulator
- EU Digital Services Act (DSA) 2022 + Digital Markets Act (DMA)
- Australia (2024) — world's 1st ban on social media for under-16
- India banned TikTok + 58 apps on 29 June 2020

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Topic 10 • Air Quality & Environment

NCAP, CAQM, M.C. Mehta, and the constitutional chain for clean air.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Air Quality & Environment — The Facts CLAT Loves

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

KEY PROGRAMMES & BODIES

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) — launched Jan 2019
- 131 non-attainment cities; 40% reduction target by 2026
- CAQM — Commission for Air Quality Management (2021)
- Replaced EPCA (Environment Pollution Control Authority, 1998)
- GRAP — Graded Response Action Plan (Delhi-NCR)
- System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) — IITM Pune
- National AQI scale 0-500: Good / Satisfactory / Moderate / Poor / V.Poor / Severe

GLOBAL BENCHMARKS

- WHO Air Quality Guidelines — 1987, 2005, 2021
- 2021 revision: PM_{2.5} annual 10→5 µg/m³; 24-hr 25→15
- PM₁₀ annual: 15 µg/m³; 24-hr: 45 µg/m³
- IQAir — Swiss company, HQ Goldach, Switzerland
- Stockholm Conference (1972) — 1st UN env conference → WED 5 June
- Rio Earth Summit (1992); Kyoto Protocol (1997); Paris Agreement (2015)
- India ratified Paris Agreement on Gandhi Jayanti (2 Oct 2016)

LANDMARK CASES & ARTICLES

- M.C. Mehta v. UOI — Oleum Gas (1986); Taj Trapezium (1997); CNG for Delhi buses (1998)
- Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991) — clean environment = Art 21
- Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum (1996) — polluter pays + precautionary
- T.N. Godavarman (1996-) — ongoing forest case
- Environment Protection Act, 1986 (post Bhopal 1984)
- 42nd Amendment (1976) added Art 48A + Art 51A(g)
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 — NGT (Delhi principal bench)

06

SC Status After Conversion

Art 341 + 1950 Order. Hindus(1950)+Sikhs(1956)+Buddhists(1990). Christians/Muslims excluded. Balakrishnan Commission (2022).

07

World TB Day 2026

24 March. Koch (1882). Theme: Commit, Invest, Deliver. India highest burden; NTEP target 2025. WHO End TB 2030/2035.

08

India's Forex Reserves Decline

Peak ~\$645 bn (2024). 4 components. Declined due to RBI sales, strong USD, global uncertainty, trade deficit. FEMA 1999.

09

Social Media Trial (USA)

Meta, TikTok, Snap, Google. Product liability + negligence + consumer protection. Defense: Section 230 + First Amendment.

10

World Air Quality Report 2025

IQAir. PM2.5 key. WHO limit 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Top: Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Chad. Delhi = most polluted capital. Arts 21, 48A, 51A(g).

MARCH 2026

Ten Stories. One Month. Every Angle Decoded.

Now open your Practice Sheet – CLAT 2027 is six months closer.

28

MCQs

05

Passages

28 MIN

Time

-0.25

Per Wrong