

UPSC

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1. Tamil Lyricist Vairamuthu Named 2025 Jnanpith Award Winner

- The 60th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for the year 2025 will be conferred on distinguished Tamil poet, lyricist and writer R. Vairamuthu.
- This was announced by the Bharatiya Jnanpith.
- He has been selected for the prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Tamil literature, marked by creative depth and a distinctive poetic voice.
- The decision was taken at a meeting of the Bharatiya Jnanpith Selection Committee chaired by noted writer Pratibha Ray.
- The committee comprised eminent litterateurs and scholars including Madhav Kaushik, Damodar Mauzo, Suranjan Das, A. Krishna Rao, Prafulla Shiledar, Kesubhai Desai, Janaki Prasad Sharma, K. Srinivas Rao and Maheshwar.
- Born on July 13, 1953, in Tamil Nadu, R. Vairamuthu is regarded as one of the most prominent voices in contemporary Tamil literature.
- His works are known for their evocative portrayal of human emotions, social concerns and a deep sensitivity towards nature.
- Over a literary career spanning more than four decades, he has made significant contributions across poetry, lyrics and prose.
- His writings have gained wide readership for their originality, emotional depth and strong cultural grounding.
- Vairamuthu has authored more than 37 books, including poetry collections and novels.
- Some of his acclaimed works include Kallikattu Ethikasam, Karuvachi Kaaviyam, Thanni Desam and Moondraam Ullaga Por (The Third World War).
- During his career, he has received several prestigious honours, including the National Film Award for Best Lyrics on seven occasions.
- He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2003 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014 by the Government of India.
- In the same year as the Padma Shri, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his celebrated novel Kallikattu Ethikasam
- The Government of Tamil Nadu has also honoured him with the Kalaimamani award for his contributions to literature and the arts.
- The selection committee noted that although Tamil is one of India's richest literary languages, only two Tamil writers – P.V. Akilan (1975) and D. Jayakanthan (2002) – had previously received the Jnanpith Award.



- The award to R. Vairamuthu is therefore seen as further recognition of the vibrant tradition of Tamil literature on the national stage.
- The Jnanpith Award carries a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a bronze statuette of Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati), and a citation, and is presented annually to an author for outstanding contribution to literature in any of the Indian languages.

Jnanpith Award

- The Jnanpith Award is the highest literary honor in India.
- It is presented annually to an author for their outstanding contribution to literature in any of the officially recognized Indian languages.
- **Established**
 - **Year:** 1961
 - **First Awarded:** 1965
 - **Presented by:** Bharatiya Jnanpith

What the Award Includes

- A citation (certificate of honor)
- A bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati
- Cash prize (currently Rs. 11 lakh)

Languages Covered

- The award is given for literature written in languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, including Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Sanskrit, and others.

First Recipient

- G. Sankara Kurup (1965) – for his Malayalam poetry work Odakkuzhal.

Notable Recipients

- **Rabindranath Tagore:** He did not receive the Jnanpith; he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.)
 - Amrita Pritam
 - Mahadevi Varma
 - U. R. Ananthamurthy

Key Points

- It recognizes lifetime achievement, not a single book.
- A language can receive the award multiple times across different years.
- It is considered equivalent in prestige to major international literary awards within India.

QUESTIONS

1. With reference to the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:
 1. It is awarded annually for a single outstanding literary work published in the previous year.
 2. It is open only to authors writing in Hindi and English.
 3. It is considered the highest literary honor in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharatiya Jnanpith and the Jnanpith Award:

1. The award was instituted in 1961 and first conferred in 1965.
2. The award includes a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati along with a cash prize.
3. Rabindranath Tagore was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to R. Vairamuthu and the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:

1. He is the first Tamil writer to receive the Jnanpith Award.
2. He is the first recipient to be recognised specifically for Tamil poetry.
3. He has also received both the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Regarding the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:

1. It was initially awarded for a specific literary work and later shifted to recognizing lifetime achievement.
2. The award is open to both Indian and foreign authors writing in Indian languages.
3. Ashapura Devi was the first woman recipient of the award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. With reference to major international literary awards, consider the following statements:

1. Banu Mushtaq's *Heart Lamp* is the first Kannada work as well as the first short story collection to win the International Booker Prize.
2. *Tomb of Sand* is the first work originally written in Hindi to win the International Booker Prize.
3. Arundhati Roy was the first Indian to win the Booker Prize.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Supreme Court to decide what counts as an 'industry' under Indian labour law

Why this matters

- The definition of “industry” determines which workplaces fall under labour laws and which workers get statutory protections like fair wages, regulated working hours, and safeguards against arbitrary dismissal.
- A broader definition expands worker rights; a narrower one limits legal protections.



Background: The 1978 Landmark Judgment

- In Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board vs A Rajappa, a 7-judge bench gave a wide interpretation of “industry.”

Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer introduced the “triple test”:

- Systematic activity
- Employer-employee cooperation
- Production/distribution of goods or services for human needs

Key ruling:

Profit motive not necessary

- Included hospitals, universities, charities, and welfare departments under “industry”
- Also introduced the “dominant nature test” for multi-activity institutions

Dissenting View

- Two judges opposed the broad interpretation:
- Argued “industry” should apply only to commercial activities
- Said professions like doctors, lawyers, teachers rely on individual skill, not industrial processes

Aftermath: Confusion and Legal Overload

The ruling led to:

- Expansion of labour rights
- Surge in litigation (“docket explosion”)
- Parliament passed the 1982 amendment to narrow the definition:
- Excluded hospitals, educational institutions, and sovereign functions
- Never notified, so it never became law
- Conflicting Court Decisions

Courts gave contradictory rulings:

- **1996:** Forest department = industry
- **2001:** Forest department ≠ industry
- **Result:** Legal uncertainty persisted for decades

Journey to the 9-Judge Bench

- Case State of UP vs Jai Bir Singh triggered reconsideration

Concerns raised:

- Broad definition may discourage private enterprise
- Need balance between employer and employee rights
- Eventually escalated to a 9-judge Constitution bench

Current Bench

- Led by Surya Kant
- **Includes Justices:**
 - B. V. Nagarathna
 - P. S. Narasimha
 - Dipankar Datta
 - Ujjal Bhuyan
 - S. C. Sharma
 - Joymalya Bagchi
 - Alok Aradhe
 - Vipul M. Pancholi

Key Issues Before the Court

Validity of the Triple Test

- Should the 1978 framework still define “industry”?
- What is the impact of the unimplemented 1982 amendment and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020?

Government Welfare Activities

- Should state-run welfare schemes be treated as industrial activities?

Meaning of Sovereign Functions

- Clearly define what counts as core state functions (e.g., defence, law & order)
- Decide if these should be fully excluded from labour law coverage

What’s at Stake

- Could reshape labour law in India

Will impact:

- Workers in education, healthcare, NGOs, and government sectors
- Employer obligations and compliance burden
- May finally resolve decades-long legal ambiguity

QUESTIONS

6. With reference to the concept of “industry” under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the judgment in Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978), consider the following statements:
 1. Profit motive is an essential condition for an organisation to be classified as an industry.
 2. Activities carried out by charitable institutions can fall within the definition of industry.

3. The “Triple Test” includes systematic activity, employer–employee cooperation, and production or distribution of goods or services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the implications of redefining “industry” in India:

1. If the definition is narrowed, some workers may lose access to specialised labour courts.
2. Universities and municipal services are currently excluded from the definition of industry.
3. The issue of redefining “industry” has been referred by the Supreme Court of India to a larger bench.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. The definition of “worker” has been expanded to include supervisory employees earning up to a specified wage ceiling.
2. The Code retains different definitions of “wages” across various labour laws to maintain flexibility.
3. The definition of “industry” includes activities irrespective of profit motive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding trade unions under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020:

1. A trade union must have at least 51% membership to be recognised as the sole negotiating union.
2. If no union meets the 51% threshold, a negotiating council is formed with unions having at least 20% membership.
3. The Code removes all forms of legal recognition for trade unions to simplify compliance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to dispute resolution and employment provisions under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, consider the following statements:

1. Fixed-term employees are entitled to statutory benefits at par with permanent employees.
2. Strikes can be undertaken without prior notice in establishments not engaged in public utility services.
3. Industrial tribunals under the Code consist of both judicial and administrative members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

3. NavIC satellite loses its atomic clock

- Ever since its inception, India's regional navigation system has been plagued by problems affecting its positioning data.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) informed that the atomic clock of one of the five remaining satellites that were still providing this data stopped working — meaning positioning data from the satellite IRNSS-1F was also lost.



- “IRNSS-1F satellite launched in March 2016 has completed its design mission life of 10 years.
- On 13th March 2026, procured on-board Atomic clock stopped functioning.
- However, the satellite will continue to function in-orbit for various societal applications to provide one way broadcast messaging services,” the space agency said.
- Atomic clocks are key for satellites being able to provide positioning data that is used for applications such as navigation of vehicles, mapping and surveying, and even planning large constructions with accuracy.
- Importantly, the NVS-02 — launched in January 2025 to replace one of the older satellites in the constellation — was also not able to reach its final orbit and thus provide positioning data.

What is IRNSS or NavIC?

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) — also referred to with the operational name of Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) — was planned to be a seven-satellite system to provide positioning data over the Indian subcontinent and 1500 km around it.
- It was designed to be a regional system similar to the American GPS.
- With all its satellites functioning, the system was designed to provide location accuracy of around 10 metres over the Indian landmass and surrounding countries.
- The NavIC system is designed to be more accurate over India, with the satellites placed directly above the region.
- This ensures better availability of signals even in difficult geographical locations than GPS, whose signals are received in India at an angle making it difficult to access in certain areas like valleys and forests.
- However, the system has been running into troubles since its inception.

How many satellites in the constellation continue to provide positioning data?

- After the successful 2023 launch, the constellation had five satellites that could provide the positioning data: IRNSS-1B, 1C, 1F, 1I, and NVS-01, which is the new generation of NavIC satellites.
- Now, the atomic clock on board the IRNSS-1F has also been lost.
- Atomic clocks on board some of the initial satellites started failing early on, with replacement satellites planned to keep the system running.
- Besides the failing atomic clocks, some of the initial satellites are also aging out. IRNSS-1A was launched into orbit on July 1, 2013, and the 1B and 1C satellites were launched in the following year.
- 1A is almost defunct — the failed 1H mission of 2018 was intended to replace this satellite — and the other two are also past their 10-year mission lives.
- The last of the first-generation IRNSS satellites was 1I — a replacement for the failed 1H launch — which was launched in 2018.
- IRNSS-1H was launched in 2017 but did not reach orbit after the heat shield protecting the payload failed to open.

What happened to NVS-02?

- NVS-02 was the second of the new-generation satellites meant for the navigation constellation.
- It was successfully placed in a highly elliptical transfer orbit by the GSLV-F15 in ISRO's 100th launch in January last year.
- But the satellite failed to move to its final orbit due to an electrical failure.
- A committee reviewing this found after a thorough analysis of simulation data that the main reason for the failure was a signal not reaching the pyro valve of the oxidiser line of the engine — meaning, the engine could not be ignited. This, the committee felt, was most likely because of the disengagement of at least one of the contacts to the connector — meaning the circuit to deliver the signal could not be completed.
- Another criticism faced by ISRO over the navigation constellation is the delay in developing the user segment.
- A 2018 report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India said that even though the Cabinet cleared funding of Rs 200 crore to develop user receivers in 2006, work on the project started only in March 2017, by which time seven launches had already taken place, wasting the mission life of several of the satellites.
- Now, data from NavIC is already in use for aviation, shipping, and railways. And, several of the newer cell phones carry chipsets that can use data from NavIC, along with American GPS and Russian GLONASS.

What have been the advancements made to the new-generation satellites?

- The most important change to the new-generation satellite for the constellation was an indigenously developed atomic clock.
- ISRO decided to develop its own atomic clocks after several on board the previous generation satellites failed.
- A satellite-based positioning system determines the location by accurately measuring the time it takes for a signal to travel to and from an object using the atomic clocks on board.
- Failure of clocks means the satellites are no longer able to provide accurate locations.
- The newer generation satellites also have a longer mission life of 12 years, instead of the 10 for previous satellites.
- Importantly, the new-generation satellites send signals in a third frequency, L1, besides the L5 and S frequency signals that the existing satellites provide.

- This improves interoperability with other positioning systems as L1 frequency is most commonly used by GPS.
- This band also helps in using the NavIC data in wearable devices such as smartwatches that use low-power, single-frequency chips.

Which other countries in the world have such systems?

- There are four satellite systems in the world that provide global navigation data — the US Global Positioning System (GPS), the Russian GLONASS (GLObalnaya NAVigatsionnaya Sputnikovaya Sistema), the European Galileo, and the Chinese Beidou. Japan has a four-satellite system called Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) that can augment GPS signals over the country.
- GPS, GLONASS, and Galileo all have over 20 satellites placed in medium-earth orbit at a distance of around 20,000 km from the Earth. Beidou has over 40 satellites in a mix of medium-earth orbit and higher geosynchronous orbits of over 35,000 km. India and Japan's systems, on the other hand, have fewer satellites — seven and four — all placed in higher geosynchronous orbits.
- The newer generation satellites also have a longer mission life of 12 years, instead of the 10 for previous satellites.
- Importantly, the new-generation satellites send signals in a third frequency, L1, besides the L5 and S frequency signals that the existing satellites provide.
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- Japan has a four-satellite system called Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) that can augment GPS signals over the country.
- GPS, GLONASS, and Galileo all have over 20 satellites placed in medium-earth orbit at a distance of around 20,000 km from the Earth.
- Beidou has over 40 satellites in a mix of medium-earth orbit and higher geosynchronous orbits of over 35,000 km.
- India and Japan's systems, on the other hand, have fewer satellites — seven and four — all placed in higher geosynchronous orbits.

QUESTIONS

11. With reference to NavIC (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. It is designed as a global navigation satellite system similar to GPS.
2. It aims to provide accurate positioning over India and up to about 1500 km beyond its borders.
3. It is designed to provide better signal availability over India compared to GPS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding satellite navigation systems:
1. Global Positioning System (GPS), GLONASS, and Galileo operate primarily from medium-earth orbit.
 2. BeiDou uses a combination of medium-earth and geosynchronous orbits.
 3. India's NavIC satellites are placed in low-earth orbit to reduce signal delay.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. With reference to atomic clocks in satellite navigation systems, consider the following statements:

1. Atomic clocks are used to measure the time taken by signals to travel between satellites and receivers.
2. Failure of atomic clocks does not affect the satellite's ability to provide positioning data.
3. India has moved towards developing indigenous atomic clocks for its newer NavIC satellites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders.
3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. None

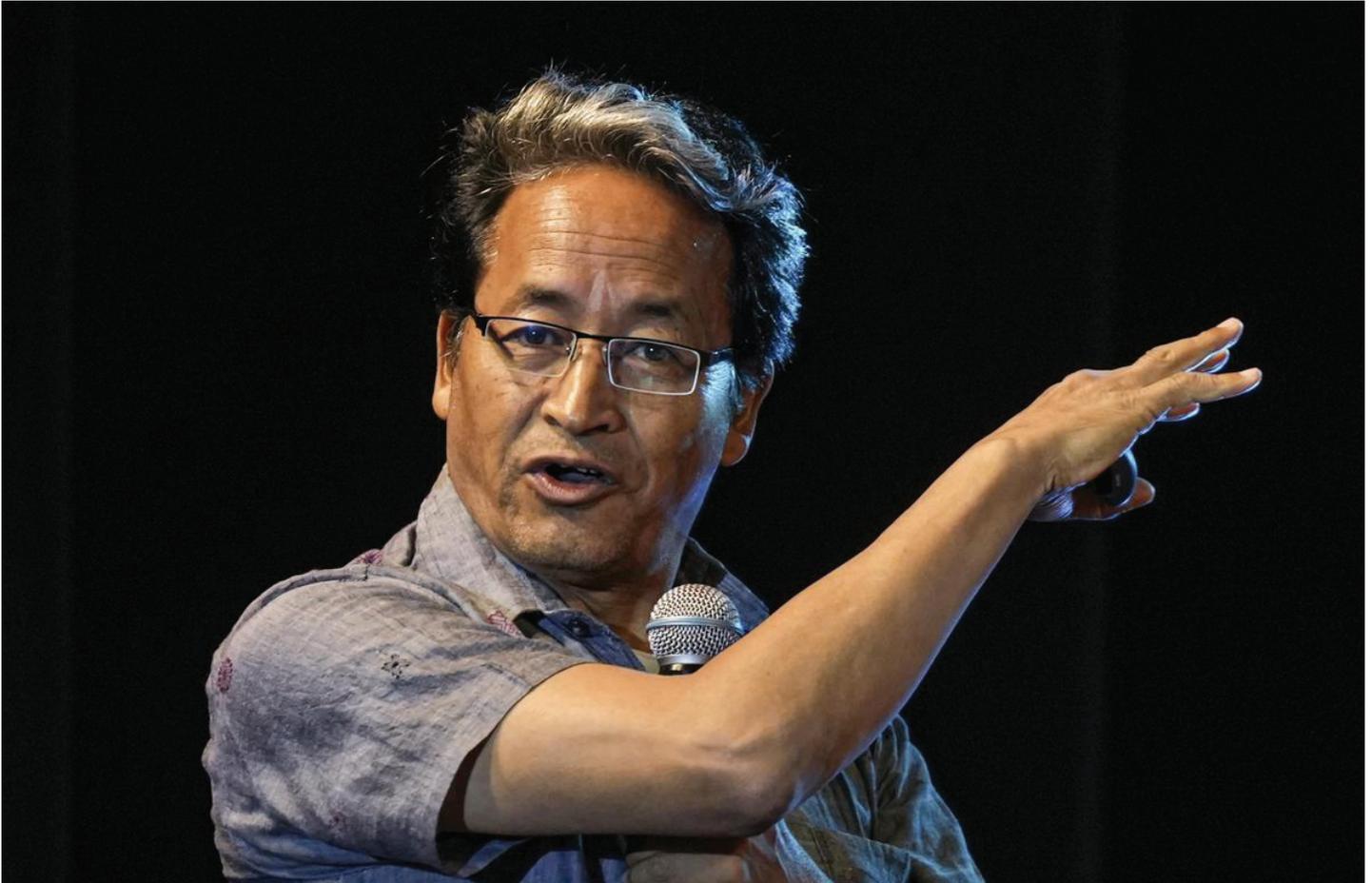
15. With reference to NavIC and Global Positioning System (GPS), consider the following statements:

1. GPS only has geosynchronous satellites, whereas NavIC has both geostationary and geosynchronous satellites.
2. GPS is accurate up to 5–10 metres on land, whereas NavIC provides accuracy of about 20–30 metres.

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

4. As Centre revokes Sonam Wangchuk's NSA detention, revisiting why Ladakh is seeking Sixth Schedule protections



- The Union government has revoked the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act (NSA), nearly six months after his arrest amid the Ladakh movement seeking statehood and protections under the Sixth Schedule.
- Wangchuk was detained on September 26 for allegedly instigating the violent protests in Ladakh on September 24 in which four people were killed in police firing.
- The move comes as Ladakh outfits called for more protests amid an impasse in talks with the Centre.

What spurred the protests in Ladakh?

- The issue dates back to 2019, when Article 370 was repealed and the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories: Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without one.
- Because of the lack of a legislature, the people of the Union Territory found themselves under direct central administration.
- They also began to feel the loss of significant powers of autonomous councils, and the shortage of jobs after being delinked from Jammu and Kashmir's recruitment boards.

- There had been four MLAs from the region in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly; the administration of the region is now completely in the hands of bureaucrats.
- To many in Ladakh, the government now looks even more distant than Srinagar.
- Also, the changed domicile policy in Jammu and Kashmir has raised fears in the region about its own land, employment, demography and cultural identity.

Why does Ladakh want to be part of the Sixth Schedule?

- Given that over 90% of Ladakh's population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, there has been a consistent demand to include the region under the Sixth Schedule.
- Ladakh's Leh district, in particular, is dominated by Buddhists.
- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution provides for the formation of autonomous administrative regions called Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), which govern tribal-majority areas in certain northeastern states.
- ADCs have up to 30 members with a term of five years and can make laws, rules and regulations on land, forest, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village- and town-level policing, etc.
- Currently, there are 10 ADCs in the North East, with three each in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, and one in Tripura.
- Ladakh does have two Hill councils — the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and the LAHDC Kargil — but neither is under the Sixth Schedule.
- Their powers are limited to collection of some local taxes such as parking fees and allotment and use of land vested by the Centre.

Why was Sonam Wangchuk arrested?

- Wangchuk is an engineer and innovator of sustainable products. He is best known as having inspired a character essayed by Aamir Khan in the 2009 Hindi film 3 Idiots.
- In 2018, he was awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, in recognition of “his uniquely systematic, collaborative and community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India...”
- In recent years, Wangchuk has flagged issues related to autonomy in the administration of Ladakh.
- In 2019, He wrote a letter to then-Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda seeking Scheduled Area status for Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- Wangchuk has maintained that protections under the Sixth Schedule were an election promise made by the BJP in 2019, and that the Government of India has to keep its word.
- He was at the forefront of the 2025 protests seeking statehood and Sixth Schedule protections, and even went on a hunger strike.
- But the Centre held him responsible for instigating the violent protests that broke out in Leh on September 24, in which four persons were killed in police firing and 50 were injured.

Previous protests in Ladakh

- Last year was not the first time Ladakh saw protests over the demand for greater autonomy.
- Student-led protests in 2019 were supported by former MP Thupstan Chhewang, who then created the Leh Apex Body (ABL).
- Organisations in Kargil also came together to form the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).
- On March 6, 2024, two days after talks among the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the ABL and KDA fizzled out, Wangchuk and others began a fast in Leh. He subsisted on water and salt and slept outdoors in sub-zero temperatures for 21 days.

- Subsequently, a planned ‘Pashmina march’ to the China border was cancelled, with Wangchuk claiming the administration warned them of imposing prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC.
- The march was meant to highlight the issues faced by shepherds who have traditionally reared the famed Pashmina goats in Leh.

Can Ladakh be included under the Sixth Schedule?

- In September 2019, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes recommended the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule, noting that the new UT was predominantly tribal (more than 97%), people from other parts of the country had been restricted from purchasing or acquiring land there, and its distinct cultural heritage needed preservation.
- Notably, no region outside the Northeast has been included in the Sixth Schedule.
- In fact, even in Manipur, which has predominantly tribal populations in some places, the autonomous councils are not included in the Sixth Schedule.
- Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, which are totally tribal, are also not in the Sixth Schedule.
- “Ladakh’s inclusion in the Sixth Schedule would be difficult.
- The Constitution is very clear, Sixth Schedule is for the Northeast.
- For tribal areas in the rest of the country, there is the Fifth Schedule,” a Home Ministry official said.
- However, it remains the prerogative of the government — it can, if it so decides brings a Bill to amend the Constitution for this purpose.



Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in certain northeastern states of India.
- It aims to protect the rights, culture, and autonomy of tribal communities.

States Covered

- The Sixth Schedule currently applies to tribal areas in:
 - Assam
 - Meghalaya
 - Tripura
 - Mizoram

Key Features

1. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)

- Each tribal area has an Autonomous District Council.
- Councils can have up to 30 members (26 elected + 4 nominated by the Governor).
- They have legislative, executive, and judicial powers in specified matters.

2. Legislative Powers

- **District Councils can make laws on:**

- Land
- Forest (other than reserved forests)
- Water
- Agriculture
- Village administration
- Inheritance of property
- Marriage and social customs

(Subject to approval of the Governor)

3. Judicial Powers

- Councils can establish village courts to try certain cases involving tribal members.

4. Financial Powers

- Power to levy and collect certain taxes.
- Can receive grants-in-aid from the Central Government.

5. Protection of Tribal Land

- Restricts transfer of tribal land to non-tribals.

Objective

- To ensure self-governance for tribal populations.
- To preserve customary laws, culture, and identity.
- To prevent exploitation of tribal communities.

Constitutional Articles Related

- Articles 244(2) and 275(1) deal with the administration and grants related to Sixth Schedule areas.

Difference between 5th and 6th Schedule

Feature	Fifth Schedule	Sixth Schedule
Area Covered	Most tribal areas in India	Tribal areas of NE India
Self-Governance	Limited	Strong Autonomous Councils
States	Many states	4 states only
Council Powers	Advisory	Legislative, judicial & financial

QUESTIONS

16. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. It provides for Autonomous District Councils with legislative, executive, and limited judicial powers.
 2. It applies to all tribal-majority areas across India.
 3. The councils can make laws on matters such as land, forest, and social customs, subject to approval of the Governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. With reference to the demand for inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule, consider the following statements:
1. More than 90% of Ladakh's population belongs to Scheduled Tribes.
 2. Autonomous councils in Ladakh currently enjoy the same constitutional status as Sixth Schedule ADCs.
 3. Inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule would require a constitutional amendment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution:
1. The Fifth Schedule provides stronger self-governance powers than the Sixth Schedule.
 2. The Sixth Schedule allows Autonomous District Councils to levy and collect certain taxes.
 3. Tribal areas in states like Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are governed under the Sixth Schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. The provisions in the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution are made in order to:

- A. Protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes
- B. Determine the boundaries between States
- C. Determine the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats
- D. Protect the interests of all the border States

20. In the areas covered under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of the Gram Sabha?

1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Khilafat agitation and the Non-Cooperation Movement

- In 1920 the British imposed a harsh treaty on the Turkish Sultan or Khalifa. People were furious about this as they had been about the Jallianwala massacre.
- Also, Indian Muslims were keen that the Khalifa be allowed to retain control over Muslim sacred places in the erstwhile Ottoman Empire.
- The leaders of the Khilafat agitation, Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, now wished to initiate a full-fledged Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Gandhiji supported their call and urged the Congress to campaign against “Punjab wrongs” (Jallianwala massacre), the Khilafat wrong and demand swaraj.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement gained momentum through 1921-22. Thousands of students left government-controlled schools and colleges.
- Many lawyers such as Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, C. Rajagopalachari and Asaf Ali gave up their practices. British titles were surrendered and legislatures boycotted.
- People lit public bonfires of foreign cloth. The imports of foreign cloth fell drastically between 1920 and 1922.
- But all this was merely the tip of the iceberg. Large parts of the country were on the brink of a formidable revolt.
- In many cases people resisted British rule non-violently. In others, different classes and groups, interpreting Gandhiji’s call in their own manner, protested in ways that were not in accordance with his ideas. In either case, people linked their movements to local grievances.
- In Kheda, Gujarat, Patidar peasants organised nonviolent campaigns against the high land revenue demand of the British.
- In coastal Andhra and interior Tamil Nadu, liquor shops were picketed.
- In the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, tribals and poor peasants staged a number of “forest satyagrahas”, sometimes sending their cattle into forests without paying grazing fee. They were protesting because the colonial state had restricted their use of forest resources in various ways.
- They believed that Gandhiji would get their taxes reduced and have the forest regulations abolished.
- In many forest villages, peasants proclaimed swaraj and believed that “Gandhi Raj” was about to be established. In Sind (now in Pakistan), Muslim traders and peasants were very enthusiastic about the Khilafat call.



- In Bengal too, the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation alliance gave enormous communal unity and strength to the national movement.
- In Punjab, the Akali agitation of the Sikhs sought to remove corrupt mahants – supported by the British – from their gurdwaras.
- This movement got closely identified with the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- In Assam, tea garden labourers, shouting “Gandhi Maharaj ki Jai”, demanded a big increase in their wages.
- They left the British-owned plantations amidst declarations that they were following Gandhiji’s wish. Interestingly, in the Assamese Vaishnava songs of the period the reference to Krishna was substituted by “Gandhi Raja”.
- **Ottoman Empire**
 - The Ottoman Empire was a vast and influential empire that lasted from the late 13th century until its dissolution in the aftermath of World War I in 1922.
 - Founded by Osman I around 1299 in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey), the empire expanded over the centuries to become one of the most powerful states in the world, covering parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Founding and Expansion:

- Originated as a small principality in Anatolia during the decline of the Seljuk Sultanate.
- Rapidly expanded under leaders like Osman I, Orhan, and Murad I.
- In 1453, under Sultan Mehmed II (“Mehmed the Conqueror”), the Ottomans captured Constantinople, marking the fall of the Byzantine Empire. Constantinople was renamed Istanbul and became the Ottoman capital.

Peak of Power:

- Reached its zenith in the 16th and early 17th centuries during the reigns of Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566) and Selim I.
- Controlled territories across Southeast Europe, Western Asia, North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula.
- Renowned for its military strength, cultural achievements, and administrative sophistication.

Governance and Society:

- The Ottoman Empire was a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state. It implemented the millet system, granting autonomy to various religious communities.
- Governed through a centralized administration under the Sultan, with the help of viziers, governors, and the Janissaries (elite infantry).
- Islamic law (Sharia) was a foundation of governance, but non-Muslim communities had their own legal systems for internal matters.

Cultural and Scientific Achievements:

- Flourished as a center of art, architecture, and learning.
- Prominent structures like the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace were built during this period.
- Contributions to literature, music, and science, blending influences from Islamic, Byzantine, and European traditions.

Decline and Fall:

- Began to decline in the late 17th century due to military defeats, economic struggles, and internal strife.

- Lost significant territories during the 19th century, including Greece, the Balkans, and parts of North Africa, due to wars, nationalist movements, and European imperialism.
- Reforms like the Tanzimat sought modernization but faced resistance and limited success.
- Participation in World War I on the side of the Central Powers led to its ultimate collapse. Following defeat, the Treaty of Sèvres (1920) dismantled the empire.

Legacy and the Republic of Turkey:

- The Republic of Turkey emerged in 1923 under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, marking the end of the Ottoman era.
- The empire's legacy endures in modern-day architecture, culture, and politics across its former territories.

QUESTIONS

21. With reference to the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Khilafat Movement, consider the following statements:

1. The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched to protest only against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
2. Leaders of the Khilafat Movement supported the Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. The movements led to the boycott of British institutions and goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. With reference to regional participation in the Non-Cooperation Movement, consider the following statements:

1. In Kheda, peasants protested against high land revenue demands.
2. In Andhra Pradesh, tribals conducted forest satyagrahas against colonial forest restrictions.
3. In Assam, tea garden labourers demanded reduction in working hours but remained within plantations.

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 |

23. With reference to the Ottoman Empire, consider the following statements:

1. It was founded in Anatolia and later expanded into Europe, Asia, and Africa.
2. The capture of Constantinople in 1453 marked the end of the Byzantine Empire.
3. The empire collapsed after World War II leading to the formation of modern Turkey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement:

1. The Indian National Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.
2. The movement was to be implemented in stages, with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes planned for a later phase if Swaraj was not achieved within a year and the Government resorted to repression.

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

25. Consider the following subjects with regard to the Non-Cooperation Movement:

1. Boycott of law courts and foreign cloth
2. Observance of strict non-violence
3. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
4. Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes

How many of the above were parts of the Non-Cooperation Programme?

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

6. US attack on Kharg Island marks new escalation in war

Kharg Island Strike: Strategic Military Hit with Global Oil Implications

What Happened

- Kharg Island, a critical Iranian oil hub, was heavily bombed during a US-Israel military operation.
- Donald Trump claimed "military targets" were obliterated, calling it one of the most powerful raids in the region's history.
- Oil infrastructure was deliberately spared, signaling restraint to avoid extreme global economic fallout.
- The US plans to escort oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz to ensure safe passage.

Why Kharg Island Matters

- Handles up to 90% of Iran's crude oil exports, making it the country's most vital energy hub.
- Processes ~1.5 million barrels/day (recently ramped up to ~3 million).

Hosts major facilities like:

- Falat Iran Oil Company (major crude producer)



- Kharg Petrochemical Company
- Large-scale oil storage and export terminals
- Pipelines from Iran's key oil fields terminate here, making it central to export logistics.

Strategic Importance of Location

- Positioned in the Persian Gulf, about 50 km from mainland Iran.
- One of the few Iranian locations with deep-water access, allowing large oil tankers to dock easily.
- Other parts of Iran's coastline are too shallow for major export operations.

Why Oil Facilities Were Not Targeted

- Avoid triggering a global oil supply shock.
- Prevent crude prices from spiking toward \$150 per barrel.
- Serve as a strategic signal to Iran to avoid escalating attacks on energy infrastructure.
- Preserve Iran's post-conflict economic recovery capacity.

Global Impact & Risks

- Even without direct oil damage, markets may react sharply, pushing prices higher.
- **Any future strike on oil infrastructure could:**
 - Disrupt global supply chains
 - Cause massive price surges
 - Escalate geopolitical tensions in the Middle East

War between Iran, Israel and USA

1. Iran vs. Israel

- **Ideological Conflict**

- Since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's government has officially opposed Israel's existence.
- Iranian leaders view Israel as an illegitimate state occupying Palestinian land.
- Israel sees Iran's leadership as openly hostile and threatening.

- **Iran's Support for Israel's Enemies**

Iran supports and funds groups that fight Israel, including:

- Hezbollah (Lebanon)
- Hamas (Gaza)
- Other armed groups in Syria and Iraq
- Israel considers this a direct security threat.

- **Iran's Nuclear Program**

- Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful energy.
- Israel believes Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons.
- Israel has repeatedly said it will not allow Iran to get a nuclear bomb.
- This has led to cyberattacks, assassinations of nuclear scientists, and airstrikes in Syria.

2. United States vs. Iran

1979 Hostage Crisis

- After the Islamic Revolution, Iranian students took 52 American diplomats hostage for 444 days.
- Since then, relations have been hostile.

Sanctions

- The U.S. has imposed heavy economic sanctions on Iran over:
 - Nuclear development
 - Support for militant groups
 - Human rights issues

Military Incidents

- U.S. forces have clashed indirectly with Iran-backed militias in Iraq and Syria.
- In 2020, the U.S. killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, increasing tensions.

3. Why the U.S. Supports Israel

- Israel is a major U.S. ally in the Middle East.
- The U.S. provides military aid and political backing.
- If Iran threatens Israel, the U.S. often gets involved diplomatically or militarily.

4. Recent Escalations (Broader Context)

- **Tensions increase when:**

- Israel strikes Iranian targets in Syria.
- Iran or its allies attack Israeli or U.S. targets.
- Fighting erupts between Israel and Hamas.
- Iran advances uranium enrichment.

QUESTIONS

26. With reference to Kharg Island, consider the following statements:

1. It handles a majority of Iran's crude oil exports.
2. It is located in the Strait of Hormuz.
3. It has deep-water access enabling large oil tankers to dock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Arrange the following countries in **ascending order (least to highest)** of their proven crude oil reserves:

1. Iraq
2. Canada
3. Iran
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Venezuela

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| A. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 | C. 2 – 1 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| B. 1 – 2 – 4 – 3 – 5 | D. 1 – 3 – 2 – 4 – 5 |

28. With reference to countries having the largest proven crude oil reserves, consider the following statements:

1. Venezuela has the largest proven crude oil reserves in the world.
2. Canada's oil reserves are largely derived from oil sands.
3. Saudi Arabia primarily possesses heavy crude oil that is difficult to refine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. With reference to the Strait of Hormuz and India's LPG imports, consider the following statements:

1. Approximately 90% of India's LPG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
2. The Strait of Hormuz carries about one-fifth of the world's total oil and gas shipments.
3. India meets its entire LPG demand through imports from Gulf countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. With reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), consider the following statements:

1. OPEC was established in Baghdad in 1960 by five founding members: Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
2. The primary objective of OPEC is to coordinate and unify petroleum policies among member countries.
3. All OPEC member countries are located in the Middle East.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

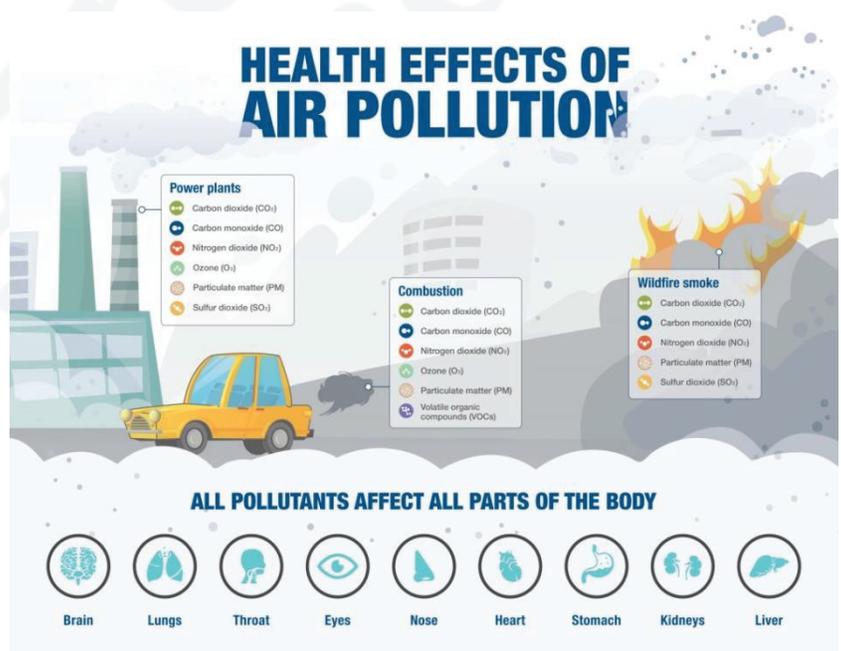
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

7. PM 2.5, Sulphur Dioxide, and more: What are the pollutants in our air, and how they impact health

- The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number for ease of understanding.
- The pollutants include PM 10, PM 2.5, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, Carbon, etc.

What is PM 10 and PM 2.5?

- These are extremely fine particulate matter (PM) particles, with the digits accompanying them referring to their diameter.
- So, PM 10 and PM 2.5 are smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in their diameter, respectively.
- One micron is about a thousandth of a millimetre and this tiny size has a role to play in how they impact human health.
- The finer the particles are, the more difficult it gets to protect oneself from them.
- Due to their size, the PM 2.5 particles can easily bypass the nose and throat and can enter the circulatory system.
- The particles can also lead to chronic diseases such as asthma, heart attack, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.
- Byproducts of emissions from factories, vehicular pollution, construction activities and road dust, such particles are not dispersed and stay suspended in the air that we breathe.



Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) gets in the air from the burning of fuel, with sources including emissions from vehicles and power plants.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that short-term exposure to high levels of NO₂ can aggravate respiratory diseases like asthma, and lead to other problems such as coughing or difficulty in breathing.
- Long-term exposure may also contribute to the development of asthma and could increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.
- Exposure to NO₂, even for a short duration (between zero and seven days), leads to an increase in the number of emergency room visits by 53 per cent, according to a large study by AIIMS, Delhi.

Ozone (O₃)

- Ozone is a gas that is present in the upper layers of the atmosphere, protecting human health from the impact of the Sun's UV rays.
- However, surface-level ozone is among the most significant air pollutants. It is formed by the reaction of atmospheric pollutants in the presence of sunlight.
- "With increase in surface ozone levels, there is likelihood of an increase in risk of hospital admissions for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD) and the number of cardiovascular and respiratory deaths."

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

- According to the US government's Environment Protection Agency, the largest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.
- Additional sources are industrial processes and natural sources such as volcanoes.
- As with other gases, SO₂ exposure is harmful to the cardiovascular system and can lead to the development of respiratory illnesses. SO₂ can also react with other compounds to form particulate matter.
- "At high concentrations, gaseous SO_x can harm trees and plants by damaging foliage and decreasing growth," EPA states.

Ammonia (NH₃)

- A 2017 NASA-funded study said that in India, "A broad increase in fertilizer use coupled with large contributions from livestock waste has resulted in the world's highest concentrations of atmospheric ammonia."
- "In the troposphere – the lowest, most dense part of the atmosphere where all weather takes place and where people live – ammonia gas reacts with nitric and sulfuric acids to form nitrate-containing particles.
- Those particles contribute to aerosol pollution that is damaging to human health.
- Ammonia gas can also fall back to Earth and enter lakes, streams and oceans, where it contributes to harmful algal blooms and "dead zones" with dangerously low oxygen levels."

Lead (Pb)

- Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in the Earth's crust.
- But in increased quantities, exposure to it becomes extremely dangerous to health.
- Important sources of environmental contamination come from mining, smelting, manufacturing and even recycling activities, according to the WHO.

- Also, young children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because they absorb four to five times as much ingested lead as adults from a given source.
- Children who survive severe lead poisoning may be left with permanent intellectual disability and behavioural disorders.
- At lower levels of exposure that cause no obvious symptoms, lead is now known to produce a spectrum of injury across multiple body systems,” the WHO notes.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- A toxic, colourless and odourless gas, it is given off when fuel containing carbon, such as wood, coal and petrol, is burned.
- If CO levels are high enough, a person may become unconscious and die. Long-term exposure has been linked with an increased risk of heart disease.

QUESTIONS

31. With reference to air pollutants, consider the following statements:

1. PM 2.5 particles can enter the bloodstream due to their extremely small size.
2. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is primarily produced by the burning of fuels.
3. Surface-level ozone protects human beings from harmful ultraviolet radiation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Consider the following statements regarding major air pollutants:

1. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) is mainly emitted from burning fossil fuels in power plants.
2. Ammonia in the atmosphere can contribute to the formation of particulate matter.
3. Carbon monoxide is a coloured and easily detectable gas.

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 |

33. With reference to major air pollutants and their impacts, consider the following statements:

1. Lead exposure can cause neurological and developmental damage, especially in children.
2. Ozone at the surface level is formed by chemical reactions between pollutants in the presence of sunlight.
3. PM10 particles are smaller than PM2.5 particles and hence more harmful.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. With reference to the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. The 24-hour mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 15 µg/m³ and the annual mean should not exceed 5 µg/m³.
2. In a year, the highest levels of ozone pollution occur during periods of inclement weather.
3. PM₁₀ can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream.
4. Excessive ozone in the air can trigger asthma.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4
B. 1 and 4 only
C. 2, 3 and 4
D. 1 and 2 only

35. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index (AQI)?

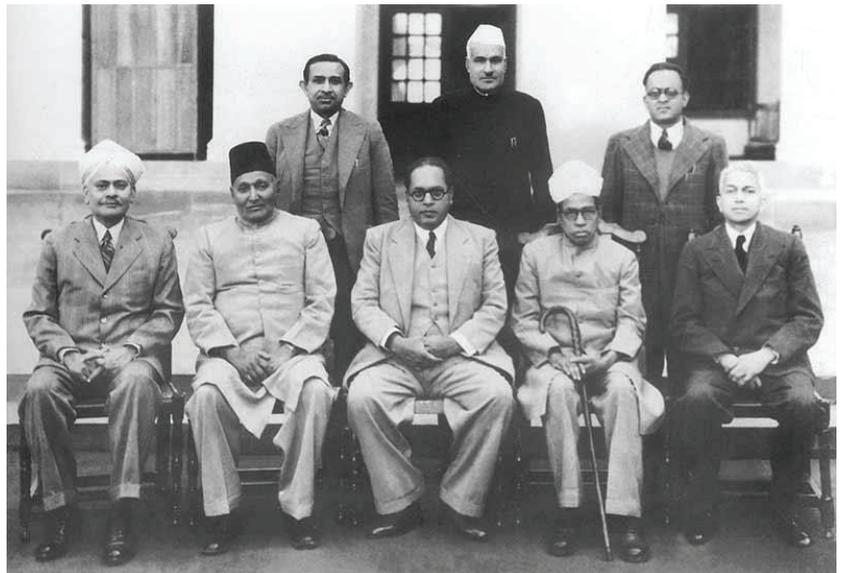
1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulfur dioxide
5. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 2, 3 and 4 only
C. 1, 4 and 5 only
D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

8. India's Constituent Assembly

- On Constitution Day (November 26), President Droupadi Murmu recalled the role of women members in the Constituent Assembly of India, the body tasked with formulating the Constitution of independent India.
- The 299-member body had 15 women members (of whom two later resigned), including prominent figures such as Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kripalani, and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit. But it also had lesser-known women from different parts of the country, who participated in debates on gender, caste and reservations. We recall five of them.



- India's Constituent Assembly played a crucial role in drafting the Constitution of India, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. It was a unique body that laid the foundation of India's democracy, ensuring the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Below are key details about its composition, structure, and significance.

1. Formation of the Constituent Assembly

- **Establishment:** Formed under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, which was proposed by British officials to grant India independence.
- **First Meeting:** The first session of the Constituent Assembly was held on December 9, 1946, in New Delhi.
- **Total Members:** Originally, it had 389 members, but after Partition in 1947, the number reduced to 299 members.
- **Elections:** Members were indirectly elected by the provincial legislative assemblies through proportional representation.

2. Composition of the Assembly

- **Provincial Representatives:** 292 members were elected from British Indian provinces.
- **Princely States:** 93 members represented princely states, though many princely states did not initially participate.
- **Minorities & Communities:** Seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes, minorities, and other communities to ensure inclusivity.

3. Key Members of the Constituent Assembly

- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad:** President of the Constituent Assembly.
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the "Architect of the Indian Constitution."
- **Jawaharlal Nehru:** Proposed the Objective Resolution, which laid the foundation of the Preamble.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:** Played a significant role in negotiating with princely states.
- **Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar and K.M. Munshi:** Prominent members of the Drafting Committee.
- **Hansa Mehta, Sarojini Naidu, and Durgabai Deshmukh:** Represented women's voices in the Assembly.

4. Key Committees in the Assembly

- **Drafting Committee:** Headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, this committee prepared the final text of the Constitution.
- **Union Powers Committee:** Chaired by Jawaharlal Nehru, responsible for defining the powers of the Union and States.
- **Fundamental Rights Committee:** Chaired by Sardar Patel, it was responsible for framing the Fundamental Rights.
- **Advisory Committee:** Chaired by Sardar Patel, it handled issues like minority rights and fundamental rights.

5. Drafting of the Constitution

- **Objective Resolution:** Introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru on December 13, 1946, it laid the vision for the Constitution.
- **Time Taken:** The Assembly took 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days to complete the Constitution.
- **Public Debates:** Deliberations were held over 114 days, with contributions from various members and experts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Which of the following statements regarding the Constituent Assembly of India are correct?

1. It was not based on adult franchise.
2. It resulted from direct election.
3. It was a multi-party body.
4. It worked through several committees.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 4 only
D. 1, 3 and 4

40. With reference to the enforcement of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Some provisions of the Constitution came into force on 26 November 1949.
2. The entire Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950, known as the date of commencement.
3. With the commencement of the Constitution, the Government of India Act, 1935 continued to remain in force.
4. The choice of 26 January as the date of commencement is linked to the Purna Swaraj Declaration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. B 3 only

- Statement 1 is incorrect because the Jnanpith Award recognizes **lifetime contribution to literature**, not a single work. UPSC often tests this distinction between lifetime awards and work-specific awards.
- Statement 2 is incorrect since the award is given for works in **any of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution, not limited to Hindi and English.
- Statement 3 is correct as the Jnanpith Award is widely regarded as **India's highest literary honor**.

2. A 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct: The award was **established in 1961** and first awarded in **1965**.
- Statement 2 is correct: The award includes a **citation, a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati, and a cash prize (currently ₹11 lakh)**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The first recipient was **G. Sankara Kurup**, not Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore won the **Nobel Prize in Literature (1913)**, but never received the Jnanpith Award.

3. A 2 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is incorrect. R. Vairamuthu is **not the first Tamil recipient**; earlier awardees include **Akilan (1975)** and **Jayakanthan (2002)**.
- Statement 2 is correct. He is noted as the **first to be recognised specifically for Tamil poetry**, which is a nuanced factual point UPSC may test.
- Statement 3 is correct. He received the **Padma Shri (2003)** and **Padma Bhushan (2014)**, both prestigious civilian honors.

4. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. From **1965 to 1981**, the award was given for a **specific work**, and since **1982**, it recognizes **lifetime contribution**—a classic UPSC factual shift.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The award is given **only to Indian authors**, not foreign writers, even if they write in Indian languages.
- Statement 3 is correct. **Ashapura Devi (1976)** was the **first woman recipient**, an important milestone often asked in prelims.

5. D 1, 2 and 3

- Statement 1 is correct. *Heart Lamp*, written by Banu Mushtaq and translated by Deepa Bhasthi, marks a **historic first**—both for a **Kannada work** and for a **short story collection** winning the International Booker Prize.
- Statement 2 is correct. *Tomb of Sand* (originally *Ret Samadhi*), authored by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, is indeed the **first Hindi novel** and the **first work from India/South Asia** to win the International Booker Prize (2022).
- Statement 3 is correct. Arundhati Roy became the first Indian citizen to win the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997 for her debut novel, *The God of Small Things*.

6. A 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Supreme Court explicitly held that **profit motive is not necessary**; even non-profit or charitable organisations may qualify as industries.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The judgment expanded the scope to include **charitable institutions**, provided they satisfy the triple test.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The **Triple Test** consists of:
 - systematic activity,
 - cooperation between employer and employees, and
 - production/distribution of goods or services satisfying human needs.

7. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. If the definition is narrowed, **workers in excluded institutions may lose access to labour courts**, weakening dispute-resolution mechanisms.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. At present, due to the broad interpretation in the 1978 judgment, **universities and municipal services are treated as industries**, not excluded.
- Statement 3 is correct. The matter has indeed been **referred to a larger bench of the Supreme Court** for reconsideration of the wide definition.

8. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. The Code expands the definition of “worker” to include **supervisory employees earning up to ₹18,000 per month**, along with sales promotion employees and journalists.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Code introduces a **uniform definition of “wages” across labour codes**, removing inconsistencies and disputes arising from multiple definitions.
- Statement 3 is correct. The definition of “industry” explicitly includes **systematic activity irrespective of profit motive**, thereby covering non-profit and low-capital organisations.

9. A 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct. A union with **51% membership** is recognised as the **Negotiating Union** with exclusive bargaining rights.
- Statement 2 is correct. If no union satisfies this threshold, a **Negotiating Council** is formed consisting of unions with at least **20% membership**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Code actually provides **statutory recognition to trade unions**, strengthening their role rather than removing recognition.

10. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. Fixed-term employees are entitled to **wages, allowances, and statutory benefits equivalent to permanent workers**, including gratuity (subject to conditions).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Code mandates **14 days’ prior notice for strikes in all establishments**, not just public utility services—this is a major reform aimed at preventing sudden disruptions.
- Statement 3 is correct. Industrial tribunals now consist of **two members (judicial and administrative)**, ensuring broader expertise and faster dispute resolution.

11. A 2 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is incorrect. NavIC is a **regional navigation system**, not a global one like GPS.
- Statement 2 is correct. It is designed to provide coverage over **India and approximately 1500 km around it**.
- Statement 3 is correct. Since NavIC satellites are positioned **directly over the region**, they offer **better signal availability in difficult terrains** compared to GPS signals received at an angle.

12. A 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct. GPS, GLONASS, and Galileo satellites are placed in **medium-earth orbit (~20,000 km)**.
- Statement 2 is correct. BeiDou uses a **hybrid constellation**, including both **medium-earth and geosynchronous orbits**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. NavIC satellites are placed in **geosynchronous orbit**, not low-earth orbit.

13. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. Satellite navigation systems determine location by **precisely measuring signal travel time using atomic clocks**.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Failure of atomic clocks means the satellite **cannot provide accurate positioning data**, as timing precision is critical.
- Statement 3 is correct. ISRO has developed **indigenous atomic clocks** for newer NavIC satellites after failures in earlier ones.

14. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
IRNSS (NavIC) consists of **7 satellites**, with **3 in geostationary orbit (GEO)** and **4 in geosynchronous orbit (GSO)**. This configuration ensures continuous coverage over India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
The system covers **India and about 1500 km beyond its borders**, not 5500 sq. km (which is also an incorrect unit). UPSC often introduces such numerical traps.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
IRNSS is designed as a **regional navigation system**, not a global one. India does not yet have a fully operational **global navigation satellite system (GNSS)** like Global Positioning System (GPS) or GLONASS.

15. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct (conceptually, but needs nuance).**
GPS satellites are placed in **medium-earth orbit (MEO)** and are **not geostationary**. They move relative to the Earth and are often loosely described in exam contexts as non-stationary/geosynchronous-type systems (though technically MEO).
NavIC, on the other hand, has a **hybrid configuration**:
 - **3 geostationary (GEO)** satellites (fixed over a point on Earth), and
 - **4 geosynchronous (GSO)** satellites (inclined orbits covering India).This gives NavIC better regional coverage and signal availability over India.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

The accuracy comparison is reversed:

- NavIC: ~5–10 metres accuracy over India
- GPS: typically ~20 metres or more (standard civilian accuracy)

Thus, NavIC is **more accurate in the Indian region** due to its regional design and satellite positioning.

16. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) under the Sixth Schedule have **legislative, executive, and certain judicial powers**, making them unique institutions of self-governance.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Sixth Schedule applies **only to certain tribal areas in Northeast India**, not across the entire country.
- Statement 3 is correct. ADCs can legislate on **land, forest (excluding reserved forests), agriculture, and social customs**, but such laws require **Governor's assent**.

17. A 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct. Ladakh has a **predominantly tribal population (over 90%)**, which forms the basis of the demand.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs)** do not have the same constitutional backing or extensive powers as Sixth Schedule ADCs.
- Statement 3 is correct. Since the Sixth Schedule currently applies only to the Northeast, **including Ladakh would require a constitutional amendment**, making it a complex legal process.

18. A 2 only

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Sixth Schedule provides **greater autonomy** with legislative, judicial, and financial powers, whereas the Fifth Schedule offers **limited, mostly advisory governance**.
- Statement 2 is correct. Autonomous District Councils under the Sixth Schedule have **financial powers**, including the ability to **levy and collect certain taxes**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Despite being tribal-majority states, **Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are not under the Sixth Schedule**; they have separate constitutional provisions and governance frameworks.

19. A Protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes

- The Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution are specifically designed to **safeguard the rights, culture, and administration of Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in India.
 - The **Fifth Schedule** applies to tribal areas in most parts of India and provides for **administrative safeguards and Tribal Advisory Councils**.
 - The **Sixth Schedule** applies to certain northeastern states and provides for **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** with legislative, judicial, and financial powers.

20. B 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

Under PESA, Gram Sabhas are empowered to **prevent alienation of tribal land** and take steps to restore unlawfully alienated land. This is a key safeguard for Scheduled Tribes in Fifth Schedule areas.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**
Gram Sabhas are granted **ownership of minor forest produce (MFP)**, which strengthens livelihood security and economic autonomy of tribal communities.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
The Act provides that recommendation of Gram Sabha/Panchayat is mandatory for granting mining leases or prospecting licences only for *minor minerals*.
The statement uses the phrase “**any mineral**”, which includes both **major and minor minerals**, making it **overbroad and incorrect**. UPSC often introduces such wording traps.

21. A 2 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The movement was launched not only for the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** but also for the **Khilafat issue and demand for Swaraj**.
- Statement 2 is correct. Leaders like Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali actively supported and merged their movement with Non-Cooperation.
- Statement 3 is correct. The movement involved **boycott of foreign goods, educational institutions, courts, and titles**, a hallmark of mass protest.

22. A 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct. In Kheda (Gujarat), peasants resisted **high land revenue demands** through non-violent campaigns.
- Statement 2 is correct. In Andhra, tribals engaged in **forest satyagrahas**, opposing restrictions on forest use and grazing.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. In Assam, tea garden labourers actually **left plantations**, believing they were following Gandhiji’s call, rather than staying within them.

23. A 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct. The Ottoman Empire originated in **Anatolia** and expanded across three continents.
- Statement 2 is correct. The capture of Constantinople in **1453 by Mehmed II** ended the **Byzantine Empire**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The empire collapsed after **World War I**, not World War II, leading to the establishment of modern Turkey under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

24. C Both 1 and 2

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
At the **Nagpur Session (1920)**, the Indian National Congress formally adopted the goal of attaining **Swaraj through legitimate and peaceful means**. This marked a decisive shift toward mass-based nationalist politics under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
The Non-Cooperation Movement was conceived as a **phased programme**:
 - **Initial phase:**
 - Boycott of government schools, colleges, courts, and legislatures
 - Surrender of titles
 - Boycott of foreign goods

- **Next phase (conditional):**
 - Civil disobedience, including non-payment of taxes, was to be launched
 - This would occur if:
 - Swaraj was not achieved within a year, and
 - The British government resorted to repression

This escalation was to be carefully controlled by Gandhi and Congress leadership.

25. C Only three

- The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), led by Mahatma Gandhi, aimed at **withdrawing Indian support from British institutions** and promoting self-reliance and swaraj.
- **Statement 1 is correct.**
The programme included **boycott of law courts, government schools, and foreign cloth**. People were encouraged to use **khadi** and reject imported goods.
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
A core principle of the movement was **strict adherence to non-violence**, which was essential to Gandhi's strategy of mass mobilization.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
The movement called for **renunciation (giving up) of titles and honours**, not their retention. Many Indians surrendered titles conferred by the British.
- **Statement 4 is correct.**
The programme promoted the **establishment of Panchayats** to resolve disputes locally, reducing dependence on British courts.

26. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
Kharg Island handles **up to 90% of Iran's crude oil exports**, making it a critical energy hub.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
Kharg Island is located in the **Persian Gulf**, not in the Strait of Hormuz, though it lies close to this vital chokepoint.
- **Statement 3 is correct.**
It has **deep-water access**, which allows **large oil tankers to dock**, unlike many other parts of Iran's shallow coastline.

27. A 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

- Based on global data for proven oil reserves:
 - Iraq \approx 145 billion barrels
 - Canada \approx 163–171 billion barrels
 - Iran \approx 208–209 billion barrels
 - Saudi Arabia \approx 267 billion barrels
 - Venezuela \approx 303+ billion barrels
- Thus, arranging in ascending order (lowest \rightarrow highest):
Iraq \rightarrow Canada \rightarrow Iran \rightarrow Saudi Arabia \rightarrow Venezuela

28. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

Venezuela holds the largest proven oil reserves (~300+ billion barrels), mainly in the Orinoco Belt.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Canada's reserves largely come from **oil sands (bitumen)**, especially in Alberta, making extraction more complex.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Saudi Arabia is known for **light, sweet crude oil**, which is **easier and cheaper to refine**, not heavy crude.

29. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

Nearly **90% of India's LPG imports** transit through the Strait of Hormuz, making it a critical energy chokepoint for India.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

The Strait of Hormuz handles roughly **20% of global oil and gas shipments**, underlining its immense global strategic importance.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

India imports about **60% of its LPG requirement**, not the entire demand. The rest is met through **domestic production**.

30. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

OPEC was founded in 1960 at Baghdad by five countries—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Its main objective is to coordinate and unify petroleum policies to ensure stable and fair oil prices and a steady supply.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

OPEC is not limited to the Middle East. It includes countries from Africa (*e.g.*, Nigeria, Algeria) and South America (Venezuela).

31. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

PM 2.5 particles are extremely fine and can **bypass the respiratory defenses**, entering the **lungs and even the bloodstream**, causing serious health issues.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is mainly produced from **fuel combustion**, especially from **vehicles and power plants**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Only **stratospheric ozone** protects from UV radiation. **Surface-level ozone is a pollutant** harmful to human health.

32. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

SO₂ is largely emitted from burning fossil fuels, especially in power plants and industrial facilities.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Ammonia reacts with acids in the atmosphere to form **secondary particulate matter**, contributing to air pollution.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a **colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas**, making it particularly dangerous as it is difficult to detect.

33. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

Lead is a **toxic metal** that can cause **severe neurological and developmental damage**, particularly in children, even at low exposure levels.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

Surface-level ozone is a secondary pollutant, formed when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

PM_{2.5} particles are smaller and more dangerous than PM₁₀ because they can penetrate deeper into the lungs and bloodstream.

34. B 1 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

As per WHO guidelines, **PM_{2.5} limits** are:

- **Annual mean:** 5 µg/m³
- **24-hour mean:** 15 µg/m³

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ozone pollution peaks during **hot, sunny conditions**, not during inclement weather (like rain, storms, or cold conditions). Sunlight drives the chemical reactions that form ozone.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

- **PM_{2.5}**, not PM₁₀, can **penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream**.
- PM₁₀ particles can enter the lungs but generally **do not reach the bloodstream**.

- **Statement 4 is correct.**

High levels of **surface ozone** irritate the respiratory system and can **trigger asthma and worsen lung diseases**.

35. B 2, 3 and 4 only

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) in India is based on key pollutants that have **direct and significant health impacts**.

- **Included pollutants:**

- **Carbon monoxide (CO)** → A toxic gas affecting oxygen transport in the body.

- **Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)** → Causes respiratory issues and aggravates asthma.
- **Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)** → Leads to respiratory and cardiovascular problems.
- These are **standard AQI pollutants**.
- **Not included:**
 - **Carbon dioxide (CO₂)** → Though important for climate change, it is **not a direct air pollutant used in AQI calculations**.
 - **Methane (CH₄)** → A greenhouse gas, but **not included in AQI** as it does not directly affect short-term human health at ambient levels.

36. A 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
The Constituent Assembly was formed under the **Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
Members were **indirectly elected** by provincial legislative assemblies, not directly by the people.
- **Statement 3 is correct.**
After **Partition (1947)**, the strength reduced from **389 to 299 members**.

37. A 1 and 3 only

- **Pair 1 is correct.**
Drafting Committee was chaired by B. R. Ambedkar.
- **Pair 2 is incorrect.**
Union Powers Committee was chaired by Jawaharlal Nehru, not Patel.
- **Pair 3 is correct.**
Fundamental Rights Committee was chaired by Vallabhbhai Patel.

38. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
The **Objective Resolution**, introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru, formed the **basis of the Preamble**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
The Constitution was **adopted on 26 November 1949**, though it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
The Assembly took **2 years, 11 months, and 18 days**, not less than two years.

39. D 1, 3 and 4

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
The Constituent Assembly was **not based on adult franchise**. Members were elected indirectly by **provincial legislative assemblies**, which themselves were elected on a **limited franchise**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
The Assembly was not formed through direct elections. It was based on indirect elections via proportional representation.

- **Statement 3 is correct.**

It was a **multi-party body**, although dominated by the Congress. Other groups, including independents and representatives of different communities, were also present.

- **Statement 4 is correct.**

The Assembly functioned through **various committees** such as the Drafting Committee, Union Powers Committee, and Fundamental Rights Committee, which handled specialized tasks.

40. A 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.**

Certain provisions (like citizenship, elections, and transitional provisions) came into force on **26 November 1949**, the day the Constitution was adopted.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

The **full Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950**, which is referred to as the **date of commencement**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

The Government of India Act, 1935 was **repealed** after the Constitution came into force.

- **Statement 4 is correct.**

26 January was chosen to honour the **Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930**, symbolizing India's commitment to complete independence.