

## ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

### TRADE AGREEMENTS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 1.

**News:** "No one can argue with me: Trump on reciprocal tariffs."

#### Types of Trade Agreements:

##### Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA):

- PTA gives **preferential access to certain products from the participating countries.**
- Done by **reducing tariffs** but not by abolishing them completely.
- **Lowest level of commitment** to reduce tariffs.
- India and African countries (Botswana, South Africa etc).

##### Generalised System of Preferences (GSP):

- This allows **developed countries** to grant Preferential tariff treatment to **eligible developing countries and LDCs.**
- This ensures improved access to markets in developed countries.
- Eligibility criteria are set by importing countries.
- In 2019, **USA withdrew GSP benefits to India.**

##### Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

- Eliminates tariffs, import quotas, and preferences on most (not all) goods & services between member countries.
- Eg. **India-Israel.**

##### Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA):

- Less comprehensive than CEPA, but ambitious than FTA.
- **India signed CECA with: Australia, Singapore.**

##### Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

- Deepens economic cooperation & integration by eliminating barriers to trade and investments.
- **India signed CEPA with: UAE, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Mauritius.**

#### Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs)

- NTBs are **trade restrictions** that countries use to control trade **without imposing direct taxes or duties on imported goods and services.**

##### Common types of NTBs:

- **Import Quotas:** Limits on the quantity or value of specific goods that can be imported into a country
- **Licensing Requirements:** Mandatory authorizations or permits required to import or export certain goods.
- **Subsidies:** Financial assistance provided by governments to domestic industries to make their products more competitive internationally.
- **Standards and regulations:** Technical Standards Eg. ISO standards, Phytosanitary measures.
- **Local Content Requirements:** Mandates that a certain percentage of a product must be produced domestically.

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## ANCIENT HISTORY

PRE-CONTEXT

### IRON

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

**News:** "Did the iron age on Indian soil start from Tamil Nadu?"

##### Iron in Ancient Indian History:

- **Iron as a pure metal** was **first** made in **Mesopotamia** in 5000 BC.
- **After excavations in the mid-Ganga Valley** of Uttar Pradesh about 25 years ago, **early evidence of iron technology** was dated to **1800 BCE.**
- **New finding:** Origin of iron in the Tamil Nadu could be traced to the **first quarter of the 4000 BCE.**
- Metal itself is called **shyama or krishna ayas** (black metal) in the later Vedic texts.

#### About Archeological Survey of India

##### During British India:

- **Founded by Alexander Cunningham** in 1861, who also became its first Director-General.
- **Lord Canning** was then Governor General of India.
- **Lord Curzon** passed **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act in 1904.**
- Under **John Marshall's** leadership as Director General, the Indus Valley Civilization, particularly the sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, was discovered in 1921.
- **Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni** supervised the excavation of the IVC sites at Harappa in 1920-21.
  - Dayaram Sahni was the **first Indian Director General of the ASI** in 1931.

##### Under Independent India:

- ASI works **Ministry of Culture.**
- Under **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act or AMASR Act**, ASI administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

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## GS II

SYLLABUS: PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE: CODES OF CONDUCT.

### LOKPAL

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

**News:** "Top court takes note of Lokpal order on HC judge."

#### About Lokpal:

- **Central Vigilance Commission:** relies on CBI for investigation under **Prevention of Corruption Act 1988** and only oversees the bureaucracy, **Ministers. MPs are out of its purview.**
- Based on the **recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission**, Lokpal and Lokayukta were established as **independent statutory body** under the **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013.**
  - It deals with complaints against **MPs, Ministers and Secretaries at Central level.**

#### Composition:

- Composed of a **chairperson and a maximum of eight members**, with **half of them being judicial members.**
  - 50% of members belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, and women.
- **Selection Committee:** which includes the Prime Minister as Chairperson, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and one eminent jurist appointed by President.
- **The term of office for the Lokpal of India is five years, or until the member turns 70 years old.**

#### Powers of Lokpal:

- **Jurisdiction to inquire corruption cases:**
  - Against current & former Ministers(including PM).
  - Allegations on PM related to IR, Atomic energy etc exempted.
  - Current and former MPs.
  - Secretaries at central level, union govt officials under group A, B,C, D; All institutions receiving funds from govt.
- Can **recommend transfer or suspension** of official accused of corruption.
- Power to **Search and Seizure.**
- Powers to **take up preliminary Inquires under PCA 1988.**
- **Supervise and instruct any central investigating agencies** like CBI.

#### Issues in functioning:

- **As of 2025, Lokpal has ordered investigation in just 24 cases in 5 years** and granted prosecution sanction in six cases.
- **No Suo Motu powers** against any public servant.
- **Ineffective Whistle blower protection:** Anonymous complaints not allowed, heavy fines for false complaints.
- **Selection committee and the issue of Leader of Opposition.**
- **Limitations on investigations:** Eg. Investigation on PM need two-third support of lokpal bench.
- **2016 Amendment:** Public officials spouses and children are not needed to disclose assets public. This goes against anti corruption.
- **Rejection of complaints for incorrect format:** Nearly 90% of the complaints were rejected as they were not in correct format in 2024.
- **One cannot file complainants after 7 years of incident.**
- **Judiciary is out of its ambit.**

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#### PYQs: CSE (M).

**GS IV 2013:** 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs'. Discuss.

## ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

### BIODIVERSITY

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 5.

**News:** "Neither ecologically sustainable nor ethical': new study expresses concern over translocation of African cheetahs."

#### About Project Cheetah:

- Aimed at reintroducing cheetahs, **specifically African cheetahs, into India.**
- **Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh)** has been selected as the site for the reintroduction of cheetahs.
- It has been estimated that **Cheetahs will reach carrying capacity** of Kuno National Park in about 15 years and that of the wider **Kuno landscape in 30-40 years.**
- **Cheetah is a flagship species:**
  - That can help restore India's **dry-open forest and savanna ecosystems.**
  - **Ecological balance** by controlling prey populations and rejuvenating habitats.
- **Boosts eco-tourism**, benefiting local communities living around these protected areas by creating jobs.
- **A captive breeding facility** for the African cheetahs is being built in the **Banni grasslands of Kachchh**, Gujarat.

#### Cheetah Action Plan:

- **Short term Goals:**
  - 50% survival rate in the first years.
  - Establishment of home ranges.
  - Reproduction in the wild.
  - Revenue generation through eco-tourism.
- **Long term Goals:**
  - Establishment of a stable population.
  - Creation of a viable Meta-population.
  - Improvement of habitat quality and prey diversity.
  - Economic benefits for local communities.

#### About Cheetah:

- **World's fastest land Animal (80-130 kmph)**, can **accelerate upto 0-100km/h in just about 3 seconds.**
- Can maintain top speed only for 20-30 seconds.
- **Diurnal** species.
- Female are mostly solitary, males may form coalitions.
- **Cheetahs cannot roar** instead they purrs, growls.
- **Distinctive black tear marks** from eyes to down sides of their mouths(help in reduction of glare from sun).
- **Asiatic cheetah**, Critically Endangered.
- **African Cheetah**, Vulnerable status under IUCN.

#### Key Institutions Under Project Cheetah:

- The **NTCA and the MoEFCC** are the institutions responsible for overall guiding the project.
- **Wildlife Institute of India** has been providing technical inputs.
- **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department** is responsible for implementation.

#### Why did many Cheetahs die after introduction:

- **Pre-existing Medical Conditions.**
- **Inadequate Environmental Acclimatisation** Eg.Heat-Related Deaths.
- **Unusual Accidents:** Death by drowning,
- **Nutritional and Health Issues:** A cheetah died due to suspected hypokalaemia (a condition involving low potassium levels)
- **Stress due to longer Captivity and Relocation:** captivity varied from few months to an year.

- **Sufficient habitat (4,000 to 8,000 sq. km) of the required** quality to establish a viable population of free-ranging cheetahs in the wild.

### About National Parks

- Established under WFLPA. 1972 & IUCN category II.
- **Declared by:** both State Govt., Central Govt.
- **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** approves NPs & WLS.
  - **NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.**
- **Boundaries** of NPs are clearly defined.
- NPs cannot be downgraded to WLS.

### Zones inside National Park:

- Offer **highest level of Protection** than Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Consists of core & buffer Zones.
- **Core zone strictly protected for wildlife:**
  - No human interference.
  - No harvesting of timber.
  - No collecting minor forest products, Grazing, hunting etc.
  - No private ownership rights are allowed.
- In **buffer zones sustainable practices** are allowed.
- NPs Protects both flora and fauna.
- **Chief Wildlife Warden** shall be authority who shall control, manage and maintain all protected areas.
- **NPs are not species centric.**

### Facts on National Parks:

- **Hailey National Park (Jim Corbett National Park)**, est in 1936 is India's first National Park.
- **Highest number of NPs:** MP(9), A&N(9).
- **Highest number of WLS:** A&N (96), MH (45).
- **Hemis NP in J&K** is the largest National Park of India.
- **South Button Island NP** in A&N is the smallest.

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## GS II

SYLLABUS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE.

### PRESIDENTS RULE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "President's Rule and the road ahead."

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar hoped it would remain a "dead letter,"** President's rule has been imposed nearly *134 times across 29 States and UTs* since the Constitution took effect in 1950, reflecting its dual role as both.

### Current situation in Manipur:

- In Manipur, the unprecedented and **horrific violence** that erupted in May 2023, continues unabated.
- **Ordinary people are forced to resort to violence** for self-protection.
- Between May 11 and November 11, 2024, **over 250 people were killed**, and more than a **lakh were displaced** due to ethnic violence.
- Recent **centre's AFSPA intervention in Manipur** has limited impact.
- **Supreme Court's intervention** was **slow and ineffective**. despite there having been 27 hearings.
- State of Manipur reflects a **classic case of the failure of the Constitutional machinery.**
- Situation **demand the immediate intervention of the President.**

### Emergency Provision's under Part XVIII: Inspired from German Constitution.

- **Art.355:**
  - Duty of **Centre to protect every State** from external aggression and internal disturbance's.
  - Centre to ensure that every **State govt. operate according to provisions of the Constitution.**
- **Art.356:**
  - Imposition of President's rule, if President **is satisfied**, that State govt. is not functioning according to provisions of Constitution or **"Governor report" or "otherwise"**.
- **Art.365:**
  - Imposition of President's rule, **if State govt. does not comply with directions of Centre.**

• **Note:** Art. 355 was incorporated to check any arbitrary or unauthorised use of Art. 356—**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.**

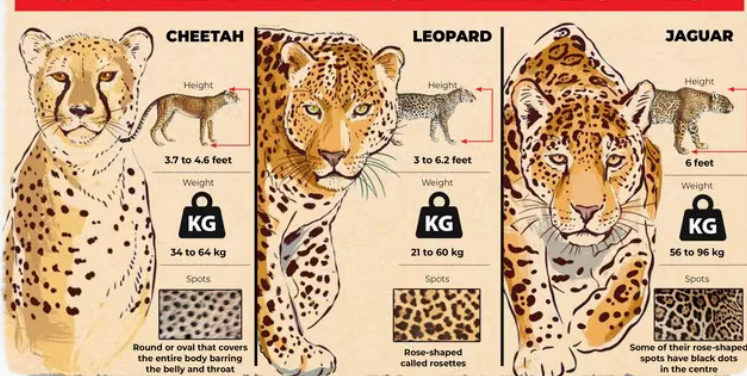
### Important cases on president rule:

- **S.R.Bommai vs Union of India 1994: to restrict misuse.**
- President rule is subjected to **Judicial Review.**
- Satisfaction of President must be based on relevant material & **Centre must justify President rule.**
- If President rule is unconstitutional, **State Legislature can be revived by court.**
- State Legislature can be dissolved only after parliamentary approval, till then can **only be suspended.**
- **If State follows anti-secular policy**, Art.356 can be applied.
- **Floor test of confidence is mandatory** before dismissal of State executive.
- Art.356 is only a measure of **last resort.**

### Proper Application President Rule :

- **Hung Assembly situation:** no single party or pre-existing coalition achieves a clear majority.
- **If State goes against Constitutional direction** of Central govt.

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: THREE BIG CATS





- **Internal subversion** Eg. Govt deliberately acting against Constitution or law.
- **Physical breakdown of govt.** law and order i.e, State endangering its security.

#### Misuse of Art.356:

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar **wished that Art. 355 & 356 should remain as 'dead letters'** but they were misused on several occasions:
  - Removing elected govts.
  - Loss in Loksabha elections.
  - Deterioration of law and order in States.

#### Impacts of President Rule

##### On State Executive:

- President can **suspend** Constitutional provisions of any body of State.
- President can **dismiss Council of Ministers** headed by Chief Minister.
- Can vest State govt. executive powers with Governor or any other authority.

##### On State Legislature:

- **Parliament exercises State Legislature powers.**
- **State budgets & bills passed by Parliament.**
- President can promulgate **ordinances** for State.
- **Laws** made by Parliament or President **continued to operate even after President rule.** Such laws can be repealed or altered by State Legislature.
- **Parliament can dissolve State assembly only after** Parliamentary approval, till then (only suspended) — **S.R. Bommai case.**

- **On Judiciary:** No Impact.

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**"A house divided against itself cannot stand."** This highlights the importance of stable governance, which President's Rule often aims to restore.

**Thank you!**