

## MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS

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# ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370



## CONTEXT

- A **Constitution Bench** of the **Supreme Court** on Monday unanimously upheld the power of the **President** to abrogate **special status** of **Jammu and Kashmir** under **Article 370** of the **Constitution**, leading to the **reorganization** of the **full-fledged State** to **two Union Territories** and the removal of its privileges.



➤ The court said the **President's** decision in **2019** was the culmination of a “**gradual** and **collaborative exercise**” spread over the past 70 years between the **Centre** and the **State** to integrate **Jammu and Kashmir** with the rest of **India**.

- **Article 370** and **Article 35A** of the Constitution represented the sentiments of the people in J&K and provided the region with a certain amount of **autonomy**, including its own **constitution**, a **separate flag** and the **freedom** to make **laws**.
- The abrogation of Article 370 aimed to integrate J&K more closely with the rest of India, allowing Indian laws to be applied to the region and removing some special privileges previously granted to the people of J&K.

## EK BHARAT, SHRESHTHA BHARAT

- The **Supreme Court's** verdict on **Article 370** has been perceived as strengthening the spirit of "**Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**" by various leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- They have emphasized that the court's decision upholds the **sovereignty** and **integrity** of **India**, which is cherished by every Indian.
- This perspective is based on the belief that the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India aligns with the vision of a united and prosperous nation, as encapsulated in the **concept** of "**Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.**"

## ABOUT ARTICLE 370

- **Article 370** is a constitutional provision that gave **Jammu and Kashmir** its **special status**.
- The provision was incorporated in **Part XXI** of the Constitution: Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions.
- As evident from the title of the Part, it was supposed to be a temporary provision and its applicability was projected to last till the formulation and adoption of the State's constitution.

- It restricted the **Parliament's legislative powers** with respect to the state of J&K.



## ABOUT ARTICLE 35A

- **Article 35A** of the **Indian Constitution** is an article that empowers the **Jammu and Kashmir** states legislature to define “**permanent residents**”.
- The provision mandates that no act of the state legislature coming under the ambit of Article 35A can be challenged for violating the Indian Constitution or any other law of the land.

# YUVAi INITIATIVE



The banner features a grid of small icons on the left side. The central text includes the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology logo, the Digital India logo with the tagline 'Power To Empower', and the YUVAi logo. Below the logo is the tagline 'YOUTH FOR UNNATI & VIKAS WITH AI' and the description 'A National Program for School Students from Classes 8 - 12'. A red button with the text 'Participate Now' is located at the bottom. On the right, there is an illustration of a girl and a boy in school uniforms standing next to a stylized blue and white robot head. The 'myGov' logo with the tagline 'मेरी सरकार' is also present.

Ministry of  
Electronics &  
Information Technology  
Government of India

Digital India  
Power To Empower

YUVAi

YOUTH FOR UNNATI & VIKAS WITH AI

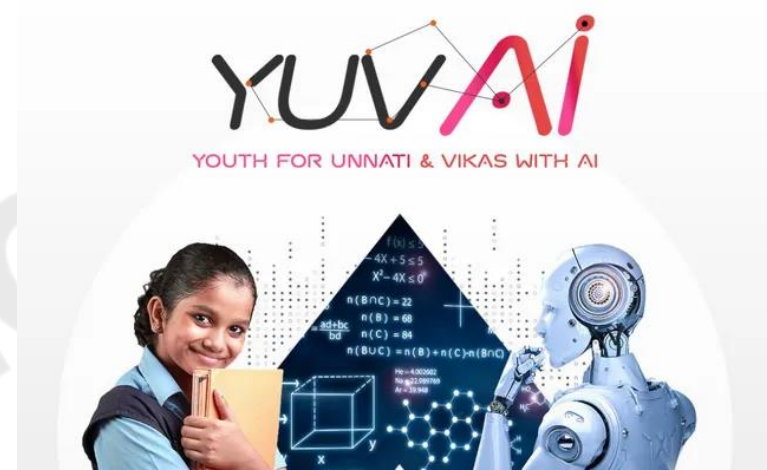
A National Program for School Students from Classes 8 - 12

Participate Now

my  
GOV  
मेरी सरकार

## CONTEXT

- The 'YUVAi- Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI' initiative, is set to be featured at the upcoming **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit**.



## COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

- YUVAi is a joint venture by the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India. This collaboration indicates a strong commitment from both the public sector and private industry towards AI education.

## KEY POINTS

- **Target Group:** School students from classes **8 to 12** across India.
- **Focus:** Enabling students to become **human-centric designers** and **users of AI**.
- **Impact:** **National-level initiative** aimed at preparing the young population for an **AI-driven future**.

## APPOINTMENT OF CEC AND EC's



## CONTEXT

- The **Rajya Sabha** has passed a bill regarding the appointment and term of office of the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners** (ECs) (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) **Bill**, which will guide the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (ECs) in future, overturning the judgement passed by a **5-judge Constitution Bench** of the **Supreme Court**, regarding their appointment.

## KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- The CEC and EC's will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee, which consists of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister and Leader of Opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in Lok Sabha.
- Till now, the CEC and EC's were appointed by the President on the advice of the government, as there was no law enacted for the purpose.



➤ On March 2 this year, a **five-judge Constitution Bench** of the **Supreme Court** had ruled that the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and **Election Commissioners (ECs)** should be appointed by a committee comprising the **Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha** and the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.



- The **Supreme Court**, however, made it clear that its order would be “subject to any law to be made by **Parliament**”. Consequently the new bill proposes to form a committee comprising the **Cabinet Minister** nominated by the **PM**, instead of the **CJI**.

- Another change being, bringing the protocol of the CEC and EC's on a par with Supreme Court judges, with similar salaries and emoluments.

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- Currently, there is **no specific legislative process** defined in the Constitution for the appointment of the **CEC** and **EC's**.
- There are just five Articles (**324-329**) in **Part XV** (Elections) of the **Constitution**.
- Article **324** of the Constitution vests the "**superintendence**, direction, and **control of elections**" in an **Election Commission** consisting of the CEC and other EC's as determined by the President from time to time.

## WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?

### ➤ Balance of Power:

- The Prime Minister and a Cabinet Minister (nominated by the Prime Minister) forming part of the three-member committee, the **Leader of Opposition** is left with a **minority vote** even before the process begins.
- This raises questions about the **balance of power** within the committee and whether the selection process truly ensures independence or remains skewed in favor of the **Executive**.

➤ Impact on Electoral Governance:

- The proposed changes may have implications for the **autonomy** and **functioning** of the **ECI**.

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# HEMCHANDRA BARUAH



## CONTEXT

- 'Bhaxar Oja' Hemchandra Baruah was remembered on his 188th **birth anniversary**, i.e. 12th December 2023.





# LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOCIAL REFORMATION

- Authored "**Asomiya Byakaran**" (**Assamese Grammar, 1859**) and "**Asomiya Lorar Byakaran**" (**Assamese Student's Grammar, 1886**), key works in establishing Assamese grammar.

Compiled the **first** exhaustive Assamese **dictionary, Hemkosh**, which was published posthumously in **1900**.

## KEY FACTS

- **Hemkosh in Braille:** Enabled visually impaired access to Assamese language through the Braille version of Hemkosh.
- **Guinness World Record:** The Braille version of Hemkosh recognized as the **largest bilingual Braille dictionary.**

## DIVERSE LITERARY WORKS

- His other notable works include "**Assamese Marriage System**," the farcical plays "**Kania Kirtan**" and "**Bahire Rang Sang Bhitare Koabhatoori**," and several school textbooks. These contributions have left an indelible mark on Assamese literature.

## ROLE IN ASSAMESE JOURNALISM

- He also contributed to the first Assamese journal, **Orunodoi** and was an editor of the **Assam News**, published from Gauhati between **1883** and **1885**. His editorials and contributions greatly influenced the Assamese literary scene.

## INTRODUCTION OF SATIRE AND CRITICISM

- He was the first to introduce **satire** and **criticism** in Assamese literature, which marked a significant evolution in the literary style of the region.

Hem Chandra Barua was a staunch advocate for reinstating **Assamese** as the **official language** of Assam during a period when its status was under threat.

## MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Assess the legacy of Hemchandra Baruah in the context of contemporary Assamese literature and culture, with particular reference to the Guinness World Record recognition for the Braille version of Hemkosh."

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