



VEDANTA COACHING ACADEMY & LIBRARY

The Hindu Analysis

MONDAY · 5 OCTOBER 2026

Daily Current Affairs Booklet · UPSC CSE & HPAS / HAS

TODAY'S INDEX

01	Form 7 & Electoral Roll Objections FIR against BLA for 7,500+ objections in Ballari City	PRELIMS	P.1	2
02	Ramappa Temple vs Coal Mine UNESCO site, Kakatiya architecture & heritage law	GS 1	P.5	3
03	Sixth Positive Indigenisation List Atmanirbharta in defence procurement	GS 3	P.10	5
04	ECI's Constitutional Mandate Under Strain Article 324, Section 21 RP Act & the SIR debate	GS 2	P.6	7
05	Mismatch in Rabies Death Data IDSP-IHIP vs MCCD vs ICMR-NIE estimate	PRELIMS	P.12	9
06	Two or Three? The Language Debate Supreme Court, CBSE & the three-language formula	GS 2	P.6	12
07	Species in Focus: Himalayan Tahr Hemitragus jemlahicus · HP relevance	PRELIMS	ENV	14
★	Practice Zone 2 Mains (with Hindi) · 10 MCQs · Recap · Trap-Setters	PRACTICE		15

Compiled by Sapna Chauhan

VEDANTA COACHING ACADEMY & LIBRARY

01 Form 7 & the Integrity of Electoral Rolls

WHY IN NEWS

An FIR has been registered against **T. Srinivas Mothkur**, a Booth-Level Agent (BLA) of the BJP in Karnataka, who repeatedly attempted to file **Form 7** applications against more than **7,500 electors** of the **Ballari City Assembly constituency**, claiming they were "absent or had shifted". After his claims were rejected, he sought "revision" of their names through fresh objections — even though these electors figured in the draft roll.

WHAT IS FORM 7?

- Form 7 is the statutory form prescribed under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** (framed under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**) for **objecting to the inclusion of a name** in the electoral roll, or for seeking deletion of one's own name.
- As per **Rule 13(2)**, every objection to inclusion of a name shall be (a) in Form 7, and (b) preferred **only by a person whose name is already included in that roll**.
- Grounds for objection:** death of the elector; duplicate entry; permanent shifting of residence; and ineligibility on account of age, citizenship or misrepresentation.

WHO CAN FILE — AND THE SAFEGUARDS

- Widened ambit:** Objections were earlier confined to electors of the same part/polling area. Changes made in **2022** allow **any elector of the constituency** to file an objection — widening the scope considerably.
- Anti-misuse check:** Where an individual files **more than five objections**, the **Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)** must mandatorily verify every claim.
- Field verification:** The **Booth Level Officer (BLO)** physically verifies the voter's address and eligibility. For **death** cases, confirmation from **three neighbours** and a death certificate is needed; for **absent** voters, the BLO must make **three physical visits** before recommending deletion.
- Natural justice:** The affected voter is issued a **notice and given a hearing** before any final decision. An **appeal** against the ERO's order lies to the **District Magistrate within 15 days** of publication of the updated list.

PENAL PROVISIONS & WHY IT MATTERS

- Section 31, RP Act 1950** penalises making a **false statement or declaration** in connection with preparation, revision or

FIR against Karnataka BJP agent for over 7,500 Form 7s

Rishita Khanna

BENGALURU

A first information report has been registered against a booth-level agent (BLA) of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka after he repeatedly attempted to file Form 7 applications against more than 7,500 electors in the Ballari City Assembly constituency claiming they were either "absent or had shifted". After his claims were rejected, the BLA, T. Srinivas Mothkur, sought "revision" of their names by submitting objections, even though the electors figured in the draft roll.

FULL REPORT ON
» **PAGE 5**

correction of an electoral roll — **imprisonment up to one year, or fine, or both.** (The source slide cites Section 32; that section actually deals with **breach of official duty** by officers involved in roll preparation.)

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 1

- ♦ **Mass, mechanical objections** threaten universal adult franchise (**Article 326**): a genuine voter wrongly deleted loses the right to vote, often discovering it only on polling day.
- ♦ The Ballari case shows that procedural safeguards (verification, notice, hearing) are the real firewall — and that criminal law can be invoked against frivolous bulk objections.

VALUE ADDITION · ELECTORAL ROLL MACHINERY

- ♦ **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** at State level → **District Election Officer (DEO)** → **ERO** for each constituency (**Section 13B, RP Act 1950**) assisted by AEROs → **BLO** at polling-station level.
- ♦ **BLAs** are appointed by **recognised political parties**, one per polling station, to assist in roll revision — they are party representatives, not government officials.
- ♦ **Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021: four qualifying dates** in a year (1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October); voluntary linking of Aadhaar with electoral roll; gender-neutral term "spouse" for service voters.

PRELIMS POINTERS · KNOW YOUR FORMS

Form	Purpose
Form 6	Inclusion of name of a new elector / shifting from another constituency
Form 6A	Inclusion of name of an overseas (NRI) elector
Form 6B	Furnishing Aadhaar number (voluntary) for authentication
Form 7	Objection to inclusion of a name / deletion of own name
Form 8	Shifting within constituency, correction of entries, replacement EPIC, marking as PwD

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 2: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; Constitutional bodies (ECI) · Prelims: Polity & Governance



GS 1 · ART & CULTURE

GS 3 · ENVIRONMENT

THE HINDU · PAGE 5

02 Coal Mine Near Ramappa Temple: Heritage at Risk?

WHY IN NEWS

Heritage activists, including the **Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT)**, are demanding withdrawal of the proposed **PVNR opencast coal mine** at **Venkatapur in Mulugu district, Telangana**, arguing it could pose a long-term threat to the **UNESCO-inscribed Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple** and the adjacent **Ramappa Lake**. A delegation met Union Coal and Mines Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**; mass protests involving **15 villages** are planned after Dasara.

THE CONCERNS RAISED

- ◆ **Proximity & depth:** The mine would be located about **5 km downstream** of the lake and temple and involve excavation to a depth of about **300 metres** (Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao, former NIT-Warangal).
- ◆ **Hydro-geology:** A **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** report contends that the lake's water level could drive **groundwater movement through geological lineaments and faults** towards the proposed pit.
- ◆ **Foundation risk:** The ~800-year-old temple rests on a **sand-box foundation**; interconnected lineaments through the lake and temple area could affect it through "**piping**" (sub-surface erosion of sand by seeping water). The KHT says the temple is already showing signs of distress.
- ◆ **Other risks:** blasting vibrations, dust deposition on sandstone sculptures, and drawdown of the lake that also supports local irrigation. The operator, **Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL)**, is reportedly preparing to take up the project.

Activists worry coal mine near Ramappa Temple may harm heritage site and lake

P. Laxma Reddy
HYDERABAD

Heritage activists, including the Kakatiya Heritage Trust (KHT), are demanding the withdrawal of the proposed PVNR opencast coal mine at Venkatapur in Mulugu district of Telangana, contending that the project could pose a long-term threat to the UNESCO-inscribed Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, and the adjacent Ramappa Lake.

To mount pressure on the State government, they are planning to mobilise people from 15 villages and organise mass protests after the Dasara festival, against the proposed mine.



Old glory: UNESCO-inscribed Rudreshwara Temple, aka Ramappa Temple, was built by the Kakatiyas in the 13th century. NAGARA GOPAL

As part of the campaign, a delegation met Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy in Hyderabad on Saturday and urged him to intervene and stop the proposed project. They said the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL)

was reportedly gearing up to take up the project despite concerns raised by conservationists.

Quoting technical observations, former Professor of NIT-Warangal M. Pandu Ranga Rao said the proposed mine would be lo-

cated about 5 km downstream of the lake and temple and involve excavation to a depth of about 300 metres. He said that a Geological Survey of India report contended that the water level in the lake could influence groundwater movement through geological lineaments and faults towards the proposed mine.

Mr. Rao further pointed to the sand-box foundation of the nearly 800-year-old Ramappa Temple and said interconnected lineaments passing through the lake and temple area could potentially affect the foundation through piping. "The temple is already showing signs of distress," the KHT representative added.

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 5

RAMAPPA TEMPLE: HERITAGE PROFILE

- ◆ **Built in 1213 CE** during the reign of Kakatiya king **Ganapati Deva** by his general **Recherla Rudra**; an inscription dates it to 12 January 1214. Located at **Palampet**, Mulugu district.
- ◆ **Presiding deity:** **Ramalingeswara Swamy** (Lord Shiva). It is the only Indian temple popularly known by the name of its **sculptor, Ramappa**, who is said to have worked on it for 40 years.
- ◆ **Architecture:** stands on a **6-ft high star-shaped platform**; lower part in **red sandstone**, while the white **vimana/shikhara** is built of **light porous bricks that reportedly float on water**. The **sandbox technique** (pit filled with sand to absorb shocks) gave the structure earthquake resilience.

- ♦ Famous for its **madanika (bracket) figures** and dance sculptures; the **Perini Shivatandavam** dance form was revived from its carvings. The distinctive **Kakatiya gateways (thoranas)** are unique to the region.
- ♦ A European traveller described it as the "**brightest star in the galaxy of medieval temples of the Deccan**". Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021** — India's **39th** site.

VALUE ADDITION · LEGAL SHIELD FOR HERITAGE

- ♦ **AMASR Act, 1958** (amended 2010): **prohibited area of 100 m** around a protected monument and a **regulated area of 200 m** beyond it; **National Monuments Authority** created by the 2010 amendment.
- ♦ **World Heritage Convention, 1972**: the Operational Guidelines require a **Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)** for projects likely to affect the **Outstanding Universal Value**; threats can lead to "In Danger" listing and even delisting (e.g., Dresden Elbe Valley, 2009; Liverpool, 2021).
- ♦ **EIA Notification, 2006**: large coal mining projects are **Category A**, needing central appraisal and a **public hearing** — the key forum for local objections.
- ♦ **SCCL** is a joint venture of the **Government of Telangana (51%)** and the **Union Government (49%)**.

PRELIMS POINTERS · THE KAKATIYAS

- ♦ Capital: **Orugallu (Warangal)**. Notable rulers: Ganapati Deva, **Rudrama Devi** (one of few women rulers in South India) and **Prataparudra II**, defeated by the Delhi Sultanate (Ulugh Khan) in 1323.
- ♦ Kakatiya monuments: **Thousand Pillar Temple** (Hanamkonda), **Warangal Fort** and the **Kakatiya Kala Thoranam** (Warangal gateway), an enduring symbol of the region. Kakatiyas also built large tank-irrigation systems (Ramappa, Pakhal, Laknavaram lakes).

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 1: Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times
· GS 3: Conservation, EIA



GS 3 · DEFENCE ECONOMY THE HINDU · PAGE 10

03 Sixth Positive Indigenisation List on the Anvil

WHY IN NEWS

The Defence Ministry has reviewed the much-awaited **sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)**, now in the final stages of consideration and likely to be promulgated within a few months. A review meeting was held by the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**; the list primarily contains items for the **Navy and the Army**.

WHAT IS A POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST?

- ♦ A PIL is a list of defence items that the armed forces can procure **only from domestic industry** (private sector or DPSUs) after a **specified embargo timeline**. The concept was introduced in the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**.

- ◆ The sixth list is expected to add strategically important **Line Replaceable Units (LRUs)**, sub-systems, assemblies and other equipment to be sourced from Indian industry after successful indigenisation.
- ◆ The lists aim to give a decisive impetus to **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in defence by **progressively restricting imports** and mandating domestic procurement.

Govt. likely to release sixth Positive Indigenisation List in a few months

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has reviewed the much-awaited sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), which is now in the final stages of consideration and is likely to be promulgated within the next few months, a senior official said.

The review meeting was recently held by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), during which a presentation on the proposed list was made to officials associated with the indigenisation exercise. "A review of the sixth list has been done and finally, after three years, the sixth list is under consideration and is in the final stage for approval. The list primarily contains items for the Navy and the Army. It will be out within a couple of months," the official said.

The sixth list is expected



Such lists are aimed at restricting imports and mandating procurement of military equipment from domestic industry. PTI

to add another set of strategically important major Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), sub-systems, assemblies and other equipment that will have to be sourced from Indian industry after successful indigenisation.

The lists are aimed at providing a decisive impetus to the government's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative in defence by

progressively restricting the import of specified military equipment and mandating procurement from domestic industry.

Five lists

The DMA has so far promulgated five PILs comprising 509 items between August 2020 and October 2023. More than half of these items have since been indigenised, accord-

ing to the government.

Of the 509, 191 items worth ₹3.40 lakh crore have been contracted, while Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) has been accorded for another 114 items worth ₹4.75 lakh crore. The remaining 204 items, valued at ₹5.41 lakh crore, are at various stages of development, according to official data.

The sixth PIL was expected to be released earlier but has remained under consideration as the Services and the Ministry examined the requirements and indigenisation potential of additional equipment.

The lists notified by the DMA are separate from those issued by the Department of Defence Production (DDP). While the DMA's five lists cover 509 major items, the DDP has promulgated six PILs covering 5,417 items.

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 10

STATUS SO FAR — KEY NUMBERS

Parameter	Details (official data cited by The Hindu)
DMA lists	Five PILs with 509 items promulgated between August 2020 and October 2023 ; more than half since indigenised
Contracted	191 items worth ₹3.40 lakh crore
AoN accorded	114 items worth ₹4.75 lakh crore (Acceptance of Necessity)
Under development	204 items valued at ₹5.41 lakh crore
DDP lists	Separate lists by the Department of Defence Production: six PILs covering 5,417 items (mainly components/sub-systems for DPSUs)

GAINS

- ◆ Assured demand gives industry, MSMEs and start-ups the confidence to invest.
- ◆ Reduces import dependence and supply-chain vulnerability exposed in recent conflicts.
- ◆ Builds an export base — defence exports touched a record of about ₹23,600 crore in 2024-25.

CHALLENGES

- ◆ Low defence R&D spend; dependence on imported engines, sensors and critical materials.
- ◆ Embargo timelines slip when domestic products are not ready, risking capability gaps.
- ◆ Quality, testing and certification bottlenecks; long procurement cycles.

VALUE ADDITION · THE INDIGENISATION ECOSYSTEM

- ◆ **iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)**, launched **April 2018**, engages start-ups, MSMEs and research institutions; **iDEX Prime** (2022) offers grants up to **₹10 crore**; **ADITI** (2024) supports critical deep-tech with grants up to ₹25 crore.
- ◆ **SRIJAN portal** lists previously imported items for local production — **19,509 items** listed, of which **4,006** have attracted Indian industry interest (as per the source deck).
- ◆ **Defence Industrial Corridors** in **Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**; **FDI** up to **74% automatic** and up to 100% via government route; **Technology Development Fund** run by DRDO.
- ◆ The **DMA** (created 2020) is headed by the **Chief of Defence Staff** as its Secretary.

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 3: Indian Economy — industrial policy; Security — defence technology, indigenisation



GS 2 · POLITY OP-ED THE HINDU · PAGE 6

04 The ECI's Constitutional Mandate Under Strain

WHY IN NEWS

In an op-ed, **P.D.T. Achary**, former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, argues that the Election Commission of India's conduct of the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls raises serious questions about **legality, accountability and constitutional propriety**. The piece reflects one side of a sharply contested debate; the ECI's position is summarised below for balance.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: WHY A CENTRAL, INDEPENDENT ECI

- ◆ The Draft Constitution (**Draft Article 289**) proposed a **decentralised** machinery with provincial election commissioners. **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** himself moved a new Article to **centralise** it, because there had been instances of **large-scale deletion of voters** regarded as opponents of the ruling party in the provinces.
- ◆ Ambedkar: "So far as the fundamental question is concerned that the election machinery should be **outside the control of the executive government** there has been no dispute." The result was **Article 324** — a central ECI for elections to Parliament, State legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.

- ◆ **Shibban Lal Saxena** feared a ruling party might appoint a loyalist CEC and suggested that the President's appointee be **approved by Parliament by a two-thirds majority**.

The ECI's constitutional mandate is under strain

Never before has the Election Commission of India (ECI) been subjected to such public opprobrium as it is witnessing today. This constitutional body has always enjoyed the admiration of people both within and outside the country. Indeed, the reputation of India's ECI has been global, because of its competence, impartiality and unwavering commitment to democratic norms. But today, its reputation is in the mud because of its actions in recent times, which smack of illegality, partisanship and worse. The manner in which it has carried out the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various States shows an utter disregard for the law and a disdain for procedural correctness and constitutional propriety.

Electoral fears

The debate in the Constituent Assembly on the Election Commission (Draft Article 289) throws light on the thinking of its members about the functioning of this constitutional body. There was, in fact, unanimity among the members, including the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, that the ECI should be outside the control of the executive. Dr. Ambedkar was quite emphatic on this point. He said, "So far as the fundamental question is concerned that the election machinery should be outside the control of the executive government there has been no dispute."

The members were conscious of the danger of an election commission being under the control of the government, which would undermine the integrity of the election. In fact, the proposal in the Draft Constitution was for a decentralised election machinery under which each province would have a chief election commissioner who would oversee the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to the State legislatures. Elections to Parliament, as well as to the offices of the President and the Vice-President of India, would be conducted by a chief election commissioner at the Centre.

This proposal was rejected by Dr. Ambedkar himself, who moved an entirely different Article proposing to centralise the election machinery. The reason for rejecting the proposal and deciding to centralise the election machinery was that there had been instances in the provinces of large-scale deletion of voters regarded as opponents of the ruling party by the Chief Election Commissioners (CEC) of the States. These Commissioners were mostly political nominees of the Chief Ministers.

A new Article was therefore introduced, providing for a central Election Commission consisting of the CEC and other Election Commissioners (EC), with the responsibility of preparing electoral rolls and conducting elections to Parliament, State legislatures and the offices of the President and the Vice-President. It is an irony that, almost 80 years later, the same



P.D.T. Achary

Former Secretary
General, Lok Sabha

complaints against the CEC – of large-scale deletion of voters from electoral rolls without strict adherence to the law – have come up. The greater irony is that the ECs themselves have voiced complaints about the "illegal and unconstitutional" acts of the CEC.

It is interesting to note that senior members of the Constituent Assembly, such as Shibban Lal Saxena, had expressed the fear that a party in power in the future might appoint a staunch party loyalist as the CEC, who could manipulate the election machinery in favour of the ruling party. To avoid this, his suggestion was that any person appointed by the President should have to be approved by Parliament by a two-thirds majority, along the lines of the United States Senate's confirmation of senior-level appointments.

The point is that the Constitution-makers could foresee the danger of a CEC acting in the interests of the ruling party and thereby subverting the entire constitutional scheme governing elections. It now appears that their fears were not unfounded.

An uncertain legal foundation

The SIR that has stirred up the present controversy is, in fact, not backed by any clear legal provision. Section 21 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950, provides for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. It states: "The electoral roll for each constituency shall be prepared in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date and shall come into force immediately upon its final publication in accordance with the rules made under this Act" [Section 21(1)].

"The said electoral roll shall ... be revised in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date – (a) before each general election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a State; (b) before each bye-election; and (c) shall be revised in any year in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date if such revision has been directed by the Election Commission" [Section 21(2)]. Under Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, a revision under Section 21(2) may be either intensive or summary, or partly intensive and partly summary.

There is yet another category of revision in Section 21(3), which says: "Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Election Commission may at any time, for reasons to be recorded, direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit." The words "any constituency or a part of a constituency" make it abundantly clear that this special revision is meant to be done only in a limited number of constituencies where special circumstances exist. Thus, intensive revision and special revision are two different types of revision under different circumstances. The above

provisions make it clear that there is no mention in the law of a special intensive revision. How, then, could the ECI conduct a revision that is not provided for in law? Article 324 does not empower the ECI to do things against the law.

Under this Article, the ECI can exercise powers in respect of matters that are not covered by statute. Otherwise it is bound to act in accordance with the law.

The cost of unilateralism

According to media reports, 13 crore Indian voters have already been removed from the electoral rolls across the country as a result of the SIR operations. Perhaps this is the biggest disenfranchisement exercise ever undertaken in any democratic country in the world. This exercise, needless to say, violates Article 326, which provides for universal adult suffrage and the right of eligible citizens to be registered as voters, subject to disqualification under law. The scheme of Article 326 is to include eligible voters, not to exclude them. But the objective of the SIR seems to be to exclude the maximum possible number of voters from the electoral rolls.

This huge mess has been created by the now obvious unilateralism that prevails in decision-making within the ECI. The appalling state of affairs in the domain of decision-making has been brought to light by the two ECs; according to them, they were not kept in the loop when crucial decisions were taken by the CEC.

The ECI is a constitutional body, and the procedure for decision-making is well laid in the law. A decision taken unilaterally by the CEC is not a valid decision, and all actions that follow from it have no legal validity. This creates a real constitutional crisis.

Opposition parties are preparing to move an impeachment motion against the CEC for serious misconduct. The CEC can be impeached in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. For the CEC to be removed, however, misbehaviour must be proved. The law also empowers the presiding officers of the two Houses of Parliament to disallow an impeachment motion at the threshold.

This provision could frustrate any attempt by Opposition Members of Parliament to initiate proceedings against either a judge or the CEC. Further, Section 16 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, further fortifies the CEC and other ECs by providing lifelong immunity from any civil or criminal liability. It may be noted that even the President of India does not enjoy such lifelong immunity. Such is the level of protection provided to the CEC and the other ECs. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Constitution, the law and citizens appear to have become helpless before an omnipotent ECI.

The Election Commission of India's conduct raises serious questions about legality, accountability and constitutional propriety

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 6 (Op-Ed)

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ROLL REVISION

- ◆ **Section 21(1), RP Act 1950:** electoral roll for each constituency is prepared in the prescribed manner with reference to the **qualifying date**.
- ◆ **Section 21(2):** roll shall be revised (a) before each general election, (b) before each bye-election, and (c) in any year if directed by the ECI. Under **Rule 25, Registration of Electors Rules 1960**, a revision may be **intensive, summary, or partly intensive and partly summary**.
- ◆ **Section 21(3):** "Notwithstanding" sub-section (2), the ECI may at any time, **for reasons to be recorded**, direct a **special revision** for any constituency or part of a constituency "in such manner as it may think fit".

THE AUTHOR'S ARGUMENT

- ◆ "Special *intensive* revision" is not named in law; S.21(3) is meant for limited constituencies in special circumstances.
- ◆ Article 324 cannot be used against statute; large deletions (13 crore, per media reports cited) would offend **Article 326**.
- ◆ Decisions allegedly taken unilaterally by the CEC without the other ECs lack legal validity.

THE COUNTER-VIEW (ECI'S STANCE)

- ◆ Rolls had not been intensively revised in many States for two decades; cleansing dead, shifted and duplicate entries protects genuine voters.
- ◆ Article 324 read with S.21(3) gives wide power to direct revision "in such manner as it may think fit".
- ◆ Claims-and-objections windows, notices and appeals preserve due process; challenges have been heard by the Supreme Court.

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- ◆ **Removal:** Under **Article 324(5)**, the CEC can be removed only in the **same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge** (proved misbehaviour or incapacity). Other ECs can be removed only on the **recommendation of the CEC**.
- ◆ Under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, a motion needs **100 Lok Sabha** or **50 Rajya Sabha** members' signatures, and the **Speaker/Chairman may admit or refuse** it at the threshold – which the author says could frustrate opposition efforts.
- ◆ **CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023:** appointment by a Selection Committee of the **PM, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the PM; **Section 16** bars civil or criminal proceedings for acts done in the discharge of official duty – described by the author as "lifelong immunity".

VALUE ADDITION · LANDMARK CASES

- ◆ **Mohinder Singh Gill v. CEC (1978):** Article 324 is a **reservoir of power** where enacted laws are silent, but the ECI must act **in conformity with, not in derogation of**, the law.
- ◆ **T.N. Seshan v. Union of India (1995):** upheld a multi-member ECI; decisions by majority.
- ◆ **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023):** SC prescribed a panel of PM, LoP and **CJI** until Parliament legislated – the 2023 Act replaced the CJI with a Union Minister.

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 2: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of Constitutional bodies; RP Act



PRELIMS

GS 2 · HEALTH

THE HINDU · PAGE 12

05 Mismatch in Data on Rabies Deaths

WHY IN NEWS

India has **no single comparable, comprehensive national measure** of human rabies deaths, even as it aims to **eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030**. The Health Ministry's surveillance

reported **50 deaths in 2023**, the Registrar-General recorded **271** the same year, while an **ICMR-NIE** study in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* estimates **5,726 deaths every year**.

Mismatch in data on rabies deaths poses major challenge

Health Ministry's surveillance programme reported 50 deaths in 2023, while Registrar-General recorded 271 fatalities the same year; however, ICMR study says 5,726 people die of rabies annually

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

In 2025, India recorded 55 deaths by malaria, 131 deaths by dengue, and 27 deaths by kala-azar (black fever), according to data from the Union Health Ministry.

However, there is no single comparable and comprehensive national measure of its annual human rabies mortality, even as the country looks to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by the year 2030.

A community-based study led by researchers from the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) and published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* recently estimated that 5,726 people die of rabies in India every year.

The Health Ministry's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme-Integrated Health Information Platform (IDSP-IHIP) system reported 21 deaths by rabies in 2022, 50 in 2023, and 54 in 2024.

The Registrar-General of India's Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) system recorded



On a mission: India plans to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by the year 2030. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

66 medically certified rabies deaths in 2022, and 271 in 2023. The MCCD system, however, covers only medically certified deaths and does not capture all registered deaths.

These figures are not directly comparable – the IDSP-IHIP is a disease surveillance system, while the MCCD captures medically certified causes through civil registration.

At the national level, the MCCD covered 22.3% of registered deaths in 2022, and 22.0% in 2023. Neither system provides a complete national count.

For its study, the ICMR surveyed 337,808 people in 78,807 households

across 60 districts in 15 States and estimated that India sees about 9.1 million animal bites every year, including about 5.6 million dog bites.

The researchers used the community survey, laboratory data, and a probability decision-tree model to estimate the number of people who progress from an animal bite to rabies and die. The 5,726 figure is therefore a modelled estimate of annual deaths, and not a count of deaths recorded in hospitals or by government surveillance.

The difference between the two datasets is substantial. The 54 deaths report-

ed through government surveillance in 2024 is less than 1% of the study's estimated annual toll of 5,726.

"The two figures, however, are generated through different methods and should not be treated as directly equivalent," a senior Health Ministry official said.

Hurdle in eradication

"Lack of consolidated data is a challenge in rabies eradication. Very often cases and deaths occur in areas of the country where they are not measurable." Nirmal Kumar Ganguly, medical scientist, and former ICMR chief, told *The Hindu*.

The Health Ministry has also acknowledged the challenges in surveillance and data collection, especially when deaths occur outside the formal health system

Globally, rabies causes an estimated 59,000 human deaths every year. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that India accounts for 35% of rabies deaths globally, underlining the country's significant contribution to the global burden.

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 12

THREE SYSTEMS, THREE NUMBERS

Source	Figures	Nature & Limitation
IDSP-IHIP (Health Ministry)	21 (2022), 50 (2023), 54 (2024)	Disease surveillance system; captures only reported cases. The 2024 figure is <1% of the ICMR estimate.
MCCD (Registrar-General of India)	66 (2022), 271 (2023)	Only medically certified deaths via civil registration; covered just 22.3% (2022) and 22.0% (2023) of registered deaths.

ICMR-NIE study	5,726 deaths/year (modelled)	Survey of 3,37,808 people in 78,807 households across 60 districts, 15 States + lab data + probability decision-tree model .
----------------	------------------------------	--

- ◆ The ICMR study estimates about **9.1 million animal bites** a year, including **5.6 million dog bites**. The Ministry says the figures are generated through different methods and should not be treated as directly equivalent.
- ◆ For comparison, India recorded **55 malaria, 131 dengue** and **27 kala-azar** deaths in 2025 (Union Health Ministry data).
- ◆ Globally rabies kills an estimated **59,000** people a year; WHO estimates India accounts for about **35%** of global rabies deaths.

WHY PEOPLE STILL DIE OF A PREVENTABLE DISEASE

- ◆ **Delayed or incomplete treatment:** over **20%** of dog-bite victims receive no anti-rabies vaccine (ARV); nearly half do not complete the full course.
- ◆ **Scarce RIG:** Rabies Immunoglobulin is life-saving but expensive (₹5,000–₹20,000) and often unavailable in public hospitals.
- ◆ **Who dies:** poor, marginalised populations in areas with many free-roaming dogs and weak health access; about **40% of cases are children under 15**.
- ◆ **Dog population control:** Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release has limited impact due to **~40% annual turnover** of dog populations. Deaths outside formal health facilities are not "measurable" — the core data problem.

VALUE ADDITION · DISEASE BASICS

- ◆ **Pathogen:** rabies virus — a **neurotropic** virus of genus **Lyssavirus**, family **Rhabdoviridae**; a viral, **zoonotic Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)**.
- ◆ **Source:** dogs cause about **99%** of human cases; transmission via saliva through bites, scratches or contact with broken skin/mucosa. **Human-to-human transmission has never been confirmed**.
- ◆ **Course:** incubation usually **2–3 months** (one week to one year); two forms — **furious** (hydrophobia, hallucinations, hyperactivity) and **paralytic** (often misdiagnosed). Once symptoms appear, it is **virtually 100% fatal**.
- ◆ **PEP** (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis): immediate wound washing with soap and water for **15 minutes**, full ARV course, and RIG or **monoclonal antibodies** for severe exposures.

INDIA'S MEASURES

- ◆ **National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE)**, launched on World Rabies Day 2021, targets zero dog-mediated human deaths by **2030**, aligned with the global **"Zero by 30"** plan (WHO, FAO, WOA, GARC).
- ◆ **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** under NCDC; **IHIP** for real-time reporting of bites and deaths; **NHM** support for free ARV and RIG in public facilities; **National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses** linking human and veterinary systems.
- ◆ **Way forward:** make human rabies notifiable everywhere, expand MCCD and verbal-autopsy coverage, ensure ARV/RIG stock at every PHC, and achieve the WHO-recommended **~70% dog vaccination coverage** alongside the **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- ♦ **World Rabies Day: 28 September** — death anniversary of **Louis Pasteur**, who developed the first rabies vaccine (1885). **ICMR-NIE** is located in **Chennai**.

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 2: Issues relating to development and management of Health · Prelims: Science & Technology (diseases)



GS 2 · EDUCATION EDITORIAL THE HINDU · PAGE 6

o6 Two or Three? The Third-Language Debate

WHY IN NEWS

A *Hindu* editorial argues that students must be free to choose a **third language not tested in a Board exam**. Through frequent interventions, the **Supreme Court** has pointed to aspects of the **CBSE's three-language policy** that appear not to have been thought through; in its latest ruling, it extended to **current Class 6 students** the relief given to Classes 7, 8 and 9 — their Class 10 third-language assessment will be **internal, not a Board examination**.

WHAT THE COURT HAS FLAGGED

- ♦ Seeking to **lessen the load on students** until schools are fully prepared; it had earlier asked whether the policy could start from **2027 instead of 2026**. The CBSE has resisted compromise at various stages.
- ♦ Suddenly learning a new language in **Class 9** would be disruptive for students who had not studied a second "Indian" language till Class 8.
- ♦ The Court mooted careful consideration of **treating English as indigenous**, questioning its categorisation as a "foreign" language.

EDITORIAL'S CASE (TWO LANGUAGES)

- ♦ English is a **de facto Indian language** — in use for 300+ years; the language of education, courts and professions, and a link language.
- ♦ It gives Indians an edge in global industries like IT; NEP 2020 itself notes the value of foreign languages for global mobility.
- ♦ In practice the policy pushes **Spanish, French** and other foreign languages out of schools; a third language can be assessed internally.

CASE FOR THREE LANGUAGES

- ♦ Multilingualism has cognitive benefits; children acquire languages most easily when young.
- ♦ Learning another Indian language promotes national integration — the Court too has seen merit in strengthening the federal structure this way.
- ♦ NEP 2020 offers flexibility: **no language is imposed** on any State; at least two of the three must be native to India.

Classical languages (11): Tamil was the first (2004); Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali were added in October 2024.

Two or three?

Students must be free to choose a third language not tested in a Board exam

The Supreme Court, through its frequent interventions, is pointing to the various aspects of the three-language policy that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) does not seem to have thought through. Regardless of its eventual judgment, the Court's intent at this stage seems to be to point to the pitfalls of the policy and at least soften the rough edges. In its latest ruling, the Court has said that current Class 6 students should be given the same relief as students in Classes 7, 8 and 9, whose final Class 10 examination will only be an internal assessment, not a Board examination. The Court is seeking to lessen the load on the students, at least until schools are fully prepared. It had earlier asked if the policy could start from 2027, not 2026. The CBSE has stubbornly resisted compromise at various stages in the hearing. Earlier, the Court had intervened to point out that suddenly learning a new language in Class 9 would be too disruptive if the students had not studied a second "Indian" language until Class 8. The Court had also mooted careful consideration of treating English as indigenous, putting its categorisation as a foreign language under question.

English is a de facto Indian language. It has been in use in India for at least 300 years and is the leading language of education, courts, and professions widely practised by Indians; it also serves as the preferred link language for many. English knowledge has consistently given Indians an edge in employment in global industries such as the IT sector. Indians will want English to re-

professions widely practised by Indians; it also serves as the preferred link language for many. English knowledge has consistently given Indians an edge in employment in global industries such as the IT sector. Indians will want English to remain one of their unique selling points as the government looks to jobs in global industries as a pathway to prosperity. The National Education Policy 2020, though advocating for two Indian languages, also mentions the importance of learning foreign languages to facilitate the global mobility of Indians seeking employment. *The Hindu's* reportage has shown that since English is the language of instruction in other subjects, it will become the only so-called foreign language students will take in CBSE schools. Many schools will stick to Sanskrit as the second Indian language all the way up to Class 10 while Hindi would be the first. Some schools, especially in the southern States, will continue with the regional language such as Tamil or Kannada as the other Indian language. The practical consequence of the current policy is removing Spanish, French and other foreign languages from schools. But any purported intent of promoting cross-regional language learning may just not be served though the Court has found merit in learning more Indian languages as a way of strengthening the federal structure. A strenuous learning of an additional Indian language serves little practical purpose though it may cater to the atavistic impulses of some. The two-language policy – English and mother tongue – would be best for India. Students can be tested on a third language of their choice through internal assessment, not through a Board examination.

The Hindu, 5 Oct 2026, Page 6 (Editorial)

VALUE ADDITION · CONSTITUTION & POLICY ON LANGUAGE

- ◆ **Article 343:** Hindi in Devanagari as official language of the Union; **Article 350A:** instruction in **mother tongue at primary stage**; **Article 350B:** Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities; **Article 351:** directive for spread of Hindi; **Article 29(1):** right to conserve distinct language, script or culture.
- ◆ **Eighth Schedule** lists 22 languages. **Official Languages Act, 1963** allows continued use of English.
- ◆ **Three-language formula:** recommended by the **Kothari Commission (1964–66)**, adopted in the **National Policy on Education 1968**, reiterated in 1986 and **NEP 2020 (para 4.13)**. **Tamil Nadu** follows a **two-language policy** (Tamil and English) since 1968.

SYLLABUS LINK — GS 2: Issues relating to development and management of Education; Government policies · GS 1: Diversity of India

07 Species in Focus: The Himalayan Tahr

SPECIES PROFILE

A large, specialised wild **caprid** (even-toed ungulate) adapted to precipitous alpine terrain, scientifically *Hemitragus jemlahicus*, and known locally in Uttarakhand as '**Karth**'.



Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) — source deck

- ◆ **Native range:** endemic to the Himalayas — Jammu & Kashmir, **Himachal Pradesh**, Uttarakhand and Sikkim in India, plus Nepal, northern Pakistan and southern Tibet (China).
- ◆ **Habitat:** rugged wooded cliffs, rocky slopes and alpine grasslands (**bugyals**), typically **3,500–4,500 m**; descends to mixed oak and conifer forests down to **2,500 m** in harsh winters.
- ◆ **IUCN Red List:** **Near Threatened (NT)** — threats from poaching, fragmented native populations and competition with livestock.
- ◆ **Dual coat & winter mane:** dense two-layered reddish-brown to dark brown fleece; mature males grow a thick **neck-and-shoulder mane** in winter.
- ◆ **Horns:** both sexes have smooth, **keel-shaped horns curving backward and inward**, up to **46 cm** in adult males, used in dominance head-butts and defence.
- ◆ **Diet:** strictly herbivorous — alpine grasses, sedges, bamboo shrubs and herbs; obtains much of its moisture from **dew and frost** on cliff vegetation.
- ◆ **Himachal angle:** found in protected areas such as the **Great Himalayan National Park** (Kullu; UNESCO WHS, 2014); preyed upon by the snow leopard and common leopard.

PRELIMS POINTERS · DON'T CONFUSE THE TAHRs

Species	Range	IUCN	Key Fact
Himalayan Tahr <i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>	Himalayas	Near Threatened	Introduced in New Zealand , where it is treated as an invasive pest
Nilgiri Tahr <i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>	Western Ghats (TN, Kerala)	Endangered	State animal of Tamil Nadu ; stronghold Eravikulam NP , Kerala
Arabian Tahr <i>Arabitragus jayakari</i>	Oman, UAE	Endangered	Smallest of the three tahr

TEST · REVISE · RETAIN

Practice Zone

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 · GS 2 · 15 Marks · 250 Words

"The independence of the Election Commission rests as much on procedural propriety as on constitutional design." Examine in the light of recent debates over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

"निर्वाचन आयोग की स्वतंत्रता जितनी उसकी संवैधानिक संरचना पर निर्भर करती है, उतनी ही उसकी प्रक्रियात्मक शुचिता पर भी।" मतदाता सूचियों के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) को लेकर हाल की बहसों के आलोक में इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** Article 324; Ambedkar's insistence that election machinery be outside executive control; centralisation to prevent mass deletions.
- ◆ **Constitutional design:** security of tenure (Art 324(5)), multi-member body (T.N. Seshan, 1995), Mohinder Singh Gill — Art 324 as reservoir of power within law; 2023 Appointment Act.
- ◆ **Procedural propriety:** S.21 RP Act and Rule 25; notice, hearing, appeal; collegial decision-making; transparency of deletion lists; Form 7 safeguards.
- ◆ **Debate:** concerns over SIR (legal basis, scale of deletions, Art 326) vs ECI's case (roll purification, S.21(3)); judicial oversight.
- ◆ **Way forward:** statutory clarity on intensive revisions, published reasons, independent appointment panel, voter-facing grievance redress. **Conclude** — legitimacy flows from trust as much as from law.

Q2 · GS 1 · 15 Marks · 250 Words

Development projects near World Heritage Sites often pit economic needs against irreplaceable cultural value. Discuss with reference to the Ramappa Temple, and suggest a framework for heritage-sensitive development.

विश्व धरोहर स्थलों के निकट विकास परियोजनाएँ प्रायः आर्थिक आवश्यकताओं को अपूरणीय सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों के सामने खड़ा कर देती हैं। रामप्पा मंदिर के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए तथा धरोहर-संवेदी विकास के लिए एक रूपरेखा सुझाइए।

APPROACH

- ◆ **Intro:** Ramappa — 1213 CE Kakatiya temple, UNESCO 2021; proposed PVNR opencast mine 5 km away.
- ◆ **Economic side:** coal for energy security, SCCL revenue, local jobs and royalties.
- ◆ **Heritage side:** sandbox foundation, lineaments and piping risk (GSI), blasting, dust, lake hydrology; risk to Outstanding Universal Value and "In Danger" listing.

- ◆ **Framework:** mandatory Heritage Impact Assessment, AMASR buffers plus scientifically drawn hydro-geological buffer zones, cumulative EIA with genuine public hearing, community stewardship, alternative coal blocks.
- ◆ **Conclude:** development and heritage need not clash if heritage is treated as a non-renewable resource.

PRELIMS MCQS

1 Consider the following statements about Form 7:

1. It is prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 for objecting to the inclusion of a name in the roll.
2. An objection can be preferred only by a person whose name is already included in that roll.
3. Making a false declaration in it is punishable under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Which of the above are correct?

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

2 With reference to the Ramappa Temple, consider the following:

1. It was built during the reign of Ganapati Deva by his general Recherla Rudra.
2. Its presiding deity is Lord Rama.
3. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.

Which of the above are correct?

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

3 Consider the following about Positive Indigenisation Lists (PILs):

1. The concept was introduced in the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.
2. Lists issued by the DMA and the DDP are identical.
3. Listed items can be procured only from domestic industry after the notified timeline.

Which of the above are correct?

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

4 With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider:

1. The CEC can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
2. An Election Commissioner can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC.
3. Under the 2023 Act, the Chief Justice of India is a member of the selection committee.

Which of the above are correct?

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

5 Which provision empowers the Election Commission to direct, at any time and for reasons to be recorded, a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of it?

- (a) Article 326 (b) Section 21(3), RP Act 1950
(c) Rule 25, RER 1960 (d) Section 13B, RP Act 1950

6 Consider the following statements about rabies:

1. It is caused by a Lyssavirus of the family Rhabdoviridae.
2. Human-to-human transmission is a major route of spread.
3. Once clinical symptoms appear, it is virtually always fatal.

Which of the above are correct?

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

7 The Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) system in India is administered by:

- (a) National Centre for Disease Control
(b) Indian Council of Medical Research
(c) Registrar-General of India
(d) National Statistics Office

8 Which Article of the Constitution directs every State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage to children of linguistic minority groups?

- (a) Article 343
(b) Article 350A
(c) Article 350B
(d) Article 351

9 Consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayan tahr is endemic to the Western Ghats.
2. The Nilgiri tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
3. The Himalayan tahr is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the above are correct?

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

10 Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (as amended in 2010), the "prohibited area" and "regulated area" around a protected monument are, respectively:

- (a) 100 m; 200 m beyond it
(b) 200 m; 300 m beyond it
(c) 50 m; 100 m beyond it
(d) 100 m; 100 m beyond it

ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

Q	Ans	Rationale
1	a	Rule 13(2), RER 1960 prescribes Form 7 and limits objectors to those already on the roll. Penalty for false declaration lies in Section 31 of the RP Act, 1950 , not the 1951 Act.
2	b	Built 1213 CE by Recherla Rudra under Ganapati Deva; inscribed 2021. The deity is Ramalingeswara (Shiva) – "Ramappa" is the sculptor's name.
3	c	DAP 2020 introduced PILs. DMA (509 items in five lists) and DDP (5,417 items in six lists) issue separate lists.
4	b	Art 324(5) protects the CEC and requires CEC's recommendation to remove an EC. The 2023 Act's panel is PM, LoP and a Union Cabinet Minister – not the CJI .
5	b	S.21(3) allows special revision "notwithstanding" S.21(2). Rule 25 deals with intensive/summary modes; S.13B with EROs.
6	b	Dogs cause ~99% of human cases; human-to-human transmission has never been confirmed .
7	c	MCCD runs under the Registrar-General of India via civil registration; IDSP-IHIP is the Health Ministry's surveillance platform.
8	b	Art 350A – mother-tongue instruction; 350B – Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities; 351 – spread of Hindi; 343 – official language.
9	b	The Himalayan tahr is endemic to the Himalayas ; the Nilgiri tahr (Endangered) is the Western Ghats species.
10	a	Prohibited area: 100 m; regulated area: a further 200 m beyond the prohibited area.

QUICK REVISION RECAP

Form 7: RER 1960, Rule 13(2) – objection to inclusion; only enrolled persons; >5 objections → mandatory ERO verification; 3 neighbours (death), 3 visits (absent); notice + hearing; appeal to DM in 15 days; false declaration → S.31 RP Act 1950.

Ramappa: 1213 CE · Recherla Rudra · Ganapati Deva · Ramalingeswara · star-shaped platform · floating bricks · sandbox foundation · UNESCO 2021 · Mulugu · threat from PVNR opencast mine (SCCL), 5 km, 300 m deep.

PIL: DAP 2020 · DMA 5 lists / 509 items (Aug 2020–Oct 2023) · DDP 6 lists / 5,417 items · sixth DMA list – Navy and Army, LRUs and sub-systems.

ECI: Draft Art 289 → Art 324 · S.21(1),(2),(3) RP Act 1950 · Rule 25 RER · Art 326 · Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968 · 2023 Act, Section 16 immunity.

Rabies: IDSP-IHIP 54 (2024) vs MCCD 271 (2023) vs ICMR-NIE 5,726/yr · 9.1 mn bites · India ~35% of 59,000 global deaths · elimination by 2030 · Lyssavirus, Rhabdoviridae.

Language: SC relief to Classes 6–9 – internal assessment for third language · English "de facto Indian" · Art 343, 350A, 350B, 351 · Kothari Commission · NEP 2020.

Himalayan Tahr: *Hemitragus jemlahicus* · 'Karth' · 3,500–4,500 m · bugyals · Near Threatened · both sexes horned · Nilgiri tahr = Endangered.

PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

- ♦ **RP Act 1950 vs 1951:** electoral rolls, Form 7 offences and Section 21 are in the **1950** Act; conduct of elections and corrupt practices are in the **1951** Act.
- ♦ **"Ramappa" is not the deity** – it is the sculptor; the deity is Ramalingeswara (Shiva).
- ♦ **DMA ≠ DDP lists:** two separate sets of PILs; numbers (509 vs 5,417) are frequently swapped.
- ♦ **Modelled vs counted:** 5,726 rabies deaths is a **modelled estimate**, not a count of recorded deaths.
- ♦ **Removal of ECs:** only the CEC enjoys judge-like protection; ECs are removed on the CEC's recommendation.
- ♦ **Tahr confusion:** Himalayan = Near Threatened; Nilgiri = Endangered (and a different genus).

PLACES & PERSONS IN NEWS

Name	Context
Ballari City (Karnataka)	Assembly constituency where 7,500+ Form 7 objections were filed
Venkatapur / Palampet (Mulugu, Telangana)	Site of the proposed PVNR opencast mine / Ramappa Temple and Lake
P.D.T. Achary	Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha; author of the ECI op-ed
Recherla Rudra	Kakatiya general who built the Ramappa Temple (1213 CE)
Shibban Lal Saxena	Constituent Assembly member who proposed parliamentary approval of the CEC
G. Kishan Reddy	Union Minister of Coal and Mines, met by the heritage delegation

Great Himalayan NP (Kullu, HP)	UNESCO site and habitat of the Himalayan tahr
---------------------------------------	---

CONNECT THE DOTS Today's **Form 7** story and the **ECI op-ed** are two faces of one issue — the **integrity of electoral rolls**. One shows the risk of *private* misuse of objection procedures; the other questions the *institutional* process of mass revision. Both rest on the same pillars: **Article 324, Article 326, Section 21 of the RP Act 1950** and the **Registration of Electors Rules 1960** — a ready-made framework for any Mains answer on electoral reform.

STATIC LINKAGE

Today's Story	Static Concept	Where It Fits
Form 7 objections	Universal adult franchise (Art 326); RP Act 1950 vs 1951; qualifying dates	GS 2 Polity — electoral reforms, voter-roll integrity
Ramappa Temple	Kakatiya architecture; sandbox foundation; World Heritage Convention 1972	GS 1 Art & Culture; GS 3 EIA & mining
Sixth PIL	DAP 2020; DMA & CDS (2020); defence industrial corridors	GS 3 Security & industrial policy
ECI op-ed	Art 324; Constituent Assembly debates; separation of powers; Mohinder Singh Gill	GS 2 Constitutional bodies; Essay on institutions
Rabies data	Civil Registration System (RBD Act 1969); One Health; NTDs	GS 2 Health; GS 3 S&T (zoonoses)
Language debate	Art 343–351; Eighth Schedule; Kothari Commission; federalism	GS 2 Education policy; GS 1 Diversity
Himalayan Tahr	IUCN categories; endemism; alpine ecosystems (bugyals)	Prelims Environment; HPAS fauna of HP

PRELIMS BYTES

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

- ◆ **National Voters' Day** is observed on **25 January**, marking the ECI's founding in 1950.
- ◆ The ECI became a **multi-member body** in October 1989, reverted to single-member in 1990 and was made multi-member again in 1993.
- ◆ **Article 329** bars courts from interfering in electoral matters except through an election petition.
- ◆ The **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969** (amended 2023) underpins civil registration, the base of the MCCD system.

CULTURE, DEFENCE & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Ramappa** was inscribed at the **44th session** of the World Heritage Committee (2021, chaired from Fuzhou, China).
- ◆ **Line Replaceable Unit (LRU)**: a modular component that can be swapped quickly at the operating level to restore a system to service.
- ◆ **IUCN categories** in order of risk: LC → NT → VU → EN → CR → EW → EX.
- ◆ **Great Himalayan National Park** (Kullu) was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in **2014**.