



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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18 stories

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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5 Things You Must Know

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Bilateral Security and Cross-Border Diplomatic Engagements



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

India and China Discuss Border Delimitation Framework in Beijing High Level Talks

India and China conducted strategic diplomatic discussions in Beijing to advance the delimitation framework along disputed sections of their shared border.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing to evaluate existing bilateral communication channels and border management protocols.

The meetings followed previous diplomatic rounds aimed at resolving persistent friction points along the Line of Actual Control and establishing peace.

Addressing border alignment remains central to normalizing bilateral ties, trade relations, and broader economic coordination between the two Asian economies.

Understanding mechanisms like Special Representative talks is essential for answering UPSC Mains questions on India-China relations and border management strategies.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

US FBI and Canadian Police Issue Duty to Warn Notice to Pannun

The FBI and Royal Canadian Mounted Police alerted Gurpatwant Singh Pannun regarding a newly identified, credible threat against his physical safety.

Sikhs For Justice general counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun was visited by FBI agents in the United States and advised against unannounced travel.

The notification was issued under the statutory 'Duty to Warn' requirement governing United States law enforcement and intelligence organizations.

This development follows ongoing judicial proceedings in US federal courts involving alleged transnational conspiracy plots targeting overseas political activists.

Analyzes the intersection of intelligence sharing, extraterritorial legal notifications, and bilateral security relations for GS Paper II international affairs.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on high-level diplomatic mechanisms for border delimitation and foreign policy implications of extraterritorial security alerts.

PRELIMS FACTS

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi serve as Special Representatives for border talks between India and China.
- Border delimitation refers to the formal agreement on boundary lines, whereas demarcation involves physical marking on the ground.
- The 'Duty to Warn' legal doctrine in the US obligates law enforcement to notify individuals facing specific and credible threats of severe harm.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Diplomatic consultations between major powers require balancing strategic border stabilization mechanisms with complex transnational law enforcement protocols.

DIMENSIONS

- **Diplomatic Dimension:** Sustaining high-level Special Representative dialogues to advance border delimitation and mitigate front-line military standoffs.
- **Legal & Sovereignty Dimension:** Navigating foreign security intelligence advisories like 'Duty to Warn' while preserving national sovereign interests.
- **Strategic Dimension:** Managing regional security equilibrium alongside diplomatic commitments to peace along disputed land frontiers.

Way forward: Institutionalize structured confidence-building measures, ensure transparent border protocol enforcement, and maintain diplomatic channels to prevent escalation.

PYQ LINK

Analyses the mechanisms of border management and confidence-building measures in resolving long-standing territorial disputes between neighboring Asian powers.

KEY TERMS

Border Delimitation

Special Representatives Mechanism

Duty to Warn

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Bilateral Security Dialogue

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 51 of the Constitution of India (Promotion of international peace and security)

1993 Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control

1996 Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the LAC

02

GS PAPER II: FOREIGN POLICY & DIASPORA

US Immigration Policy, H-1B Visas, and Foreign Student Training

STORY 1 Google News

United States Pauses Global Immigrant Visa Processing Amid Visa Regulations Dispute

The United States federal government temporarily paused immigrant visa scheduling globally amidst escalating policy disputes over specialized worker programs.

Consular operations across multiple international posts halted appointments while the Department of Homeland Security evaluated immigration verification processes.

The pause affects thousands of foreign professionals, including Indian technology workers and high-skilled applicants awaiting permanent residency processing.

This administrative freeze reflects broader enforcement measures aimed at restructuring non-immigrant foreign labor frameworks and employer oversight.

Relevant for assessing foreign policy challenges concerning diaspora welfare and international mobility agreements in UPSC CSE examinations.



STORY 2 Times of India

US ICE Enforces Stricter Authorization Rules for Foreign Student Curricular Practical Training

Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a comprehensive directive requiring explicit student authorization requests for Curricular Practical Training participation.

The administrative guidance was issued to US higher education institutions after several major universities proactively paused off-campus practical internships.

The directive mandates that CPT must form an integral component of the established curriculum, eliminating discretionary employer-driven training approvals.

Thousands of international F-1 visa students face academic disruption as universities re-evaluate existing internship partnerships to ensure federal compliance.

Provides vital context on international education policy, student mobility restrictions, and consular management frameworks.



STORY 3 Times of India

DHS Mandates Enhanced Scrutiny for H-1B Visa Staffing Intermediaries

The Department of Homeland Security introduced stringent regulatory oversight rules targeting third-party placement firms participating in the H-1B program.

DHS officials announced plans to scrutinize IT staffing agencies that sponsor foreign workers while contracting them out to external corporate clients.

The regulatory revisions aim to restrict cap exemptions, inspect employer-employee relationships, and eliminate unfair labor contracting practices.

Indian IT service providers utilizing third-party placement models must adapt corporate governance structures to comply with stricter verification mandates.

Serves as a crucial case study for Indian economic interests, global IT supply chains, and international labor standards.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines administrative visa crackdowns, third-party placement rules, and restrictions on student practical training programs affecting Indian professionals.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Curricular Practical Training (CPT) allows F-1 visa students in the US to obtain off-campus internship experience integral to their established major.
- H-1B visas are non-immigrant visas that permit US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations requiring technical expertise.
- Third-party placements involve contracting companies managing payroll and immigration filings while employees render services at client sites.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Tightening foreign labor standards and practical training guidelines in the US creates operational uncertainty for Indian professionals and educational institutions.

DIMENSIONS

- **Economic Dimension:** Potential disruption to India's technology services sector and foreign remittance inflows due to stricter visa compliance standards.
- **Educational Dimension:** Challenges faced by international students relying on university CPT approvals for essential professional work experience.
- **Regulatory Dimension:** Increased oversight targeting IT staffing intermediaries to curb wage depression and administrative non-compliance.

Way forward: Engage through bilateral consular dialogues to ensure equitable transition timelines while promoting domestic skill development and global talent mobility frameworks.

PYQ LINK

Evaluates the impact of changing immigration laws and visa policy restrictions in developed nations on the Indian skilled workforce and diaspora economy.

KEY TERMS

H-1B Visa Regime

Curricular Practical Training

Third-Party Placement Scrutiny

Cap Exemption Standard

Indian Skilled Diaspora

ACTS & ARTICLES

US Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)

Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India (Right to practice any profession)

India-US Trade Policy Forum Mobility Guidelines

03

GS PAPER II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Middle East Geopolitics, Energy Security, and Sanctions



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

United States Submits Saudi Civil Nuclear Agreement to Congress Under Atomic Energy Act

The US administration formally submitted a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia to Congress for strategic review.

President Trump submitted the classified dossier under the Atomic Energy Act, retaining a clause linking implementation to Saudi-Israel diplomatic normalization.

Congress has 90 session days to evaluate safety provisions, non-proliferation assurances, and technology transfer protocols embedded in the proposal.

The agreement seeks to develop Saudi civilian nuclear infrastructure while reinforcing American strategic influence across West Asia.

Highlights non-proliferation treaties, civil nuclear diplomacy, and Middle Eastern geopolitical balances relevant to GS Paper II.



STORY 2 **The Hindu**

China's Trade Relations Challenge US Economic Sanctions Strategy Against Iran

US financial restriction plans targeting Iran face major operational resistance due to Beijing's role as Iran's top trading partner and crude buyer.

Treasury officials announced intensified economic measures against Iranian financial networks while balancing sensitive trade discussions with Beijing.

China imports substantial volumes of Iranian crude oil through alternative settlement mechanisms, bypassing dollar-dominated banking channels.

Enforcing secondary sanctions risks escalating trade friction between major powers while testing global energy market stability.

Illustrates the complexities of unilateral economic sanctions, global energy trade, and major power competition in UPSC examinations.

STORY 3 **Google News**

Global Oil Prices Decline Following Proposed Iran-Oman Strait of Hormuz Talks

Crude oil benchmark prices extended losses following reports of diplomatic talks between Iran and Oman regarding transit safety in the Strait of Hormuz.

Energy traders reacted to diplomatic initiatives aimed at preventing commercial shipping disruptions along vital Persian Gulf crude export routes.

The Strait of Hormuz handles over 20% of global petroleum consumption, making it a highly sensitive maritime geopolitical chokepoint.

Diplomatic de-escalation between regional powers reduces geopolitical risk premiums previously factored into international energy pricing.

Provides key data points for analyzing global energy security, commodity market volatility, and strategic trade vulnerability.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzes the geopolitical implications of US civil nuclear deals, economic sanctions on Iran, and security dynamics surrounding critical maritime chokepoints.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Under the US Atomic Energy Act, Congress is granted 90 days of session time to review submitted civil nuclear cooperation agreements.
- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, carrying a significant portion of global crude oil exports.
- The Abraham Accords represent diplomatic normalization agreements brokered between Israel and several Arab nations.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Unilateral sanctions, conditional nuclear pacts, and chokepoint diplomacy in the Middle East significantly influence global energy stability and multipolar trade balances.

DIMENSIONS

- **Diplomatic Dimension:** Conditioning civil nuclear technology transfer on regional normalization pacts like the Abraham Accords.
- **Economic Dimension:** Frictions between US unilateral economic sanctions on Iran and China's strategic oil trade partnerships.
- **Strategic Dimension:** Maintaining maritime transit safety through critical sea lines of communication like the Strait of Hormuz.

Way forward: Promote multilateral energy security dialogues, uphold international maritime navigation rights, and diversify strategic petroleum reserves.

PYQ LINK

Examines how global geopolitical conflicts and unilateral economic sanctions affect international energy corridors and strategic sea lines of communication.

KEY TERMS

Atomic Energy Act

Abraham Accords

Secondary Sanctions

Strait of Hormuz

04

GS PAPER III: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Climate Change, Invasive Species, and Watershed Conservation



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Central American Countries Declare Emergencies as El Niño Triggers Severe Drought

Panama, El Salvador, and Honduras declared formal emergency states due to severe drought conditions caused by the El Niño climate phenomenon.

Panamanian Interior Minister Dinoska Montalvo announced emergency measures to mobilize resources as water deficits hit agricultural yields and canal transit.

Dwindling freshwater reservoirs forced operational restrictions on daily vessel crossings through the Panama Canal, threatening global maritime logistics.

Agricultural authorities warned of imminent harvest losses and potential food insecurity across Central American crop-producing regions.

Crucial for answering GS Paper III questions on climate change impacts, global trade corridors, and disaster mitigation strategies.



Historic Case Study Shows Invasive Rabbits Caused Extinction of Hawaiian Island Landbirds

Historical documentation published by environmental researchers detailed how non-native rabbits introduced in 1903 devastated Laysan Island's native flora.

The rapid multiplication of rabbits stripped the 1,000-acre Pacific atoll of native vegetation within a decade, destroying crucial bird habitats.

Habitat loss drove three of the island's five endemic landbird species to permanent extinction, highlighting severe invasive species impacts.

Conservation archives maintained by Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument demonstrate the catastrophic vulnerability of isolated island ecosystems.

Serves as a prime environmental case study for alien invasive species, ecosystem collapse, and island biodiversity conservation.



New Mexico Establishes 11,000-Acre Watershed Wildlife Conservation Zone Along Mimbres River

State authorities and conservation groups finalized the acquisition of nearly 11,000 acres to create the Mimbres Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

The preserve encompasses a critical two-mile stretch of the Mimbres River bordering Gila National Forest in southwestern New Mexico.

The purchase safeguards century-old water rights, restores fragile riparian habitats, and preserves arid watershed ecosystems from commercial development.

The project was completed in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, demonstrating successful public-private conservation partnerships.

Demonstrates practical approaches to riverine conservation, historic water rights protection, and ecosystem restoration for environmental management studies.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Covers severe El Niño impacts on Central America, ecological degradation by invasive species, and state-level watershed conservation projects.

PRELIMS FACTS

- El Niño involves abnormal warming of surface waters in the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean, disrupting global rainfall patterns.
- Invasive alien species represent a primary driver of biodiversity loss on isolated island ecosystems due to rapid population growth and habitat destruction.
- Watershed management conservation zones protect surface water flows, historic riparian water rights, and surrounding biodiversity reserves.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Climate anomalies and ecological degradation require proactive ecological governance, invasive species management, and regional conservation frameworks.

DIMENSIONS

- **Climatic Dimension:** El Niño-driven prolonged droughts reducing freshwater reserves, crop yields, and critical maritime transit capacity.
- **Ecological Dimension:** Destabilization of fragile ecosystems by invasive alien species leading to permanent native species extinction.
- **Conservation Dimension:** Strategic land acquisition and watershed management to secure long-term water rights and ecological reserves.

Way forward: Implement climate-resilient agricultural practices, enforce strict biosecurity protocols against invasive species, and expand protected watershed zones.

PYQ LINK

Discusses the ecological and economic consequences of climate-induced phenomenon like El Niño on agricultural productivity and water resource management.

KEY TERMS

El Niño Southern Oscillation

Invasive Alien Species

Ecological Disruption

Watershed Conservation Zone

Panama Canal Logistics

ACTS & ARTICLES

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Aichi Target 9 on Invasive Alien Species

Article 48A of the Constitution of India (Protection and improvement of environment)

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Adaptation Protocols

STORY 1 [Google News](#)

NASA Study Indicates Nitrous Oxide Warmed Early Earth Under Fainter Sun

A NASA scientific study revealed that elevated atmospheric nitrous oxide concentrations prevented early Earth from freezing three billion years ago.

Astrophysical models demonstrate that the Sun was approximately 30% dimmer during the Archean Eon compared to present solar radiance.

Massive superflares from the young Sun interacted with atmospheric gases, triggering chemical reactions that generated potent nitrous oxide warming.

The findings resolve long-standing questions regarding planetary habitability and early atmospheric evolution under lower solar output.

Enriches conceptual understanding of atmospheric chemistry, paleoclimatology, and planetary evolution for GS Paper III.

STORY 2 [Google News](#)

NASA and ESA Astronauts Complete Spacewalk to Upgrade Space Station Communication Antenna

Astronauts representing NASA and the European Space Agency successfully completed an extravehicular activity to install a advanced communication antenna assembly.

The spacewalking team spent several hours outside the orbital laboratory mounting hardware upgrades to improve high-data-rate transmission links.

The newly installed antenna enhances command capabilities and payload data relay between international ground stations and orbital research modules.

Joint operations highlight ongoing international technical coordination supporting long-duration human spaceflight and orbital station maintenance.

Useful for tracking international space station maintenance, satellite communication technology, and collaborative space exploration.

STORY 3 [Google News](#)

SpaceX Announces \$100 Billion Commercial Spaceport Construction Project in Louisiana

SpaceX unveiled plans to invest \$100 billion in constructing a major commercial spaceport facility located along the Louisiana gulf coast.

The proposed spaceport will feature multi-pad launch infrastructure, rocket manufacturing facilities, and deep-water recovery logistics hubs.

The mega project aims to support increased launch frequencies for heavy-lift vehicles and commercial satellite mega-constellation deployments.

Strategic coastal siting optimizes orbital launch trajectories while creating substantial aerospace manufacturing employment opportunities.

Provides insight into commercialization trends in the global space sector, infrastructure development, and aerospace supply chain growth.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines paleoclimatology models, international space station operations, and the expansion of private commercial space infrastructure.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The 'Faint Young Sun Paradox' addresses how early Earth maintained liquid water when the Sun was significantly dimmer billions of years ago.
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential significantly higher than carbon dioxide over a 100-year timescale.
- Spaceports are designated facilities for launching or receiving spacecraft, requiring specialized geographic and logistical infrastructure.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Advances in planetary science and private commercial space infrastructure are reshaping atmospheric research and orbital logistics capability.

DIMENSIONS

- **Scientific Dimension:** Modeling atmospheric greenhouse gas compositions to resolve early Earth climate conditions under a fainter Sun.
- **Technological Dimension:** Conducting extravehicular spacewalks to maintain operational satellite communications on space stations.
- **Economic Dimension:** Scaling up mega commercial spaceport investments to capture expanding orbital launch markets.

Way forward: Promote international scientific collaborations, expand deep-space research, and establish clear commercial regulatory frameworks for private space ventures.

PYQ LINK

Assesses the role of planetary science and satellite remote sensing technologies in understanding atmospheric evolution and climate dynamics.

KEY TERMS

Faint Young Sun Paradox

Nitrous Oxide Greenhouse Effect

Extravehicular Activity

Commercial Spaceport

Low Earth Orbit Infrastructure

ACTS & ARTICLES

Outer Space Treaty of 1967

Indian Space Policy 2023 (IN-SPACe Framework)

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) Guidelines

International Maritime Security and Counter-Narcotics Operations



STORY 1 **Times of India**

US Military Conducts Kinetic Strike Destroying Suspected Narcoterrorist Vessel in Caribbean

US Southern Command executed a targeted kinetic strike on a high-speed vessel operating along established Caribbean maritime drug trafficking corridors.

Joint Task Force Western Hemisphere carried out the operation after confirmed military intelligence identified active involvement in illicit narco-trafficking.

The lethal strike resulted in four fatalities on board the vessel, which officials classified as active narco-terrorist operatives.

The action reflects an escalated military campaign targeting Latin American drug cartels utilizing maritime speedboats for illicit transport.

Relevant for examining international maritime enforcement, counter-narcotics law, and military engagement rules under GS Paper III.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on high-seas kinetic interdiction, international maritime law, counter-narcotics enforcement, and security jurisdiction.

PRELIMS FACTS

- UNCLOS grants coastal states full sovereignty over territorial seas (12 nautical miles) and economic rights in the Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nautical miles).
- Narco-terrorism describes the illicit alliance between drug trafficking networks and armed militant groups to fund transnational illegal operations.
- Joint Interagency Task Forces coordinate military, law enforcement, and intelligence assets for counter-narcotics interdiction in international waters.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Military kinetic operations against maritime drug trafficking highlight the complex balance between international law, maritime security, and sovereign jurisdiction.

DIMENSIONS

- **Legal Dimension:** Justifying high-seas military interdiction under international counter-narcotics mandates and self-defense provisions.
- **Security Dimension:** Addressing the convergence of organized drug syndicates and transnational security threats along maritime routes.
- **Diplomatic Dimension:** Navigating coastal state sovereignty concerns when conducting multilateral maritime law enforcement operations.

Way forward: Strengthen multilateral maritime intelligence sharing, standardize high-seas interdiction protocols under UN Conventions, and enhance judicial processing frameworks.

PYQ LINK

Examines international law frameworks governing maritime security, high-seas interdiction, and counter-narcotics enforcement in international waters.

KEY TERMS

Kinetic Strike Interdiction

Narco-Terrorism

Freedom of Navigation

High Seas Jurisdiction

Maritime Security Operations

ACTS & ARTICLES

1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) - Article 108

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 (India Context)

07

GS PAPER II: SOCIAL JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Social Welfare, Child Rights, and Official Documentation



Odisha Human Rights Commission Orders Inquiry into Parentage Records of Orphaned Youth

The Odisha Human Rights Commission directed district officials to investigate administrative discrepancies in parentage records assigned to institutionalized orphans.

The order followed a petition by an orphaned university student whose differing parental names on educational records and Aadhaar blocked welfare assistance.

Childcare institutions historically recorded arbitrary parental names on official documents, creating severe identity mismatches during higher education admissions.

The rights body ordered the Sundargarh district collector to correct academic documentation and establish clear protocols for institutionalized children.

Highlights governance vulnerabilities, child rights enforcement, and administrative reform measures under GS Paper II Social Justice.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines institutional gaps in official documentation for parentless children and the role of Human Rights Commissions in enforcing social entitlements.

PRELIMS FACTS

- State Human Rights Commissions are statutory bodies constituted under Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, governs the administrative management and record-keeping of Child Care Institutions.
- Mismatches in official identity documents (Aadhaar, educational certificates) exclude marginalized youth from state welfare and affirmative action schemes.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Administrative errors in official records of institutionalized orphans create systemic barriers, depriving vulnerable youth of constitutional rights and welfare benefits.

DIMENSIONS

- **Administrative Dimension:** Inadequate standardization and official verification in child care institutions leading to conflicting documentation.
- **Socio-Legal Dimension:** Loss of statutory entitlements, higher education access, and social welfare benefits due to non-matching identity records.
- **Human Rights Dimension:** Failure of state guardianship mechanisms to preserve the legal identity and dignity of parentless individuals.

Way forward: Establish mandatory district-level record audits for institutionalized children, streamline official document correction processes, and enforce JJ Act guidelines.

Evaluates state administrative mechanisms and welfare schemes in securing socio-economic rights and institutional support for vulnerable orphaned children.

KEY TERMS

Child Care Institutions

Orphan Record Corrections

Human Rights Commission Intervention

Socio-Economic Rights

Statutory Entitlements

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 21A and Article 39(f) of the Constitution of India

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 - Section 21

08

GS PAPER III: INDIAN ECONOMY & INFLATION

Agricultural Inflation Management and Food Security



STORY 1 The Hindu

Government Initiates Kanda Express Rail Supply to Distribute Subsidized Onions in Delhi

The Delhi government partnered with central agency NAFED to transport bulk onion stocks via 'Kanda Express' trains to curb rising retail prices.

Subsidized onions will be retailed at ₹35 per kilogram across the National Capital Territory, offering a 36% discount over prevailing market rates.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chaired a multi-departmental review meeting confirming state absorption of bulk transport and handling overhead costs.

Buffer stock releases aim to prevent speculative hoarding and manage seasonal supply shortages prior to the upcoming festive retail demand surge.

Serves as a prime practical illustration of market intervention schemes, price stabilization funds, and food security management.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Covers price stabilization mechanisms, market intervention strategies, and logistics operations like 'Kanda Express' to control retail food inflation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.) is the apex organization for marketing cooperatives in India.
- The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is utilized to maintain buffer stocks of essential agricultural commodities like pulses and onions to curb price volatility.
- Rail-based bulk transportation schemes ('Kanda Express') significantly reduce transit costs and transit losses compared to road logistics.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Targeted market intervention schemes and bulk rail logistics play a critical role in mitigating food price spikes and safeguarding urban consumer purchasing power.

DIMENSIONS

- **Economic Dimension:** Managing retail food inflation spikes through subsidized buffer stock release via NAFED distribution networks.
- **Logistical Dimension:** Leveraging specialized rail transport ('Kanda Express') to accelerate bulk commodity transfer and reduce transport overheads.
- **Policy Dimension:** Balancing fair price realizations for agricultural producers with affordable retail pricing for vulnerable urban households.

Way forward: Expand cold-chain storage infrastructure, modernize agricultural supply chains, and digitize real-time commodity price monitoring across wholesale markets.

PYQ LINK

Discusses agricultural price stabilization measures and buffer stock management strategies to mitigate food inflation and protect urban consumers.

KEY TERMS

Price Stabilization Fund

Market Intervention Scheme

NAFED Procurement

Buffer Stock Dispersal

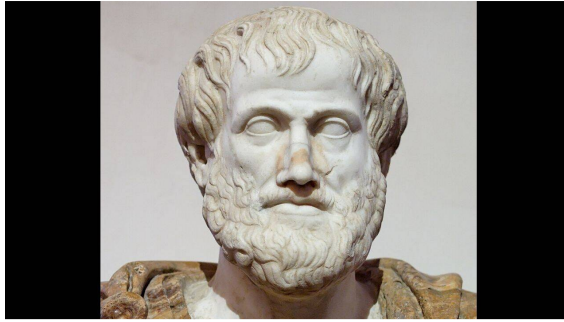
Food Inflation Management

ACTS & ARTICLES

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) Guidelines

Article 47 of the Constitution of India (Duty to raise level of nutrition and standard of living)



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Aristotelian Philosophy Highlights Practical Wisdom as Pain Avoidance in Ethics

Aristotle's classical philosophical treatise *Nicomachean Ethics* asserts that the individual of practical wisdom prioritizes avoiding pain over pursuing pleasure.

The ethical analysis argues that practical wisdom requires understanding which desires lead to long-term suffering versus immediate, temporary gratification.

Contemporary ethics experts highlight the quote's relevance to modern consumer culture, which often conflates instant comfort with genuine well-being.

In public administration, practical wisdom translates into policy choices designed to minimize systemic administrative harm and protect public welfare.

Directly applicable to GS Paper IV questions on Western ethical thinkers, administrative prudence, and decision-making frameworks.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Applies classical philosophical concepts like Aristotelian practical wisdom (*Phronesis*) to public administration and ethical decision-making.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Aristotle introduced the concept of '*Phronesis*' (Practical Wisdom) in *Nicomachean Ethics* as an intellectual virtue guiding moral action.
- Virtue ethics emphasizes the character of the moral agent rather than rules (deontology) or consequences (utilitarianism).
- According to Aristotelian thought, practical wisdom focuses on avoiding harm and disproportionate pain rather than pursuing transient pleasure.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Aristotle's philosophy of practical wisdom provides public administrators with a framework for balancing ethical duty, avoiding societal harm, and exercising administrative prudence.

DIMENSIONS

- **Philosophical Dimension:** Differentiating between short-term public gratification and long-term societal well-being through prudent policy design.
- **Administrative Dimension:** Applying practical wisdom to resolve complex ethical dilemmas where competing public interests collide.

- **Governance Dimension:** Ensuring that state policy emphasizes harm minimization and vulnerable population protection over populist measures.

Way forward: Integrate virtue ethics into public service training, foster ethical leadership in civil service cadres, and institutionalize impact assessment frameworks.

PYQ LINK

Applies classical ethical theories and virtue ethics to evaluate decision-making processes and public service delivery in governance.

KEY TERMS

Aristotelian Ethics

Practical Wisdom

Phronesis

Hedonism vs Eudaimonia

Administrative Prudence

ACTS & ARTICLES

Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics Framework

Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964

Nolan Committee Principles of Public Life

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

Attempt these questions on your own first. The answer key is on the next page.

GS PAPER II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Bilateral Security and Cross-Border Diplomatic Engagements

India and China Discuss Border Delimitation Framework in Beijing High Level Talks

Q1. With reference to recent diplomatic engagements between India and China, consider the following statements: 1. The Special Representatives mechanism handles high-level border dispute discussions between India and China. 2. Border delimitation involves the legal definition and physical demarcation of boundary lines on the ground. 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

GS PAPER II: FOREIGN POLICY & DIASPORA

US Immigration Policy, H-1B Visas, and Foreign Student Training

US ICE Enforces Stricter Authorization Rules for Foreign Student Curricular Practical Training

Q2. With reference to the F-1 student visa regime in the United States, what does Curricular Practical Training (CPT) refer to?

- A. A post-graduation practical training period exclusively reserved for STEM field graduates.
- B. An off-campus employment authorization for enrolled students that must be integral to their established academic curriculum prior to graduation.
- C. A permanent residency pathway granted automatically to foreign doctoral researchers.
- D. A diplomatic visa waiver scheme granted to foreign academic exchange scholars.

GS PAPER II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Middle East Geopolitics, Energy Security, and Sanctions

United States Submits Saudi Civil Nuclear Agreement to Congress Under Atomic Energy Act

Q3. Under the US Atomic Energy Act, how long does the US Congress have to review a civil nuclear cooperation agreement submitted by the Executive branch while in session?

- A. 30 days
- B. 60 days
- C. 90 days
- D. 120 days

GS PAPER III: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Climate Change, Invasive Species, and Watershed Conservation

Central American Countries Declare Emergencies as El Niño Triggers Severe Drought

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the El Niño phenomenon: 1. It is characterized by the periodic warming of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. 2. It typically causes prolonged drought conditions across Central America and disrupts maritime transit through the Panama Canal. 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

GS PAPER III: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space Exploration, Commercial Infrastructure, and Atmospheric Science

NASA Study Indicates Nitrous Oxide Warmed Early Earth Under Fainter Sun

Q5. According to scientific findings regarding the early Earth atmosphere and the 'Faint Young Sun Paradox', how much dimmer was the Sun approximately 3 billion years ago compared to today?

- A.** 10% dimmer
- B.** 20% dimmer
- C.** 30% dimmer
- D.** 50% dimmer

GS PAPER II: SOCIAL JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Social Welfare, Child Rights, and Official Documentation

Odisha Human Rights Commission Orders Inquiry into Parentage Records of Orphaned Youth

Q6. Which statutory body in India is established under Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to investigate civil rights violations within state jurisdiction?

- A.** National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- B.** State Human Rights Commission
- C.** Central Vigilance Commission
- D.** State Legal Services Authority

Answer Key — Practice MCQs

Quick reference and explanations for the practice questions on the previous page.

Q1: A**Q2: B****Q3: C****Q4: C****Q5: C****Q6: B**

Q1 Option A · 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: The Special Representatives (SR) dialogue mechanism, led by India's NSA and China's Foreign Minister, is mandated to address the border resolution framework. Statement 2 is incorrect: Delimitation refers to the legal and cartographic definition of boundary lines, whereas physical placement of markers on the ground is termed demarcation.

Q2

Option B · An off-campus employment authorization for enrolled students that must be integral to their established academic curriculum prior to graduation.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) allows F-1 visa students to gain off-campus work experience or internships before graduation, provided the training is directly related to and an integral part of their established academic curriculum.

Q3 Option C · 90 days

Under the US Atomic Energy Act, Congress is granted a statutory 90-day review period while in session to evaluate submitted civil nuclear cooperation agreements.

Q4 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. El Niño involves anomalous warming in the tropical Pacific, which alters global atmospheric circulation, triggering severe droughts in Central America and forcing water restriction measures along the Panama Canal.

Q5 Option C · 30% dimmer

NASA study models demonstrate that the Sun was approximately 30% dimmer three billion years ago during the Archean Eon, with greenhouse gases like nitrous oxide helping trap heat to keep liquid water present on Earth's surface.

Q6 Option B · State Human Rights Commission

The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) is constituted under Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to inquire into human rights violations and administrative negligence within state jurisdiction.