MISSION X

MISSION X FOR UPSC

INNOVATION IN LEARNING

THE X AMPLIFIER

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

MISSION X FOR UPSC · INNOVATION IN LEARNING

THE X AMPLIFIER

MONTHLY PRELIMS REVISION CAPSULE · OCTOBER 2026 EDITION · UPSC MENTORSHIP & GUIDANCE PROGRAM

CURRENT → STATIC → TRAP → RECALL → TEST

Turn current affairs into Prelims-ready knowledge.

71	71	9
CURATED TOPICS	UPSC-PATTERN MCQS	SUBJECT SECTIONS

IN THIS EDITION

01	POLITY & GOVERNANCE	9 topics
02	PLACES IN NEWS	9 topics
03	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	7 topics
04	ECONOMY	7 topics
05	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES	7 topics
06	ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER	7 topics
07	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	14 topics
08	ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY	5 topics
09	MISCELLANEOUS	6 topics

Monthly Prelims Dashboard

Nine sections, 71 topics, one route. Broken into a fixed sequence and a five-step checklist, it is a single, manageable monthly ritual.

71 CURATED TOPICS

71 UPSC-PATTERN MCQS

9 SUBJECT SECTIONS

YOUR REVISION ROUTE

01	**CURRENT**	Understand the news
02	**STATIC**	Connect it to the syllabus
03	**TRAP**	Identify likely confusion
04	**RECALL**	Retrieve the facts
05	**TEST**	Apply through MCQs

YOUR REVISION TRACKER: mark each section off as you complete a pass

SECTION	READ	RECALL	TEST
Polity & Governance	☐	☐	☐
Places in News	☐	☐	☐
International Relations	☐	☐	☐
Economy	☐	☐	☐
Economic Development & Schemes	☐	☐	☐
Environment & Ecology, Geography & Disaster	☐	☐	☐
Science & Technology	☐	☐	☐
Arts & Culture + History	☐	☐	☐
Miscellaneous	☐	☐	☐

01

Polity & Governance

Constitutional bodies, courts, federalism and governance reforms

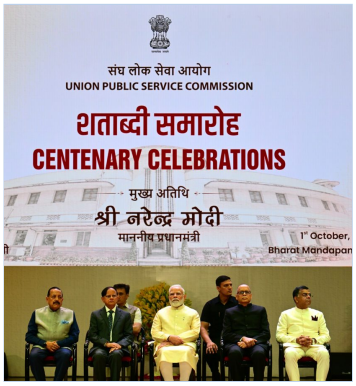
1. UPSC Centenary: 100 Years of the Commission
2. Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026
3. CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026
4. AFSPA Extension in Northeast
5. Supreme Court on Children's Internet Access
6. Delhi High Court on Article 141
7. Collegium System and Judicial Appointments
8. Ladakh Talks: Statehood and Sixth Schedule
9. NTA Reform: Parliamentary Panel on Exams

CONSTITUTIONAL BODY · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

UPSC Centenary: 100 Years of the Commission

NEWS IN BRIEF

- UPSC marked 100 years of the first Public Service Commission, set up on 1 October 1926 under the Government of India Act 1919.
- The 2026 centenary follows the first Commission started in 1926 with a Chairman and members appointed by the Crown.
- For Prelims 2026 (24 May), AI-based facial authentication was reported for about 5.5 lakh candidates across 86 centres.
- UPSC reports yearly to the President, who lays the report before Parliament with reasons for any advice not accepted (Art 323).



UPSC Centenary Celebrations, 1 Oct 2026

X-FACT MATRIX

Origin	Public Service Commission, 1 Oct 1926
First Chairman	Sir Ross Barker
Recommended by	Lee Commission, 1924
Constitutional status	Part XIV, Articles 315 to 323
Tenure of members	6 years or age 65, whichever is earlier
Appointment	Chairman and members appointed by the President
Post-service bar	Chairman cannot hold further Union or State jobs (Art 319); members can become Chairman
Joint Commission	Parliament can create a Joint PSC for States (Art 315(2))

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Rose Millian Bathew Kharbuli became the first woman Chairperson of UPSC in 1992.

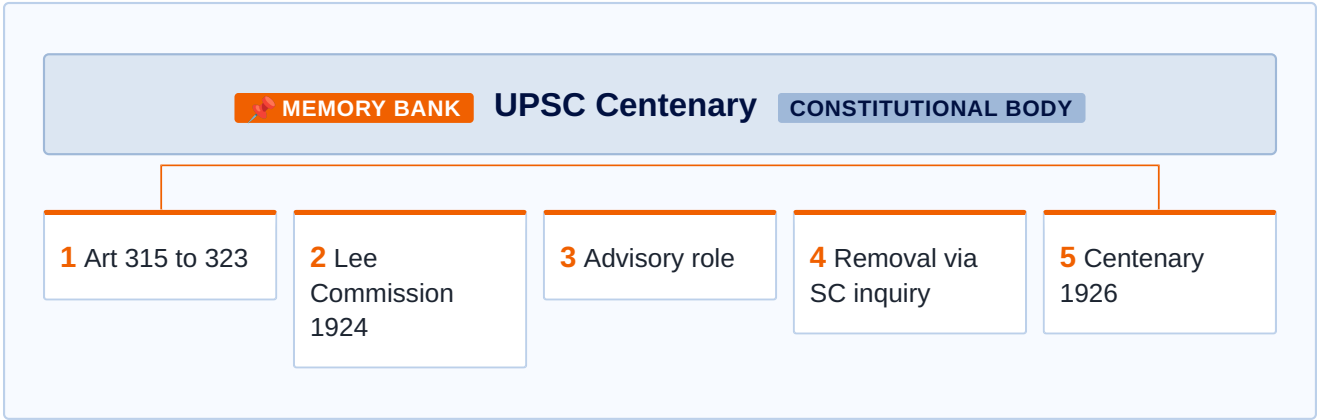
CONTINUED · UPSC CENTENARY: 100 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 315** provides Public Service Commissions for the Union and the States.
- **Article 316** deals with appointment and term; **Article 317** with removal after a Supreme Court inquiry.
- **Article 320** lists functions: advice on recruitment, promotions, transfers on deputation and disciplinary matters.
- **Article 323** requires an annual report to the President, laid before Parliament.
- **Article 318** lets the President frame regulations on conditions of service; they cannot be changed to a member's disadvantage after appointment.
- **Article 322** charges UPSC expenses to the Consolidated Fund of India, which protects its independence.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

UPSC advice is only advisory and not binding on the government, and the Chairman is removed by the President only after a Supreme Court inquiry on misbehaviour.



STATE LEGISLATION · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Gujarat's Uniform Civil Code Act received the President's assent on 2 October 2026, making Gujarat the second State after Uttarakhand to enact a UCC.
- The Assembly passed the Bill in March 2026; the Act comes into force on a date to be notified.
- It bans polygamy and bigamy and provides equal inheritance rights.
- Personal law (marriage, divorce, succession) is in Entry 5 of the Concurrent List, so State laws that contradict central law need Presidential assent (Art 254(2)).

X-FACT MATRIX

Act	Gujarat Act 15 of 2026
Assent	President (State Bill reserved under Art 254(2)); Gazette notification follows
Constitutional basis	Article 44 (DPSP)
Marriage registration	Within 60 days
Live-in relationships	Registration within 30 days
Scope	Scheduled Tribes excluded
Uttarakhand	First State to enact a UCC after Independence
Goa	Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 continues
Key rulings	Shah Bano, Sarla Mudgal, Shayara Bano
Law Commission	21st Law Commission: UCC neither necessary nor desirable at this stage

▸ FLOW CHART: How the Gujarat UCC became law

1. **Assembly passes Bill** — March 2026
2. **Reserved for President** — Art 254(2) and 200
3. **Assent** — 2 Oct 2026
4. **Act notified** — Gujarat Act 15
5. **Commencement** — On date to be notified

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

Goa is often cited as having a common civil code, but it is a legacy of the Portuguese Civil Code rather than an Article 44 enactment.

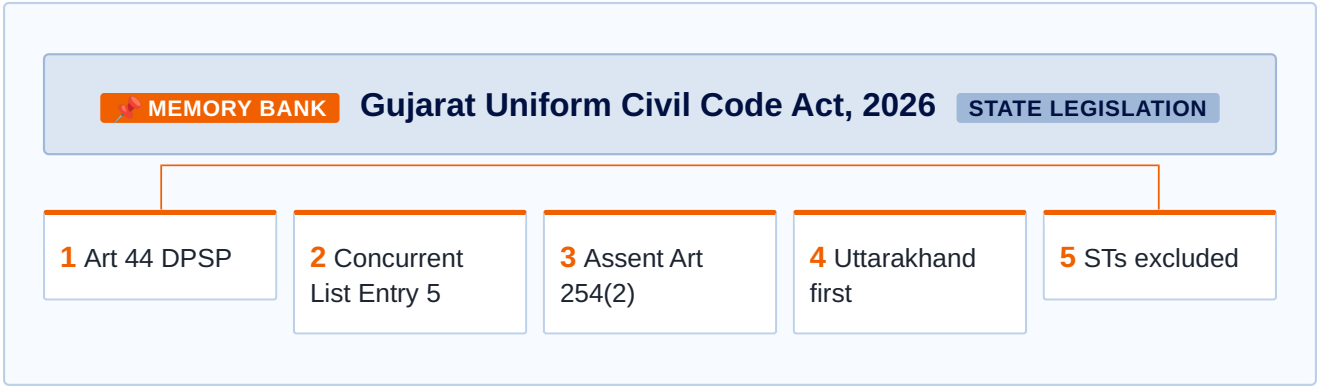
CONTINUED · GUJARAT UNIFORM CIVIL CODE ACT, 2026

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 44** directs the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens across India.
- **Concurrent List Entry 5** covers marriage, divorce, adoption, wills and succession.
- **Article 254(2)** lets a State law prevail over a central law with Presidential assent.
- **Directive Principles** are non-justiciable (Art 37) but fundamental in governance.
- **Shah Bano (1985)** urged a UCC; **Sarla Mudgal (1995)** held conversion cannot be used to escape a bigamy charge; **Shayara Bano (2017)** struck down instant triple talaq.
- **Articles 25 to 28** protect religious freedom subject to public order, so UCC debates test these against Article 44.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Article 44 is a Directive Principle, not enforceable; do not treat it as a Fundamental Right, and Goa's code is a colonial legacy.



SERVICES & FORCES · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026 came into force on 8 October 2026, fixing the deputation share of IPS officers in the Central Armed Police Forces.
- The Act overrides the 2025 Supreme Court ruling in Sanjay Prakash v Union of India that favoured cadre officers.
- Challenge and contempt petitions are being heard by the Supreme Court.



Central Armed Police Force parade

- CAPFs are Union armed forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs, unlike the Army, Navy and Air Force under the Ministry of Defence.

X-FACT MATRIX

Forces	BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB (under MHA)
IG rank	50% IPS deputation
ADG rank	At least 67% IPS
SDG and DG	All IPS
Court	Challenge before bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan
Largest CAPF	CRPF
Border guarding	BSF (Pakistan, Bangladesh), ITBP (China), SSB (Nepal, Bhutan)
CISF	Industrial units, airports, Delhi Metro
Assam Rifles	Raised 1835 as Cachar Levy; guards the Myanmar border

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Assam Rifles is a CAPF administratively under MHA but operationally under the Army.

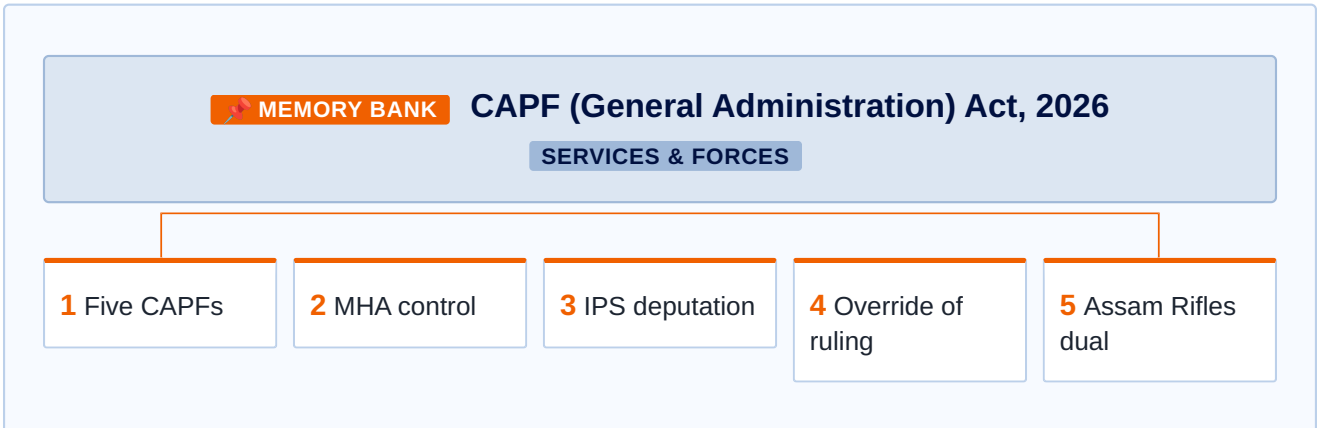
CONTINUED · CAPF (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION) ACT, 2026

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **CAPFs** are BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP and SSB under the Home Ministry.
- **Deputation** means temporary posting from a parent cadre, here IPS officers.
- **Legislative override** means Parliament can remove the basis of a court ruling by amending the law, not by defying the verdict.
- **Union List** Entry 2 covers deployment of Union armed forces.
- **Union List Entry 2A** allows deployment of Union armed forces in a State in aid of civil power, while police remain a State subject (List II Entry 2).
- **IPS** is an All India Service under Article 312; its officers serve both State cadres and Union forces on deputation.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

CAPFs come under the MHA, not the Ministry of Defence; and Assam Rifles has a dual control.



INTERNAL SECURITY · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

AFSPA Extension in Northeast

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Centre extended AFSPA, 1958 by six months from 1 October 2026 in parts of Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Act allows armed forces in 'disturbed areas' to search, arrest without warrant and use force.
- Section 3 allows declaration of an area as disturbed; extension is reviewed every six months.
- The Supreme Court in Naga People's Movement of Human Rights (1997) upheld the Act but required review every six months.

X-FACT MATRIX

Act	Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958
Declared by	Governor or Centre, 'disturbed area'
Manipur	Except 13 police stations
Nagaland	9 districts, incl. Dimapur and Mon
Arunachal	Tirap, Changlang, Longding and 3 police stations of Namsai
Extension	6 months
Section 3	Declaration of disturbed area
Section 4	Power to fire after warning, arrest without warrant
Section 6	Prosecution needs Central sanction
Review body	Jeevan Reddy Committee recommended repeal and inclusion of its safeguards in UAPA

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018) were fully freed from AFSPA.

CONTINUED · AFSPA EXTENSION IN NORTHEAST

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **AFSPA** gives special powers to armed forces in areas declared disturbed.
- **Section 4** lets forces fire after due warning and arrest without warrant.
- **Section 6** gives protection against prosecution without Central sanction.
- **Naga People's Movement (1997)** upheld the constitutionality with safeguards.
- **Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families (2016)** held that even in disturbed areas excessive force is not protected and AFSPA gives no absolute immunity.
- **J&K** has a separate AFSPA of 1990; the 1958 Act covers the Northeast.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

AFSPA is not a Constitutional provision; it is a Parliament Act under Union List powers, and the 1997 judgment, not the Act, insists on six-monthly review.



FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Supreme Court on Children's Internet Access

NEWS IN BRIEF

- In Just Rights for Children Alliance v S. Harish, the Supreme Court (Justices Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran) read internet access into Article 21 and rejected blanket age bans on social media.
- The Court backed child mode, parental consent tools and a national database on child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM) instead of bans.
- Anuradha Bhasin (2020) held that internet access is protected under Article 19(1)(a) and restrictions must be proportionate.
- Article 21 protects life and personal liberty; Article 21A gives free education to ages 6 to 14.



Supreme Court of India

X-FACT MATRIX

Case	Just Rights for Children Alliance v S. Harish
Bench	J. B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran
Rights read	Article 21 with Article 19(1)(a)
Rejected	Blanket age bans, called 'unproven measures of proven disproportionality'
Cited	Anuradha Bhasin; Pragya Prasun
Puttaswamy	Privacy is a Fundamental Right under Art 21
Test	Legality, legitimate aim, proportionality
DPDP Act	Verifiable parental consent for a child's data
Faheema Shirin	Kerala HC: internet access is part of right to education and privacy

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The proportionality test asks whether a restriction has a legitimate aim, is suitable, necessary and balanced.

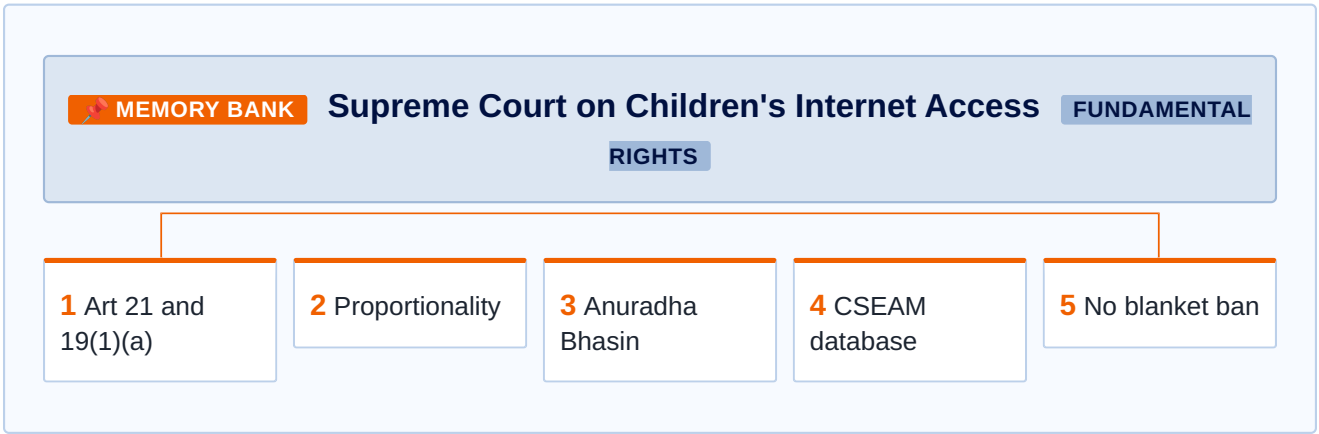
CONTINUED · SUPREME COURT ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACCESS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 21** protects life and personal liberty; the Court reads new rights into it.
- **Article 19(1)(a)** is freedom of speech and expression.
- **Proportionality** is a four-step test used for restrictions on rights.
- **Anuradha Bhasin (2020)** said indefinite internet shutdowns are impermissible.
- **Puttaswamy (2017)** gave the three-fold test of legality, necessity and proportionality used for restrictions on rights.
- **DPDP Act, 2023** requires verifiable parental consent before processing children's data and bars tracking and targeted ads aimed at children.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Right to internet is not an independent Fundamental Right text; it flows from Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(g) and 21 through judicial interpretation.



JUDICIARY · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Delhi High Court on Article 141

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Delhi High Court observed that only the Supreme Court can declare its own judgment as non-precedential; High Courts cannot disregard it.
- Article 141 states that the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India.



Delhi High Court

- Article 144 requires all civil and judicial authorities to act in aid of the Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court is not bound by its own decisions, but benches of equal strength cannot overrule each other.

X-FACT MATRIX

Article	Article 141
Binding force	Law declared by SC binds all courts in India
Court	Delhi High Court
Related	Article 215: HC is a court of record
Principle	Judicial discipline and stare decisis
Article 142	SC can pass orders for complete justice
Article 144	All authorities act in aid of the SC
HC binding	A High Court binds subordinate courts in its territory
Doctrine	Stare decisis; per incuriam exception

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Obiter dicta guide, while ratio decidendi binds.

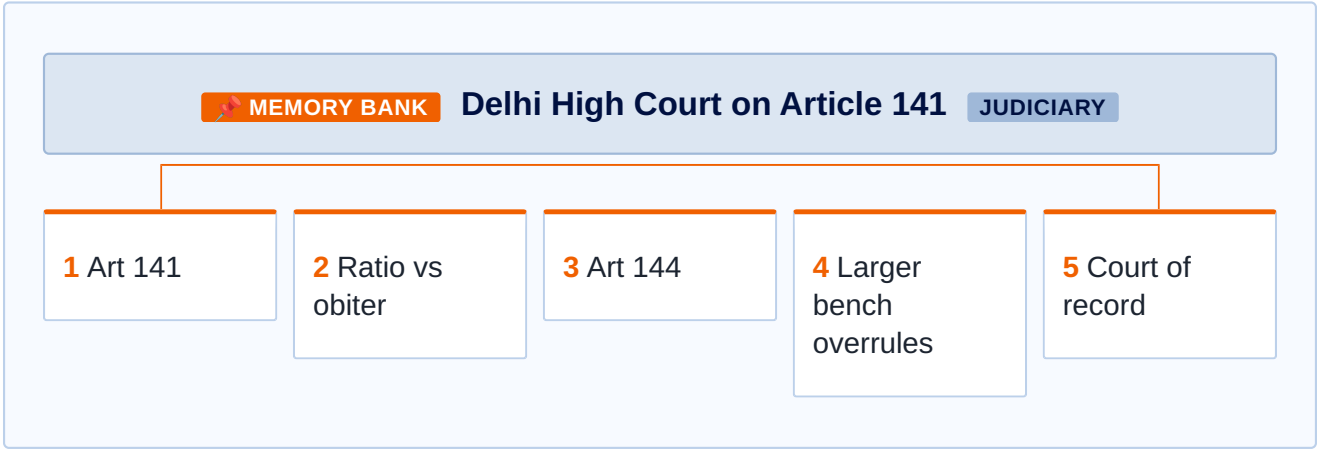
CONTINUED · DELHI HIGH COURT ON ARTICLE 141

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 141** makes the SC's declared law binding on all courts.
- **Ratio decidendi** is the legal principle on which a decision rests.
- **Obiter dicta** are passing remarks that persuade but do not bind.
- **Article 142** lets the SC do 'complete justice'.
- **Per incuriam** rulings, delivered in ignorance of a binding statute or precedent, lose binding force.
- **Article 227** gives High Courts superintendence over all courts and tribunals in their territory.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Article 141 binds courts, not the Supreme Court itself; and only the ratio decidendi is binding, not obiter dicta.



JUDICIARY · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Collegium System and Judicial Appointments

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Remarks on the Collegium system revived debate on judicial appointments, with a revised Memorandum of Procedure still not finalised.
- The Collegium is not mentioned in the Constitution; it evolved through judgments.
- Articles 124 and 217 provide appointment of SC and HC judges by the President after consultation.
- The NJAC would have had six members including the CJI, two senior judges, Law Minister and two eminent persons.

X-FACT MATRIX

Collegium	CJI plus four senior-most SC judges
First Judges Case	S. P. Gupta: executive had primacy in appointments
Second Judges Case	Advocates-on-Record: CJI's opinion primary, Collegium evolved
Third Judges Case	Presidential Reference: Collegium of CJI and four senior-most judges
NJAC	99th Amendment and NJAC Act, struck down
Fourth Judges Case	Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association: NJAC invalid, Collegium restored
HC Collegium	Chief Justice of the HC and two senior-most judges
Retirement age	SC 65 years, HC 62 years
Removal	Address by both Houses, special majority (Art 124(4))
Transfer	HC judges by President after consulting CJI (Art 222)

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Memorandum of Procedure remains the document guiding appointments.

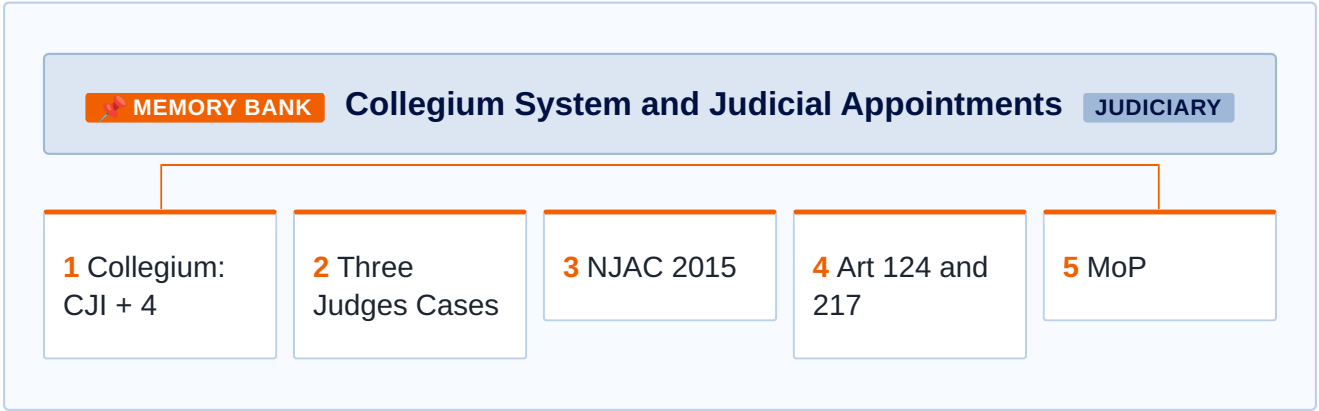
CONTINUED · COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AND JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 124** covers appointment of Supreme Court judges.
- **Second Judges Case (1993)** made CJI's opinion primary.
- **99th Amendment** created the NJAC but was struck down in 2015.
- **Memorandum of Procedure** is the guideline for appointments.
- **Article 124(4)** needs a motion in each House passed by special majority and a majority of total membership, on proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** governs the inquiry procedure before removal.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The Collegium has no textual basis in the Constitution, and the 99th Amendment (NJAC) was struck down, not repealed by Parliament.



FEDERALISM · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Ladakh Talks: Statehood and Sixth Schedule

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A Home Ministry High Powered Committee held inconclusive talks with Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance on statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh.
- The reported draft says laws of an elected body would need Lieutenant Governor's assent.
- The Sixth Schedule provides Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Ladakh has Hill Councils (LAHDC): Leh created in 1995 and Kargil in 2003.

X-FACT MATRIX

Demands	Statehood and Sixth Schedule
Bodies	Leh Apex Body, Kargil Democratic Alliance
Status	Union Territory without a legislature (J&K Reorganisation Act)
Sixth Schedule	Arts 244(2) and 275(1)
Safeguard offered	Article 371 type protections (reported)
Districts	Leh and Kargil
Parliament seat	One Lok Sabha seat
Hill Councils	LAHDC Leh and LAHDC Kargil
Governance	Lieutenant Governor, no legislature

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Article 371 gives special provisions for certain States; it is not applicable to UTs by default.

CONTINUED · LADAKH TALKS: STATEHOOD AND SIXTH SCHEDULE

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Sixth Schedule** provides tribal autonomy through Autonomous District and Regional Councils.
- **Article 3** lets Parliament form States and UTs by ordinary law.
- **Article 371** series gives special provisions to specified States.
- **Fifth Schedule** governs Scheduled Areas in other States.
- **Sixth Schedule** councils have legislative, judicial and executive powers over land, forests and customary law, with up to 30 members.
- **Article 244** deals with administration of Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule) and Tribal Areas (Sixth Schedule).

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The Sixth Schedule applies only to four Northeast States; Ladakh's demand needs a constitutional amendment.



EDUCATION GOVERNANCE · GS PAPER II · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

NTA Reform: Parliamentary Panel on Exams

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on Education chaired by Mukul Wasnik recommended multi-phase NEET-UG and computer-based testing after the 2026 exam cancellation.
- The Committee suggested a multi-phase NEET-UG and a shift to computer-based testing.
- NTA was set up in 2017 as an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Education.
- Standing Committees are appointed by the Speaker or Chairman and work continuously; their reports are recommendatory.

X-FACT MATRIX

Full form	National Testing Agency
Nature	Autonomous, self-sustained testing organisation registered as a society (Societies Registration Act, 1860); not a statutory body and not a parliamentary committee
Under	Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education
Head	Director General, with a Chairperson heading its Board
Mandate	Conduct transparent, efficient, international-standard entrance tests
Exams conducted	NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET-UG, UGC-NET, CMAT, GPAT
NEET basis	National Medical Commission Act, 2019: one national entrance for MBBS and BDS
Parliamentary panel	Department-related Standing Committee on Education: advises, recommendations not binding
Anti-leak law	Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act: 3 to 10 years jail, fine up to Rs 1 crore

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Parliament's Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 covers central examinations.

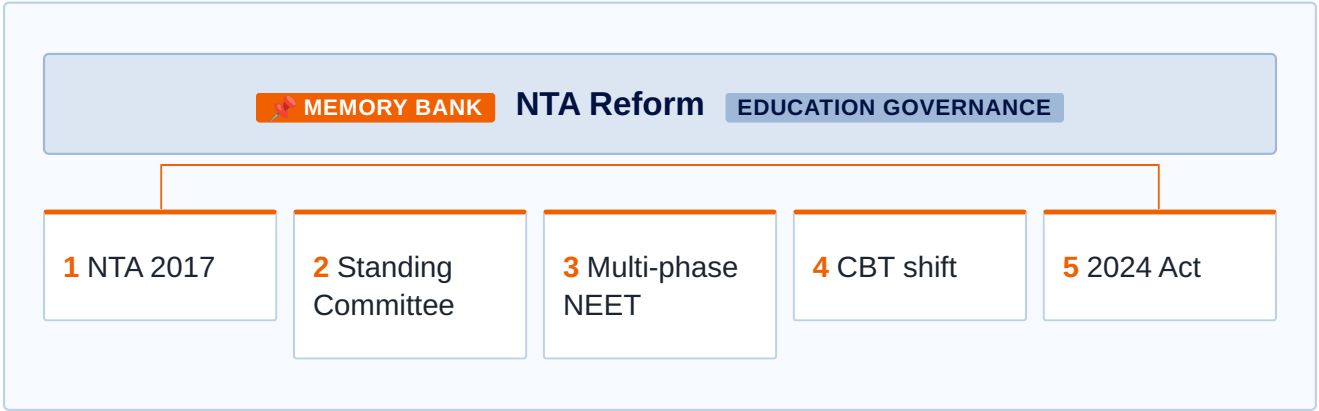
CONTINUED · NTA REFORM: PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON EXAMS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Standing Committees** examine ministries' grants, bills and reports.
- **Action Taken Report** records Government response to committee advice.
- **NTA** conducts NEET-UG, JEE Main, CUET and UGC-NET.
- **Public Examinations Act, 2024** penalises paper leaks.
- **Standing Committees** are permanent; **Select Committees** are formed for a particular Bill and dissolve after reporting.
- **Public Examinations Act, 2024** covers UPSC, SSC, railways, banking and NTA examinations.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Parliamentary committee recommendations are not binding; the Government accepts or rejects them in an Action Taken Report.



02

Places in News

Sites, rivers, hazards and projects on the map this month

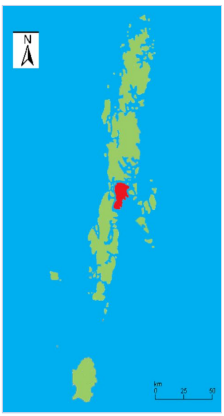
1. Baratang Mud Volcanoes and Andaman Volcanoes: UNESCO Tentative List
2. Sirpur: Archaeological Site of Chhattisgarh
3. Ladakh: 28 Names on Survey of India Map
4. Gandak River
5. Shintaphu Lake GLOF Warning in Bhutan
6. Cyclone Arnab
7. Siang Upper Multipurpose Project
8. Phuket Island Flash Floods
9. Kamala Hydroelectric Project, Arunachal Pradesh

WORLD HERITAGE · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Baratang Mud Volcanoes and Andaman Volcanoes: UNESCO Tentative List

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Baratang karst and mud volcano complex and the Andaman Subduction Volcanoes (Barren and Narcondam) were added to India's UNESCO Tentative List on 20 October 2026.
- Barren Island lies about 135 km from Port Blair and Narcondam is a dormant volcano.
- The Andaman-Nicobar arc forms where the Indian Plate subducts under the Burma Plate.
- A Tentative List entry is the first step before a nomination dossier is submitted to UNESCO.



Andaman Islands, Baratang in red



Narcondam Island

X-FACT MATRIX

Sites	Baratang complex; Barren and Narcondam volcanoes
Barren Island	India's only confirmed active volcano
Tentative List	81 Indian entries (reported)
India's WHS	45: 37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed
Baratang	Island between Middle and South Andaman
Jarawa	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group; reserve along the road
Narcondam	Wildlife sanctuary; endemic Narcondam hornbill
Criteria	Outstanding Universal Value, criteria i to x

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Narcondam is home to the endemic Narcondam hornbill.

CONTINUED · BARATANG MUD VOLCANOES AND ANDAMAN VOLCANOES: UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Tentative List** is a prerequisite for nomination to the World Heritage List.
- **Subduction zone** is where one plate sinks under another and forms volcanic arcs.
- **Barren Island** is India's only confirmed active volcano.
- **Mixed site** in India is Khangchendzonga National Park.
- **Mud volcanoes** erupt cold mud and gas, not magma, and are tied to hydrocarbon-rich sediment.
- **Island arc** forms where one plate subducts under another; the Andaman-Nicobar chain is an example.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Tentative List is not World Heritage status; and Narcondam is dormant, only Barren is active.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Baratang Mud Volcanoes and Andaman Volcanoes** WORLD HERITAGE

1 Tentative List
2 Barren active
3 Narcondam dormant
4 Subduction arc
5 45 WHS

HISTORY & PLACES · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Sirpur: Archaeological Site of Chhattisgarh

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Sirpur in Mahasamund district on the Mahanadi, a seventh century site of ancient Dakshina Kosala, came into focus for its brick temples.
- Lakshmana Temple is attributed to Queen Vasata, mother of Mahashivagupta Balarjuna.
- Sirpur has Buddhist viharas and was linked to Chinese traveller Xuanzang's visit to Dakshina Kosala.
- Excavations revealed one of the largest Buddhist monastic complexes in central India.



Lakshmana Temple, Sirpur

X-FACT MATRIX

Location	Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, on the Mahanadi
Ancient region	Dakshina Kosala
Famous temple	Lakshmana Temple, 7th century
Material	Brick, among India's finest early brick temples
Capital of	Sharabhapuriyas, later Panduvamshis
Religions	Buddhist, Shaiva, Vaishnava
Dynasties	Sharabhapuriyas, later Panduvamshis
Buddhist site	Anand Prabhu Kuti Vihara
Chinese pilgrim	Xuanzang visited around 639 CE
Mahanadi source	Sihawa hills, Dhamtari

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Mahanadi is the principal river of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

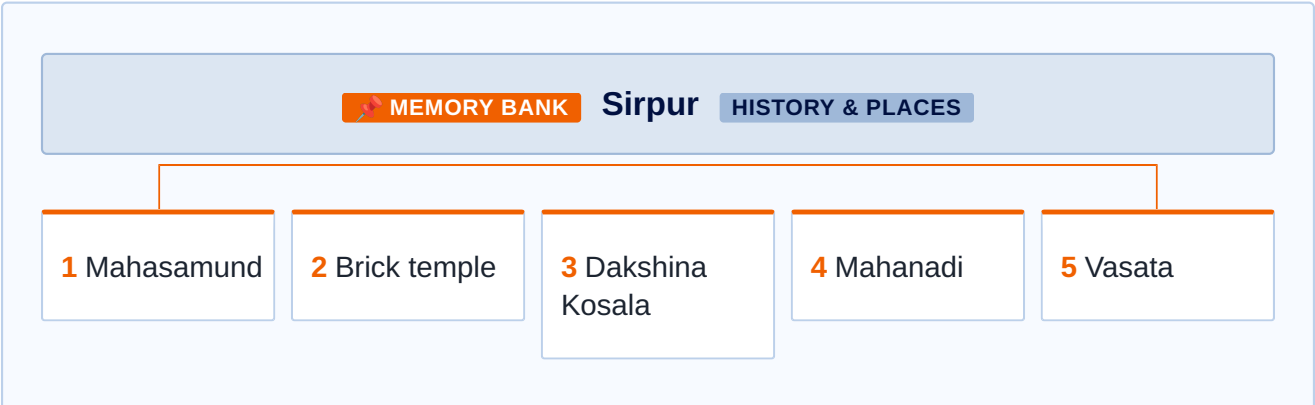
CONTINUED · SIRPUR: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CHHATTISGARH

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Dakshina Kosala** corresponds to the Chhattisgarh region.
- **Brick temples** are a feature of early Gupta-period architecture.
- **Mahanadi** rises in Chhattisgarh and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Xuanzang** was a Chinese pilgrim in Harsha's time.
- **Bhitargaon** (Uttar Pradesh) is the earliest surviving Gupta-period brick temple; Sirpur continues the brick tradition.
- **Hirakud Dam** on the Mahanadi is in Odisha.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Lakshmana Temple of Sirpur is brick; do not confuse with the stone Lakshmana Temple of Khajuraho.



MAPPING & GEOGRAPHY · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Ladakh: 28 Names on Survey of India Map

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Survey of India map of Ladakh now carries 28 new names, announced around 2 October 2026, including Zorawar Peak and a lake named for Guru Rinpoche.
- Survey of India, founded in 1767, is the oldest scientific department of the Government of India.
- General Zorawar Singh conquered Ladakh in the 1830s for the Dogra rulers.
- Ladakh has Pangong Tso, Tso Moriri, Zanskar and Karakoram ranges.



Ladakh on the map

X-FACT MATRIX

New names	28
Examples	Zorawar Peak; Guru Rinpoche lake
Agency	Survey of India (Department of Science and Technology)
Region	Ladakh UT
Zorawar Singh	Dogra general of 19th century
Passes	Khardung La, Chang La, Zoji La
Lakes	Pangong, Tso Moriri, Tso Kar
Rivers	Indus, Zanskar, Shyok, Nubra
Ranges	Karakoram, Ladakh, Zanskar

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Naming of features follows official toponymy guidelines.

CONTINUED · LADAKH: 28 NAMES ON SURVEY OF INDIA MAP

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Survey of India** is the national mapping agency established in 1767.
- **Toponymy** is the study of place names.
- **Zorawar Singh** led Dogra campaigns in Ladakh and Tibet.
- **Pangong Tso** is a brackish lake shared with China.
- **Toponymy** of official maps follows naming rules with consultation of local bodies.
- **Siachen Glacier** lies in the Karakoram, the source of the Nubra river.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Survey of India is under the Department of Science and Technology, not Defence; do not confuse with the Geological Survey of India (Mines).

📌 MEMORY BANK **Ladakh** MAPPING & GEOGRAPHY

1 Survey of India 1767 | 2 DST | 3 Zorawar Singh | 4 Toponymy | 5 Ladakh lakes

RIVERS · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Gandak River

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Gandak River came into news with flood warnings; it rises near the Nhubine Himal glacier in Nepal and joins the Ganga opposite Patna.
- The Kali Gandaki gorge is among the deepest in the world, between Dhaulagiri and Annapurna.
- Gandak is a left bank tributary of the Ganga.
- Chitwan National Park lies on the Narayani in Nepal.



Gandak (Narayani) River

X-FACT MATRIX

Source	Nhubine Himal glacier, about 6,268 m
Nepal name	Narayani, Kali Gandaki
Gorge	Kali Gandaki between Dhaulagiri and Annapurna I
Confluence	Ganga at Sonepur, opposite Patna
Barrage	Valmikinagar
Reserve	Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
Tributaries	Trishuli, Kali Gandaki, Budhi Gandaki
Bank	Left bank tributary of the Ganga
Agreement	India-Nepal Gandak Agreement on irrigation and power
Other left-bank	Ghaghara, Kosi, Mahananda

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Gandak serves irrigation through the Gandak project of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

CONTINUED · GANDAK RIVER

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Left bank Ganga tributaries**: Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi, Mahananda.
- **Right bank**: Yamuna, Son.
- **Kali Gandaki gorge** lies between Dhaulagiri and Annapurna I.
- **Valmiki Tiger Reserve** is in West Champaran, Bihar.
- **Left bank** Ganga tributaries are Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda; **right bank** are Yamuna, Son and Punpun.
- **Kosi** is called the Sorrow of Bihar for its shifting course and floods.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Gandak joins the Ganga from the left (north) bank, and Valmikinagar Barrage is on the India-Nepal border.



DISASTER & GEOGRAPHY · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Shintaphu Lake GLOF Warning in Bhutan

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Glacial lake outburst flood warnings from Bhutan's Shintaphu Lake led the Central Water Commission to alert West Bengal and Assam, and over 4,000 people were moved in Kumargram and Tufanganj.
- The 2023 South Lhonak lake burst in Sikkim and the 2013 Chorabari lake event at Kedarnath are major GLOF cases.
- GLOF occurs when a moraine, ice or bedrock dammed lake bursts suddenly.
- Warming increases glacier melt and fills such lakes.



A glacial lake outburst flood

X-FACT MATRIX

Lake	Shintaphu, Bhutan
Rivers	Mo Chhu and Sankosh
Alert by	Central Water Commission
States	West Bengal, Assam
Evacuated	4,000+ in Kumargram, Tufanganj (reported)
Bhutan lakes	17 dangerous glacial lakes
Lake types	Moraine-dammed, ice-dammed, bedrock-dammed
Triggers	Avalanche, heavy rain, earthquake, ice calving
Past GLOFs	Chorabari (Uttarakhand), South Lhonak (Sikkim)
Monitoring	CWC, NDMA, NRSC lake inventory

▸ FLOW CHART: GLOF chain

1. **Glacier melts** — Warming
2. **Lake fills** — Moraine, ice or rock dam
3. **Dam fails** — Trigger
4. **Flood surge** — Downstream rivers
5. **CWC alerts** — Evacuation

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

NDMA has guidelines on GLOF risk management.

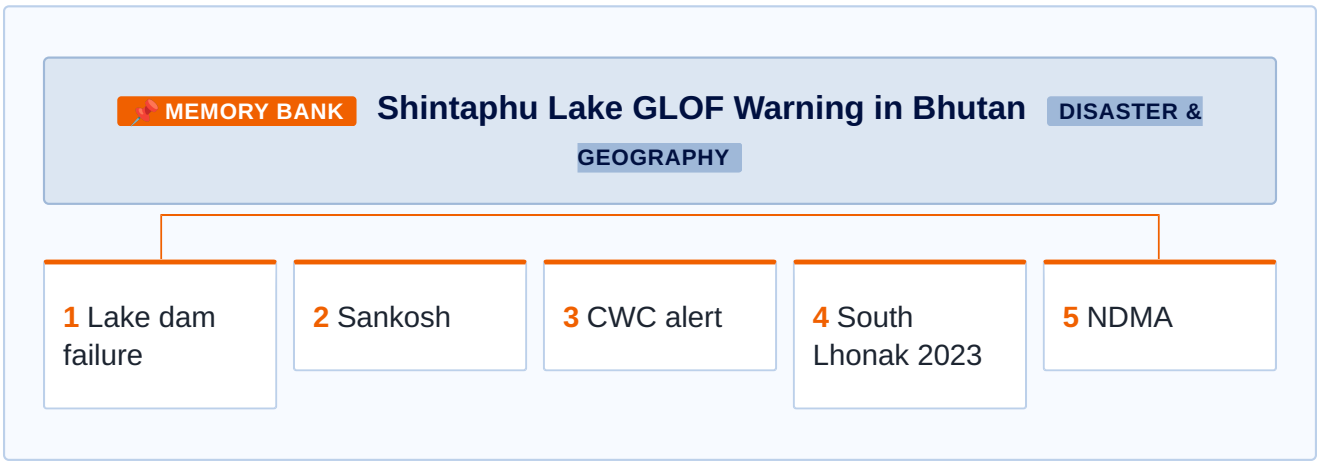
CONTINUED · SHINTAPHU LAKE GLOF WARNING IN BHUTAN

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **GLOF** is a sudden release of water from a glacial lake.
- **NDMA** issues national guidelines on disaster management.
- **South Lhonak (2023)** led to the Teesta dam failure.
- **Early warning** relies on remote sensing and sensors.
- **Glacial lake inventory** by NRSC maps lakes and tracks growth using satellite images.
- **Teesta** basin saw the 2023 GLOF damage the Chungthang dam in Sikkim.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

A GLOF comes from failure of a glacial lake's dam (moraine, ice or bedrock); a cloudburst is a separate hazard, though heavy rain can trigger a GLOF.

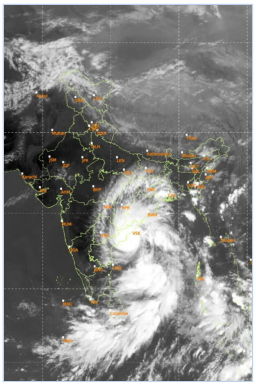


CYCLONES · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Cyclone Arnab

NEWS IN BRIEF

- IMD issued a red alert for Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as Cyclone Arnab, a very severe cyclonic storm, approached, with evacuations in Malkangiri and Nabarangpur.
- India Meteorological Department is the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for the North Indian Ocean.
- Names are provided in turn by 13 member countries.
- Wind speeds of 34 to 47 knots are cyclonic storm; 64 to 89 very severe; 120 plus super cyclonic storm.



Satellite view of the cyclone

X-FACT MATRIX

Name	Arnab, contributed by Bangladesh
Alert	Red, AP and Odisha
Category	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm, 64 to 89 knots
Naming body	WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones
Evacuation	Malkangiri and Nabarangpur (Odisha)
Agency	IMD, New Delhi, is the RSMC
IMD scale	Depression 17-27 kt; Cyclonic Storm 34-47; Severe 48-63
Higher grades	Very Severe 64-89; Extremely Severe 90-119; Super 120+
Seasons	April-May and October-December
Basin	Bay of Bengal sees more cyclones than the Arabian Sea

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Landfall had not been claimed at the time of reporting.

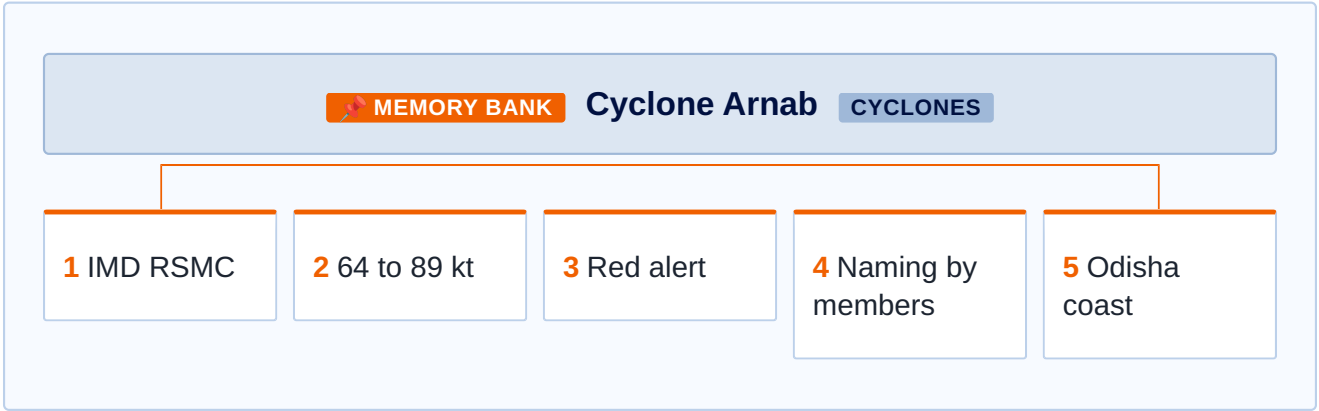
CONTINUED · CYCLONE ARNAB

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **RSMC New Delhi** names cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.
- **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** has winds of 64 to 89 knots.
- **Red alert** means take action.
- **Cyclones** are low pressure systems with closed circulation.
- **Coriolis force** is needed to spin the storm, so cyclones do not form within about 5 degrees of the equator.
- **Sea surface temperature** above about 26.5 deg C fuels cyclone formation.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named by member countries in rotation, not by India alone.



WATER & ENERGY · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

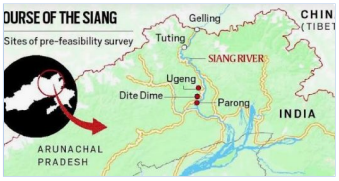
Siang Upper Multipurpose Project

NEWS IN BRIEF

- NHPC's 11,200 MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh faces protests at Pasighat over displacement and seismic risk.
- It would be India's largest hydropower project if built.



Siang River, Arunachal Pradesh



Course of the Siang

- Siang is the name of the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh; downstream it becomes the Brahmaputra in Assam.
- Pasighat is the headquarters of East Siang.

X-FACT MATRIX

Capacity	11,200 MW
Developer	NHPC
River	Siang (Brahmaputra)
Live storage	About 9.2 BCM
Seismic zone	Zone V
Aim	Flood moderation and a buffer against upstream Chinese dams
Confluence	Siang, Dibang and Lohit form the Brahmaputra in Assam
Tibet name	Yarlung Tsangpo, with Great Bend at Namcha Barwa
Right-bank tributaries	Subansiri, Kameng, Manas, Teesta (north bank); left bank: Burhi Dihing, Dhansiri, Kopili
Bangladesh name	Jamuna

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Brahmaputra is called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Jamuna in Bangladesh.

CONTINUED · SIANG UPPER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Brahmaputra** is Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Siang/Dihang in Arunachal.
- **Seismic Zone V** is the most active zone.
- **Live storage** is the usable water volume.
- **Hydropower** is renewable but displaces communities.
- **Brahmaputra** is among India's highest-discharge rivers and floods Assam every monsoon.
- **Storage dams** can moderate floods and add lean-season flow, but sit in a seismic zone.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Do not call the Siang a tributary of the Brahmaputra; it is the same river in the Arunachal stretch.

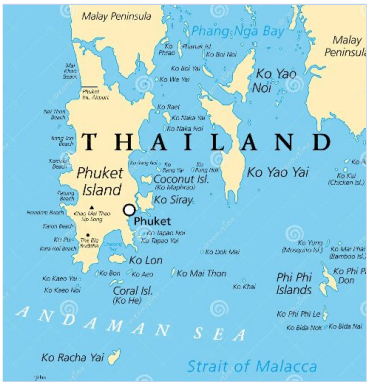


ISLANDS & SEAS · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Phuket Island Flash Floods

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Flash floods hit several areas of Phuket, Thailand's largest island, in the Andaman Sea.
- The Andaman Sea is bordered by Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It connects to the Indian Ocean in the west and to the Strait of Malacca in the south-east.
- The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands.



Phuket and the Andaman Sea

X-FACT MATRIX

Island	Phuket, Thailand
Sea	Andaman Sea
Link to mainland	Sarasin Bridge
History	Shaped by tin mining
Nickname	Pearl of the Andaman Sea
Largest in Thailand	Yes, by area
Coasts of Thailand	Gulf of Thailand east, Andaman Sea west
Kra Isthmus	Narrow Malay Peninsula land bridge; canal proposed
Strait of Malacca	Between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula
Tsunami	Indian Ocean tsunami hit Phuket; epicentre off Sumatra

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Phuket is joined to the mainland by the Sarasin Bridge across a narrow channel.

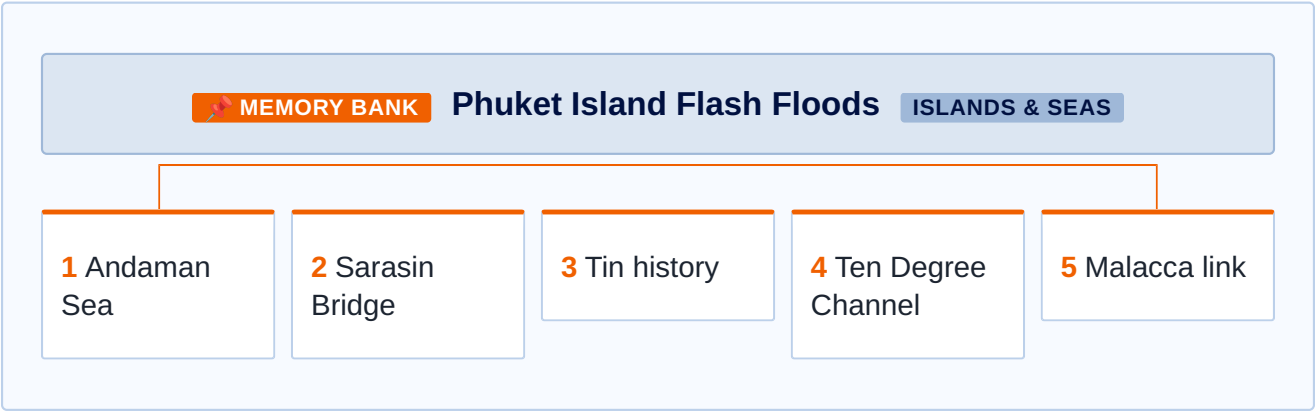
CONTINUED · PHUKET ISLAND FLASH FLOODS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Andaman Sea** is a marginal sea of the north-eastern Indian Ocean.
- **Ten Degree Channel** lies between Little Andaman and Car Nicobar.
- **Strait of Malacca** links the Andaman Sea with the South China Sea.
- **Flash floods** follow intense short rainfall over steep or built-up ground.
- **Kra Canal** is a proposed cut that would bypass the Strait of Malacca.
- **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami** followed a megathrust earthquake off Sumatra.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Do not place Phuket in the South China Sea or the Gulf of Thailand; it lies on the Andaman Sea side.



HYDROPOWER & FORESTS · GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY (PRELIMS)

Kamala Hydroelectric Project, Arunachal Pradesh

NEWS IN BRIEF

- NHPC sought clearance to divert 3,278 hectares of high-conservation-value forest for the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Forest land cannot be diverted for non-forest use without Central approval.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was renamed and amended in 2023.
- High-conservation-value forests carry rare species, ecosystem services or cultural importance.



Hydropower project (representative)

X-FACT MATRIX

Developer	NHPC
State	Arunachal Pradesh
River	Kamala, a Subansiri tributary
Forest diversion sought	3,278 ha (reported)
Capacity	1,720 MW (reported)
Forest law	Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as amended 2023
Process	Stage I in-principle, Stage II final approval
CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016
Tribal rights	Forest Rights Act, 2006

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Arunachal Pradesh lies in Seismic Zone V and holds large untapped hydropower potential.

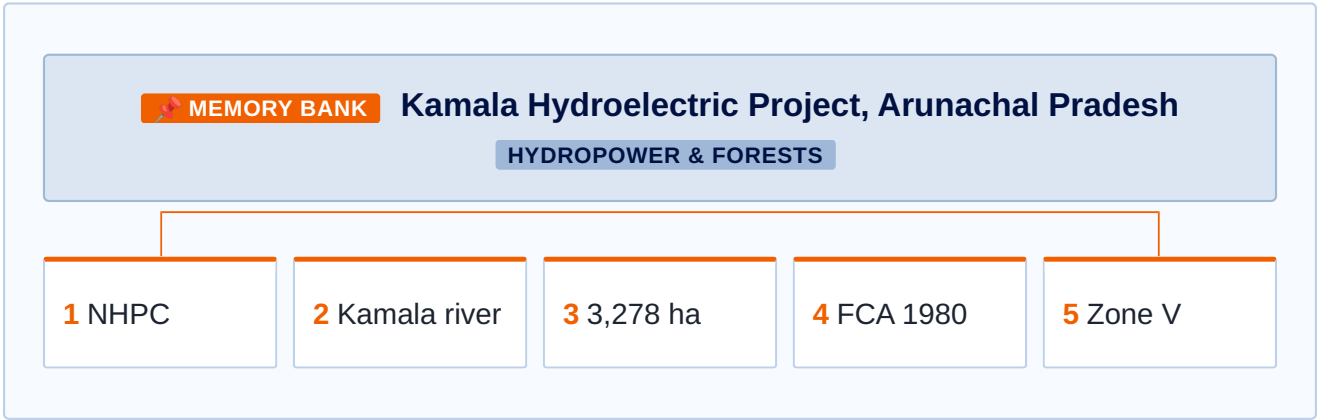
CONTINUED · KAMALA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Forest Conservation Act, 1980** regulates diversion of forest land.
- **Compensatory afforestation** is mandated for diverted forest.
- **HCV forest** is identified for biodiversity and social value.
- **NHPC** is a Central public sector hydropower company.
- **CAMPA Act, 2016** manages funds collected for compensatory afforestation.
- **Forest Rights Act, 2006** recognises rights of forest dwellers; Gram Sabha consent is part of the diversion process.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Capacity and area figures are as reported; the clearance was only sought, not granted.



03

International Relations

Trade agreements, treaties, groupings and defence diplomacy

1. India-New Zealand FTA Enters into Force
2. Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh Nears Expiry
3. Badr Memorandum: Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Indonesia
4. India-EFTA TEPA and Liechtenstein State Visit
5. Military Exercises: AIME, SIMBEX, Garuda Shakti
6. SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Dushanbe
7. BRICS Parliamentary Forum and AgriVoltaics World Conference

TRADE AGREEMENTS · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India-New Zealand FTA Enters into Force

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, signed on 27 April 2026, came into force on 20 October 2026.
- A working holiday visa scheme opens from 16 November 2026.
- An FTA lowers tariffs on goods between two parties, unlike a customs union, which also has a common external tariff.
- India has also concluded the CEPA with the UAE (2022), ECTA with Australia (2022) and TEPA with EFTA.



India-NZ FTA highlights

X-FACT MATRIX

NZ tariff cuts	100% of Indian exports
India concessions	70% of lines, covering about 95% of trade
Zero duty	57% of lines, rising to 82%
NZ investment	USD 20 bn over 15 years
Other pacts	UAE CEPA, Australia ECTA, EFTA TEPA, UK CETA
Rules of origin	Local value addition needed for tariff benefits
WTO base	MFN principle; FTAs allowed under GATT Article XXIV
CPTPP	NZ is a member; India is not

▸ FLOW CHART: Path of the India-NZ FTA

1. **Negotiations** — Concluded
2. **Signed** — 27 Apr 2026
3. **Ratified** — Both sides
4. **In force** — 20 Oct 2026
5. **Working holiday** — 16 Nov 2026

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth, CPTPP and RCEP; India withdrew from RCEP in 2019.

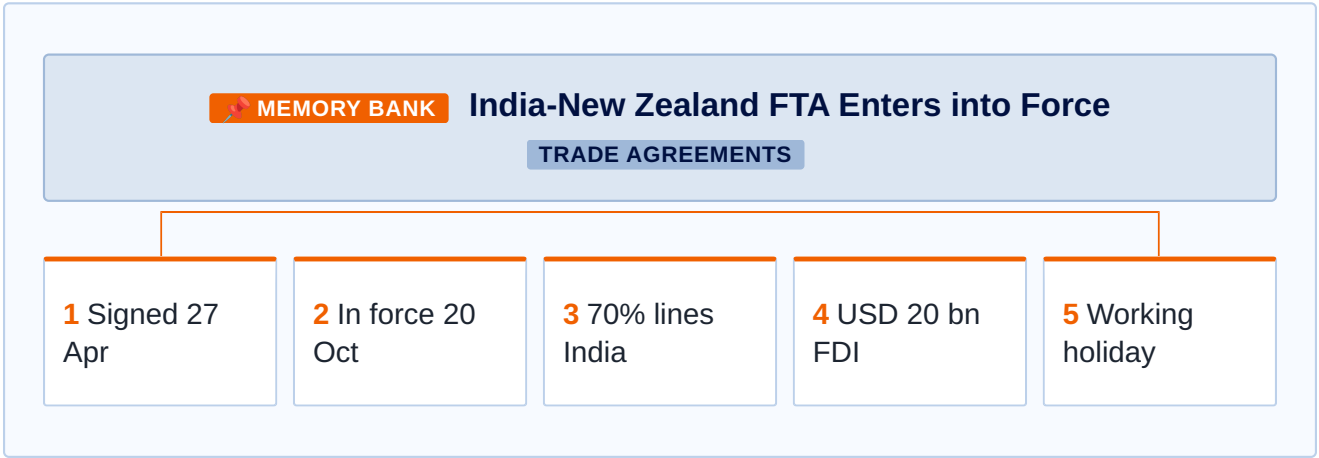
CONTINUED · INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA ENTERS INTO FORCE

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **FTA** reduces tariffs between partners, each keeping its own external tariff.
- **Customs union** adds a common external tariff.
- **CEPA/CECA** cover services and investment beyond goods.
- **RCEP** is an Asia-Pacific bloc India left in 2019.
- **Rules of origin** decide which goods qualify for FTA benefits and prevent trade deflection.
- **MFN (GATT Article I)** requires non-discrimination; FTAs are a permitted exception.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

India is not a member of RCEP (withdrew in 2019) or CPTPP; and FTA is not a customs union.



BILATERAL TREATIES · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh Nears Expiry

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The 30-year Ganga Water Treaty of 1996 expires in December 2026, and consultations on renewal are under way.
- Farakka Barrage, in West Bengal, diverts water to the Hooghly to flush silt at Kolkata port.
- Where flow at Farakka is 70,000 cusecs or less, shares are 50-50; above 75,000 India takes 40,000 and Bangladesh the rest.



Ganga, Farakka Barrage and Hooghly

- MEA stated its position on 4 August 2026, and a parliamentary panel led by Shashi Tharoor discussed it on 30 July.

X-FACT MATRIX

Duration	30 years, renewable by mutual consent
Barrage	Farakka
Guarantee	35,000 cusecs to Bangladesh in the lean season
Sharing	Alternate 10-day cycles
Mechanism	Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)
Other treaties	Indus Waters Treaty; Mahakali Treaty with Nepal
Teesta	Interim sharing deal was not signed
Unit	1 cusec is a cubic foot per second

▸ FLOW CHART: Ganga treaty timeline

1. **1975** — Farakka test run
2. **1996** — Treaty signed
3. **30-year term** — Valid
4. **Dec 2026** — Expiry
5. **Renewal** — Talks on

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

Teesta water sharing remains pending.

CONTINUED · GANGA WATER TREATY WITH BANGLADESH NEARS EXPIRY

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Farakka Barrage** lies on the Ganga in Murshidabad, West Bengal.
- **Joint Rivers Commission** was created in 1972.
- **Teesta** originates in Sikkim and flows to Bangladesh.
- **Article 253** empowers Parliament to legislate for treaty implementation.
- **Mahakali Treaty (1996)** with Nepal covers the Mahakali (Sharda) river; **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)** covers six rivers of the Indus system.
- **Cusec** is cubic feet per second; **cumec** is cubic metres per second.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Teesta is not covered by the Ganga treaty, and the treaty guarantees Bangladesh 35,000 cusecs in the leanest period.



STRATEGIC GROUPINGS · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Badr Memorandum: Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Indonesia

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar and Indonesia signed the Badr MoU in Doha, a cooperation framework that does not provide for collective defence.
- Doha is the capital of Qatar.
- Turkey straddles Europe and Asia, bordering the Black Sea, Aegean and Mediterranean.
- Indonesia is the largest country in ASEAN and the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

X-FACT MATRIX

Signed in	Doha
Members	Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Indonesia
Not a	Collective defence pact (reported)
Structure	Executive Board and Strategic Board
Industry	Turkey as manufacturing hub
India angle	Watch Pakistan-Turkey ties
Turkey	NATO member
Qatar	Hosts Al Udeid Air Base
Indonesia	Largest ASEAN economy
OIC	57 members, headquartered in Jeddah

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Mutual defence clauses like Article 5 of NATO bind members to treat attack on one as an attack on all.

CONTINUED · BADR MEMORANDUM: PAKISTAN, TURKEY, QATAR, INDONESIA

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **MoU** is a non-binding understanding unless it carries treaty-like obligations.
- **NATO Article 5** is collective defence.
- **Bosphorus** links Black Sea and Sea of Marmara in Turkey.
- **ASEAN** has Indonesia as its largest economy.
- **OIC** is the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, founded 1969.
- **GCC** (1981) has six members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Do not call the Badr MoU a military alliance; reports say it lacks a collective defence clause.



TRADE & DIPLOMACY · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India-EFTA TEPA and Liechtenstein State Visit

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein made a state visit to India as the India-EFTA TEPA marked its anniversary.
- EFTA is not part of the EU; its members are not the EU's 27 States.
- TEPA includes an investment pledge of USD 100 bn over 15 years by EFTA.
- Liechtenstein is the sixth smallest country by area in the world.

X-FACT MATRIX

TEPA	Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement
EFTA members	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
Capital	Vaduz
Landlocked	Doubly landlocked
Customs union	With Switzerland
Investment pledge	USD 100 bn over 15 years, 1 million jobs
Currency	Swiss franc
Schengen	Liechtenstein and Switzerland are members, outside the EU

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

A doubly landlocked country is surrounded only by landlocked countries; Liechtenstein and Uzbekistan are the two examples.

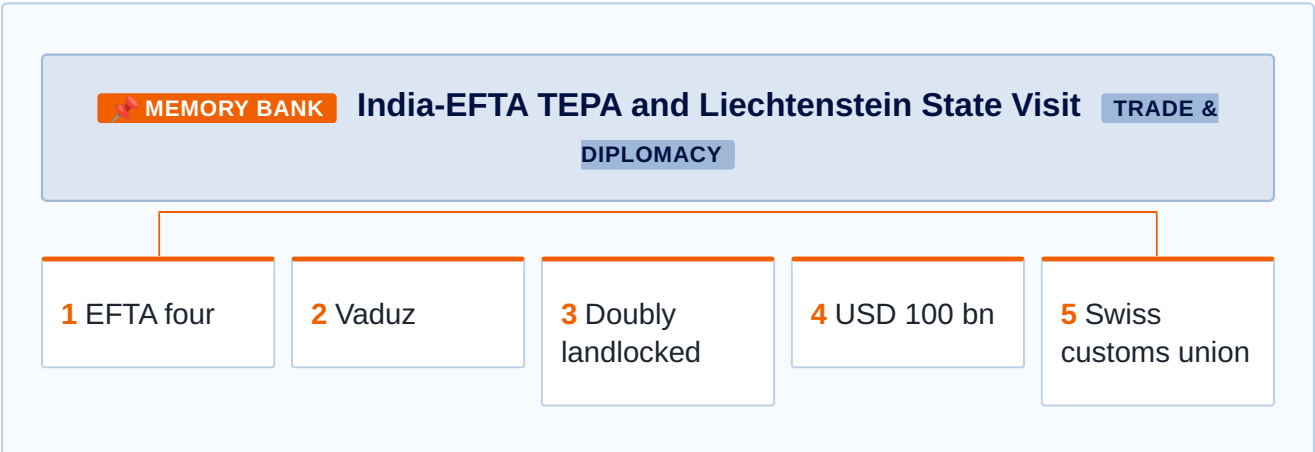
CONTINUED · INDIA-EFTA TEPA AND LIECHTENSTEIN STATE VISIT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **EFTA** has four members: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.
- **Doubly landlocked**: Liechtenstein and Uzbekistan.
- **TEPA** effective from 1 October 2025.
- **Vaduz** is the capital of Liechtenstein.
- **Hereditary Prince Alois** has acted as regent since 2004 on behalf of Prince Hans-Adam II.
- **EEA** includes Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway but not Switzerland.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

EFTA is not the EU, and TEPA is not a customs union; the Swiss franc is also used by Liechtenstein.



DEFENCE DIPLOMACY · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Military Exercises: AIME, SIMBEX, Garuda Shakti

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India held AIME-2026 with ASEAN at Subic Bay, SIMBEX-2026 with Singapore at Visakhapatnam and Garuda Shakti with Indonesia.
- SIMBEX participants included INS Nilgiri and INS Kamorta with RSS Supreme of Singapore.
- INS Sahyadri also visited Busan for an India-Republic of Korea Navy exercise.
- Garuda Shakti is a special forces exercise between India and Indonesia.

X-FACT MATRIX

AIME	ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise; second edition at Subic Bay
First AIME	Held in Singapore
Ships	INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish
SIMBEX	India-Singapore naval exercise; 33rd edition at Visakhapatnam
SIMBEX origin	Began as Exercise Lion King
Garuda Shakti	11th edition, Banyuwangi, Indonesia
Malabar	India, US, Japan, Australia
Varuna	India-France navy
Yudh Abhyas	India-US army
Eastern Naval Command	Based at Visakhapatnam

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Subic Bay is in the Philippines.

CONTINUED · MILITARY EXERCISES: AIME, SIMBEX, GARUDA SHAKTI

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **AIME** is a maritime exercise with ASEAN states.
- **SIMBEX** is the India-Singapore Maritime Bilateral Exercise.
- **Garuda Shakti** is India-Indonesia special forces.
- **Subic Bay** in Luzon, the Philippines.
- **Exercise names**: Malabar (Quad), Varuna (France), JIMEX (Japan), AUSINDEX (Australia), SIMBEX (Singapore).
- **Visakhapatnam** hosts the Eastern Naval Command, while Mumbai hosts the Western Naval Command.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

SIMBEX is India-Singapore, AIME is India-ASEAN; do not mix these with SIMBEX's origin as Lion King.



REGIONAL GROUPINGS · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Dushanbe

NEWS IN BRIEF

- SCO defence ministers met in Dushanbe on 20 October 2026; the Anti-Drug Centre at Dushanbe and the Universal Centre at Tashkent were made permanent SCO bodies at the 2026 Bishkek Summit.
- SCO members: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus.
- India and Pakistan joined in 2017.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) sits in Tashkent.



SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting

X-FACT MATRIX

Host city	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Summit venue	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Permanent bodies	Anti-Drug Centre (Dushanbe), Universal Centre (Tashkent)
Origin	Shanghai Five became the SCO at Shanghai
Secretariat	Beijing
Members	China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Belarus
Observers	Afghanistan, Mongolia
Official languages	Chinese and Russian
Charter	Signed at St Petersburg

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Map check: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are Central Asian neighbours.

CONTINUED · SCO DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING, DUSHANBE

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **SCO** grew out of the Shanghai Five of 1996.
- **RATS** coordinates counter-terrorism among members.
- **Dushanbe** is the capital of Tajikistan.
- **Bishkek** is the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- **Shanghai Five** (1996) began as a border confidence-building group of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- **Council of Heads of State** is the SCO's highest decision-making body.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The SCO Secretariat is in Beijing and RATS in Tashkent; do not swap them.



MULTILATERAL EVENTS · GS PAPER II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BRICS Parliamentary Forum and AgriVoltaics World Conference

NEWS IN BRIEF

- New Delhi hosted the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on 26 to 27 October after the 18th BRICS Summit in September, and the 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference at Bharat Mandapam, the first in the Global South.
- BRICS began as BRIC in 2001, a term coined by Jim O'Neill; South Africa joined in 2010.



BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.
- Agrivoltaics combines solar power generation and crop farming on the same land.

X-FACT MATRIX

Forum	12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum
India's chairship	Fourth
Conference	7th AgriVoltaics World Conference
Venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Members	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Indonesia
New members	Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE; Indonesia later
NDB	Headquartered in Shanghai
CRA	Contingent Reserve Arrangement, USD 100 bn

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

PM-KUSUM supports solar pumps and solar plants on farmland in India.

CONTINUED · BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND AGRIVOLTAICS WORLD CONFERENCE

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **BRICS** is an informal grouping, not a treaty organisation.
- **NDB** was set up in 2014 at the Fortaleza summit.
- **Agrivoltaics** raises land productivity and farmer income.
- **Bharat Mandapam** is the Delhi venue of the G20 2023 summit.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement** is BRICS's liquidity backstop for balance of payments stress.
- **PM-KUSUM** supports solar pumps and solar plants on farmland, linking to agrivoltaics.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

AgriVoltaics is dual land use, not a replacement of farming by solar plants.



04

Economy

Monetary policy, markets, industry data and taxation

1. RBI Repo Rate Hiked to 5.50%
2. Jio Platforms IPO: India's Largest
3. Index of Core Industries (ICI)
4. IDBI Bank Stake Sale and Disinvestment Targets
5. Capital Gains Tax: LTCG and STCG
6. RELIEF Initiative for Exporters
7. World Bank Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast

MONETARY POLICY · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

RBI Repo Rate Hiked to 5.50%

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The MPC unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% on 7 October 2026 and shifted the stance from neutral to calibrated tightening.
- The Standing Deposit Facility rate is repo minus 0.25 percentage points; MSF is repo plus 0.25.
- The MPC has six members: three from RBI including Governor and three external members.
- The inflation target is 4% with a tolerance band of 2% to 6%.



Reserve Bank of India emblem

X-FACT MATRIX

Repo rate	5.25% to 5.50%
SDF	5.25%
MSF and Bank Rate	5.75%
Projections	GDP 7.1%, CPI 5.2% (FY27, reported)
Governor	Sanjay Malhotra
Corridor	SDF 5.25 < Repo 5.50 < MSF 5.75
MPC	3 RBI members and 3 external members, 4-year term
Quorum	4 members; Governor has casting vote
Inflation target	4% with a band of 2% to 6%, reviewed every five years

▸ FLOW CHART: How a repo hike transmits

1. **Repo up** — 5.25 to 5.50
2. **Bank funding costs rise** — Lending rates
3. **EMIs rise** — Demand falls
4. **Inflation cools** — CPI nearer 4%

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

A rate hike makes borrowing costlier and cools inflation.

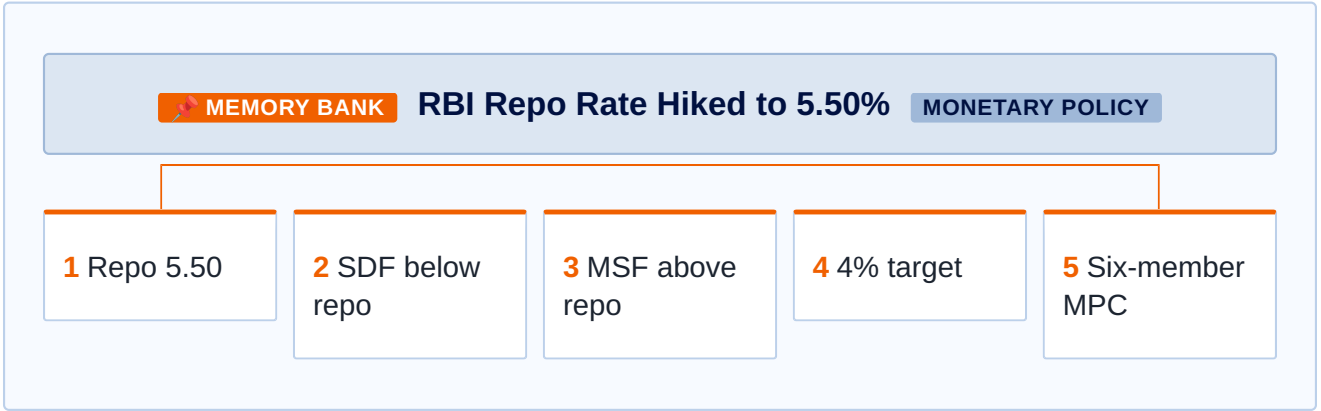
CONTINUED · RBI REPO RATE HIKED TO 5.50%

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Repo rate** is the rate RBI lends to banks against securities.
- **SDF** absorbs liquidity without collateral.
- **MSF** lets banks borrow overnight above repo.
- **MPC** was statutory under the RBI Act amendment of 2016.
- **CRR** is the share of deposits banks keep with RBI as cash; **SLR** is held in liquid assets such as G-secs.
- **Policy transmission**: repo changes pass to loan rates through external benchmark-linked floating loans.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Repo is the rate at which RBI lends; reverse repo is when RBI borrows, and the SDF is the floor of the corridor, not the repo.



CAPITAL MARKETS · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

Jio Platforms IPO: India's Largest

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Jio Platforms' Rs 30,213 crore IPO, the largest in India, listed on 28 October 2026 at Rs 1,358, about a 21% premium.
- An IPO is a primary market issue where a company raises fresh capital; secondary market trades existing shares.
- SEBI is a statutory body under the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Listing premium is the gain of the listing price over the issue price.



Jio Platforms IPO

X-FACT MATRIX

Issue size	Rs 30,213 crore
Bids	About Rs 7.3 lakh crore
Premium	About 21%
Market	NSE and BSE
Regulator	SEBI
Investor classes	QIB, NII and Retail
Retail limit	Bids up to Rs 2 lakh
Price discovery	Book building within a price band
Listing timeline	Within 3 working days of issue close (T+3)

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Anchor investors are large institutions who subscribe a day before the issue opens.

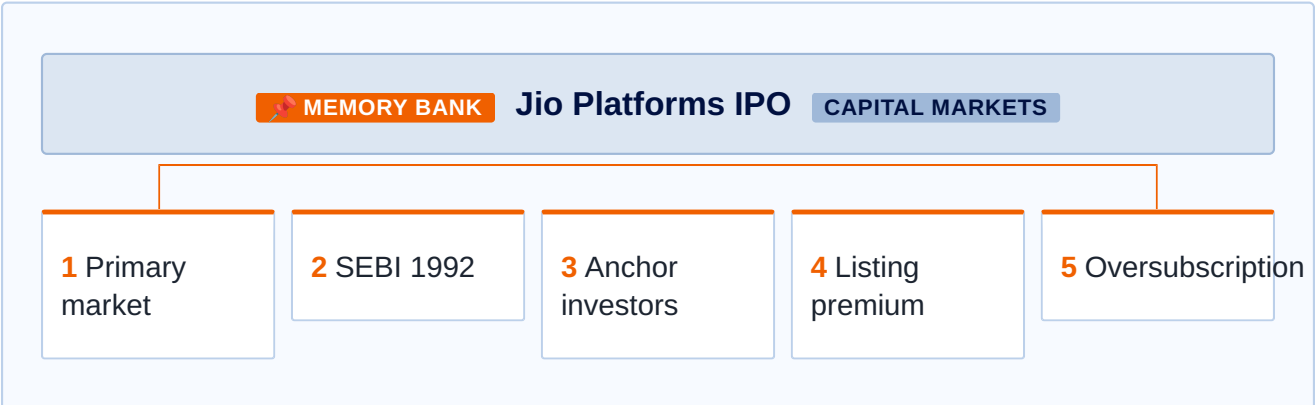
CONTINUED · JIO PLATFORMS IPO: INDIA'S LARGEST

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Primary market** is where new securities are issued.
- **Anchor investor** is an institutional investor allotted shares before public issue.
- **SEBI** regulates securities markets since 1992.
- **Oversubscription** means bids exceed shares offered.
- **Book building** finds the price from investor bids within a band.
- **Green shoe option** lets the issuer stabilise post-listing prices by over-allotting shares.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

IPO is primary market, listing trade is secondary market; do not call SEBI a constitutional body.



INDUSTRY DATA · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

Index of Core Industries (ICI)

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Index of Core Industries, with a base year of 2022-23, recorded 7.9% growth in September 2026, with electricity at 11.4% and coal at 10.7%.
- The core group had eight sectors (coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, electricity); the revised series is reported to add iron ore as a ninth.
- Refinery products carry the largest weight in the ICI.

X-FACT MATRIX

Publisher	Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT
Base year	2022-23
Electricity	11.4%
Coal	10.7%
Weight in IIP	32.88%
Frequency	Monthly, released by the Office of Economic Adviser
Share in IIP	32.88% weight
IIP sectors	Mining, manufacturing, electricity
WPI base	2011-12 (separate index)

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

IIP is compiled by NSO under MoSPI.

CONTINUED · INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES (ICI)

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **ICI** measures output of key infrastructure industries.
- **IIP** is the Index of Industrial Production compiled by NSO.
- **Base year** is the reference year with index 100.
- **Weight** shows importance of an industry.
- **IIP** has three sectors and use-based groups such as capital goods, consumer durables and intermediate goods.
- **Base year revisions** update weights to match the changing economy.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

ICI is published by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT, and not by MoSPI; IIP is from MoSPI.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** INDUSTRY DATA

1 DPIIT	2 Base 2022-23	3 32.88% in IIP	4 Refinery heaviest	5 Electricity 11.4%

PUBLIC SECTOR · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

IDBI Bank Stake Sale and Disinvestment Targets

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The strategic sale of IDBI Bank continued as the Centre set an FY27 disinvestment target of Rs 80,000 crore, with Rs 62,124 crore raised from April to September.
- DIPAM handles disinvestment and public asset management.
- The National Monetisation Pipeline lists assets to be leased to private players while retaining ownership.
- Strategic disinvestment transfers control to a private buyer; minority sale does not.

X-FACT MATRIX

FY27 target	Rs 80,000 crore
Raised Apr to Sep	Rs 62,124 crore
NMP 2.0	Rs 16.72 lakh crore, FY26 to FY30
Department	DIPAM, Ministry of Finance
Bank	IDBI Bank
Mode	Strategic sale and OFS
Ownership	Government and LIC jointly held a majority
History	Development financial institution, converted to a bank; LIC took control
DIPAM	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
Modes	Minority sale, strategic sale, OFS

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Offer for Sale (OFS) lets promoters sell shares through stock exchanges.

CONTINUED · IDBI BANK STAKE SALE AND DISINVESTMENT TARGETS

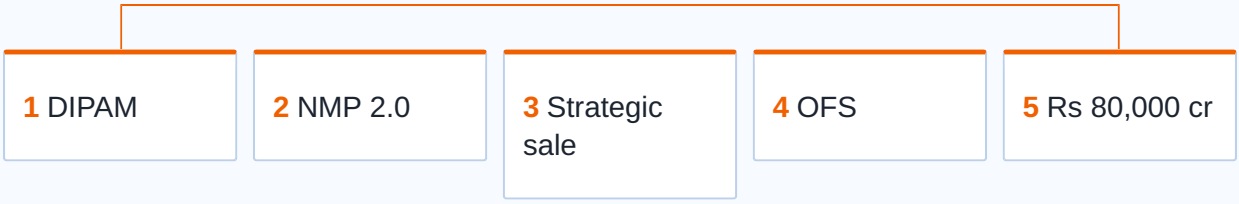
KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Disinvestment** is selling government equity in PSUs.
- **DIPAM** works under the Finance Ministry.
- **NMP** monetises brownfield assets.
- **OFS** is a stock-exchange mechanism for large shareholders.
- **PSU ratings**: Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna give differing financial autonomy.
- **Disinvestment** need not transfer control, whereas **privatisation** does.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Monetisation is not privatisation; ownership stays with the Government in the NMP.

📌 MEMORY BANK **IDBI Bank Stake Sale and Disinvestment Targets** PUBLIC SECTOR



TAXATION · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

Capital Gains Tax: LTCG and STCG

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Capital gains rules were in focus: listed equity LTCG is taxed at 12.5% on gains above Rs 1.25 lakh a year and STCG at 20%.
- Capital gain is profit from sale of a capital asset.
- Listed equity shares are long term if held beyond 12 months.
- Gains on immovable property held beyond 24 months are long term.

X-FACT MATRIX

LTCG	12.5% above Rs 1.25 lakh
STCG	20% on listed equity
Holding period	More than 12 months for listed equity
Condition	Securities Transaction Tax paid
Unlisted assets	24 months for long term
Basis	Income Tax Act
Property	Long term after 24 months; 12.5% without indexation
Old option	Resident individuals may choose 20% with indexation for older property
Exemptions	Sections 54 and 54F on reinvestment in a house
STT	Securities Transaction Tax on listed trades

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Indexation was removed for most assets from July 2024.

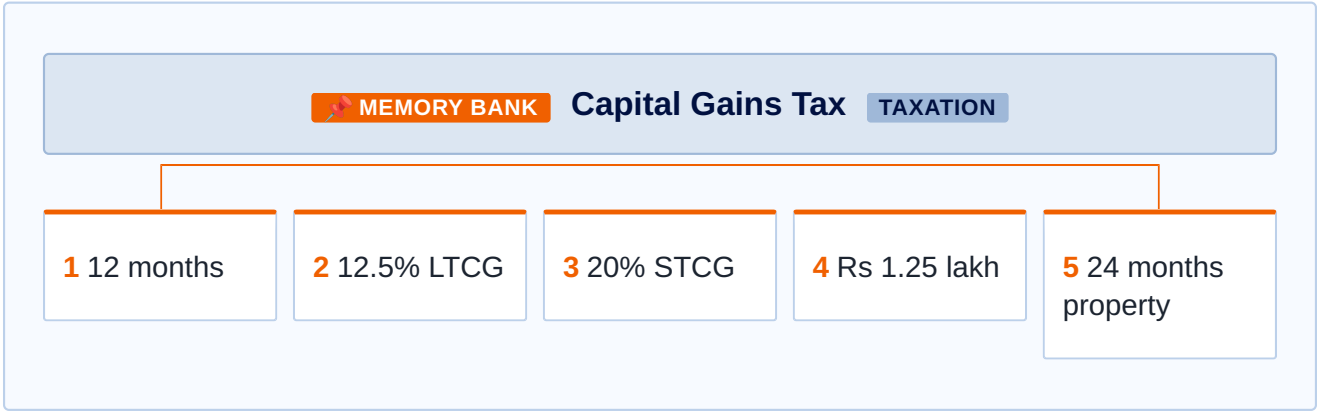
CONTINUED · CAPITAL GAINS TAX: LTCG AND STCG

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Capital asset** is property of any kind held by an assessee.
- **STCG** arises from short holding periods.
- **STT** is levied on securities trades.
- **Indexation** adjusted cost for inflation.
- **Sections 54 and 54F** exempt capital gains if proceeds are reinvested in residential property under conditions.
- **Rural agricultural land** is not a capital asset, so its sale is outside capital gains.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Long term for listed shares is 12 months, not 36 or 24; and the 12.5% rate applies only on gains beyond Rs 1.25 lakh.



TRADE SUPPORT · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

RELIEF Initiative for Exporters

NEWS IN BRIEF

- ECGC's RELIEF initiative, launched on 19 March 2026, gives 95% credit risk cover to exporters hit by global disruption, with a window to 31 March 2027.
- ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation) insures exporters and banks against default risk of buyers.
- ECGC is a government company under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Export credit insurance covers commercial and political risks.

X-FACT MATRIX

Agency	ECGC Ltd
Cover	95% credit risk
Ministry	Commerce and Industry
Purpose	Support exporters during disruption
ECGC	Government company under the Commerce Ministry
Policies	Standard, small exporter, specific shipment
Cover	Commercial and political risks
FTP 2023	Aims USD 2 trillion exports by 2030

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

EXIM Bank is a separate institution that finances exports.

CONTINUED · RELIEF INITIATIVE FOR EXPORTERS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **ECGC** insures against non-payment by foreign buyers.
- **EXIM Bank** finances exports and imports.
- **Commercial risk** is buyer insolvency or default.
- **Political risk** includes war, embargo and transfer restrictions.
- **ECGC** also gives insurance cover to banks financing exporters.
- **Foreign Trade Policy 2023** is administered by the DGFT.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

ECGC is an insurer, not a lender; do not confuse it with EXIM Bank.



GROWTH OUTLOOK · GS PAPER III · ECONOMY

World Bank Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast

NEWS IN BRIEF

- On 6 October 2026 the World Bank raised its FY27 growth forecast for India to 7.1% from 6.6%.
- The World Bank forecast is an external projection; official GDP data come from the NSO under MoSPI.
- IBRD lends to middle-income countries and IDA gives concessional aid to the poorest.



World Bank

- The Bank's Ease of Doing Business report was discontinued in 2021 after data irregularities.

X-FACT MATRIX

Forecast	7.1% for FY27, up from 6.6%
Fiscal year	April to March
Institution	World Bank, Washington DC
Founded	At Bretton Woods
Group	IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID
Headquarters	Washington DC
Leadership	President traditionally American; IMF head traditionally European
IMF	Also a Bretton Woods institution; handles balance of payments stability
Reports	Global Economic Prospects, World Development Report

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India is a founding member of both the World Bank and the IMF.

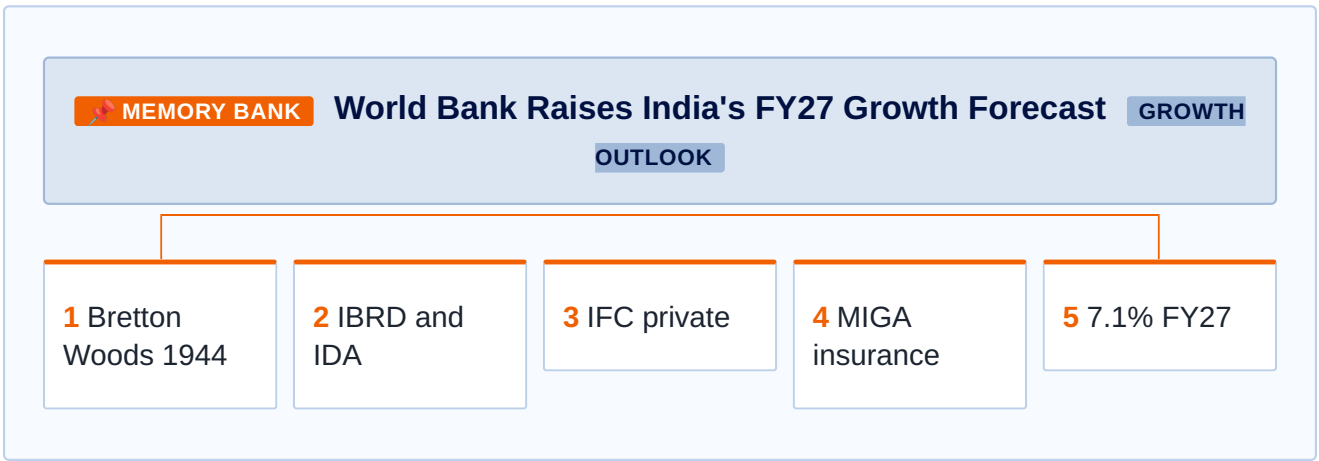
CONTINUED · WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA'S FY27 GROWTH FORECAST

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **IBRD** and **IDA** form the World Bank proper.
- **IFC** lends to the private sector.
- **MIGA** insures investments against political risk.
- **ICSID** settles investment disputes.
- **IMF** gives short-term balance-of-payments support; the **World Bank** funds long-term development projects.
- **SDR** is the IMF's international reserve asset, valued on a basket of currencies.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

World Bank is not the IMF; the Bank funds development projects, the IMF handles balance of payments stability.



05

Economic Development & Schemes

Cabinet-approved schemes and missions

1. Green Energy Corridor Phase III
2. PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana
3. Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme
4. Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme
5. National Coastal Mission 2.0
6. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
7. Samudra Manthan Mission

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Green Energy Corridor Phase III

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Centre approved Green Energy Corridor III with an outlay of Rs 1,86,405 crore for storage and transmission of renewable power.
- Green Energy Corridors build transmission lines and substations for renewable generation.
- India's non-fossil capacity crossed half of installed capacity in 2025.
- Battery energy storage and pumped hydro storage balance variable solar and wind.

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 1,86,405 crore
Ministry	MNRE (power transmission with Power Ministry)
Storage	50 GWh
Evacuation	135 GW
Purpose	Evacuate renewable energy to the grid
Earlier phases	GEC I and II
2030 target	500 GW non-fossil capacity
Net zero	2070 (Panchamrit, COP26)
Storage forms	Pumped hydro and battery energy storage
ISA	Launched 2015, Paris; HQ Gurugram

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

CTUIL and POWERGRID handle inter-State transmission.

CONTINUED · GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE III

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **GW** measures power capacity; **GWh** measures energy stored.
- **Evacuation** means carrying generated power to the grid.
- **Pumped hydro** stores energy by pumping water uphill.
- **Intermittency** is the variable output of solar and wind.
- **Panchamrit** at COP26: 500 GW non-fossil capacity, 50% renewable energy share, 1 bn tonne emission cut, 45% intensity cut and net zero by 2070.
- **International Solar Alliance** is headquartered in Gurugram.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The corridor builds transmission, not generation; and storage is measured in GWh while capacity is in GW.



PANCHAYATI RAJ · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Cabinet approved PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana with Rs 7,395.55 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31 to strengthen 2.55 lakh panchayats.
- Part IX of the Constitution (Articles 243 to 243O) deals with Panchayats.
- The 73rd Amendment (1992) gave Panchayats constitutional status and came into force in 1993.
- Local Government is in State List Entry 5.

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 7,395.55 crore
Ministry	Panchayati Raj
Coverage	2.55 lakh panchayats
Constitutional basis	Part IX, 73rd Amendment
Type	Centrally sponsored scheme
Gram Sabha	Article 243A
Reservation	Article 243D: one-third women; SC/ST in proportion
Term	Five years (Art 243E)
Finance	State Finance Commission (Art 243I)

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Gram Sabha is the body of all registered voters in a village.

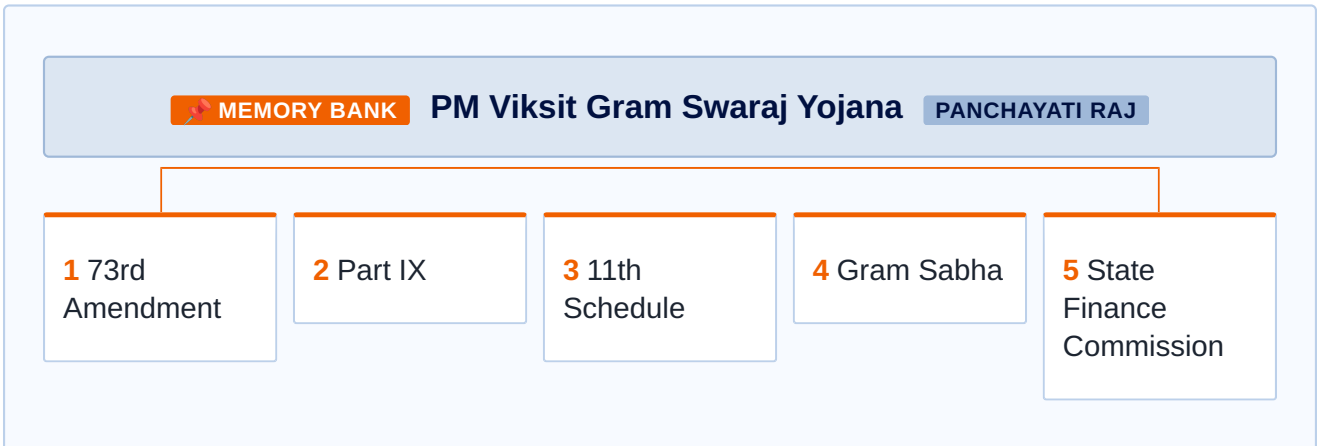
CONTINUED · PM VIKSIT GRAM SWARAJ YOJANA

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **73rd Amendment** added Part IX and the 11th Schedule.
- **Article 243B** provides a three-tier system.
- **Article 243K** creates State Election Commissions.
- **Finance Commission** at State level reviews finances of panchayats.
- **PESA, 1996** extends Panchayats to Fifth Schedule areas with strong Gram Sabha powers.
- **Article 243G** lets States give Panchayats powers over the 29 subjects of the 11th Schedule.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Panchayati Raj is a State subject; the Centre supports through schemes, but the 73rd Amendment is Part IX.



SPORTS ECONOMY · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A Rs 1,856.67 crore scheme to 2033-34 aims to build a domestic sports goods manufacturing ecosystem under Khelo India.
- Khelo India was launched in 2016 as a national programme for sports development.
- Sport is a State subject (State List Entry 33).
- Jalandhar is known for sports goods and Meerut for cricket bats and goods.

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 1,856.67 crore
Ministry	Youth Affairs and Sports
Umbrella	Khelo India
Aim	Manufacture sports goods in India
Hubs	Jalandhar and Meerut are known sports goods hubs
Khelo India	National sports development programme with Youth Games
Fit India	Fitness movement
TOPS	Target Olympic Podium Scheme for elite athletes
SAI	Sports Authority of India

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Make in India encourages domestic manufacturing.

CONTINUED · KHELO INDIA SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING SCHEME

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Khelo India** builds sports infrastructure and talent identification.
- **State List Entry 33** covers theatres, cinemas, sports.
- **Make in India** launched 2014.
- **PLI** gives incentives on incremental sales.
- **TOPS** supports elite athletes with individual funding.
- **National Sports Policy** was updated in 2025 as Khelo Bharat Niti, replacing the 2001 policy.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Sport is in the State List, so the Centre supports through schemes rather than direct legislation.



MARITIME & MANUFACTURING · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A Rs 10,000 crore scheme to FY2039-40 aims to raise India's container production from 70,000 to 7.5 lakh TEUs.
- A TEU is the standard unit to count containers of 20-foot length.
- India imports most containers, mainly from China.
- Sagarmala and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 are national maritime programmes.

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 10,000 crore
Period	To FY2039-40
Target	70,000 to 7.5 lakh TEUs
Ministry	Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Unit	TEU = twenty-foot equivalent unit
Linked to	Maritime India Vision 2030
Largest port	Mundra (private); JNPA the largest major port
Sagarmala	Port-led development programme
NW-1	Ganga, Haldia to Prayagraj
Major ports	Managed under the Major Port Authorities Act

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Major ports are under the Union; non-major ports under the States.

CONTINUED · CONTAINER MANUFACTURING PROMOTION SCHEME

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **TEU** is the container count unit.
- **Major ports** are administered by the Union (13 of them).
- **Sagarmala** promotes port-led development.
- **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** is the long term plan.
- **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** gives port boards more autonomy.
- **National Waterway-1** runs on the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly from Haldia to Prayagraj.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

TEU is a volume unit of containers and not a weight unit.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme** MARITIME & MANUFACTURING

1 TEU	2 7.5 lakh	3 Rs 10,000 cr	4 Sagarmala	5 Major ports

COASTAL MANAGEMENT · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

National Coastal Mission 2.0

NEWS IN BRIEF

- MoEFCC's National Coastal Mission 2.0 has Rs 767 crore for 9 States and 4 Union Territories.
- CRZ rules regulate activities in the coastal regulation zone.
- Mangroves, coral reefs and dunes protect shorelines.
- MISHTI promotes mangrove plantation along coasts and salt pans.

X-FACT MATRIX

Ministry	Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Outlay	Rs 767 crore
Coverage	9 coastal States and 4 UTs
Aim	Coastal protection and livelihoods
Regulation	CRZ Notification 2019
Sea length	Coastline about 11,098 km (with islands)
Coastline	Revised total 11,098 km including islands (older total 7,516 km); mainland about 6,100 km
CRZ zones	CRZ-I ecologically sensitive; II urban; III rural; IV water area
MISHTI	Mangrove plantation initiative
Blue Flag	International eco-label for beaches

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management project is run with the World Bank.

CONTINUED · NATIONAL COASTAL MISSION 2.0

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **CRZ** zones I to IV regulate coastal development.
- **EP Act 1986** is the parent law.
- **Mangroves** are tidal forests.
- **ICZM** integrates management of coasts.
- **CRZ-I** covers mangroves, corals and sand dunes where development is largely barred.
- **Mangroves** shield coasts from storm surge and store blue carbon.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

CRZ is under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, not the Wildlife Act.



SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Cabinet continued NSAP for 2026-27 to 2030-31 at Rs 53,428 crore and lowered disability pension eligibility from 80% to 40% disability.
- NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995 and rests on Article 41 of the Directive Principles.
- Its components include old age, widow and disability pensions and the National Family Benefit Scheme.
- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 defines benchmark disability as 40% or more.



Platform delivery workers

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 53,428 crore
Beneficiaries	About 3.20 crore
Disability eligibility	From 80% to 40%
Ministry	Rural Development
IGNOAPS	Old age pension, age 60+ (higher at 80+)
IGNWPS	Widow pension, ages 40 to 79
IGNDPS	Disability pension, ages 18 to 79
NFBS	Rs 20,000 on death of primary breadwinner

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

One source reports a rename to Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana; this is unverified.

CONTINUED · NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 41** directs public assistance in old age, sickness and disablement.
- **IGNOAPS** is the old age pension component.
- **RPwD Act, 2016** recognises 21 disabilities.
- **Centrally sponsored scheme** shares cost with States.
- **Directive Principles** include socialist (Arts 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 47), Gandhian (40, 43, 46, 48) and liberal-intellectual types.
- **Annapurna Scheme** gives 10 kg free foodgrains to eligible elderly people not receiving a pension.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Rename is unverified, so use NSAP; and 40% matches the RPwD Act benchmark definition.



ENERGY SECURITY · GS PAPER III · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Samudra Manthan Mission

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Samudra Manthan Mission, with Rs 84,084 crore, targets deep and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon exploration.
- India has 26 sedimentary basins, and offshore basins include Krishna-Godavari, Mahanadi and Andaman.
- The Deep Ocean Mission (2021) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences covers Samudrayaan and mineral and biodiversity exploration.
- The EEZ under UNCLOS extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline.

X-FACT MATRIX

Outlay	Rs 84,084 crore
Aim	Deep and ultra-deepwater oil and gas exploration
Ministry	Petroleum and Natural Gas
Policy base	Open Acreage Licensing Policy
Sea zone	Exclusive Economic Zone, 200 nm
Not same as	Deep Ocean Mission of MoES
Deepwater	Deeper than about 400 m
Ultra-deepwater	Deeper than about 1,500 m
Territorial sea	12 nautical miles
Contiguous zone	24 nautical miles

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

ONGC and Oil India are the main public sector explorers.

CONTINUED · SAMUDRA MANTHAN MISSION

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **UNCLOS** gives coastal states a 200 nm EEZ.
- **OALP** lets firms choose blocks for exploration.
- **Ultra-deepwater** means depths beyond about 1,500 m.
- **Samudrayaan** is the manned submersible of the Deep Ocean Mission.
- **UNCLOS zones**: territorial sea 12 nm, contiguous zone 24 nm, EEZ 200 nm and continental shelf up to 350 nm.
- **HELP (2016)** introduced revenue sharing and open acreage in exploration.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Do not confuse this petroleum mission with the Deep Ocean Mission, which sits under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.



06

Environment & Ecology, Geography & Disaster

Climate reports, wetlands, wildlife and conservation

1. CBD COP17 Yerevan and IUCN Coral Reef Assessment
2. UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026
3. Ramsar Sites: Sukhna and Sauj Jheel
4. Snow Leopard Population Assessment: SPAI
5. Cheetah Cub KNG22 Death at Kuno
6. Buxa Tigress and Barda Lions: Species Translocation
7. National Biodiversity Authority: ABS Disbursement

BIODIVERSITY DIPLOMACY · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

CBD COP17 Yerevan and IUCN Coral Reef Assessment

NEWS IN BRIEF

- COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity met in Yerevan, Armenia from 19 to 30 October 2026, while IUCN assessed 122 of 127 coral ecoregions as critically endangered.
- IUCN found 122 of 127 coral ecoregions critically endangered and the Western Galapagos collapsed.
- CBD was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and came into force in 1993.
- The Nagoya Protocol governs access and benefit sharing; the Cartagena Protocol governs biosafety.



Coral reef

X-FACT MATRIX

Venue	Yerevan, Armenia
Parties	196
Framework	Kunming-Montreal GBF, 23 targets
30x30	Protect 30% of land and sea by 2030
Finance goal	USD 200 bn a year vs USD 78 to 91 bn now
Fund	Cali Fund for digital sequence information
Convention	Adopted at the Rio Earth Summit; Secretariat in Montreal
Protocols	Cartagena (biosafety), Nagoya (access and benefit sharing)
Earlier targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets, replaced by KMGBF
GBF	Adopted at COP15, Montreal

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with the National Biodiversity Authority in Chennai.

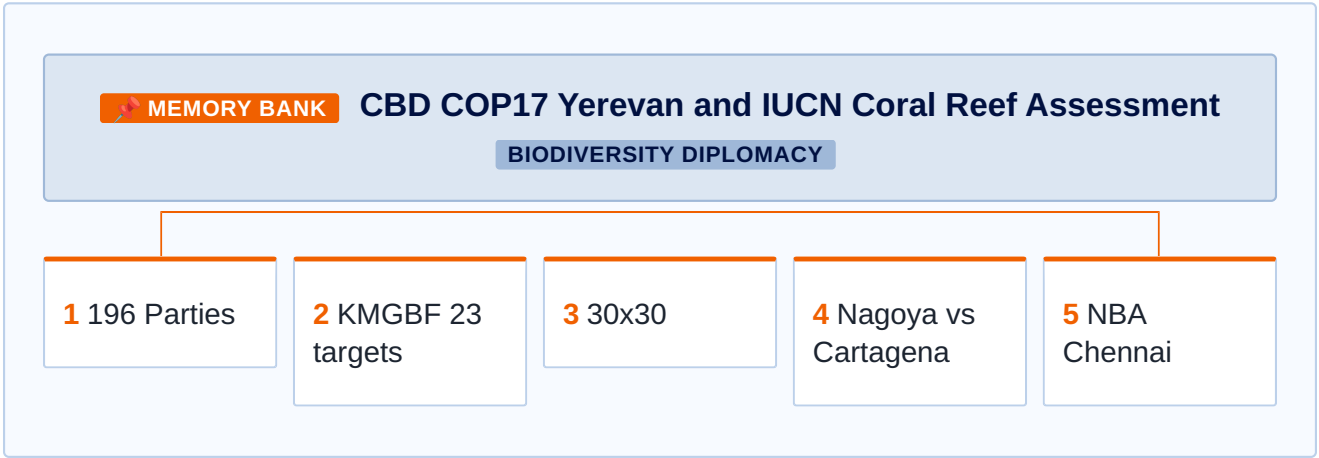
CONTINUED · CBD COP17 YEREVAN AND IUCN CORAL REEF ASSESSMENT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **CBD** has three goals: conservation, sustainable use and fair benefit sharing.
- **Kunming-Montreal GBF** was adopted at COP15 in 2022.
- **Nagoya Protocol** deals with genetic resources.
- **NBA** is based in Chennai.
- **KMGBF** has 4 goals and 23 targets for 2030; **Target 3** is the 30 by 30 goal.
- **Cali Fund** collects contributions from users of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Nagoya is about access and benefit sharing, Cartagena about biosafety; and CBD is not the UNFCCC.



CLIMATE REPORTS · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

- UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2026, titled The Point of Return, estimates global emissions at 58.4 GtCO2e in 2025 and warming of about 2.8 degrees Celsius on current policies.
- The Gap Report compares pledged and needed emissions to meet the Paris targets.
- Paris aims to hold warming well below 2 deg C and pursue 1.5 deg C.



UN Environment Programme

- Nationally Determined Contributions are submitted every five years.

X-FACT MATRIX

Report	The Point of Return
Publisher	UNEP
Emissions 2025	58.4 GtCO2e
Trajectory	About 2.8 deg C by 2100
India 2035	3.6 t per capita (reported)
Related	Paris Agreement and NDCs
Paris goal	Well below 2 deg C, pursue 1.5 deg C
Stocktake	Global Stocktake every five years; first concluded at COP28
India's NDC	45% cut in emissions intensity by 2030 from the 2005 base
Net zero	India targets 2070

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

GtCO2e is gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

CONTINUED · UNEP EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2026

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Emissions Gap** is the difference between needed and expected emissions.
- **NDC** is each country's climate pledge.
- **CO2e** expresses all gases in carbon dioxide terms.
- **IPCC** publishes assessment reports; UNEP publishes the Gap Report.
- **Global Stocktake** assesses collective progress under the Paris Agreement.
- **Loss and Damage Fund** was agreed at COP27 and operationalised at COP28.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The Gap Report is by UNEP, not the IPCC; the IPCC writes Assessment Reports.

📌 MEMORY BANK **UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026** CLIMATE REPORTS

1	2	3	4	5
UNEP report	58.4 Gt	2.8 degC	NDC	Paris

WETLANDS · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Ramsar Sites: Sukhna and Sauj Jheel

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Sukhna Lake (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel were designated as India's 102nd and 103rd Ramsar sites on 15 October 2026.
- Ramsar Convention was signed in Iran in 1971.
- Ramsar sites are Wetlands of International Importance.
- The Montreux Record lists sites with ecological change.


Wetland landscape


Red-wattled lapwing

X-FACT MATRIX

New sites	Sukhna (102nd) and Sauj Jheel (103rd)
India total	103
Largest	Sundarbans
State with most	Tamil Nadu 20, Uttar Pradesh 14
Convention	Signed at Ramsar, Iran
First Indian sites	Chilika and Keoladeo
Criteria	9 criteria for international importance
Wetlands Day	2 February
Montreux examples	Keoladeo and Loktak

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India's wetlands are regulated by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

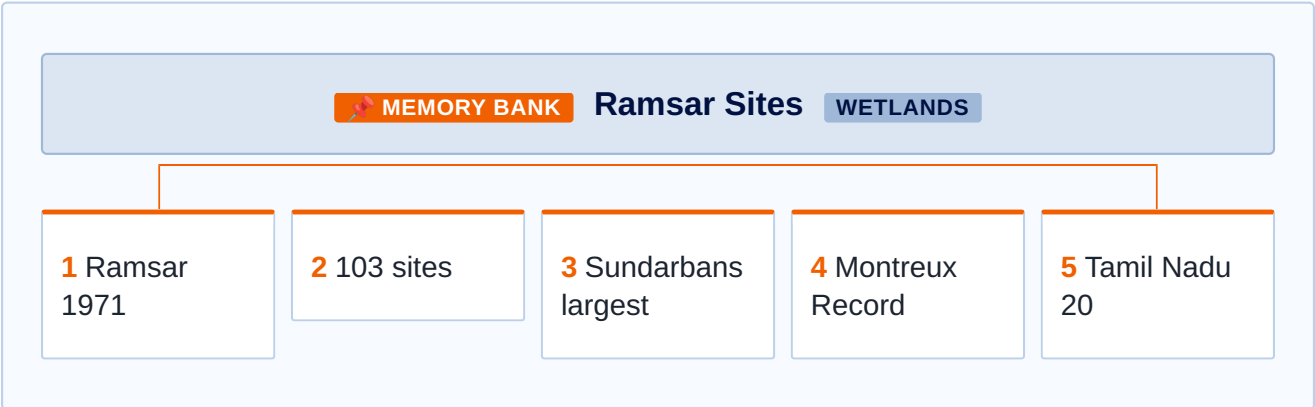
CONTINUED · RAMSAR SITES: SUKHNA AND SAUJ JHEEL

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Ramsar Convention** promotes wise use of wetlands.
- **Montreux Record** lists sites under threat.
- **Loktak** (Manipur) and **Keoladeo** are examples on the record.
- **Wetland Rules 2017** replaced the 2010 rules.
- **Montreux Record** lists Ramsar sites where ecological character has changed or is threatened.
- **Wetlands Rules, 2017** replaced the 2010 rules and set up State Wetland Authorities.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Ramsar listing is a recognition of importance, not a ban on use; the Montreux Record flags threatened sites.



WILDLIFE · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Snow Leopard Population Assessment: SPAI

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) counted 718 snow leopards, of which 477 are in Ladakh.
- Snow leopard is the State animal of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009.
- The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme covers 12 range countries.



Snow leopard

X-FACT MATRIX

Count	718
Ladakh	477
Survey	SPAI
Conservation status	Vulnerable (IUCN)
Habitat	High Himalaya above treeline
Protection	Schedule I, WPA 1972
IUCN	Vulnerable
CITES	Appendix I
CMS	Appendix I
Range states	Ladakh, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India's snow leopard range spans Ladakh, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal.

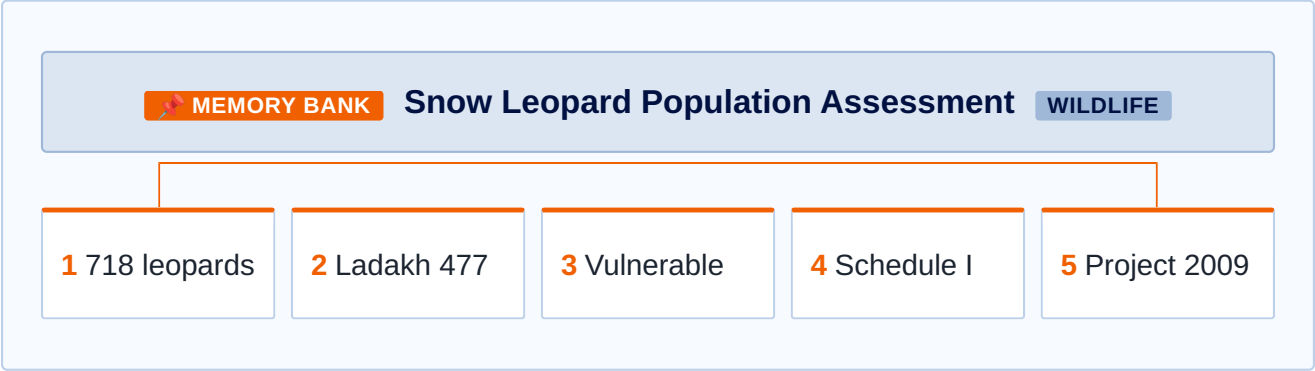
CONTINUED · SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION ASSESSMENT: SPAI

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Schedule I** gives highest protection.
- **Project Snow Leopard** is a habitat-based programme.
- **IUCN Vulnerable** is below Endangered.
- **Pashmina** livelihoods link to mountain wildlife.
- **SECURE Himalaya** is a UNDP-GEF project for high-altitude ecosystems.
- **CMS** (Bonn Convention) protects migratory species; **CITES** regulates trade.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Snow leopard is Vulnerable (IUCN), not Endangered; and it is found in cold deserts, not tropical forests.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Cheetah Cub KNG22 Death at Kuno

NEWS IN BRIEF

- A cheetah cub, KNG22, died in Madhya Pradesh in the first death attributed to gunfire; the toll stands at 26 including cubs.
- Project Cheetah began on 17 September 2022 with cheetahs from Namibia, followed by South Africa.
- The cheetah is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN.
- Asiatic cheetah went extinct in India by 1952.



Cheetah with cub

X-FACT MATRIX

Animal	Cub KNG22
Place	Morena, near Kuno
Cause	Gunfire (reported)
Toll	26 (reported)
Project	Project Cheetah, reintroduction in Kuno
Park	Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh
Species	Acinonyx jubatus; IUCN Vulnerable
CITES	Appendix I
Introduced	From Namibia and South Africa
Plan	Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Gandhi Sagar is another site prepared in Madhya Pradesh.

CONTINUED · CHEETAH CUB KNG22 DEATH AT KUNO

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Reintroduction** brings back species extinct locally.
- **Cheetah** is the fastest land animal.
- **Kuno** lies in Sheopur district.
- **Extinct in India** by 1952.
- **Reintroduction** returns a species to a place where it went extinct; **supplementation** adds to an existing population.
- **Gandhi Sagar** sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is the second planned cheetah site.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

India's cheetahs are African cheetahs, not Asiatic ones; and cheetahs are Vulnerable in IUCN.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Cheetah Cub KNG22 Death at Kuno** WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

1 Project Cheetah 2022
2 African origin
3 Kuno
4 Vulnerable
5 Extinct 1952

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Buxa Tigress and Barda Lions: Species Translocation

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal received its first translocated tigress from Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar, during Wildlife Week, while Barda Wildlife Sanctuary gains importance as an alternate habitat for Asiatic lions.
- Translocation moves animals to restore or support a population.
- Asiatic lions are confined to Gujarat; a second home is sought to reduce disease and calamity risk.
- Buxa links with Bhutan's forests and Assam's Manas landscape.



Tiger



Asiatic lion

X-FACT MATRIX

Buxa	Alipurduar, West Bengal, on the Bhutan border
Tigress from	Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
Occasion	Wildlife Week
Barda	Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
Species	Asiatic lion, IUCN Endangered
Only wild home so far	Gir landscape, Gujarat
Tiger numbers	3,682 average estimate in the latest cycle
Lion census	891 in 2025 (reported)
Gir	Junagadh, Gujarat; sanctuary and national park
Tiger Reserve zones	Core and buffer

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Project Tiger began in 1973 and is run by the NTCA.

CONTINUED · BUXA TIGRESS AND BARDA LIONS: SPECIES TRANSLOCATION

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Translocation** restores or boosts a population.
- **NTCA** is the statutory body for Project Tiger.
- **Asiatic lion** is a Schedule I species.
- **Kuno** was an earlier site considered for lions.
- **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 covers tigers and Asiatic lions.
- **Core zones** of tiger reserves are inviolate; **buffer zones** allow compatible use.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Barda is an alternate site, not an existing lion habitat; Gir remains the only home.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Buxa Tigress and Barda Lions** WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

1	2	3	4	5
Valmiki to Buxa	Wildlife Week	Barda alternate	Gir only home	Project Tiger 1973

BIODIVERSITY LAW · GS PAPER III · ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

National Biodiversity Authority: ABS Disbursement

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The National Biodiversity Authority disbursed about Rs 1.19 crore under Access and Benefit Sharing to 29 State Biodiversity Boards and one UT Biodiversity Council.
- The Act implements the Convention on Biological Diversity at national level.
- NBA was set up in 2003; State Biodiversity Boards are set up at State level.
- Biodiversity Management Committees at local body level document local knowledge in People's Biodiversity Registers.



NBA office, Chennai

X-FACT MATRIX

Body	National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
Amount	About Rs 1.19 crore
Receivers	29 SBBs and one UT council
Law	Biological Diversity Act, 2002
Mechanism	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
Local level	Biodiversity Management Committees
Sections	Sec 3 access; Sec 21 benefit sharing; Sec 37 heritage sites
Three tiers	NBA, SBB, BMC
Amendment	BD (Amendment) Act, 2023
First BHS	Nallur Tamarind Grove, Karnataka

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Foreign entities need NBA approval to access Indian biological resources.

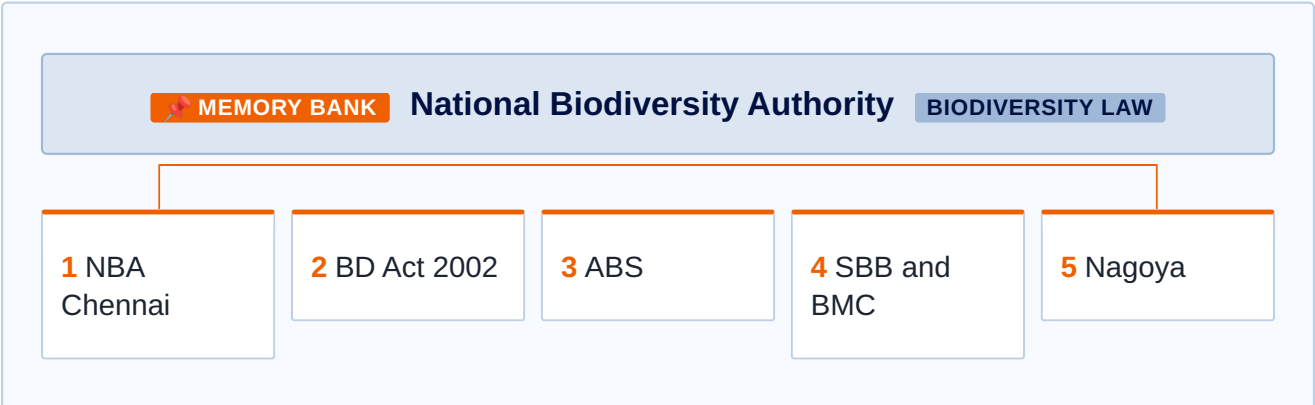
CONTINUED · NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY: ABS DISBURSEMENT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **BD Act, 2002** has a three-tier structure.
- **ABS** shares benefits with local communities.
- **PBR** records local biological knowledge.
- **Nagoya Protocol** governs ABS globally.
- **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (Sec 37)** are well-preserved areas of ecological importance.
- **BD Amendment Act, 2023** eased rules for AYUSH practitioners and codified traditional knowledge.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

ABS is about fair sharing of benefits from biological resources, not a ban on use; and NBA is statutory, not constitutional.



07

Science & Technology

Biotech, ICT & AI, defence, space and health

1. CRISPR-Edited Rice Varieties
2. Double Fortified Salt and Anaemia Mukt Bharat
3. CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad
4. K9 Vajra-T Self-Propelled Howitzers
5. Land Warfare Doctrine 2026
6. INS Samarthak: Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel
7. NVS-03 Launch and NavIC
8. AI INSPIRED and Zoological Discovery: Tetronarce ramanamurthyi
9. TAPAS-1: India's First Private Thermal-Imaging Nanosatellite
10. Akash Air Defence System: Exports to Central Asia
11. Varunastra Heavyweight Torpedo Order
12. Jwala Mk-1: Counter-Drone Missile Concept
13. Jumping Genes (Transposons)
14. Misagh-2 and FP-7 Pelican: Missiles in Conflict Zones

BIOTECH · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CRISPR-Edited Rice Varieties

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India released genome-edited rice varieties, DRR Dhan-100 Kamala and Pusa DST Rice-1, developed through CRISPR technology.
- Genome editing alters native genes without adding foreign DNA in SDN-1 and SDN-2.
- Transgenic GM crops add genes from other species, like Bt cotton.
- Bt cotton is the only GM crop commercially cultivated in India.

X-FACT MATRIX

Varieties	DRR Dhan-100 Kamala; Pusa DST Rice-1
Technology	CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing
Type	SDN-1 and SDN-2 edits (no foreign DNA)
Bodies	ICAR institutes
Law	Environment Protection Act rules exempt SDN-1 and SDN-2
Difference	Not transgenic GM crops
Institutes	ICAR: IARI Pusa and IIRR Hyderabad
SDN-1	Small edits without a template
SDN-2	Edits guided by a template
SDN-3	Inserts foreign DNA; treated as GM

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 went to Charpentier and Doudna for CRISPR.

CONTINUED · CRISPR-EDITED RICE VARIETIES

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **CRISPR-Cas9** cuts DNA at a chosen site.
- **SDN-1/SDN-2** make edits without inserting foreign genes.
- **GEAC** approves GM crops.
- **Bt cotton** is the only GM crop grown.
- **SDN-3** introduces foreign DNA and is regulated as a GM organism.
- **GEAC** under MoEFCC approves GM organisms under the 1989 Rules.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Genome-edited is not the same as GM; and only Bt cotton is approved for commercial cultivation.

📌 MEMORY BANK **CRISPR-Edited Rice Varieties** BIOTECH



HEALTH · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Double Fortified Salt and Anaemia Mukt Bharat

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Double fortified salt, with iron and iodine, is promoted under Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB), which uses a 6x6x6 framework.
- Anaemia is a condition of low haemoglobin.
- Iron deficiency is the most common cause.
- Food fortification adds micronutrients to staples like rice, salt and oil.

X-FACT MATRIX

Fortified with	Iron and iodine
Programme	Anaemia Mukt Bharat
Framework	6x6x6: six interventions, six beneficiary groups, six mechanisms
Target groups	Children, adolescents, pregnant women
Ministry	Health and Family Welfare
Scheme link	POSHAN Abhiyaan
Law	Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
Fortified foods	Rice, wheat flour, edible oil, milk, salt
Logo	+F logo of FSSAI

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

FSSAI regulates fortification standards.

CONTINUED · DOUBLE FORTIFIED SALT AND ANAEMIA MUKT BHARAT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Fortification** adds nutrients to foods.
- **FSSAI** is the food safety regulator.
- **Iodine** deficiency causes goitre.
- **Iron** deficiency causes anaemia.
- **Micronutrients**: iron (anaemia), iodine (goitre), vitamin A (night blindness), vitamin D (rickets).
- **FSSAI** sets fortification standards and the +F logo.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Iodine prevents goitre, iron prevents anaemia; do not swap them.

📌 MEMORY BANK Double Fortified Salt and Anaemia Mukt Bharat HEALTH

1 Iron plus iodine

2 AMB 2018

3 FSSAI

4 Goitre

5 Anaemia

ICT & AI · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Comptroller and Auditor General launched a BHASHINI-based tool, Anuvaad, to translate audit reports into Indian languages.
- BHASHINI is an AI-enabled language translation platform under MeitY.
- CAG is appointed by the President and removable like a Supreme Court judge.
- Audit reports are examined by the Public Accounts Committee.



CAG Anuvaad launch

X-FACT MATRIX

Institution	Comptroller and Auditor General of India
Platform	BHASHINI (National Language Translation Mission)
Tool	Anuvaad
Function	Audit report translation
Constitutional basis	Article 148
Reports to	President, laid before Parliament
CAG tenure	6 years or age 65
Removal	Like a Supreme Court judge
BHASHINI	National Language Translation Mission, MeitY
Audit types	Compliance, performance, financial

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India has 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule.

CONTINUED · CAG-BHASHINI ANUVAAD

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 148** establishes the CAG.
- **PAC** examines audit reports.
- **BHASHINI** supports 22 scheduled languages.
- **Eighth Schedule** lists 22 languages.
- **DPC Act, 1971** defines CAG's duties, powers and conditions of service.
- **Eighth Schedule** lists 22 languages, which BHASHINI aims to support.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

CAG audits government accounts but does not approve expenditure before it is made; PAC examines CAG reports.



DEFENCE · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

K9 Vajra-T Self-Propelled Howitzers

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India ordered over 300 more K9 Vajra-T guns from L&T at Hazira, built with Hanwha, with more than 70% domestic content.
- A 155 mm gun has a bore diameter of 155 mm; 52 calibre is the barrel length ratio.
- Self-propelled howitzers move on tracks and fire on the move.
- Dhanush and ATAGS are indigenous towed guns.



K9 Vajra-T

X-FACT MATRIX

Gun	K9 Vajra-T, 155 mm / 52 calibre
Maker	L&T with Hanwha
Plant	Hazira, Gujarat
Order	300+ more
Domestic content	70% plus
Type	Self-propelled tracked howitzer
Origin	Based on South Korea's K9 Thunder by Hanwha
First order	100 guns first, then more from L&T
Crew	5
Role	Self-propelled gun for plains and deserts

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence uses positive indigenisation lists.

CONTINUED · K9 VAJRA-T SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Calibre** is bore diameter; **'52 cal'** is barrel length ratio.
- **Howitzer** is a medium-range gun with high angle fire.
- **ATAGS** is a DRDO-developed towed gun.
- **Positive indigenisation lists** ban imports of listed items.
- **Howitzers** fire at high angles over medium range; **mortars** at very high angles over short range.
- **Dhanush** is an indigenous towed gun from the Ordnance Factory Board lineage.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

52 calibre refers to barrel length (52 times the bore), not range or number of rounds.

📌 MEMORY BANK **K9 Vajra-T Self-Propelled Howitzers** DEFENCE

1	2	3	4	5
155 mm	52 cal	Hazira	L&T Hanwha	70% local

DEFENCE POLICY · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Land Warfare Doctrine 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Army released the Land Warfare Doctrine 2026, replacing the December 2018 doctrine.
- A doctrine sets principles for conducting operations.
- The CDS post was created on 31 December 2019, with Gen Bipin Rawat the first.
- The Department of Military Affairs under CDS handles integration.

X-FACT MATRIX

Document	Land Warfare Doctrine 2026
Replaces	The earlier Army doctrine
Issued by	Indian Army
Focus	Joint operations, technology, drones
Related	Theatre commands push
Chief of Defence Staff	Permanent chair of Chiefs of Staff Committee
CDS	First CDS Gen Bipin Rawat; heads Department of Military Affairs
Theatre commands	Integrated structure under discussion

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Theatre commands aim to unify Army, Navy and Air Force assets.

CONTINUED · LAND WARFARE DOCTRINE 2026

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Doctrine** is a body of guiding principles for operations.
- **CDS** heads the Department of Military Affairs.
- **Theatre command** integrates the three services.
- **Joint doctrine** was released in 2017.
- **Doctrine** is a body of principles; **strategy** applies it; **tactics** act on the field.
- **Theatre commands** combine Army, Navy and Air Force assets for a geographic region.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Doctrine is not law or policy; it guides operations and does not need Parliament's approval.



NAVAL ASSETS · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INS Samarthak: Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

NEWS IN BRIEF

- INS Samarthak, built by L&T at Kattupalli as the first indigenous multi-purpose vessel, was commissioned at Karwar.
- Project Seabird at Karwar is among Asia's largest naval bases.
- Warship building for the Navy includes the Mazagon Dock, GRSE and Cochin Shipyard.
- INS Vikrant is India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, commissioned September 2022.



Naval vessel at launch

X-FACT MATRIX

Ship	INS Samarthak
Builder	L&T, Kattupalli
Type	Multi-purpose vessel
Commissioned at	Karwar
Significance	First indigenous of its kind (reported)
Base	Karwar, Karnataka, Project Seabird
Carriers	INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya
Builders	Mazagon Dock, GRSE, Cochin Shipyard, GSL
Project Seabird	Karwar naval base
P-75	Scorpene submarines

⚡ UNIQUE FACT

Kattupalli is near Chennai.

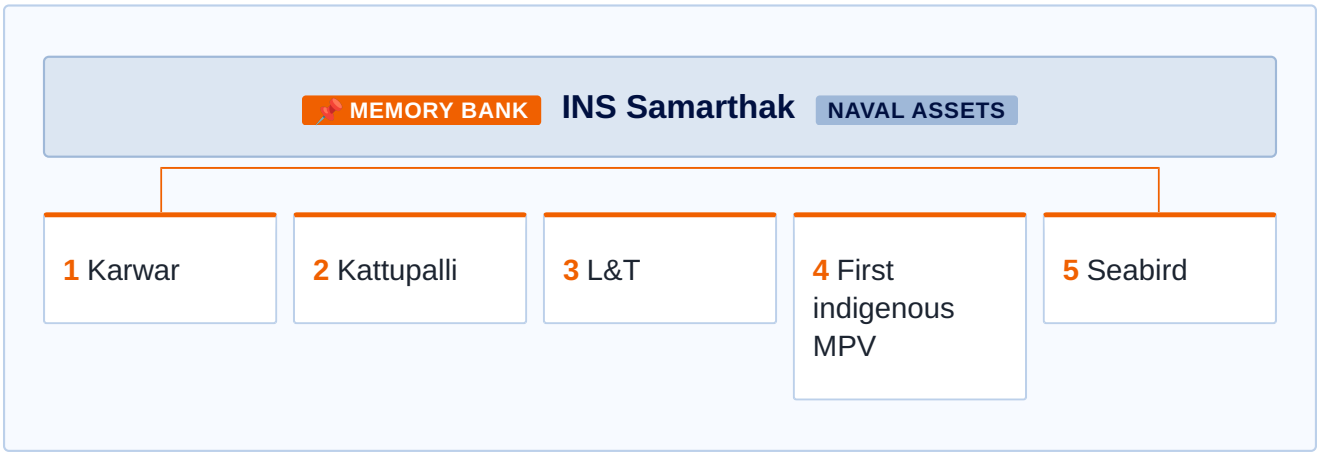
CONTINUED · INS SAMARTHAK: INDIGENOUS MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Project Seabird** is the Karwar naval base.
- **INS Vikrant** is the first indigenous carrier.
- **Kattupalli** is in Tamil Nadu.
- **Multi-purpose vessel** supports diving and salvage.
- **INS Vikrant** (IAC-1) was built by Cochin Shipyard and commissioned in September 2022.
- **Project-75** builds Scorpene-class submarines at Mazagon Dock.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Karwar is on the west coast in Karnataka; do not place it in Kerala or Goa.



SPACE · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NVS-03 Launch and NavIC

NEWS IN BRIEF

- ISRO launched NVS-03 on 30 October 2026 by GSLV Mk II from Sriharikota, with a rubidium atomic clock built by SAC to restore NavIC.
- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) covers India and 1,500 km around it.
- GSLV Mk II uses a cryogenic third stage.
- Atomic clocks give precise timing for position fixing.

X-FACT MATRIX

Satellite	NVS-03
Launch	GSLV Mk II from Sriharikota
Mass	About 2.2 tonnes
Clock	Rubidium atomic clock, from SAC
Bands	L1, L5 and S
System	NavIC, regional navigation
NavIC	Originally 7 satellites (IRNSS)
Coverage	India plus 1,500 km
Accuracy	Better than 20 m for civil users
Services	Standard Positioning and Restricted Service

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Space Applications Centre is at Ahmedabad.

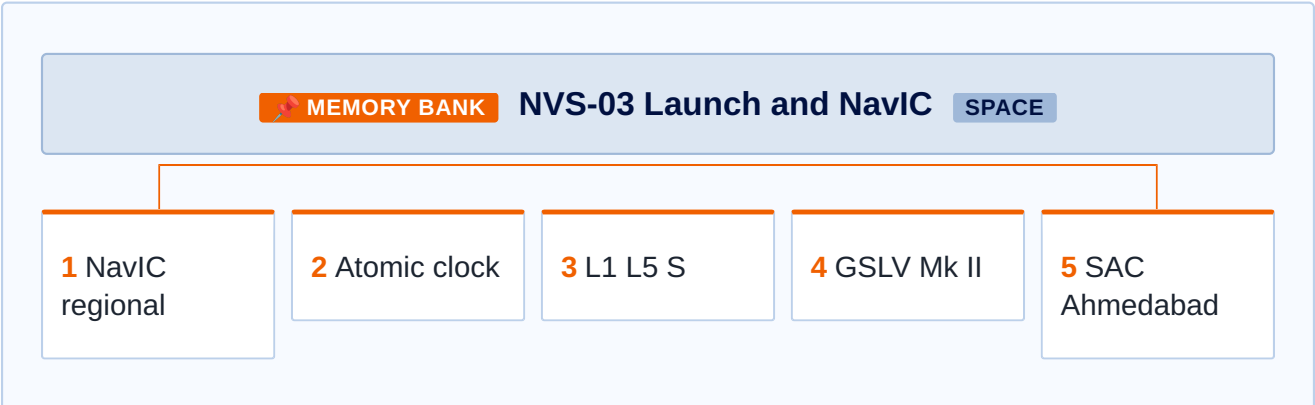
CONTINUED · NVS-03 LAUNCH AND NAVIC

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **NavIC** has seven satellites in geosynchronous and geostationary orbits.
- **L1** adds civilian compatibility with GPS.
- **GSLV** uses an indigenous cryogenic stage.
- **SAC** is at Ahmedabad.
- **Atomic clock** failures had weakened earlier NavIC satellites, hence the new rubidium clock.
- **GNSS** systems: GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU), BeiDou (China).

⚠ EXAM TRAP

NavIC is a regional system, unlike GPS, which is global; and clocks matter because position is derived from timing.



SPACE START-UPS & BIODIVERSITY · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AI INSPIRED and Zoological Discovery: Tetronarce ramanamurthyi

NEWS IN BRIEF

- IN-SPACe announced AI INSPIRED, giving six entities up to Rs 1 crore each (Rs 6 crore), while ZSI described an Arabian Sea electric ray, Tetronarce ramanamurthyi.
- IN-SPACe was set up in 2020 under the Department of Space.
- ZSI, Kolkata, is under MoEFCC.
- Electric rays can produce electric discharge to stun prey.

X-FACT MATRIX

AI INSPIRED	IN-SPACe challenge
Funding	Up to Rs 1 crore each, six entities, Rs 6 crore
IN-SPACe	Single-window agency for private space activity
New species	Tetronarce ramanamurthyi, electric ray
Found in	Arabian Sea
Named for	M. V. Ramana Murthy; ZSI
IN-SPACe	Single-window agency for private space activity
NSIL	Commercial arm of the Department of Space
Space Policy	2023
Skyroot	Vikram-S was India's first private rocket

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

A new species is formally described with a binomial name.

CONTINUED · AI INSPIRED AND ZOOLOGICAL DISCOVERY: TETRONARCE RAMANAMURTHYI

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **IN-SPACe** is the single-window agency for private space sector.
- **NSIL** is the commercial arm of Department of Space.
- **ZSI** is headquartered in Kolkata.
- **Binomial nomenclature** gives genus and species names.
- **Space Policy 2023** defines roles of ISRO, IN-SPACe and NSIL.
- **Zoological Survey of India** was founded in 1916 and is headquartered in Kolkata.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

IN-SPACe regulates and promotes, while ISRO builds and operates; ZSI is under MoEFCC and not Science and Technology.

📌 MEMORY BANK **AI INSPIRED and Zoological Discovery** SPACE START-UPS & BIODIVERSITY

1 IN-SPACe 2020	**2** Rs 6 crore	**3** ZSI Kolkata	**4** Electric ray	**5** Binomial name

SPACE START-UPS · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

TAPAS-1: India's First Private Thermal-Imaging Nanosatellite

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Ahmedabad-based Satleo Labs flew TAPAS-1, India's first indigenously designed commercial thermal-imaging nanosatellite payload, on SpaceX's Falcon 9 Transporter-18 rideshare.
- Thermal infrared sensors measure heat emitted by land, water, crops and cities.



SpaceX Falcon 9 rideshare launch

- A sun-synchronous orbit passes over a place at the same local solar time each day.
- A CubeSat is built from 10 cm units and is cheap to launch.

X-FACT MATRIX

Developer	Satleo Labs, Ahmedabad
Payload	Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions
Rocket	SpaceX Falcon 9, Transporter-18
Orbit	Sun-synchronous LEO, about 500 km
Mass	About 1.5 kg, CubeSat form
Sensing	Thermal infrared from Earth's surface
Rideshare	Transporter-18 flight by SpaceX
Indian private firms	Skyroot, Agnikul, Pixxel, Dhruva Space
Sensing band	Thermal infrared
Uses	Urban heat, crop stress, fires

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

IN-SPACe authorises and supports private space activity in India.

CONTINUED · TAPAS-1: INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE THERMAL-IMAGING NANOSATELLITE

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Thermal infrared** senses heat, even at night.
- **SSO** gives consistent lighting for imaging.
- **CubeSat** is a miniature standard satellite.
- **IN-SPACe** is the single-window agency for private space.
- **Pixxel** builds hyperspectral imaging satellites; **Agnikul** flew Agnibaan SOrTeD in 2024.
- **Urban heat islands** show up clearly in thermal infrared data.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

A sun-synchronous orbit is near-polar and low; do not confuse it with geostationary orbit.



DEFENCE EXPORTS · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Akash Air Defence System: Exports to Central Asia

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India exported the Akash air defence system to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, after Armenia became the first foreign customer.
- IGMDP (1983) under A. P. J. Abdul Kalam produced Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag.
- Akash Prime was tested for high altitude use, including in Ladakh.
- Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have relied on Russian equipment, so the sale diversifies Central Asian sourcing.



Akash missile system

X-FACT MATRIX

System	Akash, short to medium-range SAM
Developer	DRDO
Producers	BDL and BEL
Buyers	Tajikistan, Turkmenistan; Armenia first
Targets	Aircraft, cruise missiles, drones
Origin	Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme
Range	About 25 km for Akash-1S; Akash-NG longer
Users	Indian Army and Air Force
Akash Prime	Tested at high altitude in Ladakh
Missile family	IGMDP: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash, Nag

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Export growth supports Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

CONTINUED · AKASH AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM: EXPORTS TO CENTRAL ASIA

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **IGMDP** gave five missile families.
- **SAM** is a surface-to-air missile.
- **BDL** makes missiles; **BEL** makes radars and electronics.
- **Armenia** was the first export customer.
- **IGMDP** was launched in 1983 under Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- **Sudarshan Chakra Mission** (announced 2025) aims at a layered air defence shield; S-400 is a separate Russian system.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Akash is a surface-to-air missile; Nag is an anti-tank missile; Trishul was discontinued.



NAVAL WEAPONS · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Varunastra Heavyweight Torpedo Order

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Defence Ministry signed a Rs 1,543 crore contract on 15 October 2026 for Varunastra torpedoes from Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- Varunastra is ship-launched, electrically propelled and acoustic homing.



Varunastra torpedo


Ship-launched torpedo

- It was first handed over to the Navy in June 2016, so this order is a follow-on.
- The headline Rs 4,106 crore combined this contract with a separate Rs 2,563 crore satellite contract.

X-FACT MATRIX

Contract	Rs 1,543 crore
Torpedo	Varunastra, heavyweight, anti-submarine
Developer	NSTL (DRDO), Visakhapatnam
Producer	BDL
Diameter	533.4 mm
Depth	8 to 600 m operating
Speed settings	27 and 40 knots
Launch	From surface ships
Induction	First inducted into the Navy earlier; this is a follow-on order
Lightweight cousin	Shyena, Advanced Light Weight Torpedo

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Quantity was not disclosed.

CONTINUED · VARUNASTRA HEAVYWEIGHT TORPEDO ORDER

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Heavyweight torpedo** has 533 mm diameter.
- **Acoustic homing** follows sound from the target.
- **NSTL** is the DRDO naval lab at Visakhapatnam.
- **Anti-submarine warfare** targets submarines.
- **Lightweight torpedoes** are about 324 mm; **heavyweight torpedoes** are 533 mm.
- **Acoustic homing** torpedoes follow the sound of the target; **wire-guided** ones are steered from the launcher.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Rs 4,106 crore is the combined figure; the torpedo order alone is Rs 1,543 crore.



COUNTER-UAV SYSTEMS · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jwala Mk-1: Counter-Drone Missile Concept

NEWS IN BRIEF

- IG Defence showed a concept for the Jwala Mk-1 short-range surface-to-air missile to Indian Air Force officials at Dronathon 2026.
- Counter-UAV systems detect, track and defeat drones through jamming, lasers or missiles.
- The design uses a 0.5 to 1.5 kg pre-fragmented warhead with a proximity fuze, per the company.
- No flight test data has been released.



Jwala Mk-1 concept

X-FACT MATRIX

System	Jwala Mk-1, a concept (airframe shown)
Developer	IG Defence, a drone start-up
Role	Counter-drone air defence
Range	2 to 5 km (company claim)
Altitude	50 m to 5,000 m (claim)
Launcher	Truck-mounted, multi-canister
Hard kill	Missiles, guns, lasers
Soft kill	Jamming, spoofing
Related	DRDO D4 system, BEL Akashteer
Rules	Drone Rules, 2021

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Indian counter-drone efforts include DRDO's D4 system and BEL's Akashteer.

CONTINUED · JWALA MK-1: COUNTER-DRONE MISSILE CONCEPT

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Counter-UAV** defeats hostile drones.
- **Proximity fuze** triggers near the target.
- **Saturation attack** uses many drones at once.
- **D4** is DRDO's drone detect, deter and destroy system.
- **Directed energy weapons** such as lasers are tested by DRDO for counter-drone use.
- **Drone Rules, 2021** liberalised civil drone use and set up the Drone Shakti push.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Jwala Mk-1 is a concept with company claims; do not treat the numbers as service specifications.



BIOTECH · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jumping Genes (Transposons)

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Jumping genes, or transposons, came into focus after a study reported that polar bears in Greenland's warmest region may use them to rewrite their DNA quickly.
- Transposons can cause mutations and help evolution by creating variation.
- Some cancers and genetic disorders are linked to transposon activity.
- Gene-editing and gene-therapy tools borrow ideas from transposon biology.

X-FACT MATRIX

Discovered by	Barbara McClintock, in maize, 1940s
Also called	Transposable elements
Meaning	DNA that moves within a genome
Nobel	McClintock, Physiology or Medicine
News	Polar bear study on rapid DNA rewriting
Human genome	Roughly 45% is transposon-derived
Types	Retrotransposons (copy and paste); DNA transposons (cut and paste)
Human elements	LINE-1 and Alu
Maize elements	Ac and Ds
Tool	Sleeping Beauty transposon in gene therapy research

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

McClintock worked on maize kernel colour patterns.

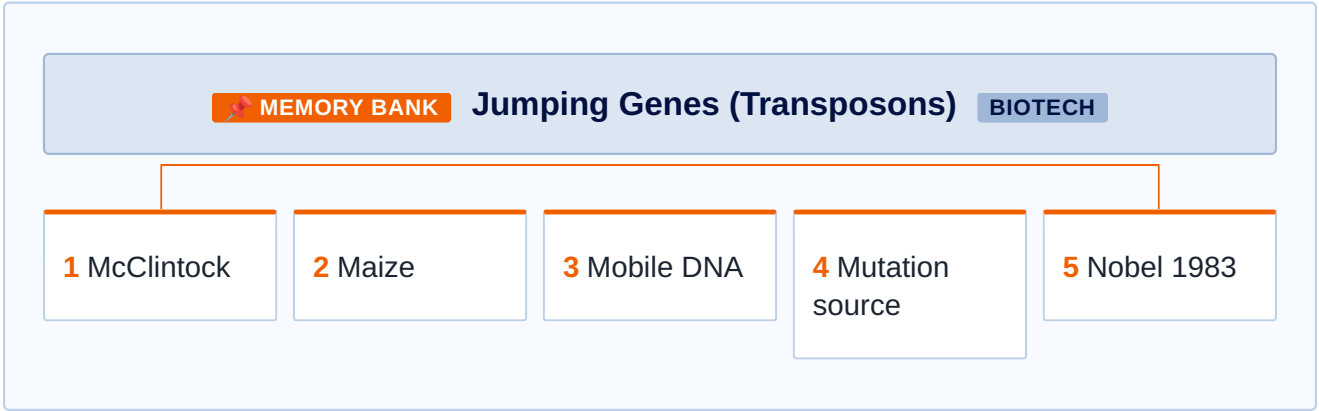
CONTINUED · JUMPING GENES (TRANSPOSONS)

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Transposon** is a DNA segment that changes position.
- **Mutation** is a change in DNA sequence.
- **Genome** is the full set of DNA.
- **McClintock** won the 1983 Nobel.
- **Retrotransposons** copy through an RNA intermediate; **DNA transposons** cut and paste directly.
- **Epigenetic silencing** such as DNA methylation keeps most transposons inactive.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Jumping genes move within DNA; they are not viruses and not the same as plasmids.



DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY · GS PAPER III · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Misagh-2 and FP-7 Pelican: Missiles in Conflict Zones

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Iran's Misagh-2 shoulder-fired missile was reported in use against drone threats, and Ukraine reported the first combat use of its FP-7 ballistic missile.
- MANPADS are shoulder-fired weapons against low-flying aircraft and drones.
- A ballistic missile follows a high arc after a powered boost phase, unlike a cruise missile that flies low and powered.
- FP-7 is also called Pelican, and the details are as reported by news sources.

X-FACT MATRIX

Misagh-2	Iranian MANPADS, infrared homing
MANPADS	Man-portable air-defence system
FP-7 maker	Fire Point, Ukraine
FP-7 range	200 to 300 km (reported)
FP-7 warhead	150 to 200 kg (reported)
First combat use	Announced by Ukraine
MANPADS examples	Stinger (US), Igla (Russia), Misagh (Iran)
SRBM	Range below 1,000 km
MRBM / IRBM	1,000 to 3,000 km / 3,000 to 5,500 km
ICBM	Above 5,500 km

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

India's VSHORADS is a similar man-portable system developed by DRDO.

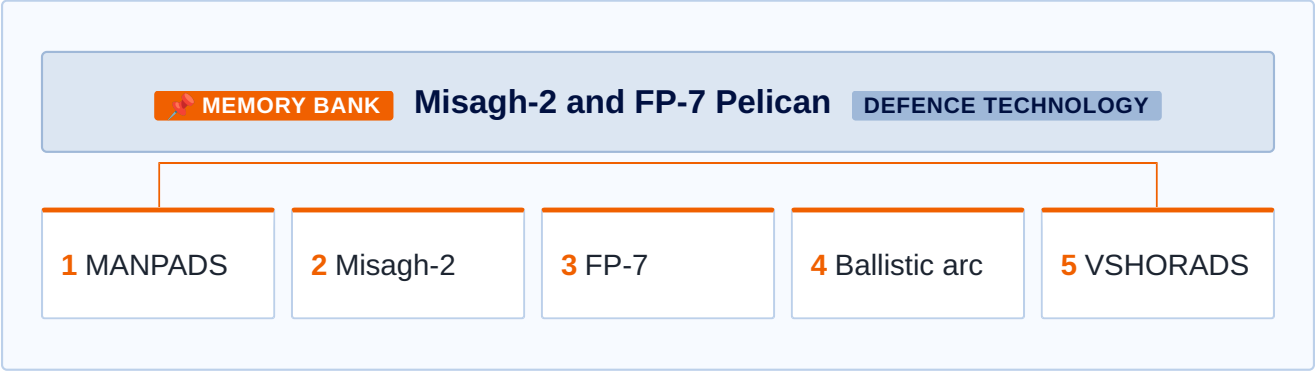
CONTINUED · MISAGH-2 AND FP-7 PELICAN: MISSILES IN CONFLICT ZONES

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **MANPADS** are portable surface-to-air weapons.
- **Ballistic missile** has a boost phase and free fall.
- **Cruise missile** flies powered at low altitude.
- **VSHORADS** is India's very short range air defence system.
- **MTCR** restricts missile technology transfer; India joined in 2016.
- **Hypersonic** means speeds above Mach 5; **cruise missiles** stay powered at low altitude.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Ballistic missiles follow an arc, cruise missiles fly with continuous propulsion; do not mix them.



08

Arts & Culture + History

Heritage, manuscripts and traditional knowledge

1. Sengol in NCERT Class 9
2. SAMHiTA: Manuscript Digitisation with Sri Lanka
3. Surangam Water Harvesting in Kasaragod
4. GI Tags: Ambaji Mohanthal and Mandar Drum
5. Nagapattinam Chola Bronzes: Nataraja and Sivagami

HISTORY & POLITY · GS PAPER I · ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

Sengol in NCERT Class 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

- NCERT's Class 9 book now includes the Sengol, the sceptre linked to the 1947 transfer of power and installed in the new Parliament in 2023.
- Sengol is a symbol of just rule in Tamil tradition, linked to the Cholas.
- The new Parliament building was inaugurated on 28 May 2023.
- An adheenam is a Saiva monastic institution in Tamil Nadu.



The Sengol

X-FACT MATRIX

Object	Sengol, golden sceptre
Maker	Vummidi Bangaru Chetty
Given by	Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam
Linked to	Transfer of power, 14 Aug 1947
Origin of word	Tamil 'semmai', meaning righteousness
Chola capital	Gangaikonda Cholapuram
Great Cholas	Rajaraja I and Rajendra I
Adheenam	Thiruvaduthurai, Thanjavur region

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

NCERT is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education.

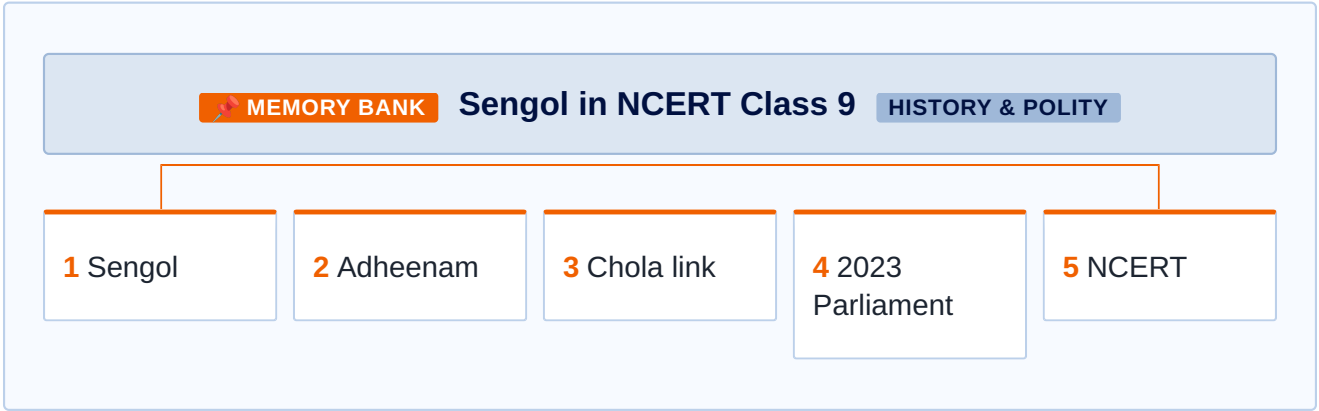
CONTINUED · SENGOL IN NCERT CLASS 9

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Chola** kings used royal sceptres as symbols of justice.
- **Adheenam** is a Saiva monastic order.
- **NCERT** prepares school textbooks.
- **Semmai** means righteousness.
- **Uttaramerur inscriptions** record Chola-era village assembly rules.
- **Chola** rule is known for temple architecture, bronzes and maritime reach.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Sengol is a ceremonial sceptre and has no constitutional status; the transfer of power in 1947 was legally effected by the Indian Independence Act, 1947, and the Constitution came into force only in 1950.



CULTURE DIPLOMACY · GS PAPER I · ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

SAMHiTA: Manuscript Digitisation with Sri Lanka

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India International Centre and Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo signed an MoU in July 2026 to digitise 100 manuscripts under SAMHiTA, targeted for November 2026.
- Palm leaf manuscripts record Buddhist and Sinhala texts.
- Pali is the language of Theravada Buddhist canon (Tipitaka).
- India's National Mission for Manuscripts was started in 2003.

X-FACT MATRIX

Project	SAMHiTA
Partners	India International Centre; Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo
Scope	100 manuscripts
Link	Buddhist heritage
Gangaramaya	Buddhist temple in Colombo
NMM	National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture
Scripts	Brahmi, Sinhala
Early Buddhist link	Mahinda and Sanghamitta, Ashoka's children

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Digitisation preserves fragile manuscripts.

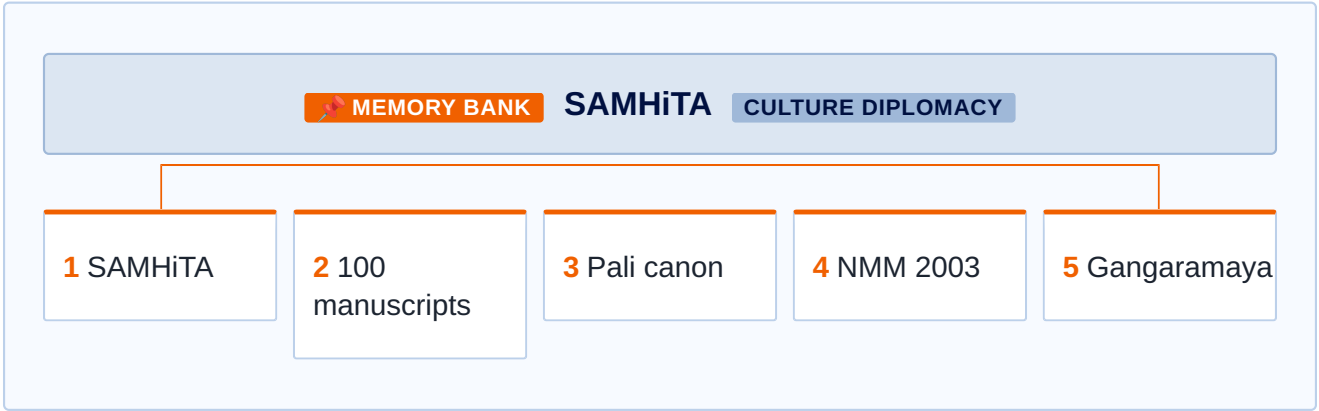
CONTINUED · SAMHITA: MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION WITH SRI LANKA

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Tipitaka** is the Pali Buddhist canon.
- **Palm leaf manuscripts** were written with a stylus.
- **NMM** documents and conserves manuscripts.
- **Theravada** dominates Sri Lanka.
- **Mahinda and Sanghamitta** carried Buddhism to Sri Lanka in Ashoka's time.
- **Tipitaka** was first written down in Sri Lanka, at Aluvihara, in the first century BCE.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The Pali canon is the Tipitaka; Sanskrit is the language of Mahayana texts mostly.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE · GS PAPER I · ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

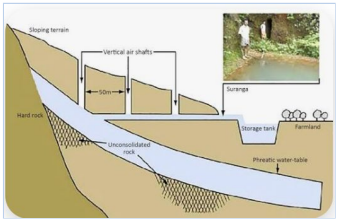
Surangam Water Harvesting in Kasaragod

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Surangams, horizontal tunnel wells of Kasaragod, were highlighted as a traditional water harvesting system.
- Laterite soil is found in humid tropical areas and is porous.



A surangam and storage pool



How a surangam works

- Other traditional systems are Johads (Rajasthan), Kuls (Himachal) and Zabo (Nagaland).
- Gravity flow brings water from the aquifer to the opening.

X-FACT MATRIX

System	Surangam, horizontal tunnel well
Region	Kasaragod, Kerala, and Dakshina Kannada
Mechanism	Tunnels cut into laterite hills tap groundwater by gravity
Other names	Mala, Thorapu, Suranga
Age	Several centuries
Energy	No pumping required
Local names	Surangam, Thorapu, Mala
Water source	Perched aquifer in laterite
Johad	Rajasthan earthen check dam
Stepwell	Baoli or vav

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Jal Shakti Abhiyan promotes rainwater harvesting.

CONTINUED · SURANGAM WATER HARVESTING IN KASARAGOD

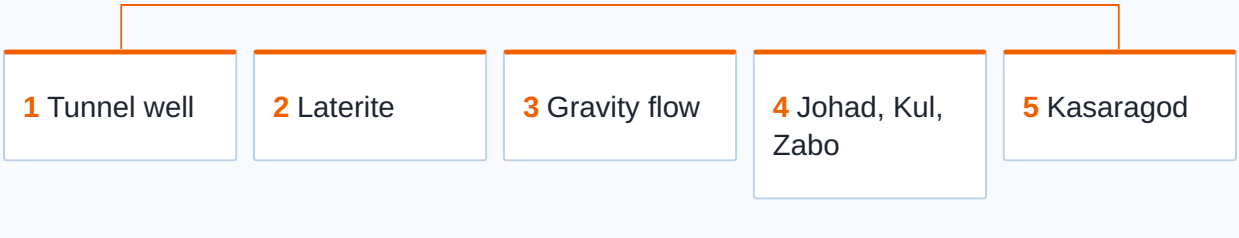
KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Laterite** forms by leaching in monsoon climates.
- **Johad** is a Rajasthan earthen check dam.
- **Kul** is a Himachal channel.
- **Zabo** is a Nagaland system.
- **Traditional systems**: Kuhl (Himachal), Zing (Ladakh), Ahar-pyne (Bihar), Khadin (Rajasthan), Surangam (Kerala-Karnataka).
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana** promotes community-led groundwater management.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Surangam is a gravity-fed tunnel, not a stepwell; do not confuse it with baoli or vav.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Surangam Water Harvesting in Kasaragod** TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY · GS PAPER I · ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

GI Tags: Ambaji Mohanthal and Mandar Drum

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Ambaji Mohanthal, a temple prasad from Gujarat, received its GI tag on 8 October 2026, while Jharkhand's Mandar folk drum was tagged in September; India had 822 GIs by 31 March 2026.
- A GI tag identifies goods with a specific origin and a quality or reputation linked to it.
- The GI registry works under DPIIT of the Commerce Ministry.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years and can be renewed.

X-FACT MATRIX

Ambaji Mohanthal	Temple prasad (gram flour sweet), Gujarat
Mandar	Folk drum, Jharkhand
GIs in India	822 registered (latest count reported)
Law	Geographical Indications of Goods Act
Registry	Chennai
First GI	Darjeeling tea
TRIPS	Articles 22 to 24
Authorised users	Registered producers
Other GI Gujarat	Patan Patola
Jharkhand GI	Sohrai Khovar painting

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Globally, GIs follow Article 22 of the TRIPS Agreement.

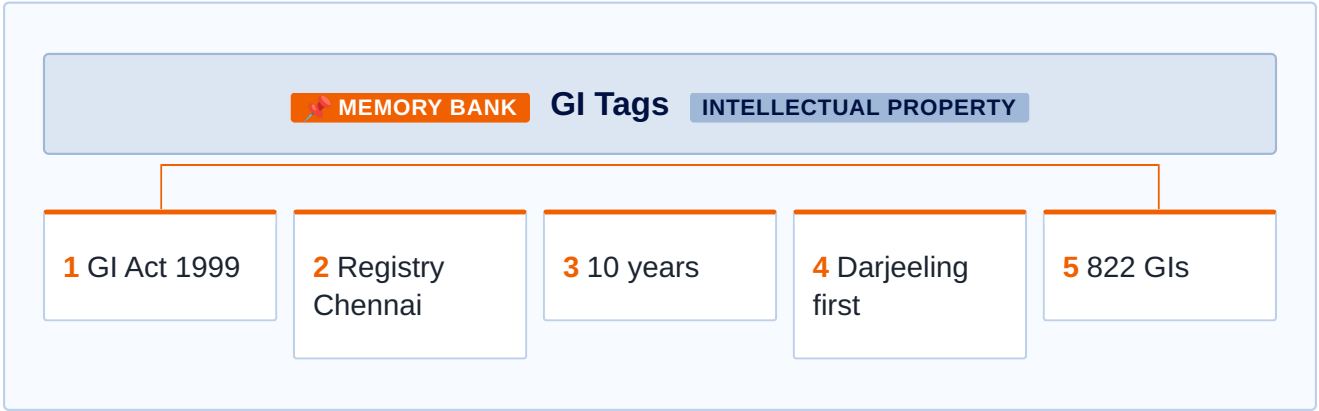
CONTINUED · GI TAGS: AMBAJI MOHANTHAL AND MANDAR DRUM

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **GI Act, 1999** came into force in 2003.
- **TRIPS Article 22** defines GIs.
- **Darjeeling tea** was the first Indian GI.
- **Validity** is 10 years, renewable.
- **Prasad GIs** include Tirupati Laddu and Palani Panchamritham.
- **Geographical Indications** differ from trademarks, which identify a business, not a place.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

GI protects a place-linked product name, not an invention; patents protect inventions.



ART & ARCHAEOLOGY · GS PAPER I · ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

Nagapattinam Chola Bronzes: Nataraja and Sivagami

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department unearthed Chola-era bronze idols of Nataraja and Sivagami at Nagapattinam.
- Chola bronzes are made by the lost-wax process with a clay mould and molten alloy.
- Nagapattinam was a major Chola port with a Buddhist vihara link to Southeast Asia.
- Swamimalai bronzes carry a GI tag.

X-FACT MATRIX

Find	Chola-era bronzes of Nataraja and Sivagami
District	Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu
Agency	State Archaeology Department
Technique	Lost-wax (cire perdue)
Period	Chola, 9th to 13th century
Sivagami	Consort of Nataraja
Chudamani Vihara	Buddhist monastery linked to the Srivijaya king
Maritime	Rajendra Chola's campaign against Srivijaya
Bronze centres	Swamimalai and Kumbakonam
Contemporary	Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Nataraja represents the cosmic dance of Shiva.

CONTINUED · NAGAPATTINAM CHOLA BRONZES: NATARAJA AND SIVAGAMI

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Lost-wax** casts hollow or solid figures.
- **Nataraja** is Shiva as Lord of the Dance.
- **Nagapattinam** was a Chola port.
- **Swamimalai** is famed for bronze casting.
- **Chola bronzes** commonly depict Nataraja, Shiva with Uma, Vishnu and goddesses such as Sivagami.
- **Cire perdue** also lives on in Bastar's Dokra metal craft.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Chola bronzes are metal casts by lost-wax, not carved stone; and Sivagami is the consort, not a separate god.



09

Miscellaneous

Awards, personalities, anniversaries and social issues

1. Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal
2. UAE Order of Zayed II: Indian Recipients
3. October Anniversaries: Shastri, Bhabha, Patel
4. National Social Security Board for Gig Workers
5. Asian Para Games 2026: Aichi-Nagoya
6. Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship and Youth Olympics Dakar 2026

AWARDS · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen became the first Indian to receive the Oskar Klein Medal.
- The medal is named after Swedish physicist Oskar Klein.
- String theory models particles as one-dimensional strings.
- Sen worked on S-duality and tachyon condensation.



Ashoke Sen

X-FACT MATRIX

Winner	Ashoke Sen
Award	Oskar Klein Medal
First	First Indian recipient
Field	String theory
Institution	ICTS Bengaluru (distinguished professor)
Institution	ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru
Earlier prizes	Fundamental Physics Prize; ICTP Dirac Medal
Domain	S-duality and string field theory
Namesake	Oskar Klein, Swedish theorist

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Satyendra Nath Bose gave Bose-Einstein statistics.

CONTINUED · ASHOKE SEN WINS OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **String theory** attempts to unify gravity and quantum mechanics.
- **S-duality** relates strong and weak coupling.
- **Bose-Einstein statistics** govern bosons.
- **ICTS** is under TIFR.
- **Fundamental Physics Prize (2012)** was funded by Yuri Milner's foundation.
- **ICTP**, Trieste, is the Abdus Salam centre for theoretical physics.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

The award is a physics medal, not a Nobel; and Sen is a string theorist.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal** AWARDS

1 String theory
2 First Indian
3 S-duality
4 Breakthrough Prize
5 ICTS

HONOURS & DIPLOMACY · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

UAE Order of Zayed II: Indian Recipients

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The UAE conferred its Order of Zayed II, first class, on Navdeep Suri, Sunjay Sudhir and Capt Smit Machchhar.
- Article 18(1) bars the State from conferring titles; Article 18(2) bars Indian citizens from accepting titles from foreign states.
- Article 18(4) bars office holders from accepting gifts, emoluments or offices from a foreign State without the President's consent.
- Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles.

X-FACT MATRIX

Honour	Order of Zayed II, first class
Country	UAE
Recipients	Navdeep Suri, Sunjay Sudhir, Capt Smit Machchhar
Nature	Foreign state honour
Capital	Abu Dhabi
Context	India-UAE CEPA
UAE	Federation of seven emirates; capital Abu Dhabi
Art 18(2)	Absolute bar: citizens cannot accept titles from foreign States
Art 18(3) and 18(4)	Non-citizen office holders need President's consent for foreign titles; gifts, emoluments and offices from a foreign State also need consent (18(4))
Earlier recipient	PM Modi received the Order of Zayed

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

UAE has seven emirates.

CONTINUED · UAE ORDER OF ZAYED II: INDIAN RECIPIENTS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Article 18** abolishes titles.
- **Padma awards** are honours, not titles.
- **Order of Zayed** is a UAE civilian honour.
- **UAE** is a federation of seven emirates.
- **Balaji Raghavan (1996)** upheld Bharat Ratna and Padma awards, holding they are not titles under Article 18.
- **Article 18(1)** abolishes titles except military and academic distinctions.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Article 18(2) is an absolute bar on citizens accepting foreign titles; the President's consent applies only to non-citizen office holders (18(3)) and to gifts, emoluments or offices from a foreign State (18(4)). Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles.

📌 MEMORY BANK **UAE Order of Zayed II** HONOURS & DIPLOMACY

1 Art 18	2 Padma not a title	3 UAE seven	4 Zayed Order	5 CEPA 2022

PERSONALITIES · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

October Anniversaries: Shastri, Bhabha, Patel

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India observed the birth anniversaries of Lal Bahadur Shastri (2 October), Homi J. Bhabha (30 October) and Sardar Patel (31 October, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).
- Bhabha was the first chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (1948).
- Patel was the first Deputy PM and Home Minister.
- Shastri's tenure saw the 1965 war and Tashkent Agreement.

X-FACT MATRIX

Shastri	Born 2 Oct 1904, PM 1964 to 66, 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'
Bhabha	Born 30 Oct 1909, founded TIFR 1945
Patel	Born 31 Oct 1875, 151st anniversary
Ekta Diwas	31 Oct, National Unity Day
Patel's role	Integration of princely states
Statue	Statue of Unity, Kevadia
Gandhi Jayanti	2 October, International Day of Non-Violence
Shastri	Tashkent Agreement, 10 Jan 1966; memorial Vijay Ghat
Patel	Bardoli Satyagraha 1928; earned the title Sardar
Statue of Unity	182 m, Kevadia, unveiled 2018

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is at Trombay, Mumbai.

CONTINUED · OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: SHASTRI, BHABHA, PATEL

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **TIFR** was founded in 1945 by Bhabha.
- **Patel** integrated princely states by 1947 to 1949.
- **Shastri** gave the slogan Jai Jawan Jai Kisan.
- **Tashkent Agreement** was in January 1966.
- **Bhabha** led the 1955 Geneva conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy.
- **Shastri** backed the Green and White Revolutions through food policy and the National Dairy Development Board.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Ekta Diwas is on Patel's birth date, 31 October; Gandhi Jayanti is on 2 October along with Shastri's birth date.



SOCIAL SECURITY · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

National Social Security Board for Gig Workers

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The National Social Security Board for unorganised and gig workers was set up under Section 6 of the Code on Social Security, 2020, chaired by the Labour Minister.
- The four Labour Codes consolidate 29 central labour laws.
- e-Shram is the national database of unorganised workers launched in 2021.
- Gig workers work outside traditional employer-employee relations.



Platform delivery workers

X-FACT MATRIX

Law	Code on Social Security, 2020
Section	Section 6
Chair	Union Labour and Employment Minister
Covers	Unorganised, gig and platform workers
Aggregators	Contribute 1 to 2% of turnover (as per Code)
Registration	e-Shram portal
Gig worker	Works outside a traditional employer-employee relationship
Platform worker	Works through an online platform
Aggregator levy	1 to 2% of turnover, capped at 5% of payments to workers
First State law	Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers Act, 2023

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Labour is on the Concurrent List (Entry 22 to 24).

CONTINUED · NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FOR GIG WORKERS

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Code on Social Security** merged nine laws.
- **e-Shram** registers unorganised workers.
- **Aggregator** is a digital platform firm.
- **Concurrent List** covers social security.
- **Four Labour Codes**: Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions.
- **e-Shram** portal (2021) is the national database of unorganised workers.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Labour is a Concurrent subject; and gig workers are treated separately from formal employees under the Code.



SPORTS · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

Asian Para Games 2026: Aichi-Nagoya

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India finished fourth at the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya (18 to 24 October) with a record 114 medals, as reported.
- Sumit Antil won javelin gold and Sheetal Devi won compound archery gold, as reported.
- Mona Agarwal set a world record in para-shooting.
- Baby Sahana Ravi won India's first medal in women's standing para table tennis.

X-FACT MATRIX

Venue	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
India's medals	114: 30 gold, 35 silver, 49 bronze (reported)
Rank	4th
Squad	167 athletes, 11 sports
Previous best	111 at Hangzhou (sources differ)
Paralympic motto	Spirit in Motion
Paralympics	India won 29 medals including 7 gold at Paris
Antil	Gold in javelin F64 at Tokyo and Paris
Origin	Stoke Mandeville Games, Ludwig Guttmann

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

The Paralympic movement grew from Ludwig Guttmann's games at Stoke Mandeville.

CONTINUED · ASIAN PARA GAMES 2026: AICHI-NAGOYA

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **Asian Para Games** are held after the Asian Games host city.
- **Paralympics** began in Rome in 1960.
- **Guttmann** founded the Stoke Mandeville Games.
- **Javelin F64** is Antil's class.
- **Classification** groups athletes by the impact of impairment on sport.
- **Paralympic Games** began in Rome in 1960.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Medal counts are as reported and sources differ on the previous best; use the official tally if asked.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Asian Para Games 2026** SPORTS

1 Aichi-Nagoya

2 114 medals

3 Antil javelin

4 Sheetal Devi

5 Stoke Mandeville

SPORTS · PRELIMS · MISCELLANEOUS

Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship and Youth Olympics Dakar 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

- India won both finals of the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship at Ahmedabad on 31 October, and the Summer Youth Olympics in Senegal run from 31 October to 13 November.
- The Youth Olympic Games began in Singapore in 2010 for athletes aged 15 to 18.
- Kabaddi has been in the Asian Games since 1990.
- The Pro Kabaddi League started in 2014.

X-FACT MATRIX

Event	Inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship
Venue	Ahmedabad
Men's final	India 54-20 Sri Lanka
Women's final	India 35-15 Uganda
Youth Olympics	Dakar, Senegal
Firsts	First Olympic event hosted in Africa
Kabaddi in Asian Games	Medal sport since the Beijing edition
Pro Kabaddi League	Franchise league
Youth Olympics editions	Singapore (first), Nanjing, Buenos Aires, Dakar
IOC	Headquartered in Lausanne

⚡ **UNIQUE FACT**

Dakar 2026 is the first Olympic-level event in Africa.

CONTINUED · COMMONWEALTH KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP AND YOUTH OLYMPICS DAKAR 2026

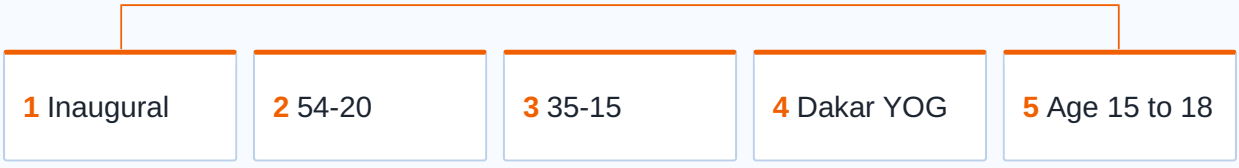
KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

- **YOG** started in 2010.
- **Kabaddi** entered the Asian Games in 1990.
- **Pro Kabaddi** began in 2014.
- **Dakar** is the capital of Senegal.
- **Youth Olympic Games** are for athletes aged 15 to 18.
- **Dakar 2026** is the first Olympic-level event hosted in Africa.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

Youth Olympics are for ages 15 to 18 and are separate from the main Olympics.

📌 MEMORY BANK **Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship and Youth Olympics Dakar 2026** SPORTS



Model MCQ Session

One Prelims-pattern question for every topic, in section order. The formats follow recent UPSC papers: direct questions, statement-based questions, "how many of the above" and Statement I / Statement II. Attempt first; answers follow in the next part.

01 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q1 **With reference to UPSC Centenary, consider the following statements:**

1. Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV deal with Public Service Commissions.
2. The Chairman of UPSC can be removed for misbehaviour only after a Supreme Court inquiry and report.
3. UPSC advice on disciplinary matters is binding on the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2 **With reference to Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 44 of the Constitution is a Directive Principle of State Policy.
2. Gujarat is the first State in India to enact a Uniform Civil Code after Independence.
3. Marriage and succession fall in the Concurrent List.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q3 **With reference to CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP and SSB are Central Armed Police Forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. The Assam Rifles is under the Ministry of Defence for all administrative purposes.
3. The Act fixes a share of IPS deputation at senior ranks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q4 **With reference to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, which one of the following is correct?**

(a) It was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1997

(b) An area can be declared disturbed for the Act

(c) It applies to the whole of the Northeast without exception

(d) Prosecution of personnel needs no sanction

Q5 **Consider the following statements:**

Statement I : The Supreme Court held that blanket age-based bans on social media for children are disproportionate.

Statement II : Access to the internet has been read into Articles 21 and 19(1)(a) by judicial interpretation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Q6 **With reference to Delhi High Court on Article 141, consider the following statements:**

1. Law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts in India under Article 141.
2. The Supreme Court is bound by its own earlier judgments.
3. Obiter dicta of the Supreme Court are as binding as the ratio decidendi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q7 **With reference to Collegium System and Judicial Appointments, consider the following statements:**

1. The Collegium finds explicit mention in Article 124 of the Constitution.
2. The National Judicial Appointments Commission Act was struck down in 2015.
3. The Collegium for the Supreme Court comprises the Chief Justice and four senior-most judges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q8 **The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution at present applies to autonomous administration in which of the following States?**

(a) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

(b) Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim

(c) Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Assam

(d) Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam and Tripura

Q9 **With reference to NTA Reform, consider the following statements:**

1. Recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committees are binding on the Government.
2. NTA was set up as an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Education.
3. The Public Examinations Act, 2024 covers central examinations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

02 · PLACES IN NEWS

Q10 **With reference to Baratang Mud Volcanoes and Andaman Volcanoes, consider the following statements:**

1. Barren Island is India's only confirmed active volcano.
2. Narcondam Island is an active volcano.
3. Inclusion in the Tentative List is a precondition for a World Heritage nomination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q11 **Sirpur, known for the brick Lakshmana Temple, is located in which State?**

(a) Madhya Pradesh

(b) Chhattisgarh

(c) Odisha

(d) Jharkhand

Q12 **With reference to Ladakh, consider the following statements:**

1. Survey of India functions under the Department of Science and Technology.
2. Zorawar Singh was a general of the Dogra ruler of Jammu.
3. Pangong Tso is a freshwater lake.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q13 **With reference to Gandak River, consider the following statements:**

1. The Gandak is a left bank tributary of the Ganga.
2. It meets the Ganga near Patna.
3. It is a right bank tributary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q14 **A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood is most directly caused by**

(a) Failure of the dam (moraine, ice or rock) holding a glacial lake

(b) Rainfall exceeding 100 mm per hour over a small area

(c) Seismic subsidence in coastal areas

(d) Cyclonic storm surge

Q15 **With reference to Cyclone Arnab, consider the following statements:**

1. IMD is the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for tropical cyclones over the North Indian Ocean.
2. Cyclone names in this region are decided by the Government of India alone.
3. A Very Severe Cyclonic Storm has winds of 64 to 89 knots.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q16 **With reference to Siang Upper Multipurpose Project, consider the following statements:**

1. The Siang is the name of the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The project is proposed by NHPC.
3. Arunachal Pradesh lies in Seismic Zone III.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q17 **With reference to Phuket Island Flash Floods, consider the following statements:**

1. Phuket lies on the Andaman Sea.
2. The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands.
3. The Andaman Sea is part of the Pacific Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q18 **Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in India requires approval under which law?**

(a) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

(b) Indian Forest Act, 1927 only

(c) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

(d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

03 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q19 **With reference to India-New Zealand FTA Enters into Force, consider the following statements:**

1. India is a member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
2. A Free Trade Agreement need not have a common external tariff.
3. New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q20 **The Ganga Water Treaty of 1996 between India and Bangladesh concerns the sharing of water at which point?**

(a) Farakka

(b) Tin Bigha

(c) Hilsa Ghat

(d) Haldia

Q21 **With reference to Badr Memorandum, consider the following statements:**

1. Doha is the capital of Qatar.
2. The Badr MoU, as reported, contains a collective defence clause.
3. Indonesia is a member of ASEAN.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q22 **With reference to India-EFTA TEPA and Liechtenstein State Visit, consider the following statements:**

1. Norway is a member of the European Free Trade Association.
2. Liechtenstein is a member of the European Union.
3. Liechtenstein is a doubly landlocked country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q23 **SIMBEX is a bilateral naval exercise between India and which country?**

(a) Singapore

(b) Indonesia

(c) Thailand

(d) Malaysia

Q24 **With reference to SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Dushanbe, consider the following statements:**

1. The SCO Secretariat is located in Beijing.
2. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the SCO is based in Tashkent.
3. India became a full SCO member in 2001.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q25 **With reference to BRICS Parliamentary Forum and AgriVoltaics World Conference, consider the following statements:**

1. The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.
2. Agrivoltaics replaces crop farming entirely with solar panels.
3. BRICS is a treaty-based organisation with a binding charter.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

04 · ECONOMY

Q26 **With reference to RBI Repo Rate Hiked to 5.50%, consider the following statements:**

1. The Monetary Policy Committee has six members.
2. The Marginal Standing Facility rate is below the repo rate.
3. The inflation target is 4% with a band of 2% to 6%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q27 **With reference to Jio Platforms IPO, consider the following statements:**

1. An IPO is an issue in the primary market.
2. SEBI is a constitutional body.
3. Anchor investors subscribe before the IPO opens to the public.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q28 **The Index of Core Industries is released by**

(a) Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT

(b) National Statistical Office, MoSPI

(c) Reserve Bank of India

(d) NITI Aayog

Q29 **Consider the following statements:**

Statement I : Under the National Monetisation Pipeline, the Government retains ownership of the assets.

Statement II : Strategic disinvestment transfers management control to a private buyer.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Q30 **Under current rules, listed equity shares sold after how long are treated as long term capital assets?**

(a) More than 12 months

(b) More than 24 months

(c) More than 36 months

(d) More than 6 months

Q31 **With reference to RELIEF Initiative for Exporters, consider the following statements:**

1. ECGC provides credit risk insurance to exporters.
2. ECGC is a lender like EXIM Bank.
3. ECGC functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q32 **Which of the following is NOT part of the World Bank Group?**

(a) International Finance Corporation

(b) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

(c) International Monetary Fund

(d) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

05 · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Q33 **With reference to Green Energy Corridor Phase III, consider the following statements:**

1. The Green Energy Corridor is intended to build transmission for renewable energy.
2. Storage capacity is measured in gigawatts only.
3. Battery storage helps to balance variable renewable output.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q34 **The 11th Schedule of the Constitution relates to**

(a) Powers and functions of Panchayats

(b) Municipalities

(c) Union territories

(d) Anti-defection

Q35 **With reference to Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. Sports is a subject in the State List.
2. Khelo India was launched in 2016.
3. The scheme provides incentives for domestic manufacture of sports goods.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q36 **With reference to Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. A TEU is a unit of container capacity equal to a 20-foot container.
2. Major ports in India are administered by State governments.
3. Sagarmala is a port-led development programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q37 **The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification is issued under which law?**

(a) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

(b) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

(c) Forest Conservation Act, 1980

(d) Water Act, 1974

Q38 **With reference to National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), consider the following statements:**

1. NSAP is based on Article 41 of the Constitution.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. Benchmark disability under the RPwD Act, 2016 is at least 80%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q39 **Consider the following statements:**

Statement I : The Samudra Manthan Mission is aimed at deep and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon exploration.

Statement II : The Deep Ocean Mission is administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

06 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Q40 **With reference to CBD COP17 Yerevan and IUCN Coral Reef Assessment, consider the following statements:**

1. The Nagoya Protocol deals with access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.
2. The Cartagena Protocol deals with ozone depleting substances.
3. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework includes the 30 by 30 target.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q41 **The Emissions Gap Report is published annually by**

(a) UNEP

(b) IPCC

(c) UNFCCC Secretariat

(d) World Bank

Q42 **With reference to Ramsar Sites, consider the following statements:**

1. The Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971.
2. The Montreux Record lists Ramsar sites facing ecological change.
3. Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar site in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q43 **With reference to Snow Leopard Population Assessment, consider the following statements:**

1. The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
2. Ladakh holds the largest share of India's snow leopards.
3. Snow leopard is a Schedule IV species under the Wildlife Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q44 **Cheetahs in Project Cheetah were brought to India from**

(a) Namibia and South Africa

(b) Iran

(c) Kenya only

(d) Botswana only

Q45 **With reference to Buxa Tigress and Barda Lions, consider the following statements:**

1. Wildlife Week in India is observed from 1 to 7 October.
2. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is currently the main home of Asiatic lions.
3. Valmiki Tiger Reserve is in Bihar.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q46 **With reference to National Biodiversity Authority, consider the following statements:**

1. The National Biodiversity Authority is headquartered in Chennai.
2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 sets up Biodiversity Management Committees at local level.
3. The Act applies only to foreign companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

07 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q47 **With reference to CRISPR-Edited Rice Varieties, consider the following statements:**

1. Genome-edited crops of SDN-1 type contain no foreign DNA.
2. Bt cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.
3. CRISPR was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q48 **Double fortified salt is fortified with**

(a) Iron and iodine

(b) Vitamin A and D

(c) Zinc and calcium

(d) Folic acid and B12

Q49 **With reference to CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad, consider the following statements:**

1. CAG is provided for in Article 148.
2. BHASHINI is under the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
3. CAG reports are examined by the Estimates Committee.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q50 **With reference to K9 Vajra-T Self-Propelled Howitzers, consider the following statements:**

1. K9 Vajra is a self-propelled howitzer.
2. The 52 in 52 calibre refers to its range in kilometres.
3. ATAGS is an indigenous gun developed by DRDO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q51 **The post of Chief of Defence Staff was created in**

(a) 2019
(b) 2014
(c) 2001
(d) 2021

Q52 **With reference to INS Samarthak, consider the following statements:**

1. Karwar is a naval base in Karnataka.
2. Kattupalli shipyard is in Kerala.
3. INS Vikrant is the first indigenous aircraft carrier.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q53 **With reference to NVS-03 Launch and NavIC, consider the following statements:**

1. NavIC is a global navigation satellite system.
2. GSLV Mk II uses a cryogenic upper stage.
3. NVS-03 carries an atomic clock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q54 **The Zoological Survey of India functions under which Ministry?**

(a) Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(b) Science and Technology
(c) Agriculture
(d) Earth Sciences

Q55 **A sun-synchronous orbit is most useful for**

(a) Earth observation with constant lighting conditions

(b) Continuous coverage of one fixed point

(c) Navigation over India only

(d) Deep space communication

Q56 **With reference to Akash Air Defence System, consider the following statements:**

1. Akash is a surface-to-air missile system developed by DRDO.
2. Akash was part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
3. Nag is also a surface-to-air missile.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q57 **Varunastra is**

(a) An indigenous heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo

(b) A land-based tank gun

(c) An air-to-air missile

(d) A coastal radar

Q58 **With reference to Jwala Mk-1, consider the following statements:**

1. Jwala Mk-1 is described as a counter-drone missile concept.
2. It has completed full flight trials, as per released data.
3. A proximity fuze detonates the warhead near the target.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q59 **With reference to Jumping Genes (Transposons), consider the following statements:**

1. Jumping genes were first identified by Barbara McClintock in maize.
2. Transposons are segments of DNA that can change their position in a genome.
3. Jumping genes are a type of virus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q60 **Consider the following statements:**

Statement I : MANPADS are weapons designed to engage low-flying aerial targets.

Statement II : A ballistic missile flies on a continuously powered low path.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

(d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

08 · ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY

Q61 **With reference to Sengol in NCERT Class 9, consider the following statements:**

1. The Sengol is a ceremonial sceptre associated with Tamil tradition.
2. It has a constitutional status as the symbol of Parliament.
3. It was installed in the new Parliament building in 2023.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q62 **The Tipitaka, the Buddhist canon of Theravada tradition, is written in**

(a) Pali

(b) Prakrit

(c) Sanskrit

(d) Tamil

Q63 **With reference to Surangam Water Harvesting in Kasaragod, consider the following statements:**

1. Surangam taps groundwater through a horizontal tunnel.
2. Kul is a traditional irrigation channel of Himachal Pradesh.
3. Zabo is a system of Kerala.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q64 **With reference to GI Tags, consider the following statements:**

1. The Geographical Indications Registry is located in Chennai.
2. A GI registration is valid for 20 years.
3. Darjeeling tea was the first product in India to get a GI tag.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q65 **Chola bronze idols were typically made by**

(a) The lost-wax (cire perdue) technique

(b) Direct stone carving

(c) Wood moulding

(d) Cold forging only

09 · MISCELLANEOUS

Q66 **Ashoke Sen is known for his work in**

(a) String theory

(b) Genetics

(c) Organic chemistry

(d) Cosmic rays only

Q67 **With reference to UAE Order of Zayed II, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 18 abolishes titles other than military and academic distinctions.
2. Bharat Ratna is a title that may be used as a prefix.
3. The UAE is a federation of seven emirates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q68 **With reference to October Anniversaries, consider the following statements:**

1. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
2. Homi Bhabha founded the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
3. Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on 31 October.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Q69 **In the Code on Social Security, 2020, platform workers are covered under which category?**

(a) Gig and platform workers

(b) Contract labour only

(c) Apprentices only

(d) Government employees

Q70 **With reference to Asian Para Games 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. The Asian Para Games 2026 were held at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
2. India's medal tally of 114 is described as a record.
3. The Paralympic Games began in London in 1960.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q71 **The Youth Olympic Games first took place in which city?**

(a) Singapore

(b) Athens

(c) Beijing

(d) Dakar

Answers & Solutions

Each solution is explained two ways: through logical analysis, then through factual knowledge.

01 · POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q1 UPSC Centenary: 100 Years of the Commission

✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Statements 1 and 2 match constitutional text; the word 'binding' in statement 3 is a typical overreach.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Article 320 makes UPSC consultation mandatory but its advice is advisory; Arts 315 to 323 form Part XIV and Art 317 provides the SC inquiry route.

Q2 Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026

✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Logic: 'first' claims are risky; Uttarakhand legislated earlier.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Uttarakhand enacted its UCC in 2024; Gujarat is second. Entry 5 of List III covers personal law.

Q3 CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026

✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Statement 2 uses 'all', a red flag; Assam Rifles has dual control.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Administrative control of Assam Rifles is with MHA, operational control with the Army.

Q4 AFSPA Extension in Northeast

✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Logic: the 1997 judgment upheld the Act; 'whole' and 'no sanction' are absolute claims.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Section 3 allows declaring a disturbed area; Section 6 requires Central sanction for prosecution.

Q5 Supreme Court on Children's Internet Access

✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Logic: Statement II is correct but is not the direct reason for I; I turns on proportionality.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Option (b) is hence apt: both correct, II does not explain I. Proportionality explains the rejection of bans.

Q6 Delhi High Court on Article 141

✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Logic: the Supreme Court can depart from its precedents through a larger bench; obiter is persuasive.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE

Only statement 1 is correct, so one statement is correct.

Q7 **Collegium System and Judicial Appointments** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Statement 1 is false because the Collegium evolved through judgments.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
NJAC and the 99th Amendment were struck down in the Fourth Judges Case, 2015.

Q8 **Ladakh Talks: Statehood and Sixth Schedule** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the schedule is associated with four Northeast States.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Sixth Schedule: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram; Fifth Schedule covers Scheduled Areas elsewhere.

Q9 **NTA Reform: Parliamentary Panel on Exams** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: committees advise; statements 2 and 3 are correct.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct. Committee reports are recommendatory.

02 · PLACES IN NEWS

Q10 **Baratang Mud Volcanoes and Andaman Volcanoes: UNESCO Tentative List** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: Narcondam is dormant, so 2 fails.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Barren Island is in the Andaman Sea; Narcondam is dormant with the endemic hornbill.

Q11 **Sirpur: Archaeological Site of Chhattisgarh** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: on the Mahanadi in Dakshina Kosala.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Sirpur is in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh.

Q12 **Ladakh: 28 Names on Survey of India Map** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: Pangong Tso is famed as brackish.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q13 **Gandak River** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Statements 1 and 3 contradict each other, so 3 is false.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Gandak joins the Ganga at Sonepur opposite Patna.

Q14 **Shintaphu Lake GLOF Warning in Bhutan** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the name itself states the cause.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
GLOF results from breach of the dam of a glacial lake; cloudbursts are rainfall events.

Q15 **Cyclone Arnab** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: names come from member countries.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q16 **Siang Upper Multipurpose Project** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Arunachal is in the highest risk zone V.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Brahmaputra: Tsangpo, Siang/Dihang, Brahmaputra, Jamuna.

Q17 **Phuket Island Flash Floods** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
The Andaman Sea belongs to the Indian Ocean, so statement 3 fails.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Phuket is Thailand's largest island; the Ten Degree Channel lies between Little Andaman and Car Nicobar.

Q18 **Kamala Hydroelectric Project, Arunachal Pradesh** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the 1980 Act was passed specifically to check diversion.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
FCA 1980, renamed in 2023 as the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam.

03 · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q19 India-New Zealand FTA Enters into Force

✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: India walked out of RCEP in 2019.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
RCEP: 15 members; India withdrew in November 2019.

Q20 Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh Nears Expiry

✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the barrage is the physical sharing point.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Water is shared at Farakka; the treaty is valid for 30 years.

Q21 Badr Memorandum: Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, Indonesia

✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: reports say no collective defence.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q22 India-EFTA TEPA and Liechtenstein State Visit

✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: Liechtenstein is outside the EU.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
EFTA: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

Q23 Military Exercises: AIME, SIMBEX, Garuda Shakti

✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: SIM stands for Singapore-India Maritime.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
SIMBEX began in 1994 as Exercise Lion King; Garuda Shakti is with Indonesia.

Q24 SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, Dushanbe

✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
India joined in 2017 along with Pakistan.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
SCO was founded in 2001 by six countries.

Q25 **BRICS Parliamentary Forum and AgriVoltaics World Conference** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Dual land use and informal nature rule out statements 2 and 3.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Only one statement is correct.

04 · ECONOMY

Q26 **RBI Repo Rate Hiked to 5.50%** — ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
MSF is set above repo, so statement 2 is wrong.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
SDF = repo minus 25 bps; MSF = repo plus 25 bps.

Q27 **Jio Platforms IPO: India's Largest** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
SEBI is statutory under the 1992 Act.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q28 **Index of Core Industries (ICI)** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: IIP is MoSPI's; the core index sits with the industry department.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
ICI is by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT; IIP by NSO.

Q29 **IDBI Bank Stake Sale and Disinvestment Targets** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: both are right, but one does not explain the other.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
NMP leases assets; strategic sale hands over control. Statement II does not explain I.

Q30 **Capital Gains Tax: LTCG and STCG** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: listed equity has the shortest period.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
12 months for listed shares; 24 months for most other assets.

Q31 **RELIEF Initiative for Exporters** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: insurer not lender.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q32 **World Bank Raises India's FY27 Growth Forecast** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the IMF is a separate Bretton Woods institution.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
World Bank Group: IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID.

05 · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES

Q33 **Green Energy Corridor Phase III** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Storage uses GWh.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
GW is power; GWh is stored energy.

Q34 **PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: 73rd Amendment goes with the 11th Schedule; 12th goes with municipalities.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
11th Schedule lists 29 subjects for Panchayats; 12th Schedule lists 18 for Municipalities.

Q35 **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
All three statements are consistent with the scheme.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Three correct.

Q36 **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Major ports are under the Union Government.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Seaports: major under Union, non-major under State.

Q37 **National Coastal Mission 2.0** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: CRZ rules are general environmental regulation.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
CRZ is notified under the EP Act, 1986.

Q38 **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
The benchmark is 40%, so statement 3 fails.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
NSAP began on 15 August 1995.

Q39 **Samudra Manthan Mission** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: statement II misplaces the ministry; MoES runs the Deep Ocean Mission.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Samudra Manthan: Petroleum; Deep Ocean Mission: Earth Sciences.

06 · ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER

Q40 **CBD COP17 Yerevan and IUCN Coral Reef Assessment** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Cartagena is a biosafety protocol; ozone is Montreal.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
CBD protocols: Cartagena (biosafety), Nagoya (ABS).

Q41 **UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2026** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the environment programme publishes it.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
UNEP Emissions Gap Report since 2010.

Q42 **Ramsar Sites: Sukhna and Sauj Jheel** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
All consistent with the Convention.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
All three correct.

Q43 **Snow Leopard Population Assessment: SPAI** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Snow leopard is in Schedule I.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
WPA Schedule I protects tigers and snow leopards.

Q44 **Cheetah Cub KNG22 Death at Kuno** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: African cheetahs, mainly from southern Africa.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
First batch from Namibia in 2022, then South Africa in 2023.

Q45 **Buxa Tigress and Barda Lions: Species Translocation** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Gir is the main home; Barda is only an alternate site.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q46 **National Biodiversity Authority: ABS Disbursement** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
The Act covers Indian entities and foreigners.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
NBA, SBB and BMC form the three tiers.

07 · SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Q47 **CRISPR-Edited Rice Varieties** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
CRISPR got the Chemistry prize in 2020.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approves GM crops.

Q48 **Double Fortified Salt and Anaemia Mukt Bharat** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the two micronutrients most India needs.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
DFS has iron and iodine.

Q49 **CAG-BHASHINI Anuvaad** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
PAC examines CAG reports.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements correct.

Q50 **K9 Vajra-T Self-Propelled Howitzers** — ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
52 calibre is barrel length.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
K9 Vajra-T: 155 mm/52 cal.

Q51 **Land Warfare Doctrine 2026** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: on 31 December 2019.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Gen Bipin Rawat was the first CDS.

Q52 **INS Samarthak: Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Kattupalli is near Chennai.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two correct.

Q53 **NVS-03 Launch and NavIC** — ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
NavIC is regional.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
NavIC covers India and a 1,500 km belt around it.

Q54 **AI INSPIRED and Zoological Discovery: Tetronarce ramanamurthyi** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: MoEFCC houses BSI and ZSI.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
ZSI was founded in 1916 at Kolkata.

Q55 **TAPAS-1: India's First Private Thermal-Imaging Nanosatellite** — ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the orbit repeats local solar time on each pass.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
SSO is near-polar at 600 to 800 km typically; geostationary is equatorial at 36,000 km.

Q56 **Akash Air Defence System: Exports to Central Asia** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Nag is an anti-tank guided missile.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
IGMDP missiles: Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Akash, Nag.

Q57 **Varunastra Heavyweight Torpedo Order** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the name and the NSTL link point to a naval weapon.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Developed by NSTL and produced by BDL.

Q58 **Jwala Mk-1: Counter-Drone Missile Concept** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
No flight test data has been released.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q59 **Jumping Genes (Transposons)** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
They are DNA segments, not viruses.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
McClintock got the 1983 Nobel for this discovery.

Q60 **Misagh-2 and FP-7 Pelican: Missiles in Conflict Zones** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: statement II describes a cruise missile, not a ballistic one.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Ballistic missiles follow a high arc after the boost phase.

08 · ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY

Q61 **Sengol in NCERT Class 9** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
No constitutional status.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Sengol was handed over by Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam representatives.

Q62 **SAMHiTA: Manuscript Digitisation with Sri Lanka** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: Theravada texts are in Pali.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Tipitaka means three baskets: Vinaya, Sutta, Abhidhamma.

Q63 **Surangam Water Harvesting in Kasaragod** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Zabo is from Nagaland.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two correct.

Q64 **GI Tags: Ambaji Mohanthal and Mandar Drum** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Validity is 10 years, renewable.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two statements are correct.

Q65 **Nagapattinam Chola Bronzes: Nataraja and Sivagami** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the Chola bronze tradition is famed for casting.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Lost-wax is also called cire perdue.

09 · MISCELLANEOUS

Q66 **Ashoke Sen Wins Oskar Klein Medal** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the medal is in physics.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Sen is a theoretical physicist working on string theory.

Q67 **UAE Order of Zayed II: Indian Recipients** ✓ ANSWER: (c)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Using Bharat Ratna as a prefix is not allowed (SC 1996).

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Balaji Raghavan v UOI 1996 upheld national awards.

Q68 **October Anniversaries: Shastri, Bhabha, Patel** ✓ ANSWER: (b)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Shastri was born on 2 October.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Two correct.

Q69 **National Social Security Board for Gig Workers** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: the Code introduced the term.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Code defines gig worker and platform worker.

Q70 **Asian Para Games 2026: Aichi-Nagoya** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
The first Paralympics were in Rome in 1960.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
Tally of 114 is as reported.

Q71 **Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship and Youth Olympics Dakar 2026** ✓ ANSWER: (a)

① THROUGH LOGICAL ANALYSIS
Logic: Dakar hosts the 2026 edition, not the first.

② THROUGH FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE
The first YOG were held in Singapore in 2010.

X-Numbers

The headline figures of this issue in one place. Every number here appears in full inside its topic.

100	Years of UPSC (1926 to 2026)
5.50%	Repo rate after 25 bps hike
Rs 30,213 cr	Jio Platforms IPO, India's largest
103	Ramsar sites in India
718	Snow leopards counted (SPAI)
58.4 Gt	Global emissions 2025 (UNEP)
11,200 MW	Siang Upper project
20 Oct	India-NZ FTA in force
196	Parties to the CBD
Rs 1,86,405 cr	Green Energy Corridor III
45	World Heritage Sites in India
2.2 t	NVS-03 mass

X Master Recall

⚡ UNIQUE FACT COMPILATION: one takeaway per topic

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · UPSC CENTENARY: 100 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION

Rose Millian Bathew Kharbuli became the first woman Chairperson of UPSC in 1992.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · GUJARAT UNIFORM CIVIL CODE ACT, 2026

Goa is often cited as having a common civil code, but it is a legacy of the Portuguese Civil Code rather than an Article 44 enactment.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · CAPF (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION) ACT, 2026

The Assam Rifles is a CAPF administratively under MHA but operationally under the Army.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · AFSPA EXTENSION IN NORTHEAST

Tripura (2015) and Meghalaya (2018) were fully freed from AFSPA.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · SUPREME COURT ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACCESS

The proportionality test asks whether a restriction has a legitimate aim, is suitable, necessary and balanced.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · DELHI HIGH COURT ON ARTICLE 141

Obiter dicta guide, while ratio decidendi binds.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AND JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Memorandum of Procedure remains the document guiding appointments.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · LADAKH TALKS: STATEHOOD AND SIXTH SCHEDULE

Article 371 gives special provisions for certain States; it is not applicable to UTs by default.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · NTA REFORM: PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON EXAMS

Parliament's Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 covers central examinations.

PLACES IN NEWS · BARATANG MUD VOLCANOES AND ANDAMAN VOLCANOES: UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

Narcondam is home to the endemic Narcondam hornbill.

PLACES IN NEWS · SIRPUR: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CHHATTISGARH

The Mahanadi is the principal river of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

PLACES IN NEWS · LADAKH: 28 NAMES ON SURVEY OF INDIA MAP

Naming of features follows official toponymy guidelines.

PLACES IN NEWS · GANDAK RIVER

Gandak serves irrigation through the Gandak project of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

PLACES IN NEWS · SHINTAPHU LAKE GLOF WARNING IN BHUTAN

NDMA has guidelines on GLOF risk management.

PLACES IN NEWS · CYCLONE ARNAB

Landfall had not been claimed at the time of reporting.

PLACES IN NEWS · SIANG UPPER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

Brahmaputra is called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Jamuna in Bangladesh.

PLACES IN NEWS · PHUKET ISLAND FLASH FLOODS

Phuket is joined to the mainland by the Sarasin Bridge across a narrow channel.

PLACES IN NEWS · KAMALA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Arunachal Pradesh lies in Seismic Zone V and holds large untapped hydropower potential.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA ENTERS INTO FORCE

New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth, CPTPP and RCEP; India withdrew from RCEP in 2019.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · GANGA WATER TREATY WITH BANGLADESH NEARS EXPIRY

Teesta water sharing remains pending.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · BADR MEMORANDUM: PAKISTAN, TURKEY, QATAR, INDONESIA

Mutual defence clauses like Article 5 of NATO bind members to treat attack on one as an attack on all.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · INDIA-EFTA TEPA AND LIECHTENSTEIN STATE VISIT

A doubly landlocked country is surrounded only by landlocked countries; Liechtenstein and Uzbekistan are the two examples.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · MILITARY EXERCISES: AIME, SIMBEX, GARUDA SHAKTI

Subic Bay is in the Philippines.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · SCO DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING, DUSHANBE

Map check: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are Central Asian neighbours.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND AGRIVOLTAICS WORLD CONFERENCE

PM-KUSUM supports solar pumps and solar plants on farmland in India.

ECONOMY · RBI REPO RATE HIKED TO 5.50%

A rate hike makes borrowing costlier and cools inflation.

ECONOMY · JIO PLATFORMS IPO: INDIA'S LARGEST

Anchor investors are large institutions who subscribe a day before the issue opens.

ECONOMY · INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES (ICI)

IIP is compiled by NSO under MoSPI.

ECONOMY · IDBI BANK STAKE SALE AND DISINVESTMENT TARGETS

Offer for Sale (OFS) lets promoters sell shares through stock exchanges.

ECONOMY · CAPITAL GAINS TAX: LTCG AND STCG

Indexation was removed for most assets from July 2024.

ECONOMY · RELIEF INITIATIVE FOR EXPORTERS

EXIM Bank is a separate institution that finances exports.

ECONOMY · WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA'S FY27 GROWTH FORECAST

India is a founding member of both the World Bank and the IMF.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE III

CTUIL and POWERGRID handle inter-State transmission.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · PM VIKSIT GRAM SWARAJ YOJANA

Gram Sabha is the body of all registered voters in a village.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · KHELO INDIA SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING SCHEME

Make in India encourages domestic manufacturing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · CONTAINER MANUFACTURING PROMOTION SCHEME

Major ports are under the Union; non-major ports under the States.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · NATIONAL COASTAL MISSION 2.0

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management project is run with the World Bank.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

One source reports a rename to Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana; this is unverified.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · SAMUDRA MANTHAN MISSION

ONGC and Oil India are the main public sector explorers.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · CBD COP17 YEREVAN AND IUCN CORAL REEF ASSESSMENT

India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with the National Biodiversity Authority in Chennai.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · UNEP EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2026

GtCO2e is gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · RAMSAR SITES: SUKHNA AND SAUJ JHEEL

India's wetlands are regulated by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION ASSESSMENT: SPAI

India's snow leopard range spans Ladakh, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · CHEETAH CUB KNG22 DEATH AT KUNO

Gandhi Sagar is another site prepared in Madhya Pradesh.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · BUXA TIGRESS AND BARDA LIONS: SPECIES TRANSLOCATION

Project Tiger began in 1973 and is run by the NTCA.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY: ABS DISBURSEMENT

Foreign entities need NBA approval to access Indian biological resources.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · CRISPR-EDITED RICE VARIETIES

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 went to Charpentier and Doudna for CRISPR.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · DOUBLE FORTIFIED SALT AND ANAEMIA MUKT BHARAT

FSSAI regulates fortification standards.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · CAG-BHASHINI ANUVAAD

India has 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · K9 VAJRA-T SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS

Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence uses positive indigenisation lists.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · LAND WARFARE DOCTRINE 2026

Theatre commands aim to unify Army, Navy and Air Force assets.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · INS SAMARTHAK: INDIGENOUS MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL

Kattupalli is near Chennai.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · NVS-03 LAUNCH AND NAVIC

Space Applications Centre is at Ahmedabad.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · AI INSPIRED AND ZOOLOGICAL DISCOVERY: TETRONARCE RAMANAMURTHYI

A new species is formally described with a binomial name.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · TAPAS-1: INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE THERMAL-IMAGING NANOSATELLITE

IN-SPACe authorises and supports private space activity in India.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · AKASH AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM: EXPORTS TO CENTRAL ASIA

Export growth supports Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · VARUNASTRA HEAVYWEIGHT TORPEDO ORDER

Quantity was not disclosed.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · JWALA MK-1: COUNTER-DRONE MISSILE CONCEPT

Indian counter-drone efforts include DRDO's D4 system and BEL's Akashteer.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · JUMPING GENES (TRANSPOSONS)

McClintock worked on maize kernel colour patterns.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · MISAGH-2 AND FP-7 PELICAN: MISSILES IN CONFLICT ZONES

India's VSHORADS is a similar man-portable system developed by DRDO.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SENGOL IN NCERT CLASS 9

NCERT is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SAMHITA: MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION WITH SRI LANKA

Digitisation preserves fragile manuscripts.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SURANGAM WATER HARVESTING IN KASARAGOD

Jal Shakti Abhiyan promotes rainwater harvesting.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · GI TAGS: AMBAJI MOHANTHAL AND MANDAR DRUM

Globally, GIs follow Article 22 of the TRIPS Agreement.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · NAGAPATTINAM CHOLA BRONZES: NATARAJA AND SIVAGAMI

Nataraja represents the cosmic dance of Shiva.

MISCELLANEOUS · ASHOKE SEN WINS OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL

Satyendra Nath Bose gave Bose-Einstein statistics.

MISCELLANEOUS · UAE ORDER OF ZAYED II: INDIAN RECIPIENTS

UAE has seven emirates.

MISCELLANEOUS · OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: SHASTRI, BHABHA, PATEL

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is at Trombay, Mumbai.

MISCELLANEOUS · NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FOR GIG WORKERS

Labour is on the Concurrent List (Entry 22 to 24).

MISCELLANEOUS · COMMONWEALTH KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP AND YOUTH OLYMPICS DAKAR 2026

Dakar 2026 is the first Olympic-level event in Africa.

MISCELLANEOUS · ASIAN PARA GAMES 2026: AICHI-NAGOYA

The Paralympic movement grew from Ludwig Guttmann's games at Stoke Mandeville.

Top Exam Traps

⚠ EXAM TRAP COMPILATION: every distractor from this issue

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · UPSC CENTENARY: 100 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION

UPSC advice is only advisory and not binding on the government, and the Chairman is removed by the President only after a Supreme Court inquiry on misbehaviour.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · GUJARAT UNIFORM CIVIL CODE ACT, 2026

Article 44 is a Directive Principle, not enforceable; do not treat it as a Fundamental Right, and Goa's code is a colonial legacy.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · CAPF (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION) ACT, 2026

CAPFs come under the MHA, not the Ministry of Defence; and Assam Rifles has a dual control.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · AFSPA EXTENSION IN NORTHEAST

AFSPA is not a Constitutional provision; it is a Parliament Act under Union List powers, and the 1997 judgment, not the Act, insists on six-monthly review.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · SUPREME COURT ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACCESS

Right to internet is not an independent Fundamental Right text; it flows from Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(g) and 21 through judicial interpretation.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · DELHI HIGH COURT ON ARTICLE 141

Article 141 binds courts, not the Supreme Court itself; and only the ratio decidendi is binding, not obiter dicta.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AND JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Collegium has no textual basis in the Constitution, and the 99th Amendment (NJAC) was struck down, not repealed by Parliament.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · LADAKH TALKS: STATEHOOD AND SIXTH SCHEDULE

The Sixth Schedule applies only to four Northeast States; Ladakh's demand needs a constitutional amendment.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE · NTA REFORM: PARLIAMENTARY PANEL ON EXAMS

Parliamentary committee recommendations are not binding; the Government accepts or rejects them in an Action Taken Report.

PLACES IN NEWS · BARATANG MUD VOLCANOES AND ANDAMAN VOLCANOES: UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST

Tentative List is not World Heritage status; and Narcondam is dormant, only Barren is active.

PLACES IN NEWS · SIRPUR: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF CHHATTISGARH

Lakshmana Temple of Sirpur is brick; do not confuse with the stone Lakshmana Temple of Khajuraho.

PLACES IN NEWS · LADAKH: 28 NAMES ON SURVEY OF INDIA MAP

Survey of India is under the Department of Science and Technology, not Defence; do not confuse with the Geological Survey of India (Mines).

PLACES IN NEWS · GANDAK RIVER

Gandak joins the Ganga from the left (north) bank, and Valmikinagar Barrage is on the India-Nepal border.

PLACES IN NEWS · SHINTAPHU LAKE GLOF WARNING IN BHUTAN

A GLOF comes from failure of a glacial lake's dam (moraine, ice or bedrock); a cloudburst is a separate hazard, though heavy rain can trigger a GLOF.

PLACES IN NEWS · CYCLONE ARNAB

Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named by member countries in rotation, not by India alone.

PLACES IN NEWS · SIANG UPPER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

Do not call the Siang a tributary of the Brahmaputra; it is the same river in the Arunachal stretch.

PLACES IN NEWS · PHUKET ISLAND FLASH FLOODS

Do not place Phuket in the South China Sea or the Gulf of Thailand; it lies on the Andaman Sea side.

PLACES IN NEWS · KAMALA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Capacity and area figures are as reported; the clearance was only sought, not granted.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA ENTERS INTO FORCE

India is not a member of RCEP (withdrew in 2019) or CPTPP; and FTA is not a customs union.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · GANGA WATER TREATY WITH BANGLADESH NEARS EXPIRY

Teesta is not covered by the Ganga treaty, and the treaty guarantees Bangladesh 35,000 cusecs in the leanest period.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · BADR MEMORANDUM: PAKISTAN, TURKEY, QATAR, INDONESIA

Do not call the Badr MoU a military alliance; reports say it lacks a collective defence clause.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · INDIA-EFTA TEPA AND LIECHTENSTEIN STATE VISIT

EFTA is not the EU, and TEPA is not a customs union; the Swiss franc is also used by Liechtenstein.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · MILITARY EXERCISES: AIME, SIMBEX, GARUDA SHAKTI

SIMBEX is India-Singapore, AIME is India-ASEAN; do not mix these with SIMBEX's origin as Lion King.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · SCO DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING, DUSHANBE

The SCO Secretariat is in Beijing and RATS in Tashkent; do not swap them.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND AGRIVOLTAICS WORLD CONFERENCE

AgriVoltaics is dual land use, not a replacement of farming by solar plants.

ECONOMY · RBI REPO RATE HIKED TO 5.50%

Repo is the rate at which RBI lends; reverse repo is when RBI borrows, and the SDF is the floor of the corridor, not the repo.

ECONOMY · JIO PLATFORMS IPO: INDIA'S LARGEST

IPO is primary market, listing trade is secondary market; do not call SEBI a constitutional body.

ECONOMY · INDEX OF CORE INDUSTRIES (ICI)

ICI is published by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT, and not by MoSPI; IIP is from MoSPI.

ECONOMY · IDBI BANK STAKE SALE AND DISINVESTMENT TARGETS

Monetisation is not privatisation; ownership stays with the Government in the NMP.

ECONOMY · CAPITAL GAINS TAX: LTCG AND STCG

Long term for listed shares is 12 months, not 36 or 24; and the 12.5% rate applies only on gains beyond Rs 1.25 lakh.

ECONOMY · RELIEF INITIATIVE FOR EXPORTERS

ECGC is an insurer, not a lender; do not confuse it with EXIM Bank.

ECONOMY · WORLD BANK RAISES INDIA'S FY27 GROWTH FORECAST

World Bank is not the IMF; the Bank funds development projects, the IMF handles balance of payments stability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · GREEN ENERGY CORRIDOR PHASE III

The corridor builds transmission, not generation; and storage is measured in GWh while capacity is in GW.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · PM VIKSIT GRAM SWARAJ YOJANA

Panchayati Raj is a State subject; the Centre supports through schemes, but the 73rd Amendment is Part IX.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · KHELO INDIA SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURING SCHEME

Sport is in the State List, so the Centre supports through schemes rather than direct legislation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · CONTAINER MANUFACTURING PROMOTION SCHEME

TEU is a volume unit of containers and not a weight unit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · NATIONAL COASTAL MISSION 2.0

CRZ is under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, not the Wildlife Act.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

Rename is unverified, so use NSAP; and 40% matches the RPwD Act benchmark definition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SCHEMES · SAMUDRA MANTHAN MISSION

Do not confuse this petroleum mission with the Deep Ocean Mission, which sits under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · CBD COP17 YEREVAN AND IUCN CORAL REEF ASSESSMENT

Nagoya is about access and benefit sharing, Cartagena about biosafety; and CBD is not the UNFCCC.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · UNEP EMISSIONS GAP REPORT 2026

The Gap Report is by UNEP, not the IPCC; the IPCC writes Assessment Reports.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · RAMSAR SITES: SUKHNA AND SAUJ JHEEL

Ramsar listing is a recognition of importance, not a ban on use; the Montreux Record flags threatened sites.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION ASSESSMENT: SPAI

Snow leopard is Vulnerable (IUCN), not Endangered; and it is found in cold deserts, not tropical forests.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · CHEETAH CUB KNG22 DEATH AT KUNO

India's cheetahs are African cheetahs, not Asiatic ones; and cheetahs are Vulnerable in IUCN.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · BUXA TIGRESS AND BARDA LIONS: SPECIES TRANSLOCATION

Barda is an alternate site, not an existing lion habitat; Gir remains the only home.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & DISASTER · NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY: ABS DISBURSEMENT

ABS is about fair sharing of benefits from biological resources, not a ban on use; and NBA is statutory, not constitutional.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · CRISPR-EDITED RICE VARIETIES

Genome-edited is not the same as GM; and only Bt cotton is approved for commercial cultivation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · DOUBLE FORTIFIED SALT AND ANAEMIA MUKT BHARAT

Iodine prevents goitre, iron prevents anaemia; do not swap them.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · CAG-BHASHINI ANUVAAD

CAG audits government accounts but does not approve expenditure before it is made; PAC examines CAG reports.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · K9 VAJRA-T SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS

52 calibre refers to barrel length (52 times the bore), not range or number of rounds.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · LAND WARFARE DOCTRINE 2026

Doctrine is not law or policy; it guides operations and does not need Parliament's approval.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · INS SAMARTHAK: INDIGENOUS MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL

Karwar is on the west coast in Karnataka; do not place it in Kerala or Goa.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · NVS-03 LAUNCH AND NAVIC

NavIC is a regional system, unlike GPS, which is global; and clocks matter because position is derived from timing.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · AI INSPIRED AND ZOOLOGICAL DISCOVERY: TETRONARCE RAMANAMURTHYI

IN-SPACe regulates and promotes, while ISRO builds and operates; ZSI is under MoEFCC and not Science and Technology.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · TAPAS-1: INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE THERMAL-IMAGING NANOSATELLITE

A sun-synchronous orbit is near-polar and low; do not confuse it with geostationary orbit.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · AKASH AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM: EXPORTS TO CENTRAL ASIA

Akash is a surface-to-air missile; Nag is an anti-tank missile; Trishul was discontinued.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · VARUNASTRA HEAVYWEIGHT TORPEDO ORDER

Rs 4,106 crore is the combined figure; the torpedo order alone is Rs 1,543 crore.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · JWALA MK-1: COUNTER-DRONE MISSILE CONCEPT

Jwala Mk-1 is a concept with company claims; do not treat the numbers as service specifications.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · JUMPING GENES (TRANSPOSONS)

Jumping genes move within DNA; they are not viruses and not the same as plasmids.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY · MISAGH-2 AND FP-7 PELICAN: MISSILES IN CONFLICT ZONES

Ballistic missiles follow an arc, cruise missiles fly with continuous propulsion; do not mix them.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SENGOL IN NCERT CLASS 9

Sengol is a ceremonial sceptre and has no constitutional status; the transfer of power in 1947 was legally effected by the Indian Independence Act, 1947, and the Constitution came into force only in 1950.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SAMHITA: MANUSCRIPT DIGITISATION WITH SRI LANKA

The Pali canon is the Tipitaka; Sanskrit is the language of Mahayana texts mostly.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · SURANGAM WATER HARVESTING IN KASARAGOD

Surangam is a gravity-fed tunnel, not a stepwell; do not confuse it with baoli or vav.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · GI TAGS: AMBAJI MOHANTHAL AND MANDAR DRUM

GI protects a place-linked product name, not an invention; patents protect inventions.

ARTS & CULTURE + HISTORY · NAGAPATTINAM CHOLA BRONZES: NATARAJA AND SIVAGAMI

Chola bronzes are metal casts by lost-wax, not carved stone; and Sivagami is the consort, not a separate god.

MISCELLANEOUS · ASHOKE SEN WINS OSKAR KLEIN MEDAL

The award is a physics medal, not a Nobel; and Sen is a string theorist.

MISCELLANEOUS · UAE ORDER OF ZAYED II: INDIAN RECIPIENTS

Article 18(2) is an absolute bar on citizens accepting foreign titles; the President's consent applies only to non-citizen office holders (18(3)) and to gifts, emoluments or offices from a foreign State (18(4)). Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles.

MISCELLANEOUS · OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: SHASTRI, BHABHA, PATEL

Ekta Diwas is on Patel's birth date, 31 October; Gandhi Jayanti is on 2 October along with Shastri's birth date.

MISCELLANEOUS · NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD FOR GIG WORKERS

Labour is a Concurrent subject; and gig workers are treated separately from formal employees under the Code.

MISCELLANEOUS · ASIAN PARA GAMES 2026: AICHI-NAGOYA

Medal counts are as reported and sources differ on the previous best; use the official tally if asked.

MISCELLANEOUS · COMMONWEALTH KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP AND YOUTH OLYMPICS DAKAR 2026

Youth Olympics are for ages 15 to 18 and are separate from the main Olympics.

STUDY STRATEGY · NOT A CLAIM ABOUT EXACT READING TIME

LAST 30 MINUTES

BEFORE YOUR PRELIMS TEST

10 MIN

X-FACT MATRICES

Cover every X-Fact Matrix and reproduce it cold.

10 MIN

EXAM TRAPS

Read only the trap boxes and nothing else.

5 MIN

FLOW CHARTS AND TREES

Re-draw every flow chart and name the five branches of each concept tree.

5 MIN

MODEL MCQ MISTAKES

Re-attempt every question you got wrong.