

13 Feb 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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A. GS 1 Related

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B. GS 2 Related

Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Dharam's push for uniform code stirs debate

Syllabus: Directive Principles of State Policy

Prelims: Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

Mains: State's Right to enact Uniform Civil Code

Context:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister announced to form a committee to prepare a draft of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State, if voted to power.

What is the Issue?

- Uttarakhand CM announced that if the party is re-elected to power, the new government will constitute a committee to prepare a draft [Uniform Civil Code \(UCC\)](#).
- This has sensed a major defeat over whether an individual State can bring its own family law code.

Common family law and State: –

- Goa's Portuguese Civil Code of 1867** is an example of a common family law prevalent in a State.
- The promulgation of the UCC emerges as a positive obligation and not a duty of the State under **Article 44** of the Constitution in the [Directive Principles of State Policy \(DPSP\)](#).
 - It says "the State shall endeavor to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India".

Does "State" in Article 44 mean the Union or the States?

- Article 12** of the Constitution defines the "State" to include the Union and State governments, Parliament and State Legislatures, and even local authorities.
- Besides, **entry five of the Concurrent List** in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution empowers both the Union and States to make laws on marriage, divorce, infants, minors, adoption, wills, intestacy and succession.
- However, the Supreme Court argued that promulgation of a UCC by an individual State may clash with Central statutes governing marriage and succession.

Supreme Court judgment on State Right UCC: –

1. Jose Paulo Coutinho judgment of the court in 2019

- The Jose Paulo Coutinho judgment of the court in 2019 found Goa a "shining example of an Indian State which has a UCC".
- But it has also questioned the wisdom of enacting a uniform law in a pluralist society in "one go".

2. Pannalal Bansilal Pitti judgment: –

- The Supreme Court had observed in the Pannalal Bansilal Pitti judgment that a uniform law may be counterproductive to unity and integrity of the nation.
- Making law or amendment to a law is a slow process and the legislature attempts to remedy where the need is felt most acute.

Conclusion: –

Uniform Civil Code will be an impactful step towards Article 44 that provides for UCC for all citizens. This UCC will be for equal laws on subjects like marriage, divorce, land, property and inheritance for people of all religions. But at the same time such a move by the state government should not be counterproductive to the unity and integrity of the nation.

Nut Graf

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister announcement raises questions over whether an individual State can bring its own family law code and the ripples the move may create in a society with personal laws based on the customs of religious communities.

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Amidst a wave of coups and a pandemic

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

Mains: *Increasing military coups in Africa and its impact on India.*

Context:

Concerns are rising over the increasing frequency of military coups in the African continent.

What do you mean by a coup?

Coup can be simply defined as an illegal and overt attempt by the military to unseat sitting leaders.

Recent Military Coups in Africa: –

- A study by US researchers has identified over 200 such attempts in Africa since the 1950s.
- In 2020, armed forces staged a mutiny and captured power from the President in Mali.
- In 2021, the Guinean coup d'état occurred when forces led by the military captured the President and announced the dissolution of the government and the Constitution.
- In 2022, the military takeover took place due to protests demanding the resignation of the President in Burkina Faso.

Countries in Africa with the highest number of coups since 1952



Source: Jonathan Powell, Uni of Central Florida and Clayton Thyne, Uni of Kentucky

BBC

Source: BBC

Reasons for increased Military coups: –

- **Local Circumstances** in the particular country harbor the ground for a military coup. Such as
 - In Mali, it stemmed from frustration at the former president's weak leadership and resentment over his corruption and manipulation of parliamentary election results.
- **Significant discontent has arisen amongst the people** due to different ways of deciphering and implementing democracy according to the wishes of politicians and the ruling elite.
- **The proliferation of insurgents and extremist violence** coupled with weak democracies have provided fertile grounds for military intervention in civilian and political matters across Africa.
- In addition, the decadence of the **socio-political and economic environment** is the justification for coups in many cases.
- **Poorly-funded and under-resourced militaries** are another reason why coups have been a recurring event in Africa, especially in the Sahelian region.

Concerns Associated with Increasing Military Coups in Africa: –

- **Failure of regional bodies:**
 - All attempts by regional bodies like ECOWAS and the African Union were focused on punishing the militaries rather than attempting to help fix the underlying causes that led to civilian populations supporting their actions.
 - The influence of Economic Community of West African States(ECOWAS) has been hampered by eroding credibility and increasing sanctions.
- **Failure of Democratic Institutions:**
 - The masses' lack of faith in the state of democratic politics in their countries has significant consequences not only for Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, but the wider region.
- **No long-Lasting Penalties:**
 - The punitive measures against military coups usually are lifted quickly.
 - This leniency has enabled coup leaders to make minimal concessions while preparing for longer stays in power.
- **Widespread civilian support for military coups:**
 - Citizens appear to believe that the military may be a credible alternative to the band of corrupt and unrepentant political elites that have betrayed their confidence.
 - This led to the legitimisation of attempts to reintegrate militaries into politics across the continent.
- **Continued Military Support from other countries:**
 - Other countries, including France and European allies, have maintained a military presence in the region, and partner local armed forces to fight radical groups.
- **Futile Sanctions:**
 - Sanctions have not been able to create the necessary political outcomes that the AU and ECOWAS desire.
 - The sanctions on Mali and Guinea in 2021 have backfired and have driven popular support towards military leadership.

Implications on India: –

- The rise in military coups in the African continent is a cause of concern for India and Africa who have common positions and interests in global platforms.
- It will also hamper several areas of cooperation such as
 - techno-economic capacity building.
 - Skill development featured prominently in all the India-Africa Forum Summits.
- India's model of development cooperation in Africa lacks a clear strategy and the consequences of military coup will worsen the developmental efforts.
- Besides, it will also erode the progress of 'Ten Guiding Principles for India-Africa Engagement' which have defined India-Africa engagement.
- The military takeovers in Africa will reduce the pace of synchronization between different development instruments.
- India must chart out a roadmap for its development cooperation programme in Africa that outlines a long-term strategy and delineates how it will deploy state capacity to pursue common development goals.

Recommendations: –

- Bolstering the roles and capacities of regional bodies such as ECOWAS. Peer influence among any group of neighboring nations will always be vital.
- Focus more support on strengthening civil society and democracy in each country.
- Be consistent by offering the incentives of partnership to governments and civil societies in strengthening democratic governance.
- Support broad national dialogues to address the root causes of each country's instability.
- Strategic Measures must include groups that historically have been marginalized, such as ethnic minorities, women, youth and grassroots groups.

Nut Graf

In the 35th African Union Summit, the key concern is the rising wave of military coups in the continent. The future of Africa is uncertain as military intervention can subvert the democratic progress.

C. GS 3 Related**Category: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY****1. Sinking Sundarbans**

Syllabus: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Prelims: Sundarbans

Mains: Climate crisis of Sundarbans

Context:

This article examines the climate crisis of Sundarbans in India.

About Sundarbans:

- The Sunderban delta is named after a special type of mangrove tree called Sundari.
- These trees are very common in the mangrove forests of West Bengal.
- The Sundarban Delta is located from the Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal to the Baleswar River in Bangladesh.
- The Sundarbans is a mangrove area in the delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers in the Bay of Bengal.

What are the reasons behind the climate crisis of Sundarbans?

- **Deforestation:** Trees are cut down rigorously from the mangrove forest for firewood. Thus, the green cover of the rich mangrove forest is vanishing.
- **Soil Erosion:** Another factor that has been posing a massive threat to the land is soil erosion.
- **Water Attacks:** There are not enough trees in Sundarbans to hold the soil during high tides and rain. It has become more susceptible to violent water attacks.
- **Rising Water levels:** Rising water levels have also degraded the cultivable land quality and reduced crop yield, leading to a food and drinking water crisis.
- **Other Disasters:** Devastating floods, intense storms, and torrential rain have become frequent. Cyclones such as Aila, Amphaan and Yaas have changed the geography of the land.

Nut Graf

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the people from Sundarbans had to fight the virus amid joblessness and cyclones such as Amphaan and Yaas. Devastating floods, intense storms, and torrential rains are posing a threat to Sundarbans.

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. When will India's mRNA vaccine be out?

Syllabus: *Development and their applications and effects in everyday life.*

Prelims: *mRNA vaccine*

Mains: *India's progress in the field of vaccine research and development*

Context: India's first indigenously developed mRNA vaccine is expected to be released by the Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals in order to broaden the scope of RNA therapy making its use much beyond COVID-19.

About mRNA vaccine:

- mRNA (messenger Ribonucleic Acid) vaccines pave a new era in the realm of vaccine research and development.
- Traditionally, vaccines incorporate a part of a harmless pathogen in the body against which the antibodies are targeted.

- In case of mRNA vaccines, the mRNA molecules of the pathogen (SARS-CoV-2 mRNA in case of the COVID-19 virus) are used to activate the immune system to combat the virus and other infectious agents.
- This vaccine has been developed with an approach that ensures a significant immune response along with safety.
- The researchers emphasised on the fact that minimising the injection of a foreign body results in reduced possibility of adverse reactions.
- Therefore in mRNA vaccines, a piece of genetic code is introduced into the body of the individuals to trigger immune responses. The genetic code corresponds to the viral protein present on the outer membrane of the virus.



How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike protein**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



The vaccine **DOES NOT** contain **ANY** virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

When your body responds to the vaccine, it can sometimes cause a mild fever, headache, or chills. This is completely normal and a sign that the vaccine is working.

After the mRNA delivers the instructions, your cells break it down and get rid of it.

GETTING VACCINATED?

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit: cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines



Image Source: cdc.gov

The Present Status of the Vaccine:

- The mRNA vaccine in India is currently in phase 2 and 3 trials to examine the immunogenicity, safety and tolerability.
- The study has been carried out across various sites in Phase-2 and 3 using Covishield for comparison as the placebo trials have been prohibited by the regulatory authorities.
- The results from the Phase-1 study are anticipated to be published soon.

Advantages:

- Evidence reveals that [mRNA Vaccine](#) shows robust immune response in the trials and enhanced protection against infections.
- As it employs only the genetic code, it is easily updated in response to the emergence of variants.

Where lies the Challenge?

- The major challenge with mRNA vaccines is with respect to its storage which mandates temperature spanning from -90 degree Celsius to -50 degree Celsius.
- Such stringent freezing conditions are expensive to be maintained.
- There is a wide gap between vaccine preparation and its supply due to challenges in scaling up production.

Hope for the future:

The mRNA vaccines, with its entry into the market, will expand India's vaccination drive and offer resilience towards a pandemic-like situation in the upcoming days.

Nut Graf

mRNA vaccines will play a revolutionary role in the treatment of various infectious diseases transforming vaccine research in the country.

Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. What is the essential practice test?

Syllabus: Indian Constitution Significant provisions

Prelims: Essential religious practises

Mains: Impact of religious practises on the secular framework of the country

Context: The Karnataka High Court is hearing a petition that claims wearing hijab to be an essential religious practice. The court released an interim order directing the students not to wear any attire which is associated with any particular religion.

Highlights of the Constitutional grounds:

- Questions have been raised on the constitutionality of disallowing students from entering the educational institutions merely because they were wearing a piece of clothing indicating their religion. This is inferred as the violation of the [Right to Freedom of Religion](#).

- The government argues with the support of bringing up reasonable restrictions to which Article 25 (Freedom of conscience and freedom to practice any religion) can be subjected.
- According to the government's view, head scarves (hijab) can create a possibility to disturb law and order and that is why the provision under Article 25 has been overlooked.
- The act of prohibiting the students from entering the educational institution for wearing hijab has been perceived as a violation of [Article 21A](#) that guarantees Right to Education.

The Essential Practice test

- The doctrine of essential practice originated in 1954 wherein the Supreme Court propounded it in the famous Sri Shirur Mutt case.
- The court demarcated a clear distinction between matters of religion and matters other than religion.
- In order to draw such distinction, the Supreme Court ascertained the constituent essential part of a religion with respect to the doctrines of the religion.
- As a consequence, some religious acts have been declared as “essential” to the practice of that religion and were constitutionally protected. Whereas, some acts were denied protection on the grounds that they were not essential to the religion.
- In 1983, the Supreme Court disallowed tandava ritual dance at public places to be a part of essential religious practice.
- In *Sardar Syedna Taher saifuddin Saheb vs Bombay* 1962, the apex court prohibited the head of the Dawoodi Bohra community from excommunicating members. This invited huge disagreement within the community. However, the then Chief Justice upheld the freedom of conscience of individual members as well as their civil rights.
- Some critics point out that the essential religious practice test never had intentions to actually examine the nature of an essential practice, instead it focused on differentiating matters of religion and matters other than religion. This makes the test ambiguous.

Way Forward:

- The entire issue awaits a reasonable approach that upholds the provisions of the constitution instead of extensive theoretical analysis.
- The application of principles of equality, dignity and civil rights to a particular practice is recommended as a better way to reach a just conclusion of the sensitive matters surrounding religious practises.

Read more about the issue in [CNA](#) dated 7th Feb 2022

Nut Graf

The constitutionality of a practice in terms of morality and legitimacy needs to be considered over enquiries based on theories and documents. The question that emerges is whether students can be deprived from access to education on the grounds of following a particular religious practice, needs to be answered to resolve the ongoing issue.

Category: ECONOMY

1. Eye on deficit

Syllabus: Issues relating to growth, development

Prelims: Fiscal deficit, Credit Rating Agencies

Mains: Requirement of a meticulous roadmap to assess India's fiscal deficit.

Context:

Union Budget 2022-23 has announced an ambitious target of reducing the fiscal deficit to 6.4%. This has been looked upon by the credit rating agencies with scepticism.

Details of the matter:

- The pandemic resulted in a huge gap between the expenses and earnings that reached 9.2% of the GDP in 2020-21.
- With the efforts of the government, it has been corrected to 6.8% in 2021-22.
- The 15th Finance Commission recommended that the deficit target should be set at 5.5% of the GDP under a slow recovery scenario.
- The ambitious target as an outcome of a smooth economic recovery has been set at 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26.

Assertion by the Credit Rating Agencies:

- The credit rating agencies like Moody's Investor Service termed the medium term deficit target as undefined and predicted an increase of general government debt to 91% of GDP next year.
- Fitch Ratings has offered a negative outlook on India's sovereign rating calling the budget full of shortcomings on growth promoting structural reforms lacking revenue generation ideas.
- The fiscal deficit targets were higher than the estimates put forth by the rating agencies.
- Experts opine that India's debt to tax ratio is significantly high.

The future assessment:

- The economists advocate debt to taxes ratio to be a more appropriate metric to assess the implications of the deficit in the Indian economy. It is estimated to be considerably high and needs to be addressed.
- The high rate of borrowing to finance the recovery from the pandemic has to be considered at the same time acts as a matter of concern as it burdens the future generations who may be left with inadequate resources for new investments.

Read more about [Union Budget 2022-23](#) in the linked article

Nut Graf

It is necessary to address the sharp rise in India's general government debts with a feasible roadmap in order to correct the fiscal set up in the upcoming years which has an influence on the overall economic growth.

F. Prelims Facts

1. WFP to allot Indian wheat in Afghanistan

Syllabus: *GS2: International Relations: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.*

Prelims: *United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)*

Context: India signs agreement with the UN wing to manage the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

Agreement with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

- India signed an agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of wheat that it has committed to sending to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.
- The WFP runs its own logistics network inside Afghanistan, partnering with civil society groups, and has launched a global campaign for enough food and aid.

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

- **Establishment:** World Food Programme (WFP) was established in 1961 by the United Nations (UN) to help alleviate world hunger.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.
- **Nobel Peace Prize 2020:** The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.
- **Voluntary Contributions:** Our operations are entirely funded through the generous voluntary contributions of donor governments, institutions, corporations and individuals.
- The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization.

2. U.S. to open Solomon Islands embassy to counter China

Syllabus: *GS2: International Relations: India and its neighborhood- relations.*

Prelims: *Solomon Islands*

Context: The U.S. says it will open an embassy in the Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands: –

- Solomon Islands, a country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia.
- The Solomon Islands consist of six major and approximately 900 smaller volcanic islands, coral atolls and reefs.
- The archipelago nation consists of several large volcanic islands to the south-east of Papua New Guinea.
- The U.S. previously operated an embassy in the Solomons for five years before closing it in 1993.
- Know more about [Solomon Islands Issue](#)

3. SCS figures in dispute resolution panel agenda; removed later

Syllabus: *GS2: Polity and Governance: Federalism, Center-State Relations*

Prelims: *Special Category Status*

Context:

This article discusses the grant of Special Category Status (SCS) to be given to Andhra Pradesh.

Special Category Status: –

- Special Category Status used to be granted to some regions that have historically been at a disadvantage compared with the rest of the country.
- This decision was taken by the National Development Council (NDC), a body of the former Planning Commission, and was based on various parameters such as:
 - Hilly and difficult terrain
 - Low population density
 - Low resource base
 - Strategic location along the borders of the country
 - Economic and infrastructure backwardness
 - Non-viable nature of the state's finances.
 - Sizable share of tribal population

Benefits under Special Category Status: –

- Preferential treatment in getting central funds assistance . Concession on excise duty to attract industries to the state
- A significant 30 percent of the Center's gross budget goes to the special category states
- These states can avail the benefit of debt swapping and debt relief schemes
- In the case of centrally sponsored schemes and external aid, special category states get it in the ratio of 90 per cent grants and 10 per cent loans, while other states get 30 percent of their funds as grants.
- Tax breaks to attract investment

4. A metamaterial that can make use of origami to reduce shock

Syllabus: GS3: Science and Technology: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

Prelims: Metamaterials**Context:**

Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Madras have developed such a metamaterial.

Metamaterials: –

- Metamaterials are artificially structured materials used to control and manipulate light, sound, and many other physical phenomena.
- The properties of metamaterials are derived both from the inherent properties of their constituent materials, as well as from the geometrical arrangement of those materials.

G. Tidbits

Nothing here for today!!!

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. SMILE scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) is set to provide welfare and rehabilitation for unemployed youth, widows & the disabled.
2. It is a Central Sector scheme.
3. It has been launched by the Ministry for Social Justice & Empowerment.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:-

- SMILE stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.
- It to provide welfare and rehabilitation to the transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. **Hence Statement 1 is not correct**
- It is a Central Sector scheme which focuses on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages etc. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated SMILE. **Hence Statement 3 is correct**

Q2. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Forum for India-Pacific Islands cooperation (FIPIC) is a multinational grouping developed in 2014 for cooperation between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations.
2. India has announced a \$150 million worth line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects.
3. Two summits of this forum have been held to further India's extended Act East policy.

Options:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 3 only

- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

Answer: c

Explanation:-

- The Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) was launched in 2014.
- FIPIC includes 14 of the island countries – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
- India has announced a \$150 million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on their requirements.
- The first FIPIC summit was held at the level of Heads of Government in 2014 in Suva, Fiji, followed by the FIPIC-II summit held in August 2015, in Jaipur, India.
- **Hence All the Statements are correct.**

Q3. TOR or The Onion Router is often associated with -

- a. Cryptocurrencies
- b. 5G Networks
- c. Darknet
- d. Internet of Things (IoT)

Answer: c

Explanation:-

- The Darknet is the hidden collective of internet sites only accessible by a specialized web browser.
- It is used for keeping internet activity anonymous and private, which can be helpful in both legal and illegal applications.
- While some use it to evade government censorship, it has also been known to be utilized for highly illegal activity.
- TOR ("The Onion Router" project) network browser provides users access to visit websites with the ".onion" registry operator.
- This browser is a service originally developed in the latter part of the 1990s by the United States Naval Research Laboratory.

Q4. Under Article 12 of the Indian Constitution, the 'state' comprises -

- 1. Government of India
- 2. Parliament of India
- 3. State Government
- 4. State Legislature
- 5. Local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d

Explanation:-

- As per Article 12 of the Indian constitution, the “State” includes
 - the Government and Parliament of India
 - the Government and the Legislature of each of the States
 - all local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India
- **Hence Option D is correct**

Q5. Consider the following statements:[PYQ 2019]

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of ‘Office of Profit’.
2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.
3. The term ‘Office of Profit’ is well-defined in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Explanation:-

- The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 states that Certain offices of profit not to disqualify. They are: –
 - any office held by a Minister, Minister of State or Deputy Minister for the Union or for any State
 - the office of Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip or Whip in Parliament or of a Parliamentary Secretary
 - the office of member of any force raised or maintained under the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 (31 of 1948), the Territorial Army Act, 1948 (56 of 1948), or the Reserve and Auxiliary Air Forces Act, 1952 (62 of 1952);

- the office of a member of a Home Guard constituted under any law for the time being in force in any State;
 - the office of sheriff in the city of Bombay, Calcutta or Madras;
 - the office of chairman or member of the syndicate, senate, executive committee, council or court of a university or any other body connected with a university;
 - the office of a member of any delegation or mission sent outside India by the Government for any special purpose;
 - the office of chairman or member of a committee, set up temporarily for the purpose of advising the Government
 - **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- Parliament has amended the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, five times to expand the exempted list. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
 - **Article 102(1)** states that a person shall be disqualified for being a member of either House of Parliament if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State. **But it is not defined in the constitution. Hence Statement 3 is correct**

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Special category status as an instrument has outlived its relevance and utility. Discuss.(10 Marks, 150 Words)[GS-2, Polity and Governance]
2. Climate change coupled with anthropogenic disturbances poses a serious threat to Sundarbans. Comment. (10 Marks, 150 Words)[GS-3, Environment and Ecology]