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## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. What is Art 244(A), the constitutional promise of autonomy that is driving the election narrative at a tribal seat in Assam?

**Relevance:** Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.

##### Prelims Takeaway

- Art 244(A)
- Sixth Schedule

**News:**

- In Assam's tribal-majority **Diphu Lok Sabha constituency**, candidates have promised the implementation of Article 244(A) of the Constitution to create an autonomous 'state within a state'.
- It covers legislative Assembly segments in three tribal-majority hill districts of Assam: **Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao**.
- The attitude of governments in the state and at the Centre has **not been to grant more autonomy** but to try and take powers back.

**Art 244(A):**

- **Article 244(A)** was inserted by **The Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act, 1969**, which enabled Parliament to pass an Act to "form within the State of Assam an autonomous State, including Karbi Anglong.
- This autonomous state would have its **own Legislature or Council of Ministers** or both.
- This provision gives **further autonomy than** the provisions under **the Sixth Schedule**, which are already in place in these areas.

**Sixth Schedule:**

- The objectives of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution are:
  - To provide for the administration of tribal areas in the northeastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.
  - **To protect tribal land and resources** and prohibits the transfer of such resources to non-tribal individuals or communities.
  - To ensure the tribal communities are not exploited or marginalized by non-tribal populations and that their **cultural and social identities** are preserved and promoted.
- The autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule have elected representatives for more decentralized governance of these tribal areas.
- They have limited legislative powers, do not have control over law and order, and have only limited financial powers.

#### 2. Defence Secretary-led Indian delegation to attend SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Kazakhstan

**Relevance:** Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

**News:**

##### Prelims Takeaway

- SCO
- Shanghai Five

- The Indian delegation went to **Astana, Kazakhstan** for the Annual Meeting of the Defence Ministers' of **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Member States.
- The meeting will review the **regional security issues** within the SCO, including the defense cooperation initiatives.
- India will hold meetings with Defence Ministers of the friendly countries of the SCO to discuss issues of bilateral defense cooperation.

**Shanghai Cooperation Operation:**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is an organization that focuses on political, economic, international security, and defense matters in **Eurasia**.

- It holds the distinction of being the largest regional organization in terms of geographic coverage and population.
- It emerged as a successor to the **Shanghai Five**, established in 1996 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- These countries, along with Uzbekistan, came together on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai to announce the formation of a new organization aimed at deepening political and economic cooperation.
- Over time, the organization expanded its membership to include **eight states**, with India and Pakistan joining in 2017.

#### Significance of the SCO-

- **Cooperation on Security**

It addresses regional issues like human trafficking, weapons trafficking, and terrorism through initiatives like the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS).

- **Military Activities**

It conducts joint military exercises to enhance cooperation and coordination against terrorism and external threats.

- **Economic Cooperation**

It aims to enhance economic cooperation among member states..

- **Cultural Cooperation**

Culture ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet regularly to strengthen cultural cooperation and exchange.

### 3. Case before Supreme Court: Can Govt redistribute privately owned property?- Indian Express

**Relevance:** Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- DPSP
- Fundamental rights

#### News :

- The Supreme Court (SC) began hearing an unrelated case about whether the **government can acquire and redistribute privately owned properties** if they are deemed as “material resources of the community” — as mentioned in Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

#### Key highlights

- Falling under Part IV of the Constitution titled “Directive Principles of State Policy” (DPSP), Article 39(b)
  - Places an obligation on the state to create policy towards securing “the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good”.
- DPSP are meant to be guiding principles for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law.

#### State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy

- Since 1977, the apex court has weighed in on the interpretation of Article 39(b) on multiple occasions — most notably, in State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977).
- This case saw a seven-judge Bench, by a 4:3 majority, holding that privately owned resources did not fall within the ambit of “material resources of the community”.
- However, it was Justice Krishna Iyer’s minority opinion which would become influential in years to come.
- The concurring opinion of Justice Paripoornan in the nine-judge Bench case of Mafatlal Industries Ltd v Union of India (1996) held “the words ‘material resources’ occurring in Article 39 (b) will take in natural or physical resources and also movable or immovable property
  - It would include all private and public sources of meeting material needs, and not merely confined to public possessions.”

#### Cessed properties dispute

- The case currently before the SC arose out of a challenge to the 1986 amendment to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act, 1976 (MHADA) by owners of 'cessed' properties in Mumbai.
- MHADA was enacted in 1976 to address a major problem in the city — old, dilapidated buildings housing (poor) tenants despite becoming increasingly unsafe.
- MHADA imposed a cess on the buildings' occupants, which would be paid to the Mumbai Building Repair and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) to oversee repair and restoration projects.
- In 1986, invoking Article 39(b), Section 1A was inserted to MHADA to execute plans for acquiring lands and buildings
  - in order to transfer them to "needy persons" and the "occupiers of such lands or buildings".
- The amendment also inserted Chapter VIII-A to the legislation, which contains provisions allowing the state government to acquire cessed buildings (and the land they are built on) if 70% of the occupants make such a request.
- a seven-judge Bench stated that we have some difficulty in sharing the broad view that material resources of the community under Article 39(b) covers what is privately owned,"
  - and referred the challenge to Chapter VIII-A of the MHADA to a nine-judge Bench — which is now hearing the matter.
- The court, however, held that laws enacted in furtherance of DPSP could not be challenged on the grounds that they violated the right to equality
  - as per Article 31C of the Constitution ("Saving of laws giving effect to certain directive principles").

### GS III

## 4. No forests or animals will be left if human-wildlife conflicts continue: SC - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Environment conservation, Human-Wildlife conflict

**News:**

- The Supreme Court while hearing a case concerning the demarcation of the boundaries of the **Pobitora wildlife sanctuary** warned human-wildlife conflicts pose a danger to the existence of forests and wildlife.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Pobitora wildlife sanctuary
- Human wildlife conflict

**Highlights:**

- The Supreme Court stated, to conserve forest there needs to be a **balance between the rights of human and wildlife**.
- The observations came while hearing a case concerning the demarcation of the boundaries of **Assam's Pobitora wildlife sanctuary and the settlement of rights of villagers who reside within the sanctuary**.
- The Bench said the State's **proposals** regarding the sanctuary would be cleared by the **National Board of Wildlife and also undergo the scrutiny of the Supreme Court**.
  - The court ordered the States to include the **Chief Wildlife Warden and the Field Director of the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary** to be made members of the special committee to represent the concerns of the wildlife.
- The court noted in its order that "from the prima facie perusal of the map, it appears that the **State proposes to delete smaller areas of the wildlife sanctuary and include a larger area** so as to account for the land of the settlers and also the issue of the growing population of rhinoceros".
- Last month the **Supreme Court also stayed** Assam government's decision to **denotify the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary**.

**Impacts of Human-wildlife conflict:**

- Financial losses to humans along with threats to health and safety. Livelihoods, food security and property are also affected.
- Increase in road and railway infrastructure increases the chances of accidental death of animals.
- Habitat loss and Fragmentation of animals which leads to biodiversity loss or extinction.

## 5. PayU gets RBI's in-principle nod to operate as payment aggregator - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**News:**

- Fintech firm PayU has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank to operate as a payment aggregator
- With in-principle approval in place, PayU can now onboard new merchants to provide them digital payment services.

**Payment Aggregator**

- Online payment aggregators are companies that facilitate online payments by acting as intermediaries between the customer and the merchant.
- The RBI introduced Guidelines for Regulating PAs and Payment Gateway in March 2020.
- They typically provide a range of payment options to customers, including credit and debit cards, bank transfers, and e-wallets.
- Payment aggregators collect and process payment information, ensuring that transactions are secure and reliable.
- By using a payment aggregator, businesses can avoid the need to set up and manage their own payment processing systems
  - which can be complex and expensive.
- Some examples of payment aggregators include PayPal, Stripe, Square, and Amazon Pay.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Upi
- RBI

## 6. REITs, InvITs mobilised ₹1.3 lakh cr. over the last 4 years, RBI data shows- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

**News:**

- Investment vehicles for realty and infrastructure sectors — **REITs and InvITs**, have garnered **₹1.3 lakh crore** in the past four years.
- They are expected to facilitate more pooled funds, the central bank observed in the RBI Bulletin.

**Key Highlights:**

- REITs and InvITs are emerging as **alternative investment instruments**, especially for high net-worth individuals.
- "India has been a late adopter of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs)," the **RBI** wrote in 'State of Economy'.

**Infrastructure Investment Trust:**

- An InvITs is a Investment Scheme similar to a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as a return.
- InvITs are listed on exchanges just like stocks through **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

**Real Estate Investment Trust:**

- Entity created for channeling **investible funds** into operating, owning or financing **income-producing real estate**.
- REITs are modeled on the lines of **mutual funds** and provide investors with an extremely liquid way to get a stake in real estate.

**REIT & INVIT Index:**

- Launched by **National Stock Exchange Indices Ltd**, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India.
- The index aims to track the performance of Reits and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE.
- The weights of securities within the index are based on their free-float market capitalization.

### Prelims Takeaway

- REIT & INVIT
- SEBI

**SEBI**

- established in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- Function:
  - To protect the interests of investors in securities.
  - To regulate the securities market.

## 7. How inheritance tax works- The Indian Express

**Relevance:** Inclusive Growth and issues arising from it.

**News:**

- The use of inheritance tax as a tool for redistribution of wealth to address income inequality has been discussed widely. Over the years, India abolished estate duty, wealth tax.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Estate Duty
- Income Inequality

**Key Highlights:**

- The use of inheritance tax as a tool for **redistribution of wealth** to address income inequality has been discussed widely.
- Calls to **tax billionaires** to build more equitable societies have been growing louder globally.
- US to levy a minimum 25% tax on taxpayers with wealth over \$100 million.
- France and Brazil have pushed for a G20 declaration on taxing the super rich.

**Income Inequality**

- According to a survey conducted by Oxfam, **58 percent** of India's total wealth is concentrated within one percent of its population.
- It is higher than the global average of about **50 percent**.
- To address this Inequality, as India is a Welfare state, and is Constitutionally obligated to fulfill the needs of lower Strata of people.

**Estate Duty:**

- India did have an inheritance (or death) tax **once**.
- The tax, which was known as **estate duty**, was introduced in **1953**, and was abolished in 1985.
- It was an attempt to reduce economic disparity.
- Today, many developed countries such as the US, UK, France, Japan and the Netherlands have **inheritance tax** laws in place.
- The levy of inheritance tax mainly revolves around fears regarding the outflow of entrepreneurial human capital and financial resources going abroad.

**Wealth and Gift Tax**

- The wealth tax is levied on an individual's net worth. In India, the Wealth Tax Act was introduced in **1957 and repealed in 2015**.
- It is basically for the section that is richer than a certain limit (30 Lakhs) and eligible for a wealth tax (1%) of the amount exceeding the limit.
- Similarly, Gift Tax is charged on gifts received in excess of **Rs 50,000** in a financial year, which will be **added to your income** from other sources and taxed according to your slab.

## 8. Ministerial Round Table Conference at World Energy Congress discusses pathways to manage evolving energy trilemma of energy security, access and sustainability

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

**News:**

- Ministerial Round Table Conference was held on 24th April, 2024, at the ongoing 26th edition of World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- The Conference discussed the positives of COP28 UN Climate Change Conference.

**Highlights:**

- The round table conference **also discussed energy innovation and collaboration**, and implications in managing the evolving energy trilemma trade-offs.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- World Energy Council
- 26<sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress
- COP28

- During the conference, the Union Power Secretary highlighted India's pivotal role in **COP28**, emphasizing its significance as a policy catalyst in global energy transition.
  - He also highlighted the **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** as a testimony of India's efforts for building convergence towards the **COP28 commitments**.
  - **COP28's** recognition of **transitioning towards carbon neutrality**, with emphasis on **Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)** and green hydrogen.
  - Role of technology deployment and cooperation, with tools such as the **Revamped India Energy Security Scenarios (IESS) 2047 dashboard** aiding informed decision-making.
  - Balancing energy security, access, and sustainability, with initiatives like the **PM-KUSUM Scheme** and solar rooftop programs promoting environmental sustainability and job creation.

### 26th World Energy Congress:

- **Theme: Redesigning Energy for People and Planet'**,
- This gathering marks the **World Energy Council's centenary in world energy**.
- According to the Council, the Congress seeks to explore the **role of connected energy societies in driving forward global energy transitions in a world context which is less predictable, more turbulent and faster-shifting**.

### World Energy Council India:

- **World Energy Council India is a country member of World Energy Council (WEC)**
- It is a global body **established in 1923**, with the aim of promoting sustainable supply and use of energy.
- WEC India is one of the **earliest country members of the World Energy Council**; it joined the Council in **1924**.
- WEC India functions under the patronage of the **Ministry of Power, Government of India and with the support of the Ministries of Coal, New & Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Natural Gas and External Affairs**.

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Why was the BJP candidate declared winner in Surat?

**Relevance:** Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.

**News:**

- Due to the rejection of nomination papers filed by the candidate set up by congress party, the BJP's candidate from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat has been declared elected unopposed.

#### Highlights:

- The candidate of the Congress party had filed three sets of nomination papers
  - The RO also received affidavits from the proposers claiming that they had not signed the nomination papers of the candidate.
- RO sought clarification from the candidate within a day on the objections raised.
  - As the proposers could not be produced before the RO within the stipulated time for scrutiny, all three sets of nomination papers were rejected.
- The **election rules allow for a substitute candidate** to be fielded by a political party. The nomination of this substitute candidate would be accepted if the nomination of the original candidate is rejected.
  - **However, the nomination paper of the substitute candidate was also rejected for the same reason.**
- However, it is unlikely that the EC would act on this request as **Article 329(b)** of the Constitution read with RP Act provides that no election shall be called into question except by an election petition **before the concerned High Court**.
- The RP Act provides that High Courts shall endeavor to conclude **such trials within six months**, which has mostly not been followed in the past.

#### Law for nomination: RPA, 1951

- **Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act)** contains the requirements for a valid nomination.
- As per the RP Act, an elector **above 25 years of age** can contest Lok Sabha election from any constituency in India.
  - The **proposer(s)** of the candidate should however be **elector(s) from that respective constituency where the nomination is being filed**.
  - In case of a **recognised party** (national or State), the **candidate needs to have one proposer**.
  - Candidates set up by **unrecognized parties and independents** need to be subscribed by **ten proposers**.
  - A candidate can file up to **four nomination papers** with different sets of proposers. This is to enable the acceptance of nomination of a candidate even if one set of nomination papers is in order.
- **Section 36 of the RP Act** sets out the law with respect to the scrutiny of nomination papers by the Returning Officer (RO).
- It provides that the RO shall not reject any nomination for a defect that is not of a substantial character.
  - It specifies that the signature of the candidate or proposer found not genuine is grounds for rejection.



## 10. On the National Clean Air Programme - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

**Context:**

- When the Indian government launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in 2019, it was to cut the concentration of atmospheric Particulate Matter (PM) by **20-30% by 2024, from 2017 levels.**
- This was later revised to **40% by 2026.**

<p><b>Key highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCAP's plan to fight air pollution Launched in 2019, NCAP targets cleaner air through city-specific plans.</li> <li>• Cities with consistently high pollution levels must create and implement these plans.</li> </ul> <p><b>NCAP's goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce air pollution through stricter controls</li> <li>• Improve air quality monitoring across India</li> <li>• Raise public awareness about air pollution</li> </ul>	<p><b>NCAP's funding and progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 10,000 crore rupees have been allocated for the program.</li> <li>• There have been delays in setting up air quality information centers and forecasting systems.</li> <li>• Only a portion of the allocated funds have been used so far.</li> <li>• While there's been good progress on continuous air monitoring stations, expanding the regular monitoring network is lagging behind.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges NCAP faces:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States haven't implemented the plans consistently.</li> <li>• Delays due to unclear procedures and lack of timelines.</li> <li>• Other hurdles include bureaucracy and doubts about the effectiveness of some measures.</li> </ul>
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**The way forward for NCAP:**

- Studies to pinpoint pollution sources are crucial.
- Air quality modeling can help understand the impact of pollution from faraway sources.
- Faster implementation on the ground is essential.
- Overall, achieving cleaner air will be challenging but necessary.
- NCAP's success depends on strong science, smart use of funds, and effective execution.

## Quick Look

### 1. Banded Krait

- Large Species of elapid Snakes
- Elapid Snakes- Family of snakes characterized by their permanently erect fangs at the front of the mouth
- Has High Neurotoxic Venom
- IUCN Status- Least Concern
- Found in tropical and Subtropical regions of the World, Found in India

### 2. Voyager 1 Spacecraft

- It is a space probe launched by NASA on September 5, 1977, about two weeks after its twin Voyager 2 to study the outer Solar System and beyond.
- Its mission has included flybys of Jupiter and Saturn, with the goal of studying their moons, rings and magnetic fields.
- It is currently the most distant human-made object from Earth.
- It was the first spacecraft to cross the heliosphere, the boundary where the influences outside our solar system are stronger than those from our Sun.
- It discovered a thin ring around Jupiter and two new Jovian moons: Thebe and Metis.
- At Saturn, Voyager 1 found five new moons and a new ring called the G-ring.
- Voyager 1 carries a golden record that contains sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth, in the event that it is ever encountered by extraterrestrial life.

### 3. Crystal Maze 2

- Also referred to as ROCKS, it is an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile.
- It is of Israeli origin.
- It is designed to target high-value stationary and relocatable assets, such as long-range radars and air defense systems, of potential adversaries.
- Distinguished from its predecessor, Crystal Maze 1, which has been inducted into the IAF from Israel previously, the Crystal Maze 2 boasts extended stand-off range capabilities as an air-to-surface missile.
- It is capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers. With options for either a penetration or blast fragmentation warhead, the missile is capable of destroying above-ground or well-protected underground targets.
- It is specifically effective in GPS-denied environments.

### 4. TINA Factor

- It stands for There Is No Alternative. It refers to a situation where investors perceive a particular asset class or investment as the best option available given the prevailing market conditions.
- This perception arises when other investment options are deemed unattractive due to factors such as low returns, high volatility or economic uncertainty.
- Essentially, people fearful of possible uncertainties in the future consider investing in the safest investment instrument.
- That is, prices rise to unrealistic heights due to a lack of reasonable alternatives.

- TINA has historically been a response to certain economic conditions where investments typically seen as safe have become less favorable.

## 5. Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)

- It is a rare but severe hemorrhagic fever which affects both people and non-human primates.
- It is caused by the Marburg virus, a genetically unique zoonotic (or, animal-borne) RNA virus of the filovirus family.
- It is in the same family as the virus that causes the Ebola virus
- Human infection with MVD initially results from prolonged exposure to mines or caves inhabited by Rousettus bats.
- Once an individual is infected with the virus, Marburg can spread through human-to-human transmission
  - Via direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people,
  - With surfaces and materials (e.g., bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids.



## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the following statements about sixth Schedule:**

1. It was based on the Bordoloi Committee formed by the Constituent Assembly.
2. This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
3. It gives the tribals freedom to exercise legislative and executive powers.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q2. Consider the following statements about Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):**

**Statement 1:** Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an important Central Asian organization.

**Statement 2:** Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are full time members of the organization.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q3. Consider the following Statements:**

**Statement I:** Article 31C of the Indian Constitution states that laws made by the state to implement the directive principles of Part IV (DPSPs) of Article 39 (b) and (c) cannot be challenged on the grounds of being violative of Article 14

**Statement II:** Article 31B of the Indian Constitution protects acts and regulations in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged and invalidated

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Pobitora wildlife sanctuary**

1. It is located on the northern bank of Brahmaputra in Assam.
2. It is known to have the highest concentration of one-horned rhinoceros globally.
3. It is often referred to as 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similarities with regards to the landscape and fauna to the Kaziranga national park.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q5. Consider the following statements about the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India:**

1. UPI is a real-time inter-bank transaction system regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. UPI requires users to share their bank account details with the merchant during the transaction.
3. UPI transactions are limited to small-value payments only.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q6. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** InvITs are recognized as borrowers under the 'SARFAESI Act, 2002'.

**Statement-II:** Interest income from the Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) is exempted from tax.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Gift Tax:**

- 1. Gift Tax was enacted By Gift Tax Act of 1953.
- 2. Gifts exceeding 50000 are subject to gift tax.
- 3. The gift is exempted from tax if it was given by a relative.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding World Energy Council (WEC)**

- 1. The World Energy Council is a body established in 1933 to promote sustainable supply and use of energy.
- 2. India is one of the earliest country members of the World Energy Council
- 3. WEC India functions under the patronage of the Ministry of Urban affairs.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Representation of people Act (1951)**

- 1. As per the Act, an elector above 21 years of age can contest Lok Sabha election from any constituency in India.
- 2. In case of a recognised party (national or State) the candidate needs to have two proposers.
- 3. Candidates set up by un-recognised parties and independents need to be subscribed by 5 proposers.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q10. Consider the following statements about National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

**Statement I:** NAAQs are the standards for ambient air quality with reference to various identified pollutant notified by the CPCB under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

**Statement II:** List of pollutants under NAAQS: PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO2, CO, NH3, Ozone, H2O (g), Benzene,

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

## Prelims Track Answer

### Answer 1 Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. **This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Hence Statement 2 is correct.**
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, the Sixth Schedule was formulated to provide the limited autonomy to the tribal regions of North-East.
- It was based on the reports of **Bardoloi Committee** formed by the Constituent Assembly. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- It gives the tribals freedom to exercise legislative and executive powers through an autonomous regional council and autonomous district councils (ADCs). **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 2 Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

- Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organization, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- These countries, except for Uzbekistan, had been members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996 in Shanghai. **Turkmenistan is not a member. Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan

### Answer 3 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- Article 31C of the Indian Constitution states that laws made by the state to implement the directive principles of Part IV (DPSPs) of Article 39 (b) and (c) cannot be challenged on the grounds of being violative of Article 14 (equality before the law) or Article 19. It was added to the Constitution in 1971 as part of the 25th Constitutional Amendment

- Article 31B of the Indian Constitution protects acts and regulations in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged and invalidated. The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws that cannot be challenged in courts. **Hence, both statement are correct**

### Answer 4 Option B is correct.

#### Explanation:

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district in Assam. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Pobitora's rhino population was pegged at 107 after the last census in 2022. The sanctuary has the highest concentration of the one-horned rhinos on earth. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- It is often referred to as 'Mini Kaziranga' owing to the similarity of landscape, flora, and fauna distribution. **Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 5 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

- UPI is a real-time inter-bank transaction system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) regulated by the RBI. It facilitates instant fund transfer between bank accounts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- UPI functions on a two-factor authentication system. Users do not need to share their bank account details with the merchant. Instead, a unique payment address (similar to an alias) is used. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- UPI transactions are not limited to small-value payments. While there might be individual transaction limits set by banks, UPI can handle a wide range of transactions. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**

### Answer 6 Option C is Correct

#### Explanation:

- Both interest and dividend are taxed from the InvIT as per the income tax slab.. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- InvITs are recognized as borrowers under the SARFAESI Act 2002.. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

## Answer 7 Option B is Correct

### Explanation:

- The Parliament of India introduced the Gift Tax Act in **1958**, and gift tax is essentially the tax charged on the receipt of gifts. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect.**
- The Income Tax Act states that gifts whose value exceeds Rs.50,000 are subject to gift tax in the hands of the recipient. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The gift is exempted from tax if it was given by a relative. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

## Answer 8 Option A is correct.

### Explanation:

- World Energy Council (WEC) is a global body established in 1923, with the aim of promoting sustainable supply and use of energy. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- WEC India is one of the earliest country members of the World Energy Council; it joined the Council in 1924. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- WEC India functions under the patronage of the Ministry of Power, Government of India and with the support of the Ministries of Coal, New & Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Natural Gas and External Affairs. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

## Answer 9 Option D is correct.

### Explanation:

- As per the Act, an elector above 25 years of age can contest Lok Sabha election from any constituency in India. The proposer(s) of the candidate should however be elector(s) from that respective constituency where the nomination is being filed. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- In case of a recognised party (national or State) the candidate needs to have one proposer. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Candidates set up by un-recognised parties and independents need to be subscribed by 10 proposers. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

## Answer 10 Option C is correct

### Explanation

- NAAQs are the standards for ambient air quality with reference to various identified pollutant notified by the CPCB under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- List of pollutants under NAAQS: PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO2, CO, NH3, Ozone, Lead, Benzene, **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**



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 +91-9477560001 /002/005

 [info@geoias.com](mailto:info@geoias.com)

 BRANCH: Delhi Kolkata, Raipur, Patna |  
HEAD OFFICE: 641, Ramlal Kapoor Marg,  
Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, 110009

 [www.geoias.com](http://www.geoias.com)