OCTOBER 2026

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TOPIC 1: Electoral Reforms — Form 7 Deletion Issues & Procedural Safeguards in Karnataka (GS Paper 2)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Salient features of the Representation of the People Act; Electoral Reforms; Constitutional & Statutory Bodies).

1. Key Development & Context

Mass Auto-Generated Deletion Filings: During Karnataka's **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls, over **61,000 Form 7 applications** were filed by election officials themselves (Electoral Registration Officers - EROs and Assistant EROs), none of which cited any specific reason for deletion.

Magnitude of Electoral Roll Deletions: More than **1.07 crore names** were deleted from Karnataka's draft roll under the **ASDDO categories** (Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead, and Others), mostly under shifted and absent categories.

2. Statutory Framework & Rules for Voter Deletion

Purpose of Form 7: Form 7 is the statutory application used to object to a name on the electoral roll and seek its deletion.

Mandatory Grounds under Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:

Rule 17: Mandates that any objection or claim not lodged within the prescribed period, or not in the prescribed form and manner (including stating reasons), **shall be rejected** by the registration officer.

Hearing Notice: Mandatory hearing notices or orders must precede any deletion to allow the affected voter an opportunity to contest the objection.

3. Procedural Irregularities Flagged

Conflict of Role (Objectors as Judges): EROs and AEROs who maintain the rolls were listed as the filers/objectors on the auto-generated forms, making the official raising the objection also the authority deciding it.

Blank Reason Fields: Systems auto-generated forms carrying digital signatures when voters were unmapped or unreached during hearings, leaving the mandatory reason field blank.

Violations of Filing Timelines:

Out of over 61,000 applications, only **192 applications** were filed during the official claims and objections window (August 24 – September 23).

Over **60,800 applications** were filed after the deadline, with **10,105 applications** filed on October 22 alone (the disposal deadline).

Objections filed after September 23 were legally meant only for a **supplementary roll**, but sample checks revealed voters were directly removed from the final roll.

4. Challenges & Recommended Reform Measures

Challenges: Lack of audit trails due to blank reason fields; risk of wrongful exclusion as ASDDO categories were already screened during preliminary enumeration; absence of independent oversight.

Way Forward:

Strict Enforcement of Rule 17: EROs must reject all Form 7 applications lacking a stated reason.

Restoration of Voters: Names deleted based on post-deadline applications must be restored to the roll or moved to the supplementary roll.

Institutional Separation: The official filing an objection must be distinct from the officer deciding its validity.

Public Transparency: ECI should publicly publish hearing notices and deletion orders for every constituency.

TOPIC 2: Federalism & Regional Governance — Proposed Southern Economic Alliance & Fiscal Vulnerabilities (GS Paper 2)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States; Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure; Fiscal Federalism).

1. Conceptual Framework of the Proposed Southern Alliance

Nature of Alliance: An informal regional economic bloc proposed among five southern states—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, and Kerala—aimed at building a **$10 trillion-plus combined economy by 2047**.

Operational Model: Operates without creating any new legal or statutory body, acting as a regional lobby to present a unified stance to the Centre on issues like **fiscal devolution** and **delimitation**.

2. Economic Weight & Strengths of the Southern Region

GDP & Population: Represents **less than 20% (one-fifth)** of India's total population but produces **over 31%** of national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Industrial & Investment Share: Accounts for **35% of India's factories** and **35% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** equity inflows.

Tax Base: Contributes **26%** of total Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections nationwide.

Global Capability Centres (GCCs): Over **80% of India's ~2,100 GCCs** (in-house tech and business hubs employing nearly 24 million professionals) are concentrated in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai.

3. Structural Weaknesses & Fiscal Vulnerabilities ("The Elephant in the Room")

Demographic Ageing & Shrinking Workforce:

Higher median age (**33–36 years**) compared to the national median of **30 years** and northern states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (**23–26 years**).

High elderly population share (aged >60 years): Kerala (**19%**) and Tamil Nadu (**16%**), well above the national average of **11.4%**.

Increasing reliance on migrant labor from Eastern and Northern India for manufacturing, construction, and services.

Elevated Public Liabilities & Power Discom Losses:

Tamil Nadu: Highest outstanding state government debt in India at **₹10.4 lakh crore** (2025–26 BE).

Debt-to-GDP Ratios: Andhra Pradesh (**35.4%**) and Kerala (**35.5%**) significantly exceed the state average benchmark of **29.2%**.

Power Sector Burden: Southern states carry **45%** of the accumulated financial losses of all state-owned electricity discoms across India.

Spending Distortion: High budget allocation toward cash transfers and subsidies with **low positive social externalities** at the expense of capital investment.

4. Strategic Way Forward

Fiscal Consolidation: Adopting a shared debt target among member states to restore bargaining credibility with the Union government.

Discom Reforms: Unbundling discom losses and converting power subsidies into direct, budgeted transfers.

Spending Realignment: Transitioning from non-targeted cash transfers toward human capital investments (health, higher education, Industry 4.0 infrastructure).

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TOPIC 3: Electoral Governance — Special Intensive Revision (SIR) & Multi-Member Functioning of ECI (GS Paper 2)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Election Commission of India; Representation of the People Act; Constitutional Bodies & Decision-Making).

1. Constitutional & Statutory Framework of ECI

Multi-Member Structure: Comprises the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** and two **Election Commissioners**.

Decision-Making Rules: Statutory framework specifies that decisions should preferably be **unanimous**, though decisions can be taken by a **majority vote** if consensus fails. Files move from one Election Commissioner to the second, and finally to the CEC.

2. Contestation over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Procedure

Statutory Authority for SIR: Derived from **Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, enabling ECI to order special revisions of electoral rolls.

Internal Dissent & Inter-Member Objections: Two Election Commissioners submitted **14 internal notes** pointing out that major orders, software changes, and court filings were implemented without prior consultation or approval.

Modification of Form 6 vs. Additional Declaration:

Form 6 (inclusion of new voters) is a statutory form under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**, which **only the Central Government can amend**.

ECI introduced an **Additional Declaration** requiring applicants to link parent/grandparent entries from the **2002/2003 SIR** rolls ("mapping").

Objections raised noted that altering Form 6 via online portal formatting without formal amendment of the 1960 Rules was legally unauthorized.

3. Centralisation of Electoral Roll Database (ECINet)

ECINet Architecture: ECI's central IT platform managing roll verification.

Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Autonomy: Legally, EROs are the sole statutory authorities empowered to alter electoral roll entries.

Technical Overrides & Centralisation Concerns: Software glitches and automated restrictions prevented local EROs from reversing wrongful deletions (e.g., in Goa), raising concerns over database centralisation.

Expert Review Committee: ECI engaged experts from **IIT Mumbai** and **IISc Bengaluru** to audit ECINet's legal compliance and vet software modules.

TOPIC 4: Criminal Justice Reform — Need for a Statutory Sentencing Council (GS Paper 2)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Structure, Organization & Functioning of the Judiciary; Criminal Justice Reforms; Fundamental Rights under Articles 14 and 21).

1. The Core Issue: Judicial Discretion & Arbitrary Sentencing

Current Statutory Gap: Criminal statutes prescribe maximum (and occasionally minimum) prison terms, leaving specific sentence lengths to unguided judicial discretion.

Violation of Constitutional Principles: Absence of uniform standards leads to judicial disparity ("sentencing lottery"), violating **Article 14** (Right to Equality) and **Article 21** (Fair, Just, and Reasonable Procedure).

Supreme Court Directives:

In **Soman v. State of Kerala (2012)**, the Court identified sentencing as one of the weakest aspects of Indian criminal justice.

In **Sunita Devi v. State of Bihar (2024)**, the Supreme Court ruled that "sentencing shall not be a mere lottery" and directed the Centre to explore a **National Sentencing Policy**, which was subsequently referred to the **Law Commission of India**.

2. Procedural Innovations & Statutory Mandates

Separate Sentencing Hearing: Section 258(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) mandates that a Sessions Judge must conduct a separate hearing on sentencing after conviction to collect aggravating and mitigating factors.

Underutilised Non-Custodial Alternatives: Provisions under **BNSS (Sections 401 & 402)** and the **Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 (Sections**

3, 4 & 6) allow community service or probation, but remain under-utilised due to lack of structured guidelines.

3. Global Best Practice: The English Model

Sentencing Council & Code: In England and Wales, a statutory **Sentencing Council** established under a **Sentencing Code** sets objective parameters.

Two-Step Evaluation:

Culpability & Harm Assessment: Categorises offence gravity based on offender culpability and victim harm to establish a starting baseline.

Individual Adjustment: Adjusts within a set range using explicitly recognized aggravating factors (e.g., weapons, planning) and mitigating factors (e.g., remorse, age).

4. Proposed Structure for an Indian Sentencing Council

Statutory Body: Created via an Act of Parliament to frame **presumptive guidelines** as delegated legislation.

Reasoned Departures: Judges departing from prescribed starting points must record written justifications, balancing judicial independence with accountability.

NJDG Integration: Establishing an anonymized database on the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** to track sentencing trends across trial courts.

TOPIC 5: Judiciary & Law Enforcement — Judicial Pendency and Criminalisation of Civil Disputes (GS Paper 2)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 2 (Judiciary; Pendency of Cases; Police Reforms & Separation of Powers).

1. Conceptual Framework: Criminalisation of Civil Disputes

Mechanism: Litigants convert civil contractual non-payments or debt default disputes into criminal complaints alleging **"cheating"** or **"criminal breach of trust"**.

Driver: Caused by extreme delays in civil courts, leading creditors to use police machinery as a coercive **parallel civil justice delivery mechanism**.

Supreme Court Stance: The apex court has repeatedly denounced this practice as an **"abuse of process of law"**.

2. Causes of Deep Civil Court Pendency

Severe Shortage of Judges:

Maharashtra has **15 judges per million people**, while the Bombay High Court has only **1.9 judges per million people**.

By contrast, international jurisdictions like New York State have **157 judges per million people**.

The **Malimath Committee** recommended a target of **50 judges per million population**.

Case Backlog: The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) records over **6,48,000 pending cases** in the Bombay High Court.

Procedural Delays in Execution: Archaic civil procedure rules allow judgment-debtors to endlessly stall the execution of a court decree.

3. Coercive Police Practice in Civil Disputes

Preliminary Inquiry Abuse: Police issue informal summonses forcing alleged debtors to undergo long inquiries without registering an FIR.

Settlement via Coercion: Threat of arrest, fear of jail conditions, and social stigma force debtors to settle; estimates suggest nearly **half of such cases are settled at the preliminary inquiry stage** without formal documentation.

4. Judicial Reform Measures & Government Initiatives

Compulsory Pre-Litigation Mediation: Recommended by the **162nd Parliamentary Standing Committee Report (2026)** for commercial disputes.

Digital Infrastructure & ADR Interventions:

e-Courts Phase III: Introducing paperless filing and "Integrated Digital Courts".

Justice Clocks: Deployed across **37 High Courts** to display real-time disposal data.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalayas, and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms.

TOPIC 6: Indian Economy & Employment — AI-Driven Restructuring, White-Collar Job Displacement & Youth Bulge (GS Paper 3)

Syllabus Relevance: GS Paper 3 (Indian Economy; Employment & Unemployment; Technology Integration; Skill Development).

1. Global AI Restructuring & Voluntary Exits

Corporate Trend: Profitable multinational technology firms (e.g., Microsoft offering voluntary exits to **up to 60,000 employees / 27% of its workforce**) are downsizing routine white-collar roles.

Core Drivers: AI automation enables higher output with smaller teams, while freeing capital to invest in expensive **AI infrastructure**.

2. Vulnerabilities in the Indian Job Market

Exposure of IT Sector: Indian Information Technology (IT) services—the single largest provider of formal white-collar jobs in India—faces structural growth headwinds.

Deficit of Quality Jobs: Services account for the majority of India's GDP but employ **under 30% of the national workforce**.

Skill Deficit: According to the **India Skills Report**, only about **half (~50%) of Indian graduates** are readily employable in modern industry roles.

Demographic Trap Risk: Without job creation, India's **youth bulge** (large working-age population share) risks turning from a **demographic dividend** into a **demographic trap**.

3. Policy & Skilling Interventions Required

Industry 4.0 Skilling: Aligning apprenticeships with Industry 4.0 (automation, data analytics) and green jobs via the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Reviving Labour-Intensive Manufacturing: Promoting textiles, leather, food processing, and electronics to absorb low- and semi-skilled workers.

Integrated Data Tracking: Combining payroll, job portal, and Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data under the Ministry of Labour to track gig and digital workforce displacement accurately.

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15 UPSC-STYLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

Q1. Under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, which of the following provisions governs the procedure for deleting a voter's name from an electoral roll?

An application for objection to a name on the electoral roll must be submitted in Form 7.

Rule 17 mandates that any claim or objection not submitted in the prescribed form and manner, or lacking reasons, shall be rejected by the registration officer.

Statutory rules permit Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to auto-generate blank deletion forms without serving prior hearing notices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. With reference to the proposed "Southern Alliance" of five southern Indian states, consider the following statements:

It is a statutory body created under an Act of Parliament to regulate interstate trade.

The five states together account for over 31% of India's GDP while holding less than 20% of the country's population.

The five states account for 35% of India's factories and over 80% of its Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

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

Q3. Which of the following factors represents a major fiscal vulnerability ("the elephant in the room") for southern Indian states?

(a) A median age significantly lower than northern states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
(b) Bearing nearly 45% of the accumulated financial losses of all state-owned electricity distribution companies (discoms) in India.
(c) Complete absence of foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows in manufacturing sectors.
(d) Total debt-to-GDP ratios remaining below the national state average of 20%.

Q4. Regarding the statutory procedures of the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

Under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, statutory forms like Form 6 can be amended unilaterally by the ECI without Central Government approval.

The ECI is a multi-member body where decisions can be taken by majority vote if unanimity is not reached.

Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 empowers the ECI to order a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

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

Q5. In Sunita Devi v. State of Bihar (2024), what key directive was issued by the Supreme Court regarding criminal justice administration?

(a) Mandating life imprisonment without parole for all financial fraud offences.
(b) Declaring that "sentencing shall not be a mere lottery" and asking the Centre to examine a national sentencing policy.
(c) Abolishing the requirement of separate sentencing hearings under Section 258(2) of the BNSS.
(d) Transferring all sentencing powers from trial judges to state police commissions.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding non-custodial sentencing options in India:

Section 258(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) requires a Sessions Judge to hear a convicted person separately on the sentence.

The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 allows courts to release certain eligible offenders on probation of good conduct instead of sentencing them to prison.

Trial courts in India are legally prohibited from considering mitigating circumstances during sentencing hearings.

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

Q7. With reference to judicial pendency and police functioning in India, consider the following statements:

Converting default on a civil debt dispute into criminal complaints of "cheating" or "breach of trust" has been repeatedly deprecated by the Supreme Court as an abuse of process.

The Malimath Committee recommended raising judge strength in India to 50 judges per million population.

Compulsory pre-litigation mediation for commercial disputes was recommended by the 162nd Parliamentary Standing Committee Report.

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

Q8. Which of the following government initiatives is specifically designed to display real-time data on case disposal and pendency across High Courts in India?

(a) e-Sanjeevani
(b) Justice Clocks
(c) PM-WANI
(d) Digital Bharat Nidhi

Q9. In the context of economic demography, what is meant by the term "Demographic Trap"?

(a) A phenomenon where rapid economic growth leads to a sudden decline in working-age population.
(b) Failure to absorb a large youth workforce into productive employment, turning a demographic asset into a social and economic liability.
(c) A strict legal restriction placed on internal migration across state borders.
(d) The automated replacement of agricultural workers by industrial machinery.

Q10. According to the India Skills Report referenced in current employment analysis, what proportion of Indian graduates are considered readily employable?

(a) Approximately 10%
(b) Approximately 25%
(c) Approximately 50%
(d) Approximately 90%

Q11. With reference to the English Sentencing Council model, consider the following statements:

The Sentencing Council categorises offences based on culpability of the offender and harm caused to the victim.

Judges in England must strictly adhere to statutory starting points without any allowance for mitigating factors.

It operates under a statutory Sentencing Code passed by Parliament.

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

Q12. What was the significance of the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 in Indian governance?

(a) It introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework.
(b) It bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate constitutional bodies under Article 338 and Article 338A.
(c) It added the Tenth Schedule relating to anti-defection law.
(d) It capped total reservations in public employment at 50%.

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding Form 7 in electoral administration:

It is used to apply for the inclusion of a new voter in the electoral roll.
An objection filed under Form 7 without citing a valid reason is liable to be rejected under Rule 17 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
Applications for deletion received after the official claims and objections deadline are meant for the supplementary roll rather than immediate deletion from the final roll.

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

Q14. In the context of technology and labour economics, what does "Industry 4.0" primarily refer to?

(a) Manual cottage industry production relying on traditional handicrafts.
(b) Automated, data-driven manufacturing incorporating smart technology, IoT, and AI.
(c) The nationalisation of private software services firms.
(d) Heavy reliance on fossil-fuel based thermal power plants.

Q15. Under Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, who holds the statutory authority to direct a special revision of electoral rolls for any constituency?

(a) The Union Ministry of Law and Justice
(b) The Delimitation Commission
(c) The Election Commission of India
(d) The State Legislative Assembly

ANSWER KEY AND DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

Q1. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Form 7 is the statutory application used to object to a name on the electoral roll and seek its deletion.

Statement 2 is correct: Under Rule 17 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, any claim or objection not lodged in the prescribed manner, including stating reasons, **shall be rejected** by the registration officer.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Statutory rules require that a mandatory hearing notice and order precede any deletion. Auto-generating blank reason forms violates Rule 17 and procedural safeguards.

Q2. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The proposed Southern Alliance is an **informal regional grouping** among five Chief Ministers, not a statutory body created under an Act of Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: The five southern states hold less than a fifth (<20%) of India's population but generate **over 31% of national GDP**.

Statement 3 is correct: The region accounts for **35% of India's factories** and **over 80% of India's ~2,100 Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**.

Q3. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Option (b) is correct: Southern states carry **45% of the total accumulated financial losses** of all state-owned electricity distribution utilities (discoms) in India.

Option (a) is incorrect: The median age in southern states (33–36 years) is higher, not lower, than in Bihar and UP (23–26 years).

Option (c) is incorrect: The region receives 35% of India's total FDI equity inflows.

Option (d) is incorrect: Debt-to-GDP ratios in states like AP (35.4%) and Kerala (35.5%) exceed the state average benchmark of 29.2%.

Q4. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Statutory rules like the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and statutory forms like Form 6 **can only be amended by the Central Government**, not unilaterally by the ECI.

Statement 2 is correct: While ECI decisions should preferably be unanimous, the statute explicitly allows decisions to be taken by **majority vote** if consensus fails.

Statement 3 is correct: Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 gives ECI the statutory power to order a Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Q5. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Option (b) is correct: In **Sunita Devi v. State of Bihar (2024)**, the Supreme Court declared that "sentencing shall not be a mere lottery" and called upon the Centre to examine establishing a National Sentencing Policy, which was referred to the Law Commission of India.

Q6. Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Section 258(2) of the BNSS, 2023 mandates a separate sentencing hearing where a Sessions Judge collects aggravating and mitigating material.

Statement 2 is correct: The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 (Sections 3, 4, 6) and BNSS (Sections 401, 402) explicitly provide for non-custodial options like probation and community service.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Judges are required to consider both aggravating and mitigating factors during sentencing.

Q7. Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Converting civil contract disputes into criminal charges like cheating or breach of trust has been repeatedly condemned by the Supreme Court as an "abuse of process".

Statement 2 is correct: The Malimath Committee recommended increasing judge strength to **50 judges per million population**.

Statement 3 is correct: The 162nd Parliamentary Standing Committee Report (2026) recommended mandatory pre-litigation mediation for commercial disputes.

Q8. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Justice Clocks are physical/digital display systems installed across **37 High Courts** to show real-time statistics on case pendency and disposal.

Q9. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A **Demographic Trap** occurs when a country with a large youth population fails to create adequate productive jobs and skilling opportunities, converting a potential demographic dividend into widespread unemployment and social unrest.

Q10. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

According to the **India Skills Report**, only about **half (~50%)** of Indian graduates possess the skills required to be readily employable in industry roles.

Q11. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The English model classifies offences based on two dimensions: culpability of the offender and harm caused.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Judges start from a baseline but adjust sentences using aggravating and mitigating factors; guidelines are structured rather than rigid.

Statement 3 is correct: The system was enacted under a statutory Sentencing Code passed by Parliament.

Q12. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** bifurcated the former joint commission into two separate bodies: the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (Article 338) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (Article 338A).

Q13. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Form 7 is for **objecting to a name and seeking deletion**, whereas Form 6 is for inclusion of a new voter.

Statement 2 is correct: Under Rule 17, Form 7 applications without a stated reason are legally required to be rejected.

Statement 3 is correct: Objections received after the claims and objections window are meant for supplementary rolls, not immediate removal from the final roll.

Q14. Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Industry 4.0 refers to the fourth industrial revolution characterized by smart automation, data-driven production, IoT, robotics, and AI integration in manufacturing and services.

Q15. Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 explicitly empowers the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to direct a special revision of electoral rolls for any constituency