

YOUR FORTNIGHTLY CURRENT
AFFAIRS BOOSTER FOR LAW EXAMS

LawEx

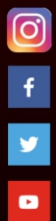
16-30 Apr, 2024

ISSUE - 29



**SCIENCE
BEHIND**

**RAM LALLA'S
SURYA TILAK**



A product by SmartKeeda



About Magazine

"LawEx" is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, "LawEx" provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

Editor's Note

A three-minute-long Surya Tilak ceremony — where a beam of sunlight was projected onto the forehead of Lord Ram's idol — was performed at noon on April 17 in Ayodhya's newly-built Ram temple, marking the occasion of Ram Navami. In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a "right against the adverse effects of climate change", which should be recognised by Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. Telangana's Department of Heritage has recently unearthed a coin hoard at Phanigiri, a renowned Buddhist heritage site located 110 km away from the state capital of Hyderabad. Recently, the United Kingdom (UK) parliament passed a Bill - the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill. For more updates, keep reading.

VISIT SMARTKEEDA



Scan the QR code
to visit our website

testzone.smartkeeda.com



CONTENTS

QUICK BOOSTERS

SCIENCE BEHIND RAM LALLA'S 'SURYA TILAK'	01
PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	02-03
RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE	04-05
PRATUSH TELESCOPE	06
ISSUE OF RESERVATION FOR MUSLIMS	07-08
IKSHVAKU-ERA COINS UNEARTHED IN TELANGANA	09
THE U.K. - RWANDA ASYLUM PLAN	10
INHERITANCE TAX ROW	11-12
REDISTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY	13-14
VENICE INTRODUCED AN ENTRY FEE FOR TOURISTS	15-16
MICROSOFT LAUNCHED PHI-3-MINI	17
THE FOURTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A UN PLASTICS TREATY	18-19
INDIA'S SECOND LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 1957	20
UNOPPOSED WINNING OF A CANDIDATE	21-22
CONTROVERSY OVER DOORDARSHAN'S LOGO	23

QUICK FACTS

CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	24-25
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	26-27
ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS	28

TEST ZONE

PASSAGE -1 (Contemporary Events of Significance)	29
PASSAGE -2 (International Affairs)	30
PASSAGE -3 (Arts & Culture and Historical Events)	31

CROSSWORD CORNER

CROSSWORD -1	32
CROSSWORD -2	33





VAISHNAV BHATT

Our Top Achiever

AIR - 113th

CLAT 2024

Q. Give us a brief intro about yourself, Vaishnav.

Ans. Hello, I'm Vaishnav and I secured AIR 113 in CLAT 2024. I completed my 10th standard in Delhi and have moved to Bangalore this year.

Q. When did you think about doing law?

Ans. I've had some very unpleasant experiences in life when I was staying in Delhi where my family and I had to suffer emotionally and financially and a major part of it was due to insufficient knowledge of the law and our rights. In this process I had to interact with some lawyers, and visit the court as well. These experiences made me want to pursue law as a profession as I found it interesting and also felt that having this knowledge would keep me safe and I would be able to help others as well who face similar situations due to insufficient knowledge.

Q. When did you seriously start preparing for CLAT?

Ans. I started my preparation in March 2023.

Q. What is the role of LawEx in your preparation?

Ans. LawEx helped me a lot with my preparation for CLAT. Their current affairs magazine and Maths YouTube videos are excellent and have been of great help. I also found their GK topic tests to be very useful.

Q. Do you think LawEx Lectures with sufficient reading and mock practice enough for CLAT?

Ans. I feel LawEx should increase the number of mock tests that they offer. Apart from this I think that they provide sufficient study material.

Q. What did you do for your subject-wise strategy?

Ans. My weak point was GK, so I gave it a bit more attention compared to the other subjects. For this I read The Hindu newspaper everyday for 1.5 hrs and focused on the editorial as that improved my vocabulary and helped improve my English as well. I allocated 4-5 hours for GK everyday. I gave 2 hours for legal reasoning. During this time I had not yet started giving mock tests. I watched LawEx's maths YouTube videos to improve my maths for around 30 minutes. A bulk of my preparation was focused on these 3 subjects. Apart from this I attempted around 60 mock tests, 20 of which were from LawEx and the rest I had to source from other test series.

Q. What was your highest and lowest score in mock tests?

Ans. My lowest score was 72 and my highest score was 96.25. On average my score was around 90 marks out of 120.

Q. How did you keep your confidence up when scoring low in mocks?

Ans. My performance in mocks was more or less pretty consistent throughout my preparation. So I did not face this issue.

Q. How to maintain mock scores?

Ans. In my opinion, analysing the mocks after attempting them is very important as it makes you understand what kind of mistakes you have made and helps you to improve upon them in the next mock. This will also make you understand your own weak points and which subject needs improvement. This will help you maintain and improve your score.

Q. How much GK is sufficient and how to revise it?

Ans. No amount of GK can be considered sufficient in my opinion. So I would suggest to find 2-3 sources which are of good quality like The Hindu newspaper and LawEx magazine which covers most of the topics which you need to know and for static GK you can purchase any book like A P Bharadwaj's Static GK book. I revised for GK by doing the topic tests multiple times.

Q. How many Mocks are sufficient for CLAT Preparation?

Ans. According to me at least 50 mock tests are required so that your speed along with accuracy improves and it doesn't make you feel anxious anymore as a calm mind will help you concentrate better and score more. Clat is a reading based exam and it can be quite draining especially in the last 30-35 minutes so practicing mocks is important here.

Q. What is your advice to CLAT Aspirants?

Ans. I would advise CLAT aspirants to give themselves at least one year for preparation and attempt 1-2 mock tests every week so that it doesn't drain you out. I made this mistake too by attempting around 60 mocks in 2 months. It is not feasible. CLAT is highly competitive and requires consistency and patience. As my English was at a decent level to begin with, I was somehow able to manage the stress. Also don't forget to take short breaks and have good sleep. Some books which I purchased for CLAT are A P Bharadwaj's Legal reasoning and A P Bharadwaj's static GK. Also practice 15-20 mocks on OMR printouts as well and try finishing your mocks in 115 minutes as this is the time you'll get in your actual examination. Best wishes to all of you.

**SUCCESS WRITTEN IN EVERY ADMISSION LETTER:
EXPERIENCE IT WITH OUR ZENITH 2.0 PROGRAM!**

A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR CLAT AND OTHER LAW EXAMS.



PURVANSH
SYMBIOSIS PUNE



Paras (Rank 89)
Army Law School Mohali



Pratyush Maltu
Symbiosis Noida



Abhimanyu Rohal
Himachal Pradesh NLU



Bharvi
Jindal Global Law School



Manan Sharma
Symbiosis Noida



Samiksha Sood
NLAT Mumbai and HPNLU



Sanya
Jindal Global Law School



Agreema Justa (Rank 46)
Punjab University Law Program
and Christ University



Apse Chauhan
Christ University



Shivang Sood
Christ Law University, Bangalore



Ayush (Rank 41)
SLS Pune Punjab
University Chandigarh



Arindam Sood
SLS Pune



Arya Sood
NCHM ALL INDIA TEST 1200
HPNLSYMBIOSIS PUNE

It's your turn now

Enroll yourself in our
comprehensive CLAT
program ZENITH 2.0

Use code

FEST24 for 10% off

LawEx

ZENITH 2.0 A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR CLAT 2025 ASPIRANTS

ALPHA
₹4999

BETA
₹9999

GAMMA
₹17999

For 10% off, apply FEST24

FOR ANY QUERIES:  89795 89366

Sign-up at: testzone.smartkeeda.com



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



QUICK BOOSTERS



SCIENCE BEHIND RAM LALLA'S 'SURYA TILAK'

WHY IN NEWS?

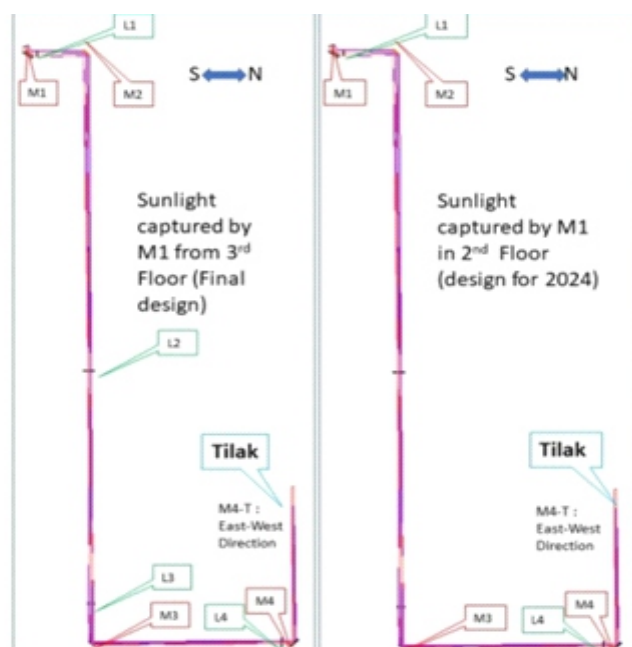
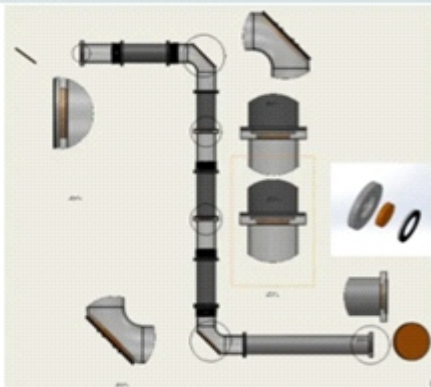
- A three-minute-long Surya Tilak ceremony — where a beam of sunlight was projected onto the forehead of Lord Ram's idol — was performed at noon on April 17 in Ayodhya's newly-built Ram temple, marking the occasion of Ram Navami.

The Science behind Ram Lalla's Surya Tilak

- This was achieved using a special mirror-lens arrangement, designed by astronomers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, that has been installed in the building by a team from the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee.
- The first task was to calculate the position of the Sun in the sky on that day in any given year.
 - When following the Gregorian calendar, the date of Ram Navami (the Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ram) varies each year.
 - This is because the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar (based on Earth's revolution around the Sun — one revolution equals to one year), while the Hindu calendar is a lunar calendar (based on the Moon's revolution around Earth — one revolution equals to one month).
 - A solar year has roughly 365 days, whereas a lunar year is roughly 354 days long.
- After astronomers estimated where the Sun would be in the sky, their second task was to channelise the sunbeam "in a manner that it would fall on the idol's forehead for a certain amount of time.
- The IIA team proposed a four-mirror-and-four-lens array for this purpose.
- The first mirror, responsible for receiving the sunlight, has to be positioned at an angle along the path of the sun's rays.
- This opto-mechanical system operates on a principle similar to that of a periscope.
- Given that the sun's position vis-à-vis the first mirror will vary each year, a specially designed 19-gear system was built to make requisite adjustments.
- Every year, one gear tooth is manually turned to adjust the angle of the pickup mirror.
- The number 19 was chosen to correspond to the Metonic cycle — a period of 19 years in which there are 235 lunar months, after which the Moon's phases recur on the same days of the solar year.
- This means that every 19 years, the system will effectively reset, and the cycle will then begin again.
- The final design of the Surya Tilak with 4 mirrors and 4 lenses will be implemented once the full temple is constructed, with the mechanism designed to accommodate a shift in the calendar date of Ram Navami.

How the system works

Concept: Periscope with Mirrors & Lenses
 Number of mirrors: 4 (M1, M2, M3 and M4: Flat)
 No tracking for Sun in East–West direction
 Number lenses used : 4 (L1, L2, L3 L4)
 M1 shifts position every year (19 year cycle)





PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Delhi High Court has recently observed that the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a measure of social justice applicable to each woman, irrespective of religious affiliation or social background.

Court's Observations

- A single judge bench of Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta in its order further said, "The same was enacted to safeguard the rights of the victims of 'domestic violence' in domestic relationship.
- The High Court made the observations while dismissing a plea moved by a husband and his relatives challenging an appellate court order restoring the domestic violence complaint of the wife.

Domestic Violence in India

- As per the National Family Health Survey-5 report-
 - Nearly one-third of women in India have experienced physical or sexual violence.
 - 32% of married women (18-49 years) have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional spousal violence.
 - The most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (28%), followed by emotional violence and sexual violence.
 - As opposed to this, only 4% of men face domestic violence cases in the country.
 - Domestic violence against women is highest in Karnataka at 48%, followed by Bihar, Telangana, Manipur and Tamil Nadu.
- Lakshawdeep has the least domestic violence at 2.1%.
- The experience of physical violence is more common among women in rural areas (32%) as compared to their counterparts in urban areas (24%).
- The OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report 2023 reveals that one in every three women globally is a victim of domestic violence, and a large percentage of these women are under 30 years old.
 - In India, about 220 million women face domestic violence, which is statistically slightly higher than the global average and equivalent to the total population of Brazil.

Legal Framework Around Domestic Violence

- The Indian legal framework has a set of laws and provisions to check and punish domestic abuse.
 - Domestic abuse in India is addressed both in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and specific laws.
- Indian Penal Code (IPC)**
 - Except for the regular sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) addressing a range of offences from assault to threats, there are two domestic abuse-focused sections of the IPC.
 - These are sections 498A and 304B.
 - Section 498A of the IPC addresses the husband or his relatives subjecting a woman to cruelty.
 - Section 304B of the IPC addresses dowry and death arising out of abuse over demands of dowry.
 - The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**
 - The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 was enacted in Parliament on October 26, 2006, where the Act defined 'domestic violence' for the first time in Indian law.
 - It includes physical violence, emotional, verbal, sexual, and psychological abuse, and it is a civil law with protection orders and not criminal enforcement.
 - The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961**
 - The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 is another law that addresses domestic abuse as women often face abuse over the issue of dowry.
 - In addition to this law, section 304B of the IPC addresses dowry and death arising out of abuse over demands of dowry.





Domestic Abuse in the Context of Same-sex Relationship

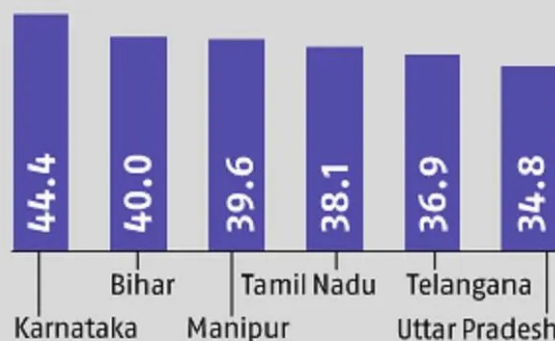
- Currently, the domestic abuse laws primarily focus on heterosexual relationships, leaving same-sex partners vulnerable to domestic abuse without legal recourse.
 - Men complainants don't have many avenues to address domestic abuse.
- The question of legal sanction to same-sex relationships is, therefore, far-reaching as all laws associated with marriages and personal relationships are bound to be affected to reflect same-sex relationships if its recognised by the Supreme Court.

DID YOU KNOW?

- On 18 December 1979, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
 - It entered into force as an international treaty on 3 September 1981.
- The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW) was the first international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women, providing a framework for national and international action.
- The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys.
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated every year on November 25
- In October 2023, India's Supreme Court declined to legalise same-sex unions, dashing the hopes of millions of LGBTQ+ people seeking marriage equality.
 - The court instead accepted the government's offer to set up a panel to consider granting more legal rights and benefits to same-sex couples.
- In 2018, the Supreme Court repealed Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which criminalises homosexuality.
 - However, there is no legal approval for the adoption of children by same-sex couples and blood donation by LGBTQ people is banned.



STATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Married women, 18-49, spousal violence)



Source: National Family Health Survey, 2019-21

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHY IN NEWS?

- In a recent judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a “right against the adverse effects of climate change”, which should be recognised by Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

Background

- The Court gave its verdict in a case that raised concerns over multiple deaths of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard due to solar power transmission lines against India's obligation to meet its emission reduction and increase its energy capacity through non-fossil fuel sources.

SC on Human Rights and Climate Change

- The SC observed that “It is yet to be articulated that the people have a right against the adverse effects of climate change. This is perhaps because this right and the right to a clean environment are two sides of the same coin. As the havoc caused by climate change increases year-by-year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right. It is recognised by Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life).”
- Linking the right against climate change to Articles 21 and 14, the SC said the rights to life and equality could not be fully realised without a clean, stable environment.
- The court also highlighted the interconnection between climate change and various human rights, including the right to health, indigenous rights, gender equality, and the right to development.
- The judgment noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a “fundamental human right”.
- The Court also said that if vulnerable communities were affected, say by coastal erosion, land degradation, or if people were made additionally vulnerable to disease, agricultural losses, storms and flooding — all indirectly linked to climate change — then rights under these Articles (14 and 21) would be violated, further necessitating an explicit link between climate change and rights.
- The Court notes that the Indian government has taken multiple steps through legislation as well mission-led programmes to address climate change.
- The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, the National Green Tribunal Act 2010, were among those referenced in the judgment; the National Solar Mission, the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency and, the National Mission for a Green India were also mentioned.
- Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognising the adverse effects of climate change and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns.
 - However, this does not mean that the people of India do not have a right against the adverse effects of climate change.

Constitutional Provisions

- Article 48A of the Indian Constitution provides that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- Clause (g) of Article 51A stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- Article 21 recognises the right to life and personal liberty while Article 14 indicates that all persons shall have equality before the law and the equal protection of laws.
 - These articles are important sources of the right to a clean environment and the right against the adverse effects of climate change.
- In *MC Mehta vs Kamal Nath*, 2000, the Court held that Articles 48A and 51A(g) must be interpreted in light of Article 21.
 - The Supreme Court stated that the right to a clean environment is an extension of the right to life.

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP





India's Solar Potential

- India urgently needed to shift to solar power due to three issues - One, the country is likely to account for 25% of global energy demand growth over the next two decades; Two, rampant air pollution emphasises the need for cleaner energy sources; Three declining groundwater levels and decreasing annual rainfall.
- Solar photovoltaic power offered immense scalability in India, allowing for effective harnessing of solar energy.
- India's goal to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil-based electricity generation capacity by 2030 aligned with its efforts to be net zero by 2070.
- According to the Renewable Energy Statistics 2023 released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India has the 4th largest installed capacity of renewable energy.

A BOLD STEP AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

For first time, The Supreme Court of India has recently recognized a fundamental right against the adverse effects of climate change.



NOW PREPARE FOR CLAT 2025
WITHOUT PAYING HEFTY COACHING FEES
JOIN LAWEX BY SMARTKEEDA ON YOUTUBE





PRATUSH TELESCOPE

WHY IN NEWS?

- Astronomers are looking forward to opening a new window on the universe by posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon, and in orbit around it.
- There are numerous proposals to do this from astronomers around the world — including one from India called PRATUSH.

About PRATUSH

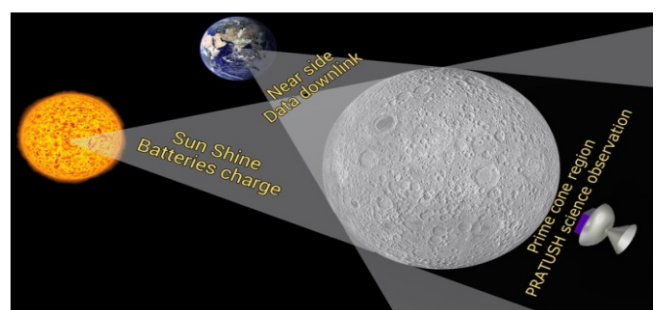
- PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) is a future radiometer in lunar orbit that will reveal the Cosmic Dawn of our Universe.
- PRATUSH is a radio telescope designed to be placed on the far side of the moon, which always faces away from the earth.
- PRATUSH will answer the question of when the first stars formed in our universe, the nature of the first stars, and what was the light from the first stars or, in other words, the colour of the light of Cosmic Dawn.
- PRATUSH will be the pioneering space telescope that will reveal, for the first time, the history of our infant Universe as it transformed after the Big Bang - from cold gas into stars and galaxies and the universe as we know it today.
- PRATUSH is being built by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru with active collaboration from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Why Far Side of the Moon?

- On the earth, optical telescopes (which collect visible light at longer wavelengths) and radio telescopes (which collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths) have to peer through layers of the planet's atmosphere.
 - While it is becoming increasingly difficult for optical instruments to see through the polluted skies, radio telescopes also contend with radio and TV signals adding to the cacophony of the electromagnetic 'hiss' from the communications channels used by radar systems, aircraft, and satellites.
 - It also does not help that the earth's ionosphere blocks radio waves coming from outer space.
- Scientists tried to find a way out of this by launching radio telescopes into orbit around the earth.
 - But this only made the problem worse, as orbiting telescopes started receiving radio noise from the whole planet along with signals from outer space.
- The far side of the moon, airless desolation of the moon provides optical telescopes with crystal-clear seeing conditions throughout the long lunar night, which lasts two weeks at a time.
- Radio telescopes on the lunar far side will also be protected by a 3,475-km-thick wall — a.k.a. the moon (its diameter is 3,476 km) — that blots out radio transmissions from the earth and electrically charged plasma winds blowing from the Sun.

Other Projects

- Lunar Surface Electromagnetic Experiment, or LuSEE Night, a joint NASA-Berkeley Lab project is scheduled for launch in December 2025 on the far side of the moon.
 - LuSEE Night will be followed by many moon-bound instruments currently in various stages of planning with space agencies like NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).
- NASA's Long-Baseline Optical Imaging Interferometer, for instance, is scheduled to be launched in parts before this decade is out.
 - Once assembled on the moon's far side, it will study magnetic activity on stars and the centres of active galaxies in visible and ultraviolet wavelengths.
- ESA is getting ready to launch a radio telescope to the moon's far side on board its lunar lander, 'Argonaut', by 2030.
- China is set to launch its Moon-Orbiting Radio Telescope in 2026.
- China also deployed its other satellite, Queqiao-2, in lunar orbit with a 4.2-m antenna that will be used as, among other things, a radio telescope.



HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



ISSUE OF RESERVATION FOR MUSLIMS

WHY IN NEWS?

- During an election rally in Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Congress has tried to reduce the reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and give it to Muslims in defiance of the Constitution.
- He made a specific reference to the attempts made by the Congress government to provide a 5% quota for Muslims in Andhra Pradesh saying that it was a “pilot project” that it wanted to implement for the entire country.

Reservation for Muslims

- Several Muslim communities are included in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation both at the central and state levels.
 - The criteria for the OBC quota is social and educational backwardness.
- Article 16(4) of the Constitution provides for reservation for a “backward class of citizens, which in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State”.
- The OBC quota works differently in different states.
 - In Kerala, out of the 30% OBC quota, Muslims are entitled to 8% in educational institutions and 10% in government jobs.
 - Tamil Nadu provides reservations to close to 95% of its Muslim communities.
 - In Bihar, where OBCs have been divided into backward and most backward classes, Muslims fall into the latter category.
 - In Karnataka, Muslims had a 4% sub-quota within the 32% OBC quota, which the Basavaraj Bommai government in 2023 redistributed among Vokkaligas and Lingayats before the Assembly elections.

Andhra Pradesh Quota

- In Andhra Pradesh, as per the 2011 census, Muslims constitute about 9.5% of the population.
- Muslim groups are included in the state OBC lists, which have quotas ranging from 7% to 10%.
- However, there had been a push in the undivided state to follow the Karnataka and Kerala model to include all Muslims in the OBC category.
- **In June 2004**, a Government Order (GO) was issued to the Commissionerate of Minorities Welfare (whose ex-officio head was the state's principal secretary) to look into “socio-economic and educational conditions of the Muslim community in the state” to include them as OBCs.
 - In July 2004, the Commissionerate wrote to the government recommending 5% reservation to “Muslim Minorities in employment, educational and other fields on par with the Backward Classes in the State”. The recommendation was implemented a week later.
 - On September 21, 2004, a five-judge Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down the quota as unsustainable.
- **In June 2005**, the state government brought another Ordinance, which again gave a 5% quota to Muslims.
 - The law stated that while the total reservation of the state (SC/ ST and OBC) at that time added up to 46%, an additional 5% to Muslims was justifiable even though it crossed the Indra Sawhney threshold of 50%.
 - However, the HC once again struck down the quota on the grounds that the committee did not rely on objective criteria to conclude that Muslims as a group were backward in AP.
- The ruling was challenged before the Supreme Court, which in 2010 directed to maintain the status quo till the issue was heard.
 - The final hearing in the Supreme Court was scheduled for 2022. However, the SC decided to hear the case after the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota issue was decided.
 - The EWS quota was cleared in November 2022, but the AP quota issue is yet to be heard.



DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1979, the Second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) was set up to determine the criteria for defining the socially and educationally backward classes.
- The Mandal report identified 52% of the population at that time as “Socially and Economically Backward Classes” (SEBCs) and recommended 27% reservation for SEBCs in addition to the previously existing 22.5% reservation for SC/STs.
- In 1990, when the V P Singh government set out to implement the Mandal report, it was challenged in court amidst widespread protests against the move. The case came up before a nine-judge Bench and a 6:3 verdict was delivered in 1992.
- In the Indra Sawhney Case of 1992, the Supreme Court upheld the 27 per cent quota for backward classes.
- The landmark Indra Sawhney ruling set two important precedents.
- First, it said that the criteria for a group to qualify for reservation is “social and educational backwardness”.
- Additionally, the court also reiterated the 50% limit to vertical quotas it had set out in earlier judgements in 1963 (M R Balaji v State of Mysore) and in 1964 (Devadasan v Union of India), reasoning that it was needed to ensure “efficiency” in administration.
- The court said this 50% limit will apply — unless in “exceptional circumstances”.
- The Constitutional (103rd Amendment) Act of 2019 has provided 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the “economically backward” in the unreserved category.
- This 10% economic reservation is over and above the 50% reservation cap.

A Brief History of Backward Classes Reservations in India:

- The constitutional term for Other Backward Classes or OBC is **Socially and Economically Backward Classes or SEBC**.
- The benchmark for OBC affirmative action is ‘class’ and not ‘caste’.

1955: First Backward Classes Commission Report (Kaka Kalekar Commission)- recommended caste enumeration in the 1961 census.

1980: Janata Party government-appointed Second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) submitted its report.

Commission extrapolated the OBC population to 52% from the last caste census from 1931.

1989: V P Singh government implements Mandal Commission Report.

1992: In the Indra Sawhney Case, the SC Introduces the concept of creamy layer to exclude well-off among OBCs in the ambit of quota.

What is sub-categorisation of OBC?

- Creating sub-groups of backward castes within the OBC category.
- The objective is to ensure equitable distribution of the quota pie between haves and have-nots or the backward and most backward classes.

Sub-categorisation of OBCs in states:

1972: Karnataka CM Devraj Urs appoints Havanur Commission, its report formed the basis for the sub-categorisation of OBCs.

1977: Bihar CM Karpooi Thakur implements Mungeri Lal Commission report to divide OBCs into two categories: extremely backward classes (EBCs), and backward classes

2002: Former UP CM Rajnath Singh appoints Hukum Singh committee to earmark 5% OBC quota for Yadavs and 14% for Most Backward Classes

Sub-categorisation in the central OBCs list:

2017: The Modi government appoints a commission headed by Justice G Rohini to examine the sub-categorisation of OBCs



2023: Rohini Commission submits its report to the President of India.

Terms of reference of the Rohini Commission:

- To examine the inequitable distribution of reservation benefits among OBCs in the Central List.
- To work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach
- To identify the respective castes and classify them into their respective sub-categories



IKSHVAKU-ERA COINS UNEARTHED IN TELANGANA

WHY IN NEWS?

- Telangana's Department of Heritage has recently unearthed a coin hoard at Phanigiri, a renowned Buddhist heritage site located 110 km away from the state capital of Hyderabad.

Key Points:

- Inside the earthen pot 16.7 cm in diameter and 15 cm in height at a depth of two feet, the team found 3,730 lead coins with the elephant symbol on one side and the Ujjain symbol on the other side.
- According to the archaeologists, the coins belong to the Ikshvaku period dated between the 3rd century and 4th century Common Era.
- Besides the coins, the archaeologists discovered stone beads, glass beads, shell bangle fragments, stucco motifs, broken limestone sculptures, a wheel of a toy cart, final nails and pottery.

Findings from Earlier Excavations

- The field season 2023-24 was the eighth season of excavation at the site which started back in 2001.
- According to the department, various stages of earlier excavations here discovered Mahastupa, apsidal Chaityagrihas, Votive stupas, pillared congregation halls, Viharas, platforms with staircases at various levels, octagonal stupa chaitya, 24-pillared mandapam, circular chaitya, and cultural materials that included terracotta beads, semi-precious beads, iron objects, Brahmi label inscriptions and holy relic casket.
- All the cultural material is datable from the 1st century BCE to 4th century CE.

About Phanigiri Buddhist Site

- The Phanigiri is an important Buddhist site that has only recently gained the importance it deserves with many of the excavated artefacts travelling the world most recently to the New York Met Museum.
- Phanigiri is believed to be one of the important Buddhist monasteries strategically located on the hilltop, on the ancient trade route (Dakshinapatha) connecting the west and the east coast of the Deccan.
- Phanigiri village derived its name from the shape of the hillock, which appears to be like a snake hood. The word Phani in Sanskrit means snake and Giri means hillock. Studies suggest that the village had a vibrant life from 1000 BC to 18th century AD.

About Ikshvaku Period

- Ikshvakus or Ikshavakus of Vijayapuri came to power in Telangana after Satavahanas.
- The Ikshvaku dynasty (300 CE- 400 CE), is named after the legendary King Ikshvaku.
- The Ikshvakus were succeeded by Pallavas.
- The Ikshvakus rose to prominence under King Kanha, who significantly expanded their territory.
- The dynasty actively patronised Buddhism, leading to the construction of magnificent stupas and monasteries, like those at Kanaganahalli and Sankaram.
- Ikshvaku coins, featuring Buddhist symbols and regional deities, were widely circulated during this era.



HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



THE U.K. - RWANDA ASYLUM PLAN

WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the United Kingdom (UK) parliament passed a Bill - the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill - that will allow the government to send asylum seekers to Rwanda for their claims to be considered by the East African nation.

What is the UK-Rwanda Asylum Plan?

- The UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership or the Rwanda Deal is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the governments of the UK and Rwanda in April 2022.
- Under this deal, Rwanda will commit to taking in asylum seekers who arrive in the UK on or after January 1, 2022, using "illegally facilitated and unlawful cross-border migration."
- Rwanda will function as the holding centre where asylum applicants will wait while the Rwandan government makes decisions about their asylum and resettlement petitions in Rwanda.
- They would have their asylum claims processed there, rather than in the UK.
- If successful, they could be granted refugee status and allowed to stay in the landlocked east-central African country.
- If not, they could apply to settle in Rwanda on other grounds, or seek asylum in another "safe third country".
- No asylum seeker would be able to apply to return to the UK.
- As per the government, the plan will deter people from arriving in the UK on small boats across the English Channel.
 - As of 1 May, 8,278 people had crossed the Channel in 2024, which is more than the total for the same period in either 2023 or 2022.
- The UK will pay Rwanda £120 million as part of an "economic transformation and integration fund" and will also bear the operational costs along with an amount for each migrant.
 - Currently, the U.K. pays £4.7 million per day to accommodate approximately 25,000 asylum seekers.

- In November 2023, the UK Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Rwanda scheme was unlawful.
- It said genuine refugees would be at risk of being returned to their home countries, where they could face harm.
- This breaches the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibits torture and inhuman treatment. The UK is a signatory to the ECHR.
- The ruling also cited concerns about Rwanda's poor human-rights record, and its past treatment of refugees.
- Judges said that in 2021, the UK government had itself criticised Rwanda over "extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and torture".
- They also highlighted a 2018 incident, when Rwandan police opened fire on protesting refugees, killing at least 11.

Similar Global Experience

- Several other countries — including Australia, Israel and Denmark — have been sending asylum seekers overseas.
- Australia has been making full use of offshore detention centres since 2001.
 - According to the Border Force, over 4,000 were relocated to places like Nauru and Papua New Guinea between 2012 and 2019.
- Israel, too, chose to deal with a growing influx of asylum seekers and illegal immigrants from places like Sudan and Eritrea by striking deals with third countries.
 - Those rejected for asylum were given the choice of returning to their home country or accepting \$3,500 and a plane ticket to one of the third countries.
 - They faced the threat of arrest if they chose to remain in Israel.

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP





INHERITANCE TAX ROW

WHY IN NEWS?

- A debate has arisen in India over the inheritance tax' following Indian Overseas Congress chairman Sam Pitroda's remarks on April 24 advocating for a US-style tax policy for inherited family wealth.

What is Inheritance Tax?

- The inheritance tax refers to the tax levied on the value of inheritance received by a beneficiary on the death of a person.
 - Inheritance tax, or death taxes, or estate duty as it may be called are all taxes which are paid on the estate of the deceased.

Does India have an Inheritance Tax?

- In 1953, India's Parliament passed the Estate Duty 'Death Tax' Act, which was later abolished in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi government.
 - As of date, there is no tax imposed on property inherited, whether through a will or by intestate succession.
- Similar to Estate duty, India also had the 'Gift Tax' Act, passed in 1958. The Act allowed the imposition of duty on any 'gift' made by one person to another in that financial year.
 - Due to similar constraints to those faced while implementing estate duty, this tax was scrapped by the government in 1998.
- However, in 2004, gift tax was reintroduced in the Finance Act as part of additions to the Income Tax Act. Any cash gifts above ₹50,000 and any gifts in kind (i.e. immovable property) above the value of ₹50,000 are taxable. Exceptions include donations, inheritance, and gift money received during weddings
- Another similar tax in India was the wealth tax introduced in 1957 to impose a duty on a person's net worth.
 - Under this regime, a 1% duty was imposed on earnings of over ₹30 lakh earned by a citizen in that financial year.
 - This tax was also abolished in 2015 due to heavy costs in execution.

- Even after its abolition, the idea of inheritance tax remained alive and was part of official and unofficial discussions.
- In a 2013 lecture to honour Raja Chelliah, Mr. Chidambaram called for a debate on the need for inheritance tax. He had questioned the accumulation of wealth by a few individuals while the majority languished.
- Similarly, in 2017, reports suggested that the then-Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was planning to levy taxes on inherited wealth.
 - The proposed move was to levy tax on any property or cash above ₹50,000 received or inherited by a person as an 'income from other sources.' Due to severe backlash from the public, the move was scrapped.
- In December 2018, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said at a public event that hospitals, universities, and other institutions in developed countries receive large endowments due to factors like inheritance tax, but this practice is not prevalent in India.
- The Narendra Modi government announced the abolition of wealth tax and its replacement with a surcharge on the super-rich in the Budget for 2015-16.
 - Jaitley said while wealth tax was 1% on assets of Rs 30 lakh and above (excluding equities, bonds, and first house), the total wealth collection in 2013-14 was only Rs 1,008 crore.
 - An additional surcharge of 2% was levied on individuals with taxable income of Rs 1 crore and above, which was expected to bring revenues of Rs 9,000 crore.



Global Experience

- According to leading financial firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), most European, American and even African nations levy inheritance tax.
- In Europe, the top nations levying tax on inherited properties are — France (60%), Germany (50%), United Kingdom (40%), Spain (33%) and Hungary (18%).
- Other countries with high inheritance taxes are Japan (55%), South Korea (50%), Ecuador (37%), Chile (25%), South Africa (25%) and Taiwan (20%).
- In Japan, inheritance tax rates are considerably high with the current highest rate standing at 55%.
- In the USA, estate tax rates have been capped at 40% and it is applicable to the worldwide estate of assessee.
- Citing data from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, the IMF said 12 OECD members had wealth taxes in 1990, but only three (Switzerland, Spain, Norway) now levy a broad-based wealth tax.



HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



REDISTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court constituted a nine-judge Bench to interpret the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) with respect to ownership and control of material resources - as mentioned in Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

What is the Case All About?

- 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.
- 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.
- The Property Owners' Association in Mumbai challenged Chapter VIII-A of the MHADA at the Bombay High Court claiming that the provisions violate the property owners' Right to Equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.
- The court, however, held that laws enacted in furtherance of Article 39 (b) 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").
- The Association appealed the decision in the SC in December 1992.
- Thus, in the apex court, the central question became whether "material resources of the community" as per Article 39(b) include privately owned resources which would include cessed buildings.

What does the Constitution Provide?

- The Preamble to the Constitution aims to secure to all citizens social and economic justice, liberty and equality.
- Part III of the Constitution lists down the fundamental rights that guarantee liberty and equality while Part IV contains the DPSP.
 - These are principles that the central and State governments should follow to achieve social and economic justice in our country.
- Unlike the fundamental rights in Part III, the DPSP is not enforceable in court. They are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country.
- The Constitution originally guaranteed the right to property as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(f).
- It is provided under Article 31 that the state shall pay compensation in case of the acquisition of private property.
 - In 1978, the 44th Amendment Act omitted the right to property as a fundamental right and made it a constitutional right under Article 300A.
 - The right to private property continues to be an important constitutional cum legal right.
- The Ninth Schedule lists specific laws that cannot be challenged in courts on the grounds that they violate fundamental rights, including the (once) Fundamental Right to Property.
 - Laws included in this Schedule like Land reforms (abolition of the zamindari system).
- Article 39 of the Constitution lists certain directive principles of state policy, which are meant to be guiding principles for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law.
 - 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".
 - Article 39(c) ensures that wealth and the means of production are not "concentrated" to the "common detriment".
- Article 31C protects laws enacted to ensure the "material resources of the community" are distributed to serve the common good (Article 39(b)) and that wealth and the means of production are not "concentrated" to the "common detriment" (Article 39(c)).
 - As per Article 31C, these particular directive principles (Articles 39(b) and 39(c)) cannot be challenged by invoking the right to equality (Article 14) or the rights under Article 19 (freedom of speech, right to assemble peacefully, etc).

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP





Supreme Court on Article 39(b)

- The Supreme Court in various cases has interpreted the relationship between fundamental rights and the DPSP.
- Most of these cases were against constitutional amendments made by the state that curtailed the right to property that was then a fundamental right.
- In the Golak Nath case (1967), the Supreme Court held that fundamental rights cannot be abridged or diluted to implement DPSP.
- In the State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977) case, a seven-judge Bench, by a 4:3 majority, held that privately owned resources did not fall within the ambit of “material resources of the community”.
 - However, Justice Iyer had held that privately owned resources must also be considered material resources of the community.
- This interpretation of Article 39(b) was later affirmed by a five-judge Bench in Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company v Bharat Coking Coal (1983), where the court affirmed Justice Iyer's opinion and upheld central legislation that nationalised coal mines and their respective coke oven plants.
 - It held that privately owned resources must also be considered material resources of the community.
- In the Mafatlal Industries Ltd vs Union of India Case (1996), the court felt the need for a nine-judge Bench to interpret Article 39(b) and also relied on the interpretation of Article 39(b) offered by Justice Iyer and the Bench in Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing case.
 - The court held “the words 'material resources' occurring in Article 39 (b) will take in natural or physical resources and also movable or immovable property and it would include all private and public sources of meeting material needs, and not merely confined to public possessions.”

- In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), a thirteen-judge Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Article 31C but made it subject to judicial review.
- In the Minerva Mills case (1980), the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution exists on a harmonious balance between fundamental rights and DPSP.
- Any law to acquire private property by the state should be only for a public purpose and provide for adequate compensation.

Let's look at the numbers

1%	The top 10% of the Indian population holds 77% of the total national wealth. 73% of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the richest 1%, while *670 million Indians who comprise the poorest half of the population saw only a 1% increase in their wealth.
70	There are 119 billionaires in India. Their number has increased from only 9 in 2000 to 101 in 2017. Between 2018 and 2022, India is estimated to produce 70 new millionaires every day.
10x	Billionaires' fortunes increased by almost 10 times over a decade and their total wealth is higher than the entire Union budget of India for the fiscal year 2018-19, which was at INR 24422 billion.
63 M	Many ordinary Indians are not able to access the health care they need. 63 million of them are pushed into poverty because of healthcare costs every year - almost two people every second.
941 yrs	It would take 941 years for a minimum wage worker in rural India to earn what the top paid executive at a leading Indian garment company earns in a year.

Source - Oxfam International





VENICE INTRODUCED AN ENTRY FEE FOR TOURISTS

WHY IN NEWS?

- On April 25, Venice, a city in Italy, to control overtourism, introduced an entry fee for visitors who are coming in to visit the city.

About Entry Fees

- Day-trippers coming to the city between 8.30 am and 4 pm are now required to pay €5 (\$5.35) - (\$1 = 0.9346 euros).
- Overnight visitors are not charged, nor are residents, commuters, students, or children under 14.
- As part of a trial period, the entrance fee, which can be paid online and is only necessary to enter Venice's historic centre, is applicable on 29 peak days from April 25 to July 14.
- Transgressors risk fines ranging from €50 to €300.

Rationale Behind

- The introduction of the tourist tax comes after Venice just managed to avoid being included on UNESCO's danger list last year due to the harm that overtourism was causing to its fragile ecosystem.
- Due to mass tourism, Venice's main island, which was once the heart of a powerful maritime republic, has lost more than 1,20,000 residents since the early 1950s. The population shrank to fifty thousand.
- With 3.2 million overnight guests in the historic centre in 2022 and over 30 million day-trippers annually, the city experiences congestion when the number of day-trippers approaches 30,000-40,000.
- It is thought that day-trippers contribute very little to the local economy.
- A positive spillover effect of the Venice entry tax would be the reduction of the rapidly increasing number of unauthorised Airbnbs within the city.
- People operating illegal rentals will need to register legitimately (and pay tax) since anyone staying overnight will have to disclose where they are staying.
- The Italian town of Bagnoregio levied a fee on visitors in 2018 to collect funds for its rescue since portions of the town are collapsing and it was successful.

The Problem of Overtourism in Europe

- Overtourism is a problem in many other European cities, including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Greece, etc.
- Greece** had announced that it will be implementing a time slot system in its most visited site, the Acropolis, and limit the daily visits to 20,000 individuals, with visitors being assigned specific hourly slots during the monument's 12-hour daily operation.
 - Greece has also decided to charge entry fee to some of the tourist spots.
- Amsterdam** has decided to ban cruise ships from entering their main ports to stop a large number of tourists entering a small area, putting a lot of strain on infrastructure and resources.
 - The city administration is also planning a 1 percentage point increase to the city's tourist accommodation tax.
- France** is running a campaign to encourage tourists to visit less popular destinations so that it can reduce the impact on popular destinations.
- Spain's** Santiago de Compostela city is planning on launching a tourist tax to help generate revenue for local authorities and discourage excessive tourism.
 - Barcelona's tourist charge has increased to €3.25 from €2.75 from April.
- Portugal** has decided to fine those who play loud music at popular beaches. The fine ranges from €200 to €36,000.
- Croatia** launched the 'Respect the City' campaign in Dubrovnik to tackle overtourism.
 - The initiative includes a luggage drop-off system and bans on various behaviours to preserve the city's unique charm and heritage.

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366

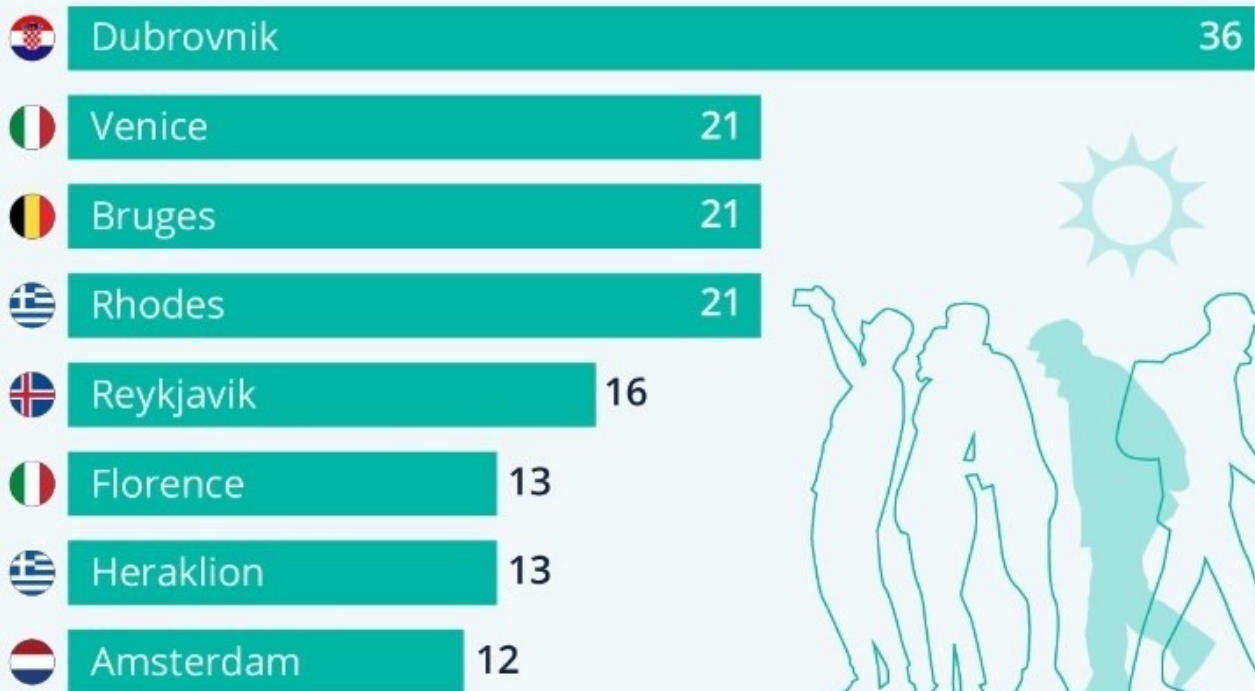


DID YOU KNOW?

- Bhutan adopted a “high value, low volume” policy, which serves a dual purpose and involves a daily fee paid by tourists, which helps fund local community services and limits tourist numbers to prevent overtourism.
 - The daily tourist fee in Bhutan for 2024 is \$100 per night, down from \$200 per night in 2023.
- New Zealand in 2019 introduced a NZ\$35 (\$21) tourist tax to fund conservation and infrastructure projects, while Indonesia's holiday island of Bali is to impose a 150,000 rupiah (\$10) fee from 2024 to help preserve its culture and environment.
- World Tourism Day is celebrated every year on September 27.

The Most 'Over-Touristed' Cities in Europe

Annual number of tourists per inhabitant of selected cities*



* Based on 2019 annual tourist data (pre-pandemic)

Source: Holidu



statista

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
 DOWNLOAD **CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP**





MICROSOFT LAUNCHED PHI-3-MINI

WHY IN NEWS?

- Microsoft on April 23 unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model – the Phi-3-Mini.

What is Phi-3-mini?

- Phi-3-Mini is believed to be the first among the three small models that Microsoft is planning to release.
 - It has reportedly outperformed models of the same size and the next size up across a variety of benchmarks, in areas like language, reasoning, coding, and maths.
- Essentially, language models are the backbone of AI applications like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.
 - These models are trained on existing data to solve common language problems such as text classification, answering questions, text generation, document summarisation, etc.
- Microsoft has described the Phi-3 as a family of open AI models that are the most capable and cost-effective small language models (SLMs) available.
 - The amount of conversation that an AI can read and write at any given time is called the context window and is measured in something called tokens.
 - According to Microsoft, Phi-3-mini is available in two variants, one with 4K context-length, and another with 128K tokens.
 - With longer context windows, models are more capable of taking in and reasoning over large text content such as documents, web pages, code, and more.
 - Microsoft says that in the coming weeks, new models will be added to the Phi-3 family to offer customers more flexibility.
 - Phi-3-small (7B) and Phi-3-Medium will be available in the Azure AI model catalogue and other model libraries shortly.

Phi-3-mini vs LLMs

- Phi-3-mini is an SLM. Simply, SLMs are more streamlined versions of large language models.
- The 'Large' in LLMs has two meanings — the enormous size of training data; and the parameter count.
 - In the field of Machine Learning, where machines are equipped to learn things themselves without being instructed, parameters are the memories and knowledge that a machine has learned during its model training. They define the skill of the model in solving a specific problem.

Google's Gemma models excel at being chatbots and language-based tasks while Meta's Llama 3-8 billion model is good at coding assistance and Anthropic's Claude 3 Haiku can summarise lengthy documents quickly. Smaller startups like AI21 Labs have also recently launched an AI-powered writing assistant based on a specialised AI model called Jurassic-2.

- While LLMs are trained on massive general data, SLMs stand out with their specialisation. Through fine-tuning, SLMs can be customised for specific tasks and achieve accuracy and efficiency in doing them.





THE FOURTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A UN PLASTICS TREATY

WHY IN NEWS?

- The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (INC-4) concluded recently in Ottawa, Canada.
- The fourth session follows INC-1 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in November 2022, INC-2 in Paris, France, in May/June 2023, and INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2023. The final session, INC-5, is scheduled for November 2024 in Busan, South Korea.
- At the U.N. Environmental Assembly in 2022, the world's nations agreed to develop a legally binding agreement by the end of 2024 to address the world's plastic pollution crisis.
- The treaty is meant to address plastics through their entire lifecycle – from when they are produced, to how they are used and then disposed of.

Key Points:

- The session ended with an advanced draft text of the instrument and agreement on intersessional work ahead of the fifth session (INC-5) in November.
- More than 2,500 delegates participated in INC-4, representing 170 Members and over 480 Observer organisations including non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, and UN entities.
- Over two dozen countries signed the Bridge to Busan Declaration on Primary Plastic Polymers at INC-4.
- The group aims to ensure that negotiators address the full lifecycle of plastics, including upstream measures to prevent the overproduction of primary plastics polymers at the source.
- The group have called on member states to commit to achieving sustainable levels of production on primary plastic polymers, ensure transparency in production, and agree to a global objective regarding the sustainable production of primary plastic polymers.

Why is a Global Plastics Treaty needed?

- Since the 1950s, plastic production across the world has skyrocketed. It increased from just 2 million tonnes in 1950 to more than 450 million tonnes in 2019. If left unchecked, the production is slated to double by 2050, and triple by 2060.
- As plastic takes anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose, and less than 10% has been recycled till now, nearly 6 billion tonnes now pollute the planet, according to a 2023 study published by The Lancet.
- According to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2019, plastics generated 1.8 billion tonnes of GHG emissions – 3.4% of global emissions.
- Roughly 90% of these emissions come from plastic production, which uses fossil fuels as raw material.
- If current trends continue, emissions from the production could grow 20% by 2050, a recent report from the United States' Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory said.

Roadblocks to the Treaty

- At the Nairobi talks in November, the draft treaty under review ballooned from 30 pages to 70 as some countries insisted on including their objections to more ambitious measures like production limits and phase-outs.
- Many plastic and petrochemical-producing countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran and China – known collectively as the group of Like-Minded Countries – have opposed mentioning production limits.
 - They blocked other countries from formally working on proposed treaty language calling for production caps, chemical disclosures or reduction schedules after last year's Nairobi session.
- Meanwhile, the 65-nation “High-Ambition Coalition”, which includes EU countries, African nations and Japan, wants to end plastic pollution by 2040.
 - The US has not joined the HAC. But unlike the High-Ambition Coalition, it wants countries to set their own plans for doing so, and to detail those plans in pledges sent regularly to the United Nations.

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

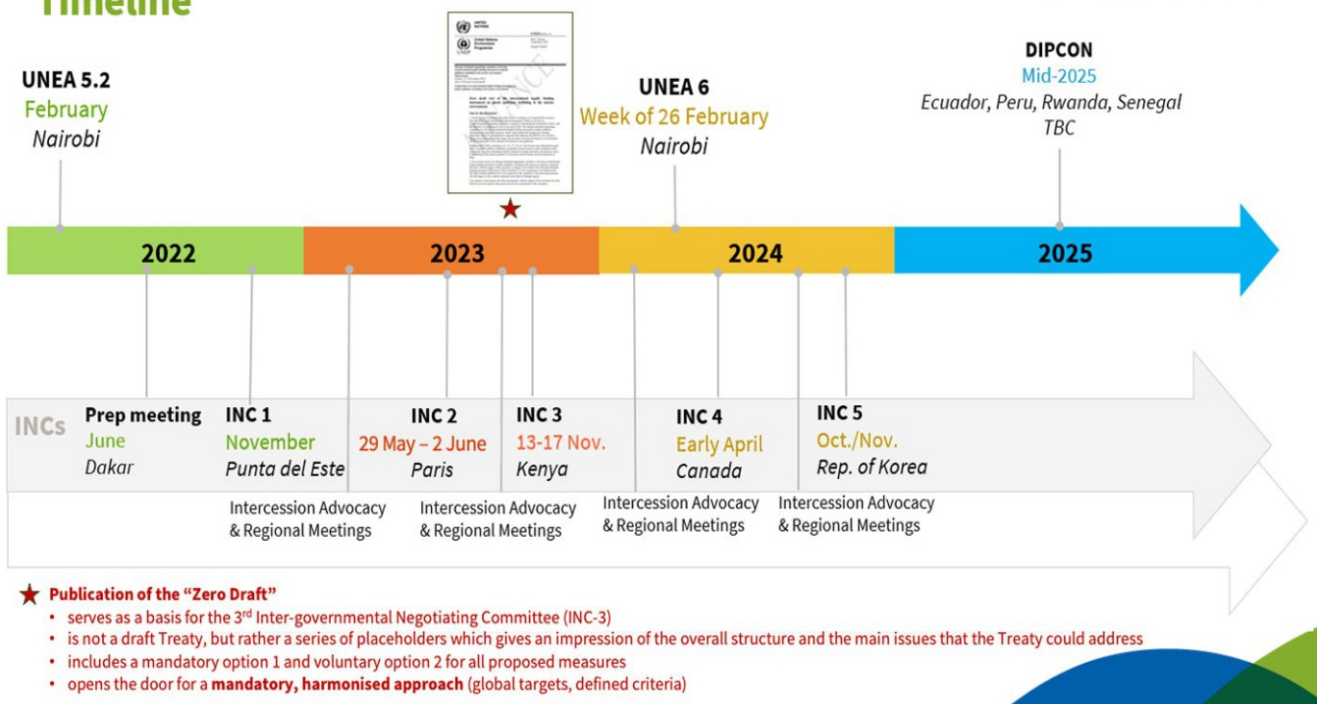
WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



- India opposed restrictions on producing so-called primary plastic polymers or virgin plastics, arguing that production reductions exceed the scope of UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly) resolutions.
- While acknowledging the chemicals used in plastic manufacturing, India highlighted that some are already subject to prohibition or regulation under different conventions.
- The Indian delegates urged that decisions regarding chemicals be grounded in a transparent and inclusive process informed by scientific evidence.
- In 2022, India brought into effect the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules (2021) that banned 19 categories of “single-use” plastics.

UN Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution

Timeline





INDIA'S SECOND LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 1957

WHY IN NEWS?

- The year 1957 was a significant one for India. The Indian National Congress (INC) retained control and returned to power for a second consecutive term at the Centre.

Administrative Challenges

- The elections of 1957 presented formidable administrative challenges.
- The Delimitation Commission was constituted in 1952 to redraw constituencies based on data from the 1951 Census.
- Also, the States Reorganisation Commission led by Justice Fazl Ali had made its recommendations in 1955 (which were implemented in 1956) — thus, the boundaries of states too, were different from those during the first Lok Sabha election (1951-52).
- In 1956, it looked as though the election could be delayed.
- There was another tight deadline to meet. Elections to the posts of President and Vice-President had to be held before May 13, 1957.
- This meant the Lok Sabha elections would have to be completed by the end of March 1957 — any delay would require an amendment to the Constitution.
- But after the brave efforts of the Election Commission (EC), in the spring of 1957, the EC achieved the “impossible”: elections were held across the country in just over a fortnight.

Political Landscape

- The Indian National Congress, with its vote share going up from 44.99% in 1952 to 47.78% in 1957, won 371 seats, seven more than in 1952.
- The Communist Party of India (CPI) came a distant second with 27 seats — nine in Kerala and six in West Bengal.
- The CPI created history by winning the Assembly election in Kerala, forming India's first democratically elected communist government and setting a precedent for parliamentary communism, which remains a unique feature of Indian democracy.
- On April 17, 1957, Nehru, 68, took oath as Prime Minister.

'Modern' Ballot Papers

- A total 19.36 crore voters — excluding Jammu and Kashmir, Andamans, and Lakshadweep's Minicoy Island — were enrolled to vote between February 24 and March 14, 1957.
- In the first Lok Sabha election, voters were given ballot papers the size of a Re 1 currency note and asked to drop it in the designated ballot box for the candidate of their choice.
- That system changed in 1957 — a new type of ballot paper was introduced, which remained in use until the arrival of electronic voting machines (EVMs).
- The new ballot paper contained a serial number and the name of each candidate, along with their party affiliation and election symbol.
- The Security Press in Nashik printed 57.93 crore ballot papers for the 1957 election.





UNOPPOSED WINNING OF A CANDIDATE

WHY IN NEWS?

- On April 22, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party opened its tally in the Lok Sabha when its nominee for the Surat constituency in the western State of Gujarat, Mukesh Dalal, was elected unopposed.
 - This followed the rejection of the nomination papers of the Congress candidates (main and substitute nominees) the previous day and the withdrawal of other nominees.
 - This means Gujarat's second-largest city will not go to the polls on May 7.

How is a Candidate declared Elected before Polling?

- An uncontested election is when a candidate is declared the winner without a single vote being cast.
- As per election nomination rules, a candidate endorsed by a recognised political party needs at least one voter from the constituency to propose their candidacy.
 - But if the candidate is Independent or nominated by an unrecognised political party, 10 voters from the constituency must sign the nomination paper.
- Section 53 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 deals with the procedure in uncontested elections.
 - According to this proviso, if the number of such candidates is less than the number of seats to be filled, the returning officer (RO) shall forthwith declare all such candidates to be elected.
- In this regard, the RO's actions are governed by Section 33 of the Act which pertains to the presentation of nomination papers and requirements for a valid nomination.
 - Sub-section 4 of the section states that the returning officer, on the presentation of the nomination paper, shall actually satisfy himself that the electoral roll numbers and names of the candidate and his proposer are the same as those entered in the electoral rolls.
- The Handbook for Returning Officers (Edition 2) issued by the Election Commission (EC) in August 2023, also suggests if there exists only one candidate contesting in any constituency, then that particular candidate should be announced to have been elected just after the last hour for the withdrawal of the candidature.

Scope for Negative Voting

- There is ample scope for negative voting in the system.
- While the NOTA (none of the above) option has been in force since 2013, the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, allows electors to decide not to vote through Rule 49-O.
- In case of Rule 49-O, there are chances for the elector to comprise with his secrecy. However, in the case of NOTA, the secrecy of the elector remains safe.
- As per the Election Handbook, NOTA votes are not to be taken into account for the purpose of calculating the total valid votes.
- The EC's stand has been that the person getting the largest number of votes in any constituency will still be declared the winner, regardless of the number of NOTA votes.

- But, with respect to local bodies' polls, the situation is different, at least in Maharashtra.
- Through an order in November 2018, the Maharashtra State Election Commission said that NOTA would be regarded as a fictional electoral candidate for the polls to urban local bodies, and wherever NOTA gets the highest votes, the Commission would go for re-poll.

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



Previous Trends

- Mukesh Dalal is only the 29th MP since 1952, when the first elections were held, to have won uncontested, including through by-polls.
- The most MPs elected unopposed in a single election were in 1952, 1957, and 1967, at five each.
- Since 1952, J&K has seen the most MPs elected unopposed at four.
 - Only eight states have sent more than one legislator to Parliament uncontested, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- At 20, the Congress has seen the most MPs get elected unopposed.
 - The National Conference (NC) and Samajwadi Party (SP) follow with two each.
- Just one Independent has won the parliamentary election unopposed.
 - In the first election of 1952, Anand Chand became the first and only Independent candidate to be elected unopposed.
- Mukesh Dalal is the first BJP MP on this list.
- Only two Lok Sabha seats have seen an MP elected unopposed more than once — Sikkim and Srinagar.

Count Of Surat Candidates

2009	15
2014	09
2019	14
2024	01

Nomination Filed
24

Rejected
12

VOTE SHARE (%)

	2009	2014	2019
BJP	52.45	75.79	74.47
INC	41.70	19.54	23.16

Source: ECI



Mukesh Dalal

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD **CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP**





CONTROVERSY OVER DOORDARSHAN'S LOGO

WHY IN NEWS?

- Doordarshan News, Prasar Bharati's television arm, recently launched its new saffron-coloured logo by announcing that it is now available in a refurbished avatar. The logo's colour has been changed from ruby red to saffron.

What is a Public Service Broadcaster?

- A public service broadcaster is a non-commercial media organisation, typically a radio or television broadcaster, that serves the public interest by providing informative and entertaining content.
- In India, Prasar Bharati is the country's public service broadcaster.
 - Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) are the television and radio arms of Prasar Bharati respectively.
- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), founded in the United Kingdom in 1922, is credited to be the pioneer of public broadcasting.
 - Its model was subsequently adopted by other countries, leading to the creation of similar organisations such as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, NHK in Japan, and many others worldwide.
- The public broadcasting model involves using taxpayer money to broadcast programs that benefit the public.
 - Public broadcasters are typically established by law and operate impartially, without favouring any political party.

What is Prasar Bharati?

- The Prasar Bharati Act of 1990 established the Prasar Bharati as an autonomous body to oversee the country's public broadcasting services and gave autonomy to Doordarshan and All India Radio which were operating under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting before that.
 - Even though the act was passed in 1990, the corporation however came into existence in 1997.
- Prasar Bharati is primarily funded by the government through grants-in-aid.
 - It also generates revenue through various means, including advertising, sponsorships, and broadcasting rights.

Evolution of the DD Logo

- An experimental broadcast started on September 15, 1959, using a small transmitter and a makeshift studio. Daily transmission began in 1965 as part of All India Radio.
- The TV service was extended to Mumbai and Amritsar in 1972 and to seven other states in 1975.
- In those days of black and white transmission, the first logo, the 'DD Eye' as it was called, was colour-agnostic too.
 - The original 'Eye' logo was designed by Devashis Bhattacharyya of the National Institute of Design (NID). The logo was picked by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (who was also Minister for Information & Broadcasting) in the early 1970s out of a few design options.
- Satyam Shivam Sundaram, the tagline in the initial versions of the logo, was removed in the later adaptations.
- It was only during the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi that the logo went colour — orange or saffron against a dark green background, which was perhaps a nod to the colours of the National Flag.
- The signature Doordarshan tune was composed by sitar virtuoso Pandit Ravi Shankar and the master shehnai player Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan and was aired for the first time on April 1, 1976.
 - Both the tune and logo went on to achieve iconic status with the audience.





Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



QUICK FACTS

**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF
SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA
AND THE WORLD**



1. The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) **State of World Population - 2024 report** -- "Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Ending Inequalities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" -- revealed that **India's population is estimated to double in 77 years**. India leads globally with an estimated population of 144.17 crore, followed by China at 142.5 crore.
2. Recently, the **Department of Posts** opened a **second branch of the post office at the Bharati research station in Antarctica** after almost four decades. Letters intended for Antarctica will now be addressed with a new experimental **PIN code, MH-1718**, typical for a new branch. In 1984, shortly after India's first foray to Antarctica, its first post office on the icy continent was set up at Dakshi Gangotri — the nation's first scientific base there. Currently, Maitri and Bharati are the two active research stations that India operates in Antarctica.
3. The **Ministry of External Affairs** has issued a directive to **passport authorities**, enabling individuals from Goa and Daman & Diu who had their Indian passports revoked after acquiring Portuguese citizenship to obtain a "revocation order." This change is expected to bring relief to many who were previously ineligible to apply for Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) due to stringent passport requirements.
4. The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** introduced derivative contracts on the **Nifty Next 50 Index** on April 24. The Nifty Next 50 index represents 50 companies from Nifty 100 after excluding the Nifty 50 companies.
5. The **Global Forest Watch**, which tracks forest changes in near real-time using satellite data and other sources, said **India** has lost 2.33 million hectares of tree cover since 2000, equivalent to a six per cent decrease in tree cover during this period. India lost 4,14,000 hectares of humid primary forest (4.1 per cent) from 2002 to 2023, making up 18 per cent of its total tree cover loss in the same period.
6. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)'s website** has been blocked outside India for months. The **geofenced sites** include the ECI's landing page, its voter registration portal, and its Right to Information portal. The results portal, which reports the outcome of all polls the ECI administers, remains accessible. **Geofencing** is a "security by obscurity" measure, which allows those running websites to evade the most direct forms of cyber attacks from abroad by being fully inaccessible.
7. The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel **INSV Tarini** returned to her base port at Goa on April 21 after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months by two women officers of the Indian Navy, the first from India to accomplish such a feat. The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. The expedition was flagged off from Goa by renowned circumnavigator and their mentor Commander Abhilash Tomy (Retd), on February 28.
8. U R Rao Satellite Centre (formerly known as ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC)), Department of Space, in Bengaluru recently celebrated **Satellite Technology Day (STD) 2024**, marking the significant milestone of the 50th anniversary of India's first satellite launch, Aryabhata, on 19th April 1975.
9. **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)**, as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations, installed and activated **India's biggest Climate Clock** on the CSIR Headquarters Building in Rafi Marg, New Delhi today. The event signifies CSIR's aim to spread awareness about climate change and its ill effects.
10. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj in India observes **24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day** each year. The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and improved local self-governance in India was enacted on this day. The day was established in 1993 after the enactment of the 73rd Amendment Act. In 2024, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj hosted a national colloquium on '**Governance at the Grassroots after Three Decades of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment**', at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
11. The **Supreme Court on April 26 upheld the electronic voting machine (EVM) polling system** and underscored the need to "exercise care and caution" when raising questions about the integrity of the electoral process. It also declined the petitioners' demand to direct 100% cross-verification of votes cast on EVMs with the accompanying Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) paper slips. Only 5% of EVM-VVPAT counts are currently randomly verified in any Assembly constituency. The Court however issued a series of directions to the

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



Election Commission of India (ECI) to strengthen the existing system. The first was that after completing loading of symbols into the machine, the SLU, or symbol loading unit, should be sealed and stored for a period of at least 45 days. The second was that the burnt memory in the EVM microcontroller EVM must be checked by a team of engineers - after results are declared - if candidates placing second and third in the election make such a request.

12. Recently, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) unveiled its **Climate Strategy 2030** document which aims to address India's need for green financing.
13. The **Indian Navy** conducted **Exercise Poorvi Lehar** on the East Coast under the operational control of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The exercise aimed to validate procedures and assess the Indian Navy's preparedness to address maritime security challenges in the region effectively.
14. **Muria tribal people** who fled from **Chhattisgarh** during the conflict (2004-14) between Maoists and Salwa Judum possess two voter cards each issued in **Andhra Pradesh** and Chhattisgarh; one is to exercise their franchise; the other is for references and proof of their nativity.
15. **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** assumed command of the **Indian Navy as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff**. He succeeds Admiral R. Hari Kumar who retires upon superannuation after over 40 years of service.
16. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has achieved a significant milestone with the successful test firing of an air-launched ballistic missile capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometres away. The missile, known as **ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2**, is of **Israeli origin** and was test-fired from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
17. In a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing voter awareness and engagement, the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (**SVEEP**) of Kamrup Election District has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati** to develop an innovative **3D printed dummy ballot unit**.
18. **Professor Naima Khatoon** has been appointed as the **Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**,

the first woman Vice Chancellor in AMU's history. The Ministry of Education appointed Ms Khatoon after receiving approval from President Droupadi Murmu, who serves as the Visitor of the university.

19. **Gukesh D**, a 17-year-old Indian Grandmaster from Chennai, has made history by winning the **2024 FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament** after beating **Hikaru Nakamura** in **Toronto, Canada**. He has become the youngest challenger ever for the World Chess Championship, surpassing the record set by Garry Kasparov in 1984. Gukesh will be the youngest-ever contender at the world chess championship after he won the Candidates tournament. He will face off against the reigning world champion from China, Ding Liren.
20. The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** has launched the '**Longevity India**' Initiative, a project focused on efforts to extend human health span and tackle ageing-related challenges. The initiative has also started a large-scale clinical study that will involve researchers from multiple IISc departments, clinicians, industry, philanthropists, and civil society.
21. Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (**SPACE**) was inaugurated at Kerala's Idukki. According to the release, SPACE, set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for the Indian Navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.

INDIAN RESEARCH STATION IN ANTARCTICA



PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP





Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



QUICK FACTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



1. **Israel** has reopened the **Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza** for the first time since the October 7 Hamas attacks to allow more aid to Gaza. Erez (or Beit Hanoun) is located in the north of the Gaza Strip. It was the main crossing for the movement of people between Israel and Gaza.
2. The **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** recently ruled that the Swiss government had violated the human rights of its citizens by failing to do enough to combat climate change, in a decision that will set a precedent for future climate lawsuits. The case was brought against the Swiss government by **KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz (Association of Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland)**, a group of women climate activists all above the age of 64. The women argued that the Swiss government's inadequate climate policies violate their right to life and other guarantees under the European Convention on Human Rights.
3. **Nigeria** has taken a historic step in the fight against **meningitis**, becoming the **first country in the world** to introduce a new, **highly effective vaccine**. The vaccine, called Men5CV, is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and offers protection against five strains of the meningococcus bacteria in a single shot.
4. **China** has developed a new satellite that will allow certain capable smartphones, called **Satellite Calls**, to place calls to other smartphones through a satellite. The idea is, that in case of an emergency where mobile connectivity may be severely impacted because of a natural calamity or any other disaster, people can call for help directly, by connecting to an overhead communication orbiter.
5. **NASA's Perseverance Rover**, nicknamed Percy, in 2023 created the first "sample depot on another world" by putting down ten rock sample tubes that are slated to be returned to Earth as part of the Mars Sample Return Campaign. One problem, though — that plan is too expensive and will only be executed by the year 2040.
6. Pathogens that transmit through the air will be described by the term '**infectious respiratory particles**' or **IRPs**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO has thus ended the lack of a common terminology to describe the transmission of these pathogens, which was particularly challenging during the global COVID-19 pandemic.
7. For the first time, researchers from **Sweden's** Linköping University created a free-standing sheet of gold that is only one atom thick, '**goldene**'. This makes gold the first metal to be formulated into (freestanding) 2D sheets — opening up a host of exciting possibilities for the future.
8. Recently, a record-high temperature of 26 degrees Celsius in **Sapporo, the main city of Japan's second-largest island of Hokkaido** was recorded by the Japanese Meteorological Agency. Hokkaido's climate is sub-arctic, with an annual average temperature of 8°C and an average annual precipitation of 1,150 mm.
9. Recently, the World Health Organisation (**WHO**) launched a **Patient Safety Rights Charter** at the Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety. It is the first Charter to outline patients' rights in the context of safety and will support stakeholders in formulating the legislation, policies and guidelines needed to ensure patient safety.
10. **India** recently **delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** to the **Philippines**, in reflection of the growing military ties between the two countries amid China's military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea. The supplies came over two years India signed a \$375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the weapon systems.
11. **Israeli** defence and intelligence forces have reportedly used **GPS jamming or Global Positioning System (GPS) spoofing techniques** to thwart an attack by a swarm of Iranian drones and missiles. GPS spoofing is a technique used to manipulate GPS signals to deceive receivers, making them believe they are at a different location than they are.
12. A whopping \$1 billion are needed over the next decade to conserve tigers and their habitats across Asia. The **Bhutanese government and the Tiger Conservation Coalition** hosted the **Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference on Earth Day 2024** to mobilise the funding. The Tiger Conservation Coalition was formed ahead of the 2022 Year of the Tiger.
13. The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** recorded the **heaviest rain ever** after a severe thunderstorm hit the country on April 15. The rain was "a historic weather event" that surpassed "anything documented since the start of data





collection in 1949" – that was before the UAE was established in 1971.

14. Scientists have developed a battery capable of charging in just a few seconds. A team from **South Korea** made the breakthrough with **next-generation sodium batteries**, which are both cheaper and safer than the conventional lithium-ion batteries found in smartphones and electric cars. Sodium (Na) is also 500 times more abundant than lithium, while also holding the potential for greater charge and efficiency than its Li-ion counterpart.
15. An active volcanic peak in the Antarctic is spewing a fortune's worth of gold into the atmosphere every day, as per a report in the New York Post. **Mount Erebus, one of Antarctica's 138 active volcanoes**, is known for emitting pockets of gas containing approximately 80 grams of crystallized gold each day, valued at almost \$6,000 (Rs 5 lakh).
16. **Colombia's capital Bogota** started **rationing water** recently to alleviate droughts wrought by the El Nino weather pattern, which has exacerbated the Andean country's dry season and caused reservoir levels to fall. Bogota is one of the highest capital cities in the world located on a plateau in the Andes known as the Altiplano Cundiboyacense.
17. **Dubai** recently announced the commencement of the construction of the "**world's largest**" **airport terminal in Al Maktoum International Airport** at a cost of \$35 billion with 400 gates and five parallel runways. The airport will be the new home of flagship carrier Emirates and its sister low-cost airline Flydubai along with all airline partners connecting the world to and from Dubai.
18. On April 24, 2024, **NASA** launched the **Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3)**, marking an important moment in the utilization of solar power for space propulsion. NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System, or ACS3, technology demonstration uses composite materials – or a combination of materials with different properties – in its novel, lightweight booms that deploy from a CubeSat.
19. On April 20, 2024, **Nepal** hosted its **first International Rainbow Tourism Conference** in Kathmandu. Nepal took a pioneering step in tourism inclusivity with its first Rainbow Tourism Conference, affirming itself as a safe destination for the LGBTQ+ community. The event was organised at the joint initiative of the Nepal Tourism Board and Maya ko Pahichan Nepal (MKPN).
20. **Indonesia's Mount Ruang volcano** erupted recently for the second time in two weeks, spewing ash almost 2 kilometers (more than a mile) into the sky, closing an airport and peppering nearby villages with debris.
21. **Meta** announced its new AI assistant, **Meta AI**, powered by the advanced language model, **Llama 3**. This AI is being integrated across all major Meta apps and will soon be accessible on Meta's VR headset and smart glasses.
22. The **world's first artificial intelligence (AI) beauty pageant** has been announced where artificial models and influencers generated through the technology will

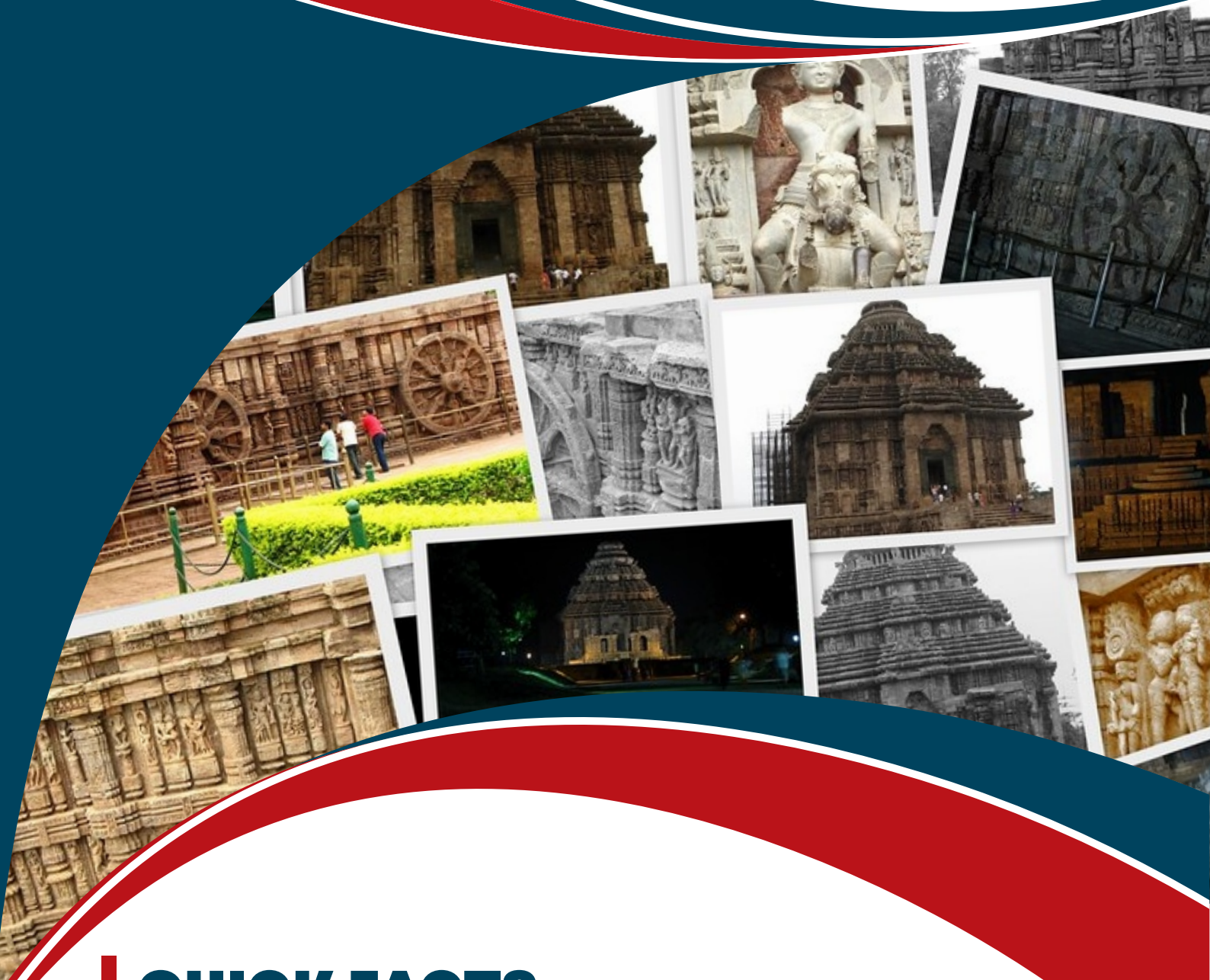


HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



QUICK FACTS

**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL
EVENTS OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**



1. The **Kerala High Court** has allowed for the revised instructions to be implemented during the **Thrissur Pooram**, including a minimum distance of 6 meters to be maintained between elephants when being paraded and artists who may be performing at the time. The court also highlighted the extreme heat in Kerala while directing that the 'theevetti' (fire torch) shall be placed at a minimum of 6 meters away from the elephants.
2. The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the **2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvana Mahotsav**, on the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti, on **21st April**. The Prime Minister also released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion. Bhagwan Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankar, illuminated the path of peaceful co-existence and universal brotherhood through Jain principles like Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya (Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity) and Aparigraha (Non-attachment).
3. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) **Roorkee** have reported the discovery of fossils of **one of the largest snakes that ever existed** and likely lived 47 million years ago during a period called the Middle Eocene. The fossils were found in **Kutch, Gujarat**, and the reptile, named Vasuki Indicus, could have been anywhere between 10 metres and 15 metres long, or as big as a modern-day school bus. It belonged to the now-extinct Madtsoiidae snake family but represents a unique lineage from India.
4. The **famous Hazratbal dargah in Srinagar** is attracting locals for a rare spectacle this week — the washing and clipping of the **largest carpet woven in Kashmir by far**. The intricate marvel is 72 ft. in length and 40 ft. in width, weighs 1,685 kg, and features over three crore knots. The rare attempt pits Kashmiri artisans for the first time against their traditional Iranian rivals, who have already woven a carpet the size of a soccer field at 60,468 sq. ft.
5. A team of archaeologists claimed to have discovered a **unique Iron Age megalithic site** at Ooragutta near Bandala village in SS Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district, **Telangana**. A unique Iron Age megalithic site having over 200 monuments with a new type of megalithic monument known as 'Dolmenoid Cists', not found elsewhere in India.
6. Recently, **50 years have been completed for the Chipko Movement**, the landmark environmental movement that was started in Uttarakhand in 1973. In the 1970s, women from the Himalayan villages of Reni and Mandal hugged trees in the nearby forests to protect them from commercial loggers.
7. The **first true copy of the painting Indulekha by legendary artist Raja Ravi Varma** was unveiled at the Kilimanoor Palace, where the eminent artist was born on 29 April 1848, on the occasion of his 176th birth anniversary celebrations. The unreleased painting of Indulekha, the protagonist of the first modern novel in Malayalam literature by O. Chandu Menon published in 1889, emerged in the public domain in 2022 and evoked a great sense of enthusiasm among the art fraternity.
8. **Amitabh Bachchan** was honoured with the **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar for 2024**. Amitabh Bachchan received the recognition on April 24, the memorial day of Deenanath Mangeshkar, the theatre-music veteran and father of Mangeshkar's siblings. The award, known as the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar, is given every year to an individual who has made a path-breaking contribution towards the nation, its people and society. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi was its first recipient, followed by Asha Bhosle in 2023.**





Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

Doordarshan News has launched its new saffron-coloured logo by announcing that it is now available in a refurbished avatar. The logo's colour has been changed from ruby red to saffron.

"Get ready for a news journey like never before...experience the all-new DD News! We have the courage to put: Accuracy over speed Facts over claims Truth over sensationalism, Because if it is on DD News, it is the truth!," the state-run news channel posted on X.

Saffron adorns the top band of the national tricolour, while the colour is also used predominantly in the ruling BJP's party flag.

The move has drawn criticism on social media. An X user said: "Just hours before election when Moral Code of Conduct is on how can a National channel and the government change the logo colour to colour of its party? Isn't this violation @ECISVEEP

@SpokespersonECI pls step in. #LokSabhaElection2024 #violation #India..." Another user said: "Ministry of Broadcast and Information, but only information of the RSS".

Last year, before Independence Day celebrations, public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati had decided to revamp its television channels. Doordarshan National's original logo was also revived, albeit with brighter colours.

In the recent past, Prasar Bharati has also strengthened its digital media team. The public broadcaster has been allocated an outlay of ₹2,539.61 crore for the upgrade and expansion of broadcasting infrastructure till 2025-2026. It is also working on its plan to launch an over-the-top (OTT) platform.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "DD News sports new saffron logo before polls", The Hindu]

Q.1 Doordarshan is one of the two divisions of Prasar Bharati. Which of the following is the second division of Prasar Bharti?

A All India Radio

B Doordarshan Metro

C Vividh Bharati

D Radio India

Q.2 The signature Doordarshan tune was composed by _____ and _____.

A T. N. Krishnan, Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan

B Zakir Hussain, Pandit Ravi Shankar

C M. S. Subbulakshmi, T. N. Krishnan

D Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan

Q.3 The original 'Eye' logo of Doordarshan was designed by –

A Pingali Venkayya

B Devashis Bhattacharyya

C Udaya Kumar

D Gautam Sarabhai

Q.4 When was the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting substituted 'All India Radio' with 'Akashvani'?

A 2020

B 2021

C 2022

D 2023

Q.5 Who among the following Bollywood personalities was recently roped in by the Doordarshan National for an election awareness campaign?

A Parineeti Chopra

B Vidya Balan

C Taapsee Pannu

D Kangana Ranaut

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (B) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (C)

Answers

**NOW PREPARE FOR CLAT 2025
WITHOUT PAYING HEFTY COACHING FEES
JOIN LAWEX BY SMARTKEEDA ON YOUTUBE**





PASSAGE - 2

Astronomers are looking forward to opening a new window on the universe by posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon, and in orbit around it. There are numerous proposals to do this from astronomers around the world— including one from India called PRATUSH.

On the earth, optical telescopes (which collect visible light at longer wavelengths) and radio telescopes (which collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths) have to peer through layers of the planet's atmosphere. While it is becoming increasingly difficult for optical instruments to see through the polluted skies, radio telescopes also contend with radio and TV signals adding to the cacophony of the electromagnetic 'hiss' from the communications channels used by radar systems, aircraft, and satellites. It also does not help that the earth's ionosphere blocks radio waves coming from outer space.

Scientists tried to find a way out of this by launching radio telescopes into orbit around the earth. But this only made the problem worse, as orbiting telescopes started receiving radio noise from the whole planet along with signals from outer space. The pristine, airless desolation of the moon provides optical telescopes crystal-clear seeing conditions throughout the long lunar night, which lasts two weeks at a time. Radio telescopes on the lunar far side will also be protected by a 3,475-km-thick wall — a.k.a. the moon (its diameter is 3,476 km) — that blots out radio transmissions from the earth and electrically charged plasma winds blowing from the Sun.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "India's PRATUSH among telescopes astronomers want to put on, around the moon", by Prakash Chandra, The Hindu]

Q.1 Which of the following space agencies is getting ready to launch a radio telescope to the moon's far side on board its lunar lander, 'Argonaut' by 2030?

A NASA

B ISRO

C CSA

D ESA

Q.2 Which country recently launched its second and "first-of-its-kind mission" to the far side of the Moon, which is expected to bring samples from the Moon to Earth?

A Japan

B China

C Israel

D United States

Q.3 India has made history as its Moon mission became the first to land in the South Pole region and the fourth to reach the Moon on –

A 23 August 2023

B 15 August 2023

C 23 January 2022

D 15 January 2022

Q.4 _____ deployed its satellite, Queqiao-2, in lunar orbit with a 4.2-m antenna that will be used as, among other things, a radio telescope in March 2024.

A Japan

B South Korea

C China

D North Korea

Q.5 Fresh off its first-ever successful robotic moon landing, India aims to put an astronaut on the lunar surface by _____ and build an Earth-orbiting space station by _____.

A 2035, 2040

B 2040, 2035

C 2040, 2045

D 2035, 2045

Q.1 (D) Q.2 (B) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (B)

Answers

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366



PASSAGE - 3

As wealth distribution dominates news headlines in India, the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday (April 24) 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 [1] of the Constitution.

Falling under Part IV of the Constitution titled “Directive Principles of State Policy” (DPSP), [1] 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.

Since 1977, the apex court has weighed in on the interpretation of [1] 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. Justice Iyer had held that privately owned resources must also be considered material resources of the community.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Case before Supreme Court: Can Govt redistribute privately owned property?", by Ajoy Sinha Karpuram, The Indian Express]

Q.1 Which Article of the Indian Constitution has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| A Article 31A | C Article 300A |
| B Article 39(b) | D Article 40(b) |

Q.2 The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 abolished the right to property as a Fundamental Right and made it a legal right under –

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A Article 300A | C Article 301 |
| B Article 31A | D Article 30A |

Q.3 Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution deal with the Directive Principles of State Policy?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A Articles 36 to 51 | C Articles 36 to 52 |
| B Articles 35 to 50 | D Articles 37 to 51 |

Q.4 The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian constitution are borrowed from the:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A Canadian Constitution | C Irish Constitution |
| B British Constitution | D Australian Constitution |

Q.5 _____ of the Constitution lists down the fundamental rights that guarantee liberty and equality while Part IV contains the DPSPs.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| A Part II | C Part IVA |
| B Part III | D Part V |

Q.1 (B) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (B)

Answers

PREPARE FOR LAW EXAMS ON THE GO
DOWNLOAD CLAT BY SMARTKEEDA APP





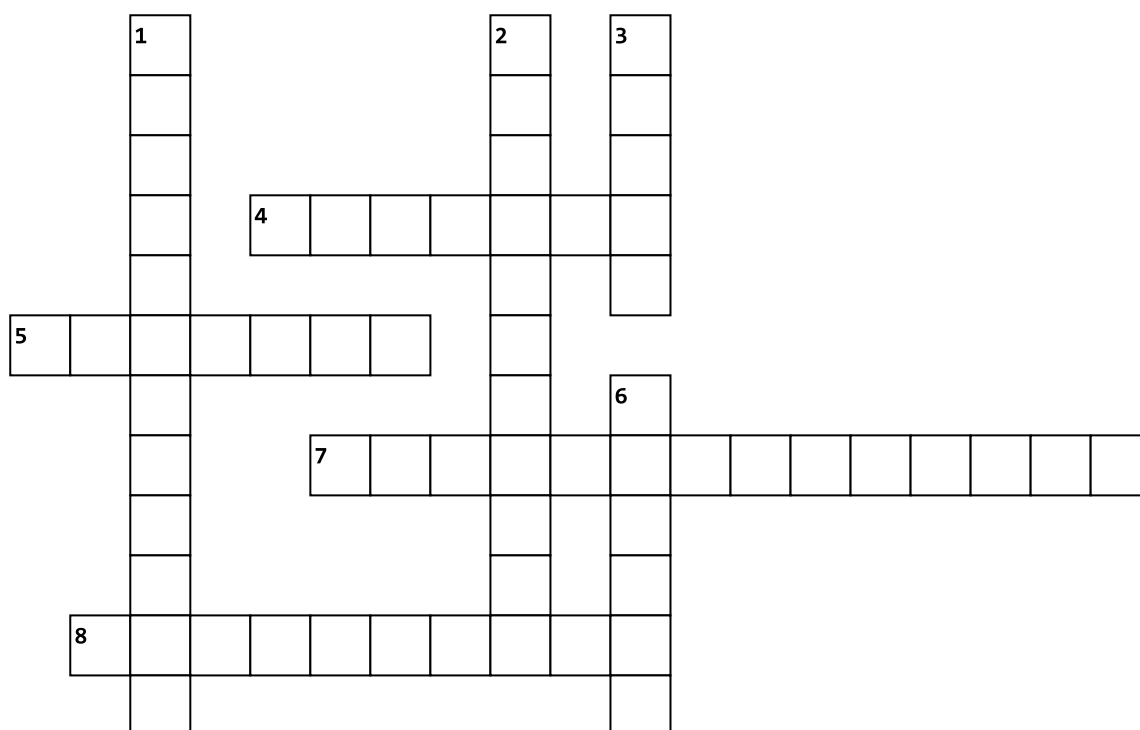
Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

- 4.** First country in the world to introduce vaccine for meningitis
- 5.** Winner of the 2024 FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament
- 7.** 26th Chief of the Naval Staff
- 8.** Country developed next-generation sodium battery

Down

- 1.** AMU's first woman Vice Chancellor
- 2.** Indian Navy conducted exercise on the East Coast
- 3.** Country hosted its first International Rainbow Tourism Conference
- 6.** Country hosted the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference

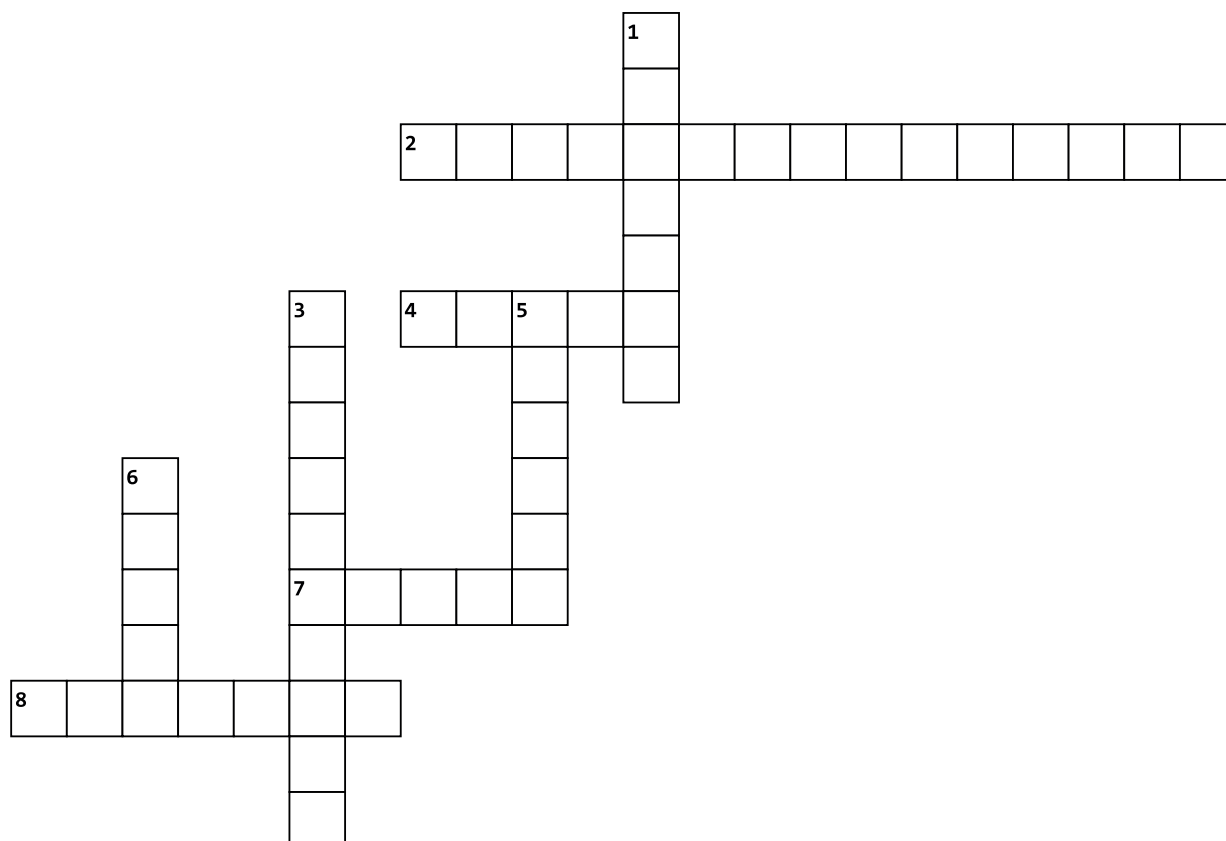
Answers

8	South Korea	4	Nigeria
7	Dinesh Tripathi	3	Nepal
6	Bhutan	2	Poorvilehar
5	Gukesh D	1	Naimakhatoon





CROSSWORD - 2



Across

2. Winner of the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar 2024
4. Announced the construction of the "world's largest" airport terminal
7. Country developed a new satellite smartphones
8. Satellite Technology Day 2024

Down

1. National Panchayati Raj Day
3. India's new post office at the Bharati research station in
5. Colombia's capital started rationing water
6. Country delivered the first batch of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines

Answers

4	Dubai	8	19 April
3	Antarctica	7	China
2	Amitabh Bachchan	6	India
1	24 April	5	Bogota

HAVE ANY DOUBT REGARDING YOUR CLAT PREPARATION?

WRITE TO US AT HELP@SMARTKEEDA.COM OR CALL US ON - 8979589366

ALPHA PLAN FOR RESTARTERS



- 50+ Full length Mocks
- 90+ Sectional Mocks
- 1000+ Topic wise mocks
- 1000+ Legal Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ General Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ Questions based on Reading Mockdrills
- 40+ LawEx Magazines on Fortnightly basis
- 40+ LawEx Magazines Mocks
- Daily Current Affairs Mockdrills
- All 5 sections to be fully covered
- PDFs of each mock
- Access to AI based portal for performance analysis
- Access to Mock test performance includes All India Ranking, Comparison with Toppers, Comparison with Friends.
- Tenure: 12 months or CLAT exam whichever comes first
- 24x7 Support

PRICE

~~₹ 6999/-~~
₹ 4999/-

FOR 10% OFF, APPLY

FEST24

Sign-up at
testzone.smartkeeda.com

FOR ANY QUERIES: 📞 89795 89366

BETA PLAN FOR BEGINNERS



- Daily Classes
- Daily Question Solving
- Separate Doubt Sessions
- Access to Record Sessions
- All 5 sections to be fully covered
- 50+ Full length Mocks
- 90+ Sectional Mocks
- 1000+ Topic wise mocks
- 1000+ Legal Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ General Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ Questions based on Reading Mockdrills
- 40+ LawEx Magazines on Fortnightly basis
- 40+ LawEx Magazines Mocks
- Daily Current Affairs Mockdrills
- PDFs of each mock
- E-books
- Access to AI based portal for performance analysis
- Access to Mock test performance includes All India
- Ranking, Comparison with Toppers, Comparison with Friends.
- **Tenure:** 12 months or CLAT exam whichever comes first
- 24x7 Support

PRICE

~~₹12999/-~~
₹9999/-

FOR 10% OFF, APPLY

FEST24

Sign-up at
testzone.smartkeeda.com

FOR ANY QUERIES: 📞 89795 89366

GAMMA PLAN

FOR ACHIEVERS



- Physical Mock tests + Study material delivered at home
- One to one mentoring sessions (Chat+ Audio+ Video)
- Daily Classes
- Daily Question Solving
- All 5 sections to be fully covered
- Access to Record Sessions
- 50+ Full length Mocks
- 90+ Sectional Mocks
- 1000+ Topic wise mocks
- 1000+ Legal Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ General Vocabulary questions
- 1000+ Questions based on Reading Mockdrills
- 40+ LawEx Magazines on Fortnightly basis
- 40+ LawEx Magazines Mocks
- Daily Current Affairs Mockdrills
- PDFs of each mock
- Separate Doubt Sessions
- E-books
- Access to AI based portal for performance analysis
- Access to Mock test performance includes All India
- Ranking, Comparison with Toppers, Comparison with Friend.
- 24x7 Support

PRICE

~~₹19999/-~~
₹17999/-

FOR 10% OFF, APPLY

FEST24

Sign-up at
testzone.smartkeeda.com

FOR ANY QUERIES: 📞 89795 89366