



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**5th April 2026**



# Reliance on Coal = Curtailment of Solar

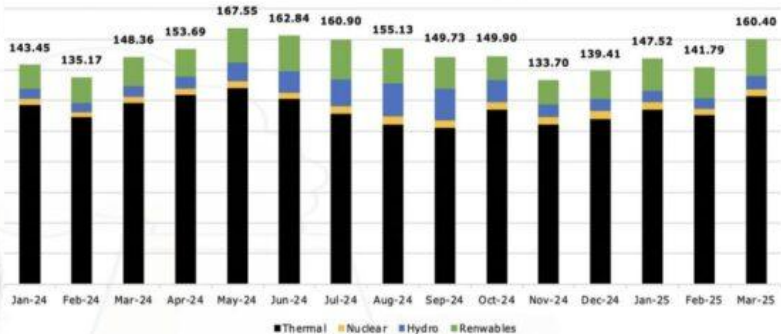
**CONTEXT:** With gas shortage, govt plans to rely more on coal based power to meet peak summer demand.

## INDIA'S ELECTRICITY GENERATION MARCH 2025

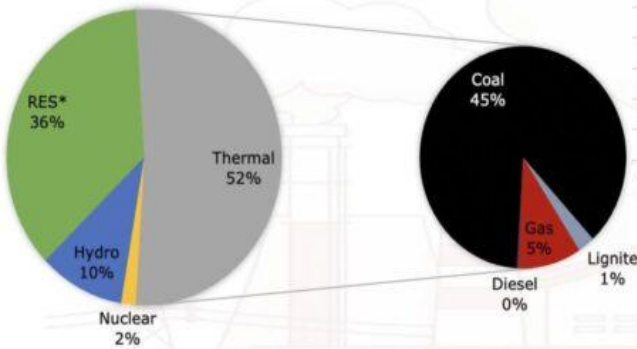


India's Electricity Generation increased by 8% YoY and decreased by 13% MoM in March 2025, at 160.40 BU.

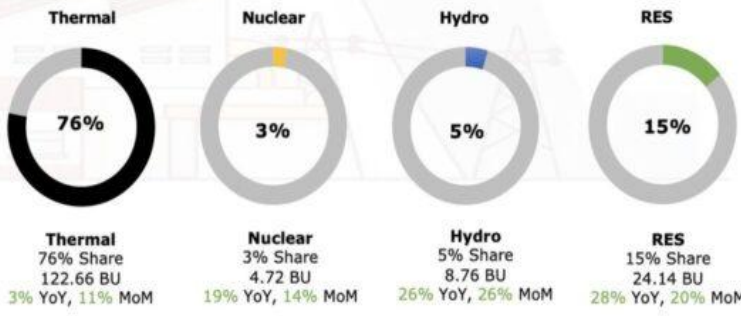
India's Electricity Generation (BU)



India's Electricity Installed Capacity As of March 2025



Electricity Generation March 2025 Statistics



Thermal				Nuclear	Hydro	RES*	Grand Total
Coal	Lignite	Gas	Diesel				
215193	6620	24533	589	8180	47728	172368	475212

Source: CEA (Central Electricity Authority)

## Reliance on Coal = Curtailment of Solar

**Data:**

- 55% of total energy needs
- >70% of electricity generation
- Coal transport: 49% of Railways' freight earnings
- produced 1047.57 mn tonnes in FY 2024-25
- 1.5 bn tonnes by 2030
- imported 176 mn tonnes in 2023
- Total resources 378 bn tonnes

**Significance of Coal Sector**

- Energy security
- Base Load Power
- Employment: 4 mn directly and indirectly
- States Revenues: ₹30k cr in FY 2022-23 from coal royalties and taxes
- Industrial Raw Material: steel plants
- Import Reduction
- Abundant Reserves: 5th largest
- Cost Effectiveness: affordable vs ONG



**CONTEXT:** With gas shortage, govt plans to rely more on coal based power to meet peak summer demand.

### Growth Drivers

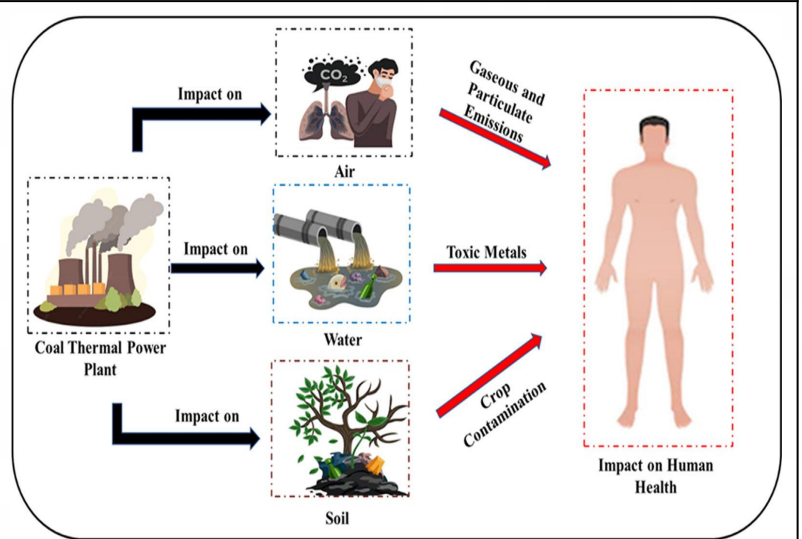
- Output Surge: all-time high in FY 2024–25
- Private Entry: Commercial Mining Policy 2020: ₹30k cr via 90+ block auctions
- Increasing Power Demand
- Import Substitution: Mission Coking Coal & coal gasification

### Challenges in Coal Sector

- Environmental Impact: >60% of India's industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, deforestation for mining
- Import Dependence
- Inefficiencies in CIL: operates below capacity, productivity 1.2 tonnes per man-shift
- NITI Aayog: Infra and Logistics Gaps: 65% transported via railways, but limited wagons, inadequate coal washeries
- Mining-induced Displacement and Conflict: 2.6 mn

### Govt Initiatives

- Commercial Coal Mining Policy (2020): 100% commercial mining by private players, No end-use restrictions
- Single Window Clearance Portal: statutory approvals
- Mission Coking Coal: 140 MT by 2030
- SHAKTI Policy— coal allocation more transparent, efficient, future-ready



- Coal Gasification & Liquefaction: 100 MT of coal gasification by 2030
- Infra Development under PM-Gati Shakti: Integrated logistics planning
- Mine Closure and Sustainability- mine closure plans mandatory for all new projects.
- Coal Logistics Plan 2030: digitally monitored, multimodal evacuation system to handle demand

### Way Forward

- Renewable Integration+ BESS
- Domestic Production: ₹176k cr coal import bill (2023)
- Coal Logistics: infra under PM-Gati Shakti: rail, multimodal terminals, last-mile
- Environmental Oversight: EIA rules (2023) require ESG audits, afforestation in Mine Closure Plans
- Just Energy Transition Partnership: fostering MSMEs, skill development, green jobs in mining areas



**CONTEXT:** With gas shortage, govt plans to rely more on coal based power to meet peak summer demand.

AS INDIA heads into a “hotter-than-normal” summer, with forecasts pointing to an above-average number of heatwave days, the government plans to rely more on coal-based power to meet peak summer demand.

While gas-based power accounts for a relatively small share of the energy mix, it plays a crucial role during non-solar hours, with nearly 10 gigawatts (GW) of capacity typically relied upon during high demand summer months.

The government said it plans to use “alternative sources” like coal-based generation, renewables energy and energy storage systems compensating for reduced gas-based generation.

A greater reliance on coal could lead to curtailment of renewable energy, particularly solar, due to the operational inflexibility of coal plants.

Gas-based power plants, meanwhile, are more flexible and can ramp generation up or down to accommodate renewable power while keeping the grid stable during evening peak hours when solar generation is unavailable.

Between May and November last year, India’s grid operator curtailed as much as 23 GW of renewable energy to maintain grid safety and stability. The curtailment was largely necessitated because a significant portion of India’s coal-based thermal fleet failed to operate below 55% Minimum Technical Load (MTL), accord-

### Greater coal reliance

Coal-based power plants already dominate India’s electricity generation mix, contributing over 70%. Gas contributes around 1-2% in the country’s overall power generation.

Power generated from gas-based units is typically more expensive than coal and renewable energy.

MTL is the lowest stable generation level at which a thermal unit can safely operate without shutting down. With renewable energy generation surging during daytime hours, a lower MTL is increasingly seen as essential to allow coal plants to back down further and accommodate green power. “Earlier, solar met daytime demand while expensive coal plants remained largely idle during summer, with gas stepping in to meet the evening peak. Now, with greater reliance on coal, these costly plants will remain operational even during the day, forcing cheaper renewable energy to be curtailed,” Das added.

### Mains Practise

#### Question :

**Coal continues to play a significant role in India’s energy security and development, even as the country transitions towards clean energy sources. Examine the significance of the coal sector in India’s economy and energy mix. Discuss the govt initiatives aimed at sustainability & self-reliance in coal production.**



# 3 Language Formula



**CONTEXT:** CBSE will implement it in a phased manner from 2026-27

## Evolution

- Radhakrishnan Committee (1948-49)
- Kothari Commission (1964-66)
- NEP, 1968
  - Regional languages at the primary and secondary stages
  - Adopt at university stage
- 1992 Programme of Action: pre-school level
- RTE Act, 2009: medium of instruction
- NEP, 2020: at least until Grade 5

## Constitutional Provisions for Linguistic Diversity

- Article 29
- Article 343: Hindi in Devanagari script
- Article 346: Official language for C-S communication
- Article 347: President to recognise if spoken by a substantial section
- Article 350A: mother tongue-based education at primary level
- Article 350B Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Article 351: Union to promote development of Hindi
- Eighth Schedule: 22 official languages

## Advantages

UNESCO : *Languages Matter: Global Guidance on Multilingual Education*

- **Access and Inclusion**
  - Diverse linguistic backgrounds
  - Parental involvement
  - Marginalized groups
- **Learning Outcomes**
  - Socio-emotional growth
  - Academic performance

- **Sustainable Development**
  - Cultural preservation
  - Economic benefits
  - Social harmony
  - Environmental protection
- **National Integration**
  - Effective communication
  - Unity in diversity

## Concerns

- **Politicisation**
  - Sons of the soil
- **Learning a Choice**
- **Challenges in Primary Education**
- **Scarcity of Qualified Teachers**
- **Linguistically Diverse States**
- **Implementation barriers**
- **Technology Aid:** AI tools

## Promoting Multilingualism

- **Bhashini:** AI-led language translation
- **Real-time Translation Architecture:** National Education Technology Forum + Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti
- **ASMITA** (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing): 22,000 books in 22 scheduled languages in 5 years



## 3 Language Formula



**CONTEXT:** CBSE will implement it in a phased manner from 2026-27

- **Bahubhasha Shabdkosh:**  
multilingual dictionary repository
- **Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme:**  
digital textbooks

### Way Forward

- **Quality Focus**
- **Cooperative Federalism**
- **UNESCO's Multilingual Education Guidance**
  - Data-Driven Approach
  - Learning Materials & Assessments
  - Qualified Teachers
  - Stakeholder Engagement

### Mains Practise Question :

**The Three-Language Formula can promote national integration while preserving linguistic diversity. Examine the advantages of the Three-Language Formula. What are the concerns in its implementation? Suggest a roadmap to address these concerns.**



## The FCRA Timeline

1976

Originally introduced during the Emergency to keep track of foreign influence in social, political, economic and religious decisions

• Nonprofits were allowed to freely receive foreign donations while reporting the amount spent and received every year

1984

Mandatory for non-profits to register before receiving foreign donations; they cannot pass the funds on to other non-registered NGOs

2010

The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced by a stricter Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 along with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011

- Key changes introduced: FCRA registration validity, permanent earlier, reduced to five years and subjected to renewal
- Only 50% foreign contributions could be used for administrative expenses - no such provision existed under the 1976 Act

2020

The FCRA Amendment Bill, 2020, broadly redefined terms related to acceptance, transfer and utilisation of foreign contributions under the 2010 Act

## FCRA

- Every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be
  - Registered under the Act.
  - Bank account
  - Utilisation of funds
  - To file annual returns - must not transfer the funds to another NGO.
- Prohibition of receipt of foreign funds
- Cancellation of registration:
  - violation of the Act.
  - Registration can be revoked if -
    - i. No reasonable activity
    - ii. Public interest
    - iii. audit - irregularities
    - iv. No re-registration for 3 years.
    - v. Can suspend registration for 180 days

## 2020 Amendment

### What Changes Now?

- ◆ **Public sector employees** are forbidden to receive foreign contributions
- ◆ **Transfer of funds** received under FCRA to other individuals or organisations prohibited
- ◆ **Quantum of administrative expenses** eligible to be funded by FCRA funds lowered from 50% to 20%
- ◆ **Providing Aadhaar number mandatory** for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of organisations
- ◆ **Powers to suspend FCRA registration** of NGOs for more than 180 days vested on the government
- ◆ **Renewal of registration** after the five-year tenure will involve same level of scrutiny as new applicants
- ◆ **Designated FCRA account** has to be mandatorily created with State Bank of India (SBI), Delhi
- ◆ **Voluntary surrendering of FCRA certificate** option available to nonprofits



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Indian Polity and Governance

**Newspaper:**

*The Hindu*

**Page Number: 13**

### What are the key changes proposed?

One of the key changes proposed in the Bill is the appointment of a 'designated authority' to take over, manage, or dispose of assets created from foreign funds when an NGO's FCRA registration is suspended, cancelled, or not renewed. This authority will have the powers of a civil court and can order the transfer or sale of assets owned by NGOs to either the government or any other body. The 2010 Act provided for regulation of foreign fund flows, but lacked a statutory framework for managing assets created from such funds. The government said that Section 15 of the Act provides for vesting of assets, but the absence of a comprehensive framework for the supervision, management, and disposal of such assets has led to administrative uncertainty and scope for misuse.

Another proposed amendment broadens the definition of an NGO's 'key functionary' beyond office bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Karta of a Hindu undivided family, governing body members, or anyone controlling or managing the organisation, and makes them liable for FCRA offences unless they can prove lack of knowledge or due diligence.

### What are the other changes proposed?

The Bill seeks to amend Section 43 of the parent Act to require any law enforcement agency or State government to obtain prior approval from the Central government before initiating investigations into FCRA-related complaints.

It also proposes timelines for the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions under the 'prior permission' category (one-time receipt of funds), and provides for automatic cessation of certificates upon expiry or non-renewal.

The Bill proposes to reduce the maximum imprisonment for FCRA offences from five years to one year. It also proposes fixed timelines for

The FCRA registration is valid for five years, after which the NGO has to apply for a renewal. Since 2015, the FCRA registrations of more than 18,000 NGOs have been cancelled. As on April 3, there are 14,965 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country. NGOs can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic, and cultural programmes.

### Why is the Bill being opposed?

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India said the Bill amounts to "executive overreach" and raises concerns about "undue interference" in the functioning of minority institutions and civil society groups. The body objected to "clauses that grant sweeping powers to the Central government, allowing it to deny renewal or cancel licenses of organisations" and the powers "to assume control over institutions, including their funds, properties, and other assets." The



## Article 25 in Constitution of India

### 25. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

- (1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.
- (2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law—
- (a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;
  - (b) providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.

Explanation I.—The wearing and carrying of kirpans shall be deemed to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion.

Explanation II.—In sub-clause (b) of clause (2), the reference to Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly.

## Article 26 in Constitution of India

### 26. Freedom to manage religious affairs

Subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right—

- (a) to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;
- (b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;
- (c) to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and
- (d) to administer such property in accordance with law.

On September 28, 2018, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4:1 majority, lifted the age restriction on women visitors and struck down as unconstitutional Rule 3(b) of the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship Rules, 1965, which allowed the exclusion of women on the grounds of custom.

However, on November 14, 2019, the top court, while considering review petitions in the matter, said in a 3:2 ruling that the September 2018 decision may impinge on the affairs of other religions as well and would require a more detailed examination. It therefore decided to

## It also framed 7 questions for consideration:

1. What is the scope and ambit of the right to freedom of religion under Article 25 of the Constitution of India?
2. What is the interplay between the rights of persons under Article 25 of the Constitution and the rights of religious denominations under Article 26?
3. Whether the rights of a religious denomination under Article 26 of the Constitution are subject to other provisions of Part III of the Constitution, apart from public order, morality and health?

4. What is the scope and extent of the word 'morality' under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, and whether it is meant to include constitutional morality?
5. What is the scope and extent of judicial review with regard to a religious practice as referred to in Article 25 of the Constitution?
6. What is the meaning of the expression "Sections of Hindus" occurring in Article 25 (2) (b) of the Constitution?
7. Whether a person not belonging to a religious denomination or religious group can question a practice of that religious denomination or religious group by filing a PIL?



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Indian Polity and Governance

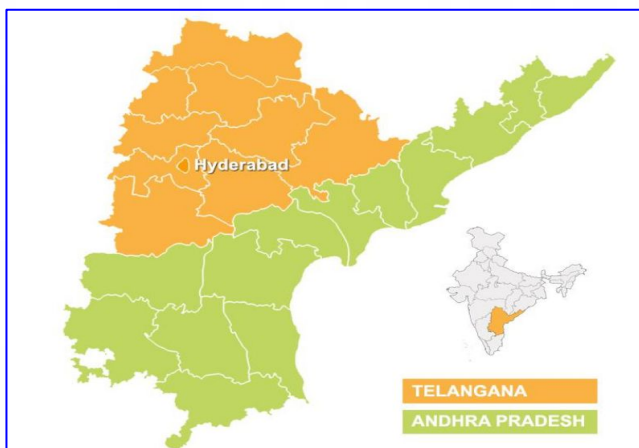
**Newspaper:**

*The Hindu*

**Page Number: 13**

## Background of the Bill

- Bifurcation via AP Reorganisation Act, 2014
- Telangana + residual AP
- Section 5: Hyderabad as joint capital for max 10 years
- After June 2, 2024: Hyderabad exclusive capital of Telangana
- Then AP own capital
- NDA in 2014
  - a. CM Naidu declared Amaravati
  - b. Administration out of Hyderabad
- YSRCP in 2019
  - a. proposed 3 capitals: Visakhapatnam (executive), Amaravati (legislative), Kurnool (judicial)
- 2022: 3-judge AP HC Bench: can't be shifted out of Amaravati
  - a. As State lacked legislative competence to reverse 2014-15 policy decision
- YSRCP govt challenged via SLP
  - a. pending when NDA returned to power
  - b. Naidu govt affidavit commitment to develop Amaravati



## What does the Bill say?

- March 28, 2026: AP Legis Assembly resolution
  - a. requesting Union govt to grant statutory recognition to Amaravati as sole capital
  - b. for amendment to Section 5 of AP Reorg Act, 2014
  - c. Explicitly name Amaravati
  - d. End ambiguity by 3 capital proposals
- amending Act to prevent future dispensation from shifting or splitting capital
- Union: AP Reorg (Amendment) Bill, 2026 following request
  - a. declare and notify Amaravati as sole capital wef June 2, 2024
  - b. "at Amaravati" in Section 5(2)
  - c. "and Amaravati includes the capital city areas notified under the AP Capital Region Development Authority Act, 2014" to explanation of Section 5
- Broad political consensus for passing the Bill

## Why has the YSRCP opposed the Bill?

- Unfulfilled promises
- Land Pooling Scheme
  - a. involves voluntary contribution of land by farmers
  - b. Farmers receive smaller, developed, high-value plots in exchange
  - c. farmers partners in development process
- interests of farmers
  - a. clear timeline must be provided for compensating farmers



**SYLLABUS : GS2:** Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

**Newspaper:**

*Indian Express*

**Page Number: 1**

## Article 324 in Constitution of India

### 324. Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

- (1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).
- (2) The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.
- (3) When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed the Chief Election Commissioner shall act as the Chairman of the Election Commission.
- (4) Before each general election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of each State, and before the first general election and thereafter before each biennial election to the Legislative Council of each State having such Council, the President may also appoint after consultation with the Election Commission such Regional Commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the Election Commission in the performance of the functions conferred on the Commission by clause (1).
- (5) Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine:  
Provided that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment:  
Provided further that any other Election Commissioner or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
- (6) The President, or the Governor of a State, shall, when so requested by the Election Commission, make available to the Election Commission or to a Regional Commissioner such staff as may be necessary for the discharge of the functions conferred on the Election Commission by clause (1).

## PYQ 2017

### Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five- member body.
2. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



**SYLLABUS : GS2:** Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies

**Newspaper:**

*The Hindu*

**Page Number: 9**

- **NGT Act, 2010**
- effective and expeditious disposal - environmental protection, conservation
- expertise - disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues
- not bound by CPC - guided by principles of natural justice
- disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing
- Principal Place of Sitting: **New Delhi**
- **Benches:** Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai
- **Composition of NGT:**
  - Chairperson: retired SC judge
  - Judicial members: Retired HC/ADJ/Advocate
  - Expert members: Professionals - 15 years experience - environment, forest conservation

### Landmark Judgments

- **Almitra H. Patel vs. Uoi, 2012**
  - total ban on the open burning of waste on any land, even landfills
- **Srinagar Bandh Aapda Sangharsh Samiti v. Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd. 2014**
  - Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd. to pay compensation in the Uttarakhand floods case
  - based on the principle of "polluter pays".
- **The Art Of Living (Yamuna River) Foundation Case, 2016**
  - fine of 5 crores on the foundation for environmental damage caused by the event
- **Ganga Pollution Case, 2017**
  - directed state govts to set up sewage treatment plants, regulate industrial discharges

(NGT) has stayed an Assam government order directing the deployment of around 1,600 personnel of the Assam Forest Protection Force (AFPF) for election duties, observing that the move raises serious environmental concerns.

Invoking the precautionary principle, the tribunal directed

the State government to "desist from violating the provisions" of environmental laws, and ordered that



**Q1. Regarding the Coal sector in India, consider the following statements:**

1. It contributes to more than half of the country's energy needs.
2. It accounts for more than two-thirds of the electricity generation.
3. Coal transport amounts to more than half of the Indian Railway's freight earnings.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Regarding Article 25 of the Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. It provides for Freedom of conscience & propagation of one's religion.
2. It is subject to public order, morality & health.
3. The state can provide for social welfare & reforms or throw open Hindu religious institutions to all classes & sections of Hindus.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: d**

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Election Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner & such a number of other Election Commissioners as Parliament may determine.
2. The President determines the condition of service & tenure of office of the Election Commissioners.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is Not correct?**

- a) It is chaired by a retired judge of any High Court in India.
- b) Its members include retired High Court Judges & Advocates.
- c) The principal place of sitting is New Delhi.
- d) It has benches in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata & Chennai.

**Answer: a**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):**

1. Every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations must be registered under the Act.
2. Funds received under FCRA can be freely transferred to another NGO.
3. Registered entities are required to file annual returns regarding the utilisation of foreign funds.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**





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