

THE PALA

CIVIL TIMES

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P2. NATIONAL



Supreme Court says state cannot impose penal action for not singing National Song - Examines the constitutional balance between respect for national symbols and the freedom of conscience.

P3 WORLD



Packed schedule for Jaishankar at UN : Highlights India's participation in P4M to strengthen multilateral cooperation while using the UN platform to advance its campaign for UNSC membership.

P4. WORLD



Haifa — a century-old battle, the politics of memory : Examines the role and valour of Indian soldiers in the Battle of Haifa while placing their contribution within the wider context of British colonial rule.

P7. ECONOMICS



Using trade treaty policy to strengthen arbitration : Examines how India's evolving treaty network and arbitration framework seek to balance investor protection, State regulatory autonomy and efficient dispute resolution.

Editor's Note

With this latest edition of the Pala Civil Times, we are venturing into some familiar themes and some new ones. For instance, the National Song has been in the news in recent weeks, with the latest legislative measures seeking to protect its dignity and highlight its significance in public gatherings. Today, we analyse the latest Supreme Court observations on citizens who refuse to sing it in the context of Article 25. The national page also focuses on the Karnataka government's decision not to accept Aadhaar as valid proof of age for marriage registration, aimed at preventing age manipulation and child marriage. On the international front, the Battle of Haifa is remembered as a point of exemplary Indian valour, while India's diplomatic engagement with Sri Lanka through the Jaffna Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre and its efforts to join the UNSC to strengthen its role in global peace and multilateralism are also discussed. Coming to the decoded editorials, we focus on the depleting groundwater table and the factors driving it, as well as illegal arrests and how they undermine constitutional safeguards. The economics page further delves into the less-discussed topic of arbitration in India's evolving investment treaties. These diverse topics form the crux of today's headlines. We hope readers take the time to develop an informed understanding of these issues with the available information and make their preparation easier. Happy reading!

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU



Water wealth

Examines how the rice-wheat farming system, procurement incentives and subsidised electricity have driven groundwater depletion.

The Indian EXPRESS



SC's message: An illegal arrest cannot be papered over

Arrest procedure cannot be reduced to paperwork because it operates as a safeguard against the arbitrary curtailment of personal liberty.

Supreme Court says state can set National Song, but cannot impose conscientious objectors to penal action

The Supreme Court on 22 September 2026 examined whether a person can be subjected to penal consequences for **refusing to sing some or all stanzas of Vande Mataram** on grounds of conscience or religious freedom. The Bench indicated that while the State may determine the form and scope of the National Song, such regulation must respect Articles 25 and 26 and constitutional freedoms.

Constitutional Protection

Freedom of Conscience: The Court observed that a democratically elected government may prescribe the scope and ceremonial use of the National Song, but cannot override an individual's freedom of conscience and religious freedom.

No Penal Compulsion: The key question is whether a person who conscientiously refuses to sing one or more stanzas can be subjected to criminal prosecution.

Bijoe Emmanuel Precedent

Silent Objection: The Court referred to the 1986 Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala judgment, which recognised the right of individuals to respectfully refrain from singing on grounds of conscience while respecting the National Anthem.

Continuing Principle: Justice Joymalya Bagchi indicated that the constitutional principle established in Bijoe Emmanuel continues to protect religious freedom, constitutional tolerance and conscientious objection.

2026 Legal Challenge

Amended Law: The petition challenges the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026, along with Ministry of Home Affairs directions concerning the singing of Vande Mataram at public functions.

Six Stanzas: The challenge particularly concerns the requirement to sing the entire six stanzas, with the petitioner arguing that the later stanzas contain devotional references that may create a conflict with individual religious beliefs.

The case highlights the need to balance respect for national symbols with freedom of conscience, religious freedom and secularism. While the State may regulate the ceremonial use of national symbols, the Court is examining whether such regulation can impose penal consequences on those who respectfully object on grounds of conscience.

Karnataka tightens marriage registration rules, says Aadhaar cannot be age proof

The Karnataka Department of Stamps and Registration has directed officials not to accept Aadhaar as proof of age for marriage registration, as mismatches between Aadhaar and birth records can facilitate child marriage.

Age Verification: Officials must rely on a birth certificate or school certificate. If both are unavailable, a medical certificate may be accepted. These requirements are already provided under Schedule II of Rule 6(2) of the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka) Rules, 2014, under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

Aadhaar's Purpose: Aadhaar is primarily a proof of identity, containing identification and biometric information, and is not treated as a conclusive document for determining age.

Preventing Child Marriage: The stricter verification aims to prevent manipulation of age records, including alleged changes in Aadhaar details, and ensure that marriage registration does not facilitate underage marriage.

Medical Assessment: Where documentary proof is unavailable, medical examination provides an approximate age range. As per the cited Supreme Court principle, where a range is given, the lower age is considered for determining eligibility.

PYQ COMPASS



- Q. Consider the following statements: (2020)
- 1. Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
 - 2. The state cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing of Aadhar data.
 - 3. Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining insurance products.
 - 4. Aadhar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated fund of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 4 only
 - (b) 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

See page 9 for answer

Packed schedule for Jaishankar at UN as India campaigns for Security Council election



India joined the **Partners for Multilateralism (P4M)** initiative on 21 September 2026 during the UN General Assembly in New York. The grouping brings together the EU, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Australia, Barbados and India to strengthen multilateral cooperation and support a more effective, representative and inclusive international order.

Strengthening Multilateralism: P4M seeks to support the UN Charter, international law and multilateral cooperation, while promoting reforms that make global institutions more effective and representative.

India's UNSC Campaign: India is seeking election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2028–29 and has launched its campaign for the term. India and Tajikistan are competing for the Asia-Pacific Group seat in the 2027 election.

Diplomatic Engagement: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar used the UNGA platform for extensive bilateral and multilateral engagements with European, Central Asian, Latin American and other partners, alongside India's UNSC campaign.

Significance: India's participation in P4M reinforces its emphasis on reformed multilateralism, international cooperation and greater representation in global institutions, while its UNSC campaign provides an important diplomatic focus during the current UNGA session.

Interim governing body set up to run India-built Cultural Centre in Jaffna



India and Sri Lanka have established an interim governing Trust for the India-built Jaffna Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka's Northern Province to ensure its sustained and financially self-sufficient operation.

Interim Governance: The Trust, established on 18 September 2026, will provide administrative and financial autonomy to the Centre until it is eventually handed over to the Jaffna Municipal Council.

Trust Composition: The Board includes senior officials from the Jaffna Municipal Council, Northern Provincial Administration and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, along with experts from arts and culture, commerce, education, law, and science and technology.

India's Contribution: The 11-storeyed Centre was financed by India through a \$12 million grant. Its foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, the facility was completed in 2020, virtually inaugurated in 2022, and dedicated to the people of Jaffna in 2023. India has also offered additional financial and administrative support for five years.

Cultural Significance: Located near the Jaffna Public Library, the Centre hosts music and dance performances, debates, exhibitions, education and industry fairs, and other cultural activities involving Indian and Sri Lankan artistes, strengthening people-to-people and cultural ties between the two countries.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. 'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. (GS II - 2022)

Q. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council. (GS II - 2015)

Haifa — a century-old battle, the politics of memory

The Battle of Haifa, fought on 23 September 1918, was a cavalry action during the final phase of the First World War and formed part of the wider Allied campaign against the Ottoman Empire. Indian cavalry units played a prominent role in the capture of Haifa, making the battle an important part of India's overseas military history. Its memory, however, remains contested, as the Indian soldiers fought under British imperial command and the subsequent political transformation of Palestine acquired very different meanings for Indians, Israelis and Palestinians.

Battle and Indian Contribution

Date and Context : The Battle of Haifa took place on 23 September 1918 during the final phase of the First World War, as Allied forces advanced against the Ottoman Empire in West Asia.

Indian Cavalry : Indian cavalry, particularly the Jodhpur Lancers of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, played a central role in the capture of the fortified city. The battle is remembered as a notable example of the use of Indian cavalry in overseas operations.

Wider Contribution : The Haifa action formed part of the much larger military contribution of Indian troops, with Indian forces deployed across Europe, Mesopotamia and other theatres.

Teen Murti–Haifa

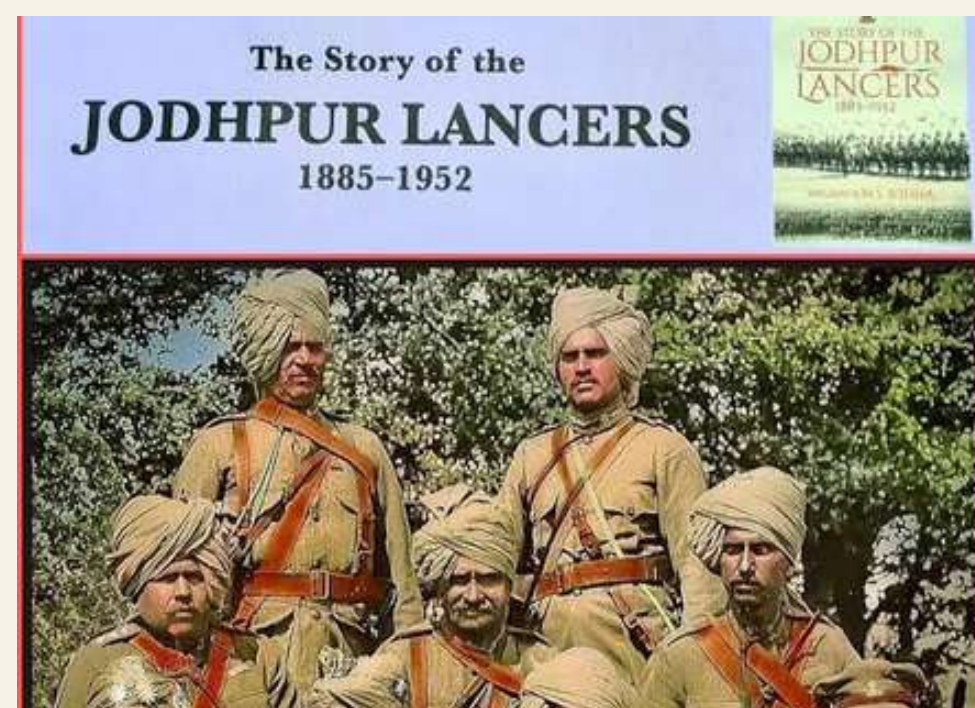
The association entered India's public commemorative landscape through the Teen Murti–Haifa memorial tradition; Teen Murti Chowk in New Delhi was renamed Teen Murti–Haifa Chowk in 2018.

Colonial Context and Historical Legacy

Imperial Command : Indian soldiers fought as part of the British Indian Army, meaning their military service took place within the framework of British imperial strategy rather than an independent Indian foreign or national policy.

Agency and Sacrifice : The courage and sacrifice of the soldiers can be recognised as part of India's military history, while also acknowledging that they did not determine the larger political objectives or consequences of the war.

Postcolonial Reclamation : After Independence, Haifa became part of efforts to recover the history of Indian military service overseas and recognise Indian agency and sacrifice within a colonial-era military structure.



Present Day Diplomatic Significance

Different Narratives : It is remembered in India for military courage, in Israel as part of the history of Haifa and India-Israel ties, while Palestinian perspectives connect the 1918 campaign with the subsequent history of British rule and political transformation in Palestine.

Colonial Consequences : The broader Allied victory contributed to the end of Ottoman rule and the establishment of the British Mandate in Palestine. The political developments that followed, including the implementation of the Balfour Declaration within the Mandate framework, eventually became part of the historical background to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Symbol of Friendship : Haifa has increasingly been used as a symbol of India-Israel historical ties, with Indian and Israeli officials participating in commemorative activities.

Annual Commemoration : A commemorative service is held annually at the Haifa Memorial, reflecting the continuing public memory of the Indian cavalry's role.

Significance for Historical Understanding

The Battle of Haifa highlights the global contribution of Indian soldiers in the First World War while also showing the complexity of serving under an imperial command. Its legacy can be understood by recognising Indian military valour, the colonial context, and the different Israeli and Palestinian perspectives on its later political significance.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (GS II - 2018)

Water wealth: On groundwater exploitation in Punjab

Punjab's groundwater crisis reflects the structural pressure created by its rice-wheat agricultural system, where assured procurement, subsidised electricity and easy access to groundwater have encouraged intensive irrigation. The crisis is now also creating economic inequality among farmers, as declining water tables increase the capital required for irrigation.

Groundwater Over-Extraction in Punjab

High Extraction : Punjab's Stage of Groundwater Extraction is 152%, indicating that annual groundwater extraction exceeds its annual extractable groundwater resources.

Red-Zone Blocks : 72% of Punjab's 153 assessment blocks are in the 'over-exploited' or red zone, the highest proportion among States. Interventions have reduced the number of over-exploited blocks by five over the last two assessments.

Deepening Water Table : The share of observation wells recording groundwater levels below 40 metres in the post-monsoon period increased by two percentage points between 2022 and 2025.

Agricultural Demand : Irrigation for rice and wheat is the principal consumer of groundwater, accounting for nearly 25 billion cubic metres annually in the latest estimate.

Measurement Context

Annual Assessment : Dynamic Groundwater Resources are assessed annually through a joint exercise by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments.

National Position : As per the 2025 assessment, India has:

- **Annual Groundwater Recharge: 448.52 BCM**
- **Annual Extractable Groundwater Resources: 407.75 BCM**
- **Annual Groundwater Extraction: 247.22 BCM**
- **Stage of Groundwater Extraction: 60.63%**

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Drivers of the Crisis

Cropping Pattern : Food-security policies encouraged a concentrated rice-wheat cropping system, making intensive irrigation, fertiliser use, mechanisation and high-yield varieties less risky than alternative forms of cultivation.

Policy Incentives : Assured procurement, subsidised electricity and access to groundwater have reinforced the economic attractiveness of water-intensive cultivation.

Crop Diversification : Farmers remain reluctant to shift to alternative crops because of uncertainties relating to storage, prices, processing infrastructure and supply chains.

Efficiency Trap : State interventions have improved efficiency in some areas, but the scale of groundwater demand continues to overwhelm these gains.

Unequal Access : Farmers with marginal landholdings may use water more efficiently, but wealthier farmers are better equipped to access deeper water tables and extract larger volumes.

High Extraction

Punjab's Stage of Groundwater Extraction is 152%, indicating that annual groundwater extraction exceeds its annual extractable groundwater resources.

Policy Response and Way Forward

Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao : The scheme provides farmers with cash incentives for every unused kilowatt-hour of electricity for groundwater pumping below a specified threshold, creating an incentive to reduce extraction.

Collective Irrigation : Farmers could be supported in collectivising irrigation infrastructure, reducing the individual capital burden of accessing water.

Crop Transition : Financial and institutional support for shifting towards less water-intensive crops can reduce dependence on groundwater while addressing the economic risks of diversification.

Cultivator-Centred Subsidy : Benefits should follow the cultivator, including tenants, rather than being linked primarily to ownership of land or pumps. This can shift welfare support from subsidising groundwater extraction to supporting access to water.



SC's message: An illegal arrest cannot be papered over

Article 22 of the Constitution provides safeguards to persons who are arrested or detained, particularly against arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty. Article 22(1) requires that an arrested person be informed of the grounds of arrest and be allowed to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice. The Supreme Court has recently reiterated that these safeguards are mandatory constitutional requirements and cannot be diluted because of the nature or gravity of the offence.

Fundamental Right : Article 22(1) forms part of the Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Constitution and directly protects personal liberty against arbitrary arrest and detention. The requirement reflects the broader constitutional principle that State action restricting liberty must follow fair and constitutionally prescribed procedure.

Key Safeguards under Article 22(1)

Grounds of Arrest : Every arrested person must be informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds of arrest. The information must be communicated in a manner that enables the arrestee to understand why their liberty has been curtailed.

Legal Assistance : An arrested person cannot be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice. This provides an important procedural safeguard against arbitrary State action.

Time-bound Production : Under Article 22(2), an arrested person must be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the time necessary for the journey. Detention beyond this period requires the authority of a Magistrate.

Constitutional Exceptions : Article 22(1) and 22(2) do not apply to an enemy alien or to persons arrested or detained under laws providing for preventive detention, as provided under Article 22(3).

Supreme Court's Reasoning

No Prejudice Test : Violation of Article 22(1) cannot be excused merely because the accused is unable to demonstrate actual or specific prejudice. Once the constitutional safeguard is breached, the question of demonstrable prejudice does not arise.

Gravity No Exception : The seriousness or gravity of the alleged offence does not permit investigating agencies to bypass Article 22(1). Constitutional protection of liberty does not become negotiable because the allegation is serious.

Universal Application : The safeguard applies across the spectrum, including offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as well as special enactments.

Implications and Accountability

Immediate Release : Where a person has been arrested without being properly informed of the grounds of arrest, the unconstitutional detention can warrant immediate release.

Not Bail : Such release should not be treated as bail because the underlying detention was unconstitutional. This distinction matters because bail can be revoked, whereas an unconstitutional detention cannot be retrospectively validated merely through fresh paperwork.

Officer Accountability : An officer responsible for violating the constitutional procedure must face a departmental inquiry. The matter must also be handed over to a different investigating officer.

Re-arrest Safeguards : Re-arrest of a person released following an unconstitutional arrest requires endorsement by a superior officer, Independent satisfaction of the Magistrate and Compliance with the prescribed process within one week

Compensation : High Courts have been directed to award suitable mandatory compensation where Article 22 is violated.

State Accountability : The ruling reinforces that procedural compliance is itself a constitutional obligation.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Consider the following statements:
(2023)

1. According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
2. The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to person being held for preventive detention
3. According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Using trade treaty policy to strengthen arbitration

India's expanding network of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) is shaping not only market access and investment protection but also the country's dispute-resolution ecosystem. With the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 already providing the framework for domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, treaty policy can further strengthen predictable, enforceable and trusted commercial arbitration.

Expanding Treaty Network and Arbitration Opportunity

Growing Network : India has signed BITs with the UAE (2024), Uzbekistan (2024) and Israel (2025), and FTAs with the European Free Trade Association (2024), UK (2025), Oman (2025) and New Zealand (2026).

Beyond Market Access : These agreements can serve a purpose beyond attracting investment and expanding exports by strengthening the dispute-resolution infrastructure needed by international businesses.

Investor Confidence : Investors consider not only market access and returns but also how commercial disputes will be resolved when contractual relationships break down.

Domestic Foundation : The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 already provides the statutory architecture, creating a foundation that treaty policy can reinforce.

ISDS and Commercial Arbitration

ISDS Omission : India's recent FTAs have generally omitted **Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)**, reflecting the State's reservations regarding treaty-based investor claims.

Commercial Alternative : A significant share of foreign investment involves contracts between foreign investors and Indian State agencies, making commercial arbitration crucial.

Treaty Clarification : Future FTAs could clarify that the absence of ISDS is compatible with the availability of commercial arbitration and domestic legal remedies in India.

Contractual Boundary : India's BITs providing ISDS can also distinguish treaty-based investment disputes from commercial disputes arising solely from contracts.



Local Remedies and Third-Party Funding

Local Remedies : Recent BITs generally require a foreign investor to first approach the courts or other authorities in India before taking an investment dispute to international arbitration (ISDS).

Arbitration Gap : These provisions may not clearly recognise commercial arbitration in India as a way of fulfilling this requirement. Future BITs could clarify whether approaching an Indian arbitration tribunal should also count as using a domestic remedy.

Third-Party Funding : India's recent BITs generally restrict third-party funding in ISDS, where an outside party finances an investor's legal claim in return for a share of the eventual outcome. It is linked to concerns that such claims may challenge government's regulatory policies.

Different Context : The same concerns may not apply to ordinary commercial arbitration, which generally deals with contractual or business disputes. Future treaties could therefore clarify that restrictions on funding in ISDS do not automatically prohibit third-party funding in commercial arbitration in India.

India needs a predictable, efficient and enforceable arbitration framework to strengthen business confidence and support long-term investment. Clearer separation between ISDS and commercial arbitration, judicial support for enforcement, institutional reforms and a coherent policy on issues such as third-party funding can strengthen the domestic arbitration ecosystem. Linking arbitration reforms with treaty policy can make dispute resolution an important part of India's trade and investment infrastructure and support its ambition to emerge as a global arbitration hub.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? (GS II - 2016)

PYQ Compass



Q. Consider the following statements: (2020)

1. Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
2. The state cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing of Aadhaar data.
3. Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining insurance products.
4. Aadhaar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans : a

Statement 1 is not correct: A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled that the Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored beyond six months.

Statement 2 is correct: Part of Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, enabling body corporate and individuals to seek authentication, has been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. **Statement 3 is not correct:** In the 2018 judgement, the Supreme Court held that Aadhaar is not mandatory to purchase the insurance products, however, it can be voluntarily used for KYC of the insurance products. Even IRDA has made similar rules.

Statement 4 is correct: The Supreme Court ruled that any welfare scheme, drawing funds out of the Consolidated Fund of India, would require Aadhaar to deliver the benefits to the intended beneficiaries.

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
 2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
 3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 2 only
 - d) 1 and 3 only

Ans : b

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country. Statement 3 is correct – India has the world's largest groundwater well equipped irrigation system.

PYQ Compass



Q. Consider the following statements: (2023)

1. According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
2. The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to person being held for preventive detention
3. According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans : a

Statement 1 is correct: As per Article 355 of the Constitution, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from external aggression and internal disturbances. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Constitution does not exempt states from providing legal counsel to persons held under preventive detention. Article 22 ensures certain protections, including legal aid, for such persons.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2002, a confession made before a police officer of a certain rank could be used as evidence in court. This provision was controversial and led to the repeal of POTA in 2004.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to groundwater resources in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Groundwater extraction for irrigation is an important factor contributing to groundwater depletion in agriculturally intensive regions.
3. India has the world's largest groundwater-based irrigation system.
4. Groundwater extraction is determined exclusively by natural recharge.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The CGWA was constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate and control groundwater development and management.
- Statement 2 is correct: Intensive irrigation, particularly in water-intensive agricultural systems, can place substantial pressure on groundwater reserves.
- Statement 3 is correct: India has the world's largest groundwater-based irrigation system.
- Statement 4 is not correct: Groundwater extraction is influenced not only by natural recharge but also by cropping patterns, irrigation demand, electricity subsidies, procurement incentives and access to groundwater infrastructure.

Q. With reference to Aadhaar and age verification, consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar primarily establishes identity and is not necessarily a conclusive document for determining age.
2. A birth certificate or school certificate can serve as documentary evidence of age for marriage registration under the Karnataka framework discussed.
3. A medical certificate can be used where documentary evidence of age is unavailable.
4. Aadhaar details cannot ever be corrected after enrolment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: Karnataka's recent direction requires officials to rely on a birth certificate or school certificate, with a medical certificate available when these are absent. Aadhaar is primarily an identity document rather than a conclusive proof of age.

Statement 4 is not correct: The issue discussed in the Karnataka case itself concerns the possibility of corrections or mismatches in Aadhaar age details. Therefore, it cannot be said that Aadhaar details can never be corrected.