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**CLAT
2026**

GK BOOSTER 4.0

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GK BOOSTER 2026

The GK Score Booster Series

Presented by:

National Law Training Institute (NLTI)

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A Heartfelt Note from NLTI <3

Dear CLAT Aspirant,

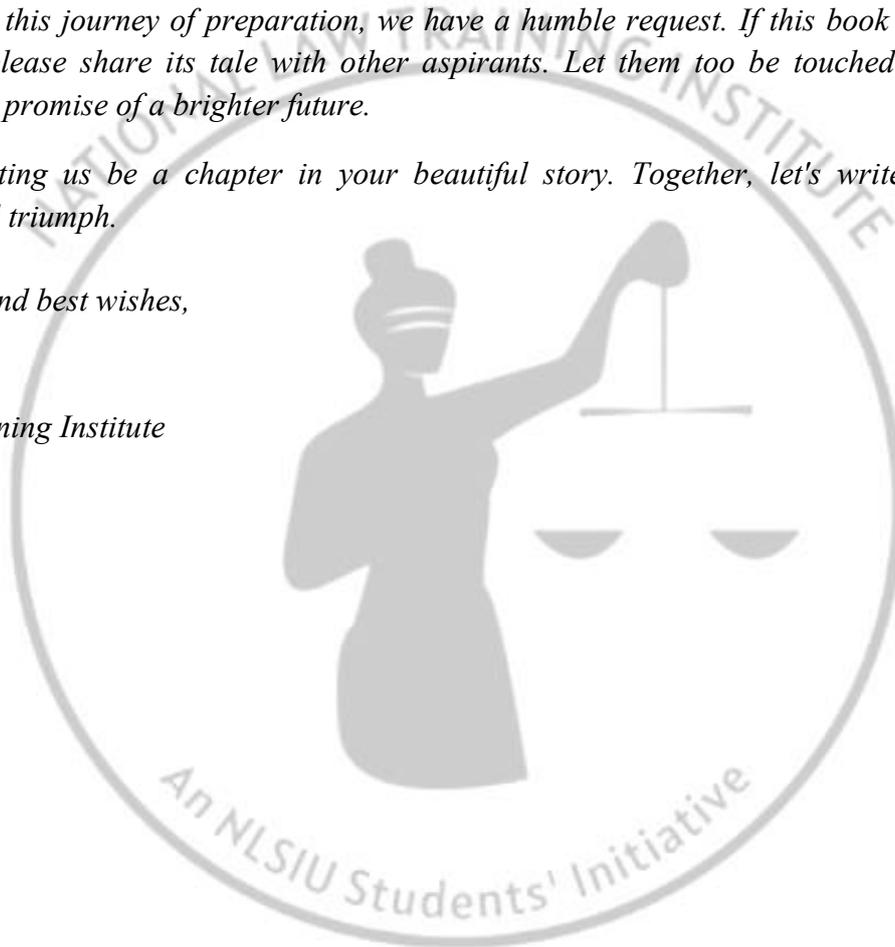
In the quiet moments, as you turn the pages of this book, imagine our hearts swelling with gratitude and pride. Like a trusted companion, our GK Booster Book has found its way to you, and in its pages, we've poured our passion, dreams, and hopes for your success. Remember, we trust you, and most importantly, trust yourself.

Over the next two months, let this book be your dance partner in the waltz of knowledge. Each fact, each insight, has been woven with care, hoping to light up your path to your dream college. We believe in the magic within you, and with this book by your side, the stars are aligned for your success.

As you embark on this journey of preparation, we have a humble request. If this book resonates with your heart and mind, please share its tale with other aspirants. Let them too be touched by the romance of knowledge and the promise of a brighter future.

Thank you for letting us be a chapter in your beautiful story. Together, let's write a tale of dreams, determination, and triumph.

*With all our love and best wishes,
Anish
Founder,
National Law Training Institute*



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK EFFECTIVELY FOR CLAT AND AILET 2026

Preparing for the General Knowledge and Current Affairs section of CLAT and AILET is unlike preparing for any other subject. Unlike Legal Reasoning or Quantitative Techniques, there is no set syllabus; questions are drawn from an ever-evolving body of news and issues. This makes the preparation journey both challenging and strategic.

The GK Booster has been designed as a **dual-purpose resource**: it can function as your primary learning material if you are behind in GK, or as a practice and testing tool if you are already on track. But to truly benefit, you must approach this book with clarity on how to study from it, when to use it, and how to integrate it with your larger preparation plan.

I. Using the Book as Your Primary Resource (For Backlog Coverage)

Many aspirants reach the final months before CLAT and AILET with a backlog in GK. If you have not been able to follow monthly compendiums or prepare your own notes, this book is designed to act as your **one-stop solution**.

- **Coverage of Expected Areas:** The questions are drawn from the most relevant developments, ensuring you don't waste time on peripheral news.
- **Explanatory Add-Ons:** Each answer is supported with background context, giving you both the direct fact and the "story behind the fact," which makes retention easier.
- **Active Learning:** Instead of passively reading compendiums, you are constantly engaging with questions, which promotes active recall and reduces the forgetting curve.

How to approach:

Set aside 60–90 minutes daily for a fixed number of questions (e.g., 25–30). First attempt them without looking at the answers, then check explanations and update your personal "error log." If you continue this process consistently, you can clear your backlog in a matter of weeks.

II. Using the Book as a Practice and Testing Tool (For Ongoing Learners)

If you have been doing your compendiums, coaching notes, or personal current affairs diary, then this book becomes your **most important practice weapon**. The exam will not ask you to reproduce notes; it will ask you to recall, analyse, and eliminate options under pressure.

- **Identify Strengths and Weaknesses:** By working through these questions, you will know whether you are stronger in international affairs, economics, law, or environment, and where you need remedial work.
- **Simulated Recall:** Each passage-based question is designed in the CLAT/AILET style, forcing you to recall and apply information under conditions that mirror the exam.
- **Performance Benchmarking:** Set weekly practice tests for yourself using sections of this book and track your accuracy rate. Aim for at least **70–75% accuracy consistently**, since this aligns with the safe score range observed in recent years.

III. A Structured Routine for Maximum Efficiency

To make the most of this book, integrate it into your preparation schedule in a systematic way. Here is a suggested approach tailored for CLAT and AILET 2026:

Daily Routine:

- Attempt 25–30 questions under timed conditions (30–40 minutes).
- Review explanations thoroughly.
- Maintain a notebook for mistakes and tricky facts; revisit them every Sunday.

Weekly Routine:

- Select one full month's set (100–200 questions, depending on the section) and treat it as a mini-mock.
- Analyse your performance subject-wise (polity, international affairs, economics, science & tech, awards, legal developments).
- Revisit recurring errors and update your revision sheet.

Monthly Routine:

1. Revise all previously attempted questions in a spaced manner (repetition is key).
2. Track accuracy improvement by comparing results month-on-month.
3. Balance time between compendiums (for comprehensive coverage) and this booklet (for exam-simulated recall).

IV. Best Practices for GK Preparation with this Book

1. **Spaced Repetition:** Don't just attempt once and forget. Re-attempt the same section after 15–20 days. Memory research shows that this dramatically improves retention.
2. **Error Log:** Maintain a separate sheet for mistakes. By December, this condensed error list will serve as your **final revision capsule**.
3. **Integration with Mocks:** After every mock test, revisit relevant questions from this book to plug gaps.
4. **The Elimination Method:** Use this book to practice smart guessing. Even if you don't know the answer, train yourself to eliminate 2–3 options, which is often the difference between a top rank and an average score.
5. **Revision Before Exam:** In the last 30–40 days before CLAT and AILET, attempt this booklet in a fast, revisional manner—two months' worth of content every week—so that the entire year's GK remains fresh.

Final Word

This book is not merely a question bank. It is a **strategic tool**:

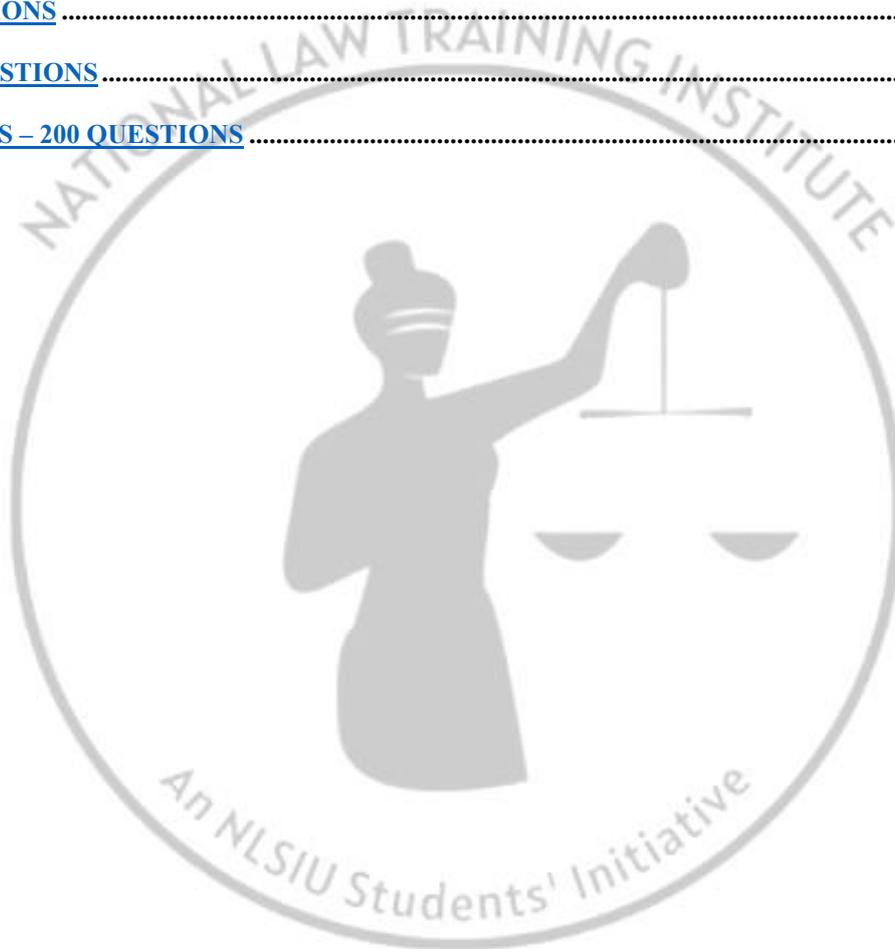
- For those with a backlog, it compresses vast GK into a manageable and exam-relevant format.
- For those already prepared, it ensures **active recall, exam conditioning, and error analysis**.

Remember: in competitive exams like CLAT and AILET, knowledge alone does not secure marks. **The ability to recall and apply knowledge under timed conditions does.** Used wisely, the GK Booster will not only cover your gaps but also sharpen your strengths, ensuring that when you enter the examination hall in December 2025, you are fully prepared to meet the challenge head-on.



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APRIL 2025

PASSAGE 1: World Happiness Report

For over a decade, the World Happiness Report has shown that social connections are important drivers of happiness, both at the individual and national level, and across cultures. Using novel data for 142 countries and territories collected by Gallup in 2022 and 2023, we find stark differences in rates of meal sharing around the world. Social connections are critically important for human health, happiness, and prosperity. People who are more socially connected tend to be happier, less stressed, more satisfied with their lives, less prone to depression, more engaged in their communities, and less likely to suffer from disease or disability. In their professional lives, people with more social connections are more creative, cooperative, trusting, and likely to be promoted. They are less likely to commit crimes, earn higher levels of income, and live longer lives. At the same time, social isolation and loneliness are strongly associated with negative life outcomes. The absence of social ties has been linked to higher rates of disease, shorter life expectancies, lower levels of subjective well-being, higher rates of criminality, and greater support for authoritarianism. Social connections are not only important for individual health and happiness, but also for societal health and well-being. People who are more connected to one another are more trusting of others and have greater faith in institutions. They are more likely to donate to charity, be more politically engaged, and report higher levels of pride in their communities. They tend to be more considerate and compassionate, not only towards friends and family, but also towards strangers. They are more likely to volunteer time to help those

(Source: <https://worldhappiness.report>)

1. Which country has been ranked as the happiest in the world for the eighth consecutive year in the World Happiness Report 2025?

- (a) Denmark
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Finland
- (d) Norway

2. What was India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2025?

- (a) 126
- (b) 92
- (c) 109
- (d) 118

3. Which South Asian country ranked highest in the World Happiness Report 2025?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Sri Lanka

4. What is the theme of the International Day of Happiness 2025?

- (a) Happiness for All
- (b) Caring and Sharing
- (c) Global Well-being
- (d) Unity in Diversity

5. Consider the following statements regarding the World Happiness Report 2025:

- I. The report is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- II. The rankings are based on a three-year average of life evaluations from 2022 to 2024.
- III. The happiness score is determined solely by GDP per capita and healthy life expectancy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II, and III

ANSWER KEY

1. **(c) Finland**

Explanation: Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world for the eighth consecutive year in the World Happiness Report 2025.

2. **(d) 118**

Explanation: India was ranked 118th in the World Happiness Report 2025, showing an improvement from 126th in the previous report.

3. **(b) Nepal**

Explanation: Among South Asian countries, Nepal ranked the highest at 92nd place, ahead of Pakistan (109), India (118), Sri Lanka (133), and Bangladesh (134).

4. **(b) Caring and Sharing**

Explanation: The theme of the International Day of Happiness 2025 was “Caring and Sharing,” highlighting compassion and togetherness.

5. **(a) I and II only**

Explanation: The report is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford with Gallup and SDSN, and rankings are based on a three-year average (2022–2024). However, happiness scores are not based solely on GDP and life expectancy, but also on social support, freedom, generosity, and perceptions of corruption.

Passage 2: Disturbed Areas under AFSPA

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Sunday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers and immunity from prosecution unless approved by the Centre, for six months in the entire Manipur, except the jurisdictions of 13 police stations, for [X] months. The AFSPA, which is imposed in areas declared "disturbed", has also been extended to eight districts in Nagaland and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the state for six months, according to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry. The law was also extended to Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and three police station areas in Namsai district in the state for six months beginning April 1. The AFSPA, often criticised as a draconian law, gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest, and open fire if they deem it necessary.

(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/home-ministry-extends-afspa-in-parts-of-manipur-nagaland-arunachal-pradesh/articleshow/119752058.cms?from=mdr>)

6. What has been redacted by [X] in the passage?

- (a) Three Months
- (b) Six Months
- (c) Nine Months
- (d) Twelve Months

7. In which year was the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) passed?

- (a) 1950
- (b) 1952
- (c) 1958
- (d) 1962

8. According to Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), which of the following has the primary authority empowered to declare an area as "disturbed"?

- (a) The President of India
- (b) The Prime Minister of India
- (c) The Governor of the State/Union Territory
- (d) The Chief Minister of the State/Union Territory

9. In which state was AFSPA imposed for the first time?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Jammu & Kashmir

10. Which of the following is NOT a state where AFSPA is currently applicable?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Jammu & Kashmir
- (d) Meghalaya

ANSWER KEY

6. (b) Six Months

Explanation: Preventive detention without approval of an Advisory Board can extend up to six months under constitutional provisions.

7. (c) 1958

Explanation: The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was enacted in 1958, initially to deal with insurgency in the North-East.

8. (c) The Governor of the State/Union Territory

Explanation: Under Section 3 of AFSPA, the Governor of a State or UT (or the Central Government) can declare an area as "disturbed."

9. (c) Assam

Explanation: AFSPA was first imposed in Assam in 1958, following insurgency in the region.

10. (d) Meghalaya

Explanation: AFSPA is currently applicable in Nagaland, parts of Manipur, and Jammu & Kashmir, but not in Meghalaya.

PASSAGE 3: Parliament Hikes MPs Salary and the 8th Pay Commission

The Central government Monday notified a 24 per cent hike in the salaries of members of Parliament, with retrospective effect from April 1, 2023. An MP will now get Rs 1.24 lakh per month as salary as against Rs 1 lakh per month they received so far. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also notified an increase in the daily allowances for sitting MPs and pension and additional pension for every year of service in excess of five

years for former members. MPs can draw daily allowances while attending Parliament sessions and meetings of parliamentary committees. The notification said that the daily allowance has been hiked from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500, and the pension for former MPs from Rs 25,000 per month has also been changed. The additional pension for every year of service in excess of five years has been increased from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 2,500 per month. The last hike in salaries given to MPs was in February 2018 revised from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Until February 2018, the Parliament had the power to pass laws to revise the salaries of MPs. Parliament amended the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 to increase the salary, daily allowance, and pension of MPs every five years based on the cost inflation index provided under the Income Tax Act. expression

(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/mp-salary-24-percent-hike-parliament-9903385/>)

11. Under which Act was the mechanism established to revise Members of Parliament's salaries and pensions every five years based on the Cost Inflation Index (CII)?

- (a) Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952
- (b) Finance Act, 2018
- (c) Members of Parliament Act, 1954
- (d) Income Tax Act, 1961

12. What is the Cost Inflation Index (CII) value for the financial year 2024-25, indicating the rise in prices since the base year 2001?

- (a) 289
- (b) 301
- (c) 317
- (d) 363

13. According to the India Employment Report 2024, what was the average real wage for regular salaried workers in 2023?

- (a) ₹10,925
- (b) ₹10,790
- (c) ₹11,050
- (d) ₹10,500

14. According to the established government framework, which of the following statements about the Pay Commission in India is CORRECT?

- (a) A new Pay Commission is formed every five years by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (b) The Pay Commission is headed by the Finance Minister and its recommendations apply only to the defence sector.
- (c) A new Pay Commission is set up every 10 years under the Department of Expenditure, and its recommendations influence both central and state-owned organizations.
- (d) The Pay Commission reviews public-sector unit salaries annually and requires Cabinet clearance for every revision.

15. The Central government recently notified a 24% hike in MPs' salaries, with retrospective effect from April 1, 2023. Which of the following statements is CORRECT in this context?

- (a) MPs' monthly salary has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.24 lakh, and their daily allowance from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.
- (b) The pension for former MPs remains fixed at ₹25,000 per month without any additional benefits.
- (c) The last revision of MPs' salaries before 2023 was in February 2015, when it was raised from ₹30,000 to ₹50,000.
- (d) MPs cannot draw daily allowances while attending parliamentary committee meetings.

ANSWER KEY

11. B) Finance Act, 2018

Explanation: The Finance Act, 2018 introduced the mechanism for automatic revision of MPs' salaries and pensions every five years, linked to the Cost Inflation Index (CII).

12. D) 363

Explanation: The Cost Inflation Index (CII) notified by the Government of India for the financial year 2024-25 is 363.

13. A) ₹10,925

Explanation: According to the India Employment Report 2024, the average real wage for regular salaried workers in 2023 was ₹10,925.

14. C) A new Pay Commission is set up every 10 years under the Department of Expenditure, and its recommendations influence both central and state-owned organizations.

Explanation: Pay Commissions in India are constituted roughly every decade by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, and impact salaries across the government and PSU sectors.

15. (a) MPs' monthly salary has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.24 lakh, and their daily allowance from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.

Explanation: As per the government notification (April 2023, retrospective), MPs' salaries were hiked by 24% (₹1 lakh → ₹1.24 lakh), daily allowance increased (₹2,000 → ₹2,500), and pensions were revised. The other options are factually incorrect.

PASSAGE 4: BR Gavai to be appointed as the new CJI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday recommended Justice B.R. Gavai, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor. Justice Gavai is expected to be sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14. Justice Khanna was appointed as CJI on November 11, 2024, succeeding former CJI D Y Chandrachud, who retired on November 10. Khanna is due to retire on May 13, having served a tenure of six months. The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years. Justice Gavai's tenure as CJI will span over six months, concluding on November 23. As per the established practice of the senior-most judge being named as the successor, CJI Khanna wrote to the Central government recommending Justice Gavai's name. According to the Memorandum of Procedure, the Centre requests the outgoing CJI to name their successor approximately one month prior to retirement. Justice Gavai was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 29, 2019. He was first appointed as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2003 and became a permanent judge in November 2005. Before his elevation to the Bench, Justice Gavai practiced Constitutional and Administrative Law. He served as Standing Counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation, and Amravati University. He was appointed Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor at the Bombay High Court (Nagpur Bench) in August 1992, serving until July 1993. He later became Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench on January 17, 2000. In the Supreme Court, Justice Gavai was part of a 7-judge Constitution Bench that dealt with whether sub-classification within reserved category groups is permissible under the Constitution for more targeted affirmative action.

(Source: <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/justice-b-r-gavai-recommended-as-next-chief-justice-of-india/>)

16. Justice B.R. Gavai was sworn in as the _____ Chief Justice of India

- (a) 51st
- (b) 52nd
- (c) 53rd
- (d) 48th

17. Justice B.R. Gavai is the second Dalit CJI. Who was the first?

- (a) Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

- (b) Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah
- (c) Justice S.R. Babu
- (d) Justice U.U. Lalit

18. The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over federal disputes under which Article?

- (a) Article 121
- (b) Article 129
- (c) Article 131
- (d) Article 132

19. Which Article confers unique power on the Supreme Court to do complete justice?

- (a) Article 142
- (b) Article 145
- (c) Article 144
- (d) Article 141

20. Who was the first Judge against whom impeachment proceedings were initiated?

- (a) C.V. Nagarjuna Reddy
- (b) J.B. Pardiwala
- (c) Soumitra Sen
- (d) V. Ramaswami

ANSWER KEY

16. C) 53rd

Explanation: Justice B.R. Gavai was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India in 2025.

17. A) Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

Explanation: Justice K.G. Balakrishnan was the first Dalit Chief Justice of India (2007–2010); Justice Gavai is the second.

18. C) Article 131

Explanation: Article 131 grants the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes between the Union and States or between States.

19. A) Article 142

Explanation: Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass decrees or orders necessary for doing complete justice in any matter.

20. D) V. Ramaswami

Explanation: Justice V. Ramaswami was the first Judge of the Supreme Court against whom impeachment proceedings were initiated in 1991.

PASSAGE 5: Pahalgam Valley Attack

At least two dozen people have been killed after gunmen opened fire on a group of domestic tourists visiting a popular beauty spot in Indian-administered Kashmir, authorities have told the BBC. The attack took place in Pahalgam, a picturesque town in the Himalayas often described as the "Switzerland of India". The region's chief minister, Omar Abdullah, said the attack was "much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years". Reports suggest that there are a large number of wounded, with some in critical condition. US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and EU chief Ursula Von der Leyen were among world leaders who condemned the attacks. Tuesday's attack is unusual in that, in three and a half

decades of conflict, tourists have rarely been targeted - especially on such a scale. The last major attack on civilians occurred in June 2024 when nine people were killed and 33 were injured after militants opened fire on a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims. In 2019, a suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir killed at least 46 soldiers and prompted Indian airstrikes on targets in Pakistan.

(Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9vyzzyjzlo>)

21. Where did the terrorist attack that killed 28 people, mostly tourists, take place?

- (a) Srinagar
- (b) Baisaran Valley
- (c) Attari
- (d) Wagah

22. Which organization claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam?

- (a) Jaish-e-Mohammed
- (b) Hizbul Mujahideen
- (c) The Resistance Front
- (d) Lashkar-e-Taiba

23. The terrorist attack in Pahalgam occurred during whose visit to India?

- (a) US President
- (b) US Vice President JD Vance
- (c) Pakistani Prime Minister
- (d) UN Secretary General

24. Which water treaty did India suspend as part of its 5-point action plan against Pakistan?

- (a) Indus Waters Treaty
- (b) Simla Agreement
- (c) SAARC Water Accord
- (d) Ganges Water Treaty

25. Under which article of the Vienna Convention can a country withdraw from a treaty due to fundamental change in circumstances?

- (a) Article 50
- (b) Article 56
- (c) Article 62
- (d) Article 70

ANSWER KEY

21. B) Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam

Explanation: The terrorist attack that killed 28 people, mostly tourists, took place at Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir.

22. C) The Resistance Front

Explanation: The Resistance Front (TRF), a Pakistan-backed terrorist outfit, claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.

23. B) US Vice President JD Vance

Explanation: The Pahalgam attack coincided with the visit of US Vice President JD Vance to India.

24. A) Indus Waters Treaty

Explanation: As part of its 5-point action plan against Pakistan, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs water sharing between the two countries.

25. C) Article 62

Explanation: Under Article 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a country can withdraw from a treaty if there is a fundamental change in circumstances.

PASSAGE 6: Pope Francis passes away

Pope Francis, the first Latin-American pontiff, renowned for his outspoken advocacy for the poor and insistence on a more welcoming Catholic Church, has died at the age of 88. Francis was a pope of firsts – the first pontiff from the global south, the first Jesuit to be chosen as leader of the Catholic Church, and the first to call himself Francis. Before taking up office, he had never lived or worked in Rome. A disruptor and outsider to the church's establishment, his reforms faced strong resistance from powerful minorities within Catholicism and political forces without. Francis spent his final days in service of the church, participating as much as he could in the celebration of Easter, the high point of the Christian calendar. He was unable to lead the main Holy Week services but appeared in a wheelchair on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to wish worshippers a happy Easter Sunday. To most believers, he will be remembered as a pastorally sensitive leader who sought to reconnect the church with the essentials of the Christian faith. Francis sought to follow his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century Italian friar renowned for poverty, peace, and care of creation. He made defence of the planet, the plight of migrants, and building peace through dialogue, the pillars of his papacy and sought to live out his vision of a humbler church, opting to reside not in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace but in its guesthouse, Casa Santa Marta.

(Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/04/21/europe/pope-francis-obituary-intl/index.html>)

26. When was Pope Francis born?

- (a) 17 December 1935
- (b) 17 December 1936
- (c) 17 December 1937
- (d) 17 December 1938

27. Where was Pope Francis born?

- (a) Rome, Italy
- (b) Buenos Aires, Argentina
- (c) Florence, Argentina
- (d) Vatican City

28. What number Pope was Francis in the history of the Roman Catholic Church?

- (a) 264th
- (b) 265th
- (c) 266th
- (d) 267th

29. What was Pope Francis' name before becoming Pope?

- (a) Francesco Bergoglio
- (b) Jorge Mario Bergoglio
- (c) Joseph Ratzinger
- (d) Mario Francesco Bergoglio

30. Who was Pope Francis' predecessor?

- (a) Pope John Paul II

- (b) Pope Benedict XVI
- (c) Pope John Paul I
- (d) Pope Pius XII

ANSWER KEY

26. B) 17 December 1936

Explanation: Pope Francis was born on 17 December 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

27. B) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Explanation: He was born in the Flores neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina.

28. C) 266th

Explanation: Pope Francis is the 266th Pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

29. B) Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Explanation: Before becoming Pope, he was known as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a Jesuit priest and Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

30. B) Pope Benedict XVI

Explanation: Pope Francis succeeded Pope Benedict XVI, who resigned in 2013, becoming the first Pope to step down in nearly 600 years.

PASSAGE 7: Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2025

The implementation by the Telangana government of Scheduled Caste sub-categorisation, almost a year after the Supreme Court verdict that permitted states to subclassify SCs and STs for reservation, is a welcome step towards deepening social justice. The Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2025, which received the Governor's assent on April 8 and was notified on April 14 on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary, divides SCs into three categories and distributes the prevailing SC reservation of 15 per cent among these groups. While Group I, consisting of 15 castes, will get 1 per cent of the share, Group II, comprising 18 castes, and Group III, consisting of 26 castes, will get a 9 and 5 per cent share, respectively.

Telangana's move to implement a graded reservation, the first state in India to do so for different castes within the SC communities, underscores three important points. One, SCs/STs are not homogeneous communities. Even during the early days of mobilisations of the most deprived castes, the word "Dalit" was yet to enter the vocabulary of resistance the differences among sub-castes were a matter of concern.

(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/telanganas-sc-sub-quotas-a-new-phase-in-social-justice-politics-9946357/>)

31. The first Constitutional Amendment to legalize caste-based reservation in India was enacted in:

- (a) 1947
- (b) 1951
- (c) 1955
- (d) 1963

32. Which article was added to the Constitution by the First Amendment to insert reservation provisions?

- (a) Article 14(4)
- (b) Article 15(4)

- (c) Article 16(4)
- (d) Article 17(4)

33. Which state became the first Indian state to officially implement sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Tamil Nadu

34. How many groups were Scheduled Castes divided into under the Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act 2025?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5

35. Who headed the Commission that recommended SC sub-categorization in Telangana?

- (a) Justice Ramachandra
- (b) Rajeev Ranjan Mishra
- (c) BP Mandal
- (d) SR Sinho

ANSWER KEY

31. B) 1951

Explanation: The First Constitutional Amendment Act, 1951, legalized caste-based reservation in India by enabling the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes.

32. B) Article 15(4)

Explanation: Article 15(4) was inserted by the First Amendment in 1951, empowering the state to make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for SCs and STs.

33. C) Telangana

Explanation: Telangana became the first state in India to implement sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes through the Telangana SC (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2025.

34. C) 4

Explanation: The Telangana law divided Scheduled Castes into four distinct groups to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits.

35. B) Rajeev Ranjan Mishra

Explanation: The Commission headed by Rajeev Ranjan Mishra recommended the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes in Telangana.

PASSAGE 8: 6th BIMSTEC Meeting

Last week's Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit, the sixth, which brought the leaders of seven neighbouring countries to Bangkok at a time of global turbulence, was an opportunity to reignite the regional grouping after years of stasis. Originally cast as a "bridging" mechanism between South Asia's SAARC and Southeast Asia's ASEAN countries, the grouping has languished due to a lack of purpose or due to political underpinnings. After the collapse of India-Pakistan

ties, post-2014, SAARC has made little movement, whereas the micro-grouping of Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal ran aground after the Bhutanese Parliament rejected the Motor Vehicles Agreement between them, as a result of which New Delhi has invested in BIMSTEC. While the objective of having a summit every two years was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, what is important is that the summit was held in spite of a possible derailment after the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. But the summit proved useful, given the number of agreements and areas of cooperation. These include a BIMSTEC chamber of commerce and work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that will connect India's North-East region, billed a BIMSTEC "hub", all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The BIMSTEC region is prone to natural disasters and building a joint mechanism for disaster management is critical. Negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) and Customs agreements are among other plans outlined in a 'Vision 2030' document that was adopted.

(Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-regional-revival-on-the-bimstec-summit/article69427340.ece>)

36. Where was the 6th BIMSTEC Summit held in 2025?

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Sri Lanka

37. What was the theme of the BIMSTEC Summit 2025?

- (a) Connectivity, Commerce, and Culture
- (b) Prosperous, Resilient and Open
- (c) Sustainable Development in South Asia
- (d) Regional Integration and Growth

38. Which country took over the BIMSTEC Chairmanship from Thailand during the summit?

- (a) India
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Bangladesh

39. What is the time horizon for the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision document adopted at the summit?

- (a) 2028
- (b) 2030
- (c) 2035
- (d) 2040

40. Which of the following agreements was signed to enhance connectivity between South and Southeast Asia?

- (a) Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation
- (b) Agreement on Digital Connectivity
- (c) Agreement on Air Services
- (d) Agreement on Road Transport

ANSWER KEY

36. (c) Thailand

Explanation: The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was hosted in Bangkok, Thailand (2025), continuing the grouping's tradition of rotational chairmanship.

37. (b) Prosperous, Resilient and Open

Explanation: The official theme of BIMSTEC 2025 was "Prosperous, Resilient and Open", highlighting regional cooperation in trade, connectivity, and sustainable growth.

38. (d) Bangladesh

Explanation: Bangladesh assumed the BIMSTEC Chairmanship from Thailand in 2025, reinforcing its leadership role in South Asian and Southeast Asian regional cooperation.

39. (b) 2030

Explanation: The BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030 sets a long-term strategic roadmap for regional integration and connectivity between South and Southeast Asia.

40. (a) Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation

Explanation: The BIMSTEC nations signed the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation to strengthen cross-border mobility, logistics, and trade routes across the Bay of Bengal region.

PASSAGE 9: UNESCO Adds Bhagavadgītā and Nāṭyaśāstra to Memory of the World Register

Two ancient Indian texts—the Bhagavadgītā and the Nāṭyaśāstra—have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Memory of the World Register, a list that recognises documentary heritage of global significance. The manuscripts were among 74 new additions to the Register announced this week by UNESCO. Their inclusion brings the total number of collections on the Register to 570. The Nāṭyaśāstra, attributed to Indian sage Bharatamuni, is widely regarded as the foundational treatise on Indian performing arts. Believed to have been codified around the 2nd century BCE, the text spans 36,000 verses. It outlines a comprehensive set of rules that define drama (nāṭya), performance (abhinaya), aesthetic experience (rasa), emotion (bhāva), and music (saṅgīta), providing a detailed framework that continues to influence theatre, poetics, aesthetics, dance, and music across India and rest of South Asia. The Bhagavadgītā, a 700-verse philosophical dialogue between Hindu divine figure Kṛṣṇa and warrior Arjuna, forms part of the Indian epic Mahābhārata. It represents one of India's most significant philosophical works, synthesising various schools of thought such as Vedic, Buddhist, Jain, and Cārvāka. Due to its philosophical depth, the Bhagavadgītā has been read globally for centuries, translated into numerous languages including French, German and Spanish, and remains widely studied by scholars. Both texts were submitted by India as part of its efforts to preserve and promote its documentary heritage. About the Memory of the World Programme: Established in 1992, the Memory of the World Programme aims to promote the preservation of – and universal access to – the documentary heritage of humanity. Often extremely fragile, this heritage is exposed to risks of deterioration and disasters.

(Source: <https://india.un.org/en/293100-unesco-adds-bhagavadg%C4%ABt%C4%81-and-n%C4%81%E1%B9%ADya%C5%9B%C4%81stra-memory-world-register>)

41. In 2025, how many new entries, including Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra manuscripts, were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register?

- (a) 72
- (b) 73
- (c) 74
- (d) 75

42. With these additions, how many inscriptions does India now hold on the Register?

- (a) 11
- (b) 12
- (c) 15
- (d) 14

43. UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme was launched in:

- (a) 1972
- (b) 1982
- (c) 1992
- (d) 2002

44. The total number of entries on UNESCO's Register after the 2025 update stands at:

- (a) 470
- (b) 520
- (c) 570
- (d) 620

45. Since 1997, the Register has been updated:

- (a) Annually
- (b) Biennially
- (c) Every three years
- (d) Every five years

ANSWER KEY

41. c) 74

Explanation: In 2025, UNESCO added 74 new entries to its Memory of the World Register, which included the manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra.

42. b) 12

Explanation: With these two manuscripts included, India's total number of inscriptions on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register rose to 12 (some sources say 13, but the Dutch East India Company archives were a joint submission by India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Sri Lanka).

43. c) 1992

Explanation: UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Programme in 1992 to safeguard and provide access to documentary heritage worldwide.

44. c) 570

Explanation: After the 2025 update, the Memory of the World Register now has 570 entries.

45. b) Biennially

Explanation: Since 1997, UNESCO has been updating the Register once every two years (biennially).

PASSAGE 10: World Heritage Day

Our heritage is not just built of stones, scripts or ruins. It lives in every whisper of a temple wall, every carving on ancient forts, and every folk song passed down through generations. It tells stories of who we were, what we stood for, and how we endured. World Heritage Day is a heartfelt reminder that these timeless treasures are not only to be admired but also protected. This year's theme reminds us that preserving our past is key to protecting our future. World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on X. It is also called the International Day for Monuments and Sites. The day is meant to honor and protect human heritage. It also appreciates the people and groups who work to preserve it. The day was started in 1982 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites. Later, in 1983, UNESCO officially adopted it. Every year, ICOMOS gives a special theme for the day. Based on this theme, people and groups hold events and activities around the world to celebrate and protect heritage. UNESCO, which stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, works to protect and preserve important cultural and natural heritage around the world. To help with this, UNESCO's member countries adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972. This agreement

explains what countries need to do to find and take care of special sites that can be added to the World Heritage List. India became part of this Convention in November 1977. Today, the World Heritage List includes 1,223 sites that are considered valuable to all of humanity. These include 952 cultural sites, 231 natural sites, and 40 sites that have both cultural and natural importance. As of October 2024, 196 countries have joined the World Heritage Convention.

(Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2122423>)

46. On which date is World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) observed each year?

- (a) 15 April
- (b) 16 April
- (c) 17 April
- (d) 18 April

47. Which global organization established World Heritage Day in 1982?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
- (c) ICCROM
- (d) UNGA

48. What was the primary objective behind the declaration of World Heritage Day?

- (a) To promote eco-tourism in World Heritage Sites
- (b) To raise awareness about cultural heritage and its preservation
- (c) To encourage governments to build new monuments
- (d) To recognize only UNESCO-listed sites

49. What was the theme of World Heritage Day 2025?

- (a) Heritage and Climate Change
- (b) Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility
- (c) Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts
- (d) Discover and Experience Diversity

50. Which of the following Indian monuments is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- (a) Hampi
- (b) Gateway of India
- (c) India Gate
- (d) Charminar

ANSWER KEY

46. D) 18 April

Explanation: World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed annually on 18 April to promote awareness of cultural heritage and the importance of its preservation.

47. B) ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

Explanation: The idea of World Heritage Day was first proposed by ICOMOS in 1982, and it was later endorsed by UNESCO in 1983, giving it global recognition.

48. B) To raise awareness about cultural heritage and its preservation

Explanation: The day was established with the core purpose of spreading awareness about the value of **cultural heritage** and encouraging its protection and conservation.

49. C) Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts

Explanation: The theme of World Heritage Day 2025 is “Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts”, highlighting the need to safeguard monuments and sites vulnerable to wars, natural calamities, and other crises.

50. A) Hampi

Explanation: Among the given options, Hampi in Karnataka is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized for its historical and architectural significance as the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

PASSAGE 11: Studio Ghibli

Social media has recently been flooded with images that look like they belong in a Studio Ghibli film. Selfies, family photos and even memes have been re-imagined with the soft pastel palette characteristic of the Japanese animation company founded by Hayao Miyazaki. This followed OpenAI's latest update to ChatGPT. The update significantly improved ChatGPT's image generation capabilities, allowing users to create convincing Ghibli-style images in mere seconds. It has been enormously popular – so much so, in fact, that the system crashed due to user demand. Generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT are best understood as “style engines”. And what we are seeing now is these systems offering users more precision and control than ever before. But this is also raising entirely new questions about copyright and creative ownership. For many artists, there's something deeply unsettling about seeing their distinctive artistic approaches reduced to just another “style” that anyone can apply with a simple text prompt. Hayao Miyazaki has not publicly commented on the recent trend of people using ChatGPT to generate images in his world-famous animation style. But he has been critical of AI previously. Traditionally, copyright law doesn't protect styles – only specific expressions. You can't copyright a music genre such as “ska” or an art movement such as “impressionism”. This limitation exists for good reason. If someone could monopolise an entire style, it would stifle creative expression for everyone else. But there's a difference between general styles and highly distinctive ones that become almost synonymous with someone's identity. When an AI can generate work “in the style of Greg Rutkowski” – a Polish artist whose name was reportedly used in over more than 93,000 prompts in AI image generator Stable Diffusion – it potentially threatens both his livelihood and artistic legacy.

(Source: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2025/04/03/chatgpt-s-studio-ghibli-style-images-show-its-creative-power.html>)

51. Who co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985, the world-famous Japanese animation studio?

- (a) Mamoru Hosoda
- (b) Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata
- (c) Satoshi Kon and Hideaki Anno
- (d) Makoto Shinkai and Yoshiyuki Tomino

52. Which of the following critically acclaimed films was produced by Studio Ghibli and won an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature?

- (a) Spirited Away
- (b) Your Name
- (c) Grave of the Fireflies
- (d) Weathering With You

53. A major concern regarding the global popularity of Studio Ghibli films is:

- (a) Declining interest in Japanese culture
- (b) Over-commercialization leading to dilution of traditional themes
- (c) Excessive government censorship of animation content
- (d) Lack of technological innovation compared to Western studios

54. Under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, what is the standard duration of copyright protection for a literary, dramatic, musical, or artistic work after the death of the author?

- (a) 30 years
- (b) 50 years
- (c) 60 years
- (d) 70 years

55. The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is guaranteed under which Article of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19(1)(a)
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 32

ANSWER KEY

51. (b) Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata

Explanation: Studio Ghibli was founded in 1985 by visionary filmmakers Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata, along with producer Toshio Suzuki. It became globally famous for its hand-drawn animation style and deep storytelling.

52. (a) Spirited Away

Explanation: Spirited Away (2001), directed by Hayao Miyazaki, won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2003, making it the first non-English animated film to receive the honor.

53. (b) Over-commercialization leading to dilution of traditional themes

Explanation: Critics argue that the global demand for Studio Ghibli content risks over-commercialization, potentially diluting the studio's emphasis on traditional Japanese culture, environmentalism, and humanist values.

54. (c) 60 years

Explanation: Under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, copyright in literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works lasts for the lifetime of the author plus 60 years after their death.

55. (b) Article 19(1)(a)

Explanation: The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution. However, it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2), such as public order, decency, and security of the State.

PASSAGE 12: Suspension of Indus water treaty

India on Thursday officially informed Pakistan about its decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance with immediate effect, saying that Islamabad has breached the conditions of the treaty. The decision was detailed in a letter from Debashree Mukherjee, India's Secretary of Water Resources, to her Pakistani counterpart, Syed Ali Murtaza, reported PTI. The letter said that sustained cross-border terrorism by Pakistan targeting Jammu and Kashmir impedes India's rights under the Indus Waters Treaty. India on Wednesday had announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, a day after 26 people, including tourists, were gunned down in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. The move is among the five big punitive actions taken by New Delhi against Islamabad in the wake of the terror attack. Brokered by the World Bank, which is also a signatory, the Indus Waters Treaty sets out a mechanism for water sharing and information exchange between the two nuclear-armed neighbours for the use of the Indus River water and its five tributaries Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab. The treaty was signed after negotiations for over nine years which followed the first war over Kashmir. Former US President Dwight Eisenhower described it as

“one bright spot ... in a very depressing world picture that we see so often.” It allocates waters from the Western rivers (Chenab, Jhelum and Indus) to Pakistan and the Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India for unrestricted use. India is allowed to extract water from the western rivers for certain non-consumptive, agricultural, domestic use and hydroelectric power generation.

(Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-notifies-pakistan-about-indus-waters-treaty-suspension-breached-treaty-conditions-101745516032072.html>)

56. According to the Indus Waters Treaty, which group of rivers was allocated to India for exclusive and unrestricted use?

- (a) Sutlej, Beas, Ravi
- (b) Indus, Sutlej, Chenab
- (c) Jhelum, Ravi, Beas
- (d) Ganga, Yamuna, Sutlej

57. Who acted as the mediator in facilitating the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) United States
- (c) World Bank
- (d) International Monetary Fund

58. Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, which rivers were allocated to Pakistan for unrestricted use?

- (a) Ravi, Beas, Sutlej
- (b) Indus, Jhelum, Chenab
- (c) Ganga, Yamuna, Sutlej
- (d) Chenab, Beas, Ravi

59. What is the first level of dispute resolution provided under the Indus Waters Treaty framework?

- (a) Court of Arbitration
- (b) Neutral Expert
- (c) Permanent Indus Commission
- (d) International Court of Justice

60. How frequently does the Permanent Indus Commission meet to discuss matters related to the implementation of the treaty?

- (a) Once every six months
- (b) Once every year
- (c) Twice a year
- (d) Once every five years

ANSWER KEY

56. A) Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

Explanation: The Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 allocated the three eastern rivers Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi — to India for unrestricted use, mainly for irrigation, domestic, and industrial purposes.

57. C) World Bank

Explanation: The World Bank mediated and played a key role in the successful negotiation and signing of the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960.

58. B) Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

Explanation: Under the treaty, the three western rivers Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan for unrestricted use, while India retained limited rights for non-consumptive use.

59. C) Permanent Indus Commission

Explanation: The Permanent Indus Commission, consisting of representatives from both countries, is the first level of dispute resolution under the treaty. It addresses technical issues and misunderstandings before escalation.

60. C) Twice a year

Explanation: As per the treaty, the Permanent Indus Commission is mandated to meet at least twice every year, alternately in India and Pakistan, to discuss implementation and exchange data.

PASSAGE 13: Genome India Project

Indian biologists on Tuesday announced establishing a genome database of 10,000 unrelated but "healthy" Indians from 83 diverse population groups, creating a unique platform that in the future can kickstart 'precision medicine'. The five-year research effort has uncovered over 18 crore unique differences in DNA, of which 60 per cent are considered "rare", and captured "the genetic diversity of one of the highly under-represented populations in the global genomics landscape." "The Genome India project provides a basis to understand the genetic diversity of healthy Indians and gives a perspective to evaluate the genetic variations of diseases in the future," Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, which spearheaded the project, told DH. The database is likely to accelerate research on precision medicine, which aims to provide personalised treatment for an individual or tailor treatments for specific population groups. An in-depth understanding of genetic factors underlying different diseases is essential to attain such a goal. This is where the Genome India project is expected to come in handy. For instance, in cancer studies, if certain genetic changes are found among Indians, one can go back to the database and check if those are disease-causing genes or whether such mutations are present in healthy individuals too. "It is baseline data that will be used by scientists to identify disease-specific mutations and to take forward development of India-specific precision medicine," said Nidhan Biswas at National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani, one of the key scientists involved in the pan-India project.

(Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/science/a-unique-genome-database-of-10000-healthy-indians-is-ready-for-use-3484456>)

61. The Genome India Project, launched in January 2020, is primarily supported and funded by which government body?

- (a) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- (b) Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- (c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (d) NITI Aayog

62. What was the major achievement of Phase 1 of the Genome India Project?

- (a) Sequencing of 1,000 genomes from metropolitan cities
- (b) Detailed quality checks and genotyping of 5,750 samples, revealing rare variations
- (c) Creation of genome arrays for crops
- (d) Establishment of an international database in collaboration with WHO

63. Where is the genetic data collected under the Genome India Project securely stored?

- (a) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- (b) Indian Biological Data Centre, Faridabad
- (c) National Genomics Centre, Hyderabad
- (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

64. The project comes under which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (c) Ministry of AYUSH
- (d) Ministry of Education

65. What does genetic screening primarily aim to identify?

- (a) Nutritional deficiencies in populations
- (b) Individuals at risk of a disorder or carrying a specific gene mutation
- (c) Evolutionary patterns in human history
- (d) Variations in plant and animal genomes

ANSWER KEY

61. (b) Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

Explanation: The Genome India Project is a multi-institution consortium funded and supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Government of India.

62. (b) Detailed quality checks and genotyping of 5,750 samples revealing rare variations

Explanation: In Phase 1, the project successfully performed detailed quality checks and joint genotyping of 5,750 genomes, uncovering rare genetic variations unique to Indian populations.

63. (b) Indian Biological Data Centre, Faridabad

Explanation: The genomic data collected under the project is securely stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) in Faridabad, Haryana, which serves as a national repository for biological data.

64. (b) Ministry of Science and Technology

Explanation: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), which funds and oversees the Genome India Project, functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

65. (b) Individuals at risk of a disorder or carrying a specific gene mutation

Explanation: Genetic screening is a tool used to identify individuals who are either at higher risk of developing a disorder or who carry specific gene mutations that may lead to genetic conditions.

PASSAGE 14: Waqf Act challenged in the court

A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan, heard a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, on Wednesday, April 16. The act, which came into force on April 8, was passed by the Parliament houses in March and received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on April 5. In Lok Sabha, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill received 232 votes in favour, while in Rajya Sabha, 128 voted for the legislation. The pleas against the Waqf Act have been filed by several opposition parties and leaders, including the Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Aam Aadmi Party, YSRCP, and AIMIM, among others. NGOs and organisations such as the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board have also moved the top court against it. Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said that the government's intention was to ensure there is no provision for anyone in India to "forcefully and unilaterally" take over another person's land. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, in his plea in the Supreme Court against the Waqf Act, said that the law "brazenly violates the fundamental rights of Muslims and the Muslim community". While oppositions have moved the top court to challenge the legality of the law, several states, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan, have joined in on the side to defend the Waqf law.

(Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/waqf-act-sc-hearing-live-updates-cji-khanna-murshidabad-aimim-bjp-supreme-court-waqf-amendment-act-centre-101744774728607.html>)

66. Who is leading the Supreme Court bench examining the constitutional challenges to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025?

- (a) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- (b) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- (c) Justice B.V. Nagarathna
- (d) Justice Uday Umesh Lalit

67. What is the major change introduced by the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, concerning the Central Waqf Council?

- (a) Increase in Muslim representation
- (b) Mandatory inclusion of at least two non-Muslim members
- (c) Removal of the Council's appellate powers
- (d) Transfer of its responsibilities to state governments

68. Petitioners have challenged the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, on grounds of violation of which constitutional right?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 21
- (c) Article 26
- (d) Article 32

69. In which year was the Central Waqf Council established under the Waqf Act?

- (a) 1954
- (b) 1964
- (c) 1974
- (d) 1984

70. Who is the current Union Minister of Minority Affairs (MoMA) overseeing Waqf-related issues?

- (a) Smriti Irani
- (b) Sarbananda Sonowal
- (c) Kiren Rijju
- (d) G. Kishan Reddy

ANSWER KEY

66. (a) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud

Explanation: The Chief Justice of India, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, is heading the Supreme Court bench hearing the constitutional challenges to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

67. (b) Mandatory inclusion of at least two non-Muslim members

Explanation: The 2025 Amendment makes it compulsory for the Central Waqf Council to include at least two non-Muslim members; a move aimed at increasing transparency but also raising debates on religious autonomy.

68. (c) Article 26

Explanation: Petitioners argue that the Act violates Article 26 of the Constitution, which guarantees every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion.

69. (b) 1964

Explanation: The Central Waqf Council was established in 1964 under the provisions of the Waqf Act to advise the government on matters concerning the working of State Waqf Boards and administration of Auqaf.

70. (c) Kiren Rijju

Explanation: As of 2025, Kiren Rijju is the Union Minister of Minority Affairs (MoMA), responsible for overseeing policies related to minority communities, including the administration of Waqf properties.

PASSAGE 15: Supreme Court landmark ruling on Governor Vs State

In a landmark judgment on April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court deemed Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi's refusal to assent to 10 state bills as illegal and unconstitutional. The verdict, delivered by Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan, came in response to a writ petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging the Governor's prolonged inaction on important bills. The case stemmed from a prolonged standoff between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and Governor RN Ravi. Between November 2020 and April 2023, the state legislature passed 13 bills, of which 10 were either withheld or sent back to the Assembly by the Governor without any communication. When the legislature re-approved the bills without any material changes, Governor Ravi still did not assent to the bills, reserving them for the President's consideration, which the court found unconstitutional. Under Article 200 of the Constitution, when a bill is passed by the state legislature, the Governor has four options. However, the Article does not prescribe a timeline, allowing room for ambiguity. The Supreme Court clarified that this cannot be interpreted to allow indefinite delays or misuse of discretionary powers.

(Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/Apr/14/explainer-supreme-court-landmark-ruling-on-governor-vs-state>)

71. What action did the Supreme Court take regarding the 10 pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case?

- (a) Declared them unconstitutional
- (b) Referred them back to the State Assembly
- (c) Invoked Article 142 to directly deem them as assented to
- (d) Recommended amendments to the bills

72. Which of the following is NOT true regarding the Governor's powers under Article 200 of the Constitution as per the Supreme Court's ruling?

- (a) Governor cannot exercise an "absolute veto"
- (b) Governor cannot sit indefinitely on bills
- (c) Governor has discretion to withhold assent permanently
- (d) Governor must act on aid and advice of Council of Ministers

73. According to the Supreme Court ruling, once a Bill is re-passed by the Assembly, under what condition can the Governor reserve it again?

- (a) If the Governor has reasonable objections
- (b) If the content has materially changed
- (c) If the bill affects national security
- (d) In all cases as per the Governor's discretion

74. In the SR Bommai vs Union of India (1994) case, what did the Supreme Court rule regarding President's Rule?

- (a) It is immune from judicial review
- (b) It is subject to judicial review and cannot be imposed arbitrarily
- (c) It can be imposed at the discretion of the Governor
- (d) It requires only the President's approval

75. Under which Article of the Constitution is the Governor empowered to grant, withhold, or reserve assent to State bills?

- (a) Article 153
- (b) Article 161

- (c) Article 200
- (d) Article 213

ANSWER KEY

71. (c) Invoked Article 142 to directly deem them as assented to

Explanation: The Supreme Court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to end the constitutional deadlock and declared the bills assented to.

72. (c) The Governor has discretion to withhold assent permanently

Explanation: The Governor cannot exercise a permanent veto; they must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and cannot sit indefinitely on bills.

73. (b) If the content has materially changed

Explanation: Once a Bill is re-passed by the Assembly, the Governor can reserve it again only if its substance has undergone a material change.

74. (b) It is subject to judicial review and cannot be imposed arbitrarily

Explanation: In *SR Bommai vs Union of India* (1994), the Court held that Article 356 (President's Rule) is justiciable and cannot be misused arbitrarily.

75. (c) Article 200

Explanation: Article 200 empowers the Governor to grant assent, withhold assent, or reserve a Bill for the President's consideration.

PASSAGE 16: Crown Prince of Dubai's Visit to India

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, is on his first official visit to India from 8 – 9 April 2025. He was received on his arrival in New Delhi by Shri Suresh Gopi, Minister of State for Tourism and Petroleum and Natural Gas, and was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. He is accompanied by several Ministers, senior government officials and business leaders. His Highness the Crown Prince also held a meeting with Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. They discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic defence and security partnership between the two countries in line with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. His Highness the Crown Prince also met Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal during the high-level business meeting in Mumbai. They discussed the contribution of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to the rapid growth of bilateral trade. Shri Goyal welcomed the signing of milestone MoUs and announcements made at the business event and expressed hope that these will further strengthen bilateral economic engagement and take it to unprecedented heights. In particular, the progress on the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC), and its contribution in facilitating bilateral trade, as well as as a building block of IMEEC, was acknowledged. During the visit, several significant announcements were made, reflecting the shared commitment of India and the UAE to deepen and expand their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. These included the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) campus in Dubai, with the first MBA program starting in September 2025, and the launch of the first overseas campus of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade at the India Pavilion in Expo City Dubai. Construction of Bharat Mart commenced, accompanied by the release of a 3-D rendering of the complex. Additional initiatives included granting land for the UAE-India Friendship Hospital in Dubai, developing ship-repair clusters at Kochi and Vadinar, and the inauguration of an India Office of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

(Source: <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/39391>)

76. During the UAE Crown Prince's visit to India, which defence-related pact was concluded?

- (a) Joint defence production agreement
- (b) Military training cooperation

- (c) MoU for cooperation between Indian and the UAE Coast Guards
- (d) Defence technology transfer agreement

77. Which major infrastructure initiative was announced as part of the UAE Crown Prince's visit to India?

- (a) Metro rail project
- (b) Construction of Bharat Mart
- (c) International airport
- (d) Nuclear power plant

78. Consider the following statements regarding India-UAE ties:

1. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE was signed in 2022.
 2. The UAE is India's largest supplier of crude oil.
 3. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) was announced at the BRICS Summit 2023.
 4. The first overseas campus of the Indian Institute of Technology was opened in Abu Dhabi.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

79. The India-UAE CEPA primarily focuses on which of the following?

- (a) Reducing tariffs and boosting trade in goods and services
- (b) Joint exploration of oil reserves in the Gulf
- (c) Creating a single currency framework for trade
- (d) Establishing a defence corridor in West Asia

80. In which year did India and the UAE elevate their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership?

- (a) 2015
- (b) 2016
- (c) 2018
- (d) 2020

ANSWER KEY

76. (c) MoU for cooperation between the Indian and UAE Coast Guards

Explanation: During the UAE Crown Prince's visit, India and the UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding between their Coast Guards to strengthen maritime security cooperation.

77. (b) Construction of Bharat Mart

Explanation: The "Bharat Mart" project was announced to establish a warehousing and logistics hub for Indian goods in the UAE, boosting trade connectivity.

78. (a) 1 and 4 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: India-UAE CEPA was signed in 2022. Statement 4 is correct: IIT Delhi opened its first overseas campus in Abu Dhabi. Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect.

79. (a) Reducing tariffs and boosting trade in goods and services

Explanation: The India–UAE CEPA primarily aims to eliminate tariffs on most goods, promote trade in services, and facilitate investment flows between the two nations.

80. (b) 2016

Explanation: India and the UAE elevated their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016, enhancing cooperation across political, defence, and economic sectors.

PASSAGE 17: Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

On the evening of 10 April, General Dyer arrived at Amritsar, and the Deputy Commissioner handed over the civil power to him. He proclaimed by word of mouth that no meetings should be held. Two days later, there had been no sort of riot or murder. General Dyer heard that a meeting was to be held at the Jallianwala Bagh. He proceeded there with about fifty troops, half British and half Indian, and a certain number of Gurkhas, armed with their kukris. The Jallianwala Bagh is an open space, half a mile square, which has one entry wide enough for three persons. The troops got in and lined up on a mound of debris. The walls, seven feet high, and the surrounding houses enclosed the people. There were, too, three alleys through which the people might have been able to pass. Within thirty seconds of the troops getting in, General Dyer gave orders to fire, and the crowd of people, estimated at anything from 5,000 to 20,000, who were sitting on the ground peacefully listening to the mob oratory, were fired on. The result of the troops' fire into the mass of people we do not know. But we do know that Dyer's own estimate of the casualties resulting from ten minutes of continual individual firing was 400 to 500 killed and 1,500 wounded. The people were not able to escape. They were people who had not offered any violence and who had not been warned. These people were shot down. After ten minutes, the ammunition was exhausted, and the troops marched off, and they left 1,500 wounded there. Men were lying there for two days, dying of thirst, eating the ground, bleeding to death, and nobody to looking after them. Those who lived nearby came and carried away some of the wounded from the heap of dead and dying, but the unfortunate country people died there miserably of their wounds. This is what was done in 1919 in British India. Centuries, hence, you will find Indian children brought up to this spot, just as they visit now the Cawnpore Well, and you can imagine the feelings of these Indians for generations over this terrible business.

(Source: Col. Wedgwood. MP, speaking in the British Parliament, 22 December 1919; CLAT 2024)

81. Which incident is described in the passage?

- (a) Baisakhi festival at Amritsar, April 1919
- (b) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, April 1919
- (c) Congress Protests of April 1919
- (d) Non-Cooperation Movement, April 1919

82. Why did General Dyer order to fire on the crowd?

- (a) To bring the crowd under control
- (b) To scatter the crowd
- (c) To teach the crowd a lesson
- (d) To enforce the martial law

83. In the light of the above passage, what was the intention of the speaker?

- (a) To praise General Dyer
- (b) To expose the deeds of General Dyer
- (c) To get sympathy for the Indians who died
- (d) All of the above

84. After the incident, who helped the injured and the dying people?

- (a) The army
- (b) The police

- (c) The civil administration
- (d) Some people who lived nearby

85. What was the full name of General Dyer?

- (a) Reginald Murree Harry Dyer
- (b) Reginald Royce Harry Dyer
- (c) Reginald Edward Harry Dyer
- (d) Reginald Coleman Harry Dyer

ANSWER KEY

81. (b) Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, April 1919

Explanation: The passage describes the tragic firing on a gathering at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar during April 1919, where many unarmed civilians were killed.

82. (c) To teach the crowd a lesson

Explanation: General Dyer ordered firing not merely to control or disperse the crowd, but deliberately to punish them and instil fear.

83. (b) To expose the deeds of General Dyer

Explanation: The speaker intended to reveal and condemn the actions of General Dyer during the massacre.

84. (d) Some people who lived nearby

Explanation: After the massacre, immediate help came from residents who assisted the injured and dying people.

85. (c) Reginald Edward Harry Dyer

Explanation: The full name of General Dyer, the officer responsible for the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, was Reginald Edward Harry Dyer.

PASSAGE 18: World Health Immunization Week

For 2025, the theme of World Health Immunization Week (24-30 April), "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible", emphasizes the need to eradicate disparities in access to vaccines, particularly for children. By encouraging governments to implement vaccination programs at the local and national levels, the World Health Organization (WHO) seeks to ensure worldwide access to life-saving vaccines. "Vaccines are among the most powerful inventions in history, making once-feared diseases preventable," said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Thanks to vaccines, smallpox has been eradicated, polio is on the brink, and with the more recent development of vaccines against diseases like malaria and cervical cancer, we are pushing back the frontiers of disease. With continued research, investment and collaboration, we can save millions more lives today and in the next 50 years." According to figures from the United Nations (UN), over the past 50 years global immunization efforts have saved roughly 154 million lives. Vaccines are also estimated to save around 4.2 million lives each year. More children live to see their first birthday and beyond than ever before in human history. Health experts have estimated that immunization is one of the most cost-effective disease treatments, with every 1 dollar invested in vaccinations yielding a 54 dollar return in productivity. Additionally, vaccines are estimated to save the average infected person around 66 years of life, with roughly 20 million people having been spared of paralysis due to polio vaccinations. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, reported that in 2024, more than 5 million children who had not received a single dose of an essential vaccine were immunized in 20 vulnerable countries, many of which were in Africa. Gains in public health were most notably observed in Uganda, Chad, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, and Côte d'Ivoire. In the past year alone, cases of polio type 1 have decreased in these regions by roughly 65 percent. Additionally, Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination coverage has increased by 28 percent as a result of this campaign, making Africa the region with the second highest coverage rate for HPV vaccinations.

Despite recent improvements, rates of global immunization have begun to slip in recent years due to humanitarian crises, recent cuts in funding, and public doubt surrounding the efficacy and implications of child vaccinations. Humanitarian organizations have expressed concern due to the rise or re-emergence of several public health concerns. According to a study conducted by WHO, roughly 50 percent of people across 108 countries are experiencing moderate to severe disruptions to immunization services.

(Source: <https://www.globalissues.org/news/2025/04/30/39739>)

86. Where is the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) located?

- (a) Geneva, Switzerland
- (b) New York, USA
- (c) Paris, France
- (d) Rome, Italy

87. What is the theme of World Immunization Week 2025?

- (a) Vaccines Bring Us Closer
- (b) Humanly Possible: Immunization For All
- (c) Protected Together: Vaccines Work
- (d) Close the Immunization Gap

88. Which scheme was launched in India to eradicate polio?

- (a) National Polio Eradication Programme
- (b) Mission Polio Free India
- (c) Universal Immunization Programme
- (d) Mission Indradhanush

89. Which Article of the Indian Constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) directs the State to ensure maternity relief and improvement of public health?

- (a) Article 38
- (b) Article 39A
- (c) Article 42
- (d) Article 47

90. With reference to vaccination programmes in India, consider the following statements:

1. Covaxin, developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR, was India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine.
2. The COVID-19 vaccination drive in India was launched on 16 January 2021.
3. Mission Indradhanush aims to cover children and pregnant women with all available vaccines.
4. The National Immunization Programme in India is mandatory for all citizens.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER KEY

86. (a) Geneva, Switzerland

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

87. (b) "Humanly Possible: Immunization for All"

Explanation: This was declared as the official theme of World Immunization Week 2025.

88. (a) National Polio Eradication Programme

Explanation: India launched the National Polio Eradication Programme, under which extensive vaccination drives like the Pulse Polio campaign were carried out, leading to India being declared polio-free in 2014..

89. (c) Article 42

Explanation: Article 42 of the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the State to provide for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.

90. (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Covaxin was India's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccination drive began on 16 January 2021, and Mission Indradhanush focuses on full immunization of children and pregnant women. However, the National Immunization Programme is not mandatory but voluntary.

PASSAGE 19: Protests in Nepal

The Home Ministry has warned the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) against breaching prohibited zones during its protest scheduled for Sunday in Kathmandu's Bijulibazar area. The pro-monarchist RPP has announced its plans to push ahead with the demonstration, openly declaring its intent to break through the designated restricted areas near the Government Secretariat building at Singudurbar. Rajendra Lingden, the chairman of the RPP, has said that they would break the restricted area while staging demonstrations demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy and establishing Nepal as a Hindu state. Responding to this, the Home Ministry on Saturday issuing a statement said any violations of the law would result in action. "The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken serious note of the news reports and public statements issued under the name of Rastriya Prajatantra Party regarding plans to breach legally designated prohibited zones on April 20, 2025," said the ministry in the statement. Security has been stepped up around the Parliament building, the Government secretariat and other sensitive areas of the capital city by deploying thousands of riot policemen and armed police forces since morning. The Home Ministry underscored that activities encouraging blatant violations of the constitution and the law or attempts to spread anarchy in society would not be tolerated. Meanwhile, former-King Gyanendra hosted a lunch meeting to seven leaders of RPP, including chairman Lingden and senior leader Pashupati Shumsher Rana at his residence at Nirmal Niwas in Maharajgunj in the outskirts of Kathmandu, reportedly to discuss strategy regarding Sunday's pro-monarchy protests. (Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/world/nepal-government-warns-rastriya-prajatantra-party-against-protests-in-restricted-zones-3501548>)

91. What major political change occurred in Nepal in 2008?

- (a) Introduction of emergency rule
- (b) First democratic elections
- (c) Abolition of monarchy
- (d) Signing of peace accord with Maoists

92. Since the abolition of monarchy, what political system has Nepal adopted?

- (a) Constitutional monarchy
- (b) Federal Democratic Republic
- (c) Unitary presidential system
- (d) Parliamentary monarchy

93. What is one of the main reasons for the current protests in Nepal?

- (a) Religious conflicts
- (b) Border disputes with India
- (c) Discontent with political and economic situation
- (d) Opposition to new tax policies

94. Which Indian regiment recruits Nepalese soldiers?

- (a) Sikh Regiment
- (b) Gorkha Regiments
- (c) Rajput Regiment
- (d) Punjab Regiment

95. What was the name of India's operation in response to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal?

- (a) Operation Himalaya
- (b) Operation Relief
- (c) Operation Nepal
- (d) Operation Maitri

ANSWER KEY

91. (c) Abolition of monarchy

Explanation: In 2008, Nepal officially abolished its 240-year-old monarchy and declared itself a republic.

92. (b) Federal Democratic Republic

Explanation: After the monarchy ended, Nepal adopted a federal democratic republican system.

93. (c) Discontent with political and economic situation

Explanation: Current protests in Nepal are largely driven by frustration over governance and economic issues.

94. (b) Gorkha Regiments

Explanation: The Gorkha Regiments of the Indian Army have a long tradition of recruiting Nepalese soldiers.

95. (d) Operation Maitri

Explanation: Operation Maitri was India's relief and rescue mission after the devastating 2015 Nepal earthquake.

PASSAGE 20: International Big Cat Alliance

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed an agreement with the central government on Thursday, formalising India as the headquarters and secretariat of the alliance, over two months after it came into force as a full-fledged treaty-based intergovernmental organisation. The IBCA was launched at the initiative of India to focus on global conservation of seven big cats —the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and cheetah. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the IBCA in April 2023 during the [X]th year celebrations of Project Tiger. "The agreement provides for India to be the host for the IBCA headquarters and secretariat; and it entails necessary provisions to enable IBCA to meet its intended objectives and also for efficient discharge of its official functions," a press note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated. "The government of India shall provide budgetary support of Rs 150 crore to IBCA for creating a corpus, building infrastructure, and meeting recurring expenditure for five years from 2023-24 to 2028-29," the note added. The agreement text pertains to visas, privileges, and immunities to be extended to the IBCA secretariat and personnel, premises, entry into force, supplementary agreements, and some general provisions, the press note said. India formally joined the IBCA in September 2023. After five signatory countries-India, Liberia, Eswatini, Somalia, and Nicaragua ratified the IBCA framework agreement, the alliance came into force as a global legal entity. In February 2024, the cabinet approved the establishment of the IBCA's headquarters as well as the budgetary support of Rs 150 crore. The cabinet approved the signing of the IBCA headquarters agreement in a meeting held on March 28.

(Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-sign-agreement-international-big-cat-alliance-headquarter-50th-year-project-tiger-9949730/>)

96. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is implemented in India through which agency?

- (a) Wildlife Institute of India
- (b) National Tiger Conservation Authority
- (c) World Wildlife Fund–India
- (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

97. With reference to IBCA, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote the conservation of seven major big cat species and their habitats.
2. Five big cat species listed under the IBCA are native to India.
3. IBCA's permanent secretariat is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

98. Regarding the IBCA, consider the following statements:

1. The IBCA came into force as a treaty-based intergovernmental organization only after five countries, including India, ratified the framework agreement.
2. The alliance focuses on the conservation of six big cats—Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
3. India will provide ₹150 crore as budgetary support to IBCA over a period of five years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

99. As of early 2025, how many member countries had formally joined the IBCA?

- (a) 4
- (b) 12
- (c) 16
- (d) 27

100. What permanent fund or financial mechanism has India committed to establishing for IBCA?

- (a) Annual ₹10 crore grant
- (b) ₹150 crore corpus for 5 years
- (c) \$100 million endowment fund
- (d) No specific fund mentioned

ANSWER KEY

96. (b) National Tiger Conservation Authority

Explanation: In India, the IBCA is implemented through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

97. (b) Only two

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct; the IBCA covers seven big cats and five of them are found in India, but its permanent secretariat is in India, not Nairobi.

98. (c) All three

Explanation: IBCA became operational after ratification by five countries, focuses on six big cats, and India pledged ₹150 crore over five years as budgetary support.

99. (c) 16

Explanation: By early 2025, 16 countries had formally joined the International Big Cat Alliance.

100. (b) ₹150 crore corpus for 5 years

Explanation: India committed to providing ₹150 crore spread over five years to serve as the initial financial support for IBCA.





CLAT 2025

OUR CLOSERS



AIR **9**
AKSHAT SHRAFF



AIR **15**
SIDDHI LADDA



AIR **16**
SAHER GOLE



AIR **24**
SHREYANSH SINGH



37 AIR
Harshvardhan



86 AIR
Vinayak Kedia



97 AIR
Anirban



128 AIR
Pratibha Sharma



179 AIR
Manupriya



175 AIR
Akanksha



185 AIR
Sara Srivastava



253 AIR
Sreeransh Shukla



254 AIR
Aayush



324 AIR
Vishesh



354 AIR
Laalitya



385 AIR
Ishika



393 AIR
Smayan

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