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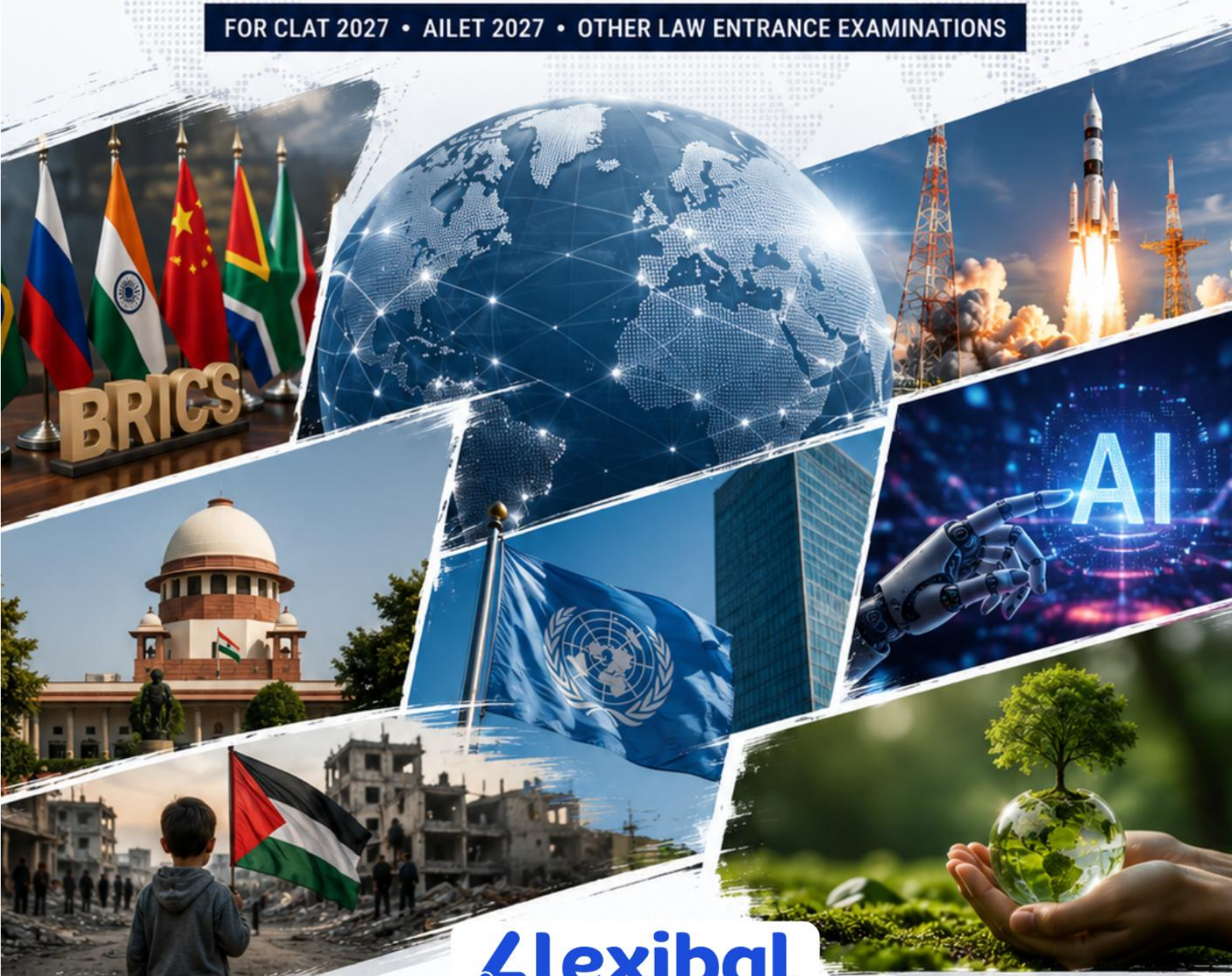
LEXCURRENT

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Current Affairs & General Knowledge

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A Note from Team Lexibal

Welcome to **LexCurrent**, the monthly Current Affairs and General Knowledge publication by Lexibal CLAT.

In an age of information overload, staying updated should not require hours of scrolling through headlines, articles, and reports.

LexCurrent is designed to bring together the most important developments of the month in a structured, accessible, and exam-oriented format.

Our goal is simple: help aspirants spend less time searching for information and more time understanding it.

We hope this publication becomes a valuable companion throughout your preparation journey.

— *Team Lexibal*



About Lexibal

Lexibal is a student-first platform dedicated to helping law aspirants and law students navigate every stage of their legal journey. Through educational resources, opportunities, guidance, and practical learning initiatives, Lexibal strives to make legal education more accessible, organized, and student-centric.



About Lexibal CLAT

Lexibal CLAT is the law entrance preparation initiative of Lexibal. It focuses on providing high-quality resources for CLAT, AILET, and other law entrance examinations through structured content, current affairs coverage, practice materials, and exam-oriented guidance.



About LexCurrent

LexCurrent is the monthly Current Affairs and General Knowledge publication by Lexibal CLAT. Designed specifically for law entrance examinations, it combines important developments, relevant background information, and contextual analysis to help aspirants build a deeper understanding of the issues shaping India and the world.

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Indonesia Becomes a Full Member of BRICS

Indonesia officially became a full member of **BRICS**, marking a significant expansion of the grouping and strengthening the voice of developing nations in global affairs. As Southeast Asia's largest economy and the world's fourth most populous country, Indonesia's inclusion has increased BRICS' economic and geopolitical significance.

The origins of BRICS can be traced back to **2001**, when British economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term "**BRIC**" to describe the rapidly growing economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**. The first BRIC Summit was held in **Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009**, and the grouping became **BRICS** after **South Africa joined in 2010**.

Over the years, BRICS has evolved from an economic concept into a major platform for cooperation among emerging economies. The grouping focuses on issues such as economic development, trade, investment, climate change, technology, public health, and reforms of international institutions. BRICS countries have consistently argued that organizations such as the **United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank** should provide greater representation to developing countries.

Indonesia's entry is particularly significant because it is the **largest economy in Southeast Asia**, a member of the **G20**, and an important player within **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)**. Its inclusion expands BRICS' presence in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthens the grouping's claim of representing the interests of the **Global South**.

One of the most important institutions associated with BRICS is the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, established in **2014** and headquartered in **Shanghai, China**. The bank was created to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects. In the same year, BRICS countries also established the **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** to provide financial support during periods of economic stress.

The expansion of BRICS reflects broader discussions about a **multipolar world order**, where influence is distributed among multiple major powers rather than concentrated in a few countries. As emerging economies continue to gain prominence, BRICS is expected to play an increasingly important role in shaping global economic and political debates.

Important Terms

Global South: A collective term generally used for developing and emerging economies, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Multipolar World Order: An international system in which power is distributed among multiple influential states.

ASEAN: A regional organization comprising ten Southeast Asian countries that promotes economic and political cooperation.

New Development Bank (NDB): A multilateral development bank established by BRICS in 2014 with headquarters in Shanghai, China.

Donald Trump's Return to the White House

Donald Trump was sworn in as the **47th President of the United States** on **20 January 2025**, marking one of the most consequential political developments globally. His return to the White House attracted worldwide attention due to its potential impact on international trade, immigration, climate policy, global conflicts, and relations with major powers such as China and Russia.

Key Facts

- Donald Trump became the **47th President of the United States**.
- The President of the United States serves a **four-year term**.
- The official residence of the U.S. President is the **White House**, located in **Washington, D.C.**
- The U.S. Congress consists of:
 - Senate
 - House of Representatives
- The United States follows a **Presidential form of government**.
- The U.S. Constitution came into force in **1789**.

Background

The United States is one of the most influential countries in the world and plays a major role in organizations such as the **United Nations**, **World Bank**, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, and **NATO**. Consequently, changes in U.S. leadership often influence global political and economic developments.

The President serves as the head of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. U.S. presidential elections are conducted through the **Electoral College system**, under which candidates must secure a majority of electoral votes to win the presidency.

Why is it Important?

The return of Donald Trump is significant because U.S. policies affect international trade, global security, climate negotiations, technological cooperation, and geopolitical conflicts. Countries around the world closely monitor changes in American foreign and economic policy.

Related Terms

Electoral College: The body that formally elects the President and Vice President of the United States.

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance established in 1949.

White House: Official residence and workplace of the U.S. President.

Things to Remember

- 47th President → Donald Trump
- Inauguration Day → 20 January
- Capital of USA → Washington, D.C.

- Official Residence → White House
- Legislature → Congress
- Congress = Senate + House of Representatives

United Nations Security Council (UNSC): The principal organ of the United Nations responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It consists of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members.

Mahakumbh 2025: The World's Largest Religious Gathering

The **Mahakumbh 2025** commenced in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**, drawing millions of devotees, saints, pilgrims, and visitors from across India and the world. Considered one of the largest peaceful gatherings globally, the event gained significant attention for its cultural, religious, administrative, and economic significance.

Key Facts

- Venue: **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**
- River Confluence: **Triveni Sangam**
- Triveni Sangam is the confluence of:
 - Ganga
 - Yamuna
 - Saraswati (mythical)
- Kumbh Mela is recognized by **UNESCO** as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- Four Kumbh Mela locations:

Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik
- Mahakumbh is associated with specific astronomical alignments.

Background

The origins of Kumbh Mela are linked to the Hindu legend of **Samudra Manthan (Churning of the Ocean)**. According to mythology, a battle took place between the Devas and Asuras over the pot (Kumbh) containing Amrit, the nectar of immortality. It is believed that drops of the nectar fell at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, which later became the four sites of the Kumbh Mela.

Prayagraj occupies a special place in Hindu tradition due to the presence of the **Triveni Sangam**, regarded as one of the holiest pilgrimage sites in India.

Why is it Important?

Apart from its religious significance, Mahakumbh represents India's cultural heritage, tourism potential, and administrative capacity. The event requires large-scale arrangements related to security, transportation, sanitation, healthcare, and crowd management, making it one of the most complex public events in the world.

The gathering also provides insights into India's intangible cultural traditions and the continuing relevance of pilgrimage in contemporary society.

Related Terms

Triveni Sangam: Confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers.

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage: Traditions, practices, and cultural expressions recognized for their significance to humanity.

Samudra Manthan: Mythological episode describing the churning of the ocean for obtaining Amrit.

India's Human Spaceflight Mission: Gaganyaan Preparations Gain Momentum

India's **Gaganyaan Mission** remained in focus as the country continued preparations for its first human spaceflight programme. The mission is expected to mark a historic milestone by sending Indian astronauts, known as **Gaganyatris**, into space aboard an Indian spacecraft launched from Indian soil.

Key Facts

- Mission: **Gaganyaan**
- Space Agency: **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
- Objective: Send Indian astronauts to Low Earth Orbit and safely bring them back.
- Launch Site: **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**
- Astronauts selected from the **Indian Air Force**.
- Gaganyatris received training in Russia and India.
- Before the crewed mission, ISRO plans multiple uncrewed test missions.

Background

The Gaganyaan programme was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** during his Independence Day address in **2018**. The mission aims to demonstrate India's capability to independently conduct human spaceflight missions, a feat achieved by only a few countries.

The mission involves launching a crew module carrying astronauts into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, typically ranging between **160 km and 2,000 km above Earth**. After completing the mission, the module is designed to safely return to Earth through a controlled splashdown.

Why is it Important?

The success of Gaganyaan would place India among a select group of nations capable of independently sending humans into space. The mission is expected to boost India's capabilities in space technology, advanced manufacturing, robotics, medicine, communication systems, and scientific research.

The programme also complements India's broader space ambitions, including future plans for a space station, lunar exploration, and deep-space missions.

Related Terms

ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation, established in **1969**.

Low Earth Orbit (LEO): Region of space extending up to approximately 2,000 km above Earth.

Vyommitra: A humanoid robot developed by ISRO for mission testing.

Things to Remember

- Gaganyaan = India's first human spaceflight mission
- Space Agency = ISRO
- Launch Centre = Sriharikota
- Astronauts = Gaganyatris
- ISRO established in 1969
- Vyommitra is ISRO's humanoid robot

India–Maldives Relations: A New Phase of Cooperation

India and the Maldives witnessed significant diplomatic engagement as both countries worked towards strengthening cooperation in areas such as connectivity, infrastructure, defence, trade, and maritime security. The relationship gained attention due to political developments in the Maldives and its strategic importance in the Indian Ocean Region.

Key Facts

- Capital of Maldives: **Malé**
- Currency: **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
- Current President: **Mohamed Muizzu**
- Maldives is an archipelagic nation consisting of around **1,200 islands**.
- It is located in the **Indian Ocean**, southwest of India and Sri Lanka.
- India follows its **Neighbourhood First Policy** in relation to Maldives.

Background

India and the Maldives share close historical, cultural, and economic ties. Due to its location in the Indian Ocean, the Maldives occupies a strategically important position near major international shipping routes.

As a result, developments in the Maldives often have implications for maritime security and regional geopolitics.

India has assisted the Maldives through various developmental and humanitarian initiatives. One of the most important examples is **Operation Cactus (1988)**, under which India intervened to foil an attempted coup in the Maldives. Another notable initiative was **Operation Neer (2014)**, through which India supplied drinking water to the Maldives following a water crisis.

Why is it Important?

The Maldives plays a crucial role in India's maritime security strategy. Stability in the Indian Ocean is essential for trade, energy transportation, and regional security. Cooperation between the two countries is therefore important for maintaining peace, connectivity, and economic development in the region.

The relationship is also frequently discussed in the context of India's competition for influence in the Indian Ocean and broader Indo-Pacific region.

Related Terms

Neighbourhood First Policy: India's policy of prioritizing relations with neighbouring countries.

SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region, India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean.

Operation Cactus: Indian military operation conducted in 1988 to prevent a coup attempt in the Maldives.

Things to Remember

- Capital → Malé
- Currency → Maldivian Rufiyaa
- President → Mohamed Muizzu
- Operation Cactus → 1988
- Operation Neer → 2014
- Policy → Neighbourhood First
- Maritime Vision → SAGAR

The Israel– Hamas Ceasefire and the Future of Gaza

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas remained one of the most closely watched international developments. The conflict, which began after the **7 October 2023 attacks**, resulted in significant loss of life, large-scale displacement, and extensive damage in the Gaza Strip. The ceasefire renewed global discussions on humanitarian aid, hostage releases, regional stability, and the long-term future of the conflict.

Key Facts

- Israel is located in **West Asia (Middle East)**.
- Capital claimed by Israel: **Jerusalem**.
- Gaza Strip is bordered by:

- Israel
 - Egypt
 - Mediterranean Sea
- Hamas controls the **Gaza Strip**.
 - Palestine has observer state status at the **United Nations**.
 - The conflict gained renewed attention following the **7 October 2023 attacks**.

Background

The Israel–Palestine conflict is one of the longest-running disputes in modern history. Its roots can be traced to competing territorial claims over the same region. In **1947**, the United Nations proposed a partition plan, and in **1948**, the State of Israel was established. This led to the first Arab-Israeli War and the displacement of large numbers of Palestinians.

Today, the Palestinian territories primarily consist of the **West Bank** and the **Gaza Strip**. The status of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, Israeli settlements, refugees, and security concerns remain major issues in the conflict.

Why is it Important?

The conflict has implications far beyond the region. It affects international diplomacy, global energy markets, humanitarian efforts, and regional security. The issue frequently appears in discussions involving the United Nations, international law, human rights, and geopolitics.

The ceasefire also brought renewed focus on questions relating to reconstruction in Gaza, humanitarian assistance, and prospects for a long-term political settlement.

Related Terms

Two-State Solution: Proposal for Israel and Palestine to exist as two independent states.

West Bank: Palestinian territory located west of the Jordan River.

Gaza Strip: Narrow coastal territory along the Mediterranean Sea governed by Hamas.

Things to Remember

- Hamas controls the Gaza Strip.
- Palestine consists mainly of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- UN Partition Plan → 1947
- State of Israel established → 1948
- Major recent escalation → 7 October 2023
- Key issue → Two-State Solution
- Region → West Asia (Middle East)

World Economic Forum 2025 and the Davos Summit

The **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting** held in **Davos, Switzerland**, brought together political leaders, business executives, international organizations, academics, and civil society representatives to discuss major global challenges. The summit focused on issues such as economic growth, artificial intelligence, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, energy transition, and global trade.

Key Facts

- Headquarters of WEF: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Founded in: **1971**
- Founder: **Klaus Schwab**
- Annual Meeting Venue: **Davos, Switzerland**
- Nature: Independent international organization
- Participants include:
 - Heads of State
 - CEOs
 - International Organizations
 - Academics
 - Civil Society Leaders

Background

The World Economic Forum was established in 1971 as a platform for dialogue between governments, businesses, and other stakeholders. Over time, the annual Davos meeting has become one of the most influential global gatherings where discussions take place on emerging economic, technological, environmental, and geopolitical issues.

Although the WEF does not make binding decisions, its meetings often influence policy discussions and international cooperation efforts.

Why is it Important?

The Davos Summit serves as a platform for discussing challenges affecting the global economy. It is particularly significant because leaders frequently announce initiatives, partnerships, investments, and policy priorities during the event.

The summit also provides insights into major themes likely to shape global affairs in the coming years, including artificial intelligence, sustainability, energy security, and international economic cooperation.

Related Terms

Davos: Alpine town in Switzerland that hosts the annual WEF meeting.

Stakeholders: Individuals or groups affected by decisions or policies.

Global Risks Report: Annual report released by the WEF identifying major risks facing the world.

Things to Remember

- WEF Headquarters → Geneva
- Founder → Klaus Schwab
- Founded → 1971
- Annual Meeting → Davos
- Country → Switzerland
- Important Publication → Global Risks Report

COP29 and the Debate on Climate Finance

Climate finance remained a major topic of international discussion following developments at **COP29**, the annual climate conference held under the framework of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. One of the central issues was how developed countries should support developing nations in addressing climate change and transitioning towards cleaner sources of energy.

Key Facts

- COP29 was hosted by **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- COP stands for **Conference of the Parties**.
- COP meetings are conducted under the **UNFCCC**.
- UNFCCC was adopted in **1992** at the Rio Earth Summit.
- Objective: Combat climate change and its impacts.
- India announced its **Net Zero target for 2070** at COP26.

Background

Climate change refers to long-term changes in global temperatures and weather patterns, primarily caused by greenhouse gas emissions. While all countries are affected by climate change, developing nations often argue that developed countries bear greater historical responsibility for emissions and should therefore provide financial and technological support.

This debate forms the basis of climate finance discussions at COP meetings. These funds are intended to help countries invest in renewable energy, climate adaptation, disaster resilience, and sustainable development.

Why is it Important?

Climate finance is one of the most contentious issues in global climate negotiations. Developing countries, including India, have consistently emphasized that climate action must be accompanied by adequate funding and technology transfer.

The issue is also linked to broader discussions on sustainable development, energy security, economic growth, and environmental justice.

Related Terms

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Net Zero: Achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and removed from the atmosphere.

Climate Finance: Financial resources provided to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Things to Remember

- COP29 Host City → Baku
- Country → Azerbaijan
- COP = Conference of the Parties
- UNFCCC adopted → 1992
- Rio Earth Summit → 1992
- India's Net Zero Target → 2070
- Main Issue → Climate Finance

One Nation, One Election: Constitutional Debate Continues

The proposal for **One Nation, One Election (ONOE)** remained an important subject of political and constitutional discussion. The idea seeks to conduct elections to the **Lok Sabha** and all **State Legislative Assemblies** simultaneously, rather than at different times across the country.

Key Facts

- One Nation, One Election proposes simultaneous elections for:
 - Lok Sabha
 - State Legislative Assemblies
- India conducted simultaneous elections in:
 - 1952
 - 1957
 - 1962
 - 1967
- The cycle was disrupted after the premature dissolution of certain Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.
- A High-Level Committee on ONOE was chaired by **Ram Nath Kovind**, former President of India.

Background

During the first two decades after Independence, elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were generally held together. However, due to the early dissolution of legislatures at different points in time, election cycles gradually diverged.

Supporters argue that simultaneous elections would reduce election expenditure, administrative burden, and frequent enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. Critics, however, raise concerns regarding federalism, accountability, and the practical challenges of synchronizing election cycles across states.

Why is it Important?

The proposal involves significant constitutional and legal implications. Implementing ONOE may require amendments to several constitutional provisions dealing with the tenure and dissolution of legislatures.

The issue is important because it lies at the intersection of electoral reforms, governance, federalism, and constitutional law.

Related Terms

Lok Sabha: The lower house of Parliament, with a normal tenure of five years.

State Legislative Assembly: The elected legislative body in a state.

Model Code of Conduct (MCC): Guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political conduct during elections.

Things to Remember

- ONOE = Simultaneous elections
- Elections were held together from **1952–1967**
- High-Level Committee Chairperson → **Ram Nath Kovind**
- Major concerns → Federalism and implementation
- Major benefit cited → Reduced election expenditure
- Connected with → Electoral Reforms

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 and the Indian Diaspora

The **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** was held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, bringing together members of the Indian diaspora from across the world. The event serves as a platform to engage with overseas Indians and recognize their contribution to India's development, economy, culture, and global influence.

Key Facts

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on **9 January** every year.
- The event commemorates the return of **Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915**.
- The 18th PBD Convention was hosted in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The event is organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

- The highest honour conferred on overseas Indians is the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**.

Background

India has one of the largest diaspora populations in the world, with millions of people of Indian origin residing across different countries. The Indian diaspora plays an important role in strengthening India's economic, cultural, and diplomatic relations globally.

Many overseas Indians have made significant contributions in fields such as business, science, technology, politics, education, and public service. Remittances sent by Indians living abroad also contribute significantly to the Indian economy.

Why is it Important?

The Indian diaspora acts as a bridge between India and the rest of the world. Through investment, knowledge transfer, cultural exchange, and diplomatic engagement, overseas Indians contribute to India's global standing and development.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas highlights the achievements of the diaspora while strengthening India's engagement with its global community.

Related Terms

Diaspora: A population that lives outside its country of origin while maintaining connections with its homeland.

Person of Indian Origin (PIO): A foreign citizen with Indian ancestry.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI): A form of permanent residency available to certain foreign citizens of Indian origin.

Things to Remember

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas → **9 January**
- Commemorates Gandhi's return from South Africa in **1915**
- Organized by → **Ministry of External Affairs**
- Highest Diaspora Award → **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**
- 18th PBD Venue → **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

76th Republic Day Celebrations and Indonesia's President as Chief Guest

India celebrated its **76th Republic Day on 26 January 2025**, commemorating the day on which the **Constitution of India came into effect in 1950**. The celebrations showcased India's cultural diversity, military capabilities, and achievements in various sectors.

A notable highlight of the celebrations was the visit of **Prabowo Subianto, President of Indonesia**, who attended the Republic Day celebrations as the **Chief Guest**. The invitation reflected the growing strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, two important Indo-Pacific nations.

Key Facts

- Republic Day is celebrated on **26 January** every year.
- The Constitution of India came into force on **26 January 1950**.
- Chief Guest for Republic Day 2025: **Prabowo Subianto**
- Country: **Indonesia**
- Venue of Republic Day Parade: **Kartavya Path, New Delhi**
- Constitution adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **26 November 1949**.

Background

India became independent on **15 August 1947**, but it continued to be governed under the Government of India Act, 1935 for a transitional period. The Constitution, drafted by the Constituent Assembly, finally came into force on **26 January 1950**, transforming India into a sovereign democratic republic.

The date 26 January was chosen to honour the **Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930**, through which the Indian National Congress proclaimed complete independence as its objective.

Why is it Important?

Republic Day is one of India's most significant national events. It celebrates constitutional governance, democratic values, and the functioning of the world's largest democracy. The selection of the Chief Guest is also important as it often reflects India's diplomatic priorities and international partnerships.

Related Terms

Purna Swaraj: Declaration of complete independence adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1930.

Constituent Assembly: Body responsible for drafting the Constitution of India.

Kartavya Path: Ceremonial boulevard in New Delhi where the Republic Day parade is held.

Things to Remember

- Republic Day → **26 January**
- Constitution came into force → **1950**
- Constitution adopted → **26 November 1949**
- Chief Guest 2025 → **Prabowo Subianto**
- Country → **Indonesia**
- Parade Venue → **Kartavya Path, New Delhi**

UCC in Uttarakhand: First State to Implement a Uniform Civil Code

Uttarakhand became the **first Indian state to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, marking a significant development in India's legal and constitutional landscape. The move attracted national attention as it seeks to establish a common set of civil laws governing matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, succession, and live-in relationships, irrespective of religion.

Key Facts

- Uttarakhand became the **first state in India** to implement a Uniform Civil Code.
- The UCC applies to matters such as:
 - Marriage
 - Divorce
 - Inheritance
 - Succession
 - Adoption
 - Live-in relationships
- The Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in **Article 44** of the Constitution of India.
- Article 44 is part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)**.
- DPSPs are contained in **Part IV** of the Constitution.

Background

At present, different religious communities in India are governed by different personal laws in matters relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and family relations. The idea behind a Uniform Civil Code is to provide a common civil law framework applicable to all citizens regardless of religion.

The concept has been debated since the framing of the Constitution and has frequently appeared in discussions relating to equality, secularism, gender justice, and legal reform.

Why is it Important?

The implementation of the UCC in Uttarakhand has revived national discussions regarding the possibility of similar legislation in other states and at the national level. The development is significant because it concerns constitutional principles, personal laws, and the relationship between individual rights and legal uniformity.

Related Terms

Article 44: Directive Principle directing the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs): Constitutional principles intended to guide governance and law-making.

Personal Laws: Laws governing family matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance.

Things to Remember

- First State with UCC → **Uttarakhand**
- Relevant Article → **Article 44**
- Located in → **Part IV**

- Part IV deals with → **Directive Principles of State Policy**
- Major Areas Covered → Marriage, Divorce, Succession, Inheritance

India's 100th Chess Grandmaster: A Milestone for Indian Chess

India achieved a historic milestone by producing its **100th Chess Grandmaster**, highlighting the country's remarkable rise in the world of chess. Over the past two decades, India has emerged as a global chess powerhouse, producing numerous elite players who have excelled in international competitions.

Key Facts

- India became one of the few countries to produce **100 Grandmasters**.
- The title of **Grandmaster (GM)** is awarded by **FIDE**.
- FIDE stands for **Fédération Internationale des Échecs** (International Chess Federation).
- FIDE was established in **1924**.
- Headquarters of FIDE: **Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- The first Indian Grandmaster was **Viswanathan Anand**.

Background

India's chess journey received a major boost when **Viswanathan Anand** became the country's first Grandmaster in **1988**. Anand later went on to become a multiple-time World Chess Champion and inspired an entire generation of Indian players.

In recent years, young talents such as **D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, and Nihal Sarin** have contributed to India's growing reputation in global chess. The rise of online chess platforms, increased institutional support, and strong grassroots participation have further accelerated India's progress.

Why is it Important?

The achievement reflects India's growing strength in mind sports and demonstrates the success of long-term investments in chess development. India's emergence as a chess powerhouse has also increased interest in the sport among young people and strengthened the country's presence in international competitions.

Related Terms

Grandmaster (GM): The highest title awarded to chess players by FIDE.

FIDE: International governing body for chess.

ELO Rating: A rating system used to calculate the relative skill levels of chess players.

Things to Remember

- First Indian Grandmaster → **Viswanathan Anand**
- Year → **1988**

- Governing Body → **FIDE**
- FIDE Established → **1924**
- Headquarters → **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- Achievement → **India's 100th Grandmaster**

Justice B.R. Gavai Appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India

Justice **Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai** was appointed as the **52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, becoming one of the most prominent constitutional authorities in the country. His appointment attracted attention due to the crucial role played by the Chief Justice in the administration of the judiciary and the functioning of the Supreme Court.

Key Facts

- Justice B.R. Gavai became the **52nd Chief Justice of India**.
- The Chief Justice heads the **Supreme Court of India**.
- The Supreme Court was established on **26 January 1950**.
- The Supreme Court is located in **New Delhi**.
- Appointment of Supreme Court judges is made by the **President of India**.
- The Chief Justice is regarded as the **Master of the Roster**.

Background

The Chief Justice of India is the head of the Indian judiciary and plays an important role in constitutional interpretation, judicial administration, and allocation of cases within the Supreme Court. The office is crucial for maintaining judicial independence and ensuring the effective functioning of the court system.

The Supreme Court is the highest constitutional court in India and acts as the final court of appeal. It also exercises powers such as **judicial review**, through which it can examine the constitutionality of laws and executive actions.

Why is it Important?

Appointments to the office of the Chief Justice are significant because the Supreme Court frequently decides matters relating to fundamental rights, constitutional interpretation, elections, federal disputes, and public policy. The Chief Justice also plays an important role in judicial appointments through the Collegium System.

Related Terms

Article 124: Constitutional provision dealing with the establishment and composition of the Supreme Court.

Judicial Review: Power of courts to examine the constitutionality of laws and government actions.

Collegium System: System through which judges recommend appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary.

Things to Remember

- 52nd Chief Justice of India → **Justice B.R. Gavai**
- Supreme Court established → **26 January 1950**
- Location → **New Delhi**
- Relevant Article → **Article 124**
- Chief Justice = **Master of the Roster**
- Appointment made by → **President of India**

International Solar Alliance Expands Global Reach

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** continued to expand its membership and strengthen cooperation on solar energy adoption across the world. The alliance has emerged as one of the most important international initiatives promoting renewable energy and sustainable development, particularly among developing countries.

Key Facts

- International Solar Alliance launched in **2015**.
- Jointly launched by:
 - **India**
 - **France**
- Headquarters: **Gurugram, Haryana, India**
- Launched during: **COP21, Paris**
- Focus: Promotion of solar energy worldwide.
- ISA is the first treaty-based international organization headquartered in India.

Background

The International Solar Alliance was conceived to promote the use of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It seeks to mobilize investments, facilitate technology transfer, and support countries in expanding solar infrastructure.

The alliance was initially designed for countries located between the **Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**, regions receiving abundant sunlight. However, membership has since been opened to all UN member states.

Why is it Important?

Solar energy is considered one of the most important renewable energy sources in the fight against climate change. Through the ISA, countries collaborate on financing, capacity building, and technological innovation to accelerate the transition toward clean energy.

The initiative also reflects India's growing role in global climate diplomacy and renewable energy governance.

Related Terms

COP21: United Nations Climate Conference held in Paris in 2015.

Renewable Energy: Energy derived from naturally replenishing resources such as sunlight, wind, and water.

Climate Change: Long-term changes in global temperatures and weather patterns largely driven by greenhouse gas emissions.

Things to Remember

- ISA launched → **2015**
- Founding Countries → **India and France**
- Headquarters → **Gurugram, Haryana**
- Launched at → **COP21, Paris**
- First treaty-based international organization headquartered in India
- Focus → **Solar Energy and Renewable Energy Cooperation**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: Five Years of Educational Reform

The implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** continued to remain in focus as states, universities, and educational institutions worked towards adopting its various reforms. The policy is regarded as one of the most significant changes to India's education system in recent decades.

Key Facts

- National Education Policy approved in **2020**.
- Replaced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**.
- Introduced the **5+3+3+4 curricular structure**.
- Emphasizes:
 - Multidisciplinary education
 - Skill development
 - Foundational literacy and numeracy
 - Flexibility in subject choices
- Ministry Responsible:

- Ministry of Education

Background

The NEP 2020 seeks to transform India's education system from school education to higher education. One of its most notable reforms is the replacement of the traditional **10+2 system** with the **5+3+3+4 structure**, designed according to children's cognitive development stages.

The policy also promotes mother-tongue instruction in early education, greater use of technology, vocational training, and flexibility in academic pathways. At the higher education level, it encourages multidisciplinary institutions and multiple entry-exit options.

Why is it Important?

The policy aims to improve learning outcomes, increase access to education, and prepare students for changing economic and technological realities. Since education plays a crucial role in social and economic development, the implementation of NEP is frequently discussed in policy and governance debates.

The policy is also linked to India's efforts to improve educational quality and enhance global competitiveness.

Related Terms

5+3+3+4 Structure: New school education framework introduced under NEP 2020.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN): Basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills that every child should acquire.

Multidisciplinary Education: An approach allowing students to study subjects across different disciplines.

Things to Remember

- Policy → **National Education Policy 2020**
- Replaced → **NPE 1986**
- New Structure → **5+3+3+4**
- Ministry → **Ministry of Education**
- Focus → Flexibility, Skills, Multidisciplinary Learning
- Major Reform → Replacement of the 10+2 system

75 Years of the Election Commission of India

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** completed **75 years of its journey**, marking an important milestone in the history of Indian democracy. Established shortly before India became a republic, the Commission has been responsible for conducting free and fair elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

Key Facts

- Election Commission established on **25 January 1950**.

- Constitutional Body under **Article 324**.
- National Voters' Day is celebrated on **25 January**.
- Conducts elections to:
 - Lok Sabha
 - Rajya Sabha
 - State Legislatures
 - President
 - Vice-President
- Headquarters: **Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi**

Background

The Election Commission was created to ensure the conduct of free, fair, and impartial elections in India. Originally a single-member body, it became a multi-member commission in **1993**.

The Commission supervises electoral rolls, election schedules, political party recognition, allocation of symbols, and enforcement of the **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** during elections.

India is often described as the **world's largest democracy**, and the Election Commission plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of the electoral process.

Why is it Important?

The Election Commission is one of India's most significant constitutional institutions. Its independence and credibility are essential for ensuring democratic governance and public trust in elections.

The Commission has also introduced various electoral reforms over the years, including the use of **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** and **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** systems.

Related Terms

Article 324: Constitutional provision that vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission.

EVM: Electronic Voting Machine used for voting in Indian elections.

VVPAT: Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail, which allows voters to verify their vote.

Things to Remember

- Election Commission Established → **25 January 1950**
- Relevant Article → **Article 324**
- National Voters' Day → **25 January**
- Headquarters → **New Delhi**
- Multi-member Commission since → **1993**

- India = **World's Largest Democracy**

Digital Personal Data Protection Act and Data Privacy in India

The implementation of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act)** continued to remain in focus as discussions progressed regarding data privacy, digital governance, and the responsibilities of companies handling personal information. The law is considered a major step in establishing a comprehensive framework for data protection in India.

Key Facts

- Law: **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**
- Passed by Parliament: **2023**
- Applies to digital personal data.
- Grants rights to individuals regarding their personal data.
- Imposes obligations on entities processing personal data.
- Seeks to balance privacy, innovation, and governance.

Background

The need for a data protection law gained prominence after the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)**, which recognized the **Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right** under **Article 21** of the Constitution.

With increasing internet usage, digital payments, social media activity, and online services, large volumes of personal data are collected and processed by both public and private entities. The DPDP Act was enacted to regulate this ecosystem and establish safeguards for individuals.

Why is it Important?

Data has become one of the most valuable resources in the digital age. Concerns regarding data breaches, cyber fraud, surveillance, and misuse of personal information have made data protection a major policy issue worldwide.

The law is particularly relevant as India continues to expand its digital economy through initiatives such as Digital India, UPI, Aadhaar-linked services, and e-governance platforms.

Related Terms

Right to Privacy: Recognized as a Fundamental Right by the Supreme Court in the Puttaswamy Judgment (2017).

Personal Data: Information relating to an identifiable individual.

Data Fiduciary: Entity that determines the purpose and means of processing personal data.

Things to Remember

- Law → **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**
- Landmark Case → **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India**

- Judgment Year → **2017**
- Privacy linked with → **Article 21**
- Focus → Data Protection and Privacy
- Connected with → Digital Governance

50 Years of the Aryabhata Satellite: A Milestone in India's Space Journey

India marked **50 years of Aryabhata**, the country's first satellite, which was launched on **19 April 1975**. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on India's remarkable transformation from a developing space programme to a major global space power.

Key Facts

- Aryabhata was India's **first satellite**.
- Launch Date: **19 April 1975**
- Named after: **Aryabhata**, the ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer.
- Launch Site: **Kapustin Yar, Soviet Union (USSR)**.
- Weight: Approximately **360 kg**.
- Developed by: **ISRO**

Background

The Aryabhata satellite represented a major achievement for India's young space programme. Although launched with Soviet assistance, it demonstrated India's growing capabilities in satellite design and space technology.

Since Aryabhata, India has developed a wide range of satellites for communication, navigation, weather forecasting, earth observation, and scientific research. ISRO has also achieved several notable milestones, including the **Chandrayaan** and **Mangalyaan** missions.

Why is it Important?

Aryabhata laid the foundation for India's modern space programme. The knowledge gained from the mission contributed to the development of indigenous satellite technology and strengthened India's long-term space capabilities.

The anniversary is significant because it highlights how India evolved from launching its first satellite abroad to successfully carrying out lunar and interplanetary missions.

Related Terms

ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation, established in **1969**.

Chandrayaan: India's lunar exploration programme.

Mangalyaan: India's first Mars mission, launched in **2013**.

National Voters' Day 2025: Strengthening Electoral Participation

India observed **National Voters' Day (NVD)** on **25 January 2025**, marking the foundation day of the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**. The day is celebrated annually to encourage voter participation, promote electoral awareness, and strengthen democratic values among citizens.

Key Facts

- National Voters' Day is celebrated on **25 January** every year.
- First celebrated in **2011**.
- Commemorates the foundation of the **Election Commission of India**.
- Election Commission established on **25 January 1950**.
- Theme changes annually.
- Organized by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.

Background

National Voters' Day was introduced to increase voter enrolment, particularly among young citizens who become eligible to vote upon attaining the age of 18 years. The initiative also aims to improve awareness regarding electoral rights and responsibilities.

India is the world's largest democracy, with hundreds of millions of voters participating in elections at various levels. The Election Commission plays a crucial role in ensuring free and fair elections across the country.

Why is it Important?

Voter participation is a key indicator of democratic health. National Voters' Day seeks to strengthen democratic engagement by encouraging citizens to register as voters and actively participate in the electoral process.

The observance also highlights the importance of informed voting and electoral integrity in a democratic society.

Related Terms

Universal Adult Suffrage: Right of every citizen above a specified age to vote regardless of caste, religion, gender, or economic status.

Electoral Roll: Official list of registered voters.

EPIC: Electoral Photo Identity Card issued by the Election Commission.

Things to Remember

- National Voters' Day → **25 January**
- First Celebrated → **2011**
- Election Commission Established → **25 January 1950**

- Voting Age in India → **18 Years**
- Constitutional Body → **Election Commission of India**
- Purpose → Promote Electoral Participation

Exercise Ekuverin 2025: India–Maldives Defence Cooperation

The latest edition of **Exercise Ekuverin**, a joint military exercise between India and the Maldives, was conducted to strengthen defence cooperation and interoperability between the armed forces of the two countries. The exercise reflects the growing strategic partnership between India and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean Region.

Key Facts

- Exercise Name: **Ekuverin**
- Participants:
 - India
 - Maldives
- Nature: **Joint Military Exercise**
- Started in: **2009**
- Conducted alternately in India and Maldives.
- "Ekuverin" means "**Friends**" in the Dhivehi language.

Background

India and the Maldives share close maritime and security ties. Given the strategic location of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean, cooperation between the two countries is important for regional stability and maritime security.

Exercise Ekuverin focuses on counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. It also enables troops from both countries to exchange best practices and enhance operational coordination.

Why is it Important?

The Indian Ocean is one of the world's most important maritime regions, carrying a significant portion of global trade and energy supplies. Defence cooperation between India and the Maldives contributes to regional security and strengthens India's engagement with its maritime neighbours.

The exercise also aligns with India's broader vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.

Related Terms

SAGAR: India's vision for maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

Interoperability: Ability of different armed forces to operate effectively together.

Counter-Terrorism: Measures aimed at preventing and responding to terrorist activities.

Khelo India Winter Games 2025

The **Khelo India Winter Games 2025** brought renewed attention to winter sports in India, with competitions being organized in the Himalayan region. The event forms part of the broader **Khelo India Programme**, which aims to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem and identify talent at the grassroots level.

Key Facts

- Event: **Khelo India Winter Games 2025**
- Main Venues:
 - Gulmarg (Jammu & Kashmir)
 - Leh (Ladakh)
- Organized under: **Khelo India Programme**
- Ministry: **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
- Focus Sports:
 - Skiing
 - Ice Hockey
 - Ice Skating
 - Snowboarding
 - Nordic Skiing

Background

The Khelo India Programme was launched to revive the sports culture in India and create a strong pipeline of athletes for national and international competitions. While the Khelo India Games mainly focus on traditional sports, the Winter Games specifically promote winter sports that require snow and ice conditions.

India's Himalayan states and union territories provide suitable conditions for winter sports, making them ideal locations for hosting such events.

Why is it Important?

Winter sports remain relatively underdeveloped in India compared to many other countries. The Khelo India Winter Games help increase participation, improve infrastructure, and create opportunities for athletes competing in snow-based sports.

The event also promotes sports tourism and showcases the sporting potential of regions such as Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Related Terms

Khelo India Programme: National initiative launched to promote sports and identify young talent.

Winter Sports: Sports played on snow or ice surfaces.

Nordic Skiing: Category of skiing that includes cross-country skiing and ski jumping.

Things to Remember

- Event → **Khelo India Winter Games**
- Key Venues → **Gulmarg and Leh**
- Ministry → **Youth Affairs and Sports**
- Focus → **Winter Sports**
- Associated Regions → **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**
- Parent Programme → **Khelo India**

Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan Initiative Launched

The Government of India launched the **Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan** initiative to promote tourism to historically significant battlefields and sites associated with India's military history. The initiative seeks to preserve historical memory, promote patriotism, and increase awareness about important military events and sacrifices made by Indian armed forces.

Key Facts

- Initiative: **Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan**
- Ministry: **Ministry of Defence**
- Objective: Promote military heritage tourism.
- Focus:
 - Historic battlefields
 - War memorials
 - Military museums
 - Sites of strategic importance
- Supports heritage and tourism development.

Background

India has a rich military history spanning ancient, medieval, colonial, and modern periods. Several locations across the country are associated with significant battles, military campaigns, and acts of bravery.

In recent years, efforts have been made to preserve and showcase military heritage through museums, memorials, and commemorative projects. Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan aims to connect citizens with these historical sites and encourage educational tourism.

Why is it Important?

The initiative helps preserve military history while promoting tourism and public awareness. It also provides an opportunity to understand the historical context of important battles and the role played by the armed forces in safeguarding the nation.

Military heritage tourism is increasingly being recognized as a means of preserving national memory and educating future generations.

Related Terms

Military Heritage: Historical legacy associated with armed forces, wars, and military institutions.

War Memorial: Monument dedicated to soldiers and military personnel.

Heritage Tourism: Tourism focused on historical, cultural, and heritage sites.

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Introduced for Government Employees

The **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** was approved as a new pension option for central government employees covered under the **National Pension System (NPS)**. The scheme attracted considerable attention because it seeks to provide greater financial security after retirement while retaining the contributory structure of NPS.

Key Facts

- Scheme: **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**
- Applicable to: **Central Government Employees under NPS**
- To be implemented from: **1 April 2025**
- Approved by: **Union Cabinet**
- Provides an assured pension subject to specified conditions.
- Operates as an option within the NPS framework.

Background

India shifted from the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)** to the **National Pension System (NPS)** for most new central government employees joining service on or after **1 January 2004**.

Under OPS, employees received a defined pension after retirement. Under NPS, pension benefits depend on contributions and market-linked returns. The introduction of UPS seeks to address concerns regarding post-retirement financial certainty while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

Why is it Important?

Pension reforms affect millions of government employees and have significant implications for public finance. The debate surrounding OPS, NPS, and UPS has become an important governance and economic issue in recent years.

The scheme is also relevant because several states have debated pension reforms and retirement security measures for government employees.

Related Terms

OPS (Old Pension Scheme): Pension system providing a defined post-retirement pension funded by the government.

NPS (National Pension System): Contributory pension scheme regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

PFRDA: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

Things to Remember

- UPS Full Form → **Unified Pension Scheme**
- Implementation Date → **1 April 2025**
- Related System → **NPS**
- OPS replaced for new central employees from → **1 January 2004**
- Regulator of NPS → **PFRDA**
- Concern Addressed → **Retirement Security**

PM Internship Scheme: Expanding Industry Exposure for Youth

The **PM Internship Scheme** continued to attract attention as applications and implementation efforts progressed across the country. The scheme aims to provide young individuals with practical industry exposure through internships in some of India's leading companies.

Key Facts

- Scheme: **PM Internship Scheme**
- Announced in: **Union Budget 2024-25**
- Target: Provide internship opportunities to **1 crore youth over five years**.
- Focus: Industry exposure and skill development.
- Internships offered in leading companies across sectors.
- Intended for young individuals seeking workplace experience.

Background

One of the major challenges faced by graduates is the gap between academic learning and workplace requirements. Internships help bridge this gap by providing practical exposure to real-world work environments.

The PM Internship Scheme seeks to improve employability by enabling participants to gain experience in professional settings and understand industry practices before entering the job market.

Why is it Important?

India has one of the world's largest youth populations. Skill development, employability, and workforce readiness are important policy priorities. The scheme aims to enhance practical learning opportunities and strengthen connections between education and industry.

The initiative is also expected to contribute to workforce development and support economic growth by creating a more skilled talent pool.

Related Terms

Internship: A short-term work experience programme that provides practical exposure to a profession or industry.

Employability: Skills and qualities that make an individual suitable for employment.

Skill Development: Process of improving knowledge, abilities, and competencies required for work.

Things to Remember

- Scheme → **PM Internship Scheme**
- Announced In → **Union Budget 2024-25**
- Target → **1 Crore Youth**
- Duration of Target → **Five Years**
- Focus → **Industry Exposure and Skill Development**
- Objective → **Improve Employability**

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Becomes Operational

The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** gained momentum as countries joined the initiative aimed at the conservation and protection of the world's seven major big cat species. The alliance reflects India's growing role in global wildlife conservation efforts.

Key Facts

- Initiative: **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**
- Announced by: **India**
- Launched in: **2023**
- Focus Species:
 - Tiger
 - Lion
 - Leopard
 - Snow Leopard
 - Cheetah

- Jaguar
 - Puma
- Objective: Conservation and protection of big cats and their habitats.

Background

India is home to a significant share of the world's wild tigers and has been actively involved in wildlife conservation through initiatives such as **Project Tiger**. Recognizing the ecological importance of big cats, India proposed the International Big Cat Alliance to facilitate cooperation among countries where these species are found.

The alliance aims to support conservation efforts through research, capacity building, funding, knowledge sharing, and habitat protection.

Why is it Important?

Big cats play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and biodiversity. Conservation of these species also contributes to the protection of forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems.

The alliance highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing challenges such as habitat loss, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and climate change.

Related Terms

Project Tiger: Flagship wildlife conservation programme launched in 1973.

Biodiversity: Variety of living organisms within a particular ecosystem.

Keystone Species: Species whose presence has a disproportionately large effect on the ecosystem.

Things to Remember

- Alliance → **International Big Cat Alliance**
- Launched By → **India**
- Year → **2023**
- Big Cat Species Covered → **7**
- Project Tiger Launched → **1973**
- Focus → **Wildlife Conservation**

Kho Kho World Cup 2025: A Historic Moment for Indigenous Sports

The inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup 2025** marked a significant milestone for one of India's oldest indigenous sports. The tournament brought together teams from multiple countries and highlighted efforts to globalize traditional Indian games on the international stage.

Key Facts

- Event: **Kho Kho World Cup 2025**
- Sport: **Kho Kho**

- Origin: **India**
- Organized by: **Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI)**
- First-ever Kho Kho World Cup.
- Featured participation from multiple countries across continents.

Background

Kho Kho is one of India's oldest traditional sports and is believed to have originated in ancient India. The game requires speed, agility, strategy, and teamwork. Traditionally played on a rectangular field, it has long been popular in schools and rural sporting competitions.

In recent years, efforts have been made to professionalize the sport and increase its international visibility through leagues, international tournaments, and structured governance mechanisms.

Why is it Important?

The organization of a World Cup represents an important step towards the international recognition of indigenous Indian sports. It also supports India's efforts to promote traditional games globally and diversify the international sporting landscape.

The event is expected to encourage greater participation, investment, and awareness regarding Kho Kho both within India and abroad.

Related Terms

KKFI: Kho Kho Federation of India.

Indigenous Sports: Sports that originate within a particular country or culture.

Traditional Games: Sports and recreational activities passed down through generations.

Things to Remember

- Event → **First Kho Kho World Cup**
- Origin of Sport → **India**
- Governing Body → **Kho Kho Federation of India**
- Nature → **Indigenous Team Sport**
- Key Skills → **Speed, Agility, Teamwork**
- Significance → **Globalization of Traditional Indian Sports**

U-WIN Portal and India's Digital Immunization Programme

The **U-WIN (Universal Immunization Win) Portal** was rolled out nationwide to digitize India's Universal Immunization Programme and create a comprehensive digital record of vaccinations. The platform is designed to improve vaccine delivery, beneficiary tracking, and access to immunization records.

Key Facts

- Full Form: **Universal Immunization Win (U-WIN)**
- Ministry: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- Purpose: Digital management of immunization services.
- Beneficiaries:
 - Pregnant Women
 - Children
- Inspired by the digital infrastructure used during the **CoWIN** vaccination programme.
- Provides digital vaccination certificates.

Background

India operates one of the world's largest immunization programmes through the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**. The programme provides vaccines against several preventable diseases affecting children and mothers.

Before digitalization, vaccination records were largely maintained through physical documentation. U-WIN seeks to create a centralized digital platform for registration, scheduling, tracking, and verification of vaccinations.

Why is it Important?

Digital immunization records help improve healthcare delivery and reduce the chances of missed vaccinations. The platform enables beneficiaries to access records more easily and supports better monitoring of public health programmes.

The initiative also strengthens India's digital health ecosystem and complements broader efforts to modernize healthcare services.

Related Terms

UIP (Universal Immunization Programme): India's flagship vaccination programme launched in **1985**.

CoWIN: Digital platform used for COVID-19 vaccination management in India.

Digital Health: Use of digital technologies to improve healthcare services and outcomes.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Expands Rooftop Solar Adoption

The **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** continued to gain momentum as households across India registered for rooftop solar installations. The scheme aims to increase the use of solar energy, reduce electricity expenses, and promote clean energy adoption among residential consumers.

Key Facts

- Scheme: **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**
- Launched: **2024**
- Target: **1 Crore Households**

- Focus: Rooftop Solar Installation
- Ministry: **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**
- Provides subsidy support for rooftop solar systems.

Background

India is among the world's fastest-growing energy consumers. To meet rising energy demand while reducing carbon emissions, the government has been promoting renewable energy, particularly solar power.

Rooftop solar systems allow households to generate electricity using solar panels installed on rooftops. Excess electricity can often be supplied back to the grid through a process known as **net metering**.

The scheme forms part of India's broader efforts to increase renewable energy capacity and achieve its climate commitments.

Why is it Important?

The scheme helps households reduce electricity bills while encouraging the adoption of clean energy. It also supports India's transition towards sustainable development and energy security.

Increased rooftop solar capacity can reduce pressure on conventional power sources and contribute to the country's renewable energy targets.

Related Terms

Rooftop Solar: Solar panels installed on residential, commercial, or institutional buildings.

Net Metering: Mechanism through which consumers receive credit for excess electricity supplied to the grid.

Renewable Energy: Energy obtained from naturally replenishing resources such as sunlight, wind, and water.

Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Major Rural Water Connectivity Milestone

The **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** continued to expand rural drinking water coverage across India, with millions of households receiving **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)**. The mission is one of the largest rural water supply programmes in the world and aims to ensure safe and adequate drinking water for every rural household.

Key Facts

- Mission: **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**
- Launch Year: **2019**
- Ministry: **Ministry of Jal Shakti**
- Objective: Provide tap water to every rural household.
- Key Indicator: **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)**

- Focus Area: Rural Drinking Water Supply

Background

Before the launch of the mission, a large number of rural households depended on hand pumps, wells, rivers, and other sources for drinking water. Access to safe drinking water remained a major challenge in many regions.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched to provide assured tap water supply to rural households and improve public health outcomes. The mission also promotes water quality monitoring, source sustainability, and community participation in water management.

Why is it Important?

Access to clean drinking water is closely linked to health, sanitation, education, and quality of life. Improved water supply can reduce water-borne diseases and lessen the burden on women and children who often spend significant time collecting water.

The mission also contributes to the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**, which focuses on clean water and sanitation.

Related Terms

FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection): Tap water connection providing regular water supply to a household.

Ministry of Jal Shakti: Ministry responsible for water resources, drinking water, and sanitation.

SDG 6: Sustainable Development Goal relating to clean water and sanitation.

India Becomes the World's Third-Largest Solar Power Generator

India emerged as the **third-largest producer of solar power globally**, highlighting the country's rapid expansion in renewable energy capacity. The achievement reflects India's growing role in the global energy transition and its commitment to reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Key Facts

- India became the **3rd largest solar power generator** in the world.
- Top Countries:
 1. China
 2. United States
 3. India
- India launched the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with France in **2015**.
- ISA Headquarters: **Gurugram, Haryana**

- India announced its **Panchamrit Commitments** at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021).
- India's Net Zero Target: **2070**

Background

Solar energy is energy obtained from sunlight using technologies such as photovoltaic panels and solar thermal systems. It is one of the fastest-growing renewable energy sources globally because it produces electricity without direct greenhouse gas emissions.

India has significantly increased solar capacity through initiatives such as:

- National Solar Mission
- PM Surya Ghar Yojana
- Solar Parks Scheme
- International Solar Alliance

The country's geographical location provides abundant solar radiation, making solar energy an important component of its renewable energy strategy.

Why is it Important?

India's rise in solar power generation strengthens energy security, supports climate goals, and reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels. It also positions India as an important player in global climate negotiations and clean energy cooperation.

Related Terms

International Solar Alliance (ISA): International organization launched by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy.

Panchamrit: Five climate commitments announced by India at COP26.

Net Zero: Balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and removed.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – JANUARY 2027

Passage 1

The expansion of BRICS has emerged as one of the most significant developments in international affairs. Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and later South Africa, the grouping seeks to strengthen cooperation among emerging economies and enhance the voice of developing countries in global governance.

A major development was the admission of Indonesia as a full member of BRICS. Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and is also a member of the G20 and ASEAN. The inclusion of Indonesia has strengthened BRICS' presence in the Indo-Pacific region and increased the representation of developing countries within the grouping.

The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, finances infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Headquartered in Shanghai, China, the bank represents an effort by emerging economies to create alternative sources of development finance.

Questions

Q1. Which country recently joined BRICS as a full member?

- A. Thailand
- B. Indonesia
- C. Vietnam
- D. Malaysia

Q2. The headquarters of the New Development Bank is located in:

- A. Beijing
- B. New Delhi
- C. Shanghai
- D. Moscow

Q3. Which of the following is NOT an original BRIC member?

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. South Africa
- D. China

Q4. Indonesia is the largest economy in:

- A. South Asia
- B. Southeast Asia
- C. East Asia
- D. Central Asia

Q5. BRICS primarily seeks to:

- A. Form a military alliance
- B. Promote cooperation among emerging economies
- C. Replace the United Nations
- D. Create a global parliament

Q6. ASEAN Headquarters is located in:

- A. Bangkok

- B. Kuala Lumpur
- C. Jakarta
- D. Manila

Q1. Answer: B (Indonesia)

Indonesia became a full member of BRICS and is the largest economy in Southeast Asia.

Q2. Answer: C (Shanghai)

The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

Q3. Answer: C (South Africa)

The original BRIC countries were Brazil, Russia, India, and China. South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS.

Q4. Answer: B (Southeast Asia)

Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and a member of ASEAN and the G20.

Q5. Answer: B (Promote cooperation among emerging economies)

BRICS focuses on economic cooperation, development, and strengthening the voice of emerging economies.

Q6. Answer: C (Jakarta)

ASEAN is headquartered in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia.

Passage 2

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting held in Davos, Switzerland, brought together heads of government, business leaders, international organizations, and academics to discuss major global challenges. The meeting focused on issues such as climate change, artificial intelligence, economic growth, geopolitical tensions, cybersecurity, and sustainable development.

Ahead of the meeting, the WEF released its Global Risks Report 2025. The report identified misinformation, climate-related risks, armed conflicts, cyber threats, and technological disruption among the most significant challenges facing the world. The report emphasized that these risks are increasingly interconnected and require international cooperation.

Founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, the World Economic Forum is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Although it does not make binding decisions, its reports and discussions often influence global policy debates and economic discussions.

Questions

Q1. The World Economic Forum is headquartered in:

- A. Zurich
- B. Geneva

C. Davos

D. Bern

Q2. The annual WEF meeting is held in:

A. Geneva

B. Basel

C. Davos

D. Vienna

Q3. Who founded the World Economic Forum?

A. António Guterres

B. Klaus Schwab

C. Kristalina Georgieva

D. Tedros Adhanom

Q4. Which report is released by the World Economic Forum before its annual meeting?

A. Human Development Report

B. Global Innovation Index

C. Global Risks Report

D. World Happiness Report

Q5. Which of the following was identified as a major global risk in the passage?

A. Desertification only

B. Population decline only

C. Cybersecurity threats

D. Ocean exploration

Q6. The World Economic Forum was established in:

A. 1945

B. 1971

C. 1991

D. 2001

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: B (Geneva)

The World Economic Forum is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Q2. Answer: C (Davos)

The WEF Annual Meeting is held every year in Davos, Switzerland.

Q3. Answer: B (Klaus Schwab)

Klaus Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971.

Q4. Answer: C (Global Risks Report)

The Global Risks Report is one of the WEF's most important annual publications.

Q5. Answer: C (Cybersecurity threats)

The Global Risks Report 2025 highlighted cybersecurity threats, misinformation, climate risks, and armed conflicts among major global concerns.

Q6. Answer: B (1971)

The World Economic Forum was established in 1971 by Klaus Schwab.

Passage 3

Climate change remains one of the most pressing challenges facing the international community. To address this issue, countries meet annually at the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). One of the key issues discussed at recent COP meetings has been climate finance, particularly the responsibility of developed countries to support developing nations in adapting to climate change and transitioning to cleaner sources of energy.

COP29 was hosted by Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. Discussions focused on financing climate action, renewable energy, emission reductions, and sustainable development. Developing countries argued that nations with greater historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions should provide greater financial and technological support.

India has actively participated in global climate negotiations and announced its Net Zero target of 2070 at COP26 held in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Climate finance continues to be a major area of debate because many developing countries require substantial resources to meet climate goals while maintaining economic growth.

Questions

Q1. COP29 was hosted by:

- A. Armenia
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Azerbaijan
- D. Georgia

Q2. The capital city of Azerbaijan is:

- A. Tbilisi
- B. Baku
- C. Astana
- D. Yerevan

Q3. COP meetings are held under the framework of:

- A. UNEP
- B. UNDP
- C. UNFCCC
- D. UNESCO

Q4. The UNFCCC was adopted in:

- A. 1985
- B. 1992
- C. 2000
- D. 2015

Q5. India announced its Net Zero target at:

- A. COP21, Paris
- B. COP24, Katowice
- C. COP26, Glasgow
- D. COP28, Dubai

Q6. India's Net Zero target year is:

- A. 2050
- B. 2060
- C. 2065
- D. 2070

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (Azerbaijan)

COP29 was hosted by Azerbaijan, with Baku serving as the host city.

Q2. Answer: B (Baku)

Baku is the capital and largest city of Azerbaijan.

Q3. Answer: C (UNFCCC)

COP stands for Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Q4. Answer: B (1992)

The UNFCCC was adopted during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Q5. Answer: C (COP26, Glasgow)

India announced its Net Zero target of 2070 at COP26 held in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Q6. Answer: D (2070)

India has committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

Passage 4

India's space programme has witnessed remarkable growth over the past few decades. A significant milestone in this journey was the launch of **Aryabhata**, India's first satellite, on 19 April 1975. Named after the renowned Indian mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata, the satellite marked India's entry into the space age.

Although Aryabhata was launched from the Soviet Union, it was designed and built by Indian scientists. The mission laid the foundation for India's future achievements in space technology. Over the years, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched numerous satellites and missions, including Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan.

The year 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of Aryabhata. The occasion highlighted India's transformation from a country launching its first satellite with foreign assistance to one capable of conducting complex lunar, Mars, and human spaceflight missions.

Questions

Q1. Aryabhata was launched in:

- A. 1969
- B. 1975
- C. 1984
- D. 1991

Q2. Aryabhata was India's:

- A. First Rocket
- B. First Lunar Mission
- C. First Satellite
- D. First Space Station

Q3. Aryabhata was named after:

- A. A king of the Gupta Empire
 - B. An Indian astronaut
 - C. An Indian mathematician and astronomer
 - D. An ISRO scientist
- Q4.** Which organization developed Aryabhata?
- A. NASA
 - B. Roscosmos
 - C. DRDO
 - D. ISRO

Q5. Mangalyaan was associated with:

- A. Venus
- B. Mars
- C. Moon
- D. Jupiter

Q6. The year 2025 marked how many years of Aryabhata?

- A. 25 Years
- B. 40 Years
- C. 50 Years
- D. 75 Years

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: B (1975)

Aryabhata was launched on 19 April 1975 and became India's first satellite.

Q2. Answer: C (First Satellite)

Aryabhata was the first satellite built by India and marked the beginning of India's satellite programme.

Q3. Answer: C (An Indian mathematician and astronomer)

The satellite was named after Aryabhata, one of ancient India's most celebrated mathematicians and astronomers.

Q4. Answer: D (ISRO)

Aryabhata was designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Q5. Answer: B (Mars)

Mangalyaan, also known as the Mars Orbiter Mission, was India's first mission to Mars.

Q6. Answer: C (50 Years)

Since Aryabhata was launched in 1975, the year 2025 marked its 50th anniversary.

Passage 5

The **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** became a major topic of public debate after Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to implement it. The concept of a Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in **Article 44** of the Constitution, which forms part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs)**.

At present, different religious communities in India are governed by different personal laws relating to marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession. The idea behind a Uniform Civil Code is to provide a common set of civil laws applicable to all citizens irrespective of religion.

Supporters argue that a Uniform Civil Code promotes equality and legal uniformity, while critics raise concerns regarding cultural diversity and religious freedom. The debate has existed since the framing of the Constitution and continues to be an important constitutional and legal issue.

Questions

Q1. Which was the first Indian state to implement a Uniform Civil Code?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Goa

Q2. The Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in:

- A. Article 32
- B. Article 21
- C. Article 44
- D. Article 370

Q3. Article 44 is part of:

- A. Fundamental Rights
- B. Fundamental Duties
- C. DPSPs
- D. Preamble

Q4. Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in:

- A. Part II

- B. Part III
- C. Part IV
- D. Part IVA

Q5. Which of the following generally falls under personal laws?

- A. Election Process
- B. Criminal Trials
- C. Marriage and Inheritance
- D. Budget Formation

Q6. The DPSPs were inspired by the Constitution of:

- A. Canada
- B. Ireland
- C. Australia
- D. France

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: B (Uttarakhand)

Uttarakhand became the first state in India to implement a Uniform Civil Code.

Q2. Answer: C (Article 44)

Article 44 directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.

Q3. Answer: C (DPSPs)

Article 44 forms part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Q4. Answer: C (Part IV)

Part IV of the Constitution contains the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Q5. Answer: C (Marriage and Inheritance)

Personal laws generally govern matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, succession, and inheritance.

Q6. Answer: B (Ireland)

The Directive Principles of State Policy were borrowed from the Constitution of Ireland.

Passage 6

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** completed 75 years as one of the most important constitutional institutions in the country. Established on **25 January 1950**, the Commission is responsible for

conducting free and fair elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

The Election Commission derives its powers from **Article 324** of the Constitution. Over the decades, it has introduced several reforms to improve the electoral process, including the use of **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** and **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** systems.

India is often described as the world's largest democracy, with hundreds of millions of voters participating in elections. To encourage electoral participation, **National Voters' Day** is celebrated every year on **25 January**, commemorating the foundation day of the Election Commission.

Questions

Q1. The Election Commission of India was established on:

- A. 26 January 1950
- B. 15 August 1947
- C. 25 January 1950
- D. 26 November 1949

Q2. The Election Commission derives its powers primarily from:

- A. Article 32
- B. Article 324
- C. Article 356
- D. Article 368

Q3. National Voters' Day is celebrated on:

- A. 24 January
- B. 25 January
- C. 26 January
- D. 15 August

Q4. VVPAT stands for:

- A. Voter Verified Public Audit Trail
- B. Voter Verification Polling Audit Tool
- C. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail
- D. Voting Verification Process and Tracking

Q5. Which of the following elections is conducted by the Election Commission of India?

- A. Municipal Elections in all States
- B. University Elections

C. Presidential Elections

D. Cooperative Society Elections

Q6. India is often called the world's largest democracy because:

A. It has the largest Constitution.

B. It has the largest territory.

C. It has the largest number of voters.

D. It has the oldest Parliament.

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (25 January 1950)

The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950, a day before India became a Republic.

Q2. Answer: B (Article 324)

Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission.

Q3. Answer: B (25 January)

National Voters' Day is observed every year on 25 January to mark the foundation day of the ECI.

Q4. Answer: C (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail)

VVPAT allows voters to verify that their vote has been correctly recorded.

Q5. Answer: C (Presidential Elections)

The Election Commission conducts elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

Q6. Answer: C (It has the largest number of voters)

India is known as the world's largest democracy due to its massive electorate and large-scale electoral process.

Passage 7

India's transition towards clean energy received a major boost through the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, which aims to make the country a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of green hydrogen. The mission is an important component of India's strategy to reduce carbon emissions, strengthen energy security, and achieve its climate commitments.

Hydrogen can be produced in different ways. **Grey Hydrogen** is produced using fossil fuels and results in carbon emissions. **Blue Hydrogen** also uses fossil fuels but incorporates carbon capture technologies. **Green Hydrogen**, considered the cleanest form, is produced through the electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

India launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023 with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore. The mission is expected to play a key role in reducing emissions from sectors such as steel, shipping, fertilizers, and heavy industries. It is also linked to India's goal of achieving **Net Zero emissions by 2070**.

Questions

Q1. The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in:

- A. 2021
- B. 2022
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

Q2. The nodal ministry for the National Green Hydrogen Mission is:

- A. Ministry of Power
- B. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- C. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- D. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Q3. Green Hydrogen is produced using:

- A. Coal
- B. Crude Oil
- C. Natural Gas
- D. Renewable Energy

Q4. Which of the following is considered the cleanest form of hydrogen?

- A. Grey Hydrogen
- B. Blue Hydrogen
- C. Green Hydrogen
- D. Brown Hydrogen

Q5. India's Net Zero target year is:

- A. 2050
- B. 2060
- C. 2065
- D. 2070

Q6. Electrolysis refers to:

- A. Converting coal into gas

- B. Splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity
- C. Refining crude oil
- D. Converting sunlight directly into electricity

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (2023)

The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2023 to promote clean hydrogen production in India.

Q2. Answer: C (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy)

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal ministry for implementing the mission.

Q3. Answer: D (Renewable Energy)

Green Hydrogen is produced through electrolysis using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

Q4. Answer: C (Green Hydrogen)

Green Hydrogen is considered the cleanest form because its production results in minimal greenhouse gas emissions.

Q5. Answer: D (2070)

India announced its commitment to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070 at COP26.

Q6. Answer: B (Splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity)

Electrolysis is the process used to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electric current.

Passage 8

Artificial Intelligence (AI) became one of the most discussed technologies globally following the rise of advanced AI models such as DeepSeek, ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude. The emergence of these systems has intensified technological competition among countries and highlighted the growing importance of AI in economic development, national security, and scientific research.

DeepSeek, developed in China, attracted global attention due to its performance and the relatively lower cost associated with its development. The development reinforced the view that Artificial Intelligence is no longer dominated by a handful of companies or countries. Governments worldwide are now investing heavily in AI research, infrastructure, and regulation.

AI is increasingly being used in sectors such as healthcare, education, finance, manufacturing, transportation, and defence. At the same time, concerns have been raised regarding data privacy, misinformation, cybersecurity, and the ethical use of AI technologies.

Questions

Q1. DeepSeek is associated with which country?

- A. United States
- B. United Kingdom
- C. China
- D. Japan

Q2. AI stands for:

- A. Automated Information
- B. Artificial Intelligence
- C. Advanced Internet
- D. Automated Interface

Q3. Which of the following is a concern associated with AI?

- A. Data Privacy
- B. Misinformation
- C. Cybersecurity
- D. All of the Above

Q4. Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being used in:

- A. Healthcare
- B. Education
- C. Finance
- D. All of the Above

Q5. Which of the following is NOT an AI model?

- A. ChatGPT
- B. Gemini
- C. Claude
- D. Linux

Q6. The emergence of DeepSeek highlighted:

- A. The decline of AI technology
- B. The growing global competition in AI development
- C. The end of technological innovation
- D. The replacement of computers

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (China)

DeepSeek is an Artificial Intelligence model developed in China and gained international attention for its capabilities.

Q2. Answer: B (Artificial Intelligence)

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence, which enables machines to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.

Q3. Answer: D (All of the Above)

Major concerns relating to AI include data privacy, misinformation, cybersecurity, bias, and ethical issues.

Q4. Answer: D (All of the Above)

AI applications are rapidly expanding across healthcare, education, finance, manufacturing, and several other sectors.

Q5. Answer: D (Linux)

Linux is an operating system, whereas ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude are AI models.

Q6. Answer: B (The growing global competition in AI development)

The rise of DeepSeek demonstrated that countries are increasingly competing to become leaders in Artificial Intelligence technology.

Passage 9

The **Gaganyaan Mission** represents India's first human spaceflight programme and is one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The mission aims to send Indian astronauts, known as **Gaganyatris**, into space aboard an Indian spacecraft and bring them back safely to Earth.

The programme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address in 2018. Before the crewed mission, ISRO is conducting several uncrewed test missions to validate the spacecraft, crew escape systems, and recovery mechanisms. The mission is expected to be launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

Only a few countries, including the United States, Russia, and China, have independently developed human spaceflight capabilities. The success of Gaganyaan would place India among this select group and significantly strengthen its space technology capabilities.

Questions

Q1. Gaganyaan is India's:

- A. First Mars Mission
- B. First Lunar Mission

C. First Human Spaceflight Mission

D. First Satellite Mission

Q2. The space agency responsible for Gaganyaan is:

A. NASA

B. DRDO

C. ISRO

D. IN-SPACe

Q3. Indian astronauts participating in the mission are known as:

A. Vyomnauts

B. Gaganyatris

C. Astronauts General

D. Space Cadets

Q4. Gaganyaan was announced in:

A. 2014

B. 2016

C. 2018

D. 2020

Q5. The mission is planned to be launched from:

A. Thumba

B. Sriharikota

C. Mahendragiri

D. Bengaluru

Q6. Which of the following countries has independently developed human spaceflight capability?

A. Russia

B. China

C. United States

D. All of the Above

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (First Human Spaceflight Mission)

Gaganyaan is India's first mission aimed at sending humans into space using an indigenous spacecraft.

Q2. Answer: C (ISRO)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is responsible for planning and executing the Gaganyaan Mission.

Q3. Answer: B (Gaganyatris)

Indian astronauts selected for the mission are referred to as Gaganyatris.

Q4. Answer: C (2018)

The mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Independence Day address in 2018.

Q5. Answer: B (Sriharikota)

The mission will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Q6. Answer: D (All of the Above)

The United States, Russia, and China have all independently developed human spaceflight capabilities.

Passage 10

The **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** Convention is an important event that celebrates the contribution of the Indian diaspora to India's development and global standing. The convention provides a platform for engagement between India and overseas Indians living across different parts of the world.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is observed every year on **9 January** to commemorate the return of **Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915**. The event is organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and includes discussions on investment, innovation, culture, education, and India's engagement with its diaspora.

India has one of the largest diaspora populations in the world. Overseas Indians contribute significantly through remittances, entrepreneurship, cultural exchanges, and diplomatic influence. The highest honour conferred upon members of the Indian diaspora is the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**.

Questions

Q1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on:

- A. 15 August
- B. 26 January
- C. 9 January
- D. 2 October

Q2. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the return of:

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru

- B. B.R. Ambedkar
- C. Mahatma Gandhi
- D. Subhas Chandra Bose

Q3. Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from:

- A. United Kingdom
- B. South Africa
- C. Mauritius
- D. Kenya

Q4. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is organized by:

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of External Affairs
- D. Ministry of Tourism

Q5. The highest honour conferred upon overseas Indians is:

- A. Bharat Ratna
- B. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award
- C. Padma Vibhushan
- D. Gandhi Peace Prize

Q6. The term 'Diaspora' refers to:

- A. Foreign Diplomats in India
- B. People living in border areas
- C. Population living outside its country of origin
- D. International Students only

Answers & Explanations

Q1. Answer: C (9 January)

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is observed annually on 9 January.

Q2. Answer: C (Mahatma Gandhi)

The day commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return to India.

Q3. Answer: B (South Africa)

Gandhi returned from South Africa on 9 January 1915.

Q4. Answer: C (Ministry of External Affairs)

The Ministry of External Affairs organizes the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.

Q5. Answer: B (Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award)

It is the highest award given to members of the Indian diaspora.

Q6. Answer: C (Population living outside its country of origin)

Diaspora refers to people who live outside their ancestral or native country while maintaining connections with it.

Quick Revision MCQs (1–25)

Q1. BRIC was coined by:

- A. Klaus Schwab
- B. Jim O'Neill
- C. António Guterres
- D. Larry Fink

Q2. BRIC was coined in:

- A. 1999
- B. 2000
- C. 2001
- D. 2005

Q3. South Africa joined BRIC in:

- A. 2008
- B. 2009
- C. 2010
- D. 2011

Q4. NDB stands for:

- A. National Development Bank
- B. New Development Bank
- C. Nordic Development Bank
- D. New Digital Bank

Q5. NDB Headquarters is located in:

- A. Beijing
- B. Shanghai
- C. Moscow
- D. New Delhi

Q6. ASEAN Headquarters is located in:

- A. Bangkok
- B. Jakarta

- C. Manila
- D. Kuala Lumpur

Q7. Indonesia's capital is:

- A. Bandung
- B. Surabaya
- C. Jakarta
- D. Bali

Q8. Currency of Indonesia:

- A. Ringgit
- B. Baht
- C. Rupiah
- D. Peso

Q9. WEF Headquarters is in:

- A. Davos
- B. Zurich
- C. Geneva
- D. Bern

Q10. WEF was founded in:

- A. 1965
- B. 1971
- C. 1980
- D. 1990

Q11. Founder of WEF:

- A. Klaus Schwab
- B. António Guterres
- C. Jim O'Neill
- D. Kristalina Georgieva

Q12. Davos is located in:

- A. Germany
- B. Austria
- C. Switzerland
- D. Sweden

Q13. COP29 was hosted by:

- A. Armenia
- B. Azerbaijan
- C. Georgia
- D. Kazakhstan

Q14. Capital of Azerbaijan:

- A. Astana
- B. Tbilisi
- C. Baku
- D. Yerevan

Q15. UNFCCC was adopted in:

- A. 1987
- B. 1992
- C. 1997
- D. 2015

Q16. India's Net Zero Target Year:

- A. 2050
- B. 2060
- C. 2070
- D. 2080

Q17. Aryabhata was launched in:

- A. 1972
- B. 1975
- C. 1980
- D. 1984

Q18. India's first satellite:

- A. Rohini
- B. INSAT
- C. Aryabhata
- D. Bhaskara

Q19. ISRO was established in:

- A. 1962
- B. 1965
- C. 1969
- D. 1971

Q20. Mangalyaan was associated with:

- A. Venus
- B. Mars
- C. Moon
- D. Jupiter

Q21. Article 44 deals with:

- A. Fundamental Duties
- B. UCC
- C. Emergency
- D. Elections

Q22. DPSPs are contained in:

- A. Part III
- B. Part IV
- C. Part IVA
- D. Part V

Q23. First State to implement UCC:

- A. Gujarat

- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Goa
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Q24. Election Commission established on:

- A. 26 Jan 1950
- B. 25 Jan 1950
- C. 26 Nov 1949
- D. 15 Aug 1947

Q25. Article related to Election Commission:

- A. 324
- B. 326
- C. 356
- D. 368

Q26. Gaganyaan is India's:

- A. First Satellite Mission
- B. First Human Spaceflight Mission
- C. First Lunar Mission
- D. First Space Station

Q27. Indian astronauts selected for Gaganyaan are called:

- A. Vyomnauts
- B. Gaganyatris
- C. Cosmonauts
- D. Taikonauts

Q28. Gaganyaan was announced in:

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019

Q29. Gaganyaan will be launched from:

- A. Thumba
- B. Sriharikota
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Mahendragiri

Q30. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated on:

- A. 26 January
- B. 15 August
- C. 9 January
- D. 2 October

Q31. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas commemorates the return of Gandhi from:

- A. UK
- B. Mauritius

- C. Kenya
- D. South Africa

Q32. Highest honour for overseas Indians:

- A. Bharat Ratna
- B. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award
- C. Padma Bhushan
- D. Gandhi Peace Prize

Q33. NHRC was established under:

- A. RTI Act
- B. Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
- C. Lokpal Act
- D. Consumer Protection Act

Q34. NHRC was established in:

- A. 1991
- B. 1992
- C. 1993
- D. 1994

Q35. NHRC Headquarters is located in:

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Bengaluru

Q36. BIMSTEC Headquarters is located in:

- A. Kathmandu
- B. Colombo
- C. Dhaka
- D. Bangkok

Q37. BIMSTEC was established in:

- A. 1995
- B. 1996
- C. 1997
- D. 1998

Q38. Which country is NOT a BIMSTEC member?

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bhutan

Q39. ISA was launched by:

- A. India and Germany
- B. India and France
- C. India and UK
- D. India and Japan

Q40. ISA Headquarters is in:

- A. New Delhi
- B. Gurugram
- C. Noida
- D. Jaipur

Q41. ISA was launched during:

- A. COP21
- B. COP24
- C. COP26
- D. COP28

Q42. Genome India Project is implemented under:

- A. Ministry of Health
- B. Department of Biotechnology
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. CSIR

Q43. Genome refers to:

- A. Protein Structure
- B. Complete Genetic Material
- C. Cell Membrane
- D. Blood Group

Q44. India Semiconductor Mission was launched in:

- A. 2019
- B. 2020
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

Q45. Nodal Ministry for India Semiconductor Mission:

- A. Ministry of Commerce
- B. MeitY
- C. Ministry of Science & Technology
- D. Ministry of Heavy Industries

Q46. National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in:

- A. 2021
- B. 2022
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

Q47. Nodal Ministry for Green Hydrogen Mission:

- A. MNRE
- B. Ministry of Power
- C. Ministry of Mines
- D. Ministry of Petroleum

Q48. DeepSeek originated in:

- A. Japan

- B. South Korea
- C. China
- D. Singapore

Q49. Mahakumbh 2025 was held in:

- A. Haridwar
- B. Nashik
- C. Ujjain
- D. Prayagraj

Q50. Triveni Sangam is the confluence of:

- A. Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati
- B. Ganga, Godavari, Krishna
- C. Yamuna, Narmada, Saraswati
- D. Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yamuna

Answers

- 1-B
- 2-C
- 3-C
- 4-B
- 5-B
- 6-B
- 7-C
- 8-C
- 9-C
- 10-B
- 11-A
- 12-C
- 13-B
- 14-C
- 15-B
- 16-C
- 17-B
- 18-C
- 19-C
- 20-B
- 21-B
- 22-B
- 23-B
- 24-B
- 25-A
- 26-B
- 27-B
- 28-C
- 29-B
- 30-C

31-D
32-B
33-B
34-C
35-B
36-C
37-C
38-C
39-B
40-B
41-A
42-B
43-B
44-C
45-B
46-C
47-A
48-C
49-D
50-A

January 2025 Quick Revision

BRICS & Indonesia

- BRIC coined by → Jim O'Neill (2001)
- First BRIC Summit → Yekaterinburg, Russia (2009)
- South Africa joined → 2010
- NDB Headquarters → Shanghai
- ASEAN Headquarters → Jakarta
- Indonesia Capital → Jakarta
- Indonesia Currency → Rupiah
- Indonesia joined BRICS as Full Member

World Economic Forum

- Founder → Klaus Schwab
- Founded → 1971
- Headquarters → Geneva
- Annual Meeting → Davos

- Important Publication → Global Risks Report
-

COP29 & Climate Change

- COP29 Host → Baku, Azerbaijan
 - UNFCCC Adopted → 1992
 - Rio Earth Summit → 1992
 - COP26 Venue → Glasgow
 - India's Net Zero Target → 2070
-

Aryabhata

- India's First Satellite
 - Launch Date → 19 April 1975
 - Named After → Aryabhata
 - Developed By → ISRO
 - 2025 → 50 Years of Aryabhata
-

Uniform Civil Code

- First State → Uttarakhand
 - Related Article → 44
 - DPSPs → Part IV
 - DPSPs Borrowed From → Ireland
-

Election Commission

- Established → 25 January 1950
 - Article → 324
 - National Voters' Day → 25 January
 - Headquarters → Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi
-

Gaganyaan

- India's First Human Spaceflight Mission

- Agency → ISRO
 - Astronauts → Gaganyatris
 - Launch Centre → Sriharikota
 - Announced → 2018
-

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- Celebrated → 9 January
 - Marks Gandhi's Return → 1915
 - Ministry → MEA
 - Highest Award → Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award
-

NHRC

- Established → 1993
 - Act → Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
 - Headquarters → New Delhi
 - Statutory Body
-

BIMSTEC

- Established → 1997
 - Headquarters → Dhaka
 - Members → 7
 - Connects South Asia & Southeast Asia
-

International Solar Alliance

- Launched → 2015
 - Founders → India & France
 - Headquarters → Gurugram
 - Launched at → COP21 Paris
-

Genome India Project

- Ministry → Department of Biotechnology
 - Objective → Indian Genome Database
 - Related Field → Genomics
-

Semiconductor Mission

- Launched → 2021
 - Ministry → MeitY
 - Incentive Package → ₹76,000 Crore
 - World's Largest Chipmaker → TSMC
 - TSMC Country → Taiwan
-

Green Hydrogen Mission

- Launched → 2023
 - Ministry → MNRE
 - Outlay → ₹19,744 Crore
 - Net Zero Target → 2070
-

DeepSeek

- Country → China
 - Related Sector → Artificial Intelligence
 - AI Race → China vs USA
-

Mahakumbh 2025

- Venue → Prayagraj
 - State → Uttar Pradesh
 - Confluence → Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati
 - UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
-

Davos Summit

- Venue → Davos
-

- Organizer → World Economic Forum
 - Headquarters of WEF → Geneva
-

Global Risks Report

- Released By → WEF
 - Published Annually
 - Covers Major Global Risks
-

National Critical Mineral Mission

- Ministry → Mines
 - Critical Minerals Identified → 30
 - Lithium → EV Batteries
 - Rare Earth Elements → 17 Elements
-

National Turmeric Board

- Headquarters → Nizamabad, Telangana
 - Turmeric → Golden Spice
 - Key Compound → Curcumin
-

Kho Kho World Cup

- First Edition
 - Governing Body → KKFI
 - Origin → India
-

BharatNet

- Original Name → NOFN
 - Launch → 2011
 - Objective → Connect Gram Panchayats
 - Technology → Optical Fibre
-

Digital Personal Data Protection Act

- Enacted → 2023
 - Linked Case → Puttaswamy (2017)
 - Privacy → Article 21
-

UNSC Reform

- UN Established → 1945
 - Headquarters → New York
 - Permanent Members → 5
 - G4 → India, Brazil, Germany, Japan
-

PM Surya Ghar Yojana

- Launch → 2024
 - Target → 1 Crore Households
 - Ministry → MNRE
 - Focus → Rooftop Solar
-

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Launch → 2019
 - Ministry → Jal Shakti
 - Key Indicator → FHTC
 - Linked SDG → SDG 6
-

PM Vishwakarma

- Launch → 17 September 2023
- Ministry → MSME
- Trades Covered → 18
- Beneficiaries → Traditional Artisans

Thank You! ✨

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