



**Most Trusted Learning Platform**



## Understanding Tenth Schedule

**Context:**

**Story of Maharashtra issue:-**

**June 2022: Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction, with 37 MLAs, claims to be the real party.**

**Dispute with UBT faction over the original political party status and whip appointment.**

**Speaker recognizes Shinde faction as the legitimate Shiv Sena based on member strength and the party's 1999 constitution.**

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

**What is the anti-defection law?**

**Aaya Ram Gaya Ram was a phrase that became popular in Indian politics after a Haryana MLA Gaya Lal changed his party thrice within the same day in 1967.**

**The anti-defection law sought to prevent such political defections which may be due to reward of office or other similar considerations.**

**The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by 52nd Amendment Act. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.**

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

**A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or disobeys the directives of the party leadership on a vote.**

**This implies that a legislator defying (abstaining or voting against) the party whip on any issue can lose his membership of the House. The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.**

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

**The Decision of the Presiding Officer is subject to judicial review**

The law initially stated that the decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review. This condition was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1992, thereby allowing appeals against the Presiding Officer's decision in the High Court and Supreme Court. However, **it held that there may not be any judicial intervention until the Presiding Officer gives his order.**

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

**Is there a time limit within which the Presiding Officer has to decide?**

**The law does not specify a time period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea. Given that courts can intervene only after the Presiding Officer has decided on the matter, the petitioner seeking disqualification has no option but to wait for this decision to be made.**

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

### Benefits of Anti Defection Law

It provides stability to the government by restricting the shift of party relations.

It ensures that candidate shall be loyal to his party and citizens also gave vote to him.

It also promotes party discipline.

It allows the merger of political parties without disqualifying a member on the ground of defection.

It also helps in reducing corruption at the political level by restricting the change of party.

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

### Challenges of Anti-Defection Law:

An important consequence of the anti-defection law is the hollowing out of our legislatures. **The core role of an MP to examine and decide on policy, Bills and budgets is side-lined.** Instead, the MP becomes just another number to be tallied by the party on any vote that it supports or opposes.

The legislator is accountable to voters, and the government is accountable to legislators. **In India, this chain of accountability has been broken by making legislators accountable primarily to the party.** This means that anyone from the party having a majority in the legislature is unable to hold the government to account.

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

### Challenges of Anti-Defection Law:

Range of the provision: The provision is not limited to confidence motions or money bills (which are quasi-confidence motions). It applies to all votes in the House, on every Bill and every other issue. **It even applies to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils, which have no say in the stability of the government.**

There is **no clarity in the law about the timeframe for the action of the House Chairperson or Speaker in the anti-defection cases.** “Some cases are taking six months and some even three years. There are cases that are disposed off after the term is over.

## Understanding Tenth Schedule

### Suggestions:

1. It should be applicable only to save governments in no-confidence motions.
2. The Election Commission can be declared as the deciding authority in defection cases.
3. Supreme Court said Parliament should set up an independent tribunal headed by a retired judge of the higher judiciary to decide defection cases swiftly and impartially.
4. Time frame must be there for decisions on matters of defection.

**Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Original Constitution of India provided for anti-defection law.**
- 2. If a nominated member joins any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House, then he would not be disqualified as per anti-defection law.**
- 3. Disqualification due to defection can't be challenged before any court**

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

- (a) Only one**
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three**
- (d) None**

## Genetically Modified Organism – GM Mustard

**Context:** The Supreme Court on Thursday said it only want what is good for India even as the government argued that growing Genetically Modified (GM) crops such as mustard will make quality edible oil cheaper for the common man and benefit national interest by reducing foreign dependency.

## Genetically Modified Organism – GM Mustard

**What is the mustard hybrid DMH-11?**

**The transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11 has been developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) at Delhi University.**

**Hybridisation involves crossing two genetically dissimilar plant varieties that can even be from the same species.**

**The first-generation (F1) offspring from such crosses tend to have higher yields than what either parent can individually give.**

## Genetically Modified Organism – GM Mustard

**What is the mustard hybrid DMH-11?**

Such hybridisation isn't easy in mustard, as its flowers have both female (pistil) and male (stamen) reproductive organs, making the plants largely self-pollinating.

Since the eggs of one plant cannot be fertilised by the pollen grains from another, it limits the scope for developing hybrids — unlike in cotton, maize or tomato, where this can be done through simple emasculation or physical removal of anthers.

The technology used in DMH-11 involves the introduction of three genes called barnase, barstar, and bar which are found in a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*

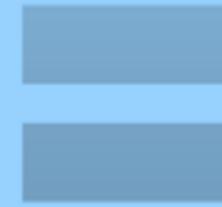
Bar, the third gene introduced, protects the mustard from a herbicide called phosphinothricin, commercially sold as Basta.



East  
European  
Variant



Indian  
Varuna  
Variant



Hybrid  
DMH-11

Barstar - Restores male  
fertility in Offspring

Barnase - Make  
Male Sterile

Fertile Hybrid

## Genetically Modified Organism – GM Mustard

### What Did GEAC said?

It recommended the environmental release of DMH-11 “for its seed production and testing prior to commercial release”.

In other words, it has given the green signal for commercial cultivation by farmers, with the production of seed material being the first step.

GEAC has also recommended the environmental release of DMH-11’s parental lines (carrying the barnase and barstar genes) for them to be used to develop new hybrids. Such hybrids could give even higher yields than DHM-11.

## Genetically Modified Organism – GM Mustard

### Possible Benefits:

Yield – 30% higher

Oil Import bill

Hybrid seeds for sustainability

Herbicide efficiency

Reduced manual effort for weeding

### Concerns

- It will cause **displacement of manual labour** engaged in weeding by promoting the use of chemical herbicides.
- The second concern is over GM mustard threatening or **undermining the population of honey bees**. Mustard flowers are a source of nectar for honey bees and many other pollinator insects.
- DMH-11 could **potentially pollute the biodiversity** of the Brassica genus through cross-pollination with wild populations.
- Potential health risks to humans include the possibility of **exposure to new allergens in genetically modified foods**, as well as the transfer of antibiotic-resistant genes to gut flora.

**Bollgard I and Bollgard II technologies are mentioned in the context of UPSC PRELIMS 2021**

- (a) Clonal propagation of crop plants**
- (b) Developing genetically modified crop plants**
- (c) Production of plant growth substances**
- (d) Production of biofertilizers**

## Western Disturbances

- The only source of rainfall and snowfall in the hills of north India are extratropical storms known as western disturbances (WDs).
- These form in the Mediterranean region and travel eastward to northern Bangladesh and south-eastern Nepal.
- It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern that induces low-pressure systems in the lower layers of the atmosphere. This, ultimately, causes rainfall in the plains and snowfall in the mountains.
- The WDs have been showing a declining trend in intensity in the past few years due to changing climate.

## Western Disturbances

- While Uttarakhand experienced 47 per cent less rains than normal from October 1 to December 27, the deficit in Himachal Pradesh was 40 per cent, according to data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- Media reports say that snowfall has reduced drastically in the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir even though there has been rainfall during the post-monsoon season.
- The lack of snowfall in the mountains affects the yield of Rabi crops in some regions and availability of water in the mountains in general. The majority of Rabi crops are sown there in October and November, so rains during these months are extremely important.
- More than 80 per cent of Himachal Pradesh's agricultural land is rainfed. Only four years between 2004 and 2023 saw normal or above-normal rainfall in October, according to the IMD.

## Western Disturbances

- Experts have attributed the continuous decrease in rainfall in the post-monsoon season for the last few years to climate change.
- The western disturbance activity witnessed a southward dip in December, causing good rainfall over central India, but either deficient or scanty rainfall over most of northern India in December.
- Towards the end of November, a moderately intense WD interacted with an extended low pressure area embedded within the winds blowing from the east over central India and caused significant rainfall in central and western Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- States of southern India such as Telangana and Karnataka also experienced deficit rainfall in the post monsoon season (October to December). Apart from this, the El Nino phenomenon causes India's monsoon rains to plummet as well.

## Western Disturbances

- El Nino is a climate pattern **that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean**. This happens every 2-7 years. The changes in the temperature of the ocean surface affect the trade winds in the atmosphere causing heightened temperatures and lack of rainfall in many regions.
- **India's monsoon rainfall for the year 2023 hit a five-year low**, marking the lowest since 2018 due to El Nino. In Kashmir, El Nino's impact is evident through prolonged dry spells, milder winters, and diminished snowfall. Experts caution that the region is likely to face more frequent and extended dry periods in the future.

**With reference to Western Cyclonic Disturbance, consider the following statements:**

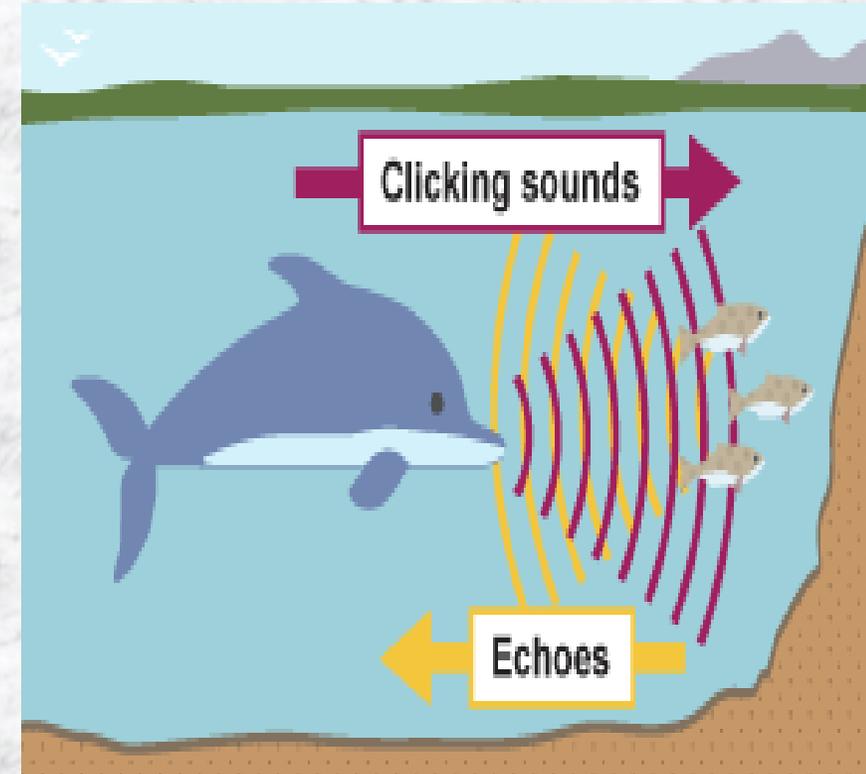
- 1. It originates over Caspian Sea and Black sea region and brought into India by the westerly jet stream.**
- 2. It is highly beneficial for Rabi crops in Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh areas.**

**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**

## Species in News: Gangetic dolphin

- **Context:** A fisherman in Odisha's Balasore district captured a rare and endangered Gangetic dolphin in the Jalaka river
- **Habitat:** Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- **River:** Ganga, Chambal, Ghaghra, Gandak, Brahmaputra, Son, Kosi & Kulsi
- **Nepal & Bangladesh also have Gangetic Dolphin**
- **These dolphins are blind—so they hunt through ultrasonic sounds- also known as echolocation**



## Species in News: Gangetic dolphin

- National Aquatic animal of India
- Around 2000 population
- Conservation Status:
- IUCN- Endangered
- WPA- Schedule 1
- CITES- Appendix 1



**Which of the statements is/are correct regarding Ganges River Dolphins?**

- 1. The Gangetic Dolphins are generally blind and catch their prey by Ultrasonic Sounds.**
  - 2. They are classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN red list.**
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Great Indian Bustard

- A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the government had to come out with a plan which would save the bird species from extinction largely due to collision with high transmission power lines situated in areas in Gujarat and Rajasthan, which also happen to be the natural habitat of the bustards.



## Great Indian Bustard

- **Habitat: Western & Central India, Eastern Pakistan**
- **Favours- arid & Semi arid grasslands, It avoids irrigated area**
- **Endemic to Indian subcontinent**
- **State Bird of Rajasthan**
- **Under Species Recovery program under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats**
- **The GIB population in India had fallen to just 150. Of them 128 birds were in Rajasthan, 10 in Kutch district of Gujarat and a few in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Pakistan is also believed to host a few GIBs.**



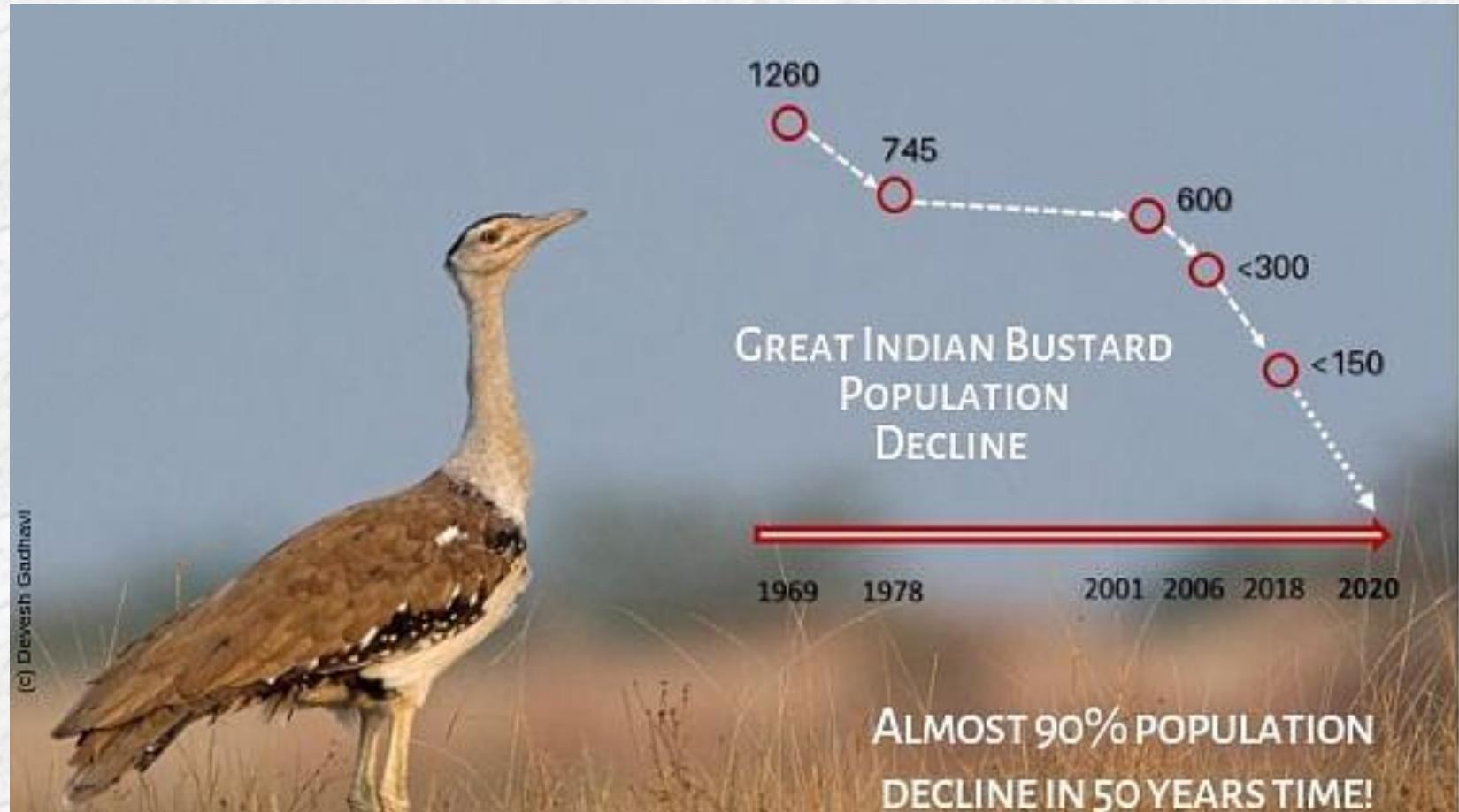
## Great Indian Bustard

- **Major Threat: Power transmission Lines → GIB has poor frontal vision, can't detect powerlines in time and their weight make in-flight quick manoeuvres difficult → So they often collide with Power Transmission Line.**
- **Initiative: Firefly bird diverters are flaps installed on power lines. They work as reflectors for bird species like the GIB. Birds can spot them from a distance of about 50 meters and change their path of flight to avoid collision with power lines. Smaller birds can change their direction [swiftly] but for larger bird species, it is difficult because their body weight and other factors**



## Great Indian Bustard

- Conservation Status:
- IUCN: Critically Endangered
- WPA: Schedule I
- CITES- Appendix I
- CMS: Appendix I



Consider the following statements with respect to Great Indian Bustards:

1. It is listed in the vulnerable category on the IUCN red list
2. It is found in moist deciduous forest vegetation across Indian subcontinent.
3. It is the state bird of Rajasthan

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## Places in News: Red Sea

- **About:-**
- **The Red Sea, one of the most saline bodies of water in the world, is an inlet of the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia.**
- **South connection: The connection to the ocean is in the south through the Bab el Mandeb sound and the Gulf of Aden.**
- **North connection: In the north are the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).**



# UPSC



**Which of the following countries are sharing their borders with the Red Sea?**

- 1. Sudan**
- 2. South Sudan**
- 3. Ethiopia**
- 4. Eritrea**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only**
- (b) 1 and 4 only**
- (c) 2 and 3 only**
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only**



# KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

Most Trusted Learning Platform

## THANKS FOR WATCHING

