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MCQs

THE HINDU

Where should judicial restraint begin?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution,
Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy,

Mains: General Studies - 2

Government policies and interventions
for development in various sectors and
issues arising out of their design and
implementation.

Why in Focus?

- In October 2026, **Supreme Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** stated that **voting is a constitutional right** and that removing eligible voters without proper safeguards would violate the Constitution.
- He stressed that **voters** should generally receive **notice and an opportunity to be heard** before their names are deleted, sparking debate over **judicial propriety** as the Supreme Court hears cases on the **Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls.

Key Highlights:

- The **1997 Restatement of Values of Judicial Life** bars judges from **commenting on political matters or cases pending or likely to come before courts**.
- Articles 325 and 326** govern electoral equality

and adult suffrage; the Supreme Court recognises voting as a constitutional right subject to legal regulation.

- Section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**, provide procedural safeguards for electoral-roll corrections and deletions.
- Critics argued that Justice Bhuyan's remarks risked commenting on a pending matter**, while supporters said **they largely reflected existing legal principles**.
- The **Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct** and the **U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 Code of Conduct** permit legal discussion but caution against comments that could affect pending proceedings.

Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct: Standards for the ethical conduct of judges, drafted in 2001 and presented at the Round Table Meeting of Chief Justices in November 2002. The six core values are **Independence, Impartiality, Integrity, Propriety, Equality, and Competence and Diligence**.

- Public discussion by judges can strengthen **constitutional awareness** and address civil liberties provided impartiality is preserved.
- The propriety of judicial speech depends on its **subject, specificity and proximity to adjudication**; **recusal may become relevant** if a judge later hears a case on which they commented.

Judicial Recusal: A judge's withdrawal from a case to avoid actual or perceived bias



Implications:

- Judicial remarks can promote **constitutional awareness and public debate**.
- Comments on pending cases may create **perceptions of bias**.
- Excessive restrictions on judicial speech** may discourage legitimate legal discussion.
- Clear ethical standards can strengthen **public trust in judicial independence**.

Way Forward:

- Develop clear guidance distinguishing **legal education from commentary on pending cases**.
- Preserve judicial freedom to discuss constitutional principles** and institutional functioning.
- Avoid definitive statements** on matters awaiting adjudication.
- Apply **recusal principles** where prior remarks create a reasonable perception of bias.
- Promote transparency** while safeguarding judicial independence.

Mains Question:

Judicial independence must be balanced with judicial restraint in public commentary. Discuss with reference to constitutional principles and judicial ethics in India. (250 words, 15 marks)

Jantar Mantar to 'Dilli Chalo', protest challenges power

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in Focus?

- Protests over **electoral roll revision, education and citizens' rights** have united student groups, civil society and Opposition parties.

- Concerns over voter exclusion and the **Election Commission of India's (ECI) independence** have intensified debates on democratic accountability.

Key Highlights:

- Arbitrary exclusion of eligible voters undermines **universal adult suffrage under Article 326** and **democratic legitimacy**.

Article 326: Provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies based on adult suffrage, subject to constitutional provisions.

- The **Special Intensive Revision reportedly excluded 13.37 crore names** across 30 States and UTs by early September 2026, raising concerns about **potential disenfranchisement**.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR): A voter verification exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to prepare accurate electoral rolls by verifying eligible voters and removing ineligible entries.

- The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, excluded the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee**, raising concerns over ECI independence.

Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023: The Act governs the appointment, service conditions and tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, providing for their appointment by the President on the recommendation of a **Selection Committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.

- A petition before the Supreme Court sought an **audit of voter deletions, safeguards against arbitrary exclusion and judicial scrutiny of SIR**.
- Detentions of protesters, restrictions on gatherings** and mobile internet suspensions raised concerns over **freedom of expression and peaceful assembly**.
- Student groups, civil society and Opposition parties united over electoral fairness and wider concerns, including **education, unemployment and rising prices**.



Implications:

- Exclusion of eligible voters can undermine **electoral fairness and democratic legitimacy**.
- Controversies over voter deletions may weaken **public trust in the ECI**.
- Restrictions on peaceful protests can threaten **fundamental freedoms and civil liberties**.
- Electoral concerns linked to socioeconomic grievances may reshape **political participation and public debate**.

Way Forward:

- Ensure **transparent electoral-roll revision** and accessible appeals.
- Provide timely remedies for **eligible voters wrongly excluded**.
- Strengthen the ECI's **independence, impartiality and accountability**.
- Protect **peaceful assembly and freedom of expression**.
- **Promote dialogue** among the ECI, political parties, civil society and citizens.

Mains Question:

Electoral integrity and independent institutions are essential for democratic legitimacy. Discuss the challenges to free and fair elections in India and suggest measures to address them. (150 words, 10 marks)

U.S. immigration restrictions may outlast Trump

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Why in Focus?

- The Trump administration has tightened **legal immigration** through H-1B visa fee hikes, wage-weighted selection and changes to visa procedures.

- These measures affect **Indian professionals, students and IT firms**, creating challenges for India–U.S. economic relations.

H-1B Visa: A U.S. non-immigrant visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows employers to hire foreign professionals in specialised occupations requiring specialised knowledge and at least a relevant bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Key Highlights:

- Indian nationals account for **70% of H-1B visa approvals**, while over **54% of India's software services exports go to the U.S.**, highlighting India's exposure to immigration restrictions.
- The U.S. introduced a **\$100,000 payment requirement for certain new H-1B petitions**, alongside changes to visa renewals
- **Democrats** generally support legal immigration but also seek H-1B reforms to address alleged fraud and protect domestic workers.
- **Republicans** are divided between anti-immigration nationalists and businesses needing foreign talent, **prompting exemptions for some graduates and existing visa holders**.
- **Wage-based H-1B selection** could **disadvantage Indian outsourcing firms while favouring U.S. employers** hiring highly paid skilled workers.
- Easing **F-1 student visa** requirements could benefit Indian students in U.S. universities, while **stricter H-1B rules may limit their transition to skilled employment**.

F-1 Visa: U.S. non-immigrant visa for international students pursuing academic studies.

- **Green-card sponsorship suspensions** affecting Indian IT firms highlight the **need to diversify export markets and reduce dependence on the U.S. market**.

Green Card: Document granting lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

Implications:

- **Greater uncertainty** for Indian IT professionals seeking U.S. employment.
- **Higher recruitment costs** and operational challenges for Indian IT firms.



- **Potential effects on students**, skilled migration, remittances and bilateral economic ties.
- **Greater need to diversify export markets** and strengthen domestic technology capabilities.

Way Forward:

- Engage the U.S. through **diplomatic and trade channels** for predictable visa rules.
- **Diversify Indian IT exports** and expand into emerging markets.
- Strengthen **domestic research, innovation and high-skilled employment**.
- Support **Indian professionals and students** affected by visa restrictions.
- **Promote bilateral cooperation** in AI, technology and skill development

Mains Question:

Changing U.S. immigration policies pose economic and strategic challenges for India. Examine their implications for India–U.S. relations and suggest measures India should adopt.”(150 words, 10 marks)

India needs to train its clinical staff before erecting data shields

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1

Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in Focus?

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023** seeks to protect digital patient information.
- Implementation raises concerns about **compliance costs, staff training and equitable healthcare access**.

Key Highlights:

- The **DPDP Act, 2023** contains 44 sections,

nine chapters and one Schedule. Rules **were notified on November 13, 2025, with consent manager provisions effective November 13, 2026**, and other substantive obligations from May 13, 2027.

- **Clinical consent** differs from data consent; exceptions cover emergencies and specified medico-legal and public health situations.
- **Clinical consent** refers to a patient’s informed agreement to a medical procedure or treatment, whereas **data consent** refers to an individual’s permission to collect, process or use their personal data.
- Patients are **Data Principals**, hospitals are **Data Fiduciaries**, and external service providers processing data are **Data Processors**.

Data Principal: Individual whose personal data is processed.

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

Data Processor: Entity processing personal data on behalf of a Data Fiduciary

- Hospitals must balance privacy with clinical access through **encryption, access controls, audit logs, backups and grievance redressal**.
- Failure to implement reasonable security safeguards can attract penalties up to **₹250 crore**
- The government should provide **shared privacy infrastructure, affordable cybersecurity, standard agreements and DPDP training** through the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** and its Unified Health Interface.

Unified Health Interface (UHI): Interface designed to facilitate access to digital health services.

Implications:

- Stronger safeguards can improve **patient privacy and accountability**.
- Compliance costs may increase **financial pressure on healthcare facilities and patients**.
- **Third-party data sharing** and inadequate staff training can increase **data breach risks**.
- High compliance costs may disproportionately burden **smaller healthcare facilities**.
- Shared infrastructure can **reduce compliance costs** for smaller healthcare providers.

Way Forward:

- Establish **shared, affordable cybersecurity infrastructure** for healthcare facilities.
- Provide **standardised DPDP training** for healthcare professionals.
- Strengthen **access controls, breach response and grievance redressal**.
- Protect patient privacy without **delaying treatment or increasing financial burdens**.

Mains Question:

“Effective protection of digital health data requires robust legal safeguards and affordable compliance infrastructure.” Discuss in the context of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. (250 words, 15 marks).

KEYWORDS

Operation Trident

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** launched **Operation Trident** on **23 October 2026** to dismantle an international drug-trafficking network.
- The operation covered **38 locations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur**, involving coordinated action by multiple agencies.
- It targeted a transnational narcotics cartel trafficking drugs across the **India–Myanmar–Bangladesh corridor**.
- The operation uncovered nearly **₹100 crore in hawala transactions**, led to the freezing of **1,424 bank accounts** and the attachment of properties worth ₹17.82 crore.

PARAM Shakti Supercomputer

- The **PARAM Shakti** supercomputing facility was launched at **IIT Madras in January 2026**, hosting an indigenous **PARAM RUDRA** supercomputing system.
- The facility has a peak computing capacity of **3.1 petaflops**, enabling more than 3.1 quadrillion calculations per second.

- **Petaflops (PFLOPS)** is a unit used to measure a supercomputer’s processing speed
- It was designed and developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** using indigenously manufactured **RUDRA** series servers.
- Its applications include **climate modelling, aerospace research, materials science, drug discovery and advanced manufacturing**, strengthening India’s indigenous high-performance computing capabilities.



Narinder Singh Kapany

- **Narinder Singh Kapany** was an Indian-American physicist widely known as the **“Father of Fibre Optics”** for his pioneering work in optical fibre technology.
- He was born on **31 October 1926** in **Moga, Punjab, British India**.
- His research **demonstrated that light could be transmitted through bundles of optical fibres**, enabling advances in modern communication technology.
- Fibre optics transmit information as **light signals** through thin strands of glass or plastic, **allowing high-speed data transmission with minimal signal loss**.
- His contributions **helped lay the foundation** for modern **fibre-optic communication, medical endoscopy and laser technology**.



Oskar Klein Medal

- The **Oskar Klein Medal** is an international award recognising outstanding contributions to theoretical physics.
- It is named after **Oskar Klein**, a Swedish theoretical physicist known for his contributions to quantum mechanics and theoretical physics.
- The medal was established in **1988** and is associated with **Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
- Recently, Indian theoretical physicist **Ashoke Sen** received the **2026 Oskar Klein Medal**
- He was **recognised for pioneering contributions to string theory**, a theoretical framework in physics that describes fundamental particles as tiny vibrating strings rather than point-like particles,

PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor)

- PHP is an **open-source, server-side scripting language** used in web development.
- It is used to **create dynamic and interactive websites**.
- PHP code is **executed on the web server, not directly in the user's browser**.
- **WordPress**, a popular content management system, **uses PHP**.
- In October 2026, **critical security vulnerabilities were discovered in PHP**, prompting emergency security updates.

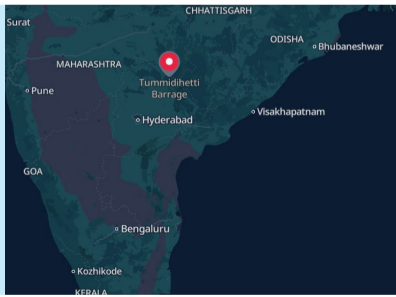
Molecular Machines

- Molecular machines are **molecules or groups of molecules that perform specific tasks using energy**.
- They **operate at the molecular or nanoscale level**.
- They can convert chemical energy into mechanical movement and can be used in **targeted drug delivery, medical diagnostics, nanotechnology and the development of advanced materials**.
- In 2016, the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was awarded to **Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Fraser Stoddart and Bernard Feringa** for the design and synthesis of molecular machines.

Places in News

Tummidihatti Barrage

- In October 2026, **Telangana prepared for further discussions with Maharashtra** regarding the proposed height of the Tummidihatti Barrage and water-sharing issues.
- The **Tummidihatti Barrage** is a proposed irrigation project on the **Pranahita River**, a tributary of the Godavari River.
- It is located at **Tummidihatti village in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, Telangana**.
- The project is associated with the **Pranahita–Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme**, aimed at providing irrigation and water supply.
- Telangana has sought **Maharashtra's approval to increase the proposed Full Reservoir Level (FRL)** from 148 metres to 150–152 metres to improve water diversion.
- The project aims to provide irrigation to approximately **2 lakh acres** in the erstwhile Adilabad district.



Gaza Strip

- The Gaza Strip remains in focus due to the **ongoing Israel– Hamas conflict, humanitarian crisis and efforts to establish a ceasefire.**
- The **Gaza Strip** is a Palestinian territory located on the eastern coast of the **Mediterranean Sea.**
- It shares borders with **Israel to the east and north** and **Egypt to the southwest.**
- The Gaza Strip and the **West Bank** are the two principal territories associated with the State of Palestine, separated geographically by Israeli territory.
- **Hamas** took control of the Gaza Strip in **June 2007** following clashes with Fatah.

