

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2025 : WEEK-4

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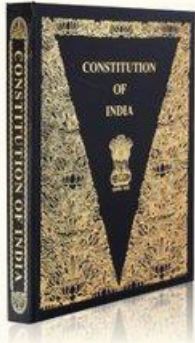
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1. 76th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Indian Constitution

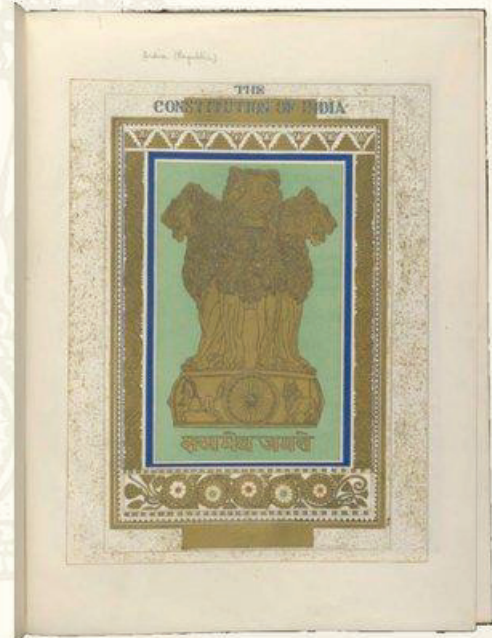


प्रशासनिक सुधार और लोक शिकायत विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
& PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Constitution Day 2025

Key Facts

Constitution Day also known as '**Samvidhan Divas**' is celebrated in our country on **26th November** every year to commemorate the adoption of the **Constitution of India**.



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1. Context and Significance

- Adopted in the aftermath of Partition and decolonisation.
- Far ahead of its time compared to Western constitutions.
- Went beyond merely protecting individual liberties; addressed structural inequalities and group rights.

2. A Transformative Vision of Equality

a. Expanded Equality Framework

- **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws.
- **Article 15:** Prohibits state discrimination and identifies societal sources of discrimination like caste.

b. Protection against Social Oppression

- **Article 15(2):** Prevents discrimination by private individuals in public spaces.
- **Article 17:** Abolishes untouchability.
- **Article 23:** Prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, responding to exploitative caste-based bondage.

c. Beyond Western Liberalism

- Unlike Western constitutions focused on limiting state power, India recognised oppressive power exercised by social groups and communities.

3. Recognition of Group-Differentiated Rights

a. Early Recognition of Affirmative Action

- India embedded affirmative action into the Constitution in 1950 — a decade before U.S. civil rights reforms.
- Acknowledged the need for differential treatment to remedy structural inequalities (pushed strongly by B. R. Ambedkar).

b. Minority Rights Debates

- Initial drafts had more expansive protections; some (*e.g.*, religious minority legislative quotas) were removed before adoption.
- Still retained significant safeguards for marginalised communities.

4. Nuanced Approach to Secularism and Religious Diversity

a. Secular State Structure

- No special status for any religion.
- **Article 27:** No compulsory taxation for promoting any religion.
- **Article 28:** No compulsory religious instruction in state-funded institutions.

b. Protection of Religious Freedom

- **Article 25:** Individual freedom of religion.
- **Article 26:** Group rights to manage religious affairs.
- Minority family laws (Muslim, Christian, Parsi) retained.

c. Cultural and Educational Rights

- **Articles 29–30:** Rights for religious and linguistic minorities to preserve culture and run educational institutions.

5. Limitations and Challenges

- Individual freedoms and pluralism remain partially protected.
- Emergency provisions and colonial-era laws weaken rights during crises.
- Wide discretionary powers strengthen the executive, though with judicial review.

Indian Constitution

- **Adopted:** 26 November 1949
- **Came into force:** 26 January 1950
- World's longest written constitution
- Originally 395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules
- Currently 448 Articles, 25 Parts, 12 Schedules

2. Key Features

- Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic (added/modified by Amendments)
- Parliamentary System of government
- Federal structure with unitary features
- Single citizenship
- Fundamental Rights and Duties
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)
- Independent Judiciary with Judicial Review
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Blend of rigidity and flexibility (easy + difficult amendment procedures)

3. Parts of the Constitution (Important Ones)

- Part I: Union & its Territory
- Part II: Citizenship
- Part III: Fundamental Rights
- Part IV: Directive Principles of State Policy
- Part IVA: Fundamental Duties
- Part V–VI: Union & State Governments
- Part IX, IXA, IXB: Panchayats, Municipalities, Co-operative Societies
- Part XIV: Services & Public Service Commissions
- Part XVIII: Emergency Provisions
- Part XX: Amendment of the Constitution

4. Fundamental Rights (Part III)

- Right to Equality (Art. 14–18)
- Right to Freedom (Art. 19–22)
- Right against Exploitation (Art. 23–24)
- Right to Freedom of Religion (Art. 25–28)
- Cultural & Educational Rights (Art. 29–30)
- Right to Constitutional Remedies (Art. 32)

5. Directive Principles (Part IV)

- Social & economic justice
- Promotion of education, health, village panchayats
- Uniform civil code

- Protecting environment & wildlife
- Welfare of workers

6. Fundamental Duties (Part IVA)

- 11 duties (e.g., respecting Constitution, protecting environment, promoting harmony)

7. The Constitutional Bodies

- Election Commission
- UPSC & State PSCs
- Finance Commission
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
- National Commission for SCs, STs, BCs, etc.

8. Emergency Provisions

- National Emergency (Art. 352)
- President's Rule (Art. 356)
- Financial Emergency (Art. 360)

9. Important Amendments

- 1st (1951): Added restrictions to Article 19 rights
- 42nd (1976): Major changes; added Socialist, Secular
- 44th (1978): Limited Emergency powers
- 73rd & 74th (1992): Panchayati Raj & Municipalities
- 86th (2002): Right to Education (Art. 21A)

10. Sources of the Constitution

- Borrowed from several countries:
 - **UK:** Parliamentary system, Rule of Law
 - **USA:** Fundamental Rights, Judicial Review
 - **Ireland:** DPSPs
 - **Canada:** Federal system with strong centre
 - **Australia:** Concurrent List, Trade & Commerce
 - **France:** Republic, Liberty-Equality-Fraternity

QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Equality Framework under the Indian Constitution:
 1. Article 15(2) prohibits discrimination by the State but not by private individuals.
 2. Article 17 abolishes untouchability and makes its practice an offence.
 3. Article 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, even when such exploitation occurs through private individuals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 2 and 3 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 2 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

2. With reference to group-differentiated rights in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. India incorporated affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into the Constitution in 1950.
 2. Religious minority quotas for legislatures were retained in the final Constitution.
 3. Cultural and educational rights for linguistic minorities are protected under Articles 29 and 30.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 3 only |
| B. 1 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

3. Consider the following statements regarding Indian secularism:

1. Article 27 prohibits compulsory taxation for the promotion of any particular religion.
2. Article 28 prohibits all forms of religious instruction in all educational institutions within India.
3. Article 25 guarantees the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

4. Consider the following statements regarding features of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Indian Constitution provides for a federal system with a strong Centre, influenced by the Canadian model.
2. The Directive Principles of State Policy were borrowed from the Irish Constitution.
3. Judicial Review and Fundamental Rights were primarily inspired by the Constitution of the United Kingdom.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

5. Consider the following statements about Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Right to Constitutional Remedies empowers citizens to move the Supreme Court directly for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
2. The Right against Exploitation includes prohibition of child labour below the age of 14 years in factories, mines, and hazardous occupations.
3. The Right to Freedom includes protection against unreasonable arrest and detention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

6. Consider the following statements in respect of the Constitution Day:

Statement–I:

The Constitution Day is celebrated on 26th November every year to promote constitutional values among citizens.

Statement–II:

On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India set up a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to prepare a Draft Constitution of India.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
7. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950?
- A. A Democratic Republic
 - B. A Sovereign Democratic Republic
 - C. A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
 - D. A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
8. The Preamble to the Constitution of India is:
- A. A part of the Constitution but has no legal effect
 - B. Not a part of the Constitution and has no legal effect either
 - C. A part of the Constitution and has the same legal effect as any other part
 - D. A part of the Constitution but has no legal effect independently of other parts
9. The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?
- A. The Preamble
 - B. The Fundamental Rights
 - C. The Directive Principles of State Policy
 - D. The Fundamental Duties
10. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?
- A. Liberty of thought
 - B. Economic liberty
 - C. Liberty of expression
 - D. Liberty of belief

2. Hayli Gubbi volcanic eruption in Ethiopia

1. What Happened?

- The Hayli Gubbi volcano in northeastern Ethiopia erupted, reportedly its first eruption in ~12,000 years.
- The eruption was explosive, ejecting gas and fine ash, but no lava or magma flow.
- Fine particles and gases (SO_2 , CO_2) rose to 15–40 km altitude due to intense heating of surrounding air.

2. Movement of the Volcanic Plume

- At high altitudes, strong air currents carried the plume eastwards.
- It entered India, first over Gujarat and Rajasthan, then moved towards Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is expected to completely cross into China.

3. Was It Dangerous?

To People

- No direct threat because the plume was traveling at very high altitudes, far above ground level.

To Aircraft

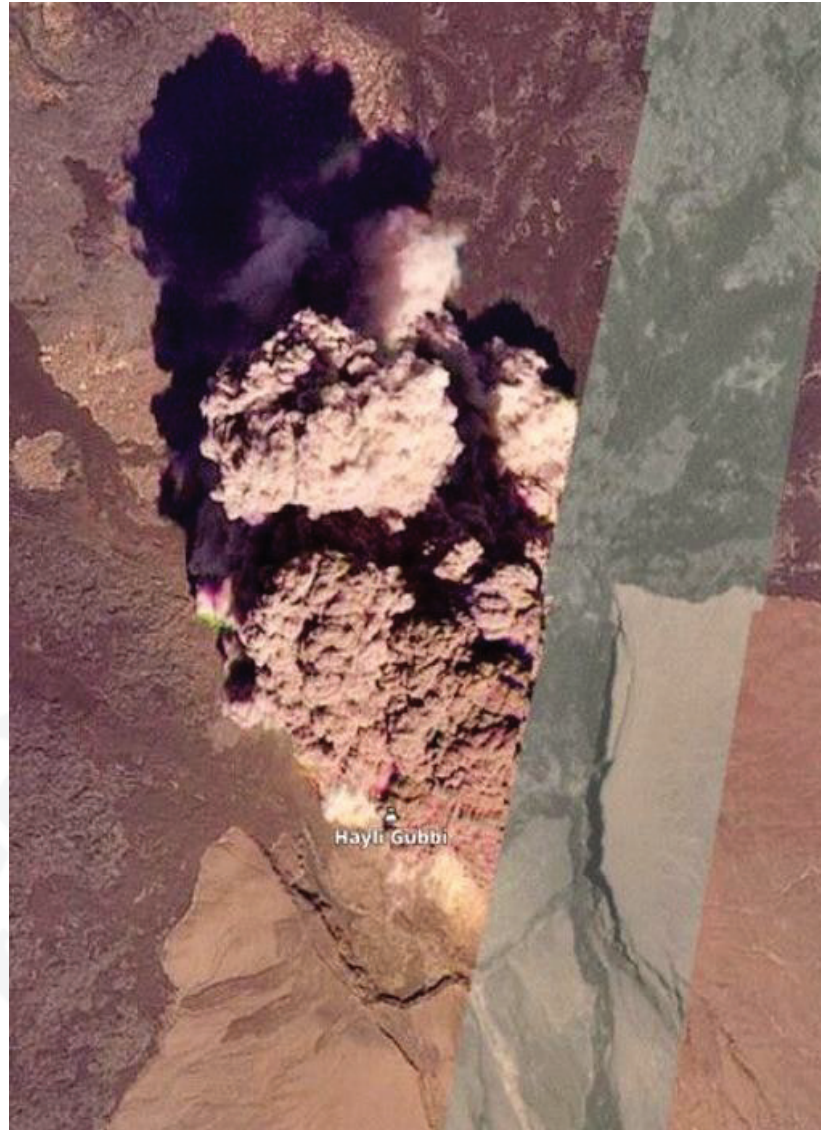
- Significant risks to aviation since commercial flights cruise at 10–14 km, overlapping with the plume.

Risks included:

- Reduced visibility
- Engine damage from ash melting inside turbines
- Clogging of sensors and filters
- Possible incomplete filtration of toxic gases
- Airlines altered flight paths, following alerts from global volcanic monitoring networks.

4. How Does It End?

- Volcanic plumes are short-term phenomena; expected impacts to dissipate within a couple of days.
- Fine particles gradually disperse and are washed out by clouds and rain.
- Gases like SO_2 and CO_2 remain longer but do not significantly alter atmospheric concentrations.

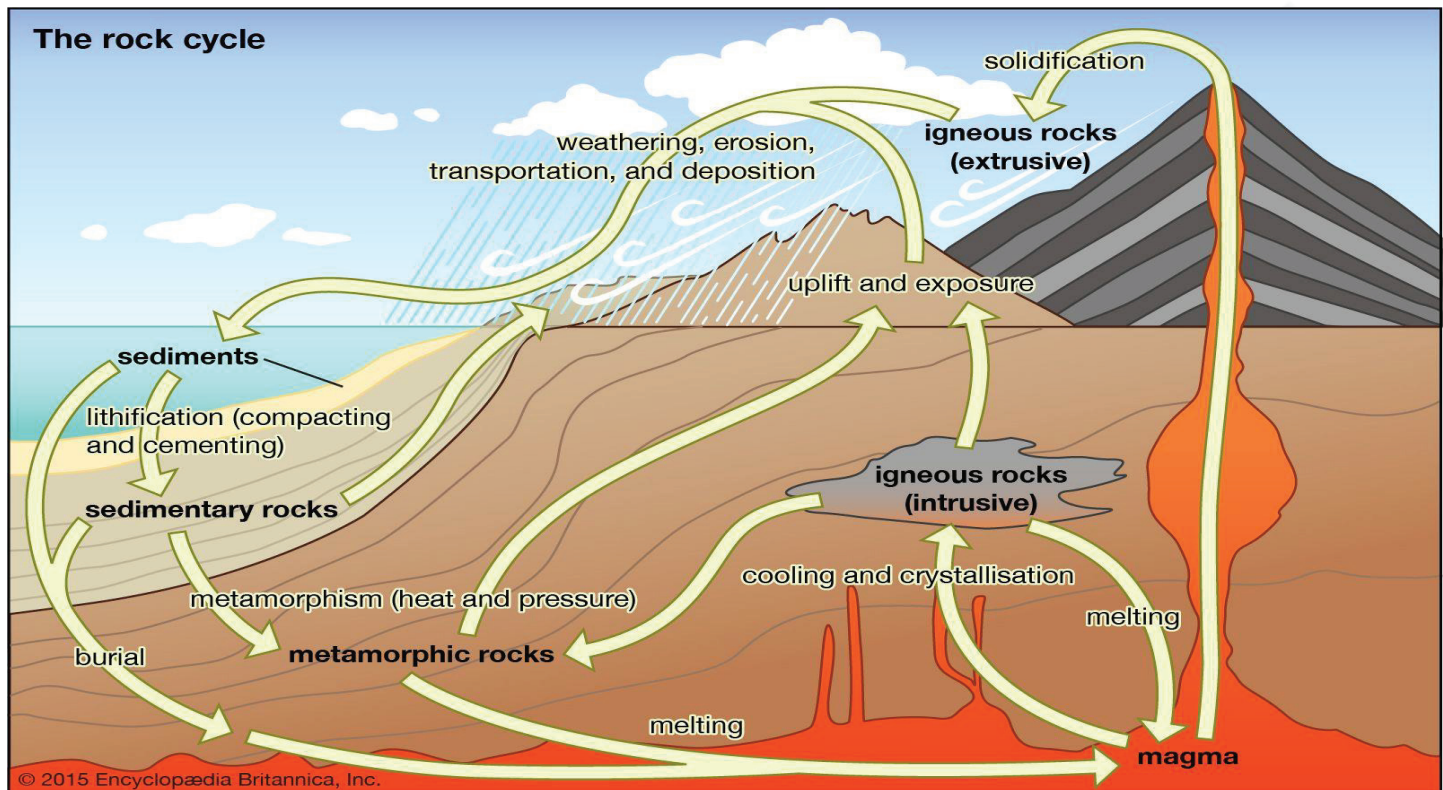


Volcano

- A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust where magma, gas, and ash escape from beneath the surface.
- When pressure builds up underground, it can result in an eruption, sending lava, ash clouds, and rocks into the air.

Key points about volcanoes:

- Magma is molten rock beneath the surface; when it erupts, it becomes lava.
- They form mainly along tectonic plate boundaries, such as the Pacific "Ring of Fire."
- Types include shield volcanoes, stratovolcanoes, and cinder cones, each with distinct shapes and eruption styles.
- Eruptions can create new land, but they can also be dangerous, producing pyroclastic flows, ashfall, and lava flows.



Types of Eruptions

1. Hawaiian Eruptions

- **Style:** Gentle, flowing
- **Lava:** Very fluid basaltic lava
- **Features:** Lava fountains, lava lakes, large shield volcanoes
- **Example:** Kīlauea, Mauna Loa (Hawaii)

2. Strombolian Eruptions

- **Style:** Moderate bursts every few minutes
- **Lava:** Moderately viscous
- **Features:** Fire fountains, cinder cones, glowing ejecta
- **Example:** Stromboli (Italy)

3. Vulcanian Eruptions

- **Style:** Short, powerful, explosive bursts
- **Lava:** More viscous than Strombolian
- **Features:** Ash clouds, volcanic bombs, loud blasts
- **Example:** Sakurajima (Japan)

4. Plinian Eruptions

- **Style:** Extremely explosive, highly dangerous
- **Lava:** Very viscous, gas-rich
- **Features:** Tall ash columns (up to 45 km), pyroclastic flows
- **Example:** Mount Vesuvius (79 AD), Mount St. Helens (1980)

5. Pelean Eruptions

- **Style:** Violent, dominated by pyroclastic flows
- **Lava:** Very viscous (often andesite or dacite)
- **Features:** Collapse of lava domes
- **Example:** Mount Pelée (1902)

6. Surtseyan (Hydromagmatic) Eruptions

- **Style:** Explosive interactions of lava with shallow water
- **Features:** Steam-driven explosions, ash, water-lava jets
- **Example:** Surtsey (Iceland)

7. Phreatomagmatic Eruptions

- **Style:** Explosive, caused by magma + water interaction
- **Features:** Fine ash, steam blasts
- **Example:** Maar-forming eruptions

8. Phreatic Eruptions

- **Style:** Steam explosions without new magma
- **Features:** Ash from pulverized rock, no fresh lava
- **Example:** Mount Ontake (2014)

9. Effusive Eruptions

- **Style:** Non-explosive, lava flows steadily
- **Features:** Lava flows, shield volcanoes
- **Example:** Many eruptions in Hawaii and Iceland

QUESTIONS

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Hayli Gubbi volcanic eruption in Ethiopia:

1. The eruption was primarily explosive in nature, releasing gas and fine ash without any visible lava flow.

2. The volcanic plume reached very high altitudes due to intense heating of surrounding air and was carried eastward by upper-level winds.
3. The volcanic eruption occurred in one of the world's most active volcanic regions, the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

12. Consider the following statements about the movement of volcanic plumes:

1. Volcanic ash plumes can travel thousands of kilometres when they reach the stratosphere, where winds are stronger and more stable.
2. Volcanic plumes that move across countries can affect air quality, visibility, and even aviation safety.
3. The Hayli Gubbi plume moved westwards before entering India because of the reversal of monsoon winds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

13. Consider the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pyroclastic debris | 3. Nitrogen compounds |
| 2. Ash and dust | 4. Sulphur compounds |

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| A. Only one | C. Only three |
| B. Only two | D. All four |

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 | D. 1 and 3 |

15. Volcanic eruptions do not occur in which of the following seas?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| A. Baltic Sea | C. Caspian Sea |
| B. Black Sea | D. Caribbean Sea |

3. Four Labour Codes

LABOUR CODES - BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

■ Universalization of right of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all workers including unorganized workers — presently minimum wages applicable to only 30% of workers.

■ Statutory concept of National Floor Wage introduced: will reduce regional disparity in minimum wages.

■ Fixation of minimum wages simplified, leading to less number of rates of minimum wages and better compliance.

■ Appointment letter for all workers- this will promote formalization.

■ Annual Health Check-up for employees.

■ Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Code also applicable to establishments engaged in work of hazardous nature even with



threshold of less than 10 workers.

■ Definition of inter-state migrant worker modified to include migrant workers employed directly by the employer, workers directly coming to destination State of their own besides the migrant workers employed through a contractor.

■ Portability of welfare benefits for migrant workers.

■ Extension of ESIC coverage pan-India to all districts and all establishments employing 10 or more employees as against those in notified districts/areas only.

■ Extension of ESIC coverage to employees working in

establishments with less than 10 employees on voluntary basis.

■ Mandatory ESIC coverage through notification by the Central Government for employees in hazardous industries with less than 10 employees.

■ Social Security Scheme for Gig workers and Platform workers.

■ Re-skilling fund introduced for retrenched employees.

■ All occupations opened for women and permitted to work at night with safeguards.

■ Provision for Social Security Fund for unorganised workers.

■ Gratuity for Fixed Term Employment - Provision of gratuity on completion of one year service as against 5 years.

1. Four Labour Codes implemented from November 21:

- 1. Code on Wages
- 2. Code on Social Security
- 3. Industrial Relations Code
- 4. Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions (OSH) Code
- **Objective:** Simplify compliance, ensure uniform wages, extend social security, and promote ease of doing business.
- **Decriminalizes certain offences:** civil penalties replace imprisonment for first-time violations.
- Trade unions concern: hire & fire flexibility, fixed-term employment, retrenchment rules, and strike curtailment.

2. Code on Wages

- **Consolidation:** Combines four wage-related laws.
- **Coverage:** All employees irrespective of industry, wage, or gender; National Floor Wage as baseline.

- **Definition of Wage:** Includes basic pay, dearness allowance, and retaining allowance; basis for benefits and social security contributions.
- **Deductions:** Limited to 50% of total pay.
- **Overtime:** Minimum twice the normal wage for work beyond regular hours.
- **Working Hours:**
 - 8–12 hours/day, max 48 hours/week.
 - Flexibility allowed if less than six days/week.
- **Wage Payment Timelines:**
 - **Daily:** end of shift
 - **Weekly:** before weekly holiday
 - **Fortnightly:** within 2 days of fortnight end
 - **Monthly:** within 7 days of next month
 - **On resignation/termination:** within 2 days
- **Wage Slips:** Mandatory issuance (electronic or physical) with employment and wage details.

3. Code on Social Security

- Merges 9 laws covering organised, unorganised, gig, and platform workers.
- **Gig & Platform Workers:** Legally defined; National registration & social security fund established.
- **Funding:** Central/state governments or CSR contributions; gig aggregators contribute 1–2% of annual turnover.
- **Fixed-term Employees:** Treated at par with permanent employees; eligible for gratuity after 1 year.

EPFO & ESIC Coverage:

- EPFO for all establishments with 20+ employees.
- ESIC mandatory for even a single hazardous worker; pan-India coverage.
- Plantation owners may join ESIC voluntarily.
- **Family Definition:** Can include parents-in-law (with income cap).
- **Inspection:** Appointment of inspector-cum-facilitators; web-based inspections allowed.

4. Industrial Relations Code

- Merges 3 laws; defines worker broadly including sales, journalism, supervisory roles earning < Rs. 18,000.
- **Fixed-term Employment:** Short-term hiring permitted; opposed by unions.
- **Layoff & Retrenchment:** Approval threshold raised to 300 workers (from 100).
- **Strikes:**
 - Strike notice now 60 days in advance; 14 days notice post filing.
 - Mass casual leave (>50% workforce) considered a strike.
- **Trade Union Negotiation:**
 - 'Negotiating union' with 51% membership becomes sole negotiating body.
 - Negotiating council formed if multiple unions; 1 seat per 20% verified membership.

5. Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions (OSH) Code

- Merges 13 laws; streamlines compliance via single registration and electronic filings.
- **Factory & Contractor Thresholds:**
 - **Factory licence:** 10 → 20 workers with power; 20 → 40 without.
 - **Contract labour:** applies to 50+ workers (was 20).
 - **Women Workers:** Night shifts permitted with consent and safety provisions.
 - **Migrant Workers:** Broader definition includes direct employment (not just contractors).
 - **Mandatory Appointment Letters:** Include employee details, designation, wages, and social security.
- **Health & Safety:**
 - Annual health checkups mandatory.
- **Safety committees required for:**
 - **Factories:** 500+ workers
 - **Construction:** 250+ workers
 - **Mines:** 100+ workers

QUESTIONS

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Code on Wages, 2019:

1. It introduces a statutory national floor wage below which no state can fix minimum wages.
2. It applies only to workers in the organised sector.
3. It prohibits discrimination in wages and working conditions on the basis of gender, including transgender identity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

17. Consider the following statements about the Industrial Relations Code, 2020:

1. A trade union with at least 51% membership in an establishment is recognised as the sole negotiating union.
2. Fixed-term employees are entitled to the same benefits as permanent employees, including gratuity after one year of service.
3. The Code removes the provision for setting up a grievance redressal committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 3 only |
| B. 1 and 2 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Code on Social Security, 2020:

1. The Code includes gig workers and platform workers within the ambit of social security benefits.

2. A Social Security Fund is created to support unorganised workers, financed partly by compounding penalties.
3. The Code does not allow time limits for initiating or completing EPF inquiries.

Which of the statements above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

19. Consider the following statements regarding the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020:

1. The OSH Code applies even to establishments with a single employee if the work involves hazardous activities.
2. Inter-state migrant workers now include self-migrated workers who move autonomously across states.
3. Night work for women is strictly prohibited under the Code.

Which of the statements above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

20. International Labour Organization's Conventions 138 and 182 are related to _____.

- A. Child Labour
- B. Adaptation of agricultural practices to global climate change
- C. Regulation of food prices and food security
- D. Gender parity at the workplace

4. Bharat NCAP 2.0

What is Bharat NCAP?

- Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) provides vehicle safety ratings based on crash testing and evaluation criteria.
- Vehicles scoring best receive a 5-star rating.
- Focuses on crashworthiness (safety in accidents) beyond basic roadworthiness.
- Designed for India-specific safety standards, aligning with technological advancements.
- Voluntary program; Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune issues ratings.

Purpose of Revision (Bharat NCAP 2.0)

- Expands the scope of safety assessments.
- Introduces new mandatory crash tests.
- Updates assessment verticals and scoring structure.

BHARAT NCAP 2.0 EXPLAINED

CRASH TEST SAFETY PROTOCOLS

NEW STANDARDS FOR SAFER VEHICLES



- Adds vulnerable road user protection, addressing pedestrian safety (over 20% of road fatalities).
- Current 2023 NCAP valid till September 30, 2027, but new draft opens for comments until December 20, 2025.

Existing Bharat NCAP (2023) Structure

- **Assessment verticals:**
 - Adult Occupant Protection (AOP)
 - Child Occupant Protection (COP)
 - Safety Assist Technologies (SAT)
- **Crash tests at:**
 - 64 km/h frontal impact
 - 50 km/h side impact
 - 29 km/h oblique side impact
- **Purpose:** Evaluate vehicle crashworthiness using Anthropomorphic Test Devices (ATDs).

Key Changes in Bharat NCAP 2.0 (2025 Draft)

New Assessment Areas

- **Safe Driving (10%)** – Measures driver aids and safe-driving technologies.
- **Accident Avoidance (10%)** – Technologies aiding in preventing crashes; Electronic Stability Control (ESC) mandatory; Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEBS) optional.

Crash Protection (55%) – Expanded crash tests:

- 64 km/h frontal impact against deformable barrier
- 50 km/h lateral impact against mobile deformable barrier
- 32 km/h oblique side impact against rigid pole

- 50 km/h frontal impact against full-width rigid barrier
- 50 km/h rear impact against mobile rigid barrier
- **Vulnerable Road User Protection (20%)** – New vertical focusing on pedestrians and cyclists.

Mandatory tests:

- Pedestrian legform impact (bumper)
- Adult & child headform impacts (hood/windshield)
- Optional tests for AEBS performance against child/adult pedestrians and motorcycles.
- **Post-Crash Safety (5%)** – Focuses on fire, electrical hazards, and occupant extrication.

Star Rating Revisions

Points for Ratings (2025 Draft):

- **1-star:** 30 points
- **2-star:** 40 points
- **3-star:** 50 points
- **4-star:** 65 points (up from 60)
- **5-star:** 80 points (up from 70)

Mandatory Conditions:

- **3-star and above:** AOP \geq 55% of Crash Protection score; failing results in 1-star penalty.
- 5-star vehicle cannot have any vertical score as zero.
- No 'red' zone injury values allowed for adult/child in crash tests for 5-star rating.

Examples of 5-Star Rated Cars (Bharat NCAP)

- **Tata:** Harrier, Safari, Nexon
- **Mahindra:** XUV 3XO
- **Citroen:** Aircross
- **Maruti Suzuki:** Invicto
- **Toyota:** Innova Hycross
- **Hyundai:** Tucson

QUESTIONS

21. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat NCAP:

1. Bharat NCAP is a voluntary vehicle safety rating programme implemented through the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).
2. It assesses vehicles primarily on roadworthiness, not crashworthiness.
3. A vehicle receiving the highest score is awarded a 5-star rating.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

22. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Bharat NCAP 2.0 (2025 draft):

1. Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is mandatory under the Accident Avoidance vertical.
2. Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEBS) is compulsory for all vehicles under the new framework.
3. Vulnerable Road User Protection is a newly added vertical focusing on pedestrians and cyclists.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 2 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

23. Consider the following statements about crash testing under Bharat NCAP 2.0:

1. The programme includes new tests such as frontal impact at 50 km/h against a full-width rigid barrier.
2. Rear impact tests at 50 km/h using a mobile rigid barrier are included in the updated draft.
3. All crash tests under NCAP 2.0 are limited to speeds below 30 km/h.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

24. Consider the following statements regarding star rating criteria under Bharat NCAP 2.0:

1. A vehicle must score at least 80 points to receive a 5-star rating.
2. A 5-star-rated vehicle cannot have zero score in any assessment vertical.
3. A 3-star and above rating requires at least 55% of the Crash Protection score in Adult Occupant Protection.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

25. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Stage (BS) emission standards:

1. The Bharat Stage regulations are modelled on the European emission standards.
2. BS-VI fuel contains significantly lower sulphur content compared to BS-IV fuel.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is responsible for deciding fuel standards in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | |
|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only |
| C. 1 and 3 only |
| D. 1, 2 and 3 |

5. SC struck down the Tribunals Reforms Act

Supreme Court Strikes Down Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021

- The Supreme Court declared the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, unconstitutional.
- The Act was deemed an impermissible legislative override of the Court's earlier rulings, particularly the Madras Bar Association (V) case, July 2021.
- Parliament cannot simply re-enact a law previously struck down by the judiciary.
- **Background:** Tribunals and the 2021 Act
- **Tribunals:** Quasi-judicial bodies designed to resolve disputes efficiently and reduce high court caseloads.

Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021:

- Restructured tribunals, giving the government more control over appointments, tenure, and service conditions.

Reintroduced provisions similar to a previously struck-down ordinance:

- Fixed tenure of members at 4 years
- Minimum appointment age for advocates at 50

Supreme Court's Reasons for Striking Down

No Need for Larger Bench

- Constitutional questions were already examined in prior Constitution Bench decisions.
- Referring the matter would only delay justice.

Legislative Override Not Permissible

- Parliament cannot simply restate or repackage invalidated provisions.
- The 2021 Act was a verbatim reprise of the provisions in the 2021 Ordinance.

Tenure and Independence Are Constitutional Matters

- Government's claim of "pure policy" is invalid.
- Judicial independence of tribunals is a constitutional requirement, not a matter of policy.

Principles Upheld

- Judicial primacy in tribunal appointments.
- Secure tenure of at least five years for tribunal members.
- Independence from executive control.
- High courts retain judicial review over tribunals.



Court's Directions

- Existing principles (5-year tenure, no 50-year minimum age) will continue.
- Union government must establish a National Tribunals Commission within four months to oversee appointments and functioning.

Historical Context

- Since 1987 (SP Sampath Kumar case), the Supreme Court has delivered 9 judgments affirming tribunal independence.

Key disputes with the government:

- **2017 Finance Act:** struck down in 2019 (Rojer Mathew case).
- 2020 rules challenged by Madras Bar Association.
- 2021 Ordinance struck down, followed by 2021 Act re-enactment.

Court's Disapproval of Government

- Government repeatedly ignored judicial pronouncements, leading to avoidable litigation.
- Tribunal vacancies remain high, *e.g.*, National Company Law Tribunal had 24 vacancies out of 32 posts in 2022.
- Court emphasized the need for a long-term solution to avoid tribunals becoming “virtually defunct.”

Significance of the Verdict

- Reinforces judicial supremacy in constitutional matters.
- Protects independence and functioning of tribunals.
- Puts onus on the government to comply with constitutional standards or establish the National Tribunals Commission.

QUESTIONS

26. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court judgment on the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021:

1. The Supreme Court struck down the minimum age requirement of 50 years for tribunal appointments as unconstitutional.
2. The Court upheld the four-year tenure for tribunal chairpersons and members.
3. The Court held that short tenures undermine judicial independence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 3 only | C. 1 and 2 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

27. Consider the following statements regarding the functioning of the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) as per the SC ruling:

1. The Court held that SCSC must recommend only one name per vacancy to prevent excessive executive discretion.
2. The Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 had permitted the government to choose one candidate from a panel of two names.

3. The Supreme Court upheld the government's power to select from multiple recommended candidates.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

- 28.** Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional principles invoked by the Supreme Court while striking down parts of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021:

1. Judicial independence is part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
2. Parliament cannot override a binding Supreme Court judgment by reenacting the same invalidated provisions.
3. The Act violated separation of powers by equating tribunal members' service conditions with those of civil servants.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

- 29.** Consider the following statements regarding tribunals in India:

1. Articles 323A and 323B were inserted through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment.
2. Article 323A deals specifically with tribunals for taxation, land reforms and industrial disputes.
3. In 2010, the Supreme Court clarified that tribunals can be created for any subject in the Union List only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 2 and 3 only

- 30.** The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 was enacted in consonance with which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India?

1. Right to healthy environment, construed as a part of Right to Life under Article 21
2. Provision of grants for raising the level of administration in the Scheduled Areas for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under Article 275(1)
3. Powers and functions of Gram Sabha as mentioned under Article 243(A)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

6. SC clarifies Governor's powers

Supreme Court Verdict on Governor's Powers (Article 200)

1. Governor's Options under Article 200

- **The Governor has three constitutional options when a Bill is presented:**
 - Grant assent to the Bill.
 - Reserve the Bill for the President's consideration.
 - Withhold assent and return the Bill to the legislature with comments for reconsideration.
 - Cannot simply withhold assent ("withhold assent simpliciter") without returning the Bill.

2. Discretion vs. Aid & Advice

- Under Article 163, the Governor generally acts on aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- **Exception:** Granting assent to Bills is a discretionary function, not bound by Cabinet advice.
- **Reason:** A government would never advise against its own Bill; discretion allows the Governor to return it.


3. Judicial Review of Governor's Actions

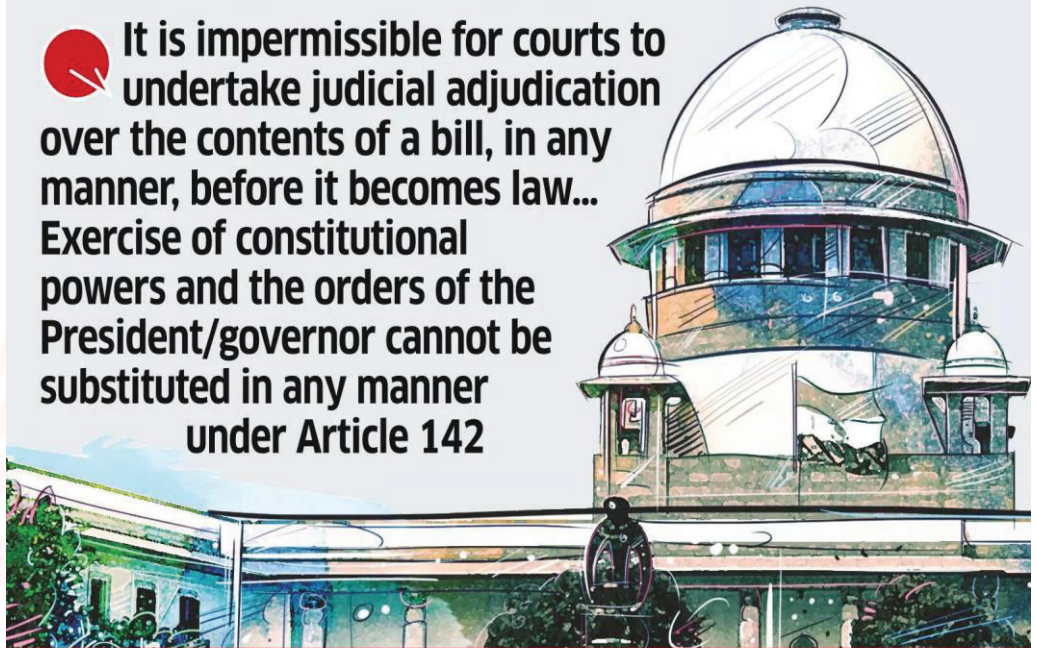
- **Merits of the Governor's decision:** Not justifiable.
- **Indefinite or unexplained inaction:** Justifiable; courts can direct the Governor to act.
- **Article 361 immunity:** Protects the individual Governor but does not shield the office from review of inaction.

4. Timelines for Action

- Court cannot impose fixed timelines on the Governor.
- "As soon as possible" under Article 200 is elastic, allowing flexible discretion.
- Same applies to President under Article 201: no judicially mandated deadlines.

'Judicial Adjudication Only After Bill Becomes Law'

 It is impermissible for courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a bill, in any manner, before it becomes law... Exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of the President/governor cannot be substituted in any manner under Article 142



Bench clarifies while the governor continues to enjoy personal immunity, the constitutional office is subject to the jurisdiction of the top court

5. President's Role (Article 201)

- Decisions to assent or withhold assent to Bills reserved for President are not justifiable on merits.
- President is not required to consult the Supreme Court under Article 143 every time.
- Courts cannot substitute the President's discretion (no "deemed assent").

6. Bills vs. Laws

- Judicial review applies only to enacted laws, not Bills.
- Courts cannot adjudicate the contents of a Bill before it becomes law.
- A Bill cannot become law without Governor's or President's assent.

7. Supreme Court Powers (Article 142)

- Cannot be used to override substantive constitutional provisions like the Governor's assent.
- "Deemed assent" is rejected.

8. Other Constitutional Queries

- Article 145(3) (five-judge Bench for substantial questions): not addressed.
- Supreme Court jurisdiction under Article 131 (Centre-State disputes): not addressed.
- Article 142 cannot be used for orders contrary to Constitution or law.

QUESTIONS

31. Consider the following statements regarding the Governor's powers under Article 200:

1. The Governor may withhold assent to a Bill.
2. The Governor may reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President.
3. The Governor may return a Bill to the Legislature with recommendations for reconsideration.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

32. Consider the following statements regarding judicial review of the Governor's actions:

1. The merits of a Governor's decision to assent or withhold assent to a Bill are subject to judicial review.
2. Indefinite inaction by the Governor can be reviewed by the courts.
3. Article 361 protects the Governor from being personally answerable in court, but not the office from scrutiny.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

33. Consider the following statements regarding timelines for Governor and President action on Bills:
1. The Supreme Court has held that courts cannot impose fixed timelines on Governors for assent under Article 200.
 2. The phrase “as soon as possible” in Article 200 provides an elastic and flexible timeline.
 3. Under Article 201, courts may impose deadlines on the President for decisions on reserved Bills.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3
34. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court’s interpretation of constitutional provisions:
1. The Supreme Court held that Article 142 cannot be used to override substantive constitutional provisions like the Governor’s assent powers.
 2. Judicial review applies to Bills even before they receive assent.
 3. A Bill does not become law until it receives assent from either the Governor or the President.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3
35. Consider the following statements:
1. A Bill amending the Constitution requires a prior recommendation of the President of India.
 2. When a Constitution Amendment Bill is presented to the President of India, it is obligatory for the President to give his/her assent.
 3. A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by a special majority, and there is no provision for a joint sitting.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

7. G20 2025

1. Historic African Summit

- First G20 Leaders’ Summit held on African soil.
- Declaration highlights Ubuntu philosophy: “I am because we are,” emphasizing interconnectedness in social, economic, and environmental contexts.
- Commitment to multilateralism to tackle global challenges collectively.



- Focus on ensuring no one is left behind through cooperation, policy coordination, and sustainable development partnerships.

2. Enhancing African Representation in Global Finance

- Creation of a 25th IMF Executive Board chair to amplify Sub-Saharan Africa's voice.
- Exceeded \$100 billion in voluntary Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) contributions to countries in need.
- Supports quota-based IMF reforms aligned with members' economic positions.

3. Comprehensive Action on Debt Sustainability

- Recognizes that high debt limits development investment in infrastructure, healthcare, and education.
- Supports G20 Common Framework for debt treatment and voluntary debt-for-development or debt-for-climate swaps.
- Emphasizes debt transparency, public financial management, and capacity building.

4. Scaling Climate Action & Disaster Resilience

- Strengthens Paris Agreement implementation and climate urgency.
- Highlights impact on Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Calls to scale climate finance from billions to trillions, with developing countries needing \$5.8–5.9 trillion for NDCs by 2030.
- Promotes universal early warning systems and disaster risk reduction investments.

5. Mobilizing Finance for Just Energy Transitions

- Acknowledges energy access inequality in Africa:
- 600 million without electricity
- 1 billion without clean cooking fuels
- Supports Mission 300 platform to connect 300 million people to electricity by 2030.
- Commits to tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling global energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
- Promotes sustainable industrialization as a core of energy transitions.

6. Establishing Critical Minerals Framework

- Recognizes growing demand due to sustainable transitions, digitization, and industrial innovation.
- Introduces G20 Critical Minerals Framework for sustainable, transparent, and resilient value chains.
- Encourages local beneficiation, governance reforms, and investment in developing countries.
- Aims for broad-based development rather than raw material export reliance.

7. Global Food Security & Right to Food

- Acknowledges 720 million people faced hunger in 2024.
- Reaffirms Right to Food and open, non-discriminatory trade policies.
- Encourages support for African smallholder farmers and AfCFTA implementation.
- Highlights Ubuntu-based approaches to food security and tackling excessive food price volatility.

8. AI & Digital Inclusion for Development

- Recognizes AI's transformative potential and associated risks.
- Launches AI for Africa Initiative for multilateral cooperation between G20 and African Union.
- Focus on human rights, transparency, fairness, accountability, ethics, privacy, and data governance.

9. Youth Employment & Gender Parity Targets

- **Nelson Mandela Bay Target:** reduce youth NEET rate by 5% by 2030.
- **Brisbane-eThekweni Goal:** reduce gender gap in labor force participation by 25% by 2030.
- Commit to reducing unadjusted wage gap between men and women by 15% by 2035.
- Promote women's entrepreneurship, access to finance, and equal economic rights.

10. Global Governance & UN Reform

- Strong emphasis on multilateralism and adherence to international law.
- Calls for UN Security Council reform to improve representation, inclusiveness, and accountability.
- Aligns UNSC composition with 21st-century global realities, reflecting concerns of IBSA nations (India, Brazil, South Africa).

India-Italy Strengthen Counter-Terror Cooperation

- Modi, Meloni Launch Joint Initiative to Curb Terror Financing at G20
- India-Italy Pact Boosts Collaboration via FATF, GCTF Platforms
- Leaders Reaffirm Shared Commitment to Counter Global Terror Networks

Developing Nations Demand Climate Action & Debt Relief

- Global South Pushes G20 for Climate Finance, Debt Restructuring
- Poorer Nations Highlight Economic Potential in Mining, Tech & AI
- Meeting Overshadowed by U.S. Boycott Over Trump's Claims on South Africa

India-Canada Eye Deeper Defence & Space Cooperation

- Modi, Carney Agree to Expand Strategic Ties at G20
- Leaders Cite Strong Momentum Since June G7 Meeting
- Focus Areas: Trade, Investment, Technology, Energy & Education

India-Japan to Boost Innovation & Trade Links

- Modi Holds First Talks with New Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi
- Bilateral Focus on Innovation, Defence & Talent Mobility

India, Brazil, Indonesia Laid Groundwork for Successful G20: Ramaphosa

- South African President Credits Global South Trio for Summit Success
- G20 Declaration Represents Concrete Action for Global Good

India, Australia, Canada Launch ACITI Tech Partnership

- Modi Announces New Trilateral Innovation & AI Collaboration
- ACITI to Strengthen Supply Chains, Clean Energy & Emerging Tech
- Initiative Connects Three Democracies Across Three Continents

QUESTIONS

36. Consider the following statements regarding the G20 2025 Leaders' Summit:

1. It was the first time a G20 Leaders' Summit was held on African soil.
2. The Summit Declaration invoked the Ubuntu philosophy to emphasize global interconnectedness.
3. The Summit rejected multilateralism, arguing for more country-specific solutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

37. Consider the following statements regarding global financial reforms endorsed at G20 2025:

1. A new 25th IMF Executive Board seat was created to increase Sub-Saharan Africa's representation.
2. G20 members surpassed the target of contributing \$100 billion in voluntary Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).
3. The Summit proposed eliminating quota-based IMF reforms and replacing them with GDP-based voting only.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

38. Consider the following statements about G-20:

1. The G-20 group was originally established as a platform for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss international economic and financial issues.
2. Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. Both 1 and 2 |
| B. 2 only | D. Neither 1 nor 2 |

39. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?

- A. Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- B. Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- C. Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- D. Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

40. With reference to the “G20 Common Framework”, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club.
2. It is an initiative to support Low Income Countries with unsustainable debt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

8. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025



- Parliament bulletins indicated that the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025 would be introduced to bring Chandigarh under Article 240.

Proposed Change Explained:

- Chandigarh is currently a Union Territory serving as the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana.
- The Punjab Governor acts as Chandigarh's Administrator.
- Bringing Chandigarh under Article 240 would empower the President to make regulations for the UT and allow the appointment of an independent administrator/L-G, altering the current arrangement.

Implication of the Proposal:

- Chandigarh would no longer function under the Punjab Governor's charge, potentially weakening Punjab's administrative link to the city.

Centre's Clarification:

- The Home Ministry stated that the proposal aims only to simplify the law-making process for the UT.
- It denies any plan to alter Chandigarh's governance structure or its traditional ties with Punjab and Haryana.
- No Bill will be introduced in the upcoming Winter Session, and changes—if any—will come after consultations.

Why Punjab Opposes the Move:

- Chandigarh was built after Partition as a replacement for Lahore and holds deep historical and emotional significance for Punjab.
- After the 1966 reorganisation, Chandigarh became a joint capital, with a 60:40 property distribution between Punjab and Haryana.
- Despite a 1970 announcement that Chandigarh would eventually go to Punjab, it never materialised.
- Punjab asserts an "undisputed" claim over Chandigarh, arguing it was created on land acquired from Punjab's villages.

Union Territory

- In India, Union Territories (UTs) are federal territories that are directly administered by the Central Government of India, unlike states which have their own governments.

What is a Union Territory?

- A Union Territory is an administrative division governed directly by the President of India through an appointed Lieutenant Governor (LG) or Administrator.
- Some UTs have their own legislative assemblies; others do not.

List of Union Territories and Their Governance Status (2025)

UTs with Legislative Assembly (Partial Statehood)

- These UTs have an elected legislature, Chief Minister, and some state-like powers, but key subjects (public order, police, land) remain with the Central Government.
 - Delhi (NCT of Delhi)
 - Puducherry

UTs without Legislative Assembly (Fully Controlled by Central Government)

- These UTs are governed directly by the Central Government through an Administrator or LG.
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 - Chandigarh
 - Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
 - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Ladakh
 - Lakshadweep
- **(Note: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh became UTs in 2019 after the reorganization of the former state of J&K.)**

Key Features of Union Territories

1. Administration

- Administered by the Central Government.
- Led by a Lieutenant Governor (LG) or Administrator.

2. Legislative Powers

- UTs with assemblies (Delhi & Puducherry) have partial autonomy.
- Other UTs' laws are framed by Parliament.

3. Representation

- UTs have representatives in Lok Sabha.
- Only Delhi and Puducherry have representation in Rajya Sabha.

4. Special Status Variations

- **Delhi:** National Capital Territory with limited statehood.
- **J&K:** UT with a legislative assembly (elections pending).
- **Ladakh:** UT without assembly.

Article 240

- Article 240 of the Constitution of India – Power of President to make regulations for certain Union Territories.

What Article 240 Does

- Article 240 gives the President of India the power to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good governance of certain Union Territories (UTs).
- These regulations can function like laws made by Parliament.

Effect of Regulations

- **Regulations made under Article 240:**
 - Can override any existing law applicable to the UT
 - Have the same force as an Act of Parliament

Chandigarh would eventually go to Punjab

- In 1970, the central government formally announced that the capital project area of Chandigarh would eventually go to Punjab, with a financial package provided to Haryana to build its own capital.
- This decision was made following the 1966 partition of Punjab, which created Haryana and made Chandigarh a union territory, and was a complex resolution to the long-standing dispute between the two states over the city.
 - **Background:** After the 1966 reorganization of Punjab, Chandigarh was declared a union territory, serving as a shared capital for both Punjab and the newly formed state of Haryana.
 - **The 1970 decision:** The Central government formally communicated its decision that Chandigarh would be given to Punjab.
 - **Terms of the agreement:** As part of the decision, Haryana was given a financial package of approximately (\$27) million to construct its own new capital.
 - **Previous arrangements:** Chandigarh was initially intended to be the capital of the original Punjab and was declared a union territory in 1966 to handle the dispute.

- **Unresolved issues:** The 1970 announcement did not fully resolve the dispute, and the matter of Chandigarh's status has been a source of ongoing tension between Punjab and Haryana.

QUESTIONS

41. Consider the following statements regarding Article 240 of the Constitution of India:

1. Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations having the same force as an Act of Parliament for certain Union Territories.
2. Delhi and Puducherry are currently governed under Article 240.
3. Regulations issued under Article 240 can override existing laws applicable in those Union Territories.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

42. Consider the following statements regarding the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2025:

1. The Bill seeks to bring Chandigarh under the purview of Article 240.
2. Once brought under Article 240, Chandigarh can have a Lieutenant Governor appointed as its Administrator instead of the Punjab Governor.
3. The Bill proposes converting Chandigarh into a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

43. With reference to Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:

1. All Union Territories are represented in the Lok Sabha.
2. Only Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir have representation in the Rajya Sabha.
3. Ladakh is a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 2 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Laws for UTs without Legislative Assemblies are made exclusively by Parliament.
2. In UTs brought under Article 240, the President can make regulations that function as laws.
3. Chandigarh currently comes under Article 240 of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

45. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Territory of India' is an expression that includes the States, Union Territories, and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.
2. 'Union of India' is an expression that includes only the States.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 1 and 2 both |
| B. 2 only | D. None of the above |



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. A 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Article 15(2) explicitly prohibits discrimination **by private individuals** in access to shops, public restaurants, public spaces, wells, roads, etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Article 17 abolishes untouchability and declares its practice a punishable offence under law.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Article 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, and its enforcement applies **against both the State and private actors**.

2. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Affirmative action (reservations) for SCs and STs was **constitutionally embedded** from the very beginning (1950).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Religious minority quotas for legislatures, which existed under colonial constitutional schemes, were **removed** before final adoption.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Articles 29 and 30 protect cultural and educational rights of **religious and linguistic minorities**.

3. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article 27 prohibits using taxpayers' money to promote any one religion.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Article 28 prohibits religious instruction **only in State-run or State-funded institutions**, but **permits it** in institutions administered by religious bodies.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practice, and propagate religion.

4. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India borrowed the federal system with a strong Centre from **Canada**.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** DPSPs were **inspired by the Irish Constitution**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Judicial Review and Fundamental Rights were borrowed from **the U.S. Constitution**, not the UK.

5. D 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Article 32 provides the Right to Constitutional Remedies.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Article 24 prohibits employment of children below 14 years in hazardous work.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Article 22 provides safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.

6. C Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

- **Statement-I is correct**
 - Constitution Day (also known as **Samvidhan Divas**) is celebrated **every year on 26 November**.
 - It commemorates:
 - The **adoption** of the Constitution on 26 November 1949, and
 - The promotion of **constitutional values** and **awareness among citizens**.
 - This day was officially declared by the Government of India in **2015**.

- **Statement–II is incorrect**
 - The **Drafting Committee was NOT set up on 26 November 1949.**
 - The Drafting Committee was actually **set up on 29 August 1947**, with **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as the Chairman.**
 - On **26 November 1949**, the *Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution*, but the Committee had existed for over two years before this date.
- Therefore:
 - **Statement I is true**
 - **Statement II is false**
 - Correct option = (c)

7. B A Sovereign Democratic Republic

- On **26 January 1950**, the Constitution of India came into force, and India officially became a:
 - Sovereign
 - Democratic
 - Republic
- **Why option (b) is correct:**
 - **“Sovereign”** was included in the original Preamble adopted in 1950.
 - **“Democratic”** was also part of the original text.
 - **“Republic”** reflected that India would have an elected head of state (the President), not a hereditary monarch.

Therefore, on 26 January 1950, India became a **Sovereign Democratic Republic.**

8. D A part of the Constitution but has no legal effect independently of other parts

- The Preamble:
 - **Is a part of the Constitution,**
 - But **cannot be used independently** to strike down laws,
 - It **guides** interpretation of the Constitution,
 - It reflects the **philosophy, values, and objectives** of the Constitution.

Hence, **it has no legal effect by itself**, but it **aids interpretation** of other constitutional provisions. This matches **option (d)** exactly.

9. A The Preamble

- The Preamble is often described as the **philosophy, vision, and intent** of the Constitution’s framers. It expresses:
 - The **ideals** the framers sought to achieve
 - The **objectives** of the Constitution
 - The **values** guiding the drafting process
 - The **aspirations** of “We, the People of India”

○ **Why the Preamble reflects the “mind of the makers”**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru (through the Objectives Resolution), and other members of the Constituent Assembly crafted the Preamble to encapsulate:

- Justice (social, economic, political)
 - Liberty (thought, expression, belief, faith, worship)
 - Equality (of status and opportunity)
 - Fraternity (promoting unity and integrity)
- Courts—including the Supreme Court in **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**—have repeatedly held that the **Preamble contains the guiding principles** of the Constitution. Hence, **the Preamble is** considered the “key to the minds of the makers.”

10. B Economic liberty

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India explicitly mentions the following forms of liberty:
- Liberty of thought
 - Liberty of expression
 - Liberty of belief
 - Liberty of faith
 - Liberty of worship
- These are written word-for-word in the Preamble. However, the Preamble **does NOT mention “economic liberty.”**

11. A 1 and 2 only

○ **Statement 1 — Correct**

The Hayli Gubbi eruption was **explosive**, emitting gas and *fine ash*, **but no lava or magma flow** was reported.

○ **Statement 2 — Correct**

Ash and gases (SO₂, CO₂) rose to **15–40 km** altitude due to intense heating, after which **upper-level strong winds** transported the plume eastwards over **India** and towards **China**.

○ **Statement 3 — Incorrect**

The Hayli Gubbi volcano is **not** located in the Pacific Ring of Fire.

- It lies in the **East African Rift system**, a region of continental rifting, not an active subduction zone.

12. A 1 and 2 only

○ **Statement 1 — Correct**

Volcanic ash that reaches **15–40 km altitude** enters the **stratosphere**, where strong zonal winds can carry it across continents.

This explains how the plume from Ethiopia reached **India**.

○ **Statement 2 — Correct**

Such plumes can:

- degrade **air quality**
- cause **haze or low visibility**
- disrupt **aviation**, as ash can damage jet engines

Thus, this statement is correct.

○ **Statement 3 — Incorrect**

The plume moved **eastwards**, not westwards.

Its movement was driven by **upper-level jet stream winds**, not monsoon reversal.

The direction had **no connection** to monsoon systems.

13. D All four

- Volcanic eruptions release a **wide range of solid, liquid, and gaseous materials**. All four items listed in the question are indeed known products of volcanic activity.

14. A 1 only

○ **Statement 1:**

Barren Island is **India's only active volcano**, located in the Andaman Sea.

Therefore, **Statement 1 is correct**.

○ **Statement 2:**

Barren Island is located **about 138 km northeast of Port Blair**, not east of Great Nicobar.

Thus, **Statement 2 is incorrect**.

○ **Statement 3:**

The volcano erupted in 1991 but **has erupted multiple times since**, including 1994–95, 2005, 2017, and 2018. Hence, **Statement 3 is incorrect**.

15. A Baltic Sea

○ **Baltic Sea — No volcanic activity (Correct Answer)**

- The Baltic Sea lies in **Northern Europe** and is surrounded by countries like Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, and the Baltic states.
- This region is **tectonically stable**, far from plate boundaries, hot spots, or rift zones.

Therefore, **no volcanic eruptions occur** in the Baltic Sea.

16. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The Code provides for a **statutory floor wage**, binding on all states.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** The Code applies to **both organised and unorganised** workers.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** It prohibits gender-based discrimination, including against **transgender workers**.

17. B 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The Code formalises the rule that **51% membership = sole negotiating union**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** Fixed-term employees receive **pro-rated benefits**, including **gratuity after one year**.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** The Code **retains** and strengthens grievance redressal mechanisms; it does not remove them.

18. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The Code adds formal definitions of **gig, platform, and unorganised** workers.

- **Statement 2 — Correct:** A **Social Security Fund** is established for these workers, funded partly by penalties.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** The Code **introduces time limits**—EPF inquiries must start within **5 years** and finish within **2 years** (extendable).

19. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Hazardous work triggers the Code even for a **single employee**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** The Code expands the definition of inter-state migrants to include **self-migrant workers**.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** Night work for women is **allowed** with **consent** and adequate safety measures, not prohibited.

20. A Child Labour

- **ILO Convention 138 — Minimum Age Convention (1973)**
 - Requires member countries to set a **minimum age for employment**, generally **not less than 15 years** (or 14 for developing countries).
 - Its aim is to **eliminate child labour** by ensuring children are not employed too early.
- **ILO Convention 182 — Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)**
 - Focuses on prohibiting and eliminating the **worst forms of child labour**, including:
 - slavery
 - trafficking
 - forced labour
 - child prostitution
 - use of children in drug trafficking
 - hazardous work
 - It is one of the most universally ratified ILO conventions.

21. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Bharat NCAP is **voluntary**, and CIRT (Pune) issues the star ratings.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** Bharat NCAP evaluates **crashworthiness**, not just roadworthiness.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** The programme assigns star ratings up to **5 stars** for best-performing vehicles.

22. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** ESC becomes **mandatory** in NCAP 2.0 under accident-avoidance technologies.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** AEBS is **optional**, not mandatory.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** Vulnerable Road User Protection (20%) is **new**, covering safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

23. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** The new framework adds a **50 km/h full-width rigid barrier frontal test**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** A **rear impact test at 50 km/h** is included.

- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** Several NCAP 2.0 tests go **above 30 km/h**, e.g., 64 km/h frontal impact, 50 km/h side impact.

24. D 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** For 5-star rating, **80 points** are required as per the 2025 draft.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** A 5-star vehicle **cannot have zero** in any vertical.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** To achieve **3 stars and above**, AOP must be **≥55% of the Crash Protection** score.

25. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct**
Bharat Stage emission norms are **based on the European emission standards**, with similar pollutant thresholds and testing cycles.
- **Statement 2 — Correct**
BS-VI fuel has **10 ppm sulphur**, whereas BS-IV has **50 ppm**—a **fivefold reduction**, improving engine and environmental performance.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect**
The **Environment Ministry sets the fuel standards**, while the **CPCB only implements** them. Therefore, CPCB does not decide the standards.

26. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** SC struck down the **minimum age of 50** as arbitrary and contrary to earlier rulings.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** SC **invalidated** the four-year tenure and restored a **minimum five-year** tenure.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** SC stated that **short tenures weaken judicial independence** and institutional continuity.

27. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** SC mandated **one name per post** to ensure transparency and autonomy.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** The 2021 Act **allowed a panel of two**, increasing executive control.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** SC **struck down** this power, rejecting multiple-name recommendations.

28. D 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** SC emphasised judicial independence as part of the **Basic Structure doctrine**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** SC held that Parliament **cannot bypass judicial review** by reenacting struck-down laws.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** Equating tribunal members with **civil servants** violated **separation of powers**, as tribunal members perform judicial—not executive—functions.

29. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Articles **323A & 323B** were introduced through the **42nd Amendment (1976)**.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** These subjects belong to **Article 323B**; Article **323A** is only for **Administrative Tribunals** dealing with service matters.

- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** In 2010, SC held tribunals may be created for **any subject in the Seventh Schedule**, not limited to the Union List.

30. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct**
 - The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, 2010 was enacted to ensure **effective and expeditious disposal of environmental cases**.
 - Its constitutional foundation lies in **Article 21**, where the Supreme Court has repeatedly interpreted the **Right to a Healthy Environment** as part of the **Right to Life**.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect**
 - Article 275(1) deals with **grants-in-aid for administration in Scheduled Areas and welfare of Scheduled Tribes**.
 - It has **no relation** to environmental adjudication or the purpose of the NGT Act.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect**
 - Article 243(A) empowers the **Gram Sabha** in Panchayats.
 - This also has **no direct connection** with the establishment or functioning of the NGT.

Therefore, only Article 21 is constitutionally relevant to the NGT Act.

31. D 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Governor can **withhold the assent to a bill**; he must either assent, reserve, or return the Bill.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** The Governor **can reserve** a Bill for the President under Article 200.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** The Governor can **return a non-money Bill** with comments for reconsideration.

32. B 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Incorrect:** The SC clarified that **merits** of the Governor's decision **cannot** be reviewed.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** **Unexplained or prolonged inaction** is justiciable; courts may direct the Governor to act.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** Article 361 gives **personal immunity**, but the **office itself** can be reviewed for inaction.

33. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** SC ruled that **no fixed judicial timelines** can be imposed on Governors.
- **Statement 2 — Correct:** "As soon as possible" is intentionally **elastic**, giving discretionary space.
- **Statement 3 — Incorrect:** The SC clearly stated that **courts cannot impose deadlines** on the President under Article 201.

34. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 — Correct:** Article 142 cannot be used to create "**deemed assent**" or bypass constitutional procedures.
- **Statement 2 — Incorrect:** Judicial review applies only to **laws**, not Bills; courts cannot examine a Bill's contents pre-enactment.
- **Statement 3 — Correct:** A Bill becomes law **only after assent** from the Governor (Article 200) or President (Article 201).

35. B 2 and 3 only

○ **Statement 1: Incorrect**

A Constitution Amendment Bill **does not require prior recommendation or permission of the President** before its introduction.

- It can be introduced **in either House** of Parliament.
- It may be introduced **by a minister or a private member**.

Hence, the President has **no role** before the Bill is introduced.

○ **Statement 2: Correct**

After the **24th Constitutional Amendment (1971)**, Article 368 was amended. It explicitly states that:

- When a Constitution Amendment Bill is passed by Parliament and **presented to the President**, the President **must** give assent.
- There is **no power to withhold assent or return the Bill**, unlike ordinary Bills (Article 111).

Thus, assent is **mandatory**, not discretionary.

○ **Statement 3: Correct**

A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by:

- **Each House separately**,
- With a **special majority** (Article 368):
- Majority of the total membership of the House, and
- Two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- If one House does not pass the Bill,
- There is **no provision for a joint sitting** under Article 108.
- This ensures the **Rajya Sabha's equal role** in constitutional amendments and prevents Lok Sabha majorities from overruling it.

36. A 1 and 2 only

○ **Statement 1 – Correct:**

- G20 2025 was historically significant as it marked the **first G20 Leaders' Summit held in Africa**, hosted in South Africa.

○ **Statement 2 – Correct:**

- The declaration explicitly referenced the **Ubuntu philosophy** ("I am because we are") to frame economic, social and environmental interdependence.

○ **Statement 3 – Incorrect:**

- The Summit strongly **endorsed multilateralism**, highlighting collective cooperation and policy coordination. It did not reject it.

37. A 1 and 2 only

○ **Statement 1 – Correct:**

- The G20 agreed to **create a 25th IMF Executive Board chair**, strengthening Africa's voice in global governance.

○ **Statement 2 – Correct:**

- Voluntary SDR contributions **exceeded \$100 billion**, supporting vulnerable economies.

○ **Statement 3 – Incorrect:**

- The Summit supported **quota-based IMF reforms**, not their elimination. GDP-only voting was never proposed.

38. C Both 1 and 2

○ **Statement 1: Correct**

- The G-20 was created in **1999**, in the aftermath of the **Asian Financial Crisis**, to bring together Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of major economies.
- Its original mandate was to **discuss global economic stability, financial coordination, and international monetary issues**.

○ **Statement 2: Correct**

- During India's Presidency, **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**—such as UPI, Aadhaar, DigiLocker, CoWIN—was identified as a **key priority area**.
- India presented DPI as a **scalable, open-access model** beneficial for financial inclusion, health, education, and the digital economy. Thus, **both statements are correct**, making option (C) the right answer.

39. A Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey

- All four countries in this group are members of the G20. The G20 includes major advanced and emerging economies, and Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, and Turkey are all part of the grouping.

40. C Both 1 and 2

○ **Statement 1: It is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club — Correct**

- The **G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments** was launched in **November 2020**.
- It is jointly endorsed by the **G20 nations** and the **Paris Club**, a group of major creditor countries.
- It aims to create a coordinated mechanism for debt restructuring.

○ **Statement 2: It is an initiative to support Low Income Countries with unsustainable debt — Correct**

- The Common Framework is specifically designed for **Low Income Countries (LICs)** facing **unsustainable debt burdens**.
- It offers a structured process for debt relief, rescheduling, or restructuring.

41. C 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 240 allows the President to make regulations for UTs like Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu, Ladakh, and Chandigarh (if brought under Article 240).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Delhi and Puducherry have legislatures; they are *not* governed under Article 240.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Presidential regulations under Article 240 have the *same force as Parliamentary law* and can override existing laws.

42. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The proposal is to place Chandigarh under Article 240.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 240 allows appointment of an independent Administrator/L-G instead of the Punjab Governor.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is *no* proposal to give Chandigarh a Legislative Assembly; it remains a UT without an assembly.

43. B 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Every UT sends members to the Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Only Delhi, Puducherry, and J&K (once its assembly is constituted) are entitled to Rajya Sabha representation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ladakh is a UT **without** a Legislative Assembly.

44. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UTs like Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Ladakh etc. have laws made by Parliament.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 240 empowers the President to issue binding regulations for specific UTs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Chandigarh is *not yet* under Article 240; the 131st Amendment Bill proposes to bring it under Article 240.

45. D None of the above

- **Statement 1: Correct**
 - The Constitution uses the phrase “**Territory of India**” in Article 1(3).
 - It includes:
 - States
 - Union Territories
 - Any territories that may be acquired in the future
 - Therefore, Statement 1 is correct.
- **Statement 2: Correct**
 - The phrase “**Union of India**” is not the same as “Territory of India.”
 - “Union of India” refers **only to the States** that form the political union.
 - It **does NOT** include Union Territories.
 - This distinction was upheld by courts, especially in federalism and taxation cases.

Therefore, Statement 2 is also correct.