# Prelims Exam Topics

## V.D. SAVARKAR

### Context

A Pune special court recently examined the origins of the title 'Swatantryaveer,' clarifying it was first bestowed by biographer Sadashiv Ranade rather than through a formal government decree.

### About V.D. Savarkar

**Background**

- He was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, and social reformer.
- **Birth:** Born on May 28, 1883, in Bhagur, Nashik district, Maharashtra.
- **Revolutionary Roots:** Influenced by the radical nationalism of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, he organized a youth group called **Mitra Mela** in 1899 to promote revolutionary ideas.
- **India House:** During his time in London, he lived at **India House**, which served as a major hub for Indian revolutionaries in Europe.

**Political Contributions and Revolutionary Activities**

- **Abhinav Bharat Society:** In 1904, he founded this secret society to advocate for an end to British rule through armed revolution.
- **Arrest and Transportation:** He was arrested in London in 1910 in connection with the Nasik Conspiracy Case and the revolutionary activities of the India House group.
- **Cellular Jail:** Sentenced to two life terms (50 years) in the **Andaman Cellular Jail** (Kala Pani). He spent over a decade there (1911–1921) before being moved to the mainland and eventually released with restrictions in 1924.
- **Hindu Mahasabha:** He served as the President of the Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943, where he emphasized the "militarization of Hindus" and opposed the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- **Social Reform:** While restricted to Ratnagiri, he worked against the caste system and built the **Patit Pavan Temple**, advocating for the entry of all Hindus, including those deemed "untouchable" at the time.
    - **Saptabandi:** His campaign against seven "shackles" of the caste system (e.g., prohibition on inter-dining, inter-marriage, and sea voyages).

**Literary Works and Ideology**

- **The Indian War of Independence, 1857:** Written while in London, this book was a groundbreaking attempt to reinterpret the 1857 revolt as a coordinated national war for independence.
- **Essentials of Hindutva (1923):** Written during his imprisonment/internment, this work outlined his political philosophy. He defined a "Hindu" as anyone who considers India their Fatherland (*Pitrubhu*) and Holyland (*Punyabhu*).
- **Two Nation Theory:** Savarkar was an early proponent of the idea that Hindus and Muslims constituted two distinct nations within India.
- **Majhi Janmathep (My Transportation for Life):** An autobiographical account of his grueling experiences and resistance in the Andaman Cellular Jail.

- **Poetry and Neologisms:** A prolific poet and linguist, he is credited with coining several Marathi equivalents for English words, such as *Digdarshak* (Director) and *Sanchalak* (Manager).

## CLIMATE-HEALTH INTERSECTIONS

### Context

A new report titled Under the Weather: India's Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience, published by the philanthropy organization Dasra, identifies climate change as a critical "health-risk multiplier" in India.

### Key Findings

- **Altering Disease Geography:**
  - **Vector-Borne Diseases:** Warmer temperatures are expanding the range of malaria and dengue into previously unaffected high-altitude regions like Shimla, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Himalayan foothills.
  - **Water-Borne & Heat Risks:** Floods are triggering outbreaks of cholera and hepatitis, while intense heatwaves are driving up cases of dehydration, heatstroke, and cardiovascular stress.
- **Impact on Maternal and Child Health:**
  - **Preterm Births:** Extreme heat exposure is linked to a **16% increase** in the odds of preterm births, with the risk rising for every **1°C** increase in temperature.
  - **Pregnancy Complications:** High levels of PM2.5 air pollution are associated with hypertensive disorders such as pre-eclampsia and increased gestational blood pressure.
  - **Child Vulnerability:** Infants face higher risks of respiratory illnesses and dehydration due to a limited ability to regulate body temperature.
- **Economic and Labor Disruptions:** India lost an estimated **160 billion labor hours** in 2021 alone due to extreme heat exposure.
  - The burden falls disproportionately on informal and outdoor workers, rural populations, and women, deepening existing socio-economic inequalities.
- **Systemic Healthcare Challenges:** Climate disasters physically damage health infrastructure and sever supply chains for essential medicines and vaccines.
  - While initiatives like the **National Action Plan on Climate Change and Human Health (NAPCCHH)** and local **Heat Action Plans** are positive steps, significant hurdles remain.
  - These include a lack of localized, disaggregated data and a funding gap where investment is skewed toward mitigation rather than health-centric adaptation.

## PERMANENT NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

### Context

Finland is set to become the first country in the world to operationalize a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for the permanent disposal of high-level spent nuclear fuel.

### About Onkalo

- Named **Onkalo** (Finnish for "cave"), the facility is located 430 meters underground on the island of Olkiluoto
- The site was chosen for its **migmatite-gneiss bedrock**, which is approximately 1.9 billion years old.

- This rock is characterized by high seismic stability and extremely low permeability.

### Current Global landscape for Nuclear waste disposal

- The International Atomic Energy Agency sets global safety standards for the management and disposal of radioactive waste.
- Most countries currently use **temporary storage**:
  - **Wet Storage:** Spent fuel pools at individual reactor sites.
  - **Dry Cask Storage:** Concrete and steel containers stored above ground.
- **Sweden:** Construction has begun on a repository in **Forsmark**, expected to open in the late 2030s.
- **France:** The **Cigéo project** is planned for deep geological disposal but faces ongoing public and political opposition.
- **Recycling:** About one-third of global spent fuel is recycled to extract plutonium and uranium, though this process is complex and still leaves behind high-level waste.

**Spent Nuclear Fuel:** Fuel that has been irradiated in a nuclear reactor and is no longer efficient for power generation but remains highly radioactive.
**High Level Waste (HLW):** Highly radioactive materials produced as a byproduct of the reactions that occur inside nuclear reactors.

## HOW ASTRONAUTS SURVIVE RE-ENTRY

### Context

- Under the **Gaganyaan mission**, Indian astronauts will orbit Earth at **~7.8 km/s** and must safely return through **controlled atmospheric re-entry and ocean splashdown in the Bay of Bengal**, supported by the **Indian Navy recovery team**.

### Issues in Atmospheric Re-entry

Re-entry is scientifically and technologically complex because a spacecraft must safely shed enormous orbital energy within minutes. The major issues involved are:

- **Extreme Thermal Heating:** Hypersonic re-entry generates intense heat from air compression (e.g., **7.8 km/s speed producing ~1,500–3,000°C**, requiring **Thermal Protection Systems**).
- **Narrow Re-entry Corridor:** Spacecraft must enter the atmosphere within a precise angle (e.g., **too shallow ⟶ skip into space; too steep ⟶ overheating and destruction**).
- **High Deceleration (G-Forces):** Atmospheric drag causes strong deceleration stressing astronauts (e.g., **3–8 G during re-entry**).
- **Communication Blackout:** Ionised plasma around the capsule blocks radio signals temporarily (e.g., **plasma sheath causing signal loss with ground control**).
- **Guidance and Steering Limits:** Re-entry requires controlled


semi-ballistic descent for stability (e.g., **centre-of-gravity control and thrusters generating limited lift**).

- **Landing Uncertainty:** Atmospheric density fluctuations and wind patterns create **large landing footprints**, complicating recovery operations.
- **Safe Landing Systems:** Final descent depends on reliable braking systems (e.g., **parachute deployment before ground or sea landing**).

### How the Gaganyaan Crew Module Will Re-enter

India's Gaganyaan mission uses a capsule-based architecture designed for controlled, semi-ballistic re-entry.

- **Controlled Re-entry within Corridor:** The Crew Module enters the atmosphere within the safe re-entry corridor, carefully avoiding overshoot and undershoot boundaries.
- **Atmospheric drag braking:** During re-entry the module loses most of its speed through **aerobraking**, where friction with the atmosphere dissipates kinetic energy (~7,800 m/s orbital speed).
- **Thermal Protection System:** An **ablative heat shield protects the Crew Module** from extreme heating by absorbing and carrying away thermal energy.
    - In ablative systems, the outer material gradually burns and erodes during re-entry. This process absorbs heat and carries it away.
- **Plasma Blackout Phase:** During peak heating, a plasma sheath forms, causing temporary communication blackout until the capsule slows down.
- **Three-Stage Parachute Deployment:** Drogue Parachutes are Small parachutes are deployed first to stabilise and slow the capsule. Main parachutes reduce descent speed significantly. The capsule performs a controlled splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.
    - Parachutes slow the capsule to **~7–9 m/s before water landing**, safe because **water absorbs impact energy**.
- **Ocean splashdown:** India uses **sea landing in the Bay of Bengal** (similar to **Apollo program capsules**) because the country lacks large desert landing zones used by **Soyuz spacecraft**.
- **Elliptical landing area:** Re-entry targets a **large landing ellipse**, since small atmospheric variations at hypersonic speeds can shift the landing point **hundreds of kilometres along the flight path**.

## CRISIS IN CUBA

### Context

- The **United States embargo on Cuba** remains one of the longest-running sanctions regimes in modern history; recent measures including **oil shipment restrictions and financial sanctions have triggered severe crisis in Cuba**.

### US Blockade on Cuba

- **Origins after Cuban Revolution:** Following the **1959 Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro**, Cuba nationalised the U.S.-owned assets, prompting Washington to impose economic sanctions and a full embargo in **1962 under President John F. Kennedy**.
- **Legal Framework of Sanctions:** Several U.S. laws institutionalised the embargo:
    - **Cuban Democracy Act (Torricelli Act, 1992)** – restricted trade with subsidiaries of U.S. firms abroad.

- **Helms-Burton Act (1996)** – internationalised sanctions by penalising foreign companies investing in expropriated U.S. property in Cuba.
- **Trump-era sanctions expansion** – more than **240 additional restrictive measures** targeting tourism, remittances, and financial flows.


- **Financial and Trade Restrictions:** Cuba faces restrictions on **dollar transactions, access to global banking networks, and international credit institutions** (e.g., limited access to IMF, World Bank financing).
- **Energy and Supply Constraints:** Recent sanctions targeting **oil shipments and tanker access** have intensified energy shortages; (Cuba produces only **~20% of its oil demand**)
- **Extraterritorial Sanctions:** The embargo penalises **third-country firms trading with Cuba**, discouraging foreign investment and international banking cooperation.

### Impact of the US Blockade

- **Economic Contraction:** Limits trade, finance, technology access ⟶ constrains growth and investment.
- **Energy Crisis:** Oil supply restrictions ⟶ electricity shortages and repeated grid failures.
- **Healthcare Strain:** Import barriers and power shortages ⟶ delays in surgeries and medicine supply.
- **Tourism Decline:** Travel restrictions reduced visitors (**~5M ⟶ ~2.2M**) weakening foreign exchange earnings.
- **Agriculture Impact:** Fuel shortages affect irrigation and mechanisation ⟶ underutilised farmland.
- **Migration Pressure:** Economic hardship increases outward migration (**mainly to U.S. and Latin America**).

### Divergent Perspectives on Blockade

| U.S. Perspective | Cuban Perspective |
|---|---|
| **Political System Pressure:** Sanctions aim to promote democratic reforms and regime change in Cuba. | **Violation of Sovereignty:** Cuba argues sanctions attempt to undermine its political system and independence. |
| **Human Rights Concerns:** Washington cites restrictions on political freedoms in Cuba. | **Economic Coercion:** Havana describes the embargo as collective punishment affecting civilians. |
| **Cold War Legacy:** Initially imposed to counter Soviet influence in the Western Hemisphere. | **Imperial Continuity:** Seen as continuation of U.S. dominance in Latin America (linked to Monroe Doctrine). |
| **Security Concerns:** U.S. policymakers argue Cuba supports adversarial regimes (historically USSR, Venezuela). | **Right to Self-Determination:** Cuba frames its policies as sovereign choices independent of U.S. influence. |
| **Domestic Political Factors:** Influence of Cuban-American exile community in U.S. politics | **International Isolation of Policy:** UN General Assembly repeatedly votes overwhelmingly against the embargo. |

| | |
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| (particularly in Florida). | |

### Cuba as a Nation of the Global South

- **Champion of Global South Cooperation:** Cuba actively supports **South-South cooperation**, particularly in healthcare, education, and disaster relief.
- **Medical Diplomacy:** Cuba has deployed **tens of thousands of doctors globally** (e.g., Ebola response in West Africa; pandemic medical missions).
- **Biotechnology Leadership:** Despite limited resources, Cuba developed **domestic vaccines and biotechnology innovations** (e.g., Abdala COVID-19 vaccine).
- **South-South Solidarity Networks:** Cuba maintains strong partnerships with countries such as **Venezuela, Mexico, and other Latin American states**, including oil-for-services cooperation programs.
- **Advocacy in Multilateral Forums:** Cuba frequently advocates for **sovereignty, non-intervention, and economic justice** within the United Nations and Global South institutions

## FIRST QUANTUM REFERENCE FACILITIES IN INDIA

### Context

- India's **first Quantum Reference Facilities (QRFs)** are being launched under the **Amaravati Quantum Valley programme in Andhra Pradesh** capable of testing **up to 100-qubit quantum processes**.

### About the Quantum Reference Facilities

- **Concept:** Quantum Reference Facility is a **testing bed for quantum computing hardware and software**
  - test components such as **qubits, cryogenic systems, control electronics, and quantum algorithms**.
- **Purpose:** Provides a **benchmark environment to validate quantum technologies** before deployment in real quantum computers.
- **Infrastructure:** Facilities integrate key elements of the **quantum computing stack** including
  - qubit processors
  - cryogenic cooling systems
  - microwave control electronics
  - quantum software platforms.
- **Research Ecosystem:** Developed through collaboration between **SRM University, Amaravati Quantum Research Facility, Qubit Force, and Indian research institutes (TIFR, IISc, DRDO)**.
- **Hardware Focus:** India previously depended on **foreign quantum hardware access (IBM, Google cloud quantum systems)**; QRF enables **domestic testing and hardware development**.
- **Qubit Capability:** The Amaravati facility is designed to support **testing of up to 100 qubits**, approaching the scale required for early practical quantum applications.
- **Quantum Valley Initiative:** it is a part of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley programme**,

### Significance of Quantum Reference Facilities

- **Accelerates National Quantum Mission:** Supports India's **National Quantum Mission (₹6000 crore programme launched in 2023)** targeting advances in **quantum computing, communication, sensing and materials science**.

- **Strategic Technology Capability:** Quantum technologies have major implications for **cybersecurity, cryptography, defence systems and secure communications**.
- **Advanced Research Applications:** Quantum computers could revolutionise fields such as
    - **drug discovery and molecular simulation**
    - **optimisation problems**
    - **artificial intelligence and machine learning**
    - **climate modelling and materials science**.

## NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSTFDC)

### Context

The **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) is celebrating its 25th Foundation Day in New Delhi to mark a quarter-century of tribal empowerment.**

### Background

- NSTFDC is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs,** Government of India. It serves as the apex national organization specifically dedicated to the economic upliftment and financial inclusion of Scheduled Tribes.
- Established in: The corporation was established in 2001.
- Aim: The primary goal of **NSTFDC** is to catalyze the economic development of Scheduled Tribes by providing them with the necessary financial means to start income-generating activities and improve their quality of life.

### Composition of National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

- The Corporation is managed by a **Board of Directors with representatives** fro**m Central Government, State Channelizing Agencies (SCA), National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and three eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes.**

### Key Functions

- **Concessional Financial Assistance:** Extending low-interest loans to ST individuals and groups to help them start or expand small businesses.
- **Livelihood Promotion:** Funding a wide variety of sectors including handicrafts, poultry, dairy, fisheries, retail, and healthcare services to create sustainable local jobs.
- **Channelizing Resources:** Operating through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) to ensure that financial aid reaches tribal communities in remote and underserved areas.
- **Entrepreneurial Support:** Providing the capital required for tribal youth and women to transition from traditional labor to independent business ownership.
- **Capacity Building:** Assisting beneficiaries in establishing sustainable enterprises through structured financial schemes and guidance.

# SKILLS OUTCOMES FUND

## Context

**Minister of State for Education, Government of India,** has launched a **national campaign to establish the Skills Outcomes Fund.**

## About Skills Outcomes Fund

- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at unlocking aspirational livelihoods for youth from low-income backgrounds.
- The fund envisages to mobilise public and private capital to scale outcomes-based financing (OBF) in India's skilling ecosystem, linking investments directly to verified employment outcomes.
- It will be anchored by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), i**n partnership with not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations /stakeholders.
- It would build on the success of India's first outcomes-based initiative, the Skill Impact Bond, launched by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in 2021.
- A key innovation of the fund is its employer-led, demand-driven skilling model, ensuring alignment with industry needs. **Training programs will focus on high-growth sectors including:**
    - IT and IT-enabled services (IT-ITeS)
    - Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)
    - Automotive and manufacturing
    - Healthcare
    - Logistics and supply chains
    - Electronics and semiconductors
    - Green jobs and sustainability sectors

# INVESTMENT FLUCTUATION RESERVE (IFR)

## What it is:

IFR is an additional buffer/reserve that banks are required to maintain to protect themselves against depreciation (fall) in the value of their investment portfolios, especially when interest rates rise (since bond prices fall when rates rise).

## How it works:

Banks hold large portfolios of government securities and bonds. When interest rates rise, the mark-to-market (MTM) value of these investments falls, creating losses on paper. IFR acts as a cushion against such losses.

## RBI's 2026 Change:

RBI has proposed to dispense with (remove) the IFR requirement for most commercial banks because:

- Banks already maintain capital charge for market risk
- They already follow revised norms on classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios. So IFR had become redundant for these banks

# TERM MONEY MARKET

**What it is:**

The Term Money Market is a segment of the money market where funds are borrowed and lent for a fixed period beyond overnight typically ranging from 2 days to 1 year. It is distinct from the overnight market (like the Call Money Market).

**Current Situation (before RBI's 2026 change):**

Only banks and standalone Primary Dealers (PDs) were allowed to participate, with prudential limits on borrowing.
RBI's 2026 Change, Two key decisions:

**Expand participant base to include non-bank entities:**

- AIFIs (All India Financial Institutions like NABARD, NHB, SIDBI, EXIM Bank)
- NBFCs (including Housing Finance Companies)

**General companies**

- Enhance borrowing limits for standalone Primary Dealers

# Mains Exam Topics

## JAN VISHWAS BILL, 2026

### Context

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill has recently been approved by Parliament. It marks a clear transition from a highly punitive legal framework to one that emphasises trust, proportionality, and ease of doing business.

### Key provisions of the Jan Vishwas bill

- **Decriminalisation**: Several offences are converted into civil violations with monetary penalties instead of imprisonment.
    - It decriminalises 717 provisions spanning 79 Central Acts.
- **Removal of jail terms**: In certain cases, imprisonment is eliminated and replaced with fines, often with higher limits.
    - Its core aim is to eliminate criminal penalties for minor, non-serious offences and replace them with civil or administrative actions.
- **Deletion of minor offences**: Some outdated or trivial offences are removed entirely.
- **Revised penalties**: Monetary fines are updated and set to increase periodically.
- **Graduated enforcement:** Initial violations may attract advisories or warnings, with penalties applied for repeated non-compliance.
- **Improvement notices:** First-time violations in certain sectors allow time for correction before penalties are imposed.
- **Fairness for MSMEs:** Compliance is made easier for businesses, especially MSMEs, through measures such as warnings and advisories before penalties.
- **Adjudication mechanism**: Designated officers handle penalties, with appellate authorities available for review.
- **Tax reforms (NDMC):** Property tax is streamlined into clearer components, supported by valuation and grievance redressal committees.
- **Penalty revision rules**: Where laws already specify revision methods, those provisions will continue to apply.
    - It also introduces reforms to improve everyday governance, including changes to laws like the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994.

### Significance of the bill

- **Boost to business environment:** Reduces regulatory burden, especially for MSMEs.
- **Lower legal costs:** Faster, administrative resolution cuts down litigation expenses.
- **Judicial relief:** Helps reduce the backlog of minor cases in courts.
- **Ease of living:** Introduces citizen-friendly measures like grace periods for licences and extended timelines for compensation claims.
- **Simplified systems:** Brings clarity and transparency to areas like taxation.

### Associates challenges

- **Cost of doing business issue:** Large companies may treat fines as routine expenses. If penalties are easily affordable, violations may continue, making non-compliance a calculated business decision.
- **Administrative burden:** Shifting cases from courts to government departments increases pressure on already understaffed ministries. This may result in delays and accumulation of pending cases.
- **Limited legal expertise:** Adjudicating Officers are usually bureaucrats without formal legal training. This raises concerns about proper application of principles like fairness and natural justice.
- **Public health risks**: Relaxation of penalties in areas like drugs and cosmetics could encourage negligence. Businesses might compromise on safety if only monetary penalties are imposed.
- **Inconsistency across laws:** Similar offences are treated differently under various laws. This lack of uniformity can create confusion and perceptions of unfair treatment.
- **Weak adjudication framework:** In some cases, the law does not clearly specify how appeals can be made. This makes it difficult for individuals to challenge penalties.
- **Concerns of misuse**: Allegations of retrospective application in certain cases have raised doubts about fairness, potentially reducing public trust.

### Way Forward

- **Legal training for officers:** Adjudicating Officers should be trained in basic legal principles to ensure fair and consistent decision-making.
- **Digitisation and transparency**: Use of technology and faceless systems can reduce discretion, improve transparency, and limit corruption.
- **Reform-oriented penalties**: Introduce alternatives like community service for minor offences, ensuring accountability beyond monetary fines.
- **Proportionate penalties**: Fines should be linked to the size and capacity of the business to ensure fairness across entities.
- **Harmonisation across laws**: States should align their laws with the Centre to create a consistent regulatory environment and improve ease of doing business.

## AI AND COPYRIGHT: DELHI HIGH COURT SEEKS CLARITY ON AUTHORSHIP

### Context

The Delhi High Court has asked the Copyright Office to decide whether an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system can be recognised as the sole author of an artwork. The case involves an AI-generated painting and raises important legal and ethical questions about ownership of creative works.

### About the case

- **Issue before the court**: The Delhi High Court has asked the Copyright Office to decide whether an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system can be recognised as the sole author of an artwork. This raises questions about ownership of machine-generated content.
- **Application by AI researcher**: Stephen Thaler applied for copyright for an artwork created by his AI system DABUS, claiming that the AI independently generated the work without human input.
- **Legal framework involved**: Under the Copyright Act, 1957, authorship is traditionally granted only to human beings, making this case a test of existing legal definitions.

- **Previous practice in India**: In an earlier instance, AI was recognised as a co-author (not sole author), indicating some flexibility but no full legal recognition of AI authorship.

### Key concerns

- **Unclear definition of authorship:** Current laws do not clearly address whether a non-human entity like AI can be considered an author, leading to legal ambiguity.
- **Ownership and rights issues:** If AI is not recognised as an author, it is unclear whether ownership should lie with the developer, user, or organisation behind the AI.
- **Accountability challenges:** Recognising AI as an author raises questions about responsibility in cases of copyright violation or misuse.
- **Impact on human creativity:** Granting authorship to AI may reduce the importance of human effort and originality in creative fields.
- **Global differences in approach:** Different countries follow different standards, creating uncertainty in cross-border recognition of AI-generated works.

### Way forward

- **Clarify legal definitions**: Laws should clearly define authorship and ownership in the context of AI-generated works to remove ambiguity.
- **Recognise human role in AI creation**: Copyright may be linked to the person who designs, controls, or uses the AI, ensuring accountability.
- **Develop balanced regulations**: Policies should encourage innovation in AI while also protecting the rights of human creators.
- **Ensure accountability mechanisms**: Legal provisions must clearly fix responsibility for misuse or infringement involving AI-generated content.
- **Learn from global practices**: India can study international approaches and adopt a suitable framework that aligns with its legal and technological needs.

## PUDUCHERRY UNION TERRITORY: COMPARISON FROM DELHI AND JAMMU & KASHMIR

### Context

Puducherry is a Union Territory (UT) with a distinctive governance system, as it has an elected legislative assembly and a Chief Minister despite being under central control. This places it alongside Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, which also have legislatures, making them exceptions among UTs.

### Governance of union territories in India

- Union Territories are administered under Part VIII of the Constitution (Articles 239–242).
- The President governs them through appointed administrators.
- Most UTs, such as Chandigarh and Lakshadweep, do not have elected legislatures, unlike Puducherry.

### Comparison between the UT's of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir

| UT of Puducherry | UT of Delhi | UT of Jammu & Kashmir |
|---|---|---|
| • Puducherry was granted a legislative assembly | **Legal Framework and Powers**<br>• Delhi derives its status | **Background and Structure**<br>• Jammu and Kashmir |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| through the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, considering its historical background.<br>● The region was transferred from French control through the **Treaty of Cession (1956)**, with formal legal approval in 1962, though India had administrative control since 1954.<br>● Its system continues the tradition of representative governance that existed during French rule.<br>● **Article 239A** provides Puducherry with a legislature and a Council of Ministers.<br>● The President can nominate members to the Assembly, which may influence political outcomes. | from the **69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991 (Article 239AA).**<br>● Its Assembly can legislate on most State and Concurrent List subjects, except public order, police, and land.<br>● Puducherry does not have such explicit subject restrictions but remains subject to Parliament's overriding authority.<br>**Role of Lieutenant Governor (LG)**<br>● In Delhi, the LG has clearly defined discretionary powers, often leading to conflicts with the elected government.<br>● In Puducherry, these powers are not clearly specified. The Supreme Court (2019) held that the LG must generally act on the advice of the Council of Ministers, except in rare situations.<br>**Nature of Control**<br>● Delhi experiences stronger central supervision and frequent disputes over administrative powers.<br>● Puducherry allows relatively greater day-to-day functioning by the elected government. | became a UT in 2019 after reorganisation, with a legislative assembly.<br>● However, Ladakh was separated as a UT without a legislature.<br>**Legislative Powers**<br>● The J&K Assembly can legislate on State List subjects, but key areas like public order and police remain under the LG's control.<br>● Puducherry faces fewer such direct restrictions.<br>**Role of LG**<br>● The LG in J&K holds significant authority, including control over administration and services.<br>● Financial decisions also require prior approval of the LG in many cases.<br>**Extent of Autonomy**<br>● J&K operates with greater central control and limited legislative freedom.<br>● Puducherry enjoys comparatively higher autonomy in routine governance matters. |