MISSION X — UPSC MENTORSHIP & GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Xtracts

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Mission X for UPSC

D01 GS-I Modern Indian History Tribal Affairs

Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026 Begins, Reviving Birsa Munda's Legacy of Resistance

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs opened its fortnight-long Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada (1–15 November) across the country, with 300+ tribal infrastructure projects, a new Jan-HIT health portal built with ICMR, and the National FRA Digital Platform — all culminating in Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary.

300+	1875	1899–1900	2021	73
TRIBAL PROJECTS PLANNED	BIRSA MUNDA'S BIRTH YEAR	ULGULAN REVOLT YEARS	DIWAS DESIGNATION YEAR	DISTRICTS WITH SCHOLARSHIP CAMPS

PRELIMS RELEVANCE	MAINS RELEVANCE	ETHICS RELEVANCE
★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★★☆☆

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- "Ulgulan" (the Great Tumult) is Birsa Munda's revolt of 1899–1900 — directly asked in UPSC 2020.
- The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 followed the revolt, recognising khuntkatti land rights and banning begar (forced labour).
- Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was designated in 2021 and is observed every 15 November.
- This year's Pakhwada launched the Jan-HIT portal (with ICMR) and the National FRA Digital Platform for forest-rights claims.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-I GS-II

The Ulgulan was not a localised disturbance but an early articulation of adivasi self-rule (Abua Raj) against colonial land alienation and the zamindari–moneylender nexus that eroded traditional khuntkatti tenures in Chotanagpur. **GS-II | Welfare Schemes & Digital Governance** — the Pakhwada's launch of the Jan-HIT portal and the National FRA Digital Platform shows how commemorative weeks are increasingly used to bundle service-delivery reform with symbolic recognition. Key themes: tribal self-governance, land-rights history, digitisation of welfare delivery, PVTG outreach under PM-JANMAN.

ETHICS LENS

"Does a fortnight of ceremony substitute for resolving the land and livelihood grievances that drove the Ulgulan in the first place?" Commemorative calendars are politically easy and administratively visible, but tribal communities still face slow Forest Rights Act titling and uneven access to welfare entitlements. ***GS-IV Value: Distributive Justice*** *— state recognition of historical injustice must be judged by whether it actually redistributes land, forest and welfare access to the most marginalised, not by the scale of the celebration alone.*

D01 → GS-I → **Modern Indian History** PYQ 2020

With reference to the history of India, "Ulgulan" or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?

(a) The Revolt of 1857
(b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
(c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
(d) Birsa Munda's Revolt of 1899-1900 ✓

Why: The Munda Rebellion (1899–1900), led by Birsa Munda in southern Ranchi, aimed to restore Munda land rights and establish Munda Raj. It protested the loss of traditional khuntkatti land to outsiders; the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 later recognised tribal land rights and banned forced labour (beth begari).

D02 GS-II International Relations Regional Groupings

India Hosts BIMSTEC's First-Ever Maritime Security Exercise in the Andamans

All seven BIMSTEC members are taking part in the grouping's maiden maritime security exercise, running 30 October–3 November from the Andaman & Nicobar Command, under the theme "Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity."

7	1997	5-Day	A&N	1st
BIMSTEC MEMBER STATES	YEAR BIMSTEC FOUNDED	OCT 30–NOV 3 WINDOW	EXERCISE HOST COMMAND	MARITIME DRILL OF ITS KIND

PRELIMS RELEVANCE	MAINS RELEVANCE	ETHICS RELEVANCE
★★★★☆	★★★★☆	★★☆☆☆

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) has 7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- Founded via the Bangkok Declaration, 1997 — not the "Dhaka Declaration, 1999" (a common distractor).
- Founding members were Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar; Nepal and Bhutan joined in 2004.
- India leads BIMSTEC's Counter-Terrorism, Disaster Management and Energy Security pillars.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-II GS-III

Hosting BIMSTEC's first maritime exercise fits India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine and its wider Act East push, using subregional groupings to anchor Bay of Bengal connectivity where SAARC has stalled. **GS-III | Maritime Security** — the Andaman & Nicobar Command, India's first integrated tri-service command, sits astride the approaches to the Malacca Strait, giving the exercise a dual diplomatic and strategic purpose. Key themes: regional security architecture, maritime domain awareness, blue-economy cooperation, India's leadership role in BIMSTEC.

ETHICS LENS

"Can 'shared security' be genuine when one member's navy and economy dwarf every other partner's?" Asymmetric regional groupings risk being read as influence-building rather than cooperation, even when the stated aims — interoperability, disaster response, best-practice exchange — are entirely legitimate. ***GS-IV Value: Reciprocity and Trust-building*** *— the ethical test of a dominant power's regional leadership is whether its greater capability is visibly converted into shared public goods rather than one-sided advantage.*

D02 → GS-II → **International Groups & Organizations** PYQ 2025

Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC: I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025. II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999. III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC. IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II
(b) II and III
(c) I and IV
(d) I only ✓

Why: BIMSTEC has 7 members and was established via the Bangkok Declaration, 1997 (not the Dhaka Declaration, 1999). Myanmar — not Nepal — is a founding member; Nepal and Bhutan joined only in 2004. India leads Counter-Terrorism, Disaster Management and Energy Security in BIMSTEC, not tourism.

D03 GS-III Science & Technology Space

ISRO's GSLV-F18 Places NVS-03 in Orbit, Restoring NavIC's Four-Satellite Strength

ISRO's GSLV-F18 launched the NVS-03 navigation satellite from Sriharikota on 30 October, carrying an indigenously built Rubidium atomic clock after earlier imported clocks had failed — strengthening India's standalone regional navigation system, NavIC.

2,232 kg	12 Yrs	L1/L5/S	1,500 km	12th
NVS-03 LAUNCH MASS	PLANNED MISSION LIFE	NAVIGATION SIGNAL BANDS	COVERAGE BEYOND BORDER	IRNSS SATELLITE LAUNCHED

PRELIMS RELEVANCE	MAINS RELEVANCE	ETHICS RELEVANCE
★★★★★	★★★☆☆	★★☆☆☆

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- NavIC (formerly IRNSS) is India's own standalone satellite navigation system — UPSC 2023 asked which country "has its own" such system.
- NVS-03 is the 3rd second-generation NVS satellite and carries an indigenous Rubidium atomic clock, replacing earlier imported clocks that had failed.
- NavIC covers all of India and about 1,500 km beyond its borders (a 2018 PYQ wrongly offered "5,500 sq km" as a distractor).
- NVS-03 adds the civilian L1 band alongside L5 and S-band, extending NavIC to smartwatches and low-power wearables.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-III

NVS-03 is as much a story of self-reliance as of navigation: after imported Rubidium clocks failed on earlier NavIC satellites, the Space Applications Centre developed an indigenous replacement, insuring a strategic system against a single foreign supply chain. **GS-III | Indigenisation & Strategic Autonomy** — critical space components built in-house reduce exposure to export controls on dual-use technology. Key themes: Atmanirbhar Bharat in space hardware, disaster-response and defence applications of NavIC, mass-market expansion via the new L1 band.

ETHICS LENS

"Is it ethically defensible to keep funding an indigenous regional system when cheaper global alternatives like GPS already exist?" The calculus is not purely financial: a foreign-controlled signal can be degraded or withheld during a crisis, which matters directly for defence, disaster-relief and emergency-response use. ***GS-IV Value: Public Accountability in Resource Allocation*** *— long-horizon strategic spending must be justified to citizens by weighing sovereignty and resilience against short-term cost efficiency, not assumed as self-evidently worthwhile.*

D03 → GS-III → **Space Science** PYQ 2018

With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements: 1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits. 2. IRNSS covers the entire India and about 5500 sq. km beyond its borders. 3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2021. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only ✓ | (b) 1 and 2 only | (c) 2 and 3 only | (d) None

Why: NavIC (IRNSS) is India's regional — not global — navigation system, with 7 satellites: 3 geostationary and 4 in inclined geosynchronous orbits. It covers India and about 1,500 km beyond its borders, not 5,500 sq km, and was never meant to offer full global coverage.

D04 GS-III Indian Economy Fiscal Federalism

Centre Releases ₹1.09 Lakh Crore Additional Tax Devolution Ahead of Festive Season

The Finance Ministry released ₹1,09,019 crore in additional tax devolution to 28 states on 31 October — the second such extra instalment this financial year — to help states front-load capital spending, with Uttar Pradesh receiving the largest share.

₹1,09,019 cr	28	17.6%	41%	2nd
ADDITIONAL DEVOLUTION RELEASED	STATES COVERED	UP'S SHARE OF RELEASE	15TH FC VERTICAL DEVOLUTION	ADDITIONAL INSTALMENT THIS FY

PRELIMS RELEVANCE	MAINS RELEVANCE	ETHICS RELEVANCE
★★★★☆	★★★★★	★★★☆☆

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Tax devolution to states flows under Article 280 (the Finance Commission); the 15th FC fixed vertical devolution at 41% of net Union tax proceeds.
- Horizontal devolution (15th FC) criteria: population, area, income distance, demographic performance, forest & ecology, tax and fiscal effort.
- Uttar Pradesh got the largest share of this release (₹19,208 crore, ~17.6%), followed by Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- This was the second additional instalment released this financial year, over and above the regular monthly transfer.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-II GS-III

Timed ahead of the festive season, the advance release is meant to let states front-load capital expenditure before peak-demand months, feeding directly into the capex-driven growth strategy the Centre has pursued since the pandemic. **GS-II | Centre–State Fiscal Relations** — the move also illustrates vertical fiscal imbalance: states raise a smaller share of total revenue than they spend, making the Finance Commission's devolution formula the single largest correcting mechanism in Indian federalism. Key themes: cooperative fiscal federalism, counter-cyclical public spending, capex multiplier effects, state-wise distribution formula.

ETHICS LENS

"Should the timing of constitutionally-mandated transfers be a matter of executive discretion, tied to a 'festive season,' or should it be strictly rule-bound?" Front-loading funds before a demand season helps states spend efficiently, but discretionary timing of money that constitutionally belongs to states can also be used for political optics around elections or festivals. ***GS-IV Value: Impartiality in Public Administration*** *— funds owed to states under a constitutional formula should move on a transparent, predictable schedule, insulated from the appearance of discretionary or politically timed largesse.*

D04 → GS-III → **Finance Commission** PYQ 2025

Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct? I. It has recommended grants of ₹4,800 crores from the year 2022-23 to the year 2025-26 for incentivizing States to enhance educational outcomes. II. 45% of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States. III. ₹45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all States for carrying out agricultural reforms. IV. It reintroduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance. Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) I, II and III | (b) I, II and IV | **(c) I, III and IV ✓** | (d) II, III and IV

Why: Statement II is wrong — vertical devolution under the 15th FC is 41% of net Union tax proceeds (same as the 14th FC, adjusted for J&K's reorganisation), not 45%. The Commission did recommend ₹4,800 crore for school-education outcomes, ₹45,000 crore for agricultural reforms, and reintroduced the tax-effort criterion in horizontal devolution.

🧠 Memory Lab

Rapid revision · High-retention formats · Today's key concepts

MON · 02 NOV 2026

✕ XTRACTS IN 30 SECONDS

1. Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2026 — Ministry of Tribal Affairs' 1–15 Nov fortnight (300+ projects, new Jan-HIT & FRA digital platforms) marks Birsa Munda's birth anniversary and the 1899–1900 Ulgulan's legacy.

2. BIMSTEC's First Maritime Exercise — India hosted the grouping's maiden maritime security drill (30 Oct–3 Nov) from the Andaman & Nicobar Command, themed "Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity."

3. NVS-03 Launch — GSLV-F18 placed the 3rd second-generation NavIC satellite in orbit on 30 Oct, carrying an indigenous Rubidium clock to restore NavIC's four-satellite strength.

4. ₹1.09-Lakh-Crore Tax Devolution — Centre released an additional instalment to 28 states ahead of the festive season; Uttar Pradesh got the largest share at ₹19,208 crore.

🔥 NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

300+ TRIBAL PROJECTS UNDER PAKHWADA 2026	**7** BIMSTEC MEMBER STATES	**2,232 kg** NVS-03 LAUNCH MASS
₹1,09,019 cr ADDITIONAL TAX DEVOLUTION RELEASED	**1997** YEAR BIMSTEC FOUNDED (BANGKOK DECL.)	**12 yrs** NVS-03 PLANNED MISSION LIFE
41% 15TH FC VERTICAL DEVOLUTION SHARE	**1,500 km** NAVIC COVERAGE BEYOND BORDERS	**28** STATES RECEIVING DEVOLUTION RELEASE

🟣 ETHICS QUICK REFERENCE

Issue 01 — Tribal Welfare

Does ceremonial commemoration substitute for resolving land and livelihood grievances? **Value: Distributive Justice** — recognition must convert into real entitlements, not symbolism.

Issue 02 — Regional Diplomacy

Can "shared security" hold among partners of unequal size and capability? **Value: Reciprocity & Trust-building** — greater capability must reassure, never dominate.

Issue 03 — Strategic Tech Spend

Is indigenous NavIC worth funding when GPS is cheaper? **Value: Public Accountability** — weigh sovereignty and resilience against short-term cost.

Issue 04 — Fiscal Transfers

Should devolution timing be discretionary or rule-bound? **Value: Impartiality in Administration** — constitutionally due funds need a transparent, predictable schedule.

GOVERNANCE SPOTLIGHT

Jan-HIT Portal + National FRA Digital Platform

Launched during Pakhwada 2026: Jan-HIT (with ICMR) tracks tribe-disaggregated health data across 20 states, while the FRA Digital Platform moves forest-rights claims — from Gram Sabha submission to digitally signed title — onto one online system.

◎ QUICK REVISION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Ulgulan (1899–1900) = Birsa Munda's revolt; crushed at Dombari Buru, Jan 1900.
- ☐ Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 — banned begar, protected khuntkatti land rights.
- ☐ Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas designated 2021; observed every 15 November.
- ☐ BIMSTEC = 7 members; Bangkok Declaration, 1997 (not "Dhaka, 1999" — common trap).
- ☐ NavIC/IRNSS = 7-satellite constellation; India + ~1,500 km beyond its borders.
- ☐ NVS-03 = 3rd 2nd-gen NavIC satellite; first with an indigenous Rubidium clock.
- ☐ 15th Finance Commission: 41% vertical devolution; tax-effort criterion reintroduced.
- ☐ UP, Bihar and MP topped the October 2026 additional tax-devolution release.

📊 PYQ FREQUENCY — 10-YEAR VIEW

Judiciary & Constitution	8/10
Intl. Groupings (BIMSTEC etc.)	7/10
Environment & Biodiversity	7/10
Finance Commission / Fiscal Fed.	6/10
Tribal Movements & Leaders	6/10
Defence & Emerging Tech	6/10
Space & Satellite Navigation	5/10



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