



BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

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**UNSC REFORMS & INDIA'S
CASE**

No Plan to bring bill on Chandigarh

UNSC Reforms

How can state PSCs be Reformed..?

GRAP to fight Delhi Air Pollution

No Plan to bring bill on Chandigarh

No plan to bring Bill on Chandigarh, says Centre

Govt. had listed Bill that would align Chandigarh with other Union Territories; but following outrage, Home Ministry says proposal to 'simplify' law-making process is under 'consideration'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry said on Sunday that the Centre has no intention of introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution in the upcoming session of Parliament.

The clarification came following outrage in Punjab with parties, including the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and Aam Aadmi Party, opposing the move which would pave the way for the appointment of an independent administrator in Chandigarh, bringing the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the direct control of the Ministry.

The claim over Chandigarh has been a sensitive political issue ever since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966.

The November 21 Lok Sabha Bulletin had listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among 10 Bills proposed to be passed during the Winter Session of Parliament from December 1.

The description said the Bill is proposed for discussion and passage to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended.

The Chandigarh question

The Centre hurried to issue a clarification on a Bill that aims to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures

■ On November 21, the Lok Sabha Bulletin listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among 10 Bills for the Winter Session

■ Chandigarh has been a sensitive issue since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. Currently, the Governor of Punjab serves as its Administrator

With protests in Punjab, the Ministry issued a clarification

■ Proposal is still under consideration, no final decision yet

■ It does not seek to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure

■ No Bill will be introduced in the upcoming Winter Session

Opposition targets BJP over emotive issue

CHANDIGARH

Political parties on Sunday criticised the BJP even as the Union government clarified that it had no intention of introducing a Bill on Chandigarh in the Winter Session of Parliament. Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring termed the clarification vague. » PAGE 14

The Ministry said that the "proposal to simplify the Central Government's law-making process for the Union Territory of Chandigarh is still under consideration..."

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Syllabus

General Studies paper II

- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Context ?

- ❑ The Centre plans to introduce the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025** in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament to bring **Chandigarh** under **Article 240**, enabling the appointment of an **independent administrator** instead of the **Punjab Governor**, who currently manages the Union Territory.

CENTRE VS STATE BATTLEFRONT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Chandigarh is administered by the Punjab governor and, with the new law, it is likely to be administered by an independent administrator➤ The move is being viewed as an attempt to delink Chandigarh from Punjab, as the role of administrator of Chandigarh has been held by the Punjab governor since 1984➤ Earlier this year, central govt	<p>abolished the post of 'advisor to administrator' and redesignated it as 'chief secretary'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The move also comes against the backdrop of a Punjab-vs-Delhi skirmish over restructuring of Panjab University senate in which Centre had to make a U-turn➤ Non-BJP parties in Punjab have already banded together to oppose the move

Key Features of the Proposed Amendment:

- ❑ The government aims to place **Chandigarh** within the ambit of **Article 240**, similar to certain other **Union Territories** without legislatures.
- ❑ The **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2025**, is listed for introduction during the **Winter Session** commencing on **December 1**.
- ❑ The move aligns Chandigarh's administrative framework with UTs like **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**.
- ❑ If passed, this amendment will empower the **President** to frame **regulations** for Chandigarh's **peace, progress, and effective governance**.
- ❑ The proposal signals a shift away from the current arrangement where the **Punjab Governor** acts as the **Administrator** of Chandigarh.

Implications for Chandigarh's Governance

- ❑ The amendment will permit the appointment of an **independent full-time administrator**, improving administrative autonomy and potentially allowing for more focused attention on local issues.
- ❑ Bringing Chandigarh under **Article 240** may streamline decision-making and reduce overlaps between the **Punjab Government** and UT administration.
- ❑ The change can pave the way for a more **centralized governance model**, similar to other UTs directly controlled by the Union Government.
- ❑ It could ensure quicker implementation of development and administrative policies through **Presidential regulations**.
- ❑ The move might also initiate debates on the **political identity** of Chandigarh, which historically serves as the **shared capital of Punjab and Haryana**.

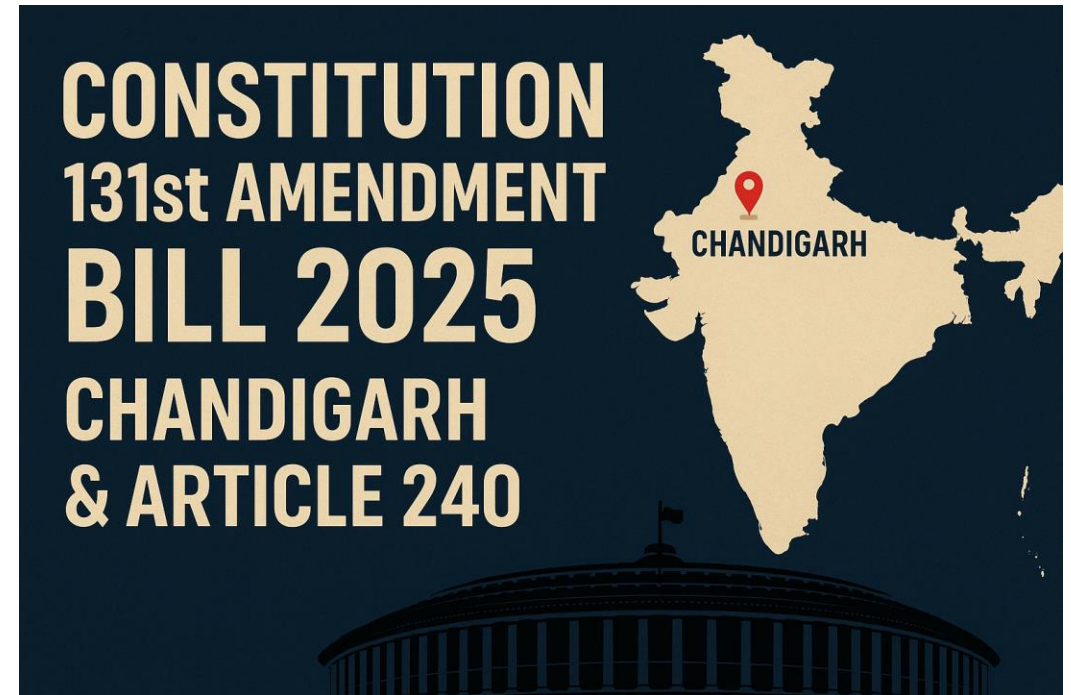
About Article 240 & UT Administration:

Article 240 empowers the **President of India** to make **regulations** for specific **Union Territories**, functioning as a law-making authority.

These regulations have the **same force as parliamentary laws**, covering administration, public order, and development.

The Article applies only to **UTs without legislatures**, distinguishing them from UTs like **Delhi** and **Puducherry**.

Chandigarh, though a UT, has so far not fallen under **Article 240**, making this amendment significant.



UNSC Reforms

UNSC reforms no longer an option but a necessity: Modi at IBSA meet

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was no longer an option but a necessity, and asserted that the India-Brazil-South Africa troika should send a clear message for changes to institutions of global governance.

Addressing the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) leaders summit here, Mr. Modi said that at a time when the world appeared fragmented and divided, the IBSA could provide a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (left) and Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. ANI

message of unity, cooperation, and humanity.

He proposed institutionalising the IBSA NSA-level

meeting to strengthen security cooperation among the three countries.

"In the fight against ter-

rorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue," Mr. Modi said at the meeting attended by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Prime Minister said the IBSA was not just a group of three countries but an important platform connecting three continents, three major democratic nations, and three major economies.

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Syllabus

General Studies paper II

- Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate.

Little Satisfaction

On January 1, India began its tenure as non-permanent member of the powerful 15-nation UN organ for 2021-22 term

- India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico join non-permanent members Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam and the five permanent members in the Council for **2021**
- India will be UNSC President in **August 2021** and will preside over the Council again for a month in **2022**. The presidency of the Council is held by each member in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names

- On **June 17**, India was elected to the UN Security Council with **184** of the total **192** votes. A member country needs two-thirds majority of votes in the General Assembly to become a non-permanent member. This is the eighth time India has been elected as a non-permanent member

The UNSC has 15 members and five of them (P5) — US, UK, Russia, China and France — are permanent members with veto rights

The ten elected or non-permanent members have a tenure of two years and no veto rights. This makes them a toothless grouping



INDIA



BRAZIL



GERMANY



JAPAN

THE G4 CASE

- By **1992**, India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan staked their claims demanding inclusion as permanent members
- India has been part of UN since inception, has the world's second-largest population, is the world's largest democracy and has contributed maximum peacekeepers to UN
- Brazil is the largest country in Latin America (unrepresented continent) and fifth largest in the world
- Japan and Germany are one of the largest financial donors to the UN
- Besides G4 countries, South Africa (largest economy in African continent) is also a claimant, as the continent remains unrepresented on high table of permanent members
- The roadblock is that Articles **108** and **109** of the United Nations Charter grant **P5** veto over any amendments to the Charter, requiring them to approve of any modifications to the UNSC veto power, that they themselves hold
- So even if one member of **P5** doesn't agree to any reform, the UNSC cannot be reformed

Functions of the UNSC

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions of the Security Council are:

- **Maintain international peace** and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN.
- **Investigate any dispute** or situation which might lead to **international friction**.
- **Recommend methods** of adjusting such disputes or the **terms of settlement**.
- **Formulate plans** for the establishment of a system to **regulate armaments**.
- **Determine the existence of a threat** to the peace or **act of aggression** and to recommend what action should be taken;
- Call on Members to **apply economic sanctions** and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.
- **Take military action** against an **aggressor**.
- **Recommend** the admission of **new Members**.
- **Recommend** to the General Assembly (GA) the **appointment of the Secretary-General** and, together with the GA, to elect the **Judges of the International Court of Justice**.

How can state PSCs be Reformed..?

[illegible]

- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Syllabus

General Studies paper II

- Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

Public Service Commissions

The 2025 National Conference of State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), hosted by the Telangana State PSC, has brought renewed focus on the longstanding challenges affecting State PSCs.

Evolution of Public Service Commissions in India

Public Service Commissions have their origins in India's struggle for self-governance.

According to the historical overview, the demand for merit-based entry into civil services was central to the early nationalist movement.

This led to:

- ❑ The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, which proposed an independent office regulating service matters,
- ❑ Establishment of the first Public Service Commission in 1926,
- ❑ Provisions in the Government of India Act, 1935, mandating PSCs for each province, which the Constitution later retained; today, we have the UPSC and State PSCs.

structural Differences Between UPSC and State PSCs

UPSC's Strong Governance Framework

- ❑ The UPSC operates in a politically insulated environment, ensuring independence and professionalism.
- ❑ Members generally: Are above 55 years of age, Have rich experience in public administration, Come from diverse zones of the country.
- ❑ The Union government further institutionalised recruitment processes by creating the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (1985), enabling regular manpower planning and timely declaration of vacancies.

State PSCs' Politicised Environment

In contrast, State PSCs function in a “politically osmotic environment”,

where: Appointments tend to reflect political proximity rather than experience,

States lack dedicated personnel ministries,

Vacancies are declared irregularly due to fiscal constraints,

Exams are conducted infrequently, leading to widespread litigation and delays.

These structural factors form the foundation of the credibility crisis facing State PSCs.

Horoscope		
State Public Service Commission (Article 315-323) Chair + Other Members	Appointment	Governor
	Qualification	Half : ex-civil Servant for 10 yrs.
	Tenure/age	6/62 years
	Removal	President
	Reappointment	✗
1. Salary	Further Employ.	chairman ✗ Members ✗ Can be promoted within UPSC/SPSC
2. Power		
3. Function		

Procedural Challenges Undermining State PSC Efficiency

Irregular Syllabus Updates and Academic Limitations

- ☐ Unlike the UPSC, which periodically appoints committees of academicians, civil servants, and experts, State PSCs do not frequently update their syllabi.
- ☐ They also: Depend heavily on limited academic resources within the State, Struggle to ensure objective evaluation due to weak moderation mechanisms.

Complex Reservation and Regional Quota Calculations

- ☐ State PSCs face significant challenges in applying: Vertical reservations, Horizontal reservations, Regional (zonal) reservations are especially visible in States like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ☐ This often leads to errors and legal disputes..

Exam Reforms for Fairness and Transparency

- ☐ Periodic syllabus revision with public consultation,
- ☐ Objective-type testing for State-specific subjects,
- ☐ Mixed question formats (objective + descriptive) in mains,
- ☐ Improved translation processes using technology plus human verification,
- ☐ Frequent changes in question patterns to reduce overreliance on AI tools by candidates.

Strengthening Administrative Leadership

- ☐ The Secretary of State PSC should be a senior officer with experience in school or intermediate education boards.
- ☐ This would enhance oversight of examination processes and replicate UPSC's emphasis on balanced confidentiality and transparency

GRAP to fight Delhi Air Pollution

Residents call for tighter regulation of waste plants under GRAP norms

Suruchi Kumari
NEW DELHI

Harbai, a 56-year-old resident of Metro Vihar JJ Colony in north-west Delhi's Bawana, says she often clears layers of black ash from the terrace of her four-storey residence. "A few years ago, we couldn't figure out where all this dust was coming from. But now we know there is a plant nearby that burns garbage, which emits this black ash," she recalls.

Her neighbour, 59-year-old Somvati, says she struggles with breathlessness every morning. "It feels like some residue always sits in my throat. People with asthma or other lung problems suffer even more," she says.

Less than 2 km away stands the 24 MW waste-to-energy (WTE) plant, run through a public-private partnership between the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Re-Sustainability. Residents of nearby villages, Holambi Khurd, Sonath, Holambi Kalan and Naya Bans, report similar health con-



Homebound: Harbai, who complained about clearing layers of black ash, walking back home with her child. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cerns. On the day of *The Hindu's* visit, the air quality index (AQI) in the Bawana Industrial Area was slightly higher than that of New Delhi.

Even during GRAP III restrictions, which curb industrial activity, these plants continue operating because they are classified as "essential services".

Delhi's four WTE plants in Bawana, Tekhand, Okhla, and Ghazipur operate round the clock and together process around 7,500 tonnes of the 11,300 tonnes of mixed waste generated daily. The remaining waste piles up in landfills. Government rules mandate regular health fa-

cilities and medical camps for residents within a 5-km radius of such plants. But villagers say these are rare. "There are so many industries here now. We are told everything is safe, but we live with the impact," said Lekh Ram, 49, from Holambi Khurd.

Segregation gaps

At the Bawana facility, a senior employee said around 85 garbage trucks arrive daily and often make multiple rounds, and over 200 workers handle the waste.

"All the waste is unsegregated. Machines sort it in several rounds, but they can only do so much, given the condition in which we

receive it," he said.

He insisted that the plant follows all prescribed norms, provides safety gear to workers, and undergoes DPCC inspections every three months.

A Jindal Group representative, which operates the Okhla and Tekhand plants, said fly ash and bottom ash are stored in sealed silos or sent to approved landfills, while plants use flue-gas systems to trap acidic pollutants.

Plastics like PVC are separated before burning to prevent the release of toxic fumes.

Parth Kumar of the Centre for Science and Environment said proper source segregation is essential as toxins remain in combustible material when waste arrives mixed.

"These plants are inside the city where people live. When residents raise concerns, GRAP-like norms should be prepared," Mr. Kumar said, adding that clear information must be provided on which pollutants are being tracked and their emission levels for "greater transparency".

Syllabus

General Studies paper II

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

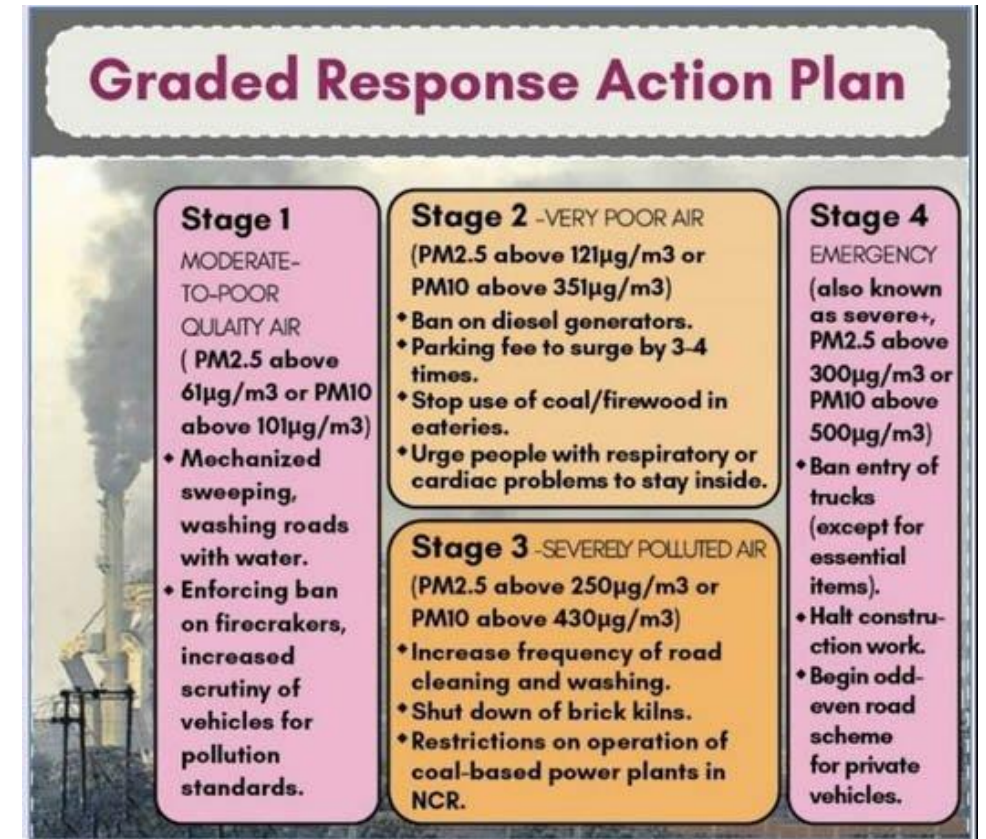
What is GRAP?

- ❑ The GRAP is a **stage-wise emergency response plan** designed to manage worsening air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) including Delhi.
- ❑ It sets out specific actions to be taken when the Air Quality Index (AQI) crosses certain thresholds.
- ❑ It was first approved under the aegis of the Supreme Court of India (in the context of the M. C. Mehta petition) and their directions on air-pollution for NCR.
- ❑ The statutory body now responsible for its implementation is the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM).



Significance for Delhi

- ❑ Helps manage peak pollution seasons (especially winter) when meteorology worsens and local emissions + regional transport of pollutants combine.
- ❑ Offers a **predictive** element: invoking measures based on forecast rather than only after high AQI is recorded.
- ❑ Ensures **public health** safeguarding: children, elderly, respiratory patients benefit when restrictions kick in before “severe” levels.
- ❑ Encourages systemic change: e.g., public transport augmentation, dust control in construction, vehicle emission control.



Limitations / Challenges

- ❑ **Implementation bottlenecks:** Many measures rely on effective enforcement (dust control, construction ban, vehicle checks).
- ❑ **Public cooperation:** The success depends on citizens avoiding polluting behaviours (excess vehicles, open burning).
- ❑ **Regional sources:** Delhi often suffers from pollution influx from neighbouring states; GRAP addresses local measures but regional coordination is vital.
- ❑ **Economic trade-offs:** Construction bans, work-from-home, vehicle restrictions impact economy and daily life — balancing environment & livelihood remains tricky.





Thank you

Address

**B-47, Main Road Shivalik Enclave, Block-
B, Shivalik Colony, Malviya Nagar, New
Delhi-110017**

Phone Number +91 8178833167