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THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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Curated from The Hindu — UPSC Prelims & Mains Focus

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1

U.S.–Iran Trade Fire — Escalation in West Asia

GS 2 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WEST ASIA · STRAIT OF HORMUZ

THE HINDU · PAGE 1

WHY IN NEWS

U.S. President Donald Trump said the U.S. would continue to “*attack Iran very hard*” after a tit-for-tat exchange — Washington launched air strikes following the downing of an American military helicopter over the **Strait of Hormuz**, and Tehran retaliated with attacks on U.S. bases in the region.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ **U.S. strikes:** U.S. forces struck Iranian air defence, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz with precision munitions; CENTCOM called it a “**proportional response**” to recent attacks on U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters.
- ◆ **Iran's retaliation:** Iran — which neither confirmed nor denied downing the helicopter — responded with missile and drone attacks on U.S. bases in **Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan**.
- ◆ **Iran's position:** Its Foreign Ministry said the armed forces struck U.S. bases and assets that were “the origin of these aggressions”, citing violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- ◆ **Speaker's warning:** Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf said any attack on Iran would be met with an “**immediate and decisive response**”, recalling the 12-day war of June 2025.
- ◆ **Humanitarian fallout:** Iranian media reported U.S. strikes destroyed two reservoirs in Bamani Sirik, affecting drinking water supply for about **20,000 people**.
- ◆ **Negotiation track:** Mr. Trump warned Iran “will have to pay the price” for taking “too long” to negotiate a deal — signalling coercive diplomacy alongside military strikes.

✦ UPSC ANGLE — WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIA

- ◆ **Energy security:** Nearly a fifth of global oil and a large share of India's crude and LNG imports transit the Strait of Hormuz; escalation threatens supply and pushes up prices.
- ◆ **Diaspora & remittances:** Around 9 million Indians live and work in the Gulf; conflict endangers their safety and remittance flows.
- ◆ **Balancing act:** India maintains ties with the U.S., Iran (Chabahar Port, INSTC) and Gulf Arab states — escalation tests this strategic autonomy.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ — STRATEGIC CHOKEPOINT

- ◆ **Location:** Narrow waterway connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the Arabian Sea; bordered by Iran to the north and Oman (Musandam exclave) & UAE to the south.
- ◆ **Energy artery:** Among the world's most critical oil chokepoints — a major share of global crude, and most Gulf LNG (especially from Qatar), passes through it.
- ◆ **Vulnerability:** Its narrowness makes shipping vulnerable to closure threats, mining, drone and missile attacks during regional conflicts.



West Asia — Iran, the Gulf states and the Strait of Hormuz region (Source: The Hindu compilation)

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Growing geopolitical tensions in West Asia have once again highlighted the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz. Discuss its significance in contemporary geopolitics and for India's energy security.

प्रश्न. पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनावों ने एक बार फिर हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य के सामरिक महत्व को रेखांकित किया है। समकालीन भू-राजनीति तथा भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के संदर्भ में इसके महत्व की चर्चा कीजिए।

10 MARKS · 150 WORDS

2

Foreseeable Accidents — Industrial Mishaps in India

GS 3 · INDUSTRY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

THE HINDU · EDITORIAL, PAGE 8

WHY IN NEWS

Within days of each other, **four workers were killed in a septic tank in Surat** and **nine workers were killed by an explosion at a steel plant in Visakhapatnam**. The editorial argues that industrial mishaps are not isolated incidents but the result of **accumulated organisational weaknesses**.

KEY ARGUMENTS OF THE EDITORIAL

- ◆ **Not unforeseeable:** Industry has known these risks for decades and developed preventive measures long ago — yet the notion persists that such accidents are isolated and incidental.
- ◆ **Confined-space pattern:** In Surat, four workers were overcome by toxic fumes — a well-known fatality pattern where first victims are followed by would-be rescuers entering without protection.
- ◆ **Mandatory safeguards ignored:** Working areas must be mechanically ventilated with rescue personnel on standby; workers need breathing apparatus, harnesses, retrieval lines and clear communication. Unprotected entry must be strictly prohibited.
- ◆ **Manual scavenging deaths** are rarely “accidents” in the sense of unforeseeable events — they are failures of basic safety management, and their recurrence shows the persistence of that failure.
- ◆ **Steelmaking risks:** Inherently more dangerous (extreme temperatures, pressurised gases, heavy equipment, enormous heat energy) — but the hazards are well known, and even small process failures can cause multiple casualties.
- ◆ **Visakhapatnam allegations:** Trade unions and former employees allege reduced staffing, heavier workloads, ageing equipment, deferred maintenance and growing dependence on contract labour — some link these to constraints following the Centre's divestment plans.

✦ STRUCTURAL ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED

- ◆ **Contract labour is central:** Occupational safety research consistently finds contracted workers face higher risks — less training and fragmented accountability.
- ◆ **Uneven implementation** of India's new occupational safety framework (OSH Code) continues.
- ◆ **Old anchors:** Manpower shortage, caste- and class-based exposure to hazardous labour, and a ‘**cost over safety**’ mindset in financially stressed units.
- ◆ **Core thesis:** A major industrial accident is almost always due to the **accumulation of organisational weaknesses**.

3

The Forgotten Copilot of Air India Flight 171

GS 3 · AVIATION SAFETY & GOVERNANCE

AI-171 INVESTIGATION

THE HINDU · OP-ED (CAPT. A. RANGANATHAN), PAGE 8

WHY IN NEWS

A year since the crash of Air India flight AI-171 (**260 lives lost, June 12, 2025**), the author argues the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) have strayed from their promised “transparent and factual” path — only a Preliminary Report (July 2025) has been published, with no final report.

KEY POINTS RAISED BY THE AUTHOR

- ◆ **False narratives:** Sections of media spread blame-the-pilot narratives; a former NTSB investigator described some pilot associations' claims as defending the captain while “playing possum”.
- ◆ **EAFR evidence:** The forward Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder was located on June 16, 2025; it records digital flight data and cockpit voice data — evidence the AAIB had heard the CVR early and alerted MoCA/MHA.
- ◆ **Fuel Control Switches (FCS):** The FCS is a **spring-loaded switch** that must be lifted off the run slot, moved over the gate and dropped into the cut-off slot — **it cannot be moved by a software error or power failure.**
- ◆ **CVR fragment:** The report quotes only one exchange — one pilot asks the other why he cut off; the other replies he did not — while the rest of the recordings were shared only with MoCA and MHA.
- ◆ **RAT “red herring”:** Claims that the Ram Air Turbine deployed due to a wiring fault are used to digress from the key issue of **who moved the FCS to cut off the engines.** The RAT deployed ~5 seconds before the FCS moved engines 1 and 2 to cutoff (08:08:52 / 08:08:56 UTC), explainable by the emergency confronting the co-pilot.
- ◆ **Copilot's role re-examined:** With a blank instrument panel, no guidance, both engines without power, First Officer Clive Kunder controlled the aircraft with his right hand while attempting engine restart with his left — steering the crippled aircraft away from crowded areas.
- ◆ **Closure requires truth:** The FCS was deliberately moved by one of the two pilots — not a software or power-system error. Author urges India's authorities to act like the NTSB did in SilkAir (1997) and China Eastern (2022), which established “Deliberate Human Intervention”.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)

✦ KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS

- ◆ **What:** Primary regulatory body under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, responsible for overseeing aviation safety and air regulations.
- ◆ **Statutory status:** Functions as a statutory body under the **Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024**; originally an “attached office” of MoCA, it was granted statutory status via the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020**.
- ◆ **Repeal of 1934 Act:** The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 repealed and replaced the colonial-era **Aircraft Act, 1934** to modernise regulation of drones, electric aircraft and space-planes.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** New Delhi; Regional Offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and several sub-regional offices for local safety audits and surveillance.
- ◆ **Personnel:** Headed by a senior IAS officer, supported by directorates like Airworthiness, Flight Standards and Air Safety.
- ◆ **Rule-making:** The Central Government, through the DGCA, formulates **Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)** — mandatory technical standards for all operators.
- ◆ **Global role:** India's nodal agency for coordinating with the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** for global safety compliance.

✦ RELATED BODIES — QUICK RECALL

- ◆ **AAIB:** Air Accident Investigation Bureau — investigates accidents and serious incidents; functions under MoCA.
- ◆ **NTSB (U.S.)** and the **Air Accidents Investigation Branch (U.K.)** — foreign agencies with deep experience in deciphering EAFR/flight-data and CVR records, referenced in today's op-ed.
- ◆ **Why it matters:** Credibility of the Indian aviation system depends on transparent, evidence-based accident investigation.

4

Negotiating Federalism in Higher Education

GS 2 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CENTRE–STATE RELATIONS · NEP 2020

THE HINDU · OP-ED (ELDHO MATHEWS), PAGE 9

CORE ARGUMENT

Although education remains constitutionally within the **Concurrent List**, the prevailing governance dynamic in higher education **increasingly favours the Union**. Higher education has become an important site where the changing dynamics of Indian federalism are being expressed.

GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE CENTRE

- ◆ **Sites of contestation:** Regulatory authority, curriculum, language policy, public funding and digital governance — where competing visions of Union and States intersect.
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu's opposition:** Repeated resistance to aspects of NEP 2020 — particularly the **three-language formula** and the UGC's circular on the third language this year.
- ◆ **VC appointments:** Centre–State tensions evident in disputes over Vice-Chancellor appointments and Governors' powers in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal.
- ◆ **NEP 2020 as restructuring:** Four-year UG programmes, Academic Bank of Credits, institutional restructuring, multidisciplinary universities, internationalisation — expanding Central influence into domains historically the preserve of States.
- ◆ **Funding leverage:** Access to central funding is increasingly tied to compliance with nationally designed reform agendas — e.g., **Institutions of Eminence** and competitive research mechanisms under the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**.
- ◆ **Regulatory centralisation:** Structures proposed by the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025** (intended to replace existing regulators including the UGC) have generated apprehensions of gradual erosion of State authority; digital mechanisms like the Academic Bank of Credits expand the Union's capacity to standardise and monitor governance.

✦ STRATEGIC ADAPTATION — A NEGOTIATED FEDERALISM

- ◆ Centre–State relations here are **not purely adversarial**: many States, including Opposition-ruled ones, have **selectively adapted** reforms to local political contexts.
- ◆ **Internationalisation:** Several States position themselves as regional education hubs via partnerships with overseas institutions; implementation of branch campuses depends substantially on States (clearances, infrastructure, investment facilitation).
- ◆ **Takeaway:** The trajectory of higher-education governance will depend on the capacity of the Centre and States to negotiate competing political and developmental priorities within the federal structure.

5

Article 142 — SC Quashes POCSO Conviction

GS 2 · POLITY · JUDICIARY

ARTICLE 142 · POCSO ACT

THE HINDU · PAGE 14

WHY IN NEWS

The Supreme Court used its powers under **Article 142** to overturn a POCSO conviction, noting that the victim later married the man as an adult; the Court observed the couple should now be allowed to live “*peacefully in society as spouses*”.

CASE BACKGROUND

- ◆ The two had fallen in love while she was still a minor; she lodged a criminal complaint after he refused to marry her.
- ◆ He was sentenced to **10 years' imprisonment** and fined for having a physical relationship with a minor.
- ◆ **Article 142** enables the Supreme Court to ensure “**complete justice**” in any cause or matter when existing laws fall short — a unique, extraordinary constitutional power.

✦ POCSO ACT — KEY PROVISIONS

- ◆ **First comprehensive law** in India dealing specifically with sexual abuse of children — protection from sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.
- ◆ For the first time, defines **penetrative sexual assault, sexual assault and sexual harassment**; penalises storing pornographic material and abetment.
- ◆ **Aggravated penetrative sexual assault** includes cases where the offender is a police officer, armed forces member or public servant; a relative of the child; or where the assault injures the child's sexual organs or causes pregnancy.
- ◆ **Age of consent:** Criminalises all sexual activities for those under 18, even if consent was factually present between two minors.
- ◆ **Special Courts:** Each district designates a Sessions Court as a Special Court (established by the State govt. in consultation with the Chief Justice of the HC); cases must be disposed of **within one year** of reporting.
- ◆ **Monitoring:** NCPCR and SCPCRs monitor implementation; a child offender is dealt with under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**.
- ◆ **2019 Amendment:** Enhanced punishments including the **death penalty** for aggravated sexual assault; defined and penalised child pornography; added two grounds to aggravated penetrative sexual assault — assault resulting in the child's death, and assault during a natural calamity.

ARTICLE 142 — QUICK RECALL

◆ POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **Article 142(1):** The Supreme Court may pass such decree or order as is necessary for doing “**complete justice**” in any cause or matter pending before it; enforceable throughout India.
- ◆ Used in landmark contexts — e.g., relief beyond statute where rigid application of law would cause injustice.
- ◆ **Debate:** A vital equitable tool vs. concerns of judicial overreach — courts have cautioned it cannot be used to supplant substantive law.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Should the age of consent under the POCSO Act be revised in light of changing social realities and increasing cases involving consensual adolescent relationships? Critically examine.

प्रश्न. क्या POCSO अधिनियम के तहत सहमति की आयु (Age of Consent) को बदलती सामाजिक परिस्थितियों और सहमति-आधारित किशोर संबंधों के बढ़ते मामलों को देखते हुए पुनर्विचार की आवश्यकता है? समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

15 MARKS · 250 WORDS

ANSWER FRAMEWORK (HINTS)

- ◆ **Intro:** POCSO's age of consent (18) and the rise of cases involving consensual adolescent relationships reaching courts.
- ◆ **For revision:** Criminalisation of normative adolescent behaviour; misuse by families against inter-caste/inter-faith couples; courts (incl. today's Article 142 ruling) repeatedly granting relief case-by-case.
- ◆ **Against revision:** Risk of legitimising exploitation and grooming; difficulty of proving genuine consent; protective intent of the statute.
- ◆ **Way forward:** Calibrated legislative review, judicial discretion in close-in-age consensual cases, strong child-protection safeguards; conclude with balance between protection and justice.

6

Delimitation Exercise — EAC-PM Working Paper

GS 2 · POLITY · REPRESENTATION

DELIMITATION · LOK SABHA

THE HINDU · PAGE 14

WHY IN NEWS

The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** has recommended multi-factor criteria for a “**targeted**” **splitting of seats** during India's next delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies — going beyond population distribution while maintaining the current proportion of seats for all large States.

KEY FEATURES OF THE EAC-PM MODEL

- ◆ **House of 800+ seats:** The model raises the Lok Sabha to **824 seats**; of the existing 543, it suggests splitting **170 seats** — 59 constituencies two-way and 111 three-way.
- ◆ **State-wise impact:** Kerala rises from 20 to 30, Tamil Nadu from 39 to 59, Uttar Pradesh from 80 to 120 — broadly in line with the Union government's April delimitation Bills that failed to pass.
- ◆ **Smaller States/UTs:** Seats roughly double in Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim, Ladakh, A&N Islands, Nagaland, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.
- ◆ **Regional balance preserved:** Southern States' (TG, AP, KL, KA, TN) aggregate share becomes **23.6%** (vs 23.7% now); the six most populous northern States (RJ, UP, MP, GJ, BR, MH) come to **45.2%** (vs 45.6%).
- ◆ **Methodology:** Dataset of LS elections 2009–2024 estimating a “statistical relationship” between voter turnout, constituency size and five compositional features (urban share, SC/ST share, linguistic polarisation, diversity) — a “**turnout-maximising**” plan splitting the largest, most turnout-responsive constituencies.
- ◆ **Splitting criterion:** A “targeted criterion” instead of a uniform one — the future Delimitation Commission (post-2027 Census) should treat the **joint demographic and linguistic profile** of a constituency, not its size alone, as the criterion.
- ◆ **Recommendations to ECI:** A “fresh booth rationalising cycle”; ensure 2027 Census tabulations and **gender-disaggregated electoral statistics** are released on schedule; women-only polling booths and women-targeted voter-roll drives to close the persistent gap in women's urban turnout.
- ◆ **Caveat:** Voter turnout may rise up to **2.3%** nationally in the next general election, but gains depend on statistical specification; demographic/linguistic measures were based on the 2011 Census and need updating with 2027 figures.

DELIMITATION — CONCEPT & CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

✦ KEY FACTS FOR PRELIMS

- ◆ **Delimitation:** Fixing boundaries of territorial constituencies to ensure proportionate representation based on population changes; carried out by the independent, high-powered **Delimitation (Boundary) Commission**.
- ◆ **Article 82:** Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census and constitutes a Delimitation Commission. **Article 170:** governs division of constituencies for State Legislative Assemblies after each Census.
- ◆ **Appointment:** By the President in consultation with the ECI. **Members:** a retired SC judge (Chairperson), the CEC, and respective State Election Commissioners.
- ◆ **Authority:** Decisions are final, cannot be challenged in court, and are beyond modification by Parliament or State Assemblies.
- ◆ **History:** Commissions under the Delimitation Acts of **1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002**; none after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.
- ◆ **1976 freeze:** Seats-per-State frozen on 1971 Census figures via Constitutional Amendment — to encourage population control, preserve federal balance and prevent regional tensions over seat reallocation.

✦ WHY DELIMITATION IS NEEDED

- ◆ **Population disparities:** UP MPs represent over 25 lakh voters while smaller States have constituencies under 10 lakh — violating equal representation.
- ◆ **Urban overcrowding:** Rapid migration has produced overpopulated urban constituencies needing redistribution.
- ◆ **Demographic shifts:** High-growth States (UP, Bihar) are underrepresented; low-growth States (Kerala, TN) fear loss of political influence.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The proposed delimitation exercise has raised concerns among southern states regarding their political representation in Parliament. Examine the reasons behind these concerns and discuss measures to ensure equitable representation while preserving the principles of federalism.

प्रश्न. प्रस्तावित परिसीमन (Delimitation) प्रक्रिया ने दक्षिणी राज्यों के बीच संसद में उनके प्रतिनिधित्व को लेकर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न की हैं। इन चिंताओं के कारणों का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा समान प्रतिनिधित्व और सहकारी संघवाद के सिद्धांतों के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करने के उपाय सुझाइए।

15 MARKS · 250 WORDS

7 The Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order, 1968

PRELIMS · POLITY

ECI · ARTICLE 324

THE HINDU

WHAT IS IT

A comprehensive legal framework empowering the **Election Commission of India** to specify, reserve, allot and regulate election symbols for political parties and independent candidates — the governing rulebook for the visual identities of contestants in all Assembly and Parliamentary elections.

KEY PROVISIONS

- ◆ **Promulgated:** By the ECI on **August 31, 1968**, under **Article 324** of the Constitution read with **Rules 5 and 10** of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.
- ◆ **Classification:** Political groups are split into two tiers based on past electoral performance — **Recognised parties** (National & State) and **Unrecognised parties**.
- ◆ **Reserved symbols:** Candidates of recognised National/State parties are automatically allotted their party's exclusive, permanently reserved symbol — unusable by any other candidate in the country/state.
- ◆ **Free symbols roster:** For unrecognised parties and independents, the ECI maintains a dynamic list of free symbols (fruits, vegetables, household items like an air-conditioner, balloon, jackfruit or TV remote) — allotted on a fluid, **first-come-first-served** basis.
- ◆ **Animal prohibition:** After heavy representation from animal welfare activists over cruelty to live roosters in the **1989 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections**, the ECI phased out living creatures as symbols in the 1990s.
- ◆ **Legacy exceptions:** Parties recognised with an animal symbol before the directive — notably the **BSP's elephant** — legally retain their legacy icons as rare exceptions.

✦ EXAM CONNECT

- ◆ The Symbols Order is also the basis on which the ECI decides **disputes between rival factions** of a recognised party (Para 15) — a recurring current-affairs theme.
- ◆ Recognition criteria (National/State party status) flow from performance thresholds in elections — pair this Order with the Representation of the People Act, 1951 for Prelims.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 With reference to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, consider the following statements:

1. It was promulgated by the Election Commission of India under Article 324 of the Constitution.
2. Free symbols are allotted to unrecognised parties and independents on a first-come-first-served basis.
3. No political party in India is currently permitted to use an animal as its election symbol.

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

Q2 Article 142 of the Constitution of India empowers:

- (a) The President to grant pardons in cases of court martial
(b) The Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice
(c) The High Courts to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights
(d) Parliament to regulate the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

Q3 With reference to the delimitation of constituencies in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 82 mandates Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
2. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
3. Orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in any court.
4. The current seats-per-State allocation in the Lok Sabha is frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census.

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

Q4 The Strait of Hormuz connects:

- (a) The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden
(b) The Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman
(c) The Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea
(d) The Caspian Sea and the Black Sea

Q5 With reference to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), consider the following statements:

1. It functions as a statutory body under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024.
2. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 repealed the Aircraft Act, 1934.
3. It is India's nodal agency for coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

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

Q6 With reference to the POCSO Act, consider the following statements:

1. It criminalises all sexual activity involving persons under 18 years, even between consenting minors.
2. A POCSO case must be disposed of within one year from the date the offence is reported.
3. A child who commits an offence under the Act is tried under the POCSO Act itself.

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

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Q1 — (a) Statement 3 is wrong; the BSP's elephant is a legacy exception to the ban on animal symbols.

Q2 — (b) Article 142 enables the SC to do “complete justice” in any cause or matter — used today to quash a POCSO conviction.

Q3 — (b) Statement 2 is wrong; the Commission is appointed by the President in consultation with the ECI.

Q4 — (b) The Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Q5 — (d) All three are correct; statutory status first came via the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Q6 — (a) Statement 3 is wrong; a child offender is dealt with under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.