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# PRELIMS – 2026 POLITY COMPASS 365

Your Complete Polity Edge for Prelims 2026

COVERAGE PERIOD

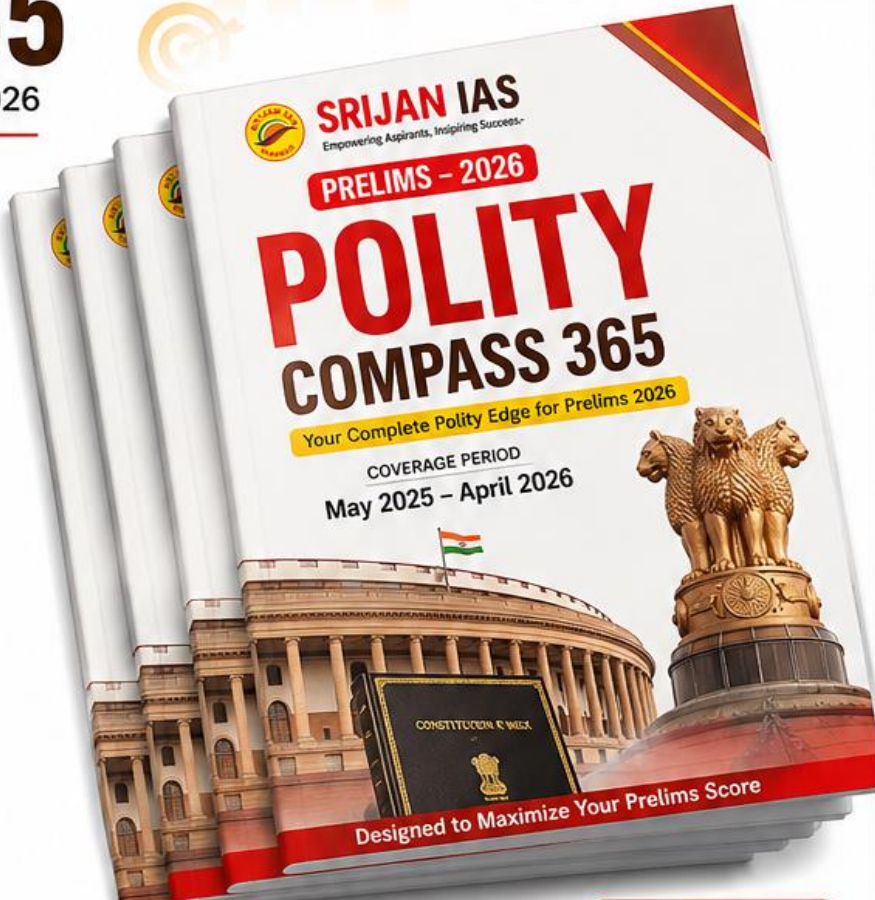
May 2025 – April 2026

SET OF 6 SUBJECT-WISE BOOKLETS:

- 1 POLITY 
- 2 ECONOMY 
- 3 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 
- 4 GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT 
- 5 SOCIETY, CULTURE & PIB 
- 6 IR & INTERNAL SECURITY 

KEY HIGHLIGHTS 

- ✓ Last 1 year Current Affairs contribute ~60–65 questions in UPSC Prelims
- ✓ Covers all high-probability current affairs pointers
- ✓ Government Schemes, Policies, and Reports are comprehensively covered
- ✓ Important Terms & Keywords are highlighted
- ✓ Major Supreme Court Judgements and Constitutional developments are included
- ✓ Science & Technology is simplified and filtered



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“ The harder you work today,  
the easier your tomorrow will be.  
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## SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MAGAZINE (IN THE LAST 25–30 DAYS BEFORE PRELIMS)

1. **Last 1 year Current Affairs contribute ~60–65 questions in UPSC Prelims**, either directly or indirectly. This magazine ensures you don't miss that major scoring portion.
2. **This is a one-stop consolidated revision source**—eliminates the need to refer multiple bulky materials in the final phase.
3. **Covers all high-probability current affairs pointers** filtered strictly as per UPSC trends—focus on relevance, not information overload.
4. **Government Schemes, Policies, and Reports are comprehensively covered**—a recurring and high-weightage area in Prelims.
5. **Important Terms & Keywords are highlighted**—UPSC frequently frames questions around definitions, terminologies, and concepts.
6. **Major Supreme Court Judgements and Constitutional developments are included**—a frequently asked and often ignored area.
7. **International Relations & Organisations are updated and exam-focused**—important summits, groupings, and global issues.
8. **Science & Technology is simplified and filtered**—focus on applications, relevance, and recent developments (not unnecessary theory).
9. **Environment & Ecology section is highly exam-centric**—species, conventions, reports, and protected areas (very high hit rate in Prelims).
10. **Economy coverage balances concepts + current updates**—budget, surveys, indices, and economic terms important for elimination techniques.
11. **Designed for multiple quick revisions**—structured in a way that allows 2–3 revisions within limited time.
12. **Enhances elimination skills** by strengthening factual clarity and conceptual linkages—crucial for increasing accuracy.
13. **Saves time, reduces stress, and builds confidence** by giving a clear direction in the most critical phase of preparation.

## HOW TO READ THIS MAGAZINE (SMART STRATEGY)

- **First Reading:** Fast + broad (focus on understanding, not memorization)
- **Second Reading:** Highlight facts, schemes, locations, reports
- **Third Reading:** Revise only marked portions + keywords
- **Final 3–5 Days:** Only revise highlighted sections + quick notes

## FINAL TAKEAWAY

*You can cover these magazines in hardly 5 days, but they can potentially give you an edge of 30–40+ questions in UPSC Prelims. If you go through a cost–benefit analysis, this is one of the most high-return investments in your preparation.*

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## 1. Detaining Non-Citizens and the Rule of Law in India

### 1. Core Idea

Detention of non-citizens in India is governed primarily by executive powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and preventive detention laws. Such detention is administrative (not punitive) and often lacks judicial trial.

- Key concern: **Indefinite detention without conviction** → challenges Rule of Law and constitutional safeguards.
- Linked with citizenship determination processes like NRC, especially in Assam.

### 2. Why in News

Recent judicial scrutiny (including the Rajubala Das v Union of India) raised concerns over **indefinite detention of declared foreigners** and lack of deportation feasibility. Comparative jurisprudence (Australia 2023 case) highlighted absence of safeguards in India.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- ~19 lakh excluded from Assam NRC (2019).
- Deportations: **Very minimal (few dozen cases)** despite thousands declared foreigners.
- Detention often continues **without fixed time limit**.

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Non-Citizen/Foreigner:** Person not a citizen of India under Citizenship Act, 1955.
- **Preventive Detention:** Detention to prevent future threats, not punishment for past acts.
- **Stateless Person:** Individual not recognized as a citizen by any country.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** administers laws related to foreigners, citizenship, and detention centres. Foreigners Tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies) determine citizenship status, especially in Assam. The judiciary (Supreme Court & High Courts) reviews legality of detention under constitutional provisions.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Foreigners Act, 1946**
  - Empowers Centre to regulate entry, presence, and deportation of foreigners.
  - Allows detention pending deportation.
- **National Security Act, 1980**
  - Provides for preventive detention up to 12 months.
- **Article 21 (Constitution)**
  - Guarantees Right to Life and Personal Liberty → applicable to non-citizens.
- **Article 22**
  - Safeguards against arbitrary preventive detention (advisory boards, timelines).

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Preventive Detention & Fundamental Rights (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Citizenship & NRC/CAA (2019, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 21 scope (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **preventive detention (legal)** with **punitive detention (after conviction)**

- Assuming **Fundamental Rights apply only to citizens** (Article 21 applies to all persons)
- Believing deportation is mandatory/feasible in all cases

## 2. ECINET – Election Commission’s Unified Digital Platform Initiative

### 1. Core Idea

ECINET is a **single integrated digital platform** being developed by the Election Commission of India to unify multiple electoral apps into one system, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and user accessibility.

- Represents shift toward **integrated e-governance in elections**.

### 2. Why in News

ECI recently announced development of ECINET to consolidate **40+ electoral apps**, improving user experience and administrative efficiency for upcoming elections.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Covers **~100 crore electors**.
- Integrates **40+ applications**.
- Supports voters, officials, political parties.

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **E-Governance:** Use of ICT for delivering government services efficiently.
- **Digital Electoral Infrastructure:** Technology systems supporting election processes.
- **Cybersecurity:** Protection of digital systems from unauthorized access.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Election Commission of India (ECI), a **constitutional body under Article 324**, is responsible for implementing ECINET. It coordinates with IT agencies and cybersecurity experts to ensure data integrity and system security.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 324 (Constitution)**
  - Vests superintendence, direction, and control of elections in ECI.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950 & 1951**
  - Legal framework for electoral rolls and conduct of elections.
- **Digital India Programme**
  - Promotes digital governance and citizen-centric services.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Election Commission powers (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **E-Governance initiatives (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Representation of People Act provisions (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing ECINET with **existing apps like eVIGIL or Voter Helpline**
- Assuming ECINET is a **statutory body** (it is only a platform)
- Misinterpreting Article 324 as **limited to conducting elections only**

## 3. Law Ministry to Plug Gaps in Arbitration Law

### 1. Core Idea

## PRELIMS – 2026 POWER PACK

India's arbitration framework under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 faces procedural gaps, especially regarding **binding non-signatories to arbitration agreements**, affecting efficiency and legal certainty.

- Focus: Strengthening **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** to reduce court burden.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court (in *ASF Buildtech Pvt Ltd v. Shapoorji Pallonji*, 2025) directed the Law Ministry to address **legal lacunae**, prompting work on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Arbitration Act enacted: **1996** (based on UNCITRAL Model Law).
- Multiple amendments: **2015, 2019**.
- Aim: Reduce judicial intervention, promote institutional arbitration.

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Arbitration**: Private dispute resolution mechanism outside courts.
- **Non-Signatory**: Party not formally part of arbitration agreement but involved in dispute.
- **Institutional Arbitration**: Arbitration administered by recognized institutions.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The **Ministry of Law and Justice** is responsible for legislative reforms. The Supreme Court interprets arbitration law and highlights gaps. Arbitration institutions (domestic and international) play a role in dispute resolution frameworks.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**

## SCIENCE & TECH\_COMPASS 365

○ Provides legal framework for domestic & international arbitration.

### • 2015 & 2019 Amendments

○ Introduced timelines, reduced court intervention, promoted institutional arbitration.

### • UNCITRAL Model Law

○ Basis for India's arbitration law, ensuring global compatibility.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **ADR mechanisms (2014, 2018)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial reforms & tribunals (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Ease of Doing Business & legal reforms (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **arbitration with mediation/conciliation**
- Assuming arbitration always excludes **judicial oversight completely**
- Ignoring distinction between **institutional vs ad hoc arbitration**

## 4. Supreme Court on Speaker's Role in Defection Cases

### 1. Core Idea

The Speaker acts as a **quasi-judicial authority** under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India to decide disqualification of legislators. The Supreme Court clarified that **indefinite delay defeats the purpose of anti-defection law**, and timely decisions are constitutionally required.

### 2. Why in News

## PRELIMS – 2026 POWER PACK

In 2025, the Supreme Court intervened in delay by the Telangana Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions, holding that **courts can prescribe reasonable timelines** and intervene if delay persists.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Introduced via **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985**
- Applies to **Parliament & State Legislatures**
- Speaker's decision subject to **judicial review**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Defection:** Switching party allegiance after election.
- **Quasi-Judicial Authority:** Authority performing adjudicatory functions.
- **Judicial Review:** Court's power to test legality of decisions.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Speaker/Chairman of legislative bodies adjudicates disqualification cases. The Supreme Court ensures constitutional compliance through judicial review.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Tenth Schedule (1985)**
  - Disqualification for defection; merger exception (2/3rd members).
- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992)**
  - Upheld law; allowed judicial review of Speaker's decisions.
- **Article 142**
  - SC can pass orders for "complete justice," including timelines.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

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- UPSC asked on **Anti-Defection Law (2013, 2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Speaker's powers (2014, 2018)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial Review (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Speaker's decision is **final (not subject to review)**
- Ignoring **merger exception (2/3rd rule)**
- Confusing **whip violation with all defection cases**

## 5. Asset Disclosure by Judges

### 1. Core Idea

Asset disclosure by judges is linked to **judicial transparency and accountability**, but currently remains **voluntary**, leading to low compliance and raising concerns about public trust.

### 2. Why in News

In April 2025, the Supreme Court decided to **publicly disclose assets of its judges**, reviving debate on mandatory disclosure following transparency concerns.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Only **~12.35% (95/769)** HC judges disclosed assets
- Supreme Court: **30/33 judges disclosed**
- Kerala & HP HC: **>90% compliance**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Asset Disclosure:** Declaration of movable & immovable property.
- **Transparency:** Openness ensuring accountability.

- **Public Servant:** Individual paid from public funds.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Supreme Court and High Courts regulate internal disclosure practices. Parliamentary committees recommend reforms. Judicial independence limits direct executive control.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Articles 124 & 217**
  - Appointment of SC & HC judges.
- **RTI Act, 2005**
  - Promotes transparency; limited application to judiciary.
- **Parliamentary Standing Committee Report (2023)**
  - Recommended **mandatory annual disclosure**.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Judicial Accountability (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **RTI Act (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Separation of Powers (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming disclosure is **mandatory**
- Confusing judiciary with **Lokpal jurisdiction**
- Overextending RTI applicability to judiciary

## 6. Custodial Torture in India

### 1. Core Idea

Custodial torture refers to **abuse by law enforcement during detention**, violating fundamental rights, especially **Article 21**, and undermining rule of law.

### 2. Why in News

The **Status of Policing in India Report** by Lokniti-CSDS and Common Cause revealed **high acceptance of coercive practices within police**, highlighting systemic issues.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- 63% police justify violence in serious crimes
- 42% support torture in national security cases
- 10% admit frequent use of third-degree methods

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Custodial Torture:** Abuse of persons in custody.
- **Third-Degree Methods:** Severe coercive interrogation techniques.
- **Rule of Law:** Supremacy of law over arbitrary action.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees policing. The National Human Rights Commission monitors custodial abuse cases and issues guidelines.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 21**
  - Guarantees life & dignity; prohibits torture.
- **D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)**
  - Laid guidelines for arrest and detention.
- **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**

- Coerced confessions inadmissible.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Custodial Violence & FRs (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **NHRC (2015, 2018, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Police Reforms (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming torture is **legal in serious crimes**
- Confusing **judicial vs police custody**
- Ignoring **Article 21 applies to accused persons also**

## 7. Supreme Court Verdict on Governors: Upholding Cooperative Federalism

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court reinforced **cooperative federalism** by limiting arbitrary actions of Governors and ensuring that **State executive authority is respected**. The Governor is a **constitutional head**, expected to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, not as an agent of the Centre.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court (2025) criticized the Tamil Nadu Governor for **delaying assent and referring Bills to the President**, declaring such actions **arbitrary and legally invalid**, and laid down guidelines to regulate gubernatorial conduct.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Governor derives powers under **Articles 153–162**

- Assent to Bills governed by **Article 200**
- Can reserve Bills for President under **Article 201**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Cooperative Federalism:** Harmonious Centre-State functioning with mutual respect.
- **Assent to Bill:** Approval by Governor/President for a Bill to become law.
- **Non est:** Legally invalid or having no existence in law.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Governor (appointed by the President) functions within the constitutional framework. The Supreme Court ensures constitutional balance in Centre-State relations. The State Council of Ministers exercises real executive authority.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 200**
  - Governor may assent, withhold, or reserve Bill for President.
- **Article 201**
  - President decides on Bills reserved by Governor.
- **Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974)**
  - Governor must act on aid and advice of Council of Ministers.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Governor's powers (2014, 2018, 2022)**
- UPSC asked on **Centre-State relations (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Governor has **independent executive powers**
- Confusing **discretionary powers with arbitrary powers**
- Believing all Bills **must be reserved for President**

## 8. Supreme Court Addresses Constitutional Silences: Governors and Speakers

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court addressed “**constitutional silence**” (absence of explicit timelines in Constitution) by prescribing **reasonable time limits** for Governors (Bill assent) and Speakers (defection cases), ensuring accountability and preventing misuse of power.

### 2. Why in News

In 2025, the Supreme Court set a **3-month indicative timeline** for Governors and indicated similar timelines for Speakers in disqualification cases, filling procedural gaps in constitutional functioning.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Governor assent timeline: **~3 months (judicially evolved)**
- Speaker disqualification timeline: Referenced in **Keshab Meghachandra Singh case (2020)**
- Applies to **Tenth Schedule cases**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Constitutional Silence:** Absence of explicit provisions in Constitution.
- **Assent:** Formal approval of a Bill.

- **Disqualification Petition:** Request to remove legislator for defection.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Governor and Speaker are key constitutional authorities. The Supreme Court interprets constitutional provisions and ensures timely execution through judicial review.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 200**
  - No explicit timeline for Governor’s assent.
- **Tenth Schedule**
  - No timeline for Speaker’s decision on disqualification.
- **Keshab Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker (2020)**
  - Suggested 3-month timeline for defection cases.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Tenth Schedule (2013, 2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Governor’s role (2014, 2018)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial activism & review (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming timelines are **explicitly written in Constitution**
- Confusing **judicial guidelines with constitutional amendments**
- Ignoring difference between **mandatory vs directory timelines**

## 9. RTI Act Amendment & Transparency

### 1. Core Idea

The amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 via the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 seeks to balance **Right to Information (RTI)** with **Right to Privacy**, raising concerns over possible dilution of transparency.

### 2. Why in News

The government clarified that RTI amendments under DPDP Act will **not restrict access to public-interest information**, while activists argue it may limit disclosure by expanding privacy exemptions.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- RTI Act enacted: **2005**
- DPDP Act enacted: **2023**
- Section **8(1)(j)** governs personal information disclosure

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Right to Information:** Right to access information held by public authorities.
- **Right to Privacy:** Fundamental right under Article 21 (SC, 2017).
- **Personal Data:** Information relating to identifiable individual.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) administers data protection law, while RTI implementation is overseen by Central and State Information Commissions.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **RTI Act, 2005 (Section 8(1)(j))**
  - Exempts personal info unless public interest justifies disclosure.

### • Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

- Regulates processing of personal data; impacts RTI disclosures.

### • K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

- Recognized Right to Privacy as Fundamental Right.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **RTI Act provisions (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Right to Privacy (2018, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Transparency & Governance (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming RTI provides **absolute right to information**
- Ignoring **existing privacy exemption under Section 8**
- Confusing DPDP Act as **replacing RTI Act**

## 10. Section 69 of BNS: Redundancy and Legal Challenges

### 1. Core Idea

Section 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 criminalizes **sexual intercourse based on false promise of marriage**, but overlaps with existing rape provisions, raising concerns of **legal redundancy and constitutional validity**.

### 2. Why in News

Debate emerged post-enactment of BNS (2023) regarding **duplication with rape law** and potential misuse, especially after courts flagged inconsistencies with existing provisions.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- Section 69 punishment: **Up to 10 years imprisonment + fine**
- Replaces IPC provisions under broader criminal law reforms (2023)
- Overlaps with **Section 63 (rape definition)**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **Misconception of Fact:** Consent obtained under false belief (invalid consent).
- **Deceitful Means:** False promise/representation to obtain consent.
- **Generalia Specialibus Non Derogant:** Special law prevails over general law.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees criminal law reforms (BNS, BNSS, BSA). Judiciary (Supreme Court & High Courts) interprets provisions and ensures constitutional validity.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 69)**
  - Criminalizes intercourse via false promise (separate offence).
- **Section 63 BNS (Rape)**
  - Includes consent obtained under misconception of fact.
- **Article 14**
  - Ensures equality before law; duplication may violate equal treatment.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Criminal Law Reforms (2020, 2022)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights – Article 14 (multiple years)**

- UPSC asked on **Consent & legal provisions (conceptual questions)**

**8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas**

- Assuming Section 69 is **completely new concept (already covered under rape law)**
- Confusing **breach of promise vs false promise at inception**
- Ignoring overlap between **Section 63 and Section 69**

**11. Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)****1. Core Idea**

SASCI is a **central sector scheme** providing **interest-free long-term loans to states** for capital expenditure, aimed at boosting infrastructure and economic growth.

**2. Why in News**

Rising state liabilities (~₹3.5 trillion) under SASCI and economic slowdown (FY25) brought focus on **effectiveness of capex-led growth strategy**.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- Launched: **FY 2020-21 (COVID period)**
- Loan tenure: **50 years (interest-free)**
- Total liabilities: **~₹3.5 trillion by FY25**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **Capital Expenditure (Capex):** Spending on asset creation (roads, infrastructure).
- **Revenue Expenditure:** Spending for day-to-day functioning.
- **Fiscal Stimulus:** Government spending to boost economic activity.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The **Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure)** implements SASCI. State governments utilize funds for infrastructure creation and economic development.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **SASCI Scheme (2020-21 onwards)**
  - Interest-free loans for capex; encourages asset creation.
- **FRBM Act, 2003**
  - Governs fiscal discipline of Centre & States.
- **Union Budget Allocations**
  - Annual allocation determines scheme size and scope.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Capital vs Revenue Expenditure (2019, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Fiscal Policy & FRBM (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Centre-State financial relations (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing SASCI loans with **grants**
- Assuming loans are **short-term or interest-bearing**
- Ignoring distinction between **capex vs revenue spending**

## 12. Delay in Publishing Reports of SC, ST, and OBC Commissions

### 1. Core Idea

Constitutional and statutory commissions for SC, ST, and OBCs are mandated to submit **annual reports to the President**, which must be tabled in Parliament. Delays undermine **accountability and policy effectiveness**.

### 2. Why in News

Significant delays (up to 7 years) in tabling reports of commissions like National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and National Commission for Backward Classes raised governance concerns.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Delays: **Up to 7 years**
- NCST: **5 reports pending (2018–23)**
- NCBC: **No reports in last 3 years**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Annual Report:** Official document reviewing implementation of safeguards.
- **Action Taken Report (ATR):** Government response to recommendations.
- **Constitutional Body:** संस्था established directly by Constitution.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

These commissions report to the President. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs process reports and prepare Action Taken Reports before tabling in Parliament.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 338 (NCSC)**
  - Monitors safeguards for SCs.
- **Article 338A (NCST)**
  - Similar role for STs.
- **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018 (Article 338B)**

- Granted constitutional status to NCBC.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Constitutional Bodies (2015, 2018, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **NCBC & 102nd Amendment (2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Parliamentary procedures (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **constitutional vs statutory status (NCBC pre-2018)**
- Assuming reports are **automatically tabled without delay**
- Mixing roles of **NCSC, NCST, and NCBC**

## 13. Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha – Constitutional Imperative and Challenges

### 1. Core Idea

The Deputy Speaker is a **constitutional office under Article 93**, essential for continuity and neutrality in Lok Sabha functioning. The Constitution mandates election “**as soon as may be**”, implying urgency, not discretion.

### 2. Why in News

The post has remained **vacant throughout the 17th Lok Sabha (2019–24)** and continues unfilled in the 18th Lok Sabha, raising concerns of **constitutional impropriety and institutional imbalance**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Provided under **Article 93**
- Elected from among Lok Sabha members

- Presides in absence of Speaker

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Deputy Speaker:** Presiding officer who performs Speaker’s duties when absent.
- **Presiding Officer:** Authority conducting proceedings of a legislative house.
- **Quorum:** Minimum number of members required for proceedings.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Lok Sabha elects the Deputy Speaker. The office functions within Parliament’s institutional framework and ensures smooth legislative functioning.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 93**
  - Mandates election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- **Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha**
  - Govern election and functioning of presiding officers.
- **Parliamentary Conventions**
  - Deputy Speaker often from Opposition (not legally binding).

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Parliamentary officers (2014, 2018)**
- UPSC asked on **Speaker’s powers (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Parliamentary procedures (2017, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Deputy Speaker is **optional post**
- Confusing **constitutional mandate with convention**

- Ignoring phrase “as soon as may be” (not time-bound but obligatory)

## 14. Digital Access as a Fundamental Right

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court held that **digital access to governance and welfare services** is part of **Right to Life and Liberty (Article 21)**, emphasizing **digital inclusion as essential for dignity and equality**.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court (2025) issued directions to reform **digital KYC processes** after petitions highlighted exclusion of visually impaired and acid attack survivors.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Linked to **Article 21**
- Court issued **20 binding directions**
- Focus on PwDs and vulnerable groups

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Digital Divide:** Gap between those with and without digital access.
- **Substantive Equality:** Equality in outcomes, not just formal equality.
- **KYC (Know Your Customer):** Identity verification process.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Supreme Court issued directives to the Central Government and departments. Implementation involves MeitY and agencies handling digital governance and welfare delivery.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 21**

- Expanded to include digital access.

### • Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- Mandates accessibility in services.

### • K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

- Recognized privacy; relevant for digital ecosystem balance.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Article 21 expansion (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Digital India & e-Governance (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Rights of PwDs (2019)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming digital access is a **separate Fundamental Right**
- Confusing **formal vs substantive equality**
- Ignoring linkage with **Article 21 jurisprudence**

## 15. President's Rule under Article 356

### 1. Core Idea

President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution of India allows the Centre to assume control of a State when **constitutional machinery fails**, but is subject to strict judicial safeguards.

### 2. Why in News

Recent instance (Manipur 2025) and continued debates on misuse have renewed focus on **limits and safeguards of Article 356**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Approval within **2 months by Parliament**

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- Valid for **6 months**; max **3 years** (with conditions)
- Based on **Governor's report or otherwise**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Suspended Animation:** Assembly kept inactive without dissolution.
- **Breakdown of Constitutional Machinery:** Failure of governance as per Constitution.
- **Proclamation:** Formal declaration by President.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The President (on aid and advice of Union Council of Ministers) imposes President's Rule. The Governor reports on state conditions. Parliament approves continuation.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 356**
  - Provides for President's Rule.
- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**
  - Limited misuse; made imposition subject to judicial review.
- **Article 365**
  - Non-compliance with Union directions may trigger Article 356.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Article 356 & federalism (2014, 2018, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Governor's role (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial review (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming President's Rule is **beyond judicial review**

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- Confusing **law & order failure with constitutional breakdown**
- Ignoring **maximum duration limit (3 years)**

## 16. Land Pooling Policy in Punjab: A Threat to Agrarian Economy

### 1. Core Idea

Land pooling is a **voluntary land assembly mechanism** where landowners contribute land for development and receive a portion back. However, large-scale pooling in agrarian states like Punjab raises concerns of **agricultural disruption and resource misallocation**.

### 2. Why in News

Punjab's proposed pooling of **~24,000 acres of agricultural land** sparked political opposition and concerns over impact on agrarian economy.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Proposed pooling: **~24,000 acres**
- Punjab: major contributor to **food grain production**
- No compulsory acquisition claimed

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Land Pooling:** Voluntary contribution of land for planned development.
- **Right to Property:** Legal right under Article 300A.
- **Agrarian Economy:** Economy primarily dependent on agriculture.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

State government implements policy. Planning bodies like District and Metropolitan Planning Committees (constitutional bodies) should oversee land-use planning.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Article 300A**
  - Protects property rights (legal right).
- **Articles 243ZD & 243ZE**
  - Provide for District & Metropolitan Planning Committees.
- **LARR Act, 2013**
  - Governs land acquisition; principles relevant to pooling.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Land Acquisition Act (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **73rd/74th Amendments (2017, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Agriculture & land use (multiple years)**

**8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas**

- Confusing **land pooling with land acquisition**
- Assuming pooling is **always voluntary in practice**
- Ignoring role of **planning committees under 243ZD/ZE**

**17. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)****1. Core Idea**

NeVA is a **Mission Mode Project under Digital India** aimed at creating a **paperless, digital legislature** by integrating all State Legislatures and Parliament on a unified digital platform for legislative functioning.

**2. Why in News**

NeVA implementation is being expanded across multiple State Assemblies to promote **transparent, efficient, and paperless legislative processes**.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- Implemented under **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**
- Part of **Digital India Programme**
- Aims to cover **all State Legislatures**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **e-Vidhan**: Digital platform for legislative business.
- **Paperless Legislature**: Conduct of legislative work without physical documents.
- **Mission Mode Project**: Time-bound project under e-Governance.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the nodal ministry for NeVA. It works in coordination with State Legislatures and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for technical implementation.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Digital India Programme**
  - Promotes e-governance and digital infrastructure.
- **NeVA Project**
  - Enables real-time access to legislative documents, questions, and debates.
- **e-Governance Initiatives**
  - Focus on transparency, efficiency, and citizen participation.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **e-Governance initiatives (2015, 2020)**

- UPSC asked on **Parliamentary procedures (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Digital India (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing NeVA with **e-Courts or other digital platforms**
- Assuming NeVA is **only for Parliament (also for State Legislatures)**
- Treating it as a **statutory body instead of a digital platform**

## 18. Lokpal of India

### 1. Core Idea

The Lokpal of India is an **independent anti-corruption authority** to investigate allegations against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister (with exceptions).

### 2. Why in News

Lokpal's functioning, appointments, and jurisdiction periodically come under scrutiny in context of **anti-corruption framework and transparency debates**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Established under **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**
- First Lokpal appointed in **2019**
- Comprises **Chairperson + up to 8 members**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Ombudsman**: Independent authority to investigate complaints against officials.
- **Public Servant**: Includes ministers, MPs, and officials.

- **Corruption**: Abuse of public office for private gain.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

Lokpal functions independently but coordinates with agencies like CBI and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for investigation.

Appointments involve a high-level committee including the Prime Minister, Speaker, and Chief Justice of India.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**
  - Establishes Lokpal at Centre and Lokayuktas in States.
- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**
  - Defines corruption offences investigated by Lokpal.
- **Amendment (2016)**
  - Modified provisions on asset disclosure.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Lokpal structure & powers (2014, 2016, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **CVC & anti-corruption bodies (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Accountability institutions (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Lokpal has **judicial powers like courts**
- Confusing Lokpal with **CVC or CBI**
- Ignoring **jurisdiction limitations over PM (with safeguards)**

## 19. Forest Rights Act Cells

### 1. Core Idea

Forest Rights Act (FRA) Cells are **institutional mechanisms created by states** to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, particularly for recognition and verification of forest rights claims.

### 2. Why in News

States are strengthening FRA Cells to address **delays in recognition of forest rights and improve implementation**, especially in tribal areas.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- FRA enacted: **2006**
- Recognizes **individual & community forest rights**
- Gram Sabha plays **central role**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Forest Rights:** Rights over land, forest produce, and resources.
- **Gram Sabha:** Village assembly responsible for verifying claims.
- **Community Rights:** Rights over common forest resources.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry for FRA implementation. State governments establish FRA Cells, and Gram Sabhas play a key role in claim verification.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Forest Rights Act, 2006**
  - Recognizes rights of STs and traditional forest dwellers.
- **PESA Act, 1996**
  - Empowers Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

### • Rules (2008, amended 2012)

- Detail procedures for claim settlement.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Forest Rights Act (2013, 2016, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **PESA Act (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Tribal rights & governance (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing FRA Cells with **statutory bodies**
- Assuming rights are granted by **state alone (Gram Sabha is key)**
- Ignoring distinction between **individual vs community rights**

## 20. Registrar-General of India

### 1. Core Idea

The Registrar General of India is the central authority responsible for **conducting the Census and maintaining vital statistics (births & deaths registration)** in India.

### 2. Why in News

Focus on **Census delay and data governance reforms** has brought attention to the role of the Registrar-General in demographic data collection and population statistics.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Established under **Ministry of Home Affairs (1961)**
- Conducts **Census every 10 years**
- Oversees **Civil Registration System (CRS)**

#### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Census:** Official enumeration of population.
- **Vital Statistics:** Data on births, deaths, marriages.
- **CRS (Civil Registration System):** System of recording vital events.

#### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Registrar-General of India functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It coordinates with State governments for census operations and vital statistics collection.

#### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Census Act, 1948**
  - Governs conduct of Census; ensures confidentiality of data.
- **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**
  - Provides legal framework for CRS.
- **National Population Register (NPR)**
  - Prepared under Citizenship Act framework.

#### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Census & NPR (2011, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Population data & demographic indicators (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **CRS & vital statistics (conceptual)**

#### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing Census with NPR or NRC
- Assuming Census data is **publicly identifiable (confidential by law)**
- Ignoring difference between **Census and CRS**

## 21. Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) Initiative

### 1. Core Idea

The Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) is a **government initiative to promote Indian languages in governance**, enabling multilingual administration and reducing reliance on English.

### 2. Why in News

Recently launched by the Union Government to enhance **linguistic inclusion and decentralisation in official communication**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Budget allocation: **₹56 crore (2024–25)**
- Focus on **translation across Indian languages**
- Linked to **Official Language framework**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Official Language:** Language used for government functions.
- **Linguistic Diversity:** Presence of multiple languages in a society.
- **Translation Ecosystem:** System enabling multilingual communication.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The initiative is under the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language), which implements policies related to official language use and promotes Hindi and regional languages.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Articles 343–351 (Part XVII)**
  - Deal with official language provisions.
- **Official Languages Act, 1963**

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- Provides for continued use of English along with Hindi.

- **Eighth Schedule**

- Lists 22 scheduled languages.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Official Language provisions (2014, 2017)**
- UPSC asked on **Eighth Schedule languages (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Cultural diversity (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Hindi is the **national language (not defined in Constitution)**
- Confusing **official vs scheduled languages**
- Ignoring continued use of **English under Official Languages Act**

## 22. Supreme Court on Voter

### Verification: Aadhaar, EPIC, and

### Ration Card

#### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court emphasized **inclusive voter verification** while maintaining distinction between **proof of identity and proof of citizenship**, central to electoral integrity.

#### 2. Why in News

During hearings on Bihar's electoral roll revision, the Court suggested inclusion of Aadhaar, EPIC, and ration card as **valid identity documents** for voter verification.

#### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Governed by **Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Section 21)**

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- Universal suffrage under **Article 326**
- Aadhaar: **Not proof of citizenship**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **EPIC**: Voter ID issued by Election Commission.
- **Aadhaar**: Unique identity number (UIDAI).
- **Electoral Roll**: List of eligible voters.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Election Commission of India (ECI) manages electoral rolls. UIDAI issues Aadhaar. The judiciary reviews legality of electoral processes.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 326**
  - Provides universal adult suffrage.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950**
  - Governs electoral rolls.
- **Aadhaar Act, 2016**
  - Aadhaar as identity, not citizenship proof.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **ECI powers (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Aadhaar & identity (2018, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Electoral reforms (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Aadhaar proves **citizenship**
- Confusing **identity proof with eligibility criteria**
- Ignoring role of **ECI under Article 324**

## 23. Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024

### 1. Core Idea

A state-level legislation aimed at curbing **unlawful and extremist activities**, but raises concerns over **overlap with central laws and potential misuse**.

### 2. Why in News

The Bill was passed amid political opposition and debate over **necessity, ambiguity, and constitutional validity**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Punishment: **2–7 years imprisonment**
- Offences: **Cognisable & non-bailable**
- Targets **extremist/unlawful organisations**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Cognisable Offence:** Police can arrest without warrant.
- **Non-bailable Offence:** Bail not a matter of right.
- **Unlawful Organisation:** Group engaged in illegal activities.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Maharashtra State Government enforces the law. It operates within the framework of Union laws related to internal security and criminal law.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **UAPA, 1967**
  - Central law to curb unlawful activities and terrorism.
- **MCOCA, 1999**
  - Targets organized crime in Maharashtra.

- **PMLA, 2002**

- Deals with money laundering linked to illegal activities.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **UAPA (2019, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Internal security laws (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism & legislative powers (2016, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **state law vs central law jurisdiction**
- Assuming new law replaces **UAPA or PMLA**
- Ignoring overlap between **State List & Concurrent List**

## 24. Legal Status of the Right to Vote in India

### 1. Core Idea

The **Right to Vote in India is primarily a statutory right**, derived from election laws, not a Fundamental Right. It is governed by provisions of the Representation of the People Acts, though constitutionally enabled by **universal adult franchise under Article 326**.

### 2. Why in News

Recent judicial debates, especially in the **Anoop Baranwal (2023)** case, revisited whether voting is **statutory, constitutional, or linked to fundamental rights**, creating conceptual clarity issues relevant for Prelims.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Voting age: **18 years (61st Constitutional Amendment, 1988)**

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- Governed by: **RPA 1950 & 1951**
- Voting right: **Statutory (as per latest majority view)**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Statutory Right:** Right created and governed by legislation.
- **Constitutional Right:** Right derived from Constitution (outside Part III).
- **Fundamental Right:** Enforceable right under Part III (via Article 32).
- **Basic Structure Doctrine:** Core features (e.g., democracy) cannot be altered.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Election Commission of India (ECI) administers elections and electoral rolls.

Parliament enacts laws (RPA Acts) governing voting rights. Judiciary interprets the nature and scope of voting rights.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 326**
  - Provides universal adult suffrage (18+), subject to disqualifications.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (Section 62)**
  - Grants right to vote to those enrolled in electoral rolls.
- **N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) & Jyoti Basu (1982)**
  - Held voting is a statutory right.
- **PUCL v. Union of India (2003)**
  - Linked voting with freedom of expression (NOTA case context).

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Right to Vote & Elections (2012, 2017, 2021)**

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- UPSC asked on **Representation of People Acts (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights vs Legal Rights (2015, 2019)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Treating Right to Vote as **Fundamental Right (incorrect)**
- Confusing **Article 326 (enabling provision) with enforceable right**
- Ignoring distinction between **right to vote vs right to contest election**

## 25. Parliamentary Panel Flags Slow Progress in SVAMITVA Scheme

### 1. Core Idea

The SVAMITVA Scheme is a **technology-driven land governance reform** aimed at providing **legal ownership (property cards) for rural residential land**, enabling economic empowerment through formal property rights.

### 2. Why in News

A Parliamentary Standing Committee flagged **slow progress and pending surveys (~30,000 villages)**, raising concerns over meeting the **100% coverage target by 2025**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Launched: **April 2020**
- Nodal Ministry: **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- Pending surveys: **~30,000 villages**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Property Card:** Legal document proving ownership of rural residential property.
- **CORS:** Network for high-precision geospatial positioning.

- **GIS:** System for spatial data mapping and analysis.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj implements the scheme with support from Survey of India, State governments, and local bodies (Gram Panchayats).

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **SVAMITVA Scheme (2020)**
  - Drone-based mapping to provide ownership records.
- **Article 243G**
  - Empowers Panchayats for local governance.
- **State List (Land)**
  - Land is a State subject under Seventh Schedule.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Land Records & Governance (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Panchayati Raj (2016, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Digital Mapping & GIS (conceptual)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing SVAMITVA with **agricultural land reforms (focus is residential land)**
- Assuming Centre has **full control over land (State subject)**
- Ignoring role of **technology (drones, GIS)**

## 26. Centre's Stand on Age of Consent under POCSO Act

### 1. Core Idea

Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, the **age of consent is fixed at 18 years**, making all sexual activity below this age **statutory offence irrespective of consent**.

### 2. Why in News

The Union Government opposed lowering the age of consent (18→16) in the Supreme Court, citing risks of **child exploitation, trafficking, and grooming**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Age of consent: **18 years**
- 2007 MWCD study: **53.22% children faced abuse**
- **POCSO: Gender-neutral law**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Age of Consent:** Legal age for valid consent to sexual activity.
- **Statutory Rape:** Sexual activity with a minor irrespective of consent.
- **Grooming:** Manipulation of minors for exploitation.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Women and Child Development oversees child protection policies. Judiciary interprets POCSO provisions. Law enforcement agencies implement the Act.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **POCSO Act, 2012**
  - Comprehensive child protection law; strict liability offence.
- **Article 15(3)**
  - Allows special provisions for children.
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

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- International framework for child protection.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **POCSO Act (2018, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Child Rights & Protection (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights – Article 21 (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming consent of minor is **legally valid**
- Confusing POCSO with IPC/BNS provisions
- Ignoring **gender-neutral nature of POCSO**

## 27. Supreme Court Returns to Full Strength of 34 Judges

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court reached its **maximum sanctioned strength (34 judges)**, reflecting constitutional provisions on judicial capacity and raising debates on **collegium system and judicial appointments**.

### 2. Why in News

Appointment of two judges restored full strength and triggered debate due to **collegium dissent and seniority concerns**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Maximum strength: **34 judges**
- Governed by **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019**
- Collegium decision: **4:1 majority**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

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- **Collegium System:** Judicial appointment system led by CJJ.
- **Seniority Convention:** Basis for appointment of CJJ.
- **Judicial Independence:** Freedom from executive interference.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Supreme Court Collegium recommends appointments. The President appoints judges formally. The Union Government processes and notifies appointments.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 124**
  - Establishes Supreme Court and appointment of judges.
- **Three Judges Cases (1981, 1993, 1998)**
  - Established and refined Collegium system.
- **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019**
  - Increased strength to 34.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Collegium System (2014, 2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial Appointments (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Separation of Powers (2016, 2019)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Collegium is **constitutional provision (it is judge-made)**
- Confusing **appointment authority (President vs Collegium)**
- Ignoring **statutory cap on number of judges**

## 28. SC on Judicial Review of Governor's Inaction on Bills

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court examined whether **Governor's inaction under Article 200** (assent to Bills) can be subject to **judicial review**, reinforcing that constitutional authorities cannot **stall legislative processes indefinitely**.

### 2. Why in News

The issue arose from Tamil Nadu's petition against prolonged delay by the Governor in acting on Bills, leading to a **Presidential Reference and SC scrutiny (2025)**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- **Article 200:** Assent, withholding, return, or reservation of Bills
- **Article 356:** Subject to judicial review (S.R. Bommai, 1994)
- No explicit timeline in Constitution

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Judicial Review:** Court's power to test legality of actions.
- **Assent:** Final approval required for a Bill to become law.
- **Mala fide:** Action taken in bad faith.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Governor (constitutional head) acts on State Bills. The Supreme Court interprets constitutional validity. The President acts when Bills are reserved.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 200**

- Provides options for Governor regarding State Bills.

- **Article 361**

- Grants immunity but does not bar judicial review.

- **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**

- Established judicial review of Article 356 actions.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Governor's powers (2014, 2018, 2022)**
- UPSC asked on **Judicial Review (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism (2016, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming Governor's inaction is **non-justiciable**
- Confusing **immunity (Art 361)** with **absence of review**
- Ignoring similarity with **Article 356 review principles**

## 29. UMEED Portal – Additional Module by Ministry of Minority Affairs

### 1. Core Idea

UMEED Portal is a **digital governance platform for Waqf administration**, now extended to provide **financial assistance to vulnerable groups** (widows, divorced women, orphans) through Waqf resources.

### 2. Why in News

A new module (2025) was launched to operationalize welfare provisions under Waqf

rules, focusing on **DBT-based support and transparency**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Linked to **Waqf Act, 1995**
- Based on **Rule 8(2), 2025 Rules**
- Uses **Aadhaar-based authentication + DBT**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Waqf-alal-aulad**: Endowment benefiting family and dependents.
- **Mutawalli**: Manager/administrator of Waqf property.
- **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)**: Direct transfer of funds to beneficiaries.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Minority Affairs is the nodal authority. State/UT Waqf Boards implement the scheme, while Mutawallis manage Waqf properties.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Waqf Act, 1995**
  - Governs administration of Waqf properties.
- **Article 15(3)**
  - Allows special provisions for women and children.
- **Articles 29 & 30**
  - Protect cultural and educational rights of minorities.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Minority Rights (2014, 2017)**
- UPSC asked on **Waqf properties (conceptual questions)**

- UPSC asked on **DBT & welfare schemes (2016, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing Waqf with **general government land**
- Assuming Waqf Boards are **purely central bodies (state role significant)**
- Ignoring concept of **Waqf-alal-aulad**

## 30. Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025

### 1. Core Idea

The proposed amendment seeks to enforce **ethical governance** by mandating removal of Ministers upon **30-day detention in serious criminal cases**, raising issues of **due process vs accountability**.

### 2. Why in News

The Bill (introduced August 2025) triggered debate over **criminalisation of politics and constitutional validity**, especially regarding presumption of innocence.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Applies to offences with punishment **≥5 years**
- Trigger: **30-day detention**
- Affects Union, State, and Delhi Ministers

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Moral Integrity**: Ethical conduct in public office.
- **Presumption of Innocence**: Accused considered innocent until proven guilty.
- **Moral Turpitude**: Conduct contrary to justice and morality.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

Parliament enacts constitutional amendments. The President gives assent. Judiciary reviews constitutional validity. Executive (PM/CM) involved in removal process.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Articles 75 & 164**
  - Ministers hold office at pleasure of President/Governor.
- **RPA Act, 1951 (Section 8)**
  - Disqualification occurs upon conviction, not arrest.
- **Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013)**
  - Immediate disqualification on conviction.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Disqualification of MPs/MLAs (2013, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Criminalisation of Politics (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Constitutional Amendments (2016, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **detention with conviction**
- Assuming amendment overrides **due process principles automatically**
- Ignoring difference between **legislator vs minister disqualification**

## 31. Uttarakhand Assembly Clears Amendments to UCC, Anti-Conversion and Minority Education Bills

### 1. Core Idea

Uttarakhand's legislative amendments reflect **State-led regulation of personal laws, religious conversion, and minority education**, raising issues of **federalism, fundamental rights, and DPSPs (UCC)**.

### 2. Why in News

During the August 2025 Assembly session, Uttarakhand passed amendments to **UCC, Anti-Conversion, and Minority Education laws**, triggering debate on constitutionality and procedural transparency.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- UCC implemented earlier in **2025 (first State-level UCC)**
- Anti-conversion punishment: **Up to life imprisonment**
- Madrasas compliance deadline: **July 1, 2026**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** Uniform personal laws across religions.
- **Allurement (conversion):** Material or inducement-based persuasion.
- **Minority Institution:** Institution run by religious/linguistic minority.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Uttarakhand State Legislature enacted these laws. The judiciary may review constitutional validity. Minority institutions interact with State Education Boards and regulatory authorities.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 44 (DPSP)**
  - Encourages uniform civil code.
- **Articles 25–28**
  - Guarantee freedom of religion.
- **Article 30(1)**

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- Protects minority educational institutions.
- **Rev. Stanislaus v. State of MP (1977)**
  - Upheld validity of anti-conversion laws.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **UCC (2015, 2017)**
- UPSC asked on **Freedom of Religion (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Minority Rights (2016, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming UCC is **currently implemented nationwide**
- Confusing **freedom of religion with right to convert others**
- Ignoring limits on **State regulation of minority institutions**

## 32. Objectives of National Cooperative Policy, 2025

### 1. Core Idea

The National Cooperative Policy, 2025 provides a **long-term roadmap for strengthening cooperatives** through legal reforms, financial inclusion, and technology adoption, aiming to transform them into **modern, competitive economic entities**.

### 2. Why in News

The Government launched the **National Cooperative Policy, 2025**, emphasizing platform cooperatives and expansion into new sectors.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Duration: **10-year roadmap**

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- Multi-State Cooperative Societies: **~1779 (2025)**
- Based on **6 mission pillars**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Cooperative Society:** Member-owned, democratically managed enterprise.
- **Platform Cooperative:** Digital cooperative model (e.g., app-based services).
- **MSCS:** Cooperative operating across multiple states.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Cooperation is the nodal authority. Institutions like NCDC, NABARD, NDDDB, IFFCO, and NAFED support cooperative financing and operations.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 43B**
  - DPSP promoting cooperatives.
- **Part IXB (97th Amendment)**
  - Constitutional status to cooperatives.
- **MSCS Act, 2002 (Amended 2023)**
  - Regulates multi-state cooperatives; allows subsidiaries & investments.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Cooperative Societies (2015, 2018, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **97th Constitutional Amendment (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **NABARD & rural institutions (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing cooperatives with **private companies**

- Ignoring democratic functioning requirement
- Mixing MSCS with state-level cooperatives

- **Indian Ports Act, 1908 (replaced)**
  - Earlier framework for port regulation.
- **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021**
  - Governs major ports with autonomy.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030**
  - Strategic roadmap for port-led development.

### 33. Indian Ports Act, 2025

#### 1. Core Idea

The Indian Ports Act, 2025 aims to **modernize port governance, enhance safety, and streamline regulation of ports**, replacing outdated colonial-era legislation and aligning with global maritime standards.

#### 2. Why in News

The Government introduced/reformed port legislation to **improve efficiency, safety, and ease of doing business in maritime sector**.

#### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Replaces **Indian Ports Act, 1908**
- Covers **non-major ports (primarily under States)**
- Aligns with global maritime practices

#### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Major Port:** Controlled by Union Government.
- **Non-Major Port:** Managed by State Governments.
- **Port Authority:** Body managing port operations.

#### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways oversees policy. State Maritime Boards manage non-major ports, while major ports are governed by central authorities.

#### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

#### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Port governance (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Major Port Authorities Act (2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Infrastructure & logistics (multiple years)**

#### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **major vs non-major ports jurisdiction**
- Assuming all ports are under **Union control**
- Ignoring distinction between **1908 Act and new law**

### 34. Reservation Debate: Exceeding 50% Cap and Creamy Layer Concerns

#### 1. Core Idea

The reservation framework in India balances **equality (Articles 14, 15, 16)** with **affirmative action**, but debates continue on **breaching the 50% cap** and extending **creamy layer exclusion to SC/STs**.

#### 2. Why in News

Recent judicial observations (2024) and policy discussions revived debate on **sub-categorisation**,

creamy layer in SC/STs, and validity of exceeding 50% reservation.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Central reservation: **SC (15%) + ST (7.5%) + OBC (27%) + EWS (10%) = 59.5%**
- Rohini Commission: **97% OBC benefits to ~25% castes**
- Vacancy: **40–50% reserved posts unfilled**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Creamy Layer:** Economically advanced individuals excluded from OBC quota.
- **Substantive Equality:** Equality based on outcomes and social context.
- **Formal Equality:** Equal treatment irrespective of background.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment handles reservation policies. Judiciary (Supreme Court) interprets constitutional validity. Commissions like the Rohini Commission study sub-categorisation.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)**
  - Introduced creamy layer; capped reservation at 50%.
- **Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)**
  - Upheld EWS quota; excluded it from 50% cap.
- **State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024)**
  - Suggested creamy layer for SC/STs.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Reservation policy (2015, 2019, 2021)**

- UPSC asked on **Creamy Layer concept (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Equality vs affirmative action (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming **50% cap is absolute (exceptions allowed)**
- Confusing **EWS quota with OBC quota rules**
- Ignoring creamy layer applies **only to OBCs (currently)**

## 35. Centre and Manipur Govt. Peace Pact with Kuki-Zo Groups

### 1. Core Idea

The Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement is a **ceasefire arrangement between government and insurgent groups**, aimed at maintaining peace while enabling negotiations and integration.

### 2. Why in News

A revised SoO pact (2025) was signed between the Centre, Manipur government, and Kuki-Zo groups amid ongoing ethnic tensions.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Linked to **ethnic violence (May 2023)**
- Includes **cadre verification & camp relocation**
- Reaffirms **territorial integrity of Manipur**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Suspension of Operations (SoO):** Temporary ceasefire agreement.
- **Cadre Verification:** Identification of insurgent members.

- **Insurgency:** Armed rebellion against state authority.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Home Affairs leads negotiations. State government coordinates implementation. Security forces monitor compliance.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 355**
  - Duty of Union to protect states.
- **UAPA, 1967**
  - Governs unlawful activities and insurgent groups.
- **Article 371C**
  - Special provisions for Manipur (Hill Areas Committee).

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Insurgency & Northeast (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Special provisions (Article 371 series) (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Internal security (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing SoO with **final peace agreement**
- Assuming insurgents **fully disarm (they stay in camps)**
- Ignoring difference between **Article 355 & 356**

## 36. Rajasthan Assembly Passes Anti-Conversion Bill, 2025

### 1. Core Idea

The Rajasthan Anti-Conversion Bill aims to **prevent forced or fraudulent religious conversions**, while raising concerns over **freedom of religion and misuse**.

### 2. Why in News

The Rajasthan Assembly passed a stringent anti-conversion law (2025) with **life imprisonment provisions and strict penalties**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Punishment: **Up to life imprisonment**
- Fine: **Up to ₹1 crore**
- Offences: **Cognisable, non-bailable**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Unlawful Conversion:** Conversion by force, fraud, or inducement.
- **Allurement:** Offering material benefit to induce conversion.
- **Cognisable Offence:** Police can arrest without warrant.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Rajasthan State Government enforces the law. Judiciary interprets constitutional validity. Law enforcement agencies implement provisions.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 25**
  - Freedom of conscience and religion (subject to restrictions).
- **Rev. Stanislaus v. State of MP (1977)**
  - Upheld validity of anti-conversion laws.
- **State Laws (UP, Uttarakhand, etc.)**
  - Similar anti-conversion frameworks exist.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Freedom of Religion (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **State legislation & federalism (2016, 2020)**

- **Preventive Detention:** Detention without trial to prevent future acts.
- **Public Order:** Threat affecting society at large.
- **Law & Order:** Localized disturbance manageable by normal law.

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming right to propagate includes **right to convert others absolutely**
- Confusing **voluntary vs forced conversion**
- Ignoring overlap with **Article 21 (marriage autonomy issues)**

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Home Affairs frames central detention laws. State governments enact and implement preventive detention laws. Advisory Boards (judicial bodies) review detention orders.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 22**
  - Provides limited safeguards for detenus.
- **A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras (1950)**
  - Isolated preventive detention from FRs initially.
- **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**
  - Expanded due process under Article 21.

## 37. Constitutional and Legal Provisions of Preventive Detention

### 1. Core Idea

Preventive detention allows the State to **detain individuals without trial to prevent future threats**, based on executive “subjective satisfaction,” creating a tension between **state security and individual liberty**.

### 2. Why in News

Recent Supreme Court judgments (2021–2025) emphasized **strict limits on misuse** and reiterated the distinction between “**law & order**” and “**public order**” in detention cases.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Provided under **Article 22(3–7)**
- Maximum detention without Advisory Board: **3 months**
- Exists in **Union List Entry 9 & Concurrent List Entry 3**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Preventive Detention (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 21 interpretation (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **preventive detention with punitive detention**
- Ignoring distinction between **public order vs law & order**
- Assuming strong procedural safeguards (they are limited)

## 38. Kerala Right to Public Service Bill, 2025

### 1. Core Idea

The Bill establishes a **statutory right to time-bound delivery of public services**, ensuring **accountability and transparency in governance** through penalties for delays.

### 2. Why in News

Kerala passed the Right to Public Service Bill (2025), strengthening **citizen-centric governance and administrative accountability**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Time-bound service delivery mandated
- Establishes **Right to Public Service Commission**
- Provides **penalties for delays**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Right to Public Service:** Statutory right to timely service delivery.
- **Citizen Charter:** Document specifying service standards.
- **Suo Motu:** Action taken on its own initiative.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The State Government implements the law. The proposed Right to Public Service Commission will oversee compliance and grievance redressal.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 14**
  - Ensures equality in access to services.
- **Article 21**

- Includes dignity and efficient governance.

- **Second ARC Recommendations**

- Advocated citizen charters and accountability.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Citizen Charter (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Good Governance (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Administrative reforms (2016, 2019)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming right is **fundamental (it is statutory)**
- Confusing with **RTI Act (information vs service delivery)**
- Ignoring role of **state-level legislation**

## 39. Supreme Court to Review Surrogacy Ban for Couples with One Existing Child

### 1. Core Idea

The case examines whether restrictions under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 violate **reproductive autonomy under Article 21**, especially for couples facing **secondary infertility**.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court agreed to review provisions barring couples with one child from accessing surrogacy (except limited exceptions).

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Allows only **altruistic surrogacy**

- Restriction: No surrogacy if couple has a child (with exceptions)
- Linked with **ART Act, 2021**

- Confusing **altruistic vs commercial surrogacy**
- Ignoring restriction on **couples with existing child**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **Surrogacy:** Arrangement where a woman carries a child for others.
- **Secondary Infertility:** Inability to conceive after previous childbirth.
- **Reproductive Autonomy:** Right to make reproductive choices.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regulates surrogacy and ART. Courts interpret constitutional validity. Clinics and boards regulate implementation.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021**
  - Permits altruistic, bans commercial surrogacy.
- **ART Act, 2021**
  - Regulates fertility treatments.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**
  - Recognized privacy & reproductive autonomy.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Surrogacy laws (2018, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Right to Privacy (2018, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Health governance (multiple years)**

**8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas**

- Assuming surrogacy is a **fundamental right**

**40. India's First Digital Census (2027) Initiatives****1. Core Idea**

Census 2027 marks India's **first fully digital Census**, using mobile applications, geo-tagging, and self-enumeration to enhance **accuracy, speed, and data-driven governance**.

**2. Why in News**

The Government announced digital tools (DLM App, self-enumeration portal) and preparations for **Census 2027**, including possible **caste enumeration and delimitation linkage**.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- First digital Census: **2027**
- Conducted every **10 years**
- Includes **2 phases: HLO + Population Enumeration**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **House Listing Block (HLB):** Basic unit for Census enumeration.
- **Self-Enumeration:** Citizen-led data entry via portal.
- **Delimitation:** Redrawing electoral boundaries.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

The Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducts the Census. It coordinates with State governments and field enumerators.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Census Act, 1948**
  - Governs Census; ensures confidentiality of data.
- **Article 246 & Union List Entry 69**
  - Census is a Union subject.
- **Article 82**
  - Provides for delimitation after Census.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Census & NPR (2011, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Delimitation (2012, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Population data (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing Census with NPR/NRC
- Assuming Census data is **publicly identifiable (confidential)**
- Ignoring link with **delimitation & reservation policies**

## 41. Revamping the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI): Autonomy vs Governance Reforms

## 1. Core Idea

The proposed overhaul of the Indian Statistical Institute raises concerns over **academic autonomy vs government-led governance reforms**.

## 2. Why in News

The Centre plans to **replace the ISI Act, 1959**, leading to protests by academics over reduced autonomy and increased administrative control.

## 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Established: **1959 Act**
- Founder: **P.C. Mahalanobis**
- ~1500 petitioners opposed reforms

## 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Academic Autonomy:** Freedom in academic decisions and research.
- **Institute of National Importance:** Institution with strategic national role.
- **Governance Reform:** Changes to improve institutional functioning.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation oversees ISI. The Board of Governors and Academic Council are key governing bodies within ISI.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **ISI Act, 1959**
  - Governs structure and functioning of ISI.
- **Mashelkar Committee Report (2020)**
  - Recommended governance reforms and modernization.
- **Institutes of National Importance framework**
  - Ensures autonomy with accountability.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Higher education governance (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Autonomy of institutions (2016, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Statistical systems (conceptual)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming ISI is **under UGC (it is independent)**
- Confusing autonomy with **lack of accountability**
- Ignoring role of **Board vs Academic Council**

## 42. Karnataka's Reservation

### Conundrum: Judicial Scrutiny and the 50% Cap

#### 1. Core Idea

Karnataka's increase in reservation beyond **50% ceiling** raises constitutional questions on **balance between social justice and equality of opportunity (Article 16)**.

#### 2. Why in News

Karnataka High Court stayed recruitment under enhanced quotas (SC/ST increase), leading to **judicial scrutiny of breach of 50% cap**.

#### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- SC quota: **15% → 17%**
- ST quota: **3% → 7%**
- Total reservation: **~56%**

#### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Indra Sawhney Case (1992)**: Set 50% reservation cap.
- **Sub-categorisation**: Division within reserved categories.
- **9th Schedule**: Laws protected from judicial review (subject to basic structure).

#### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Karnataka State Government implements reservation policy. Judiciary (High Court & Supreme Court) reviews constitutional validity.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 16(4)**
  - Allows reservation in public employment.
- **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)**
  - Established 50% cap.
- **I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu (2007)**
  - 9th Schedule laws subject to basic structure review.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Reservation policy (2015, 2019, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **9th Schedule (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Equality vs affirmative action (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming 9th Schedule gives **absolute immunity**
- Confusing **sub-categorisation with creamy layer**
- Treating 50% cap as **rigid rule (exceptions possible)**

## 43. Supreme Court Recalls Ban on Ex Post Facto Environmental Clearances

### 1. Core Idea

The Supreme Court revisited its stance on **ex post facto Environmental Clearance (EC)**, allowing retrospective approvals in **exceptional cases**, balancing **environmental protection vs economic considerations**.

### 2. Why in News

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In 2025, the Supreme Court recalled its earlier ban (Vanashakti case) on retrospective ECs, citing **public interest and economic implications**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Based on **EIA Notification, 2006**
- Governed by **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
- 2:1 majority judgment (2025)

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Ex Post Facto EC**: Clearance granted after project commencement.
- **Precautionary Principle**: Prevent harm before it occurs.
- **EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)**: Study of environmental consequences.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) grants environmental clearances. Judiciary interprets environmental laws and principles.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
  - Umbrella law for environmental protection.
- **EIA Notification, 2006**
  - Mandates prior environmental clearance.
- **Article 21**
  - Includes right to clean environment.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **EIA & environmental clearance (2017, 2020)**

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- UPSC asked on **Environmental principles (2015, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 21 (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming EC can **always be granted retrospectively**
- Ignoring **precautionary principle requirement**
- Confusing EIA with **post-approval compliance**

## 44. Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025

### 1. Core Idea

The Bill criminalizes **social boycott practices**, aiming to eliminate **caste-based discrimination and extra-constitutional coercive systems** like caste panchayats.

### 2. Why in News

Karnataka introduced legislation (2025) to curb **social ostracism and discriminatory practices**, similar to Maharashtra's 2016 law.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Punishment: **Up to 3 years imprisonment**
- Fine: **Up to ₹1 lakh**
- Covers **20 forms of boycott**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Social Boycott**: Denial of social/economic participation.
- **Caste Panchayat**: Informal caste-based decision body.

- **Ostracism:** Exclusion from community life.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The State Government enforces the law. Designated Social Boycott Prohibition Officers handle complaints. Judiciary adjudicates offences.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 14**
  - Equality before law.
- **Article 17**
  - Abolishes untouchability.
- **Article 21**
  - Protects dignity and liberty.
- **Maharashtra Act, 2016**
  - Precedent legislation.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Untouchability & Article 17 (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Social justice laws (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing social boycott with **untouchability (overlap but not identical)**
- Assuming caste panchayats are **legal bodies**
- Ignoring scope beyond **caste (includes economic/social exclusion)**

## 45. SHANTI Bill, 2025 and Nuclear Sector Reform

### 1. Core Idea

The SHANTI Bill aims to **liberalize India's nuclear sector**, enabling **private participation and reforming liability laws**, while retaining strategic control with the government.

### 2. Why in News

The Bill (2025) proposes replacing existing laws to **boost nuclear capacity and attract private/foreign investment**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Target: **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047**
- Current capacity: **~8.8 GW**
- Promotes **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **SMRs:** Small, modular nuclear reactors.
- **Nuclear Liability:** Legal responsibility for nuclear damage.
- **Right of Recourse:** Operator's right to claim damages from supplier.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and NPCIL currently dominate the sector. The proposed reforms involve private players and regulatory bodies like AERB.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**
  - Established government monopoly.
- **CLND Act, 2010**
  - Governs liability for nuclear damage.
- **Union List Entry 6**
  - Gives Centre control over atomic energy.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Nuclear energy & liability (2015, 2018)**
- UPSC asked on **Energy security (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **International conventions (CSC) (2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming full privatization of **core nuclear activities**
- Confusing **operator vs supplier liability**
- Ignoring Centre's control under **Union List Entry 6**

## 46. Right to Disconnect: Emerging Labour Right in India

### 1. Core Idea

The “Right to Disconnect” seeks to ensure that employees can **refuse work-related communication outside working hours**, protecting **health, dignity, and work-life balance** in the digital economy.

### 2. Why in News

A private member Bill (2025) proposes amendments to labour laws to formally recognize the right amid rising **burnout and overwork due to digitalisation**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- **51%** workforce works >49 hrs/week (ILO)
- **78%** employees report burnout
- Global precedents: France (2017), Australia (2024)

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Right to Disconnect:** Right to ignore work communication after office hours.

- **Gig Worker:** Non-traditional worker outside employer-employee relationship.
- **Burnout:** Work-induced mental and physical exhaustion.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Labour and Employment frames labour codes. International Labour Organization (ILO) provides global benchmarks on working conditions.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **OSH Code, 2020**
  - Governs occupational safety; proposed to be expanded.
- **Article 21**
  - Includes right to health and dignity.
- **Article 42 (DPSP)**
  - Just and humane working conditions.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Labour Codes (2020, 2022)**
- UPSC asked on **Gig economy (2021, 2023)**
- UPSC asked on **DPSPs (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming it is already a **legal right in India**
- Confusing with **leave/holiday provisions**
- Ignoring inclusion of **gig workers**

## 47. Judicial Governance in Environment: Mandamus & Stability Issues

**1. Core Idea**

The Supreme Court has increasingly adopted a “**managerial role**” in **environmental governance**, using tools like **continuing mandamus**, raising concerns over **judicial overreach and policy instability**.

**2. Why in News**

Recent rulings and reversals (e.g., ESZ norms, ex post facto EC cases) highlight **frequent judicial intervention and policy fluctuations**.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- ESZ guideline: **1 km buffer (2022, later modified 2023)**
- Based on **Environment Protection Act, 1986**
- Uses **Article 142 powers**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **Continuing Mandamus**: Court monitors implementation over time.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**: Buffer area around protected areas.
- **Judicial Overreach**: Judiciary entering executive domain.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

The Supreme Court leads judicial intervention. MoEFCC is the statutory regulator. Expert committees assist in environmental decision-making.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Article 142**
  - Power to do complete justice.
- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**
  - Core environmental law.
- **M.C. Mehta cases**

- Expanded environmental jurisprudence.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Judicial activism (2016, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Environmental governance (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 142 (2020)**

**8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas**

- Confusing **mandamus with final judgment**
- Ignoring difference between **review vs governance role**
- Assuming ESZ rules are **fixed (frequently modified)**

**48. Kuki-Zo Demand for Union Territory in Manipur****1. Core Idea**

The demand seeks creation of a **separate Union Territory for Kuki-Zo tribes**, highlighting issues of **ethnic conflict, governance failure, and federal restructuring**.

**2. Why in News**

Kuki-Zo groups renewed demand for UT status amid ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur (since 2023).

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- Violence since: **May 2023**
- Displacement: **~40,000 people**
- Deaths: **250+ (reported)**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **Union Territory**: Region administered directly by Centre.

- **Buffer Zone:** Security-controlled separation area.
- **Separate Administration:** Demand for independent governance structure.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Home Affairs handles internal security and UT creation. State government and central forces manage law and order.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 3**
  - Parliament can create new states/UTs.
- **Article 239A**
  - Legislature for UTs (e.g., Puducherry).
- **Article 371C**
  - Special provision for Manipur.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Northeast insurgency (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Special provisions (Article 371) (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **State reorganization (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing UT creation with **state consent (not mandatory)**
- Mixing **Sixth Schedule vs Article 371C**
- Assuming UT always has **legislature**

## 49. Passive Euthanasia & Right to Die with Dignity

### 1. Core Idea

Passive euthanasia allows withdrawal of life support in terminal cases, recognized under **Right to Life (Article 21)** as **Right to Die with Dignity**.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court is considering a case involving a patient in **Permanent Vegetative State (PVS)** and withdrawal of life support.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Landmark case: **Common Cause (2018)**
- First allowed: **Aruna Shanbaug (2011)**
- Updated guidelines: **2023**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Passive Euthanasia:** Withdrawal of life support.
- **Active Euthanasia:** Direct act to cause death (illegal in India).
- **Living Will:** Advance directive for medical treatment.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The judiciary frames guidelines. Hospitals and medical boards certify conditions. Ministry of Health oversees medical framework.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)**
  - Legalized passive euthanasia.
- **Aruna Shanbaug Case (2011)**
  - First recognition under strict safeguards.
- **Article 21**
  - Includes dignity in life and death.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Euthanasia (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Right to Life (multiple years)**

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- UPSC asked on **Ethics & medical law (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **active vs passive euthanasia**
- Assuming euthanasia is **fully legalized**
- Ignoring requirement of **medical board approval**

## 50. Resolution Against VB-GRAM G: Federal and Social Implications

### 1. Core Idea

The issue reflects **Centre–State friction over rural employment policy**, highlighting concerns of **federalism, decentralisation, and livelihood rights**.

### 2. Why in News

Karnataka Assembly passed a resolution opposing the **VB-GRAM G Act, 2025**, demanding restoration of MGNREGA.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- MGNREGA: **100 days guaranteed employment**
- Funding pattern: **60:40 (Centre:State)**
- Based on **73rd Amendment (1992)**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Legislative Resolution:** Expression of legislature's opinion.
- **Decentralisation:** Transfer of power to local bodies.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** Jointly funded schemes.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

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The Ministry of Rural Development implements employment schemes like MGNREGA. State governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions execute them at grassroots level.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **MGNREGA, 2005**
  - Legal guarantee of rural employment.
- **73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992**
  - Strengthens Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- **Article 246 & Seventh Schedule**
  - Division of powers (Concurrent List relevance).

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **MGNREGA (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism (2016, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Panchayati Raj (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming resolutions are **legally binding**
- Confusing CSS funding patterns
- Ignoring role of **Gram Panchayats**

## 51. Pennaiyar River Dispute & Tribunal Formation

### 1. Core Idea

The dispute involves **inter-state river water sharing**, requiring adjudication through a tribunal under constitutional and statutory provisions.

### 2. Why in News

The Supreme Court directed the Centre to constitute a tribunal for the Pennaiyar river dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Origin: **Nandi Hills (Karnataka)**
- Flows into **Bay of Bengal**
- Governed by **ISRWD Act, 1956**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Riparian State:** State sharing river water.
- **Equitable Apportionment:** Fair distribution principle.
- **Tribunal:** Adjudicatory body for disputes.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Jal Shakti handles water disputes. Tribunals are constituted under central law. State governments are parties to disputes.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 262**
  - Parliament can adjudicate river disputes.
- **ISRWD Act, 1956**
  - Provides tribunal mechanism.
- **Entry 17 (State List) & Entry 56 (Union List)**
  - Water vs inter-state rivers.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **River disputes (2013, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 262 (2016)**
- UPSC asked on **Cauvery dispute (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming SC directly resolves disputes
- Confusing **State vs Union jurisdiction**
- Ignoring tribunal decision is **final & binding**

## 52. Denotified Tribes (DNTs) & Demand for Constitutional Recognition

### 1. Core Idea

DNTs are historically marginalized communities seeking **constitutional recognition and targeted affirmative action** to overcome continued exclusion.

### 2. Why in News

Renewed demands for **separate census category and constitutional safeguards** for DNTs ahead of Census 2027.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Origin: **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871**
- Denotified: **Post-Independence**
- Linked with **SEED scheme**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Denotified Tribes:** Communities decriminalized after colonial rule.
- **Sub-classification:** Division within backward groups.
- **Affirmative Action:** Policies for disadvantaged groups.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements welfare schemes. Commissions and courts assess classification and inclusion.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Articles 15 & 16**
  - Enable affirmative action.
- **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 (repealed)**
  - Colonial classification law.

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- **SEED Scheme**
  - Welfare scheme for DNTs.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Marginalised communities (2016, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Reservation & classification (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Census categories (2011, 2020)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing DNTs with **SC/ST categories**
- Assuming constitutional recognition already exists
- Ignoring colonial origin of classification

## 53. Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026

### 1. Core Idea

The amendment ensures **legal clarity in repeal and transition of old labour laws**, strengthening the new **unified labour code framework**.

### 2. Why in News

The Government introduced the Amendment Bill (2026) to remove ambiguity regarding repeal of earlier labour laws under IRC, 2020.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Replaces **3 laws (1926, 1946, 1947 Acts)**
- Threshold for layoffs: **300 workers**
- Part of **4 Labour Codes reform**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Savings Clause:** Preserves existing rights/actions.

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- **Statutory Operation:** Automatic legal effect.
- **Negotiating Union:** Recognised bargaining agent.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

The Ministry of Labour and Employment administers labour codes. State governments implement provisions at local level.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Industrial Relations Code, 2020**
  - Consolidates labour laws.
- **Entry 22, Concurrent List**
  - Labour is concurrent subject.
- **Article 254**
  - Central law prevails over state law.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Labour Codes (2020, 2022)**
- UPSC asked on **Trade unions (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Concurrent List (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing repeal with **executive discretion**
- Ignoring **savings provisions continuity**
- Mixing up all **four labour codes**

## 54. Rajasthan 'Disturbed Areas' Property Regulation Bill, 2026

### 1. Core Idea

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The law enables the State to **regulate property transactions in riot-prone “disturbed areas”** to prevent **distress sales and demographic coercion**, raising concerns over **property rights and equality**.

### 2. Why in News

Rajasthan Assembly passed a Bill (2026) introducing **prior approval for property transfers** in notified disturbed areas.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Notification period: **Up to 3 years**
- Penalty: **3–5 years imprisonment + ≥ ₹1 lakh fine**
- Modeled on **Gujarat Disturbed Areas Act**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Disturbed Area:** Riot-prone notified locality.
- **Distress Sale:** Forced sale under pressure.
- **Ghettoisation:** Community-based segregation in cities.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

State Revenue and Home Departments implement the Act. Local authorities grant permission for transactions. Judiciary reviews constitutional validity.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 300A**
  - Right to property (legal right).
- **Article 14**
  - Equality before law (test of arbitrariness).
- **Entry 18, State List**
  - Land is a State subject.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

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- UPSC asked on **Right to Property (2015, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism & State powers (2016, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Urban governance (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Assuming property is **Fundamental Right**
- Confusing **disturbed areas with AFSPA zones**
- Ignoring requirement of **prior approval for transfer**

## 55. Removal of Speaker of Lok Sabha: Constitutional Procedure

### 1. Core Idea

The removal of the Speaker ensures **accountability while preserving neutrality of the Chair**, governed by **strict constitutional and procedural safeguards**.

### 2. Why in News

A rare resolution for removal of the Speaker was initiated, triggering debate on **parliamentary procedures and neutrality**.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Notice period: **14 days**
- Majority required: **Effective Majority**
- Minimum support for motion: **50 members**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Effective Majority:** Majority of total membership excluding vacancies.
- **Casting Vote:** Deciding vote in case of tie.

- **Leave of the House:** Permission to move motion.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

Lok Sabha Secretariat manages procedure. Members of Parliament initiate and vote on the resolution.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Article 94**
  - Removal of Speaker.
- **Article 96**
  - Speaker cannot preside during removal motion.
- **Lok Sabha Rules (Rule 200–203)**
  - Procedure for removal.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Parliamentary procedures (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Types of majority (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Speaker’s role (multiple years)**

**8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas**

- Confusing **effective vs simple majority**
- Assuming Speaker has **casting vote during removal**
- Ignoring requirement of **leave of the House**

**56. Right to Die with Dignity: Harish Rana Case**

**1. Core Idea**

The case operationalizes the **Right to Die with Dignity under Article 21**, allowing withdrawal of life support in cases of **medical futility**.

**2. Why in News**

The Supreme Court permitted withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment in a **Persistent Vegetative State (PVS)** case.

**3. Key Facts and Figures**

- Based on **Common Cause (2018)**
- PVS duration: **13+ years**
- Requires **multiple medical boards**

**4. Definition of Key Terms**

- **PVS:** No awareness despite wakefulness.
- **CANH:** Artificial feeding/hydration support.
- **Living Will:** Advance medical directive.

**5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved**

Judiciary provides legal framework. Medical boards assess patient condition. Hospitals implement guidelines.

**6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements**

- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)**
  - Legalised passive euthanasia.
- **Gian Kaur v. State of Punjab (1996)**
  - No right to die (later nuanced).
- **Article 21**
  - Includes dignity in death.

**7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)**

- UPSC asked on **Euthanasia (2017, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Article 21 (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Medical ethics (multiple years)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **withdrawal of treatment with active euthanasia**
- Assuming euthanasia is **unrestricted**
- Ignoring requirement of **strict safeguards**

## 57. Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026

## 1. Core Idea

The Bill aims to **prohibit unlawful religious conversions** through force, fraud, or inducement, while raising debates on **religious freedom vs state regulation**.

## 2. Why in News

Maharashtra introduced a new anti-conversion Bill (2026) with **stringent penalties and expanded definitions**.

## 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Punishment: **Up to 10 years imprisonment**
- Fine: **Up to ₹7 lakh**
- Applies to **conversion via marriage**

## 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Unlawful Conversion:** Conversion via coercion or fraud.
- **Allurement:** Offering benefits for conversion.
- **Coercion:** Forcing conversion through threat.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

State Home Department enforces law. Judiciary evaluates constitutional validity. Police investigate offences.

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 25**
  - Freedom of religion (subject to restrictions).
- **Rev. Stanislaus v. State of MP (1977)**
  - No fundamental right to convert others.
- **Entry 1, State List**
  - Public order is state subject.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Freedom of Religion (2014, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **Fundamental Rights (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **State laws (2016, 2020)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **propagation with conversion rights**
- Ignoring role of **public order**
- Mixing with **Special Marriage Act provisions**

## 58. Sub-classification within Scheduled Castes: Karnataka Debate

## 1. Core Idea

Sub-classification within SCs aims to ensure **equitable distribution of reservation benefits**, addressing intra-category inequality.

## 2. Why in News

Karnataka is considering internal quota division within SCs following recent judicial backing.

## 3. Key Facts and Figures

- SC quota: **15% subdivided**

- Recruitment: ~56,000 posts
- Based on Sadashiva Commission

#### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Sub-classification:** Division within SC category.
- **Dalit Left/Right:** Sub-groups based on socio-historical status.
- **Internal Reservation:** Reserved share within quota.

#### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

State government frames policy. Judiciary (Supreme Court) interprets legality. Commissions recommend classification.

#### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 341**
  - Specifies SC list.
- **Article 16(4)**
  - Enables reservation in jobs.
- **State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024)**
  - Allowed SC sub-classification.

#### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Reservation policy (2015, 2019)**
- UPSC asked on **SC/ST provisions (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Equality vs equity (multiple years)**

#### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **sub-classification with creamy layer**
- Assuming SC list can be altered by states
- Ignoring role of **President under Article 341**

## 59. GHADC Polls: Exclusion of Non-Tribals under Sixth Schedule

### 1. Core Idea

The amendment restricts election candidature in GHADC to **Scheduled Tribes only**, strengthening **tribal self-governance under Sixth Schedule**.

### 2. Why in News

GHADC amended rules to exclude non-tribals from contesting elections after ethnic tensions.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Applies in **Meghalaya**
- Based on **Sixth Schedule provisions**
- Ends **70-year practice**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **ADC (Autonomous District Council):** Local self-governing body.
- **Sixth Schedule:** Special autonomy for tribal areas.
- **ST Certificate:** Proof of tribal status.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

State Government and Governor oversee ADC functioning. Councils frame rules under constitutional provisions.

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 244(2)**
  - Applies Sixth Schedule.
- **Article 342**
  - Specifies STs.
- **Paragraph 2, Sixth Schedule**
  - Powers of District Councils.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

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- UPSC asked on **Sixth Schedule (2014, 2020)**
- UPSC asked on **Tribal governance (2017, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **Special provisions (multiple years)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **Fifth vs Sixth Schedule**
- Assuming all citizens can contest ADC elections
- Ignoring Governor's role in ADC framework

## 60. Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

### 1. Core Idea

The Bill aims to **streamline governance in Union Territories (UTs)** by clarifying the powers of Administrators/Lieutenant Governors and ensuring **uniform implementation of central laws**.

### 2. Why in News

The Union Government introduced amendments to harmonise **administrative, legislative, and executive functions in UTs**, especially those with legislatures.

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Applies to UTs like **Delhi, Puducherry, J&K**
- Focus on **role of Lieutenant Governor (LG)**
- Seeks to reduce **governance ambiguity**

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Union Territory (UT):** Territory directly governed by the Union Government.

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- **Lieutenant Governor (LG):** Administrator representing the President in UTs.
- **Aid and Advice:** Principle where executive acts on elected government's advice.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** – Nodal authority for UT administration
- Office of LG/Administrator
- UT Legislatures (where applicable)

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 239**
  - UTs administered by President through Administrator.
- **Article 239AA**
  - Special provisions for Delhi (legislature + CM).
- **Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2018, 2023)**
  - Clarified LG vs elected government powers.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Delhi governance model (2017, 2020, 2023)**
- UPSC asked on **Centre-State relations (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **UT administration (2015, 2019)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **UTs with states (legislative powers differ)**
- Assuming LG always acts independently
- Ignoring **Article 239AA special status for Delhi**

## 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 15(4)**
  - Special provisions for backward classes.
- **Article 16(4)**
  - Reservation in public employment.
- **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**
  - Constitutional status to NCBC.

## 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **OBC policies (2016, 2021)**
- UPSC asked on **financial inclusion (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **welfare schemes (GS-II)**

## 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing NBCFDC with NCBC (**constitutional body**)
- Assuming it provides **direct subsidies instead of loans**
- Ignoring role of SCAs in **implementation**

## 62. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026

## 1. Core Idea

The Bill represents a **constitutional reform initiative**, aiming to modify provisions relating to **governance, rights, or institutional functioning**, reflecting evolving democratic needs.

## 2. Why in News

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been introduced, sparking debate on **constitutional change, federal balance, and institutional reforms**.

## 61. National Backward Classes

## Finance &amp; Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

## 1. Core Idea

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation promotes **economic empowerment of OBCs** through concessional finance and skill development.

## 2. Why in News

NBCFDC initiatives are being expanded to enhance **credit access, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities** for backward classes.

## 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Established: **1992**
- Under: **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- Provides **low-interest loans via State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs)**

## 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **OBC (Other Backward Classes):** Socially and educationally backward groups identified by government.
- **Concessional Finance:** Loans at subsidized interest rates.
- **SCAs:** State-level agencies implementing NBCFDC schemes.

## 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- NBCFDC
- State Channelizing Agencies
- Banks and NGOs

### 3. Key Facts and Figures

- Requires **special majority** (Article 368)
- May require **ratification by half of states** (if federal provisions affected)
- Part of ongoing constitutional evolution

### 4. Definition of Key Terms

- **Constitutional Amendment:** Formal change to Constitution.
- **Special Majority:** 2/3rd present & voting + majority of total membership.
- **Ratification:** Approval by states for federal provisions.

### 5. Ministry / Institutions / Organizations Involved

- Parliament (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha)
- State Legislatures (for ratification)
- President (assent)

### 6. Government Acts / Policies / Judgements

- **Article 368**
  - Procedure for amendment.
- **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)**
  - Basic Structure Doctrine.
- **Minerva Mills Case (1980)**
  - Balance between FRs & DPSPs.

### 7. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Linkage)

- UPSC asked on **Amendment procedure (2013, 2017)**
- UPSC asked on **Basic Structure (multiple years)**
- UPSC asked on **Federalism (GS-II)**

### 8. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- Confusing **simple vs special majority**
- Ignoring **Basic Structure limitation**

- Assuming all amendments need **state ratification**

## 63. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) – Major Appointment Provisions

### 1. Core Idea

National Human Rights Commission is India's apex statutory body for the protection and promotion of human rights, with a **structured and high-level appointment mechanism** to ensure credibility and independence.

### 2. Why in News

Recent debates around **vacancies, delays in appointments, and transparency in selection** have brought focus on NHRC's appointment provisions and institutional effectiveness.

### 3. Composition of NHRC

- **Chairperson:** Former Chief Justice of India
- **Members:**
  - One serving/former Supreme Court judge
  - One serving/former Chief Justice of a High Court
  - Three members with knowledge/practical experience in human rights
- **Ex-officio members:** Chairpersons of commissions like
  - National Commission for Scheduled Castes
  - National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
  - National Commission for Women

#### 4. Appointment Authority

- Appointed by the **President of India**
- Based on recommendations of a **high-powered selection committee**

#### 5. Selection Committee (Key Provision)

The committee consists of:

- Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- Home Minister
- Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

This ensures **bipartisan participation and institutional balance**

#### 6. Legal Basis

- Governed by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993

#### 7. Tenure & Conditions

- Tenure: **3 years or till age of 70 years** (whichever earlier)
- Eligible for reappointment
- Removal only by President under specific conditions (similar safeguards as higher constitutional posts)

#### 8. Constitutional & Governance Linkages

- **Article 21** → Right to life and dignity

- **Paris Principles (UN, 1993)** → Global standards for human rights institutions
- Reflects **accountability + independence of oversight bodies**

#### 9. Key Issues & Concerns

- Delays in appointments → institutional inefficiency
- Concerns over **executive dominance in selection**
- Vacancies affect investigation capacity
- Debate on aligning fully with **Paris Principles (autonomy & pluralism)**

#### 10. Previous Year Linkage (PYQ Focus)

- UPSC asked on **NHRC composition & powers (2015, 2020)**
- Questions on **statutory vs constitutional bodies**
- Linkage with **human rights mechanisms & governance (GS-II)**

#### 11. Possible Prelims Trap Areas

- NHRC is **NOT a constitutional body** (statutory)
- Chairperson must be **former CJI (not sitting)**
- Selection committee includes **both government & opposition**
- Confusing NHRC with State Human Rights Commissions

## Major Supreme Court Judgements (2025–26) —

**1. Dr. Tanvi Behl v. Shrey Goel (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Domicile-based reservation in PG medical courses held unconstitutional
- **Constitutional Provision:** Equality before law and non-discrimination
- **Related Articles:** Article 14, Article 15
- **UPSC Focus:** “India has only one domicile — India”

**2. Gayatri Balasamy v. ISG Novasoft Technologies (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Courts have limited power to modify arbitral awards
- **Legal Provision:** Section 34, Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996
- **Constitutional Principle:** Judicial restraint, Rule of Law
- **UPSC Focus:** Limited judicial interference in arbitration

**3. Tamil Nadu Governor Bills Case (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Governor cannot indefinitely delay assent to State Bills
- **Constitutional Provision:** Governor’s power regarding Bills
- **Related Articles:** Article 200, Article 201
- **UPSC Focus:** Federalism and Governor’s discretionary powers

**4. Judicial Appointments / Collegium Transparency Case (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Reaffirmed judicial independence in appointments
- **Constitutional Provision:** Independence of Judiciary
- **Related Articles:** Article 124, Article 217
- **UPSC Focus:** Collegium vs NJAC debate

**5. Maternity Benefits for Adoptive Mothers (2026)**

- **Key Ruling:** Adoptive mothers entitled to maternity benefits
- **Constitutional Provision:** Gender justice and dignity
- **Related Articles:** Article 14, Article 15, Article 21
- **UPSC Focus:** Social justice and women empowerment

**6. Passive Euthanasia Clarification Case (2026)**

- **Key Ruling:** Right to Die with Dignity reaffirmed
- **Constitutional Provision:** Protection of life and personal liberty
- **Related Articles:** Article 21
- **UPSC Focus:** Passive euthanasia and living will

**7. SC/ST Status after Religious Conversion (2026)**

- **Key Ruling:** Examined continuation of reservation benefits after conversion

- **Constitutional Provision:** Reservation and social justice
- **Related Articles:** Article 15(4), Article 16(4), Article 341
- **Related Schedule:** Presidential notification under Article 341
- **UPSC Focus:** SC status and conversion issue

**8. Women in Armed Forces Case (2026)**

- **Key Ruling:** Addressed systemic discrimination against women in defence services
- **Constitutional Provision:** Equality of opportunity
- **Related Articles:** Article 14, Article 15, Article 16
- **UPSC Focus:** Gender equality in armed forces

**9. Vanashakti v. Union of India (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Strengthened environmental governance and ecological protection
- **Constitutional Provision:** Environmental protection as constitutional duty
- **Related Articles:** Article 21, Article 48A, Article 51A(g)
- **UPSC Focus:** Sustainable development and environmental jurisprudence

**10. Electoral Bonds Case Follow-up (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Political funding transparency emphasized
- **Constitutional Provision:** Free and fair elections
- **Related Articles:** Article 19(1)(a), Article 324
- **UPSC Focus:** Electoral reforms and democratic accountability

**11. Places of Worship Act Proceedings (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Continued judicial scrutiny of Places of Worship Act, 1991
- **Legal Provision:** Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991
- **Related Articles:** Article 25, Article 26, Article 14
- **UPSC Focus:** Secularism and status quo of religious places

**12. Cheque Dishonour Procedure Case (2025)**

- **Key Ruling:** Procedural clarity in cheque dishonour cases
- **Legal Provision:** Section 138, Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
- **Constitutional Principle:** Speedy justice and fair procedure
- **UPSC Focus:** Criminal justice reforms

**Important Constitutional Amendments (2025–26) —**

**1. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**

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- **Key Provision:** Proposed increase in Lok Sabha strength from 543 to 850 seats
- **Constitutional Provision:** Delimitation and women's reservation implementation
- **Related Articles:** Article 81, Article 82, Article 170
- **UPSC Focus:** Linked to implementation of Women's Reservation and post-Census delimitation

### 2. Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025

- **Key Provision:** Proposed removal/disqualification of Ministers upon preventive detention
- **Constitutional Provision:** Ministerial responsibility and ethical governance
- **Related Articles:** Article 75, Article 164
- **UPSC Focus:** Conditions for Ministers holding office

### 3. Constitution (128th Amendment) Act, 2023 (Implementation Focus in 2025–26)

- **Popular Name:** Women's Reservation Act / Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam
- **Key Provision:** 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies
- **Related Articles Inserted:** Article 239AA-related provisions, Articles 330A, 332A, 334A
- **UPSC Focus:** Effective implementation depends on Census + Delimitation

### 4. Delimitation Framework Developments (2026)

- **Key Provision:** Fresh delimitation after Census
- **Constitutional Provision:** Readjustment of seats after Census
- **Related Articles:** Article 82, Article 170(3)

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- **Related Amendment Background:** 42nd, 84th, 87th Amendments
- **UPSC Focus:** Delimitation freeze and next delimitation cycle

### 5. Anglo-Indian Reservation Removal (Recent Impact)

- **Amendment:** 104th Constitutional Amendment Act
- **Key Provision:** Ended reserved seats for Anglo-Indians in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- **Extended:** SC/ST reservation extended till 2030
- **Related Articles:** Article 331 (removed), Article 334
- **UPSC Focus:** Still frequently asked in prelims

### 6. OBC / EWS Reservation Constitutional Position (Continuing Relevance)

- **Amendment:** 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act
- **Key Provision:** 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
- **Related Articles:** Article 15(6), Article 16(6)
- **UPSC Focus:** Frequently linked with current reservation debates in 2025–26

### 7. National Commission for Backward Classes

- **Amendment:** 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- **Key Provision:** Constitutional status to NCBC
- **Related Article:** Article 338B
- **Related Articles:** 342A
- **UPSC Focus:** State vs Central OBC list issue

**8. GST Constitutional Amendment (High Revision Area)**

- **Amendment:** 101st Constitutional Amendment Act
- **Key Provision:** Introduction of GST
- **Related Articles:** Article 246A, 269A, 279A
- **Related Schedule:** Seventh Schedule
- **UPSC Focus:** GST Council powers and federal taxation

- **Related Article:** Article 43B, Part IXB
- **UPSC Focus:** Supreme Court partially struck down provisions relating to States

**Most Important for Prelims 2026**

**Top 5 Priority Areas**

1. 131st Amendment Bill (Lok Sabha Expansion)
2. Women’s Reservation Act (128th Amendment)
3. Delimitation after Census
4. 130th Amendment Bill
5. EWS Reservation (103rd Amendment)

**9. Local Bodies Reservation for Women**

- **Constitutional Background:** 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments
- **Key Provision:** Reservation for women in Panchayats and Municipalities
- **Related Articles:** Article 243D, Article 243T
- **UPSC Focus:** Often linked with Women’s Reservation Act questions

**One-Line Revision**

- **850 Lok Sabha seats proposal** → 131st Amendment Bill
- **33% women reservation** → 128th Amendment
- **EWS quota** → 103rd Amendment
- **NCBC constitutional status** → 102nd Amendment
- **GST introduced** → 101st Amendment

**10. Cooperative Societies Amendment**

- **Amendment:** 97th Constitutional Amendment Act
- **Key Provision:** Constitutional status to Cooperative Societies

**Important Constitutional Articles**

**1. Article 14**

- **Content:** Equality before law and equal protection of laws
- **Constitutional Area:** Fundamental Rights

- **Related Part:** Part III

- **UPSC Focus:** Basis of judicial review and anti-arbitrariness doctrine

**2. Article 19**

- **Content:** Six Fundamental Freedoms (speech, movement, residence, profession, etc.)
- **Constitutional Area:** Fundamental Rights
- **Related Part:** Part III
- **UPSC Focus:** Freedom of speech, electoral bonds, digital rights

**3. Article 21**

- **Content:** Protection of life and personal liberty
- **Constitutional Area:** Fundamental Rights
- **Related Part:** Part III
- **UPSC Focus:** Right to privacy, dignity, passive euthanasia, environment

**4. Article 32**

- **Content:** Right to Constitutional Remedies
- **Constitutional Area:** Fundamental Rights Enforcement
- **Related Part:** Part III
- **UPSC Focus:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called it the “Heart and Soul” of the Constitution

**5. Article 136**

- **Content:** Special Leave Petition (SLP) to Supreme Court
- **Constitutional Area:** Judiciary
- **Related Part:** Part V
- **UPSC Focus:** Discretionary appellate power of Supreme Court

**6. Article 141**

- **Content:** Law declared by Supreme Court is binding on all courts in India
- **Constitutional Area:** Judiciary
- **Related Part:** Part V
- **UPSC Focus:** Doctrine of precedent

**7. Article 142**

- **Content:** Supreme Court may pass any decree necessary for complete justice
- **Constitutional Area:** Judiciary
- **Related Part:** Part V
- **UPSC Focus:** Extraordinary powers of Supreme Court

**8. Article 200**

- **Content:** Governor’s assent to Bills passed by State Legislature
- **Constitutional Area:** State Executive
- **Related Part:** Part VI
- **UPSC Focus:** Tamil Nadu Governor Bills case

**9. Article 239AA**

- **Content:** Special status and administration of Delhi (NCT)
- **Constitutional Area:** Union Territories
- **Related Part:** Part VIII
- **UPSC Focus:** Delhi LG vs Elected Government issue

**10. Article 243D**

- **Content:** Reservation of seats in Panchayats
- **Constitutional Area:** Local Self Government
- **Related Part:** Part IX
- **UPSC Focus:** Women reservation and SC/ST reservation

**11. Article 243T**

- **Content:** Reservation of seats in Municipalities
- **Constitutional Area:** Urban Local Bodies
- **Related Part:** Part IXA

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- **UPSC Focus:** Urban governance and women reservation

### 12. Article 246A

- **Content:** Special provision for GST legislation
- **Constitutional Area:** Taxation and Federalism
- **Related Part:** Part XI
- **UPSC Focus:** Simultaneous taxing power of Centre and States

### 13. Article 280

- **Content:** Finance Commission
- **Constitutional Area:** Centre-State Financial Relations
- **Related Part:** Part XII
- **UPSC Focus:** Vertical and horizontal devolution

### 14. Article 324

- **Content:** Superintendence, direction and control of elections vested in Election Commission
- **Constitutional Area:** Elections
- **Related Part:** Part XV

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- **UPSC Focus:** Electoral reforms and appointment debate

### 15. Article 338B

- **Content:** National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
- **Constitutional Area:** Constitutional Bodies
- **Related Part:** Part XVI
- **UPSC Focus:** 102nd Constitutional Amendment

### 16. Article 356

- **Content:** President's Rule in States
- **Constitutional Area:** Emergency Provisions
- **Related Part:** Part XVIII
- **UPSC Focus:** Breakdown of Constitutional Machinery

### 17. Article 368

- **Content:** Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
- **Constitutional Area:** Constitutional Amendment
- **Related Part:** Part XX
- **UPSC Focus:** Basic Structure Doctrine

## Important Constitutional Schedules

### 1. First Schedule

- **Content:** Names of States and Union Territories; territorial extent

- **UPSC Focus:** State reorganisation and UT changes

**2. Fifth Schedule**

- **Content:** Administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes
- **Related Article:** Article 244(1)
- **UPSC Focus:** Tribal administration

**3. Sixth Schedule**

- **Content:** Administration of Tribal Areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
- **Related Article:** Article 244(2)
- **UPSC Focus:** Autonomous District Councils

**4. Seventh Schedule**

- **Content:** Union List, State List, Concurrent List
- **Related Article:** Article 246
- **UPSC Focus:** Federal structure and legislative relations

**5. Eighth Schedule**

- **Content:** 22 Scheduled Languages
- **Related Article:** Article 344, 351

- **UPSC Focus:** Language-related questions

**6. Ninth Schedule**

- **Content:** Laws protected from judicial review (subject to Basic Structure test)
- **Related Amendment:** First Amendment Act, 1951
- **UPSC Focus:** I.R. Coelho Case

**7. Tenth Schedule**

- **Content:** Anti-Defection Law
- **Related Articles:** Article 102(2), 191(2)
- **UPSC Focus:** Speaker's powers and disqualification

**8. Eleventh Schedule**

- **Content:** 29 subjects of Panchayats
- **Related Amendment:** 73rd Amendment
- **UPSC Focus:** Rural local governance

**9. Twelfth Schedule**

- **Content:** 18 subjects of Municipalities
- **Related Amendment:** 74th Amendment
- **UPSC Focus:** Urban governance



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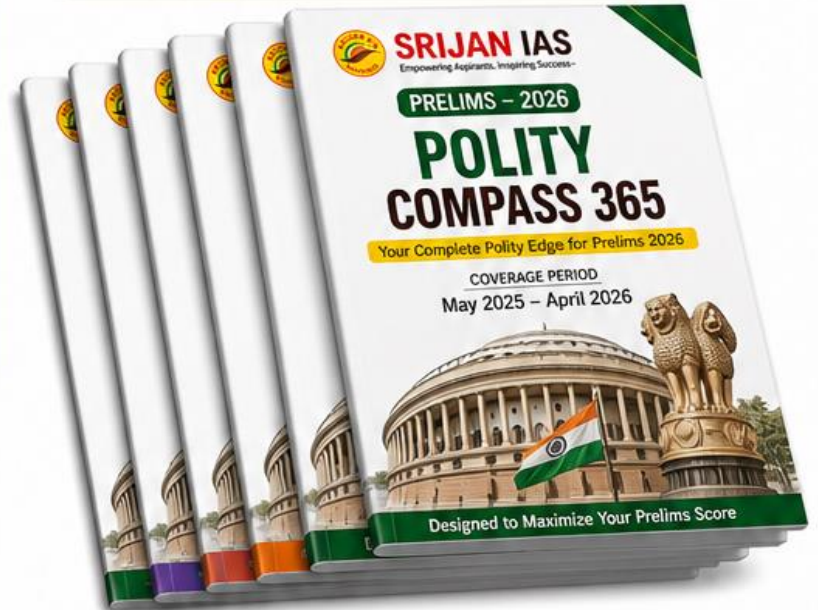
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