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

ISSUE 01 GS-I Modern Indian History

Asia’s Largest 1857 Martyrs’ Memorial Opens in Ambala

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Martyrs’ Memorial of the First War of Independence of 1857 at Nanehra, Ambala Cantonment, Haryana — a 22-acre complex built around a 63-metre lotus-shaped tower, with 23 galleries tracing the 1857 uprising from Ambala, Meerut and Delhi outward, and the names of over 700 freedom fighters inscribed in gold.

22 ACRES	63M	23	700+	≈₹800 CR
SITE AREA	LOTUS TOWER	GALLERIES	FIGHTERS NAMED	PROJECT COST

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Location: Nanehra, Ambala Cantonment, Haryana, on NH-44.
- Historians say the 1857 revolt began in Ambala about nine hours before Meerut — 10 May 1857, 5th & 60th Native Infantry.
- Centrepiece: a 63-metre lotus-shaped tower — chosen because revolutionaries reportedly used lotus flowers and chapatis to pass secret signals.
- Documentation drawn from the National Archives of India plus archives in London and Lahore.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-I | Modern History

The Ambala memorial anchors 1857 commemoration in physical, experience-led heritage space rather than textbooks alone, framing the revolt as a collective assertion of sovereignty rather than a scattered mutiny. **GS-I | Art & Culture:** its light-laser-sound shows and themed galleries reflect the same experience-led curation seen at other national memorials. Key themes: decolonising historical memory, heritage tourism in border towns, using local/oral archives alongside colonial-era records.

ETHICS LENS

“Should public memorials prioritise emotional, nation-building resonance over strict historical accuracy?” — Memorials like Ambala’s blend verified archival material with symbolic elements — the lotus motif, light shows — built to move visitors emotionally, not just inform them, a tension that recurs whenever the state builds commemorative infrastructure. ***GS-IV Value: Intellectual honesty — representing the past faithfully even when a more dramatic or unifying narrative would serve present purposes better.***

PYQ CONNECT · 1857 Revolt → **Aftermath** UPSC 2014

What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria’s Proclamation (1858)?
1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States.
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown.
3. To regulate East India Company’s trade with India.

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. Issued by Lord Canning at Allahabad, the Proclamation ended Company rule, placed India under the Crown and pardoned most 1857 rebels — it did not touch Company trade regulation.

ISSUE 02 GS-II Fundamental Rights · Article 22

SC: 24-Hour Production Clock Starts at Detention, Not Formal Arrest

Ruling in *Sujit Das v. Union of India*, Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S. Chandurkar held that the Article 22(2) duty to produce a detained person before a magistrate within 24 hours begins the moment liberty is actually curtailed — not when police formally record the arrest — and ordered the release of four NDPS Act accused whose detention breached this window.

ART. 22(2)	24 HRS	SEC 58 BNSS	2 JUDGES	NOV 5
CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS	PRODUCTION DEADLINE	STATUTORY LINK	BENCH SIZE	DATE OF RULING

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Case: *Sujit Das v. Union of India*; appeal from a Tripura HC order refusing bail under the NDPS Act.
- Facts: four persons detained ≈2 PM on 29 Sep 2025 during a search (alleged 11.03 kg of yaba tablets); formal arrest recorded only ≈11 AM the next day.
- Holding: only time genuinely needed to travel to the magistrate’s court is excluded from the 24-hour window — time spent on inquiry, search or seizure before formal arrest is not.
- Direction: magistrates must independently record the actual time liberty was curtailed and may refuse remand even within 24 hours if detention is unreasonable.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-II | Polity & Governance

The ruling closes a loophole where agencies delayed formally recording an arrest to buy extra, unsupervised custody time before judicial oversight began — reaffirming that Article 22(2)’s safeguard attaches to the fact of restraint, not a paperwork formality. **GS-II | Judiciary:** it also expands the magistracy’s own duty of independent verification, making magistrates active gatekeepers of liberty rather than passive recipients of the police’s version of events. Key themes: personal liberty and due process, checks on police discretion, judicial accountability at the remand stage, BNSS 2023 provisions read with constitutional guarantees.

ETHICS LENS

“Where does the line sit between effective investigation and protecting a detained person’s liberty?” — Agencies argue strict production deadlines can hamper evidence-gathering in search-and-seizure cases, while civil-liberties advocates see any delay in recording arrest as an invitation to coercion — the ruling forces agencies to choose procedural rigour over operational convenience whenever the two conflict. ***GS-IV Value: Rule of law — state power over a person’s body and liberty must always be exercised within, and promptly subjected to, judicial scrutiny.***

PYQ CONNECT · Article 22 → **Arrest & Preventive Detention** UPSC 2023

Consider the following statements:
1. According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
2. The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to person being held for preventive detention.
3. According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.
How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two. Statement 1 is correct under Article 355; Statement 2 is correct — Article 22(1)’s legal-counsel guarantee is excluded for preventive detainees under Article 22(3); Statement 3 is wrong — POTA, 2002 actually made a police confession admissible, an exception to ordinary criminal law.

ISSUE 03 GS-III Defence Indigenisation

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Quasi-Ballistic Missile Pralay

DRDO carried out a successful flight test of the surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile Pralay from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on 5 November, with the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur confirming all objectives were met; Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the missile's technologies would sharpen readiness against emerging threats, with induction into the forces now called imminent.

QUASI-BALLISTIC	ODISHA COAST	NOV 5	RCI HYDERABAD	BDL
MISSILE CLASS	TEST SITE	TEST DATE	DEVELOPER LAB	PRODUCTION PARTNER

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Test site: Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island), off Odisha; test conducted ≈11:10 hrs, 5 November.
- Developer: DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, with other DRDO labs; production by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- A quasi-ballistic missile follows a largely ballistic trajectory but can manoeuvre in its terminal phase, unlike a purely ballistic missile.
- Test objectives were monitored and confirmed by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-III | Science & Tech / Security

Pralay fits India's shift toward short-range, manoeuvrable precision-strike systems that complicate an adversary's missile-defence calculations, rather than relying only on larger strategic missiles like the Agni series. **GS-III | Indigenisation & Self-reliance:** the RCI–DRDO–BDL production chain is a template for the Atmanirbhar Bharat defence push, moving a weapon from design lab to a state-owned production agency without foreign technology transfer. Key themes: conventional deterrence below the nuclear threshold, defence R&D-to-production pipelines, Make-in-India in strategic systems.

ETHICS LENS

"Does a faster, more manoeuvrable strike capability make restraint during a crisis easier or harder to sustain?" — A quasi-ballistic missile's manoeuvrability is marketed as a precision and deterrence asset, but the same qualities that make it harder to intercept also compress the decision-time available to political leadership during an actual crisis, raising the stakes of any single miscalculation. ***GS-IV Value: Proportionality — matching the force developed and threatened to actual strategic necessity, so capability growth does not itself drive escalation.***

PYQ CONNECT · Ballistic **vs** Cruise Missiles — UPSC 2023

Consider the following statements:
1. Ballistic missiles are jet-propelled at subsonic speeds throughout their flights, while cruise missiles are rocket-powered only in the initial phase of flight.
2. Agni-V is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile, while BrahMos is a solid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile.
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: (d) Neither 1 nor 2. Ballistic missiles are rocket-powered throughout flight and can reach hypersonic speed; cruise missiles are jet-propelled within the atmosphere — Pralay's "quasi-ballistic" tag sits between the two. Separately, Agni-V is actually a long-range ICBM and BrahMos a supersonic cruise missile — the statement reverses both.

ISSUE 04 GS-III Space Technology

India Targets Debris-Free Space by 2030 as First Private Debris-Removal Hub Opens

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated Base 1, a 14,800 sq ft facility of Hyderabad start-up Cosmoserve Space — India's first private active-debris-removal and in-orbit-servicing facility and the world's sixth of its kind — and set out a vision of debris-free space by 2030, linking it to India's roughly $9-billion space economy, which the government projects could reach $40–45 billion within a decade.

2030	14,800 SQ FT	6TH	$9 BN	≈450
DEBRIS-FREE TARGET	BASE 1 FACILITY	GLOBAL RANK	SPACE ECONOMY	SPACE START-UPS

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

PRELIMS TRIGGER

- Facility: "Base 1", Hyderabad, built by Cosmoserve Space — India's first private facility of its kind, world's sixth; offers space-vision-effect and microgravity simulation for testing space robots.
- Enabling institutions: NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and IN-SPACe, created after India's 2020 opening of the space sector to private players.
- India's space start-up count has grown from single digits to nearly 450.
- Cosmoserve partners: Pixel (satellite systems), Dhruva Aerospace (Netherlands, propulsion) and Skyroot Aerospace (launch services).

MAINS CONNECTION

GS-III | Science & Tech

Active debris removal has moved from research curiosity to commercial necessity because a crowded low-Earth orbit threatens the very missions India is betting on — Gaganyaan's crewed flights and the planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station both need predictably clear orbital lanes. **GS-III | Indian Economy:** the push is also an industrial-policy story — IN-SPACe and NSIL were created specifically to let private capital build capability that ISRO alone could not scale fast enough. Key themes: orbital sustainability and Kessler-syndrome risk, the public-private architecture of India's post-2020 space reforms, linking space capability to Gati Shakti and disaster management.

ETHICS LENS

"Who is responsible for cleaning up an orbital commons that every spacefaring nation shares but no one controls?" — Space debris accumulates from decades of launches by many countries, yet the clean-up capability now being built is national and commercial — a classic common-resource dilemma where the benefit of a clean orbit is shared by all, but the cost and risk of building removal technology falls on whichever actor invests first. ***GS-IV Value: Intergenerational equity — the duty to leave a usable orbital environment for future missions and future generations, not only to protect one's own current assets.***

PYQ CONNECT · India's Satellite **Launch Vehicles** — UPSC 2018

With reference to India's satellite launch vehicles, consider the following statements:
1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
3. GSLV Mk III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only. PSLV serves earth-observation/sun-synchronous orbits; the geostationary "fixed in the sky" description in Statement 2 actually fits GSLV payloads, not PSLV. GSLV Mk III is a three-stage, cryogenic-capable heavy-lift vehicle, not four-staged — exactly the launch infrastructure today's private debris-removal ecosystem sits downstream of.

🧠 Memory Lab

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

DAY · 07 NOV 2026

✕ XTRACTS IN 30 SECONDS

1. 1857 Legacy, Rebuilt — Asia’s largest 1857 memorial opens in Ambala — 22 acres, 23 galleries, 700+ names in gold.

2. Detention Clock Fixed — SC: the Art. 22(2) 24-hour production deadline starts at actual detention, not formal arrest.

3. Pralay Goes Operational — DRDO’s quasi-ballistic missile Pralay clears its flight test off Odisha; induction called imminent.

4. Clean Orbit, 2030 — India’s first private debris-removal hub opens in Hyderabad; Centre targets a debris-free orbit by 2030.

🔥 NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

22 ACRES AMBALA MEMORIAL SITE	**63M** LOTUS TOWER HEIGHT	**700+** FREEDOM FIGHTERS NAMED
24 HRS ART. 22(2) DEADLINE	**NOV 5** PRALAY TEST & SC RULING	**2 JUDGES** SC BENCH SIZE
2030 DEBRIS-FREE SPACE TARGET	**$9 BN** INDIA'S SPACE ECONOMY	**≈450** SPACE START-UPS IN INDIA

🟣 ETHICS QUICK REFERENCE

ISSUE 01 — HISTORICAL FIDELITY

“Should memorials prioritise emotional resonance over strict accuracy?” **Value: Intellectual honesty.**

ISSUE 02 — LIBERTY VS INVESTIGATION

“Where’s the line between effective investigation and a detainee’s dignity?” **Value: Rule of law.**

ISSUE 03 — CAPABILITY VS RESTRAINT

“Does faster strike capability make crisis restraint easier or harder?” **Value: Proportionality.**

ISSUE 04 — THE ORBITAL COMMONS

“Who cleans up a shared resource no one owns?” **Value: Intergenerational equity.**

CONTEXT

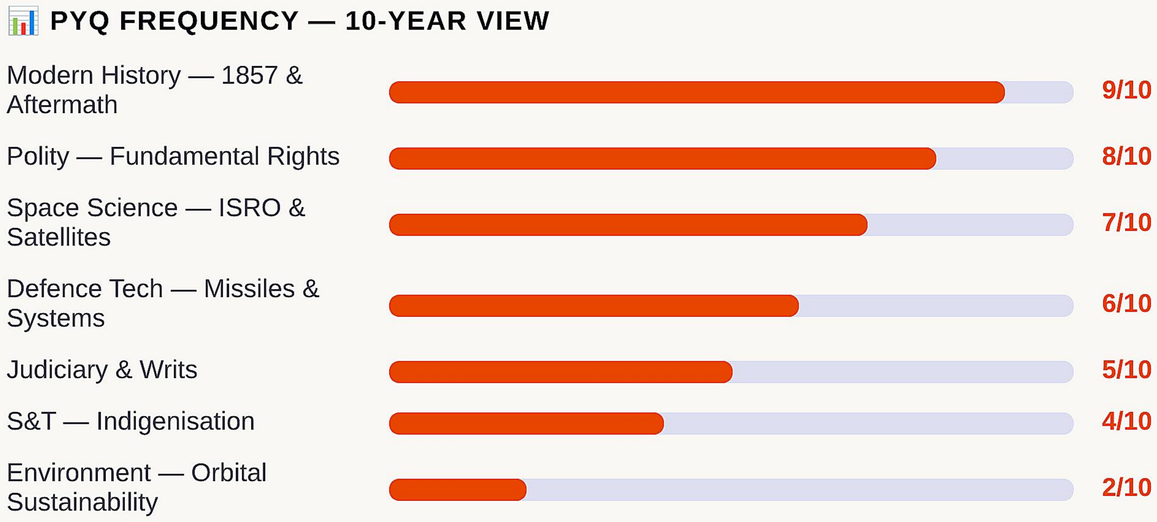
From D.K. Basu (1997) to Sujit Das (2026)

The 1997 D.K. Basu guidelines first laid down procedural safeguards for arrest and detention — memo of arrest, right to inform a relative, medical examination. Today’s ruling builds on that lineage by fixing precisely when the Article 22(2) clock itself starts, closing a gap the 1997 guidelines left open.

◎ QUICK REVISION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Article 22(2): 24-hr magistrate production clock starts at detention, not formal arrest (*Sujit Das v. UoI*, 2026).
- ☐ Article 22(3): preventive detainees are excluded from Art. 22(1)’s legal-counsel guarantee.
- ☐ Pralay: DRDO quasi-ballistic SSM, built by RCI Hyderabad, produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ☐ Quasi-ballistic ≠ ballistic: it manoeuvres in the terminal phase, unlike a classic ballistic trajectory.
- ☐ 1857: the revolt reportedly began in Ambala ≈9 hours before Meerut (10 May 1857).
- ☐ Queen’s Proclamation, 1858: ended Company rule, placed India under the Crown.
- ☐ IN-SPACe & NSIL: the two bodies enabling private participation in India’s space sector since 2020.
- ☐ Cosmoserve’s Base 1: India’s first private active-debris-removal facility, world’s sixth.

📊 PYQ FREQUENCY — 10-YEAR VIEW



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