

# MANTHAN

**JULY 2025 : WEEK-2**

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# 1. 'Khelo Bharat Niti'


Union Cabinet Approves

## KHELO BHARAT NITI - 2025


Roadmap for India's Journey to Becoming a Global Sporting Powerhouse




**Policy is Anchored on 5 Key Pillars**




*Nation's Excellence on a Global Stage*




*Sports for Economic Development*




*Sports for Social Development*



*Sports as a People's Movement*



*Alignment with National Education Policy 2020*



- Sports, as a whole, has gained immense priority under the leadership and the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and it is with great hope that we look forward to the next 10 years, when India, under this vision, could become one of the world leaders in the sporting arena.
- India has successfully expressed its interest in hosting the 2036 Olympics, and in preparation and anticipation of this, the nation will undoubtedly have the honour of hosting various other prestigious international sporting events as well.

## A significant policy point

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- The Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 (National Sports Policy), which was passed by the Union Cabinet marks a policy milestone in transforming the role of sports in building a Viksit Bharat.
- There are several aspects of the policy that, in my view, should result in much appreciation for Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, particularly from the perspective of football.
- There is the five-Pillar approach of the policy in the context of football.
- First, sports excellence — the importance of the national team's standing in the global arena and the work needed on that front.
- Second, sports for social development — the role of football in sports for development and inclusion.
- Third, sports for economic development — how football can contribute to industry and growth through events, manufacturing and jobs. Fourth, sports as a people's movement — community sports. Fifth, sports in education — football in schools.
- When it comes to the performance of the national team, there is one area in the policy which we have worked on actively — access to talent in India's diaspora and I am happy that the policy has reference to the subject.
- This is a positive statement of intent and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) will continue to work with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the government to do everything possible to strengthen the national team.

## The subject of OCI talent

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- For some years there has been a vociferous demand for the inclusion of players with Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards in the national team.
- We have seen countries such as Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Middle Eastern Nations, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and those in Europe tap naturalised players with dual citizenship to strengthen their teams.
- Some clarifications in the Indian context might be helpful at this stage.
- As in the FIFA Statutes, a player must hold a passport of a nation he or she wishes to represent and must produce it on match day.
- While an OCI card grants certain social and economic rights to an individual, it is not equivalent to an Indian passport.
- Given that India's laws do not provide for dual citizenship, it is for India to strategise how it could capitalise on the opportunity to access the talent within the diaspora and integrate these players into the national team according to FIFA regulations as well as Indian citizenship law.
- The policy direction provides a ray of hope and we are intent on exploring it to its logical conclusion.

## Schools and football

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- At the grass-root level, the AIFF has plans in place to ensure the progress of talented individuals from eight years of age right up to the senior level.
- At the lowest age category (eight to 10 years) football has been made accessible for children.
- When they progress to the age group of 12 to 13 years, they are introduced to competitions.
- As they further move on to the U17 and U18 levels, they get high performance training and then on to the U18 and U20 levels, where the transition from youth to professional level.
- Such processes would not be possible without the help of facilities of schools, and we thank the Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, for having facilitated the alignment of the National Education Policy with the National Sports Policy.

- Through the FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) programme, we have successfully made that link logistically feasible, bringing the beautiful game to over 1,53,000 schools — over 9,26,000 footballs are being distributed. This is how football is being made accessible at the U8 level.

## QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following best describes the central objective of the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025?
  - A. To increase the number of Indian players in international clubs.
  - B. To integrate sports into national development across excellence, economy, education, and inclusion.
  - C. To boost India's chances of winning the 2036 Olympics.
  - D. To commercialise Indian football by aligning with FIFA's global framework.
2. Consider the following statements regarding the participation of Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) in Indian national football:
  1. India currently permits OCI holders to represent the national football team if they have played for Indian clubs.
  2. FIFA mandates that players must hold the passport of the country they represent.
  3. India's dual citizenship laws currently enable players of Indian origin with foreign passports to obtain Indian citizenship temporarily for sporting events.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. 2 and 3 only
  - D. 1 and 3 only
3. Which of the following aspects of the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 is most directly aligned with India's aspiration to become a host of the 2036 Olympics?
    - A. The incorporation of the FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) programme into school curricula.
    - B. Legal amendments to allow dual citizenship for diaspora athletes.
    - C. The five-pillar approach that includes economic development through sports.
    - D. Formation of sports manufacturing clusters for indigenous sports equipment.

## 2. 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit

- The 2025 BRICS summit was the seventeenth annual BRICS summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Between 28 and 29 April 2025, a meeting of the members' foreign ministers was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ahead of the leaders' summit.
- The ministers failed to release an agreed-upon joint statement, but voiced concerns over the rise of protectionist trade practices from the Trump administration in the United States.
- Chinese leader Xi Jinping did not attend the summit for the first time since succeeding Hu Jintao as CCP General Secretary in 2012. Russian president Vladimir Putin participated virtually.





- The XVII BRICS Summit held under the theme: “Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance”.

### Participation of Vladimir Putin

- In March 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin for war crimes during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Putin’s foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said that Putin would not attend the summit in person due to the ICC arrest warrant.

### Indian Prime Minister at BRICS

- The BRICS Leaders’ Declaration, adopted at the summit reflected India’s key concerns, especially on cross-border terrorism and global governance reforms.
- Noting that the Global South has often faced “double standards”, the Prime Minister called for a greater role for the developing world in international decision-making, speaking at the BRICS session on “Peace and Security and Reform of Global Governance”.
- India is driven by the spirit of People, Planet and Progress. India has launched numerous initiatives like:
  - Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
  - Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (tree for Mother).
  - International Solar Alliance.
  - Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
  - Green Hydrogen Mission.
  - Global Biofuels Alliance.
  - International Big Cats Alliance.
- At the BRICS Summit, PM Modi addressed the session ‘Environment, COP30, and Global Health’.
- He said, “Climate change and environmental protection have always been subjects of the topmost priority.
- This has also been a part of our ancient culture.
- For us, climate change is not merely an issue of energy; it is about maintaining balance between life and nature.”

## 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit

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- BRICS nations support India's Chairship for the 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in 2026.
- They also back India to host COP 33 in 2028. China and Russia reaffirm support for India's UNSC membership.
- BRICS recognizes India's Startup Knowledge Hub initiative.

## New Countries at BRICS 2025

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- In January 2025, Indonesia joined the BRICS as a full member while Belarus; Bolivia; Kazakhstan; Cuba; Malaysia; Nigeria; Thailand; Uganda and Uzbekistan inducted as partner countries of the BRICS.

## New Development Bank (NDB)

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- The New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS bank, has recently expanded its membership.
- As of July 2025, the NDB has 11 members.
- These include the five founding members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and six new members: Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Uruguay, Algeria, Colombia, and Uzbekistan.

## Founding Members

- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa established the NDB in 2015.

## New Members

- Bangladesh, UAE, and Egypt joined in 2021.
- Uruguay was approved as a member in 2021 but officially joined after depositing its instrument of accession.
- Algeria joined in 2025.
- Colombia and Uzbekistan joined in July 2025.
- The NDB's membership is open to all UN member states, including both borrowing and non-borrowing members.
- The bank aims to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries.

## BRICS

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- BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.
- The idea of a BRICS-like group can be traced back to Russian foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov and to the two forums RIC (Russia, India, and China) and IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa).
- BRIC was originally a term coined by British economist Jim O'Neill and later championed by his employer Goldman Sachs in 2001 to designate the group of emerging markets.
- The first summit in 2009 featured the founding countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, where they adopted the acronym BRIC and formed an informal diplomatic club where their governments could meet annually at formal summits and coordinate multilateral policies.
- In April 2010, South Africa attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> BRIC summit as a guest. In September 2010 they joined the organization which was then renamed BRICS, and attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> BRICS summit in 2011 as a full member.
- Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates attended their first summit as member states in 2024 in Russia.[9] Indonesia officially joined as a member state in early 2025, becoming the first Southeast Asian member.

- The acronym BRICS+ (in its expanded form BRICS Plus) has been informally used to reflect new membership since 2024.
- Some in the West consider BRICS institutions an alternative to institutions such as those led by nations of the G7 bloc, which are among the world's leading economies.
- Others describe the grouping as an incoherent joining of countries around increasing anti-Western and anti-American objectives.
- Together BRICS has implemented competing initiatives such as the New Development Bank, the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement, BRICS PAY, the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication and the BRICS basket reserve currency.
- In its first 15 years BRICS has established almost 60 intra-group institutions, and think tanks to dialogues, covering agenda in 34 subjects.
- The original five members and Indonesia are also part of the G20.
- BRICS has received both praise and criticism from numerous commentators and world leaders.

### QUESTIONS

4. Consider the following statements regarding the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit:

1. The 2025 BRICS summit was the seventeenth annual BRICS summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
2. The theme for the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit was “Strengthening Global South and North Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance”.
3. BRICS nations support India's Chairship for the 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

5. Which of the following initiatives or statements made at the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit aligns with India's strategic priorities?

1. Recognition of India's Startup Knowledge Hub.
2. Support for India's hosting of COP 33 in 2028.
3. Reaffirmation of India's bid for a permanent UNSC seat.
4. Endorsement of India's proposal for BRICS military integration.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

6. With reference to the New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 2015 by the five original BRICS members.
2. As of July 2025, its membership includes both borrowing and non-borrowing countries.
3. Only UN member states are eligible for NDB membership.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

7. Which of the following countries joined the BRICS Group in 2024?

- 1. Egypt
- 2. Ethiopia
- 3. Indonesia
- 4. Iran
- 5. United Arab Emirates
- 6. South Africa

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

8. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS:

- 1. BRIC was originally a term coined by British economist Jim O'Neill and later championed by his employer Goldman Sachs in 2001 to designate the group of emerging markets.
- 2. The first summit in 2009 featured the founding countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, where they adopted the acronym BRIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

## 3. US celebrates its Independence Day on July 4

- The United States is celebrating its 249<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on July 4.
- This was the day in which the country's founding fathers formally signed the Declaration of Independence, officially ending British rule over the colonies.

## Discontent with crown

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- More than 150 years after the first permanent British colonies emerged in North America, the colonists had grown increasingly frustrated with the Crown.
- With the 13 original colonies having no representation in the British Parliament in London, the 1760s and early 1770s saw the passage of a series of laws which imposed high taxes and curtailed colonists' activities.
- Legislations such as the Sugar Act (1764), the Tea Act (1773) and the Intolerable Acts (1774) were seen by Americans as excessive British interference in their lives.
- With the Enlightenment giving a rise to ideas of freedom and equality, the situation was ripe for an uprising.

## Boston Tea Party & beyond

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- On December 16, 1773, an anti-British group known as the Sons of Liberty destroyed a shipment of tea sent to Boston by the British East India Company.
- The so-called Boston Tea Party began a resistance movement across the colonies against the oppressive tea tax — and the British Empire as a whole.
- The colonists claimed that Britain had no right to tax the colonies without giving them representation in the British Parliament.
- To decide further course of action, the 13 colonies came together to form the Continental Congress.
- The Congress initially tried to enforce a boycott of British goods, and meet King George III to negotiate better terms.
- But their attempts were in vain.
- This meant that by April 1775, all 13 colonies were fighting a full-blown war of independence against the British Crown.
- This war went on till 1783 when Britain formally recognised American independence after its military defeat.
- The American victory, in no small part, was made possible due to the support of Britain's European rivals — namely France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic.

## Declaration of Independence

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- Years before 1783, while fighting still raged on, the Continental Congress declared American independence from British rule.
- On July 2, 1776, 12 of the 13 member-states of the Congress “unanimously” observed that the colonies “are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.”

## US War of Independence

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- The U.S. War of Independence, also known as the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), was a conflict between Great Britain and its Thirteen Colonies in North America, which declared independence in 1776 and formed the United States of America.

## Background

- **Colonial Grievances:** The British imposed taxes and laws (like the Stamp Act and Tea Act) without giving the colonies representation in Parliament — leading to the cry of “No taxation without representation.”
- **Tensions Escalated:** Events like the Boston Massacre (1770) and Boston Tea Party (1773) worsened relations.

- **Continental Congress:** Colonial leaders met to coordinate resistance.
- **Key Events:**
  - **April 1775:** War begins at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
  - **July 4, 1776:** Colonies declare independence via the Declaration of Independence, authored mainly by Thomas Jefferson.
  - **1777:** American victory at Saratoga convinces France to enter the war on the American side.
  - **1781:** British General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, effectively ending major fighting.
  - **1783:** Treaty of Paris signed — Britain recognizes American independence.
- **Main Participants:**
  - **Patriots (Colonists):** Wanted independence; led by George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and others.
  - **Loyalists:** Supported British rule.
  - **British Empire:** Led by King George III and generals like Cornwallis and Howe.
  - **France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic:** Allied with the Americans.

## QUESTIONS

9. Which of the following was the most immediate cause that sparked coordinated colonial resistance leading to the First Continental Congress?
- A. The Boston Tea Party
  - B. The Proclamation of 1763
  - C. The Stamp Act
  - D. The Intolerable Acts
10. Consider the following statements regarding the Declaration of Independence:
1. It was formally signed and adopted by the colonies on July 4, 1776.
  2. The Declaration declared that the colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states.
  3. The vote for independence was unanimous across all thirteen colonies on July 4, 1776.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2, and 3
11. The phrase “No taxation without representation” was most closely associated with which colonial grievance?
- A. Military occupation of Boston
  - B. Trade restrictions with European nations
  - C. Lack of colonial representation in the British Parliament
  - D. The confiscation of colonial property by British troops

12. Which of the following battles is considered the turning point in the American Revolutionary War as it led to formal French entry into the conflict?
- A. Battle of Lexington and Concord
  - B. Battle of Yorktown
  - C. Battle of Bunker Hill
  - D. Battle of Saratoga

## **4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is accorded the highest civilian honour of Brazil the 'Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded the highest civilian honour of Brazil by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.
- President Lula conferred Brazil's highest civilian honour, the 'Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross', on PM Narendra Modi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a warm ceremonial welcome in Brasilia, becoming the first Indian PM in 57 years to undertake a State Visit to Brazil, strengthening the ties between the two nations.
- The visit marks not only expansion of India on the diplomatic front but also a reaffirmation of India as a pro-active builder of South-South solitude.
- The award is the 26<sup>th</sup> global honour for the PM and the third on his current five-nation tour, which commenced on July 2.





## PM Modi Honoured With Symbolic ‘Key To The City Of Buenos Aires’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a special honour in Argentina— the ‘Key to the City of Buenos Aires’.
- Jorge Macri, the city’s chief official, presented him with this symbolic gift during his two-day visit.
- The key represents friendship and trust between the two countries.
- Prime Minister held wide-ranging talks with Argentine President Javier Milei.
- The two leaders agreed to diversify bilateral trade and enhance cooperation in sectors such as defence, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, energy and mining.
- Argentina marks the third leg of PM Modi’s five-nation tour, which began with Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago and will next cover Brazil for the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit before concluding in Namibia.



## PM Modi Conferred Trinidad and Tobago’s Highest Honour, Dedicates Award to People of India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with ‘The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago’—the nation’s highest civilian honour. The award was presented by Her Excellency Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- PM Modi is the first foreign leader to receive this prestigious recognition.
- He was honoured for his statesmanship, his strong advocacy for the Global South, and for significantly strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and Trinidad and Tobago.
- He reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthening the strategic and cultural ties between the two countries.

- The ceremonial event was attended by H.E. Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, along with members of her Cabinet, Parliamentarians, and other dignitaries.

### **PM Modi conferred Ghana's national honour**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana', the country's national honour, for his "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership".
- "Honoured to be conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana'," the prime minister said.
- The prime minister is in Ghana on the first leg of his five-nation tour.
- It is the first prime ministerial visit from India to Ghana in three decades.



### **PM Modi Becomes First Indian Prime Minister to Address Ghana's Parliament**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address a special session of Ghana's Parliament, underlining India's commitment to strengthening democratic values and championing the voice of the Global South in global governance.
- Addressing lawmakers, government officials and dignitaries in Accra, PM Modi said he brought with him the goodwill and greetings of 1.4 billion Indians as the representative of the world's largest democracy.
- Reaffirming India's resolve to become a developed nation by 2047, the PM assured lawmakers that India would continue to stand "shoulder to shoulder with Ghana in its pursuit of progress and prosperity."

### **PM Modi Awarded Namibia's Highest Civilian Honour During State Visit**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Namibia's highest civilian honour, 'The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis', during his one-day state visit to the African nation.
- The award was presented by the President of Namibia, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, at a special ceremony, marking a new milestone in the ties between the two nations.
- PM Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this honour.
- Established in 1995, the award recognises distinguished service and leadership. It is named after the Welwitschia Mirabilis, a unique desert plant found only in Namibia that symbolises resilience, longevity and the enduring spirit of its people.

## QUESTIONS

13. Which of the following countries conferred their highest civilian honour on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 2025 five-nation diplomatic tour?

1. Brazil
2. Ghana
3. Argentina
4. Trinidad and Tobago
5. Namibia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

14. Which of the following statements regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2025 visit to Brazil is/are correct?

1. He became the first Indian Prime Minister in over five decades to make a state visit to Brazil.
2. He received the symbolic key to the city of Rio de Janeiro.
3. His visit coincided with participation in the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit.
4. He addressed the Brazilian Parliament on themes of South-South cooperation.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

## 5. 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Santhal Revolt

- The landmark event in tribal history, referred to as Santhal Hul, completes 170 years.
- Every year, the state of Jharkhand also celebrates June 30 as 'Hul Diwas', marking the beginning of the rebellion.
- On this occasion, let's revisit this landmark event in Indian history and understand it from a broader perspective.

### Key Takeaways:

- The Santhal rebellion or 'Hul' – literally, revolution – began in 1855, two years before the the uprising of 1857, often referred to as "the first war for Indian independence".

- It was an “organised war against colonialism” led by the Santhals, standing against the myriad forms of oppression – economic and otherwise – they were subjected to by the British and their collaborator zamindars and corrupt moneylenders.
- Led by two brothers, Sidhu and Kanhu, it saw the participation of as many as 32 castes and communities rallying behind them.
- The seeds of the Santhal rebellion, however, were sown in 1832 when the East India Company created the Damin-i-Koh region in the forested belt of the Rajmahal hills.
- The area was allocated to the Santhals displaced from Birbhum, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur, Barabhum, Manbhum, Palamau, and Chhotanagpur, all areas the Bengal Presidency.
- While the Santhals were promised settlement and agriculture in Damin-i-Koh, what followed was the repressive practice of land-grabbing and begari (bonded labour) of two types: kamioti and harwahi.
- Over the years, Santhals found themselves at the receiving end of exploitative practices aided by the British.
- After the rebellion broke out in 1855, both sides continued clashing till the uprising was crushed in 1856.
- The British defeated the Santhals using modern firearms and war elephants in decisive action in which both Sidho and Kanho died.

### Who were the Santhals?

- The Santhals were not the original inhabitants of modern day Santhal Pargana – which includes the six districts of Dumka, Pakur, Godda, Sahibganj, Deoghar and parts of Jamtara.
- They had migrated from the Birbhum and Manbhum regions (present-day Bengal), starting around the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- The 1770 famine in Bengal caused the Santhals to begin moving and soon, the British turned to them for help.
- With the enactment of the Permanent Settlement Act of 1790, the East India Company was desperate to bring an ever-increasing area in its control under settled agriculture.
- They, thus, chose the area of Damin-i-Koh, at the time heavily forested, to be settled by the Santhals, in order to collect a steady stream of revenue. However, once settled, the Santhals bore the brunt of colonial oppression.
- Today, the Santhal community is the third largest tribal community in India, spread across Jharkhand-Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal.

### Paika Rebellion

- In several recent descriptions, the 1817 Paika Rebellion in Odisha’s Khurda is referred to as the “original” first war of Indian Independence.
- That year, the Paikas – a class of military retainers traditionally recruited by the kings of Odisha – revolted against the British colonial rulers mainly over being dispossessed of their land holdings.
- In the run-up to the revolt, the British had dethroned and exiled the Khurda king in 1803, and then started introducing new revenue settlements.
- For Paikas, who were into rendering martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles, this disruption meant losing both their estates and social standing.
- The trigger for the revolt came as some 400 Kondhs descended from the Ghumusar area to rise against the British.
- Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai, the highest-ranking military general of the banished Khurda king, led an army of Paikas to join the uprising of the Kondhs.



- Over the next few months, the Paikas fought bloody battles at several places, but the colonial army gradually crushed the revolt.

### Kol Revolt

- The Kols, tribal people from the Chhota Nagpur area, rose in revolt against the British in 1831.
- The trigger here too was the gradual takeover of tribal land and property by non-tribal settlers who were aided by new land laws.
- The simmering discontent over the economic exploitation of the original inhabitants led to an uprising led by Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, and Madara Mahato among others.
- The Kols were joined by other tribes like the Hos, Mundas, and Oraons.
- The tribals fought with traditional weapons taking the battle to colonial forces who finally overpowered them with modern weaponry.
- The uprising, which spread to areas like Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Palamau, Manbhum and continued for almost two years before being snuffed out, mainly targeted colonial officials and private money-lenders.

### Bhil uprising

- After the British intruded into the Bhil territory in Maharashtra's Khandesh region, the tribals pushed back fearing exploitation under the new regime in 1818.
- The revolt was led by their leader, Sewaram and was brutally crushed using the British military might.
- This uprising again erupted in 1825 as the Bhils sought to take advantage of reverses being suffered by the British in the first Anglo-Burmese war.

### Dhal Revolt

- The first tribal revolt during British rule in Jharkhand was the Dhal Revolt in 1767, led by Jagannath Dhal, the former king of Dhalbhum, a part of West Bengal.
- Triggered by the presence of the British East India Company that marginalised the local population, this revolt lasted 10 years.
- In response to the ongoing unrest, the British reinstated Jagannath Dhal as the ruler of Dhalbhum in 1777.

### Tana Bhagat Movement

- It began in 1914 by Jatra Bhagat, a leader of the Oraon tribe.
- He called for a return to traditional practices, rejecting colonial rule and Western influences.
- Bhagat highlighted agrarian issues and initiated a no-rent campaign, urging labourers to refuse forced or low-wage work.

## QUESTIONS

15. Which of the following correctly explains the significance of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855?
- A. It was the first peasant uprising against British revenue policy.
  - B. It was the earliest tribal movement demanding representation in British institutions.
  - C. It was an organized tribal uprising against colonial rule, zamindars, and moneylenders.
  - D. It was the first revolt in India that demanded the abolition of bonded labour.

16. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

<b>Uprising</b>	<b>: Leader(s)</b>
-----------------	--------------------

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Santhal Revolt  | : Sidhu and Kanhu           |
| 2. Kol Revolt      | : Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat |
| 3. Bhil Uprising   | : Sewaram                   |
| 4. Paika Rebellion | : Veer Surendra Sai         |

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only  
B. 1 and 4 only  
C. 2, 3, and 4 only  
D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

17. With reference to tribal movements in colonial India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Damin-i-Koh region was created by the East India Company to resettle the displaced Santhals.
2. The Santhal Rebellion was the earliest recorded tribal revolt in British India.
3. The Santhal Rebellion involved participation from multiple non-Santhals communities.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2, and 3

18. Which of the following tribal revolts was triggered by the loss of land rights (nish-kar jagirs) and military privileges under British rule?

- A. Santhal Hul  
B. Dhal Revolt  
C. Paika Rebellion  
D. Tana Bhagat Movement

## 6. One, Big, Beautiful Bill

- The “One, Big, Beautiful Bill” signed into law by US President Donald Trump on July 4 has introduced a significant new national education policy.
- The law includes a federally funded private school choice provision, making it the first of its kind to be implemented at the federal level in the United States.
- As reported by K12Dive, the provision forms part of a larger tax and spending package and has been framed by supporters as a major advancement in parental choice for K–12 education.
- It offers families access to financial resources for a wide range of education-related expenses.
- However, the structure and implementation of the programme carry key details that stakeholders will need to understand ahead of its rollout.



### **A nationwide school choice programme backed by federal funds**

- The law establishes the first nationwide, federally funded private school choice initiative in the US.
- Unlike previous programmes limited to state or local levels, this measure allows eligible families across the country to access scholarships for private and home education.
- According to K12Dive, it covers both secular and religious schools, as well as public school expenses such as tutoring and transport
- Parents may use the funds for tuition, educational therapies, technology, and even homeschooling costs.
- However, participation depends on whether individual states choose to opt in to the federal programme, and as K12Dive noted, it is not yet clear which agencies or leaders will make that determination.

### **Eligibility linked to local income levels**

- Families whose household income does not exceed 300% of the median gross income for their locality will qualify for the programme.
- For example, as reported by K12Dive, students in Memphis in families earning up to \$364,400 would be eligible, based on a local median income of \$91,100.
- The law entrusts scholarship-granting organisations, which must be independent and unaffiliated with any school, to assess eligibility and distribute scholarships. Parents cannot directly use tax credits to fund their child's education expenses.

### **A tax credit model with significant fiscal implications**

- The school choice programme is structured around a unique federal tax incentive.
- Taxpayers who contribute up to \$1,700 annually to a qualified scholarship-granting organisation will receive a 100% federal income tax credit.

- As highlighted by K12Dive, this dollar-for-dollar tax benefit is unlike any other charitable giving structure currently available under federal law.
- The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), cited by K12Dive, estimated that if 43% of taxpayers—approximately 59 million people—participate, the cost to the federal government could reach \$101 billion per year.
- The law does not impose a cap on total programme expenditure, despite earlier legislative proposals limiting it to \$4 billion or \$5 billion annually.

### Programme implementation set for 2027

- The law specifies that the tax credit will begin for taxable years ending after December 31, 2026.
- This means the full rollout is expected in 2027. Between now and then, the US Department of Education must establish regulations for the programme's operation, including reporting, enforcement, and state certification of scholarship-granting organisations.
- As per K12Dive, no implementation timeline has yet been released by the Department.
- Key questions remain regarding how this programme will integrate with the existing 35 state-level private school choice schemes serving around 1.3 million students.

## QUESTIONS

19. Which of the following tax reforms are included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act?

1. Elimination of taxes on overtime and tip income.
2. Permanent extension of the 2017 income and estate tax cuts.
3. Increased taxes on social security income.
4. Expansion of state and local tax (SALT) deduction limits.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 2, 3, and 4 only

20. Which of the following provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill are aimed at controlling government spending?

1. Increasing funding for border security and military.
2. Proposing stricter work requirements for Medicaid recipients.
3. Raising the debt ceiling by \$5 trillion.
4. Reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in federal expenditures.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 2, 3, and 4 only



21. Which of the following correctly describes a key feature of the “One, Big, Beautiful Bill” signed into law in the U.S.?
- A. It mandates all U.S. states to implement private school choice programmes.
  - B. It provides education vouchers directly to parents through tax refunds.
  - C. It establishes a nationwide, federally funded private school choice initiative.
  - D. It restricts private school scholarships to secular institutions only.

## 7. Indian Constitution ‘secular’, even without the word in the Preamble

### Controversy over “Socialist” and “Secular” in the Preamble

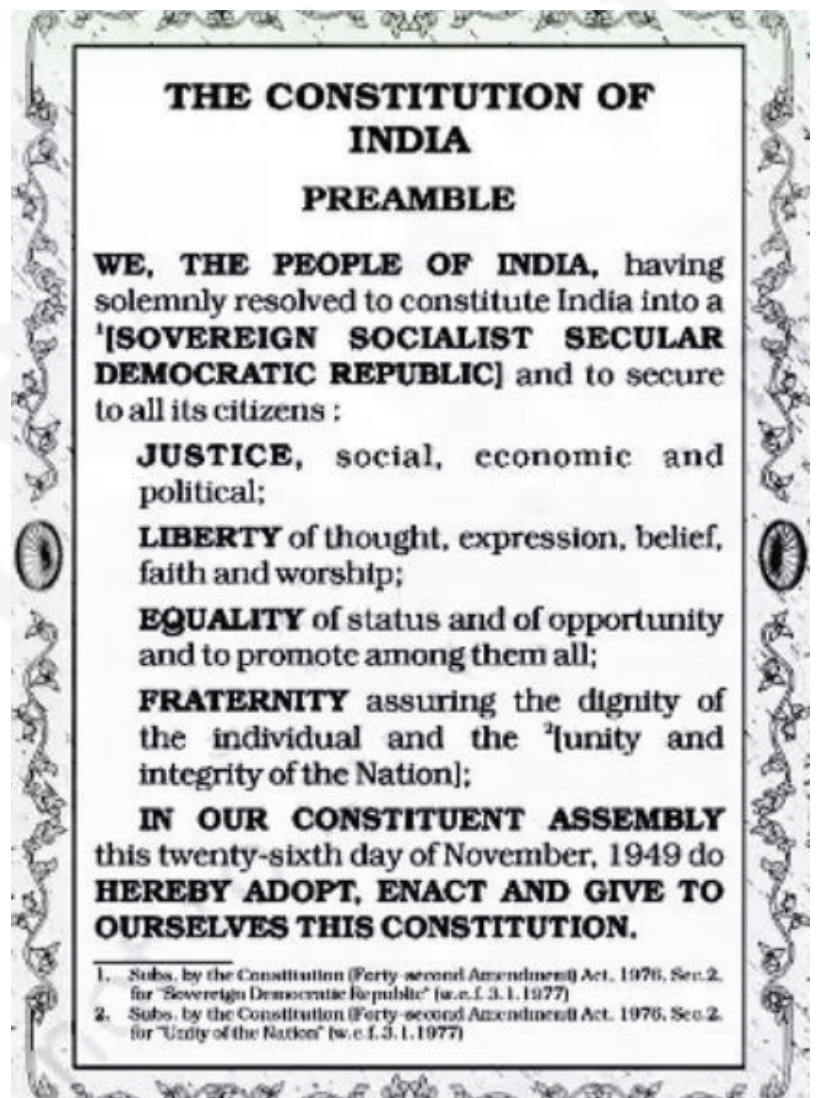
- These words were inserted during the Emergency through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 1976, under Indira Gandhi’s regime.

### What the Preamble Originally Stated

- The original 1950 Preamble described India as a “Sovereign Democratic Republic,” aiming to secure Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity to its citizens.
- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment changed this to a “Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic,” and added the word “integrity” alongside fraternity, reflecting a shift in political priorities.

### The Emergency and Its Political Context

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was introduced during the 21-month Emergency declared by Indira Gandhi, where she ruled by decree.
- The move came amid tensions between Parliament and the judiciary, particularly over land reforms and the right to property.
- By aligning the Constitution with her left-leaning economic agenda—which included bank nationalisation, abolition of privy purses, and the “Garibi Hatao” campaign—Indira Gandhi sought to prioritise Directive Principles of State Policy over Fundamental Rights.
- The word “socialist” was explicitly added to underscore this alignment.



## The Role of “Integrity”

- The word “integrity” was added to reflect Indira Gandhi’s narrative of fighting internal divisive forces and upholding national unity. It was meant to underline the indivisibility of the nation, especially as a justification for the Emergency.

## Symbolic but Legally Non-Substantive

- While the additions were symbolic, they didn’t result in any substantive legal changes.
- The Supreme Court in the Berubari case (1961) had ruled that the Preamble is not enforceable and holds no substantive power.
- However, the themes of secularism and socialism are deeply embedded within the Constitution through various articles and provisions, particularly those related to equality (Articles 14-16) and Directive Principles (Part IV).

## Judicial Endorsement of Secularism and Socialism

- The judiciary has consistently upheld secularism and socialism as part of the basic structure doctrine:
- In Kesavananda Bharati (1973), secularism was declared a basic feature.
- In Bommai (1994), the SC reaffirmed this.
- In Minerva Mills (1980), socialism was identified as a foundational constitutional goal.

## Recent Supreme Court Ruling

- In November 2024, a two-judge bench led by then Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna dismissed petitions challenging the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment’s additions.
- The Court held that the amendment did not infringe on fundamental rights or the basic structure, and therefore had no valid ground for being struck down.

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of Constitution

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of India, passed in 1976, is one of the most significant and controversial amendments in Indian constitutional history.
- It was enacted during the Emergency period under the Prime Ministership of Indira Gandhi.

## Key Facts

- Passed by Parliament: 1976
- Came into effect: January 3, 1977
- Popularly known as: The “Mini-Constitution” because of the vast changes it made

## Major Changes Introduced by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

### Preamble:

#### Added the words:

- “Socialist”
- “Secular”
- “Integrity”
- The Preamble now reads: “Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic”

### Fundamental Duties:

- Inserted Article 51A, which listed 10 Fundamental Duties for Indian citizens.

### Directive Principles of State Policy:

- Made the Directive Principles supreme over Fundamental Rights in case of conflict (via Article 31C).

### Judiciary:

- Limited the power of judicial review of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- Tried to curb the independence of the judiciary by changes in Articles 131A, 226, and others.

### Parliamentary Power:

- Gave primacy to the Parliament by stating that any law made to give effect to Directive Principles cannot be challenged in courts for violating Fundamental Rights.

### Duration of Lok Sabha & State Assemblies:

- Extended the term from 5 years to 6 years (later reversed by the 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment).

### Constitutional Amendments:

- Made constitutional amendments non-justiciable—courts couldn't examine whether an amendment violated the Constitution.

### Centralization of Power:

- Increased the powers of the central government, reducing state autonomy.

## QUESTIONS

22. Which of the following changes were introduced in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976?

1. Insertion of the word “Socialist”
2. Insertion of the word “Secular”
3. Replacement of “Sovereign Democratic Republic” with “Sovereign Federal Democratic Republic”
4. Addition of the word “Integrity”

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

23. Consider the following statements regarding the judicial interpretation of secularism in India:

1. The Supreme Court held secularism to be part of the basic structure in the Kesavananda Bharati case.
2. The Supreme Court reaffirmed secularism as a constitutional principle in the S. R. Bommai judgment.
3. The Berubari case ruled that secularism has legal enforceability under Indian law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3



24. Which of the following provisions were inserted or amended by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act?
1. Inserted Fundamental Duties under Article 51A
  2. Limited the powers of judicial review of the Supreme Court and High Courts
  3. Made Directive Principles enforceable by courts
  4. Extended the term of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies from 5 to 6 years
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- A. 1, 2 and 4 only  
B. 1, 3 and 4 only  
C. 1, 2, 3 and 4  
D. 2 and 3 only
25. Which one of the following statements best describes the legal status of the Preamble as per the Berubari case (1961)?
- A. It is enforceable in a court of law like Fundamental Rights.  
B. It has no legal relevance to the interpretation of the Constitution.  
C. It is part of the Constitution but is not legally enforceable.  
D. It is not a part of the Constitution at all.

## 8. Meerut gets India's first disease-free hub for horses





- India has achieved a significant milestone with the establishment of the country's first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre & College in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh.
- This facility has received official recognition from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), a crucial step toward integrating Indian sport horses into global equestrian events.
- This initiative is driven by a collaborative effort involving the department of animal husbandry and dairying, the Ministry of Defence, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), and the Uttar Pradesh government.
- The development ensures compliance with international standards through rigorous biosecurity and veterinary protocols.
- An Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) is like a highly protected, super-clean bubble or special zone specifically for horses that allows them to move around for sports, breeding, or trade without the usual worries about spreading or catching serious diseases.
- EDFC has been certified free from several major equine diseases, including Equine Infectious Anemia, Equine Influenza, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Glanders, and Surra.
- Additionally, India has maintained a disease-free status for African Horse Sickness since 2014.
- The certification will enable Indian sport horses and riders to compete internationally, a milestone that was previously limited due to disease-related restrictions.
- It also significantly boosts India's prospects in the equine trade, breeding and sports sectors.
- The establishment of the EDFC is part of a broader national movement toward creating disease-free compartments in various sectors.
- India is also working on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Free Compartments to ensure the safe export of poultry products.
- With this achievement, India positions itself as an emerging leader in implementing internationally harmonised animal health systems, reinforcing its commitment to safe global trade, veterinary excellence, and the promotion of elite equestrian sports.

## Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)

- An Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) is a biosecurity and disease control concept developed to facilitate the international movement of horses while ensuring animal health and safety.

## What is an EDFC?

- An EDFC is a defined subpopulation of horses within a country that is managed under strict biosecurity measures and surveillance protocols to ensure it remains free from specific equine diseases (like glanders, African horse sickness, or equine influenza).
- The concept is recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

## Key Features of an EDFC

### Geographically Defined Area or Facility

- Can be a stable, farm, racetrack, or other facility.
- Horses are isolated from potential disease sources.

### Strict Biosecurity Protocols

- Controlled entry of animals, humans, vehicles, and equipment.
- Disinfection and monitoring procedures.

## Health Surveillance

- Regular veterinary checks.
- Ongoing disease testing and monitoring.

## Record-Keeping & Traceability

- Identification and traceability of all animals and movements.
- Immediate response protocols for any suspected disease.

## WOAH Guidelines Compliance

- Must meet the WOAH Terrestrial Code standards for compartments.

## Government Supervision

- Managed under official veterinary authority with possible certification and audits.

## Why is EDFC Important?

- **International Trade:** Helps facilitate the safe international movement of elite competition or breeding horses, even from countries with endemic diseases.
- **Outbreak Management:** Ensures some horses can continue movement/export even during a national disease outbreak.
- **Sports & Events:** Enables high-value horses to travel for international competitions (e.g., Olympics, World Equestrian Games) without quarantine delays.

## Example Use Case

- During an outbreak of African horse sickness in a country, horses in a certified EDFC could still be exported for international competition, as they are isolated from the outbreak and regularly tested.

## QUESTIONS

26. With reference to the Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) established in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh.
2. It has been officially certified by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
3. The facility is under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

27. Which of the following diseases are Indian Equine Disease-Free Compartments (EDFCs) certified to be free from?

1. Equine Influenza
2. Surra
3. Equine Piroplasmiosis
4. Foot and Mouth Disease

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 2, 3, and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

**28.** Which of the following is/are mandatory conditions for a facility to be designated as an Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) under international standards?

1. Geographic isolation from potential disease sources
2. Continuous disease surveillance and testing
3. Direct management by private breeders with no government oversight
4. Compliance with WOAHP Terrestrial Code standards

Select the correct answer using the code below:

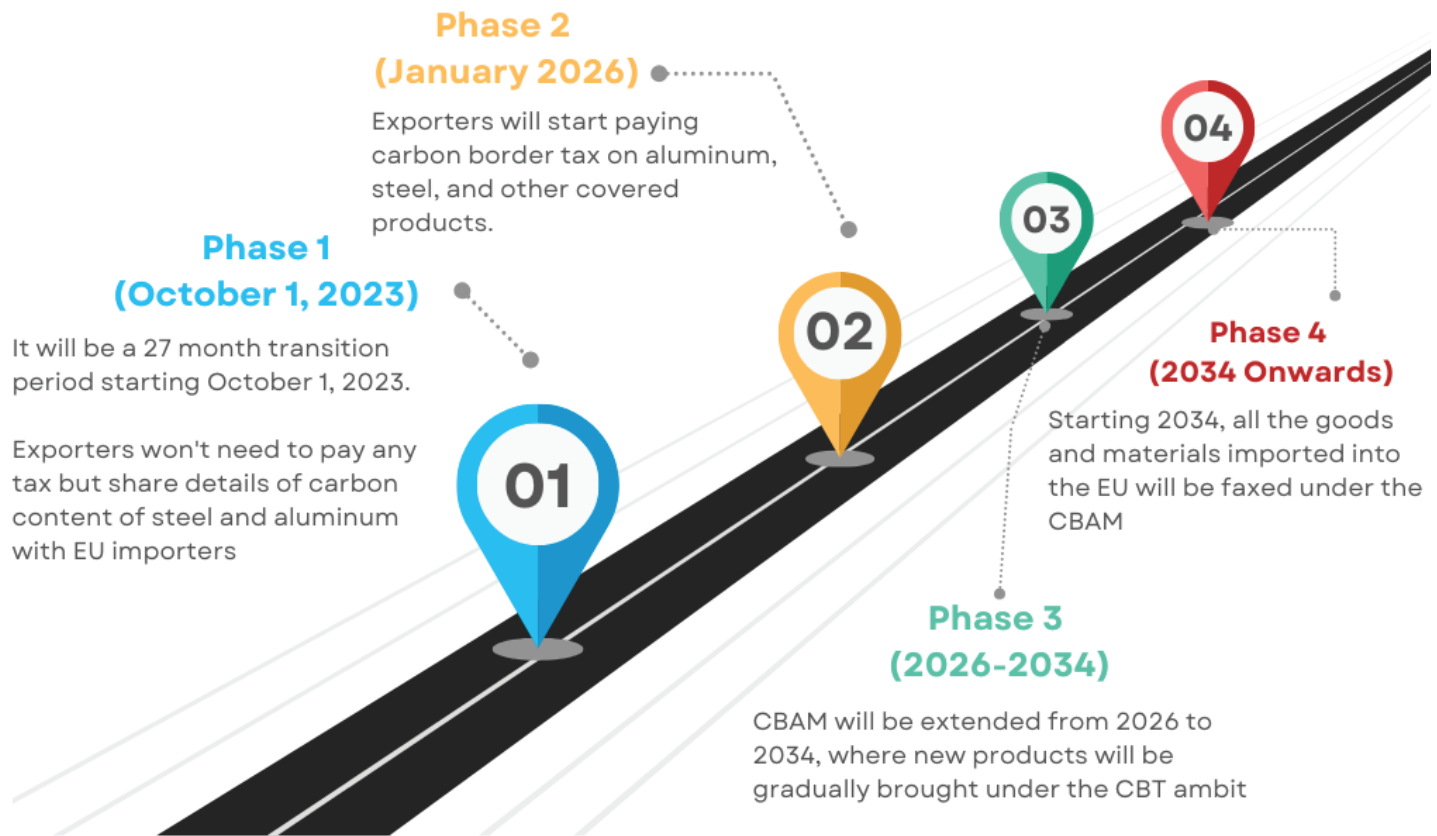
- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

## **9. What is the European Union's CBAM, and why has BRICS condemned and rejected it?**

- BRICS nations have “condemned and rejected” the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAM) of the European Union (EU) and similar restrictive trade measures, saying they undermine their transition to a cleaner economy.
- CBAM is an import duty that is imposed by Europe on goods produced in other countries by processes that lead to greater carbon emissions than domestic European manufacturers are allowed to emit.
- The ostensible purpose is to check “carbon leakage”, but this has the effect of making items like steel or cement manufactured in countries like India more expensive, and thus less competitive, in European markets.
- Developing countries including India and China have been strongly critical of CBAM, and called it a unilateral and unfair trade barrier.
- They have said CBAM violates international agreements on both trade and climate, and have raised this issue at multiple international forums, including the annual climate conferences.
- But the EU has refused to relent.
- BRICS, a group of nine large developing economies including India, said in a statement issued at their summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: “We condemn and reject unilateral, punitive and discriminatory, protectionist measures that are not in line with international law, under the pretext of environmental concerns, such as unilateral and discriminatory carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs), due diligence requirements with detrimental impacts on global efforts to halt and reverse deforestation, taxes and other measures”.

# CBAM Roll-out Roadmap

(The Carbon Boarder Tax will be implemtned in four phases)



## What are climate-related trade restrictions such as CBAM?

- CBAM, rolled out by the EU in 2023, taxes certain products coming in from other countries on the basis of the emissions footprint of their production process.
- So, if a product imported into the EU was produced by a process that entailed higher emissions than the emissions standard for that product in Europe, it will be taxed.
- CBAM, the EU says, is a “tool to put a fair price on carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries”.
- The European Commission’s website describes CBAM thus, “Designed in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and other international obligations of the EU, the CBAM system will work as follows: EU importers will buy carbon certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid, had the goods been produced under the EU’s carbon pricing rules.
- “Conversely, once a non-EU producer can show that they have already paid a price for the carbon used in the production of the imported goods in a third country, the corresponding cost can be fully deducted for the EU importer.”
- CBAM will apply in its “definitive regime” from 2026, with a “transitional phase” of 2023 to 2025, the EU has said.

## So what is the problem with such a policy tool?

- CBAM keeps European industries competitive while also maintaining high environmental standards. Industries are disincentivised from relocating to countries that have less strict emission norms where production may be cheaper – a situation described as carbon leakage. In the process, Europe hopes to contribute to reducing global emissions.

- However, this policy tool hurts the export competitiveness of developing countries such as China and India.
- To these nations, it appears as an unfair barrier to trade, and a violation of international agreements.
- For example, the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 protects developing countries from the social and economic impacts of “response measures” against climate change. And the Dubai climate meeting (COP28) in December 2023 acknowledged that “measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade”.
- Developing countries have also pointed out that CBAM overlooks the “differentiation” embedded in the global climate architecture that allows them to be treated differently from the developed nations.
- Industries in developed economies with emissions standards comparable to the EU’s stand to benefit from a CBAM-like measure, since their products would not be taxed and, hence, become more competitive in the European market.
- CBAM, therefore, can have the net effect of helping industries in the developed world, while putting those in developing countries at a disadvantage.

### **How have developing economies pushed back?**

- The opposition from India and other developing countries has been firm and consistent.
- A formal submission by China, India and some other countries to discuss climate change-related trade measures such as those introduced in the EU delayed the opening plenary of the climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan (COP29), on November 11 last year by several hours.
- On behalf of the BASIC group of countries that also includes India, Brazil and South Africa, China requested a discussion on these issues at the climate meetings.
- It met with strong opposition from the EU and some other countries, and the proposal had to be put on the back burner.
- The BASIC group had opposed the carbon border taxes policy at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, as well, saying it could “result in market distortion”.
- The BASIC countries called for a “united solidarity response by developing countries to any unfair shifting of responsibilities from developed to developing countries”.

### **What other trade measures have countries taken to ostensibly address climate change?**

- CBAM, the EU’s policy to tax carbon-intensive products such as iron and steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium, and electricity generation from 2026, was proposed in 2021.
- CBAM was not the first-of-its-kind trade measure linked to climate change, but it is expected to be the most impactful till now.
- This is because the EU is a large market, accounting for about 15% of global imports.
- While CBAM currently applies to only a handful of goods, the list is set to be expanded to a large number of other items in the coming years.
- Other countries too may be tempted to bring in similar regulations.
- The United Kingdom and Canada have been reported to be considering their own versions of CBAM.
- There are other non-tariff trade measures linked to climate change.
- Several regions, including the EU, ban the import of products made from illegally harvested forests.
- The incentives offered to American clean energy technology or electric vehicle industries in the US federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that was signed into law by former President Joe Biden in August 2022, are examples of climate-related non-tariff measures that can impact and reshape global trade.



- Climate change is also accelerating a process of increasing protectionism that is being driven by several other considerations, including economic, strategic, and security-related.
- While President Donald Trump's tariffs on imports is not cloaked in climate imperatives, it does play on America's fears on energy security which is threatened by the heavy concentration of renewable energy supply chains in China.
- In fact, the dominance of China in the control of resources and technologies related to new energy sources — solar, wind, batteries, and critical minerals — far exceeds that of oil-producing countries in the fossil fuel era.
- This too has been facilitated by climate change that is forcing a global energy transition.

## QUESTIONS

- 29.** Which of the following best describes the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) adopted by the European Union?
- A. A multilateral agreement among EU and BRICS to regulate carbon pricing on exports.
  - B. A financial aid scheme to support renewable energy industries in developing nations.
  - C. A tax imposed on high-carbon goods imported into the EU to match its internal carbon pricing norms.
  - D. A WTO-sanctioned system for phasing out fossil fuel subsidies in EU member states.
- 30.** Why have BRICS nations condemned and rejected Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?
1. It violates the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities under global climate architecture.
  2. It acts as a non-tariff trade barrier, adversely affecting exports from developing countries.
  3. It provides financial incentives to industries in the Global South without consultation.
  4. It contradicts international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and outcomes of COP28.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
  - B. 1 and 3 only
  - C. 2, 3, and 4 only
  - D. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 31.** Which international climate and trade principles do developing countries argue CBAM violates?
1. WTO rules on non-discrimination and free trade
  2. The Paris Agreement safeguards for developing countries
  3. The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer
  4. Outcome statements of COP28 on non-arbitrary climate measures

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

32. Which of the following countries have either implemented or proposed CBAM-like trade measures?

1. United Kingdom
2. China
3. Canada
4. United States

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- D. 1 and 3 only

## 10. Ursula von der Leyen faces rare censure vote in European parliament

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is preparing to face a rare censure vote in the European Parliament, highlighting growing dissatisfaction with her leadership and the perceived rightward shift in EU policies.
- Although von der Leyen is widely expected to survive vote, the event is exposing underlying tensions within the centrist, centre-left, and Green political factions that helped secure her re-election just a year ago, following European elections that saw right-wing nationalists achieve unprecedented success.
- The censure motion was introduced by Gheorghe Piperea, a far-right Romanian MEP known for vaccine skepticism.
- Ostensibly, the motion centers on von der Leyen's refusal to disclose text messages exchanged with Pfizer's CEO during the COVID-19 pandemic—a stance condemned by the EU's top court and labeled "maladministration" by an independent watchdog.
- However, the motion also criticizes the EU's COVID recovery fund, the legal basis for a €150 billion defence initiative, and includes unverified allegations of election interference in Germany and Romania.
- The motion, backed by 76 far-right MEPs, surpassed the 10% threshold required to be debated.
- Ultimately, while von der Leyen is set to survive the vote, the episode exposes deep fractures in the European Parliament and casts a spotlight on the contentious dynamics shaping the EU's future political direction.



## European Parliament Elections

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- The election (or appointment) process in the European Commission involves several steps and key EU institutions.

### 1. European Parliament Elections

- Every 5 years, EU citizens elect Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).
- The results of these elections indirectly influence the choice of the President of the European Commission.

### 2. Nomination of the Commission President

- The European Council (Heads of State or Government of EU countries) proposes a candidate for Commission President.
- They must take into account the results of the European Parliament elections.
- Often, the lead candidate (Spitzenkandidat) of the winning European political party is nominated.

### 3. European Parliament Vote

- The proposed President must be approved by the European Parliament by a majority vote (at least 361 out of 720 MEPs, post-2024).
- If rejected, the Council must propose another candidate.

### 4. Selection of Commissioners

- Each EU member state nominates a Commissioner, in agreement with the President-elect.
- These candidates are assigned specific policy portfolios (e.g., trade, environment, digital).

### 5. Hearings in the European Parliament

- Each Commissioner-designate is scrutinized in public hearings by relevant parliamentary committees.
- Committees issue opinions, and some candidates may be rejected or asked to be replaced.



## 6. Approval of the Entire Commission

- After hearings, the full Commission (President + Commissioners) is subject to a single vote of approval by the European Parliament.

## 7. Formal Appointment

- Once approved, the European Council formally appoints the Commission.
- The new Commission takes office for a five-year term.
- President of the European Commission
- The current President of the European Commission is Ursula von der Leyen, a German politician from the European People's Party (EPP).
- She first took office on 1 December 2019, becoming the first woman to hold the position.
- Following the June 2024 European Parliament elections, von der Leyen was nominated by the European Council and secured a second mandate in a secret ballot on 18 July 2024, where she received 401 votes in favor—surpassing the required majority.
- Her new term will run from December 2024 through November 2029.

## QUESTIONS

33. Consider the following statements about the appointment process of the European Commission:

1. The President of the European Commission is elected directly by EU citizens.
2. Each EU member state nominates a Commissioner, who is then assigned a policy portfolio.
3. The entire Commission must be approved by the European Parliament after public hearings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

34. Which of the following countries is not a member of the European Union (as of 2025)?

- A. Croatia
- B. Romania
- C. Slovenia
- D. Norway

35. Which of the following statements about European Union membership is/are correct?

1. All EU members are part of the Eurozone.
2. Some EU countries have opted out of using the euro as their official currency.
3. The European Union currently has 27 member states.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3



## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **B** The Khelo Bharat Niti adopts a five-pillar approach emphasizing: (1) sports excellence, (2) social development, (3) economic development, (4) sports as a people's movement, and (5) sports in education. This integrative and developmental outlook positions sports as a means for nation-building, rather than only focusing on competition or commercialization.
2. **B** **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India does not permit OCI holders to play for the national team as they do not possess Indian passports.  
**Statement 2 is correct:** As per FIFA regulations, a player must hold a passport of the country they represent.  
**Statement 3 is incorrect:** India does not permit dual citizenship, so temporary citizenship for sporting events is not legally recognized.
3. **C** The vision of hosting the 2036 Olympics aligns with the policy's broader aim to position India as a global sporting power, not just in terms of infrastructure, but also through social, economic, and educational investments in sports. Economic development through sports events, job creation, and manufacturing supports the long-term aspiration of becoming an Olympic host.
4. **D** The 2025 BRICS summit was the seventeenth annual BRICS summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The theme was "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance", not "Global South and North Cooperation." BRICS nations support India's Chairship for the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
5. **A** The summit included: Recognition of India's Startup Knowledge Hub, Support for India hosting COP 33 in 2028, Support by China and Russia for India's UNSC bid and however, no mention of BRICS military integration was made, making option 4 incorrect.
6. **D** **Statement 1 is correct:** NDB was established in 2015 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.  
**Statement 2 is correct:** As per the latest data (July 2025), it includes 11 members, including non-borrowing members like UAE.  
**Statement 3 is correct:** Only UN member states are eligible for NDB membership.
7. **A** The correct answer is A. 1, 2, 4, and 5 only. Indonesia – joined only in January 2025, not in 2024. South Africa – was the first expansion, joining back in 2010, not 2024. BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.
8. **C** The idea of a BRICS-like group can be traced back to Russian foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov and to the two forums RIC (Russia, India, China) and IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa). BRIC was originally a term coined by British economist Jim O'Neill and later championed by his employer Goldman Sachs in 2001 to designate the group of emerging markets. The first summit in 2009 featured the founding countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, where they adopted the acronym BRIC and formed an informal diplomatic club where their governments could meet annually at formal summits and coordinate multilateral policies. In April 2010, South Africa attended the 2nd BRIC summit as a guest. In September 2010 they joined the organization which was then renamed BRICS, and attended the 3rd BRICS summit in 2011 as a full member.

9. **D** The Intolerable Acts (1774) were a series of punitive laws passed by Britain in response to the Boston Tea Party. They directly triggered the First Continental Congress, as the colonies united to resist what they saw as excessive British oppression. While the Boston Tea Party (1773) was a major event, it was the legislative retaliation through the Intolerable Acts that led to formal inter-colonial coordination.
10. **A** **Statement 1 is correct:** July 4, 1776 is observed as the official date when the Declaration of Independence was adopted, though the resolution for independence was passed on July 2.  
**Statement 2 is correct:** The Declaration asserts that the colonies “are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.”  
**Statement 3 is incorrect:** On July 2, 12 colonies voted for independence; New York abstained initially. The vote became unanimous later.
11. **C** This slogan emerged in response to British-imposed taxes without granting the colonies any say in the British Parliament. Laws like the Stamp Act, Tea Act, and Sugar Act were passed without the consent of colonial representatives, triggering mass resistance based on Enlightenment ideals.
12. **D** The Battle of Saratoga (1777) was a decisive American victory that convinced France to join the war formally on the side of the colonies. It marked a strategic turning point by transforming the colonial rebellion into a global conflict. Yorktown (1781) was the final major battle, but not the turning point.
13. **A** Brazil: Conferred the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross – its highest civilian honour. Ghana: Conferred the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana – considered a national honour. Trinidad and Tobago: Conferred The Order of the Republic – its highest civilian honour. Namibia: Conferred The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis – its highest civilian honour. Argentina: Gave a symbolic key to the city, not a national or civilian honour.
14. **A** **Statement 1 is correct:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM in 57 years to make a state visit to Brazil.  
**Statement 3 is correct:** His Brazil visit coincided with the 17th BRICS Summit.  
**Statement 2 is incorrect:** He received the key to Buenos Aires, not Rio. Statement 4 is incorrect: There is no mention of him addressing the Brazilian Parliament.
15. **C** The Santhal Rebellion (Hul) was a large-scale tribal uprising led by Sidhu and Kanhu in 1855, aimed against colonial oppression, land-grabbing by zamindars, and exploitative moneylenders, all supported by British policies. It was not a demand for representation or abolition of bonded labour alone, although begari was part of their grievances.
16. **A** Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only: Santhal Revolt: Led by Sidhu and Kanhu, Kol Revolt: Led by Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, Bhil Uprising: Led by Sewaram and Paika Rebellion: Led by Bakshi Jagabandhu, not Veer Surendra Sai.
17. **B** **Statement 1:** Correct. Damin-i-Koh was carved out in 1832 to settle displaced Santhals.  
**Statement 2:** Incorrect. The Dhal Revolt (1767) predates the Santhal Revolt, making it not the earliest.  
**Statement 3:** Correct. The Santhal uprising saw the participation of 32 castes and communities, not just Santhals.
18. **C** The Paika Rebellion of 1817 in Odisha was sparked when the British dispossessed the Paikas of their traditional rent-free lands (nish-kar jagirs) and military privileges. This disrupted their socio-economic structure and led to a violent uprising under Bakshi Jagabandhu.

- 19. C Statement 1 is Correct:** Taxes on overtime and tips are eliminated.  
**Statement 2 is Correct:** The 2017 tax cuts are made permanent.  
**3. Incorrect:** The law proposes reductions, not increases, on social security income taxes.  
**4. Correct:** The law raises SALT deduction limits, which were capped earlier.
- 20. B Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Increasing defence and border spending adds to expenditure, not reduces it.  
**2. Correct:** Stricter work requirements reduce eligibility and cut welfare costs.  
**3. Incorrect:** Raising the debt ceiling is a financing measure, not a spending control.  
**4. Correct:** A stated aim is to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.
- 21. C** The law marks the first nationwide, federally funded initiative for private school choice in the U.S. It allows eligible families to access scholarships across both secular and religious schools. (a) is incorrect as states can choose to opt in—it's not mandatory. (c) is incorrect because parents don't get direct tax credits, only independent scholarship organizations do. (d) is incorrect as both secular and religious schools are included.
- 22. B** The 42nd Amendment added three words to the Preamble: "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity." The original phrasing "Sovereign Democratic Republic" was not replaced with "Federal." Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.
- 23. A Statement 1: Correct** – In Kesavananda Bharati (1973), secularism was recognized as a basic structure feature.  
**Statement 2: Correct** – In S. R. Bommai (1994), the SC reinforced that secularism is a fundamental constitutional value.  
**Statement 3: Incorrect** – The Berubari case (1961) held that the Preamble is not enforceable, and secularism was not declared legally enforceable there.
- 24. A Statement 1: Correct** – Article 51A introduced 10 Fundamental Duties.  
**Statement 2: Correct** – The amendment curbed the power of judicial review by amending Articles like 226 and 131A.  
**Statement 3: Incorrect** – Directive Principles were not made enforceable, but were given primacy over Fundamental Rights through Article 31C (in certain cases).  
**Statement 4: Correct** – The term of legislatures was extended from 5 to 6 years, later reversed by the 44th Amendment.
- 25. C** The Berubari case (1961) held that the Preamble is not enforceable in courts, meaning it does not create any legal rights, but it is still a part of the Constitution and can be used as a guiding principle.
- 26. A Statement 1 is correct:** The EDFC is located at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre & College, Meerut Cantonment.  
**Statement 2 is correct:** The WOA has officially recognized the facility.  
**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The initiative is supervised by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Defence, and others—not the Ministry of Commerce.
- 27. D** The EDFC in Meerut is certified free of the following major equine-specific diseases: Equine Influenza, Surra, and Equine Piroplasmiasis. However, Foot and Mouth Disease is not equine-specific, and not mentioned among the EDFC certification criteria.

- 28. A Statement 1 is Correct:** Geographic separation is essential for preventing disease introduction.  
**2 – Correct:** Regular veterinary surveillance and testing are required.  
**3 – Incorrect:** The compartment must be supervised by official veterinary authorities, not only private actors.  
**4 – Correct:** Compliance with WOA's Terrestrial Code is mandatory.
- 29. C** CBAM is a unilateral EU policy to levy a carbon tax on imports based on the carbon emissions involved in the production of the goods. The goal is to level the playing field with domestic EU producers who already face carbon pricing under the EU's emissions trading system.
- 30. A Statement 1 is Correct:** CBAM ignores differentiation between developed and developing nations.  
**2 – Correct:** CBAM functions as a trade barrier by making developing country exports more expensive.  
**3 – Incorrect:** CBAM does not provide incentives to Global South; rather, it penalises them.  
**4 – Correct:** CBAM is seen as contradicting the Paris Agreement and COP28, which warn against unjustifiable trade restrictions in the name of climate action.
- 31. B** WTO rules emphasize non-discriminatory trade practices, which CBAM may violate. Paris Agreement (2015) and COP28 (Dubai) emphasize equity and fairness, discouraging unilateral measures. Montreal Protocol deals with ozone depletion, not carbon emissions—so it is irrelevant here.
- 32. A** The United Kingdom and Canada are considering their own versions of CBAM. The U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides domestic clean energy incentives, functioning as non-tariff climate-related trade support. China is opposing, not implementing, CBAM-like measures.
- 33. A Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Commission President is not directly elected by EU citizens. They are nominated by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament.  
**Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** Member states nominate commissioners, and the entire Commission must be approved by the European Parliament after committee hearings.
- 34. D** Croatia, Romania, and Slovenia are EU member states. Norway is not an EU member, though it is part of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen Area, allowing it economic and travel integration without full membership.
- 35. B Statement 1 is incorrect:** Not all EU members use the euro. For example, Sweden, Poland, Hungary use their own currencies.  
**Statement 2 is correct:** Several EU countries have opted out or are not yet part of the Eurozone.  
**Statement 3 is correct:** After the UK's exit (Brexit), the EU has 27 member states.