Xtracts
Daily Current Affairs · 4 Issues · PYQ Connections
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Mission X for UPSC

ISSUE 01 GS-I Modern Indian History

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2026: PM Leads Nation in Marking Sardar Patel's 151st Birth Anniversary

On 31 October, the Prime Minister led National Unity Day celebrations at the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, paying tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 151st birth anniversary. The National Unity Parade this year honoured police and security forces, and the PM linked Patel's legacy of integrating the princely states to present-day achievements in poverty reduction and the decline of Left-Wing Extremism.

151st	550+	75 Yrs	0	50 Cr
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY	PRINCELY STATES INTEGRATED	SINCE SOMNATH REBUILD	NAXAL-HIT DISTRICTS (MAR '26)	ESCAPED POVERTY (PRE-2024)

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the "Iron Man of India", served as independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.
- He is credited with integrating over 550 princely states into the Indian Union through the Instrument of Accession and sustained diplomacy (1947–49).
- The Statue of Unity at Kevadia, Gujarat — at 182 metres, the world's tallest statue — was inaugurated in 2018 in Patel's honour.
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is observed every 31 October, marking Patel's birth anniversary.
- Patel also oversaw the post-Independence reconstruction of the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, whose 75th anniversary falls this year.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-I | Modern Indian History GS-II | Governance

Patel's integration of the princely states remains the textbook case of pragmatic statesmanship securing national unity without a full-scale constitutional overhaul. **GS-II | National Integration**: the PM's address tied this historical legacy to present governance claims — a fall in Naxal-affected districts from 126 in 2015 to zero by March 2026, and an expansion of social-security coverage from under 25 crore people before 2014 to nearly 100 crore — framing internal security and welfare delivery as continuations of Patel's unification project. Key themes: cooperative and competitive federalism, centre–state relations in integrating diverse regions, Left-Wing Extremism as an internal security challenge, and Direct Benefit Transfer as a tool of inclusive governance.

ETHICS LENS

"Can firm, occasionally coercive statecraft be ethically justified when it secures long-term national unity?" Patel combined persuasion with political and, where necessary, military pressure — as in Hyderabad and Junagadh — to bring princely states into the Union, even while preserving a measure of local autonomy through privy purses and instruments of merger. The question remains live wherever the state must choose between swift unifying action and slower consent-based integration. ***GS-IV Value: Courage of conviction*** *— the willingness to take firm, sometimes unpopular decisions in service of a larger public good, while remaining accountable for the means used.*

PYQ CONNECT

UPSC 2017

The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to?

(a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.
(b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.
(c) Impose censorship on the national press.
(d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.

Answer: (d). The Harcourt Butler Committee (1927) reviewed relations between British India and the princely states, visiting 16 states and reporting in 1929 — the same princely-states question Patel would resolve two decades later through integration rather than negotiation.

ISSUE 02 GS-II Welfare Schemes

PM-KISAN's 24th Instalment Sends ₹18,690 Crore to 9.34 Crore Farmers

On 30 October, the government released the 24th instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), crediting ₹2,000 each to nearly 9.34 crore eligible farmer families — a total of ₹18,690 crore transferred directly to their bank accounts ahead of Diwali. The release continues the scheme's running Direct Benefit Transfer model for income support to landholding farmer households.

24th	₹18,690 Cr	9.34 Cr	₹2,000	2019
INSTALMENT RELEASED	TOTAL DISBURSED	FARMER BENEFICIARIES	PER-FARMER PAYOUT	SCHEME LAUNCH YEAR

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) was launched in February 2019, giving eligible farmer families ₹6,000 a year in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 via Direct Benefit Transfer.
- It was expanded in June 2019 from only small and marginal farmers (holding up to two hectares) to cover all eligible landholding farmer families, subject to exclusion criteria.
- Excluded categories include institutional landholders, holders of constitutional posts, serving and retired government employees (with some exceptions), income-tax payers, and actively practising professionals such as doctors, engineers and lawyers.
- The 24th instalment (30 October 2026) credited ₹18,690 crore to about 9.34 crore farmers' bank accounts.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-II | Welfare Schemes GS-III | Agriculture

PM-KISAN illustrates the shift from input subsidies and price support toward direct, unconditional income transfers as an instrument of agrarian welfare. **GS-III | Farm Income Support**: the flat ₹6,000-a-year benefit has been criticised as too small against rising input costs, reviving the broader debate between direct income support and Minimum Support Price-based procurement as competing models of farmer welfare. Key themes: Direct Benefit Transfer architecture and Aadhaar-seeding to reduce leakages, targeting efficiency versus universal coverage, state-level top-up schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, and the adequacy of income-support amounts amid agrarian distress.

ETHICS LENS

"Does a flat, equal transfer to every eligible farmer meet the test of fairness when their needs differ so widely?" PM-KISAN pays the same ₹2,000 instalment to a farmer with half a hectare and one with several hectares, trading administrative simplicity and transparency for differentiated, needs-based support. ***GS-IV Value: Distributive justice*** *— weighing equal treatment against equitable treatment when designing welfare entitlements for an unequal population.*

PYQ CONNECT

UPSC 2020

Under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes?
1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets 2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks 3. Consumption requirements of farm households 4. Post-harvest expenses 5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

(a) 1, 2 and 5 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b). The Kisan Credit Card covers working capital for farm assets, household consumption needs, and post-harvest expenses — not big-ticket purchases like harvesters or house construction — the same farmer-welfare family of schemes that PM-KISAN's income support sits alongside.

ISSUE 03 GS-III Environment & Biodiversity

India Issues I-OECM Guidelines 2026 to Recognise Conservation Beyond Protected Areas

At a side event of CBD COP-17 in Yerevan, Armenia on 28 October, India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the "Guidelines for the Designation of India's Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (I-OECMs) 2026", along with three other publications on biosafety and access-and-benefit sharing. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said progress must be measured by implementation and outcomes, not by targets announced.

I-OECM	4	COP-17	30×30	28 Oct
NEW GUIDELINES 2026	PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	YEREVAN, ARMENIA	GBF TARGET 3 GOAL	RELEASE DATE, 2026

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- OECM stands for "Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures" — areas outside formal Protected Areas that are governed so as to deliver positive, sustained biodiversity outcomes.
- The guidelines were released at a CBD COP-17 side event in Yerevan, organised by the MoEFCC with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and UNDP.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's Target 3 calls for conserving at least 30% of land, inland waters, and coastal and marine areas by 2030 ("30-by-30"), through Protected Areas and OECMs together.
- The Nagoya Protocol underpins Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) — the fair sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources; India's "ABS Success Story" was also released at this event.
- The four publications released were: the I-OECM Guidelines 2026, India's 5th National Report on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a CBD Handbook with an Indian Perspective, and India's ABS Success Story.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-III | Environment & Biodiversity GS-II | International Relations

Recognising OECMs lets India count community forests, agricultural landscapes, urban biodiversity parks, industrial estates and marine biodiversity areas toward its 30-by-30 commitment, broadening conservation beyond formally notified parks and sanctuaries. **GS-II | Global Cooperation**: Minister Yadav's call for "South-South learning" and his warning against measuring success by "announcements or resources mobilised" rather than outcomes reflects India's positioning as a bridge between developed-country finance commitments and developing-country implementation capacity. Key themes: community-led and livelihood-linked conservation, the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) principle, institutional capacity versus target-setting, and India's role in multilateral biodiversity governance.

ETHICS LENS

"Should a nation's environmental commitment be judged by the targets it announces or the outcomes it actually delivers?" Minister Yadav explicitly urged countries to measure progress "by implementation, benefits delivered, and lasting outcomes" rather than by targets adopted — a reminder that ambitious pledges carry little ethical weight without matching follow-through. ***GS-IV Value: Accountability*** *— the obligation to match public commitments with verifiable action, rather than letting announcements substitute for results.*

PYQ CONNECT

UPSC 2023

Consider the following statements:
1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realisation of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c). Biodiversity Management Committees implement the Nagoya Protocol's Access and Benefit Sharing objectives in India, including levying collection fees — the same ABS architecture India showcased at COP-17 alongside its new OECM guidelines.

ISSUE 04 GS-III IPR & Public Health

Indian Patent Office Rejects TB Alliance's Patent on Drug-Resistant TB Regimen BPaL

The Indian Patent Office has refused a patent application filed by the US-based Global Alliance for TB Drug Development ("TB Alliance") for BPaL, a six-month, all-oral regimen for drug-resistant tuberculosis. The rejection follows a pre-grant opposition filed in July 2020 by five civil-society groups, including the Lawyers Collective and Médecins Sans Frontières' Access Campaign, clearing a path toward affordable generic versions of the regimen in India.

BPaL	Sec 3(d)	15,000+	2.71 Mn	5 NGOs
PATENT APPLICATION REJECTED	KEY LEGAL GROUND	PATIENTS ON BPALM (NTEP)	INDIA'S TB CASES, 2024	FILED PRE-GRANT OPPOSITION

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- BPaL is a six-month, all-oral regimen combining Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid for drug-resistant tuberculosis, developed by the non-profit TB Alliance.
- The pre-grant opposition was filed in July 2020 under Section 25(1) of the Patents Act, 1970, by the Delhi Network of Positive People, Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust, Third World Network, Lawyers Collective, and MSF's Access Campaign.
- The Patent Office invoked Sections 3(d) (no enhanced efficacy shown for a new form of a known substance), 3(e) (mere admixture of known substances) and 3(i) (methods of treating human beings are not patentable).
- BPaLM — BPaL plus Moxifloxacin — is used under India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP); over 15,000 patients have received it so far.
- India recorded an estimated 2.71 million TB cases in 2024, around a quarter of the global burden.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-III | IPR & Science-Tech GS-II | Health

The rejection echoes the landmark 2013 Novartis v. Union of India ("Glivec") ruling, where Section 3(d) was used to block the patenting of a new form of a known drug lacking enhanced therapeutic efficacy — a provision designed to prevent "evergreening" of patents. **GS-II | Right to Health**: by denying this patent, India keeps open the door for domestic generic manufacturers to produce BPaL-based regimens at lower cost, reinforcing its position as a major supplier of affordable medicines to the Global South. Key themes: TRIPS flexibilities and the Doha Declaration on public health, balancing innovator incentives against access to essential medicines, and the National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination's goal of a TB-free India.

ETHICS LENS

"Should intellectual-property protection ever yield to the public's right to access life-saving medicines?" The case sets the commercial logic of patent protection — rewarding and recovering the cost of pharmaceutical innovation — against the urgent public-health need for affordable treatment of a disease that disproportionately burdens low- and middle-income countries like India. ***GS-IV Value: Right to health over private profit*** *— placing the larger public good of affordable medical access above narrow proprietary claims, consistent with the ethic of distributive justice in healthcare.*

PYQ CONNECT

UPSC 2017

With reference to the 'National Intellectual Property Rights Policy', consider the following statements:
1. It reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c). India's National IPR Policy reaffirms the Doha Development Agenda and TRIPS Agreement commitments, and DPIIT (then DIPP) regulates IPR in India — the same TRIPS flexibility framework that lets India's Patents Act bar evergreened claims like TB Alliance's BPaL application.

🧠 Memory Lab

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Wednesday · 04 Nov 2026

✕ XTRACTS IN 30 SECONDS

1. Sardar Patel @151 — PM led Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at the Statue of Unity, marking the Iron Man's integration of 550+ princely states.

2. PM-KISAN's 24th Tranche — ₹18,690 crore sent via DBT to 9.34 crore farmers under the ₹6,000-a-year income-support scheme.

3. India's I-OECM Guidelines — new rules to count conservation beyond parks toward the 30-by-2030 biodiversity target, unveiled at CBD COP-17 in Yerevan.

4. BPaL Patent Rejected — the Patent Office denied TB Alliance's claim on a 6-month drug-resistant TB regimen, opening the door to generics.

🔥 NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

151 PATEL'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY	**550+** PRINCELY STATES INTEGRATED	**₹18,690 Cr** PM-KISAN 24TH TRANCHE
9.34 Cr FARMERS PAID	**24th** PM-KISAN INSTALMENT NO.	**30 × 30** BIODIVERSITY TARGET YEAR
4 BIODIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS, COP-17	**2.71 Mn** INDIA'S TB CASES, 2024	**15,000+** PATIENTS ON BPALM (NTEP)

🟣 ETHICS QUICK REFERENCE

ISSUE 01 — STATESMANSHIP

Patel blended firm persuasion with diplomacy to integrate princely states for lasting unity. **Value: Courage of conviction in nation-building.**

ISSUE 02 — DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

A flat ₹2,000 transfer treats big and marginal farmers alike, regardless of actual need. **Value: Fairness in targeting welfare benefits.**

ISSUE 03 — ACCOUNTABILITY

Minister Yadav urged judging nations by outcomes delivered, not targets merely announced. **Value: Matching public commitments with real action.**

ISSUE 04 — RIGHT TO HEALTH

Rejecting the BPaL patent favours affordable generic TB drugs over proprietary protection. **Value: Public health placed above private profit.**

📌 BONUS STATIC LINK

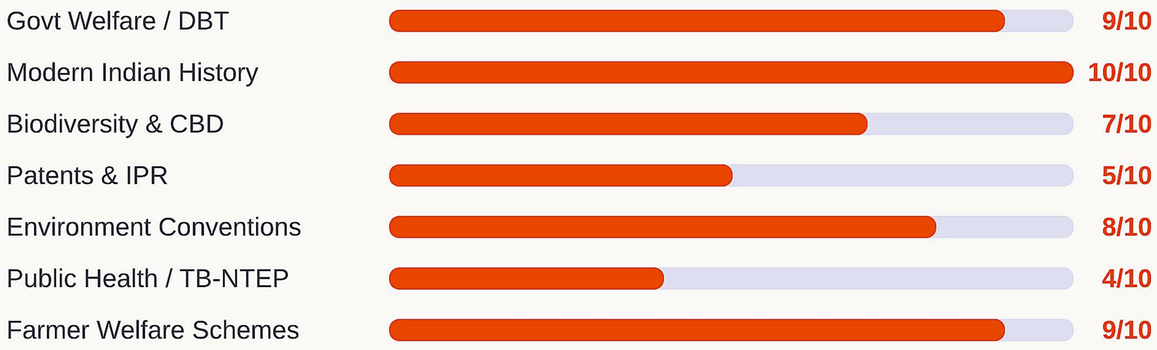
Doha Declaration (2001) → TRIPS & Public Health

The WTO's Doha Declaration clarified that the TRIPS Agreement does not stop members from protecting public health, and affirmed every country's right to use compulsory licensing and parallel importing. That same TRIPS-flexibility spirit underlies today's BPaL rejection — and it is why India's National IPR Policy (2017) explicitly reiterates its commitment to the Doha Development Agenda.

◉ QUICK REVISION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is observed every 31 October, Sardar Patel's birth anniversary.
- ☐ Patel integrated 550+ princely states via the Instrument of Accession (1947–49).
- ☐ PM-KISAN gives ₹6,000/year to eligible farmers in 3 instalments of ₹2,000 via DBT.
- ☐ PM-KISAN launched February 2019; later expanded to all eligible landholding farmers.
- ☐ OECM = Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, recognised alongside Protected Areas.
- ☐ Kunming-Montreal GBF Target 3 seeks to conserve 30% of land/water/marine areas by 2030.
- ☐ Patents Act Sections 3(d), 3(e) and 3(i) bar evergreening, mere admixtures, and treatment methods.
- ☐ BPaLM is India's NTEP regimen for drug-resistant TB (Bedaquiline + Pretomanid + Linezolid + Moxifloxacin).

📊 PYQ FREQUENCY — 10-YEAR VIEW



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