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EDITION

11 NOVEMBER 2026

The Daily Gist

The Hindu | International Edition

NEWS | EDITORIALS | EXPLAINED | ANALYSIS

PREPARED FOR

UPSC GS Core Group 2027

Prelims + Mains • GS I - IV • Essay • Public Administration Optional

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DAILY GIST: THE HINDU

(11/11/2026)

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Source: The Hindu, International Edition, 11 November 2026 (e-paper supplied, all 18 pages). The Indian Express was not available for this edition, so every item is drawn from The Hindu.

1. Editorial: Caste and Class - Applying the OBC Creamy Layer Consistently

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

The Hindu's lead editorial argues that excluding the OBC 'creamy layer' is essential but has been applied unevenly. It follows the Supreme Court's 6 November clarification in the Rohith Nathan matter on civil services candidates denied OBC benefits.

Key Highlights:

- **Salary-only test struck down:** In Rohith Nathan (March 2026) the SC held that a parent's salary alone cannot prove social advancement, rejecting DoPT's 2004 'clarification'.
- **Who was hurt:** From about 2015, dozens of OBC candidates who cleared the CSE lost benefits because pay revisions pushed parental salaries above the limit, even when occupational status had not changed.
- **Limits of the ruling:** On 6 November the Court clarified that completed selections need not be reopened, after the Centre warned of administrative chaos.
- **Editorial's remedy:** Create supernumerary posts for genuine claimants and apply the 1993 equivalence rules to pending allocations, so relief is not limited to those who can afford litigation.
- **Uneven gains:** OBCs hold about 26.3% of central jobs (DoPT 2024-25) but far less at senior levels, and the Rohini Commission report (2023) on sub-categorisation is still unpublished.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Indra Sawhney (1992)	Upheld 27% OBC quota in central jobs, conditional on excluding the creamy layer; 50% ceiling
Creamy layer income limit	Rs 8 lakh per year (revised 2017); salary and agricultural income excluded under 1993 OM
Article 16(4)	Enables reservation in public posts for backward classes not adequately represented
Article 338B	National Commission for Backward Classes - constitutional status by 102nd Amendment, 2018
Justice G. Rohini Commission	Set up 2017 under Article 340 to examine sub-categorisation of OBCs; report submitted 2023

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Keeps reservation focused on those still disadvantaged within OBCs
Concerns	Arbitrary DoPT practice, litigation-driven relief, lack of caste-wise socio-economic data
Data & Evidence	OBC share in central employment 26.3%, thinning at higher grades
Way Forward	Publish Rohini report; use upcoming caste census to collect education, occupation and asset data; transparent equivalence norms
Probable Question (GS-II)	The creamy layer principle is essential to the legitimacy of OBC reservation. Discuss in light of recent judicial developments.

IN THE ESSENCE

Reservation must dismantle both caste hierarchy and class privilege. That needs creamy layer rules that are clear, consistently applied and backed by data, so that justice does not depend on who can afford to go to court.

2. Editorial: Without Rationale - Disbanding of the Kurian Committee on Union-State Relations

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

The Tamil Nadu government has wound up the Justice Kurian Joseph Committee on Union-State Relations and handed its work to the State Law Commission. The Hindu calls the move politically driven and unjustified.

Key Highlights:

- **The decision:** The State cited the committee's 'non-statutory' nature and overlap with the Law Commission, which the editorial finds unconvincing because the Commission too rests on an executive order.
- **Quality of work:** Part I of the report, submitted in February, examined State autonomy, delimitation and the Governor's office, and was welcomed by most parties.
- **Mandate mismatch:** Centre-State relations is only one item in the Law Commission's broad brief, while dedicated committees have produced concrete remedies before.
- **Track record:** Such panels helped Tamil Nadu legislate around central-law limits, for example horizontal reservation in professional course admissions.
- **Advice:** The government should let the committee finish, since its work fits the ruling party's own stance on State rights.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Rajamannar Committee (1969)	Set up by Tamil Nadu to study Centre-State relations
Sarkaria Commission (1983-88)	Central commission on Centre-State relations; led to Inter-State Council (1990)
Punchhi Commission (2007-10)	Second central commission on Centre-State relations
Article 263	President may establish an Inter-State Council
Justice Kurian Joseph	Former Supreme Court judge; heads TN's high-level committee on Union-State relations

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	States' expert reviews feed national debates on cooperative federalism
Concerns	Policy discontinuity with change of government; politicisation of institutional work
Way Forward	Let expert bodies complete mandates; institutionalise Inter-State Council and Zonal Council dialogue
Probable Question (GS-II)	Examine the relevance of State-appointed committees in shaping Centre-State relations in India.

IN THE ESSENCE

Federal reform needs patient, expert institutions, not reversals driven by a change of government. Allowing the committee to complete its work would strengthen the case for a balanced and cooperative Union-State framework.

3. Opinion: Strategic Autonomy Must Guide India's Starlink Policy

[The Hindu] | GS-III

Context:

Amid a public spat between Elon Musk and Indian business interests, Ashwin Prasad Rao (Takshashila Institution) argues the real issue is how much control India will have over Starlink once it operates here.

Key Highlights:

- **Reach, not density:** Satellite internet suits remote areas, borders, ships and disaster zones, complementing rather than replacing fibre and mobile networks.
- **Control gap:** India can licence and penalise, but SpaceX controls the satellites, software and terminals, so service could stay on or go off against India's wishes.
- **Existing safeguards:** Indian traffic must pass through gateways located in India, inter-satellite bypass is barred, and security agencies get monitoring and shutdown powers.
- **Global lessons:** Iran has failed through the ITU to stop unauthorised Starlink use. In Ukraine, SpaceX cooperated in blocking Russian terminals, but military users also faced a contested service disruption in October.
- **Build alternatives:** Use multiple providers, keep tested backups for armed forces, expand BharatNet (only 30% of gram panchayats functional, Feb 2026) and grow Indian constellations.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Starlink	SpaceX's low-earth-orbit (LEO) broadband constellation; Starshield is its military variant
ITU Radio Regulations Board	Body under the International Telecommunication Union that rules on frequency-use disputes
Telecommunications Act, 2023	Allows administrative (non-auction) allotment of satellite spectrum
IN-SPACe	Single-window authoriser for private space activities in India
BharatNet	Optical-fibre programme to connect all gram panchayats

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Last-mile connectivity, disaster response, defence communications
Concerns	Foreign jurisdictional leverage, verification limits, single-vendor dependence
Way Forward	Strict licensing with verifiable compliance, multi-vendor strategy, domestic satellite industry
Probable Question (GS-III)	Satellite internet offers connectivity but raises strategic vulnerabilities. Discuss with reference to India's satcom policy.

IN THE ESSENCE

Starlink can close India's connectivity gaps, but a single foreign-controlled network must never be a single point of failure. Strategic autonomy lies in strict rules, verifiable compliance and home-grown alternatives.

4. Opinion: FCRA Amendments - Transparency Is Essential to Institutional Credibility

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

The proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, now before a Joint Parliamentary Committee, have drawn opposition from civil society and Christian institutions. Clement Arockiasamy argues that minority institutions must also be transparent to their own stakeholders.

Key Highlights:

- **What the Bill does:** It tightens regulation of foreign-funded organisations, including rules on assets created from foreign contributions.
- **Both sides:** The government cites transparency and misuse, while critics fear curbs on civil society and minority bodies.
- **Author's challenge:** Institutions that demand accountability from the state should publish audited accounts, funding sources and how funds are used.
- **Dalit Christians:** The author asks whether the Church has pushed as hard for SC status for Dalit Christians as it now does against FCRA changes.
- **Accountable autonomy:** Neither unchecked state power nor unchecked institutional autonomy, but freedom paired with disclosure.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
FCRA, 2010	Regulates acceptance and use of foreign contribution; administered by MHA
FCRA Amendment, 2020	Barred sub-granting; capped administrative expenses at 20%; mandated SBI New Delhi account
Article 30	Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions
Constitution (SC) Order, 1950	SC status limited to Hindus, Sikhs (1956) and Buddhists (1990)
K.G. Balakrishnan Commission (2022)	Examining SC status for converts to other religions

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Balances national security, donor accountability and freedom of association
Concerns	Possible chilling effect on NGOs; selective enforcement; weak internal governance in some institutions
Way Forward	Proportionate rules after JPC scrutiny; voluntary public disclosure by NGOs
Probable Question (GS-II)	Evaluate the FCRA framework in balancing transparency with the autonomy of civil society organisations.

IN THE ESSENCE

Transparency is not an attack on minority rights but the basis of public trust. Institutions that seek autonomy from the state must first show openness to the communities they serve.

5. U.S. Court Allows Pannun's Suit to Be Served on NSA Doval and Ex-RAW Chief

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

A U.S. federal judge has allowed Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun to serve his civil suit on NSA Ajit Doval and former RAW chief Samant Goel through Indian judicial channels. India's External Affairs Ministry called the lawsuit 'frivolous'.

Key Highlights:

- **Court order:** Judge Katherine Polk Failla asked Pannun to file the summons, details of Indian procedure and records of earlier service attempts by 30 November.
- **U.S. State Department role:** It delivered the notice at the Indian Embassy, calling it a legal obligation rather than a position on the case.
- **India's response:** MEA said judicial documents can be served only through India's central authority, the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Linked criminal case:** Nikhil Gupta has pleaded guilty in the alleged 2023 murder-for-hire plot, with sentencing due on 20 November.
- **Diplomatic stakes:** The case strains India-U.S. intelligence ties and echoes Canada's Nijjar allegations.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Hague Service Convention (1965)	Treaty on serving judicial documents abroad; India joined in 2007
India's central authority	Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs)
RAW	India's external intelligence agency, set up in 1968
National Security Adviser	Post created in 1998; heads the National Security Council Secretariat

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Tests sovereign immunity of officials and the India-U.S. strategic partnership
Concerns	Lawfare by designated terrorists; impact on intelligence cooperation
Way Forward	Legal contestation through proper channels; quiet diplomacy; robust counter-terror cooperation
Probable Question (GS-II)	How should India respond to transnational legal challenges against its security officials?

Conclusion: India should contest the suit firmly through legal channels while keeping the wider India-U.S. partnership insulated from the dispute.

6. Russia and Ukraine Begin U.S.-Mediated Talks in Abu Dhabi

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

Russian and Ukrainian delegations met in Abu Dhabi in the presence of U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. It is a fresh attempt to end the war, which began in February 2022.

Key Highlights:

- **Delegations:** Ukraine's team was led by intelligence chief Rustem Umerov and Russia's by Vladimir Medinsky.
- **Focus:** Talks centred on humanitarian issues such as prisoner swaps and the return of civilians and children.
- **U.S. view:** Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the meeting very productive but said a deal is not imminent.
- **Ground reality:** Fighting and long-range strikes by both sides continue.
- **India's interest:** Peace would ease energy and fertiliser markets and food prices, and India has backed dialogue throughout.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Abu Dhabi	Capital of the UAE; venue of the trilateral talks
Minsk Agreements (2014-15)	Earlier ceasefire deals on Donbas
Black Sea Grain Initiative	UN-Turkiye brokered (July 2022); Russia exited July 2023
Istanbul talks (2022)	Early round of direct Russia-Ukraine negotiations

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Global energy and food security; European security architecture
Concerns	Territorial disputes, security guarantees, sanctions relief
Way Forward	Step-by-step humanitarian confidence-building toward a ceasefire
Probable Question (GS-II)	Discuss India's stakes and possible role in a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Conclusion: Humanitarian steps can build trust, but a lasting settlement still needs answers on territory and security guarantees. India gains from any durable peace.

7. SC Goes Beyond Deepavali AQI, Flags Vehicular Emissions in Delhi-NCR

[The Hindu] | GS-III, GS-II

Context:

A Supreme Court Bench headed by CJI Surya Kant has looked beyond Deepavali to name vehicular emissions as a constant, worsening source of Delhi-NCR's toxic air. It has sought action-taken reports from Delhi and neighbouring States.

Key Highlights:

- **Shared burden:** The Court noted that Delhi-NCR bears traffic not only from within but also from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- **Who must answer:** The MCD, Delhi government, Delhi Traffic Police and the three neighbouring States must report on curbing non-compliant, overage and end-of-life vehicles.
- **Data sought:** The Court wants the number of vehicles inspected, fined or denied entry, and details of inter-State coordination.
- **Poor compliance:** Orders of 21 January and 23 February, which adopted CAQM measures such as phasing out polluting vehicles and moving coal-based industries out of NCR, remain unreported.
- **Next hearings:** Four suo motu matters (vehicles, green cover, construction and power plants, waste and stubble burning) are listed for 23-30 November.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
CAQM	Statutory body under the CAQM in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021
CAQM coal recommendation	No new coal-based thermal plants within 300 km of Delhi
End-of-life vehicles (Delhi-NCR)	Diesel 10 years, petrol 15 years (NGT/SC directions)
BS-VI norms	Nationwide from April 2020, leapfrogging BS-V
GRAP	Graded Response Action Plan; stage-wise curbs as AQI worsens

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Shifts focus from festival-time bans to year-round sources
Concerns	Non-compliance with court orders, fragmented inter-State enforcement
Way Forward	Airshed-level coordination, PUC reform, public transport and EV push, scrapping of old vehicles
Probable Question (GS-III)	Why have judicial interventions failed to deliver clean air in Delhi-NCR? Suggest institutional reforms.

Conclusion: Delhi's air will not be fixed by festival bans. Clean air needs year-round, multi-State action on vehicles, backed by enforcement and accountability for compliance.

8. Science: India's Efforts to Clean Its Air Need Not Slow Its Economic Growth

[The Hindu] | GS-III

Context:

On The Hindu's Science page, environmental systems scientist Ajay Singh Nagpure argues that India can cut air pollution while it grows. He says policy should be judged by the exposure it actually reduces, not by the money spent.

Key Highlights:

- **Poor ranking:** India was 176 of 177 in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index and 175th on air quality, and over 20 lakh deaths in 2023 were linked to air pollution.
- **Growth pressure:** The IEA expects electricity demand to grow 6.4% a year to 2030, with solar meeting about half of the growth and coal about a quarter.
- **Diluted norms:** SO_2 rules for coal plants were relaxed in July 2025, although SO_2 also forms fine particles.
- **China's lesson:** China cut SO_2 by 14% in 2005-10 and later sharply reduced PM2.5 while its economy kept growing.
- **Measure outcomes:** 108 of 130 NCAP cities show lower PM10 since 2017-18, but such falls cannot be credited to policy alone, since weather also matters.
- **Co-benefits:** The best measures also serve development, such as cleaner industry that saves energy, sustained clean cooking and better waste management.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Environmental Performance Index	Yale and Columbia Universities; 47 indicators in 12 categories
State of Global Air 2025	Over 20 lakh Indian deaths in 2023 attributed to air pollution
NCAP (2019)	130 cities; Rs 16,423.55 crore performance-linked funds (2019-20 to 2025-26)
Allied schemes	PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM E-DRIVE, PM Surya Ghar, solid-waste management
SO_2 control	Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units in thermal plants

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Shows that clean air and development are complementary
Concerns	Spending tracked over results; LPG access without sustained use; diluted emission norms
Data & Evidence	EPI rank 176/177; 108 of 130 NCAP cities improved on PM10
Way Forward	Outcome-based evaluation (pollution prevented, exposure cut, cost); explicit co-benefits; PM2.5 tracking
Probable Question (GS-III)	Pollution control need not wait for economic growth to be complete. Discuss with reference to India's clean-air policy.

IN THE ESSENCE

India does not have to choose between growth and clean air. What it needs is policy judged by exposure actually reduced and cost incurred, not by programmes launched or funds spent.

9. Data Point: More Women Work, but in Informal and Less Secure Jobs

[The Hindu] | GS-I, GS-III

Context:

Drawing on ICRIER's report 'The Participation Paradox' (based on PLFS and the Time Use Survey), the article shows that women's rising workforce participation hides poor job quality.

Key Highlights:

- **Doubling of numbers:** Working women rose from 104 million (2017-18) to 201 million (2025), and the female worker-population ratio rose from 22% to 38%.
- **Back to the farm:** Rural women in crop and animal production went from 54 million to over 100 million, while men moved out of agriculture.
- **Marginal work:** Own-account work among rural women quadrupled while the share of regular salaried jobs fell, and weekly hours declined.
- **Wage gap widened:** A rural woman now earns about 45% of a rural man's pay, down from 53%.
- **Care burden:** 60% of women out of the labour force cite childcare or household duties, against under 1% of men.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
PLFS	Periodic Labour Force Survey by NSO (MoSPI), launched 2017
Time Use Survey	First 2019, second 2024; women spend 3.7 hours/day more than men on domestic work
Worker Population Ratio	Share of employed persons in the population
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi think tank

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Women's work now counted, but structural transformation has favoured men
Concerns	Informality, low hours, wage gaps, unpaid care burden
Way Forward	Affordable childcare, paid paternity/shared leave, gender-sensitive MSME policy, hostels and transport in textile parks, local enterprise clusters
Probable Question (GS-I)	Rising female labour force participation in India reflects distress rather than empowerment. Critically examine.

IN THE ESSENCE

India has brought women's work into the data. The next task is to make it productive, better paid and secure, starting by sharing the unpaid care burden that limits women's choices.

10. Opinion: World Wars and India's Sacrifice

[The Hindu] | GS-I

Context:

On Remembrance Day (11 November), Priyanjali Malik argues that India's ambivalence about the World Wars obscures its huge contribution and sacrifice.

Key Highlights:

- **Scale:** Undivided India sent 1.5 million men to WWI (74,000 died) and raised the largest volunteer army of WWII, 2.5 million strong, of whom about 87,000 died.

- **War at home:** Japan bombed Vizag in April 1942 and Kolkata later in 1942 and 1943, and invaded India in March 1944.
- **Burma front:** Indians formed 87% of the troops in the Burma campaign, and about 7 lakh fought in defence of Indian territory.
- **Complicated history:** The INA, formed under Mohan Singh in 1942 and reformed by Bose in 1943, included many PoWs who joined under duress.
- **Moral:** The author says honest history and honouring the fallen go together, citing the Bhagat brothers, one of whom, Premindra Singh Bhagat, won a Victoria Cross.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Remembrance Day	11 November; Armistice ending WWI in 1918
Imphal and Kohima (1944)	Battles that halted the Japanese invasion of India
Indian National Army	Formed 1942 (Mohan Singh); revived by Subhas Chandra Bose 1943
India Gate	All India War Memorial for soldiers who died in WWI and the Afghan war

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Shaped the professional Indian Army inherited in 1947
Concerns	Selective national memory of colonial-era service
Probable Question (GS-I)	Assess the impact of the Second World War on India's freedom struggle and society.

IN THE ESSENCE

Indian soldiers fought fascism and defended Indian soil, even under colonial rule. Remembering them honestly, with all of history's complexity, is a duty owed to both the past and today's armed forces.

11. Opinion: Keralam at 70 - Holding a Mirror to India

[The Hindu] | GS-I, GS-II

Context:

As Keralam marks 70 years since its formation in 1956, Nissim Mannathukkaren argues its human-development record offers India an alternative to income-centred growth.

Key Highlights:

- **From poor to leader:** Among the poorest States in 1956, Keralam would rank 75th on the HDI as a nation, against India's 130th.
- **Health dividend:** If India matched Keralam's infant mortality, over 5 lakh infant lives would be saved every year.
- **Versus Gujarat:** Keralam has much lower multidimensional poverty, more schooled women and less child marriage, despite lower growth.
- **Pluralism:** Assembly representation roughly mirrors population shares, a rare consociational arrangement.
- **Unfinished model:** Ecological stress, ageing, fiscal strain and migration dependence remain challenges.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Formation	1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956
Kudumbashree	Keralam's women's self-help network, launched 1998
Capability approach	Amartya Sen: development as expansion of freedoms
Palliative care	About 60% of India's palliative care services are in Keralam

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Shows that human development need not wait for high incomes
Concerns	Fiscal stress, unemployment among educated youth, climate vulnerability
Probable Question (GS-II)	What lessons does the Kerala model offer for India's pursuit of Viksit Bharat 2047?

IN THE ESSENCE

Keralam shows that democracy, social investment and pluralism can deliver well-being ahead of income. India's development goals should count lives saved and freedoms gained, not only GDP.

12. Downstream Opposition Builds Over Dibang Mega Dam in Arunachal Pradesh

[The Hindu] | GS-III

Context:

Communities in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam living downstream of the 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project have given both State governments a 10-day ultimatum over safety and rehabilitation.

Key Highlights:

- **The project:** Built by NHPC in Lower Dibang Valley at about Rs 31,875 crore, it is due for commissioning by February 2032.
- **India's tallest:** At 278 m, the dam will be the tallest in India.
- **Demands:** Project Affected Family status for downstream families, public hearings in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia, and guide walls and embankments.
- **Threat:** The alliance threatened to block movement of construction material through Assam.
- **Wider unrest:** Arunachal already faces protests against two other proposed mega dams.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Dibang river	One of three rivers (with Siang and Lohit) that form the Brahmaputra in Assam
NHPC Ltd.	Central PSU for hydropower under the Ministry of Power
Dibang Multipurpose Project	2,880 MW; also meant for flood moderation
Environmental clearance	Requires public hearing under EIA Notification, 2006

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Clean energy, flood control and strategic presence near the China border
Concerns	Seismic risk, downstream flooding, displacement, biodiversity loss
Way Forward	Basin-wide cumulative impact studies, downstream consultation, dam-safety protocols under the Dam Safety Act, 2021
Probable Question (GS-III)	Discuss the trade-offs of large hydropower projects in the Eastern Himalayas.

Conclusion: Northeast hydropower can succeed only with the consent and safety of both upstream and downstream communities.

13. Ladakh Announces Hill Council Polls Amid Sixth Schedule Demand

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

Ladakh's administration has announced elections to all eight Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) on 4 December. Civil society groups have not dropped their demand for Sixth Schedule status.

Key Highlights:

- **Expanded councils:** After the creation of eight districts from Leh and Kargil, the councils will cover 100 constituencies, up from 26 each in Leh and Kargil.
- **Schedule:** Nominations close on 17 November, with scrutiny on 18 November and withdrawals by 20 November.
- **Protest:** Kargil observed a shutdown against holding polls in harsh winter.
- **Core demand:** Groups continue to seek constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
LAHDC Act, 1995	Created hill councils (Leh 1995, Kargil 2003)
Ladakh UT	Union Territory without legislature since 31 October 2019
Sixth Schedule	Autonomous district councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram (Articles 244(2), 275(1))
Civil society bodies	Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Grassroots democracy in a strategic frontier UT
Concerns	Democratic deficit, land and job protection, ecological fragility
Way Forward	Sustained dialogue with LAB and KDA; empowering councils with funds and functions
Probable Question (GS-II)	Examine the case for extending Sixth Schedule protections to Ladakh.

Conclusion: Council elections strengthen local democracy, but lasting peace in Ladakh needs a negotiated answer to its demand for constitutional safeguards.

14. MSCARO 2026 and ICAI Set Audit Guardrails for Co-operatives Eyeing Bank Status

[The Hindu] | GS-III

Context:

As the RBI reopens urban co-operative bank licences after about 22 years, a new Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026, with ICAI guidance, aims to tighten audits of societies that want to become banks.

Key Highlights:

- **Modelled on CARO:** Auditors must give standard Yes/No answers with explanations on finance, governance, NPAs, fund use, cybersecurity and AML compliance.
- **Phased coverage:** It starts with societies above Rs 1,000 crore, with a long-term goal of covering those above Rs 50 crore.
- **Tech-driven oversight:** Audit findings will feed into the Central Registrar's portal for risk-based and AI-assisted supervision.
- **RBI eligibility (proposed):** Deposits of at least Rs 10,000 crore, net worth of Rs 300 crore, CRAR of 12%, net NPA of 3% or less, and 10 years of operation.
- **Lessons:** Failures such as Madhavpura Mercantile and PMC Bank arose from weak governance and dual regulation.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
97th Amendment (2011)	Part IXB on co-operative societies; Article 43B
Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020	Brought co-operative banks under fuller RBI supervision
Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act	2002, amended 2023; Central Registrar oversees
Ministry of Cooperation	Created in July 2021
UCB numbers	1,457 UCBs at end-March 2025; balance sheet Rs 7.38 lakh crore

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Protects depositors; deepens financial inclusion through co-operative credit
Concerns	Audit capacity, political interference, concentrated lending, weak technology
Way Forward	Capacity building for auditors, professional boards, digital supervision
Probable Question (GS-III)	What governance reforms are needed before co-operative societies are allowed to become banks?

Conclusion: Reopening UCB licensing is welcome only if strong audit and governance guardrails come first, so that past co-operative bank failures are not repeated.

15. Explained: Why Jamaica's Reparations Petition Has a Solid Legal Basis

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

Jamaica has petitioned King Charles III, its Head of State, to refer questions on the legality of slavery to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. A Text & Context analysis argues the claim has real legal weight.

Key Highlights:

- **The petition:** Filed on 7 September 2026 under Section 4 of the Judicial Committee Act, 1833, it asks whether enslavement was lawful under English common law and international law, and whether the U.K. owes reparations.
- **U.K. stance:** PM Andy Burnham is open to an apology but has ruled out financial reparations.
- **Joseph Knight case (1778):** Scotland's Court of Session refused to uphold slavery on its soil, exposing the empire's double standard.
- **Symbolism:** The filing marks the departure of the slave ship Zong (1781), whose crew threw 132 enslaved Africans overboard.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
JCPC	Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; final appeal court for some Commonwealth states
Slavery Abolition Act, 1833	Abolished slavery in most British colonies
CARICOM Ten-Point Plan (2014)	Caribbean framework for reparatory justice
Jamaica	Independent since 1962; a Commonwealth realm

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Part of a global push for historical and colonial justice
Relevance for India	Echoes debates on colonial wealth drain and return of artefacts
Probable Question (GS-II)	Discuss the legal and moral case for reparations for colonial-era injustices.

IN THE ESSENCE

An apology acknowledges a wrong, but law asks who must repair it. Jamaica's petition forces Britain to reconcile its domestic rejection of slavery with the profits it drew from colonial slavery.

Quick Revision: 10 Prelims One-Liners

1. Indra Sawhney (1992) upheld 27% OBC reservation with creamy layer exclusion.
2. The Rohini Commission on OBC sub-categorisation was set up under Article 340.
3. Article 263 provides for an Inter-State Council.
4. India joined the Hague Service Convention in 2007; Ministry of Law & Justice is the central authority.
5. India ranked 176 of 177 in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index (Yale & Columbia).
6. The Dibang Multipurpose Project (2,880 MW) will have India's tallest dam (278 m).
7. The Dibang, Siang and Lohit rivers join to form the Brahmaputra.
8. Part IXB (co-operative societies) was added by the 97th Amendment, 2011.
9. Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum returned 39 Naga ancestral remains to Naga bodies.
10. M. John Harrison won the 2026 Booker Prize for 'The End of Everything'.

5 Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements:
1. The Rohini Commission was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution.
2. The National Commission for Backward Classes got constitutional status through the 102nd Amendment.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
Answer: (c) - Article 340 enables commissions on backward classes; Article 338B came via the 102nd Amendment, 2018.

Q2. Which of the following committees/commissions dealt with Centre-State relations?
1. Rajamannar Committee 2. Sarkaria Commission 3. Punchhi Commission
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (d) - All three examined Centre-State relations (TN in 1969; Centre in 1983 and 2007).

Q3. The Dibang river, in the news, is a tributary of:
(a) Barak (b) Brahmaputra (c) Teesta (d) Subansiri
Answer: (b) - Dibang joins the Siang and Lohit to form the Brahmaputra in Assam.

Q4. Co-operative societies were given constitutional status by the:
(a) 73rd Amendment (b) 74th Amendment (c) 97th Amendment (d) 101st Amendment
Answer: (c) - The 97th Amendment (2011) added Part IXB and Article 43B.

Q5. The Environmental Performance Index is published by:
(a) UNEP (b) World Economic Forum (c) Yale and Columbia Universities (d) World Bank
Answer: (c) - EPI is produced by Yale and Columbia; India ranked 176/177 in 2026.

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