

Urban local bodies

- The question of whether nominated members, or alderman, can vote is fairly straightforward. Section 3(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957, provides that 10 people who have “special knowledge or experience in municipal administration” are to be nominated to the Corporation, but the proviso clearly states that such nominated persons “shall not have the right to vote in the meetings of the Corporation.”
- Further, Article 243R(2)(a) of the Constitution, which was introduced by the 74th Amendment, provides that state legislation can include those with special knowledge on municipal administration to be represented in municipalities but such persons shall not have the right to vote
- National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021.
- The amendment further provided that on matters specified by the LG, the Council of Ministers must obtain the permission of the LG before taking any executive decision and also imposed restrictions on the inherent rule-making powers of the Legislative Assembly.
- In April 2022, Parliament amended the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act to merge the North, South, and East Delhi Municipal Corporations into a single corporation, effectively undoing the trifurcation of the Municipal Corporation carried out in 2011.
- Though local governments are a state subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the Union government used its plenary powers under Article 239AA of the Constitution to pass this law.
- While the 74th Amendment envisaged States to devolve a set of 18 functions to municipal governments, many of these functions continue to be exercised by state government -controlled parastatal agencies such as development authorities.
- The executive powers of the municipality are often vested with the State government- appointed commissioners, rendering the Mayor to a ceremonial role.
- Most crucially, municipalities are vested with very few revenue generating powers, keeping them reliant on grants and loans from the State and Union governments
- While local autonomy is crucial, higher levels of government can also have a legitimate role in local issues

to ensure regional coordination, reduce spatial inequality, or manage economic and environmental externalities, for example

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Deep sea fishing

- The Supreme Court of India has given permission to fishermen using purse seine fishing gear to fish beyond territorial waters (12 nautical miles) and within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (200 nautical miles) of Tamil Nadu, but observing certain restrictions.
- The top court should seek guidance from the obligations arising from the multilateral and regional conventions which are meant to bring in sustainable fishing practices over a certain period of time, thereby allowing a common resource such as fish to be naturally replenished.
- Under Articles 56.1(a) and 56.1(b)(iii) of UNCLOS, coastal states have sovereign rights to ensure that the living and non-living resources of the EEZ are used, conserved and managed, and not subject to overexploitation.
- Access to the zone by foreign fleets is also solely within the coastal

state's discretion and subject to its laws and regulations.

- In order to prevent overexploitation, coastal States must determine the total allowable catch (TAC) in the EEZ (Articles 61(1) and (2) of UNCLOS) in light of the best scientific evidence available.
- The guidance from the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna 1993 (SBT) could have also been sourced by the top court to enable the recovery of depleted fishing stocks.
- The crux of the SBT is TAC and distribution of allocations among the parties to the SBT, which are very relevant from the angle of conservation of general fishery.
- TAC and the catch quotas are aimed at putting sustainable use into practice among fishermen and maintaining maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

Regulation of fishing methods

- The huge size of the purse seine nets (2,000 meters in length and 200 m in depth) allows maximum catch for the purse seiners, in turn leaving behind insufficient catch for traditional fishermen.
- There are several regional organizations that either prohibit the use of large drift nets or at least call

for their prohibition, such as the 1989 Tarawa Declaration of the South Pacific Forum.

- The 1989 Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift Nets in the South Pacific goes as far as to restrict port access for drift net fishing vessels.
- The United Nations General Assembly passed Resolutions 44/225 (1989) and 46/215 (1991) supported and strengthened this development, calling for a moratoria on all large-scale pelagic drift net fishing vessels on high seas.
- Although the conventions and the UN General Assembly resolutions are applicable to the state parties in the high seas, these are relevant in terms of preventing overfishing in general and the conservation of fishery management in the EEZ as well.

On non-selective fishing technology

- The Court's final judgment needs to look into non-selective fishing methods by purse seiners resulting in the by-catch of other marine living species (which could include, many a times, endangered species) a potential ground for the trade embargo.

Aadi Mahotsav

- A party under Article XX (b) can take measures to protect human, animal or plant life provided it involves "conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restrictions on domestic production or consumption" (Article XX(g)).
- The 'Aadi Mahotsav' is the enormous National Tribal Festival
- The Aadi Mahotsav is a tribal festival which is organized by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) to honor the spirit of tribal traditional art, culture, crafts, gastronomy (the practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food), and trade.
- The Mahotsav will place a special emphasis on exhibiting Shree Anna grown by tribal people because 2023 is being observed as the International Year of Millets.

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Twitter campaign and RPA

- The tweet violates Section 126 (1)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which prohibits the display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph, television, or other similar apparatus in the polling area during the period of 48 hours ending

with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in that polling area.



What RoPA'1950 & 1951 entail?

RoPA'1950	RoPA'1951
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification of voters • Preparation of electoral rolls • Delimitation of constituencies • Allocation of seats in the Parliament and state legislature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual conduct of elections in India • Administrative machinery for conducting elections • Qualification and disqualification of MPs/MLAs • Election offences and disputes • Registration of political parties

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JPC

- A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is set up to examine a particular bill presented before the Parliament, or for the purpose of investigating cases of financial irregularities in any government activity.

The JPC is an ad-hoc body.

- It is set up for a given period of time and is aimed at addressing a specific issue.

Composition:

- In order to set up a JPC, a motion is passed in one House and supported by the other House.
- The committee's members are decided by Parliament.
- The number of members can vary. There are twice as many Lok Sabha members as the Rajya Sabha.

Powers and Functions:

- A JPC is authorised to collect evidence in oral or written form or demand documents in connection with the matter.
- The proceedings and findings of the committee are confidential, except in matters of public interest.
- The government can take the decision to withhold a document if it is considered prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State.
- The Speaker has the final word in case of a dispute over calling for evidence.
- The committee can invite interested parties for inquiry and summon people to appear before it.
- The committee gets disbanded following the submission of its report to Parliament.

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Guidelines for organ transplant

- In a major tweak to the organ donation policy, the on said the clause that people aged beyond 65 could not receive cadaver organ transplants had been removed.
- "The government has decided to do away with the ceiling
- Now, people beyond 65 in need of an organ donation will also be eligible

to get one,” an official source in the Health Ministry said.

- The government has decided to do away with the clause in the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) guidelines as it violates the right to life, the source added.
- “Now an individual of any age can register for an organ transplant.”
- Also, earlier, an organ recipient could register for a prospective transplant only in the domicile State.
- The States such as Gujarat had made it mandatory for registered patients to furnish a domicile certificate to be eligible for a transplant.

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Leprosy

- Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves. Left untreated, the disease may cause progressive and permanent disabilities.
- The bacteria are transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.
- Leprosy is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT).

- Leprosy is reported from all the six WHO Regions; the majority of annual new case detections are from South-East Asia.

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Reverse Charge of GST

What is Reverse Charge Mechanism?

- Typically, the supplier of goods or services pays the tax on supply.
- Under the reverse charge mechanism, the recipient of goods or services becomes liable to pay the tax, i.e., the chargeability gets reversed.
- The objective of shifting the burden of GST payments to the recipient is to widen the scope of levy of tax on various unorganized sectors, to exempt specific classes of suppliers, and to tax the import of services (since the supplier is based outside India).
- Only certain types of business entities are subject to the reverse charge mechanism.
- Find out the business constitution of any GST number using the GST search tool.

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