

R.C. Reddy IAS Study Circle

APPSC GROUP-1 SERVICES 2026

Paper -1 (General Studies)

(PRELIMINARY SECTIONAL TEST -2)

POLITY: CONSTITUTION, POLITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Statement I — Correct: Article 53(1) vests the executive power of the Union in the President, exercisable directly or through officers subordinate to him.
- Statement II — Correct: Article 53(2) provides that the supreme command of the Defence Forces of the Union is vested in the President.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

2. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Statement I — Correct: Under Article 58(1)(a) and (b), a person must:
⇒ be a citizen of India, and
⇒ have completed 35 years of age.
- Statement II — Correct: Under Article 58(1)(c), the person must be qualified for election as a member of the House of the People (Lok Sabha).
- Statement III — Correct: Under Article 58(2), a person is not eligible if he/she holds an office of profit under:
⇒ Government of India,
⇒ Government of any State, or
⇒ a local/other authority under the control of these governments.
- Statement IV — Correct: The Explanation to Article 58(2) provides an important exception. A person is not deemed to hold an office of profit merely because he/she is:
⇒ President or Vice-President of India,
⇒ Governor of any State, or
⇒ Minister of the Union or of any State.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

3. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Statement I — Correct: The April 2025 judgment addressed the Governor's handling of Bills under Article 200 and laid down timelines for constitutional action.
- Statement II — Incorrect: The Constitution does not establish such an absolute rule. The Governor's options under Article 200, including reserving a Bill for the President's consideration in constitutionally permitted circumstances, remain relevant.
- Source: https://api.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2023/45314/45314_2023_11_1501_60770_Judgement_08-Apr-2025.pdf

4. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Statement I — Correct: Section 393(5), BNSS 2023 prescribes hanging by the neck until death for carrying out a death sentence. The Supreme Court rejected the PIL challenging hanging as cruel and violative of Article 21.
- Statement II — Correct: In Deena v. Union of India (1983), the Court had upheld hanging as a constitutionally permissible method when properly carried out, and the recent challenge did not provide sufficient material to displace that precedent.

5. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Statement I — Correct: The 42nd Amendment (1976) made ministerial advice binding on the President. The 44th Amendment (1978) gave the President the power to ask for reconsideration of the advice. After reconsideration, the President must act according to the advice.
- Statement II — Incorrect: Under Article 352(3), a National Emergency can be proclaimed only after the decision of the Union Cabinet is communicated to the President in writing.
- Remember:
⇒ 42nd → Advice binding
⇒ 44th → Reconsideration possible
⇒ Article 352(3) → Written Cabinet decision mandatory
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

6. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- I — Correct: Article 352(2)(a) → The President may revoke the Emergency by a subsequent proclamation.
- II — Incorrect: Under Article 352(2)(b), it is the Lok Sabha, not Rajya Sabha, whose resolution of disapproval requires revocation.
- III — Correct: Article 352(7) → At least 1/10th of the total members of Lok Sabha can give written notice, requiring a special sitting within 14 days.
- IV — Incorrect: Under Article 352(4), once approved, the Emergency continues for 6 months at a time, not one year. It can be extended by Parliament every six months.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

7. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Statement I — Correct: Under Article 124(3), a person must be a citizen of India and must have been:
⇒ a Judge of a High Court for at least 5 years, or
⇒ an advocate of a High Court for at least 10 years.
- Note: Article 124(3) also provides a third route — a distinguished jurist, in the President's opinion.
- Statement II — Correct: Under Article 124(4), a Supreme Court Judge can be removed by the President only after each House of Parliament passes an address with the required special majority, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- Statement III — Correct: Under Article 124(7), a person who has served as a Supreme Court Judge cannot plead or act in any court or before any authority within India after retirement. This includes the Supreme Court itself.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

8. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Judicial Activism — Correct: The judiciary adopts a proactive approach and issues directions in matters of public interest, particularly when existing mechanisms are considered inadequate.
- Judicial Restraint — Incorrect: It means the judiciary limits its intervention and respects the domain of the legislature and executive.
- Judicial Overreach — Incorrect: It refers to a situation where the judiciary is considered to have gone beyond its constitutional/institutional limits and entered into areas primarily belonging to the legislature or executive.
- Judicial Review — Incorrect: It is the power of courts to examine the constitutional validity of laws and executive actions.

9. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Statement I — Correct: Article 142(1) empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for “doing complete justice” in a matter pending before it.
- Statement II — Correct: Article 142 gives the Supreme Court wide powers to ensure complete justice. These powers can also operate in matters involving court martial proceedings, subject to the constitutional and statutory framework governing armed forces.

- Statement III — Correct: Under Article 142(2), the Supreme Court has powers regarding:
 - ⇒ securing attendance of any person,
 - ⇒ discovery or production of documents,
 - ⇒ investigation, and
 - ⇒ punishment of contempt of itself.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

10. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Statement I — Correct: Under Article 233(1), District Judges are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
Further, under Article 233(2), a person not already in Union/State service must have been an advocate or pleader for at least 7 years and must be recommended by the High Court.
- Statement II — Incorrect: The State Public Service Commission does not have a mandatory role in the appointment of District Judges under Article 233.
- Under Article 234, the Governor consults the State PSC and High Court for appointment of persons other than District Judges to the State judicial service. But the question is asked in respect to Article 233, so the 2nd statement is Incorrect.
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

11. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Statement I — Correct: The Supreme Court in *State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh* (2024) held that sub-classification within the SC category is constitutionally permissible. However, the State's exercise of this power must be supported by empirical data demonstrating that certain groups within the SC category are relatively more disadvantaged or inadequately represented.
- Statement II — Incorrect: Sub-classification does not give the State power to change the list of Scheduled Castes. It only allows the State to distribute the existing reservation benefits among different groups within the existing SC list.
- For example, if 15% SC reservation exists, a State may, subject to constitutional requirements, divide that 15% among different SC groups based on evidence of relative disadvantage. It cannot use sub-classification to add a new community to the SC list or remove an existing community.
- Statement III — Correct: In *Davinder Singh* (2024), the seven-judge Bench overruled the earlier position in *E.V. Chinnaiah* that prevented such sub-classification. The Court recognized the constitutional permissibility of sub-classification, while requiring an evidence-based/empirical foundation for the State's action.
- Source: <https://www.scobserver.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/state-of-punjab-v-davinder-singh-sub-classification-permissible-among-scheduled-caste-and-scheduled-tribe-categories-7-judge-bench-supreme-court-constitution-bench.pdf>

12. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Statement I — Correct: Article 3 empowers Parliament to form new States and alter the areas, boundaries or names of existing States. A proposal involving the creation of a Union Territory from existing State territory would therefore require Parliamentary action under the constitutional scheme of Article 3.
- Statement II — Correct: Article 244A specifically provides for the formation of an autonomous State within Assam comprising certain tribal areas. It does not directly provide a mechanism for creating an autonomous State within West Bengal.
- Statement III — Correct: The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was established in 2011 as a statutory autonomous administrative body through the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration Act, 2011. It is therefore distinct from Sixth Schedule autonomous councils.

13. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- According to *Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India* (2026):

- Option 2 — Correct: In *Laksh Vir Singh Yadav v. Union of India* (2026), the Delhi High Court recognised the Right to be Forgotten as a facet of informational privacy under Article 21. It enables appropriate relief such as de-indexing, masking or restricting name-based digital accessibility where continued availability of personal information causes disproportionate harm and lacks sufficient legitimate public interest.
- Option 1 — Incorrect: The judgment does not establish an absolute right to permanently delete all public or judicial records. Judicial records may remain accessible through case numbers, citations, court details and dates even where name-based searchability is restricted.
- Option 3 — Incorrect: The right is not automatic merely because a judicial proceeding has concluded. The Court applies a balancing framework considering privacy, public interest, open justice and other relevant circumstances. (Indian Kanoon)
- Option 4 — Incorrect: The right is not absolute and cannot override legitimate public interest, freedom of expression or the principle of open justice.

14. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Statement I — Incorrect: Under Article 123(1), the President can promulgate an Ordinance when both Houses of Parliament are not in session OR when either House is not in session. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that both Houses must be out of session.
- Statement II — Correct: Under Article 123(2)(a), every Ordinance must be laid before both Houses of Parliament and will cease to operate six weeks after the reassembly of Parliament, unless it is withdrawn or disapproved earlier.
- Statement III — Correct: Under Article 123(2), an Ordinance has the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament. However, the President's Ordinance-making power cannot be used to amend the Constitution, since constitutional amendment is governed by Article 368.

15. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988: Reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. It amended Article 326 of the Constitution.
- 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985: Introduced the Anti-Defection Law by adding the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.
- 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991: Provided a special constitutional framework for Delhi, including the creation of the Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers for the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It inserted Articles 239AA and 239AB.
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992: Gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions and added Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule.

16. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The Ninth Schedule was introduced through the First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951, during the tenure of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- It was primarily created to provide protection to certain land reform and agrarian laws from being challenged in courts on the ground of violating Fundamental Rights.
- Article 31B was also introduced along with the Ninth Schedule to provide constitutional protection to laws placed in the Schedule.
- However, this protection is not absolute. In *I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2007), the Supreme Court held that laws inserted into the Ninth Schedule after 24 April 1973 can be subject to judicial review if they damage the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- Other options
 - ⇒ Lal Bahadur Shastri → Prime Minister from 1964–1966.
 - ⇒ Indira Gandhi → Prime Minister from 1966–1977 and 1980–1984.
 - ⇒ Morarji Desai → Prime Minister from 1977–1979.

17. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- The National Emergency of 1975 was proclaimed on 25 June 1975 under Article 352.
- At that time, Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was the President of India.
- The Emergency was proclaimed on the ground of “internal disturbance”, which was the constitutional ground available under Article 352 at that time.
- The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978 replaced the expression “internal disturbance” with “armed rebellion” as a ground for National Emergency.
- Other options:
 - ⇒ V. V. Giri → President, 1969–1974
 - ⇒ Neelam Sanjiva Reddy → President, 1977–1982
 - ⇒ B. D. Jatti → Acting President, 1977

18. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) was appointed to examine the working of the Community Development Programme and National Extension Service.
- It recommended “democratic decentralisation” through a three-tier Panchayati Raj system:
 - ⇒ Gram Panchayat → Village level
 - ⇒ Panchayat Samiti → Block level
 - ⇒ Zila Parishad → District level
- It also recommended that Panchayat Samiti should be the executive body and Zila Parishad should be the coordinating and supervisory body.
- Why the other options are incorrect:
 - ⇒ Option 1: Constitutional status was prominently recommended by the L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986) and eventually achieved through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
 - ⇒ Option 2: A two-tier system was recommended by the Ashok Mehta Committee (1977).
 - ⇒ Option 4: The L.M. Singhvi Committee emphasized the Gram Sabha as the foundation of grassroots democracy.

19. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Statement I — Correct : Article 243B provides for Panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels.
- Thus, the Constitution provides for a three-tier Panchayati Raj system.
- However, a State with a population not exceeding 20 lakh may not constitute Panchayats at the intermediate level.
- Statement II — Correct :
- Article 243D(1) provides reservation of seats for SCs and STs in every Panchayat.
- The number of reserved seats is in proportion to their population in that Panchayat area.
- Statement III — Correct :
- Article 243D(2) provides that not less than one-third of the total seats filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women.
- This includes one-third of the seats reserved for SC/ST women as well.
- Quick Revision:
 - ⇒ Art. 243B → Three-tier Panchayats
 - ⇒ Art. 243C → Composition
 - ⇒ Art. 243D → Reservation
 - ⇒ Art. 243D(1) → SC/ST
 - ⇒ Art. 243D(2) → Women ($\geq 1/3$ seats)

20. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Option (2) — Correct : Article 3 empowers Parliament to alter the name, boundaries or area of an existing State by law.
- A Bill under Article 3 can be introduced in either House of Parliament only on the recommendation of the President.
- Before making the recommendation, the President refers the Bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views.
- The State Legislature's views are not binding on Parliament.
- Under Article 4, such a law is not treated as a constitutional amendment under Article 368 and can be passed by a simple majority.
- Why others are wrong:
 - ⇒ (1) State Legislature's consent is not required.
 - ⇒ (3) No special majority is required; simple majority is sufficient.
 - ⇒ (4) A State Legislature cannot itself change the State's constitutional name.

21. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- A. Metropolitan Area → 3 : Article 243P(c): An area having a population of 10 lakh or more, comprising two or more Municipalities/Panchayats or contiguous areas, specified by the Governor as a Metropolitan Area.
- B. Municipal Area → 4 : Article 243P(d): The territorial area of a Municipality as notified by the Governor.
- C. Municipality → 1: Article 243P(e): An institution of self-government constituted under Article 243Q.
- D. Nagar Panchayat → 2: Article 243Q(1)(a): A Nagar Panchayat is constituted for a transitional area, i.e. an area transitioning from rural to urban.
- Quick Revision:
 - ⇒ 243P → Definitions
 - ⇒ 243Q → Constitution of Municipalities
 - ⇒ Metropolitan Area → ≥ 10 lakh population
 - ⇒ Nagar Panchayat → Transitional area
 - ⇒ Municipal Council → Smaller urban area
 - ⇒ Municipal Corporation → Larger urban area
- Source: <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/c9fe9c9b6840524844316f74bb1c556c.pdf>

22. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- (1) Cattle pounds and prevention of cruelty to animals → Included — Entry 15
- (2) Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries → Included — Entry 18
- (3) Regulation of agricultural markets and promotion of rural industries → Not included in the 12th Schedule.
- (4) Urban forestry, protection of environment and promotion of ecological aspects → Included — Entry 8
- 12th Schedule — All 18 Functions:
 - ⇒ Urban planning, including town planning
 - ⇒ Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings
 - ⇒ Planning for economic and social development
 - ⇒ Roads and bridges
 - ⇒ Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes
 - ⇒ Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management
 - ⇒ Fire services
 - ⇒ Urban forestry, protection of environment and promotion of ecological aspects
 - ⇒ Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections, including the handicapped and mentally retarded
 - ⇒ Slum improvement and upgradation
 - ⇒ Urban poverty alleviation

- ⇒ Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens and playgrounds
- ⇒ Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects
- ⇒ Burials, burial grounds, cremations and cremation grounds, including electric crematoriums
- ⇒ Cattle pounds and prevention of cruelty to animals
- ⇒ Vital statistics, including registration of births and deaths
- ⇒ Public amenities, including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences
- ⇒ Regulation of slaughter houses and tanneries
- Points to remember:
- ⇒ 11th Schedule → Panchayats → 29 functions
- ⇒ 12th Schedule → Municipalities → 18 functions
- Source: <https://secforuts.mha.gov.in/74th-amendment-and-municipalities-in-india/>

23. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Statement I — Correct: Articles 82 and 170 provide the constitutional basis for readjustment of the allocation of seats and the division of territorial constituencies for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, respectively. (India Code)
- Statement II — Correct: The Delimitation Bill, 2026 proposed that delimitation would use the latest published Census available when the Delimitation Commission is constituted. Since the 2011 Census was the latest published Census at that point, the next delimitation was consequently proposed to be based on the 2011 Census.
- Statement III — Incorrect: The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposed increasing the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha, not the Rajya Sabha, from 550 to 850 members. The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha remains 250 under Article 80. (PRS Legislative Research)
- Also, an important current-affairs point: the 131st Amendment Bill was voted down in the Lok Sabha on 17 April 2026, and the related Delimitation Bill became infructuous. (PRS Legislative Research)
- Trap:
- ⇒ Lok Sabha → 550 → proposed 850
- ⇒ Rajya Sabha → 250 → unchanged

24. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Statement I — Correct: The ECI's power to supervise and conduct electoral-roll revision flows from Article 324, while Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
- Statement II — Correct: During Karnataka's 2026 SIR, Prakash Raj claimed that his name had been deleted from the Bengaluru electoral roll. Election officials subsequently clarified that his name had not simply been deleted; after house-to-house verification, he was marked "Shifted" because officials found that he had permanently moved from the registered address.
- Trap:
- ⇒ SIR → verification/revision of electoral rolls
- ⇒ ASDDO → Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others
- Prakash Raj's case became a recent example of the practical issues arising during the SIR exercise.

25. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Statement I — Incorrect: The CAG is appointed by the President of India under Article 148(1). However, the CAG can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court, not like the Chairman of the UPSC.
- CAG → Article 148
- UPSC Chairman → Article 317
- UPSC Chairman has a different removal mechanism, including Supreme Court inquiry in cases of misbehaviour.

- Statement II — Correct: Under Article 149 read with the CAG's statutory framework, the CAG audits expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, the Consolidated Funds of States, and the Consolidated Fund of Union Territories having Legislative Assemblies.
- Statement III — Correct: Under Article 151(1), CAG reports relating to the accounts of the Union are submitted to the President, who causes them to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.
- For State reports, Article 151(2) provides that they are submitted to the Governor, who causes them to be laid before the State Legislature.

26. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- The Act primarily deals with atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- It provides for relief, rehabilitation and protection of victims and witnesses.
- It provides for Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trial of offences.
- The 2015 Amendment expanded the list of offences and strengthened safeguards for victims and witnesses.
- The 2018 Amendment introduced provisions relating to arrest and anticipatory bail, including restoration of the original statutory position following the Supreme Court's Subhash Kashinath Mahajan judgment.
- The Act is therefore not merely a penal law; it also establishes an institutional framework for prevention, investigation, prosecution, victim relief and rehabilitation.

27. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Child: POCSO defines a child as any person below 18 years of age.
- Special Courts: The Act provides for Special Courts for speedy trial of offences under the Act.
- Mandatory reporting: Section 19 requires any person who has apprehension that an offence under POCSO has been committed or is likely to be committed, or has knowledge of such offence, to report it to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police.
- Non-reporting: Failure to report or record a case can attract punishment under the Act.
- Child-friendly procedure: POCSO contains safeguards for recording the child's statement, medical examination and trial, with the aim of protecting the child from further trauma.

28. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Special Court: Under Section 33, the Special Court can take cognizance directly of an offence without the accused being committed to it for trial.
- Presumption for specified offences: Section 29 provides a statutory presumption for offences under Sections 3, 5, 7 and 9, unless the contrary is proved.
- Culpable mental state: Under Section 30, where an offence requires a culpable mental state, the Special Court presumes its existence, but the accused can defend by proving that such mental state did not exist.
- Culpable mental state includes intention, motive, knowledge, and belief/reason to believe a fact.
- These provisions are important because POCSO combines child protection with special evidentiary and trial procedures.

29. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023 provides one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, including the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- It also provides that one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs in these legislatures shall be reserved for women.
- The amendment inserted Articles 330A, 332A and 334A into the Constitution.
- The reservation was linked to a delimitation exercise based on the relevant census.
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced in Lok Sabha to modify the constitutional framework for delimitation and facilitate implementation of women's reservation through the proposed delimitation exercise.

- However, the Bill failed to obtain the required special majority and was voted down in April 2026. Consequently, the related Delimitation Bill, 2026 and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 did not proceed further.

30. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021 amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 and came into force on 24 September 2021.
- The amendment increased the upper gestation limit from 20 weeks to 24 weeks for specified categories of women prescribed under the MTP Rules.
- These categories include survivors of rape or sexual assault, minors, women with disabilities, women whose marital status changes during pregnancy, and certain other specified situations.
- Up to 20 weeks: opinion of one Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) is required.
- 20–24 weeks: opinion of at least two RMPs is required for the prescribed categories.
- The 24-week limit does not apply where termination is necessitated by substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by a Medical Board.
- The amendment also introduced privacy protection: the woman's name and other particulars cannot be revealed except to a person authorised by law.
- It also expanded the failure-of-contraceptive ground to include a woman and her partner, rather than only a married woman.

31. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The Code on Wages, 2019 subsumed four laws, including the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- The Code retains the principle of non-discrimination on the ground of gender in wages for the same work or work of a similar nature.
- The four Labour Codes came into effect on 21 November 2025, replacing/rationalising 29 central labour laws.
- Therefore, the Equal Remuneration Act is no longer a separate operative central labour law; its relevant provisions are incorporated into the Code on Wages.
- The Code also addresses gender discrimination in recruitment for the same work or work of a similar nature.

32. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The National Commission for Women is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. It was constituted in 1992.
- The NCW can investigate complaints and take suo motu notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights and non-implementation of laws meant to protect women.
- While investigating matters, the Commission has powers of a civil court in certain matters, such as summoning persons, requiring production of documents and receiving evidence on affidavits.
- However, it does not have the same powers as a civil court in all criminal proceedings.
- The Commission consists of a chairperson, five Members and a Member-Secretary, all nominated by the Central Government. At least one Member each must belong to the SC and ST communities.
- The NCW primarily performs an advisory, investigative and monitoring role; it is not a constitutional court or a regular criminal court.

33. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Section 356 of BNSS introduces provisions for inquiry, trial or judgment in absentia of a proclaimed offender.
- The provision is significant because it allows the judicial process to proceed even when a person declared a proclaimed offender remains absconding.
- The court must follow specified procedural safeguards before proceeding in absentia, including recording reasons.
- The provision does not mean that the accused has no right to legal representation; the statutory procedure provides safeguards regarding representation by an advocate.

- This is one of the notable procedural changes introduced by the BNSS, 2023, which replaced the CrPC, 1973 from 1 July 2024.

34. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The NCST is a constitutional body established under Article 338A of the Constitution.
- It was created through the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, which separated the earlier combined commission for SCs and STs into the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and NCST.
- The NCST submits its reports to the President of India, not directly to Parliament.
- The President places these reports before both Houses of Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations.
- The Commission is responsible for monitoring and investigating safeguards provided for Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution and other laws.

35. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Composition: The NCSC consists of:
 - ⇒ Chairperson
 - ⇒ Vice-Chairperson
 - ⇒ Three other Members
- Appointment: All members are appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
- The conditions of service and tenure of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members are determined by the President.
- The Constitution does not mandate that at least one member must be a woman.
- The NCSC functions under Article 338 and deals with safeguards and rights of Scheduled Castes.

36. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises both individual and community forest rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.
- It recognises the right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce traditionally collected by forest dwellers.
- It also recognises the community right to protect, regenerate, conserve or manage community forest resources for sustainable use.
- However, the Act specifically excludes the traditional right of hunting, trapping or extracting any part of a wild animal from the recognised forest rights.
- This distinction is important: forest-resource rights are recognised, but hunting rights are not.

37. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- PESA Act, 1996 extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution (Panchayats) to the Fifth Schedule Areas, with certain modifications.
- Gram Sabha: PESA gives the Gram Sabha an important role in protecting traditions, customs, cultural identity and community resources.
- Minor forest produce: Gram Sabhas/Panchayats at the appropriate level are endowed with ownership of minor forest produce under PESA.
- Scheduled Areas: PESA applies specifically to areas declared as Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule. It does not automatically cover every tribal-majority area.
- PESA also gives Gram Sabhas/Panchayats roles in matters such as land acquisition, rehabilitation, village markets, money-lending and minor minerals, subject to the Act and State legislation.

38. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The Act provides for one-time cash assistance to every identified manual scavenger as part of the rehabilitation process.
- It also provides for survey and identification of manual scavengers by the appropriate local authorities.

- The prohibition on employment as a manual scavenger is not conditional on the person's consent. An employer cannot legally employ a person for manual scavenging merely because that person agrees to undertake the work.
- Rehabilitation measures include skill training, financial assistance and assistance for alternative livelihood, with the objective of moving identified persons away from manual scavenging.
- The Act also prohibits the construction or maintenance of insanitary latrines and prohibits employment for manual scavenging.

39. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- SEBI was established in 1988 as a non-statutory body. It acquired statutory status through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- The SEBI Act provides for the supersession of the Board by the Central Government under specified circumstances. This is an important aspect of the relationship between a statutory regulatory body and the Union Government.
- The members of the SEBI Board are appointed by the Central Government, not elected or appointed by Parliament.
- The Chairperson is also appointed by the Central Government.
- SEBI therefore represents a statutory regulatory authority created by Parliament, but its members are not elected by Parliament.

40. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
- Its objective is to prevent practices having an adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade.
- It replaced the earlier MRTP Commission framework following the shift from the older restrictive-trade-practices approach to modern competition law.
- CCI is not a constitutional body and does not derive its authority directly from a specific Article of the Constitution.
- It is also not a regular court, although it performs certain adjudicatory functions under the Competition Act.

41. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 specifically requires the NGT to apply certain environmental principles while adjudicating cases, including:
 - ⇒ Principle of sustainable development
- A. Precautionary principle
 - Polluter pays principle
 - The precautionary principle means that where there is a risk of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of complete scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing preventive measures.
 - ⇒ The other options belong to different areas of constitutional and administrative law:
 - ⇒ Basic Structure Doctrine → constitutional law and judicial review.
 - ⇒ Doctrine of Pleasure → tenure of certain constitutional/public offices.
 - ⇒ Collective Responsibility → parliamentary government, particularly the Council of Ministers.

42. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended in 2016, distinguishes between a "child" and an "adolescent."
- A child is a person who has not completed 14 years of age (subject to the statutory reference to the RTE Act).
- An adolescent is a person who has completed 14 years but has not completed 18 years.
- The Act prohibits employment of children in all occupations and processes, subject to specific statutory exceptions such as certain family enterprises after school hours and specified artistic activities.

- For adolescents, the prohibition is narrower: they cannot be employed in hazardous occupations or processes listed in the Schedule. Non-hazardous employment is not prohibited merely because the person is below 18.
- The 2016 amendment changed the framework from the earlier Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, specifically introducing the separate category of adolescents.

43. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- The Fifth Schedule deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in States other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Under Paragraph 6, the President declares an area as a Scheduled Area. The President can also alter, increase, decrease or rescind such areas after consulting the Governor of the concerned State.
- The Governor has special responsibilities regarding Scheduled Areas. The Governor submits an annual report, or whenever required, to the President regarding their administration.
- Under Paragraph 5, the Governor can direct that an Act of Parliament or State Legislature shall not apply to a Scheduled Area or shall apply with specified exceptions or modifications.
- A Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) is constituted in every State having Scheduled Areas. It advises on matters concerning the welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes.
- The Governor is not constitutionally designated as the ex-officio Chairman of the TAC.

44. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- It provides for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and, in certain cases, Regional Councils to give tribal communities a degree of autonomy in administering their areas.
- These councils can make laws on specified matters such as land, management of forests other than reserved forests, inheritance of property, marriage and social customs, subject to the constitutional framework.
- The councils also have certain judicial, executive and financial powers, making the Sixth Schedule an important example of constitutional autonomy for tribal areas.
- A key distinction from the Fifth Schedule is that the Sixth Schedule creates autonomous councils with legislative and other powers, whereas the Fifth Schedule primarily provides for special administrative arrangements through the Governor and Tribes Advisory Council.

45. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, specifically deals with trafficking of persons and exploitation of trafficked persons under Sections 143 and 144.
- Trafficking of a child attracts enhanced punishment compared with trafficking of an adult.
- Where more than one child is trafficked, the punishment becomes more severe, with rigorous imprisonment of not less than 14 years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, along with fine.
- A person who has been convicted of trafficking a child more than once can face imprisonment for life, meaning imprisonment for the remainder of the person's natural life.
- The law also separately criminalises the exploitation of a trafficked child, punishable with rigorous imprisonment of 5 to 10 years and fine.
- Child trafficking also intersects with other child-protection laws, such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, depending on the circumstances.

46. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- EU AI Transparency Code: A voluntary compliance framework under the EU AI Office.
- Article 50: Supports transparency requirements under the EU AI Act.
- Machine-readable markers: Includes watermarks and metadata for AI-generated content.
- Content provenance: C2PA Content Credentials help establish the origin and history of digital content.
- Visible labels: Not mandatory for all AI-generated text; certain exceptions apply.

- Key focus: Prevents deception, deepfakes and synthetic misinformation through transparency measures.

47. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Bab al-Mandeb: A strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- Location: Lies between Yemen (Asia) and the Horn of Africa (Africa).
- Trade route: Forms an important link between the Indian Ocean → Gulf of Aden → Red Sea → Suez Canal → Mediterranean Sea.
- Strategic importance: Disruption can affect global shipping, energy supplies and freight costs.
- Current context: Recent Houthi control of Yemen's Red Sea coastline has increased concerns over maritime security and shipping through the strait.
- Statement IV: Incorrect. The strait is not entirely within Yemen's territorial waters; it separates Yemen from the African side.



48. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Origin of BRIC: The term BRIC was coined by Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs in 2001 to describe the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China.
- First BRIC Summit: The first summit of the four countries was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. It focused mainly on global economic and financial issues and greater cooperation among the members.
- South Africa joins: South Africa joined the grouping in 2011, transforming BRIC into BRICS.
- Three pillars of cooperation: BRICS cooperation broadly covers:
 - ⇒ Political and security
 - ⇒ Economic and financial
 - ⇒ Cultural and people-to-people exchanges
- New Development Bank (NDB): BRICS established the New Development Bank in 2015 to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in member and other developing countries.
- Importance: BRICS provides a platform for emerging and developing economies to cooperate on issues of global governance, finance, development and international institutions.

49. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- IV. Russia → 2009 → Yekaterinburg → 1st BRIC Summit
- V. Brazil → 2010 → Brasília → 2nd Summit
- II. China → 2011 → Sanya → 3rd Summit
- I. India → 2012 → New Delhi → 4th Summit
- III. South Africa → 2013 → Durban → 5th Summit

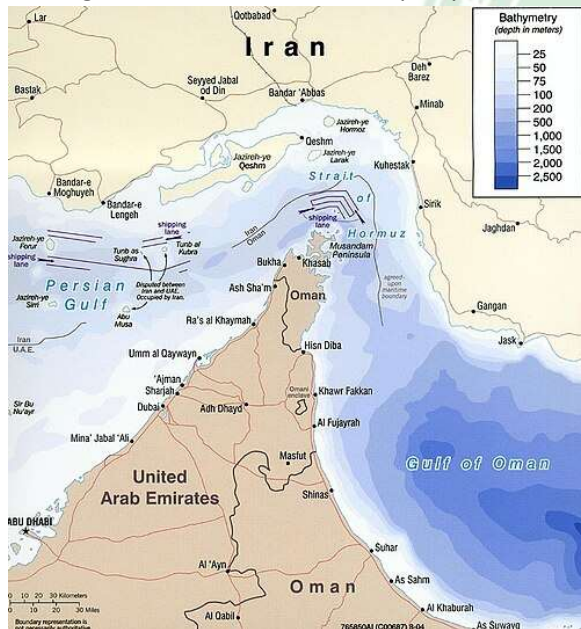
- Correct order: IV → V → II → I → III.

50. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- India assumed the BRICS Chairship for the fourth time in 2026.
- Earlier Chairships were held in 2012, 2016 and 2021.
- India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi in September 2026.
- China will host the 19th BRICS Summit in 2027.

51. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Natural strait: Hormuz is a natural maritime chokepoint, unlike the Suez and Panama Canals, which are man-made waterways.
- Territorial waters: The strait lies within the territorial waters of Iran and Oman; neither country alone owns or controls the entire strait.
- Transit passage: Under the international law of the sea, the strait is generally treated as a strait used for international navigation, giving ships a right of transit passage.
- Transit charges: A general toll merely for passage is not permitted under the UNCLOS framework. Charges may be associated with specific services provided to a vessel.
- Important nuance: Iran signed but has not ratified UNCLOS, and has disputed aspects of the transit-passage regime. Oman, however, is a party to UNCLOS.



52. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Nauru → Republic of Naoero
- The change reflects indigenous cultural identity, linguistic heritage and national pride.
- Naoero is the indigenous name associated with the island.
- Nauru is a Pacific island nation in Micronesia.

53. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Trishuli River was severely affected by the 26 August 2026 floods in northern Nepal.
- The disaster was triggered by a glacial collapse involving ice and rock, generating a massive surge of water.
- The Trishuli River flows through areas including Rasuwa and Nuwakot, where extensive damage occurred.
- Several hydropower projects along the river were affected, with workers reported missing.
- The disaster caused more than 1,300 deaths in Nepal, with thousands still missing during the search operations.

54. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: Served as the Supreme Leader of Iran from 1989 until his death in 2026. He succeeded Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.
- Death: Ali Khamenei was killed in U.S.-Israeli strikes on February 28, 2026, according to reports.
- Succession: Following his death, Iran's Assembly of Experts selected his son Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Supreme Leader in March 2026.
- Mojtaba Khamenei: He is therefore the current Supreme Leader, while Ali Khamenei is the former Supreme Leader.
- Ruhollah Khomeini: He was the first Supreme Leader of Iran (1979–1989) and should not be confused with Ali Khamenei.
- Iran's political structure: The Supreme Leader is the highest-ranking political and religious authority in Iran, with significant **authority over areas including the armed forces and major state institutions**.
- Ruhollah Khomeini → Ali Khamenei → Mojtaba Khamenei
- 1st → 2nd → 3rd Supreme Leader of Iran.

55. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Christmas Island: It is an external territory of Australia, located in the Indian Ocean, about 360 km south of Java and around 1,400 km northwest of mainland Australia.
- Phosphate discovery: Significant phosphate deposits were discovered on Christmas Island in 1887. The discovery increased the island's strategic and economic importance.
- British annexation: Following the discovery, the United Kingdom formally annexed Christmas Island in 1888.
- Phosphate mining: Mining subsequently became the island's major economic activity for much of its modern history.
- Transfer to Australia: Christmas Island was transferred from British control to Australian administration in 1958 and became an Australian territory.
- Recent relevance: The island has recently appeared in the news after SpaceX towed Starship to waters off Christmas Island, following its prolonged floating in the Indian Ocean.



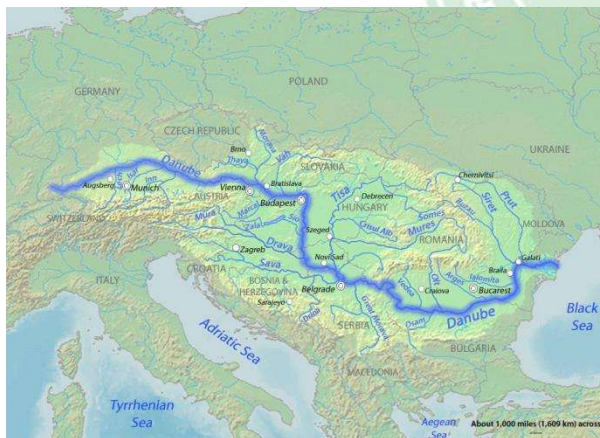
56. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Yemen (I): Lies along the northern coast of the Gulf of Aden.
- Djibouti (II): Located at the western entrance of the Gulf of Aden, near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.
- Somalia (III): Forms much of the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden.
- Oman (IV): Does not directly border the Gulf of Aden; it lies farther east along the Arabian Sea.



57. Correct Answer & Explanation (3)

- Origin: The Danube originates in the Black Forest region of Germany.
- Course: It flows eastward through Central and Southeastern Europe.
- Mouth: The river empties into the Black Sea through the Danube Delta, mainly in Romania and Ukraine.
- Recent context: The Danube was recently in the news due to exceptionally low water levels, which affected navigation and other river-dependent activities.
- International significance: The Danube flows through or along 10 countries, making it one of Europe's most international rivers.



58. Correct Answer & Explanation (1)

- Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.
- It has its own elected government and extensive powers of self-government.
- Denmark retains responsibility for areas such as defence and foreign affairs.
- Greenland is geographically part of North America, despite its political association with Denmark.
- Its strategic importance has increased because of its Arctic location, mineral resources and proximity to North America and the North Atlantic.

59. Correct Answer & Explanation (2)

- Operation Sindhu was launched by India in June 2025 to evacuate Indian citizens from Iran amid the escalating Israel–Iran conflict.
- The operation facilitated the safe return of Indian nationals stranded in Iran.
- Operation Sindoor: India's military operation following the Pahalgam terror attack.
- Operation Ajay: Launched in 2023 to evacuate Indian citizens from Israel during the Israel–Hamas conflict.

- Operation Ganga: Launched in 2022 to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine during the Russia–Ukraine conflict.
- Iran → Operation Sindhu | Israel → Operation Ajay | Ukraine → Operation Ganga.

60. Correct Answer & Explanation (4)

- Narayani → Gandak: The Narayani River in Nepal is known as the Gandak after entering India.
- Karnali → Ghaghara: The Karnali River is known as the Ghaghara in India.
- Kosi → Kosi: The river retains the name Kosi (Koshi) in India.
- These rivers are important transboundary Himalayan rivers and are part of the Ganga river system.
- They originate in or pass through the Himalayan region of Nepal before entering the Gangetic plains of India.



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