VOL. 338

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2026

Daily News Analysis ePaper

THE PALA CIVIL TIMES

Civil Service Institute | Pala | Thiruvananthapuram | South India's Premier Civil Service Coaching Institute | www.civilservicepala.org



Editor's Note

Today's edition of the Pala Civil Times is indeed a special issue, as it moves beyond conventional headlines on national and international developments to explore some of the important questions that arise in students' minds as they follow events unfolding across the world.

In this regard, the World Page, which examines the ongoing protests across Europe, is particularly relevant as it explores how youth anxiety, economic insecurity and a growing sense of injustice are fuelling public unrest. Similarly, the decoded editorials examine important contemporary concerns, including journalistic freedom under the latest data protection framework and an initiative in a small region of Italy that seeks to revive meaningful family interactions.

The National Section turns its attention to judicial appointments in India, examining the shortcomings of the existing system and the challenges of ensuring transparency while safeguarding judicial independence. Meanwhile, the Ecology Page explores Delhi's Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), assessing the limitations that continue to hinder its effectiveness in addressing the city's air pollution.

Through these diverse yet interconnected themes, we hope readers will make a conscious effort to understand the issues, examine their wider implications and develop a clearer perspective on the developments shaping our world.

Happy reading!

P8. ECOLOGY



Gene Editing and the Future of Rice and Wheat Production in India

Assesses the limitations of the Graded Response Action Plan and why emergency measures alone have failed to ensure sustained improvement in Delhi's air quality.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU

The Indian EXPRESS



Open to investigation

Explores the concerns surrounding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and its potential implications for press freedom, investigative journalism and public transparency.



Put your phone away and tuck in

Examines how excessive smartphone use is affecting family interactions and how an initiative in Italy seeks to encourage meaningful, screen-free conversations.

Judicial Appointments in India: Balancing Judicial Independence with Transparency and Accountability

Recent remarks by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kaul have reignited debate over the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary. He indicated that former Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud may have discussed proposed judicial appointments with the Union Government even before the collegium formally considered the names, raising concerns about possible executive influence over the selection process. The controversy highlights a fundamental constitutional question: ***how can judicial appointments remain independent of political interference while ensuring transparency, accountability and public confidence?***

What are the constitutional provisions governing judicial appointments?

Article 124: Provides for the appointment of Supreme Court judges by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Article 217: Provides for appointment of High Court judges by the President after consultation with the CJI, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and the Governor of the State.

How did the collegium system emerge?

The collegium system evolved through judicial interpretation of constitutional provisions, particularly the balance between executive authority and judicial independence.

First Judges Case (1981): The Supreme Court upheld the primacy of the executive in judicial appointments, treating the CJI's opinion as consultative rather than binding.

Second Judges Case (1993): The Supreme Court reversed its earlier position and established the collegium system, giving primacy to the judiciary in appointments to protect judicial independence.

Third Judges Case (1998): The Supreme Court reaffirmed and clarified the collegium system, expanding the consultation process.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)
1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.
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

Memorandum of Procedure (MoP):

The Memorandum of Procedure, prepared by the Union Law Ministry in 1998, outlines the process of judicial appointments.

Initiation: The collegium initiates recommendations for appointments to the higher judiciary and forwards them to the Central Government.

Executive Scrutiny: The government can return recommendations for reconsideration if it has objections or reservations.

Reiteration: If the collegium reiterates its recommendation, the government is expected to make the appointment.

Why was the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) struck down?

Constitutional Amendment: The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, introduced the NJAC to replace the collegium system and establish a broader institutional mechanism for judicial appointments.

Composition: The NJAC comprised the CJI, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, the Union Law Minister and two eminent persons.

Supreme Court Verdict (2015): The Supreme Court struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the NJAC Act, holding that the arrangement violated the basic structure of the Constitution by compromising judicial independence.

Current Position: The collegium system continues to govern appointments. However, differences between the judiciary and executive over the proposed revisions to the MoP have prevented its finalisation.

The collegium system emerged to protect judicial independence from executive interference, but concerns regarding transparency, accountability and favouritism highlight the need for reform.

Are youth worried they will be worse off than their parents?

Several European countries, including France, Spain, Serbia and Albania, have witnessed growing public protests led by young people. While the immediate triggers differ, ranging from housing shortages and rising living costs to educational deficiencies and alleged corruption, a common thread is growing dissatisfaction with existing political and economic systems. The protests reflect a deeper generational anxiety about economic security, declining opportunities and the fear that young people may have a less secure future than their parents. They also raise questions about the ability of existing institutions to respond to the aspirations of a changing generation.

What are driving the growing wave of youth-led protests?

Economic Insecurity: Economic stagnation, unemployment, falling real wages, rising living costs and housing affordability have weakened young people's prospects for economic independence.

Widening Inequalities: Concentration of wealth and power has intensified perceptions of injustice, particularly among young people who find conventional avenues of social and economic mobility increasingly inaccessible.

Withdrawal of State Support: Public expenditure cuts and deteriorating public services have fuelled demands for better education, employment opportunities and stronger welfare protection.

Polycrisis Mindset: Today's youth have grown up amid successive crises, including the 2008 global financial crisis, COVID-19, climate disasters, the war in Europe and emerging uncertainties surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI). This has created a persistent sense of insecurity about the future.

Generational Injustice: Young people face disproportionate consequences of climate change and growing uncertainty over employment, housing and retirement security, despite having contributed relatively little to the accumulation of these problems.

How do contemporary youth movements differ from earlier protests?

The current wave of protests draws comparisons with the May 1968 protests in Paris, but the underlying aspirations and socio-economic contexts are different.

Different Generational Aspirations: The 1968 movements largely demanded greater personal freedom, social transformation and expansion of the welfare state. Contemporary protests are increasingly driven by demands for basic economic security, public services and a viable future.

Changing Role of the State: While earlier movements sought to push the welfare state towards greater social transformation, today's protesters increasingly demand stronger state protection against economic insecurity and declining public services.

Changing Nature of Employment: The traditional pathways to upward mobility are weakening. Economic stagnation, capital-intensive growth and the increasing exposure of entry-level white-collar jobs to AI are intensifying employment anxieties.

Generational Disconnect: Political institutions and leadership structures often remain hierarchical and dominated by older generations, while younger citizens have different priorities and expectations regarding employment, education, welfare and political participation.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. (GS II - 2023)
Q. Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. (GS II - 2021)

How are digital platforms and new forms of mobilisation shaping these movements?

Amplifying Social Awareness: Digital platforms expose young people to global inequalities and differences in living standards, intensifying comparisons with their peers and economic elites.

Facilitating Collective Mobilisation: Social media provides instruments for organising protests, coordinating resistance and mobilising public opinion against perceived institutional failures.

Emergence of Leaderless Movements: Contemporary youth protests increasingly adopt decentralised and leaderless organisational structures, making them less dependent on individual leaders who could become targets of state repression.

Sustaining Resistance: The prolonged student-led mobilisation in Serbia demonstrates how decentralised movements can sustain political pressure over extended periods and challenge established political systems.

Limitations of Decentralised Movements: The absence of clear leadership and ideological coherence can create difficulties in sustaining mobilisation, articulating common demands and translating protests into lasting political and institutional reforms.



PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following pairs Country Important reason for being in the news recently

1. Chad - Setting up of permanent military base by Chine
2. Guinea - Suspension of Constitution and Government by military
3. Lebanon - Severe and prolonged economic depression
4. Tunisia - Suspension of Parliament by President

How many pairs given above are correcly matched?

a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) Only three pairs
d) All four Pairs

Way Forward

Strengthening Welfare Institutions: Governments must improve access to quality education, affordable housing, healthcare and social security to address the structural sources of youth dissatisfaction.

Expanding Employment Opportunities: Promote inclusive and employment-intensive growth, strengthen skill development and prepare young people for technological disruptions, particularly those arising from AI.

Intergenerational Equity: Ensure that economic and environmental policies distribute opportunities, resources and responsibilities fairly across generations.

Inclusive Political Participation: Strengthen youth representation in decision-making institutions and create meaningful channels for engagement beyond electoral participation.

Responsive Governance: Address corruption, improve public service delivery and rebuild institutional trust through transparency and accountability.

Put your phone away and tuck in

The Indian EXPRESS

A group of 15 restaurants in Sardinia, Italy, have introduced a voluntary initiative called A tavola senza schermi (At the Table Without Screens). The initiative also provides guidance on the risks of digital overexposure and responsible social media use. The initiative reflects a growing concern that excessive dependence on digital devices is changing the nature of interpersonal relationships.

How is technology reshaping social relationships?

Expanding Social Connectivity: Digital platforms overcome geographical barriers, strengthen virtual communities and facilitate interactions across caste, class and national boundaries.

Democratising Participation: Social media provides marginalised groups with platforms for representation and mobilisation through movements such as #MeToo and #DalitLivesMatter.

Transforming Family Relationships: Excessive screen use reduces quality family time and face-to-face conversations, weakening direct interpersonal bonds despite increased virtual connectivity.

Affecting Mental Well-being: Social media exposure can contribute to FOMO (Fear of Missing Out), anxiety, body-image concerns and cyberbullying, particularly among young people.

Deepening Social Divisions: Algorithm-driven echo chambers, misinformation and online polarisation can reinforce existing prejudices and weaken meaningful social engagement.

Creating New Opportunities: Digital platforms facilitate online learning, skill development, gig employment and market access for local entrepreneurs, expanding social and economic participation.

Key takeaway: *The initiative, called A tavola senza schermi or At the table without screens, is being spearheaded by Anna Cau, the children's ombudsman for the Italian island.*

Sardinia's 'At the Table Without Screens' Initiative

Institutional Intervention: Spearheaded by Anna Cau, the initiative brings together 15 restaurants for a voluntary one-month pilot programme.

Promoting Screen-Free Interaction: Families are encouraged to put away their smartphones and other digital devices while dining.

Providing Alternatives: Restaurants distribute specially designed reunion kits containing games, drawings and conversation prompts to encourage meaningful interaction between parents and children.

Collaborative Governance: The initiative involves the children's ombudsman, the Italian Federation of Paediatricians and the Sardinian wing of Fipe-Confcommercio, demonstrating how public institutions and private establishments can work together to address emerging social challenges.

Scope for Replication: Its voluntary and participatory approach offers an alternative to outright technological prohibitions by creating supportive environments that encourage healthier digital habits.

Way Forward

Technology is a double-edged sword. While it expands connectivity and social opportunities, excessive dependence can weaken meaningful human relationships. The Sardinian restaurant initiative illustrates how institutions can address this challenge not merely through restrictions but by creating supportive environments that encourage real-world interaction.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. (GS II - 2023)

Open to investigation: On the challenge to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act

The Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) has challenged provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, before the Supreme Court, arguing that the framework could undermine press freedom and investigative journalism. The controversy centres on the absence of a specific exemption for journalistic activities and amendments to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, which could restrict access to information involving personal data.

Why have the DPDP Act and Rules raised concerns about press freedom?

Absence of Journalistic Exemption: Unlike earlier drafts of the data protection framework (2018, 2019 and 2021), the final Act does not provide a specific exemption for journalistic activities, potentially subjecting journalists and publishers to the obligations of data fiduciaries.

Notice and Consent Requirements: Journalists investigating corruption or official misconduct could be required to notify individuals and obtain their consent before processing their personal data, potentially alerting the very persons under investigation.

Restrictions on Investigative Journalism: Requirements relating to consent, data erasure and compliance could obstruct routine newsgathering and investigations involving asset disclosures, public procurement and official records.

Disproportionate Financial Burden: Non-compliance can attract penalties of up to ₹250 crore, creating significant financial risks for smaller and independent news organisations.

Government Access to Personal Data: Section 36 of the Act, read with Rule 23 and the Seventh Schedule of the Rules, empowers the Central Government to seek information from data fiduciaries and intermediaries. The DNPA argues that the absence of adequate safeguards, judicial oversight and proportionality requirements could expose confidential journalistic sources to identification and targeting.

How does the DPDP framework affect transparency and the Right to Information?

Amendment to the RTI Act: Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act amends Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005, removing the earlier public-interest qualification associated with the disclosure of personal information.

Potential Restriction on Public Accountability: The amendment raises concerns that personal information held by public authorities could become inaccessible even when its disclosure is necessary to investigate corruption, misuse of public funds or misconduct by public officials.

Impact on Investigative Reporting: Journalists often rely on asset declarations, tender documents and other public records containing personal information. Excessive restrictions could reduce investigative journalism to merely reproducing official government statements.

Conflict Between Competing Rights: The controversy involves balancing the fundamental right to privacy against freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) and the citizens' right to information. Neither privacy nor transparency should be treated as an absolute principle without considering legitimate public interest.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement? (2018)
(a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd amendment to the Constitution.
(b) Article 17 and the Directive Principle of the State Policy in Part IV
(c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III
(d) Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendments to the Constitution

What is the broader constitutional and institutional challenge?

Constitutional Protection of Press Freedom: Although the Constitution does not provide a separate provision for press freedom, journalism derives protection from Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.

Judicial Balancing: The Supreme Court, while issuing notice on the petitions, emphasised the need to balance the right to privacy with press freedom. The challenge also raises questions about the proportionality and constitutional validity of certain provisions.

Changing Nature of Journalism: The distinction between professional journalists, independent content creators, citizen journalists and whistleblowers is becoming increasingly blurred. A 2026 Reuters Institute report highlights this shift, with the proportion of 18–24-year-olds identifying social media as their primary news source rising from 21% in 2015 to 39% in 2025.



Way Forward

Introduce Journalistic Safeguards: Provide a clearly defined exemption for legitimate journalistic activities, subject to safeguards against misuse and unnecessary intrusion into individual privacy.

Protect Public-Interest Disclosure: Retain an appropriate public-interest qualification under the RTI framework so that personal information relating to public officials and the use of public funds can be disclosed when justified.

Ensure Proportionality: Government access to personal data must be governed by necessity, proportionality, clear legal grounds and independent oversight, particularly where journalistic sources are concerned.

Strengthen Source Protection: Establish safeguards to prevent the identification or targeting of confidential journalistic sources and whistleblowers.

Promote Stakeholder Consultation: Involve journalists, publishers, civil society, data protection experts and government institutions in developing a balanced regulatory framework.

Maintain Accountability Alongside Privacy: Protect personal information from unnecessary exposure without allowing privacy provisions to shield corruption, abuse of public office or misuse of public resources.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. What do you understand about the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. (GS II - 2014)

Q. Discuss-Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (GS II - 2013)

Delhi's Winter Air Pollution: Assessing the Effectiveness of GRAP

Delhi's winter air quality continues to fluctuate despite the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). According to an October 2026 analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), there has been no consistent improvement in Delhi's winter air quality over the past four years. The mean AQI increased from 280 in 2022–23 to 295 in 2025–26, while the median AQI rose from 294 to 305 during the same period. The findings raise concerns about the effectiveness of short-term emergency restrictions in addressing a recurring and structurally complex pollution problem.

What is GRAP and how does it operate?

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a framework of short-term emergency measures designed to control air pollution when air quality deteriorates. It was first notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2017.

Institutional Evolution: The Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), established in 1998, initially implemented GRAP. In 2021, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) replaced the EPCA and assumed responsibility for implementing the framework.

Regional Coverage: CAQM directs the governments of Delhi and the adjoining NCR districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to implement restrictions according to the prevailing pollution levels.

Enforcement: State governments are required to implement CAQM directions through appropriate orders.

Stage	Air Quality Category	AQI Range
Stage I	Poor	201–300
Stage II	Very Poor	301–400
Stage III	Severe	401–450
Stage IV	Severe+	Above 450

PYQ COMPASS

Q. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of the Air Quality Index? (2016)
1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulphur Dioxide
5. Methane Select the correct answer using the code given below
a) 1, 2 and 3 only b) 2, 3 and 4 Only
c) 1, 4 and 5 Only d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Major Restrictions under GRAP:

Stage I: Focuses on stricter enforcement of existing pollution-control norms, including restrictions on the regular use of diesel generator sets.

Stage II: Introduces additional restrictions to reduce emissions from vehicles, construction activities and other pollution sources.

Stage III: Includes a ban on construction and demolition activities and restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV or older diesel light motor vehicles in Delhi and specified high-vehicle-density NCR districts.

Stage IV: Introduces stricter construction restrictions and bans the entry of trucks into Delhi, with exemptions for BS-VI, electric, CNG and LNG vehicles.

Why has GRAP failed to deliver consistent improvement in air quality?

Short-Term Nature: GRAP primarily responds to deteriorating air quality through emergency restrictions rather than addressing the underlying sources of pollution throughout the year.

Seasonal Dependence: Its effectiveness is constrained by meteorological conditions such as low wind speeds and temperature inversions, which can intensify pollution even when restrictions are imposed.

Persistent Emission Sources: Vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, construction dust and stubble burning continue to contribute to the pollution burden.

Regional Coordination Challenges: Pollution travels across administrative boundaries, requiring sustained coordination among Delhi and neighbouring States rather than isolated interventions.

Implementation Gaps: Effective pollution control requires consistent enforcement by multiple State governments and local authorities. Delays or inadequate compliance can weaken the impact of restrictions.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following pairs Country Important reason for being in the news recently

1. Chad - Setting up of permanent military base by Chine
2. Guinea - Suspension of Constitution and Government by military
3. Lebanon - Severe and prolonged economic depression
4. Tunisia - Suspension of Parliament by President

How many pairs given above are correcly matched?
a) Only one pair b) Only two pairs c) Only three pairs d) All four Pairs

Ans : C

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: China has no permanent military base in Chad. Hence, pair 1 is incorrect.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: The president of Guinea was detained after a successful military coup in the West African nation. The coup was reportedly led by special task forces led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, the head of Guinean Special Forces.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Lebanon's economy collapsed after it defaulted on about 3bn from the International Monetary Fund. Lebanon's economy contracted about 58 per cent between 2019 and 2021, with gross domestic product plummeting to 52bn in 2019, said the World Bank. The depression is among the world's worst economic collapses since the 1850s, the Washington lender said in January. It is the largest contraction on a list of 193 countries.

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Tunisia's President Kais Saied on Monday extended his months long suspension of parliament until new elections in December 2022, while calling for a July referendum on constitutional reforms.

Q. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement? (2018)
(a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd amendment to the Constitution.
(b) Article 17 and the Directive Principle of the State Policy in Part IV
(c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III
(d) Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendments to the Constitution

Ans : C

The Right to Privacy was recognized as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court of India in the landmark Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017) case. The Court ruled that the Right to Privacy is an intrinsic part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. Additionally, it is linked to the freedoms guaranteed in Part III, which includes rights like freedom of expression, movement, and protection against discrimination.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)
1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.
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

Ans : b
Statement 1: This is incorrect. The 44th Amendment Act (1978) did not place the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review. Instead, it reversed some provisions of the 42nd Amendment and strengthened judicial review by restoring key constitutional safeguards, such as the right to property as a legal right rather than a fundamental right.
Statement 2: This is correct. The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, which established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), was struck down by the Supreme Court in the Fourth Judges Case (2015). The Court held it violative of the independence of the judiciary, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Q. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of the Air Quality Index? (2016)
1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulphur Dioxide
5. Methane Select the correct answer using the code given below
a) 1, 2 and 3 only b) 2, 3 and 4 Only c) 1, 4 and 5 Only d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans : b
While carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) are also important greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change, they are not considered in the calculation of AQI because they do not have the same immediate health impacts as the other gases listed. Instead, CO_2 and methane are more focused on long-term climate change impacts, rather than short-term air pollution health effects.
The gases considered in calculating the AQI are primarily carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.
Hence, option b) 2, 3, and 4 only is the correct answer.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

1. It was first notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2017.
2. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) replaced the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) in 2021.
3. GRAP is designed primarily as a long-term strategy for eliminating the sources of air pollution in the National Capital Region.
4. The CAQM has powers to take legal action against authorities for non-compliance with its directions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is correct. GRAP was first notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2017, following directions of the Supreme Court.
- Statement 2 is correct. CAQM replaced EPCA in 2021.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. GRAP is an emergency response mechanism involving graded restrictions based on prevailing air quality. It is not a substitute for long-term pollution-control measures.
- Statement 4 is correct. CAQM has powers to issue directions and initiate legal action for non-compliance.

Q. With reference to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established through the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014.
2. Its composition included the Chief Justice of India, two senior-most Supreme Court judges, the Union Law Minister and two eminent persons.
3. The Supreme Court struck it down on the ground that it violated the basic structure of the Constitution.
4. The NJAC was struck down because Parliament lacked the power to amend any provision relating to judicial appointments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Statement 4 is incorrect. The judgment did not establish that Parliament had no power to amend provisions relating to judicial appointments. The issue was whether the amendment damaged the basic structure.