



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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9 topics

16 stories

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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5 Things You Must Know

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Glacial Hazards and Disaster Management in the Hindu Kush Himalaya



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Devastating flash floods along Nepal-Tibet border leave hundreds missing and dead

Ministry of External Affairs reported 320 Indian nationals missing and 400 stranded on the Chinese side after severe flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border.

Rescues were coordinated as 96 stranded Indians crossed safely into Nepal by land, while 21 tourists from Tamil Nadu were received in New Delhi by EAM S. Jaishankar.

Official reports confirmed the death toll reached 538 in Nepal as search teams retrieved more bodies from severe flood-affected border zones.

The emergency underscored the heightened risk faced by cross-border pilgrims and tourists navigating high-altitude Himalayan transit corridors during monsoon surges.

UPSC relevance connects to disaster management protocols, international Search and Rescue (SAR) cooperation, and humanitarian evacuation operations.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Scientific assessments warned of escalating Himalayan glacial risks months before Nepal disaster

Two landmark ICIMOD reports published in March 2026 explicitly warned that melting glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya were accelerating catastrophic flood hazards.

Researchers noted that Himalayan ice loss doubled since 2000, with glaciers losing up to 27 metres of ice thickness since 1975.

The studies highlighted heightened risks of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) driven by shrinking high-altitude ice bodies and unpredicted ice-rock avalanches.

Investigative findings suggest an ice-rock avalanche triggered the recent border collapse, validating warnings regarding vulnerable cryosphere zones.

UPSC syllabus link covers GS Paper 3 environmental degradation, climate change impacts on Himalayan hydrology, and disaster vulnerability mapping.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

Pilgrimage groups face severe disruption following high-altitude floods in Tibet border region

An Indian-origin American couple went missing during a Mount Kailash pilgrimage following severe flash floods and mudslides near the Nepal-Tibet frontier.

United States officials indicated that nearly 90 American citizens were unaccounted for in the region, while three citizens were successfully rescued.

The flood event directly impacted a 77-person pilgrimage group organised by the Isha Foundation navigating the trans-Himalayan route.

Kin of missing pilgrims appealed to diplomatic missions across India, Nepal, and China for emergency tracking and real-time search support.

UPSC relevance highlights transboundary tourism management, consular relief mechanisms, and risk communication during extreme natural hazard events.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Understanding cryospheric degradation, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), and regional transboundary disaster risk management mechanisms in the Himalayas.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ICIMOD reports of March 2026 revealed that glacier ice loss across the Hindu Kush Himalaya doubled since 2000.
- Himalayan glaciers have lost up to 27 metres of ice thickness between 1975 and recent assessments.
- An Interpol Red Corner Notice acts as a international request to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The catastrophic flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border underscore the extreme vulnerability of the fragile Himalayan cryosphere to climate-induced disasters and rapid glacial melting.

DIMENSIONS

- **Ecological & Cryospheric Drivers:** Accelerated retreat of Himalayan glaciers, ice-rock avalanches, and formation of unstable glacial lakes increasing GLOF risks.
- **Transboundary & Humanitarian Vulnerabilities:** Disruption of international pilgrimage routes, strandings across borders, and challenges in multi-agency rescue coordination.
- **Early Warning & Infrastructure Deficits:** Implementation gaps in translating regional scientific assessments into actionable local disaster preparedness.

Way forward: Establish real-time transboundary hydrological monitoring systems, integrate ICIMOD scientific findings into national disaster management frameworks, and enforce strict eco-sensitive zoning along river basins.

PYQ LINK

Examine the causes and consequences of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in the Himalayan region and suggest mitigation strategies.

KEY TERMS

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

Cryosphere

Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)

Transboundary Disaster Management

Climate Adaptation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act, 2005

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

Article 21 (Right to a Safe Environment)

02

GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE & FEDERALISM

Decentralised Agricultural Governance and Regional Development Planning



Kerala restructures Agriculture Development Committees across local body levels

- Kerala Agriculture Department issued orders restructuring Agriculture Development Committees (ADCs) at Krishi Bhavan, local body, and district administrative levels.
- The reconstituted 23-member Krishi Bhavan-level ADC is chaired by the local Gram Panchayat President to ensure decentralized agricultural oversight.
- Committee composition includes local MLAs, trade union delegates, farmer organization representatives, and three nominated farmers including one woman farmer.
- Mandated duties encompass disaster relief mobilization, monitoring organic fertilizer distribution, and assessing credit access for farm sector beneficiaries.
- UPSC relevance links to GS Paper 2 decentralised planning, local self-government empowerment, and institutional governance in agriculture.



Andhra Pradesh mandates constituency-wise vision action plans to drive micro-level growth

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to effectively implement the Swarna Constituency Vision Action Plan across all state constituencies.
- Andhra Pradesh stands as the first Indian state to adopt a structured, constituency-level vision planning framework for governance and poverty reduction.
- The Chief Minister instructed field officers and elected representatives to ground approved industrial projects to systematically boost regional per capita income.
- Implementation success will be measured against identified key performance indicators (KPIs) to establish benchmarks for public administration.
- UPSC relevance covers GS Paper 2 governance models, regional economic planning, public service delivery, and performance-based administration.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Role of local self-governance structures in agricultural planning, crisis mitigation, and grassroots vision-based development.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Kerala reorganized its 23-member Krishi Bhavan-level Agriculture Development Committees under the leadership of local Panchayat Presidents.
- Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India to adopt a structured constituency-wise vision planning framework.
- Krishi Bhavan committees monitor organic fertilizer availability, farm credit distribution, and disaster emergency responses.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Institutionalising grass-roots governance through revamped agricultural committees and constituency-level vision plans strengthens local self-reliance and accelerates socio-economic development.

DIMENSIONS

- **Institutional Decentralisation:** Restructuring local bodies to include local representatives, farmer organisations, and trade unions for participatory decision-making.
- **Targeted Economic Growth:** Utilizing constituency-level key performance indicators (KPIs) to boost per capita income and fast-track industrial approvals.
- **Calamity Resilience:** Empowering grassroots committees to execute immediate collective action during agricultural crises and natural disasters.

Way forward: Integrate spatial planning data with local committee frameworks and ensure adequate fiscal devolution to Panchayati Raj Institutions for project execution.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the significance of decentralised planning in achieving sustainable agricultural growth and rural development in India.

KEY TERMS

Democratic Decentralisation

Krishi Bhavan

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Constituency-Level Planning

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

ACTS & ARTICLES

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992

Article 243G (Powers and functions of Panchayats)

Article 38 (Promoting the welfare of the people)

03

GS PAPER 2 - POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Legal Norms Governing Preventive Detention and Presumption of Death



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Tamil Nadu reconstitutes Advisory Board under State Preventive Detention Act

Tamil Nadu government reconstituted the Advisory Board under the Tamil Nadu Preventive Detention Act, 1982, through a Home Department order.

Retired Madras High Court judge Justice V. Bharathidasan was appointed as Chairman of the newly reconstituted statutory Advisory Board.

Former Madras High Court judges P. Kalaiyarasan and V. Parthiban were appointed as executive members of the review panel.

The board evaluates detention orders to ensure administrative compliance with statutory procedural mandates and constitutional guarantees.

UPSC relevance directly relates to GS Paper 2 constitutional provisions under Article 22, executive detention limits, and administrative law.



STORY 2 **The Hindu**

Sukumara Kurup case highlights legal distinction between presumption of death and absconding status

Unverified sightings of 1984 murder fugitive Sukumara Kurup re-ignited legal debates regarding long-absconding accused individuals under Indian law.

Kerala Crime Branch initiated protocols to verify media claims via Interpol Red Corner Notice channels to ascertain the fugitive's status.

Indian jurisprudence maintains a strict distinction between declaring a legal presumption of death and pursuing a trial in absentia.

The 1984 case involved the murder of N.J. Chacko in Mavelikara, executed to fraudulently claim life insurance benefits.

UPSC relevance connects to GS Paper 2 criminal justice administration, Interpol law enforcement procedures, and legal evidentiary standards.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Constitutional safeguards against arbitrary detention and legal frameworks governing absconding fugitives.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Advisory Boards under state preventive detention laws must be chaired by a current or retired High Court judge.
- The Tamil Nadu Preventive Detention Act, 1982 Advisory Board was reconstituted under retired HC Judge Justice V. Bharathidasan.
- Under Indian legal doctrine, presumption of death and trial in absentia are treated as distinct legal concepts for long-absconding fugitives.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Balancing state security with individual liberty requires strict adherence to constitutional safeguards in preventive detentions and clarity in criminal jurisprudence regarding absconding fugitives.

DIMENSIONS

- **Constitutional Safeguards:** Ensuring independent Advisory Boards review preventive detention orders to prevent executive excess under Article 22.
- **Procedural Justice:** Distinguishing between legal presumption of death and conducting trial in absentia for long-term absconders.
- **International Legal Coordination:** Utilizing Interpol mechanisms like Red Corner Notices while adhering to domestic statutory provisions.

Way forward: Strengthen judicial review over administrative detention boards and modernize criminal procedure rules for processing long-standing cold cases.

PYQ LINK

Examine the constitutional safeguards provided under Article 22 regarding preventive detention and evaluate their judicial interpretation.

KEY TERMS

Preventive Detention

Advisory Board

Article 22

Presumption of Death

Trial in Absentia

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 22 (Protection against arrest and detention)

Tamil Nadu Preventive Detention Act, 1982

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023

Environmental Constraints of Digital Infrastructure and Resource Consumption



STORY 1 **Times of India**

British political leaders demand moratorium on data centre expansion amid resource strain

Green Party leader Zack Polanski called for an immediate freeze on approving new hyper-scale data centres across England due to resource demands.

Polanski stated data facilities guzzle critical water and electricity supplies while three-quarters of the country faces acute drought conditions.

The leader criticized official designations of data centres as critical national infrastructure without enforcing stringent environmental constraints.

Proposals demand local community veto power and strict sustainability norms prior to granting site development permits for tech infrastructure.

UPSC relevance touches upon GS Paper 3 infrastructure sustainability, urban environmental management, and natural resource allocation politics.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Texas farmer displaced as tech developer converts agricultural acreage into data facility

A fourth-generation West Texas farmer lost 600 rented agricultural acres in Haskell County after the landlord sold property for a Google data center.

Cheyenne Buerger was issued a 60-day notice to complete crop harvesting and vacate land his family cultivated for over a century.

The displacement highlighted growing land-use transitions where industrial technology footprint replaces traditional agricultural operations.

Rapid developer acquisitions reflect broader conflicts between tech-driven economic expansion and traditional rural livelihoods.

UPSC syllabus link covers GS Paper 3 land reforms, agricultural vulnerability, and industrial development impact on primary sector livelihoods.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzing the ecological footprint of hyper-scale data centres, resource depletion during environmental stress, and land-use conflicts.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Green Party leaders in England called for a moratorium on new data centres due to acute energy and water consumption during severe droughts.
- Three-quarters of England was experiencing drought conditions while data centres received critical infrastructure status.
- Industrial conversions of agricultural land for data facilities can impose short eviction windows on long-standing tenant farmers.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The exponential demand for computational power is escalating conflicts over land, energy, and water, requiring stringent environmental regulations for technology infrastructure.

DIMENSIONS

- **Resource Strain:** Data centres consuming massive quantities of electricity and cooling water, exacerbating ecological stress during drought periods.
- **Socio-Economic Displacement:** Conversion of fertile agricultural land to industrial tech sites disrupting traditional farming operations and land rights.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** Classifying data infrastructure as critical assets without imposing corresponding ecological performance obligations.

Way forward: Mandate renewable energy coupling and closed-loop water cooling for data centres while establishing participatory land-use governance.

PYQ LINK

Examine how rapid technological expansion challenges environmental sustainability and resource governance in developing and developed economies.

KEY TERMS

Data Centre Footprint

Critical Infrastructure

Resource Resource Depletion

Land Use Conversion

05

GS PAPER 3 - BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY

Ecological Conservation Strategies and Human-Wildlife Conflict Dynamics



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Scientific study reveals ecological drawbacks of artificial sea turtle nest relocation

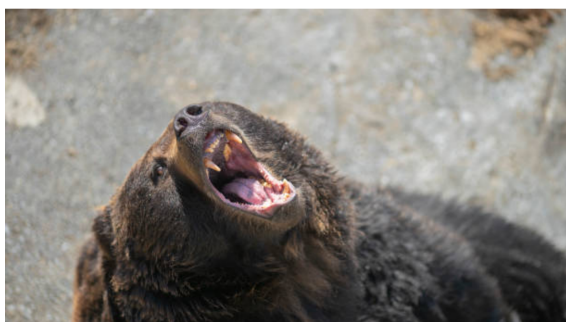
A two-year study published in Marine Biology by UNSW and University of Queensland tracked green sea turtles on Heron Island.

Researchers discovered relocated nests yielded lower hatching rates, physically smaller hatchlings, and a skewed sex ratio with only 8% males.

Warmer sand temperatures in relocated areas altered temperature-dependent sex determination, producing heavily female-biased populations.

Findings challenge the assumption that moving nests away from tidal flooding always yields net positive species conservation outcomes.

UPSC relevance focuses on GS Paper 3 biodiversity conservation science, marine ecosystem management, and species adaptation risks.



Japan expands bear culling targets following severe escalation in human-wildlife encounters

Japanese authorities eliminated over 14,000 bears between April 2025 and January 2026 following record human attacks across resort areas like Karuizawa.

Despite mass culling, six human fatalities occurred this year, prompting government plans to remove an additional 8,800 bears.

Conservation group Picchio noted bears increasingly migrate toward human settlement zones around Mount Asama searching for wild berries and food.

The crisis highlights severe conflict management challenges as natural wild food shortages force protected predators into urban fringes.

UPSC relevance covers GS Paper 3 wildlife conservation management, habitat fragmentation, and ethical dilemmas in population control.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Assessing unintended consequences of species intervention programs and managing human-wildlife conflicts under climate stress.

PRELIMS FACTS

- A Marine Biology study on Heron Island green turtles showed relocated nests yielded smaller hatchlings and an 8% male sex ratio skew.
- Japan culled over 14,000 bears between April 2025 and January 2026 following record human conflict incidents near Mount Asama.
- The Wildlands Conservancy acquired the 14,177-acre historic AP Ranch in California to create a 20,000-acre public watershed preserve.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Effective biodiversity conservation requires balancing active intervention strategies with natural ecological processes, while addressing anthropogenic drivers of human-wildlife conflict.

DIMENSIONS

- **Biological Disruptions:** Managed nest relocations triggering skewed sex ratios and lower physical fitness due to micro-climate variations.
- **Anthropogenic Conflict Drivers:** Resource depletion and climate anomalies forcing wildlife into human habitations, driving lethal culling policies.
- **Landscape-Scale Protection:** Expanding continuous public preserves to protect critical watersheds and reduce habitat fragmentation.

Way forward: Adopt scientific non-lethal deterrents for wildlife conflict management and replicate landscape-scale ecosystem corridor protection.

Critically evaluate the methods used to manage human-wildlife conflict in India and discuss the role of community participation in conservation.

KEY TERMS

Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination

Ex-situ Conservation

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Habitat Fragmentation

Ecological Corridors

ACTS & ARTICLES

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Article 51A(g) (Duty to protect wildlife and environment)

06

GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

Artificial Intelligence Governance and Executive Supply Chain Restrictions



STORY 1 Times of India

US Federal Court strikes down executive sanctions against artificial intelligence firm Anthropic

US District Judge Rita Lin ruled the Trump administration acted unlawfully when penalizing AI firm Anthropic over military usage disagreements.

The court invalidated former Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's designation of Anthropic as a supply chain risk, calling it unconstitutional retaliation.

Judge Lin's 59-page ruling stated that national security invocations do not grant blank-check authority to retaliate against corporate critics.

The injunction blocks federal agencies from enforcing directives that restricted government procurement of Anthropic's Claude AI tools.

UPSC relevance relates to GS Paper 3 technology governance, administrative law principles, and corporate freedom in technology ethics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Judicial review of executive national security powers and legal limits on targeting dual-use technology firms.

PRELIMS FACTS

- A US Federal Court ruled that national security invocations cannot be used as a blank check to penalize corporate critics.
- Supply chain risk designations are legally designed to isolate companies linked to foreign security threats.
- Judicial rulings blocked executive restrictions targeting commercial AI systems like Anthropic's Claude models.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Judicial intervention against arbitrary executive actions on technology providers establishes important legal precedents regarding state power and technological governance.

DIMENSIONS

- **Judicial Oversight:** Enforcing constitutional limits on executive powers when national security mandates are weaponised against corporate speech.
- **Supply Chain Classifications:** Preventing administrative abuse of security risk tags meant strictly for foreign intelligence threats.
- **Military-Civil AI Ethics:** Safeguarding the right of commercial AI developers to set ethical boundaries on military deployments.

Way forward: Establish transparent, statutory guidelines for supply chain security designations subject to independent judicial oversight.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the challenge of regulating emerging technologies while safeguarding constitutional rights and preventing executive overreach.

KEY TERMS

Supply Chain Risk

Judicial Review

Executive Overreach

Dual-Use Technology

National Security Restraints

ACTS & ARTICLES

Judicial Review Doctrine

Article 19(1)(a) (Freedom of speech and expression principle)

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Nagaland launches targeted district-level HPV vaccination drive in Zunheboto

Nagaland Information Department announced an extensive Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign across Zunheboto district.

The drive targets adolescent girls to provide preventive protection against HPV infections, the primary cause of cervical cancer.

District health officials coordinated local outreach across health centres to ensure comprehensive coverage and overcome regional vaccine hesitancy.

The campaign reflects state-level efforts to strengthen preventive oncology measures within primary public healthcare structures.

UPSC relevance links to GS Paper 2 public health administration, preventive healthcare policy, and women's health interventions.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Role of targeted district-level immunisation campaigns in mitigating preventable non-communicable and infectious diseases.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines protect against strain-specific infections linked to cervical cancer.
- District administration-led immunisation drives in Nagaland target adolescent health under public health mandates.
- Early preventive vaccination significantly lowers long-term non-communicable disease burdens in rural regions.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Deploying targeted HPV immunisation drives at the district level is essential for eliminating cervical cancer and enhancing preventive public healthcare access.

DIMENSIONS

- **Preventive Interventions:** Utilizing targeted HPV vaccination campaigns to reduce high incidence rates of cervical cancer among women.
- **Decentralized Execution:** Leveraging district health administration machinery to overcome rural vaccine hesitancy and logistical gaps.
- **Health System Integration:** Integrating cancer immunisation drives within existing school health and adolescent welfare programs.

Way forward: Incorporate HPV vaccines into the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) nationwide with subsidized domestic production.

Evaluate the measures required to eliminate preventable cancers in women through universal healthcare drives and district-level interventions.

KEY TERMS

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Cervical Cancer

Preventive Healthcare

Universal Immunisation

Public Health Delivery

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Health Policy, 2017

Article 47 (Duty of State to improve public health)

Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health & Well-being)

08

GS PAPER 3 - SECURITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Defense Procurement and India-US Bilateral Defense Cooperation

STORY 1 Google News

India signs deal with US to procure advanced Javelin anti-tank missile systems

India formally signed an agreement with the United States to procure Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems for the Indian Army.

The procurement aims to significantly upgrade infantry anti-armour capabilities, particularly along disputed mountain frontier sectors.

Javelin systems provide man-portable, fire-and-forget precision attack capabilities against heavy armoured vehicles and fortified bunkers.

The deal highlights continuing defense trade momentum and strategic hardware alignment between Washington and New Delhi.

UPSC relevance covers GS Paper 3 defense modernization, military procurement policy, and Indo-US strategic partnership.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Enhancing infantry anti-tank capability and evaluating technology transfer under bilateral defense partnerships.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India signed a bilateral agreement with the United States to acquire Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems.
- The Javelin is a man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank missile system utilized for infantry defense.

- Defense procurements enhance high-altitude operational readiness and combat deterrence capabilities.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The acquisition of advanced precision missile systems from the United States strengthens India's tactical deterrence and expands bilateral strategic defense convergence.

DIMENSIONS

- **Tactical Capabilities:** Equipping frontline infantry units with fire-and-forget anti-tank missiles suitable for high-altitude mountainous terrain.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Deepening defense hardware partnerships with the US under foundational defense framework agreements.
- **Indigenisation Goals:** Balancing direct foreign procurement with domestic co-production and technology transfer requirements under Make in India.

Way forward: Leverage bilateral procurement agreements to secure joint production arrangements and strengthen domestic defense industrial corridors.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the strategic importance of India-US defense cooperation and its role in modernising India's armed forces.

KEY TERMS

Javelin Anti-Tank Missile

Defense Acquisition

Interoperability

Defense Technology Transfer

Military Modernisation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Defense Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020

INDUS-X Innovation Bridge Framework

Article 51 (Promotion of international peace and security)

09

GS PAPER 2 - SOCIAL JUSTICE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Social Security Expansion and Educational Mobility in Bilateral Ties



Department of Posts expands Rural Postal Life Insurance coverage nationwide

Department of Posts issued orders expanding the operational coverage of the Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) scheme.

The national policy update followed a representation sent by postmaster Anche Kotresh from Vijayanagara to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

While the letter requested urban postal coverage, the Ministry responded by substantially widening rural access limits under RPLI.

The expansion strengthens social safety nets by making low-premium life insurance accessible to broader rural demographics.

UPSC relevance highlights GS Paper 2 social security schemes, public grievance redressal mechanisms, and inclusive governance.



Education and talent partnership vital to sustaining India-UK bilateral relations

Crossbench Peer Lord Karan Bilimoria highlighted university-business partnerships as essential anchors for future India-UK relations.

The analysis underscored that industry-informed curricula and joint research drive graduate employability in rapidly evolving technology sectors.

International student mobility between Indian higher education institutions and UK universities fosters long-term diaspora economic value.

Strengthening educational bridges supports bilateral trade ambitions by establishing reliable talent pipelines across both nations.

UPSC syllabus connection spans GS Paper 2 international relations, diaspora contributions, and educational policy integration.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examining grassroots feedback loops in social insurance expansion and higher education cooperation in diaspora diplomacy.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Department of Posts expanded Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) reach following citizen representation to the Communications Ministry.
- RPLI serves as a primary micro-insurance financial inclusion vehicle managed by the Department of Posts across rural India.
- UK-India higher education linkages emphasize industry-aligned curricula and collaborative academic research networks.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Expanding rural social insurance coverage and deepening international educational exchanges provide dual pillars for socio-economic mobility and global human capital development.

DIMENSIONS

- **Financial Inclusion:** Scaling micro-life insurance schemes through post offices to cover vulnerable populations against economic shocks.
- **Citizen-Driven Governance:** Demonstrating how micro-level representations can influence national social security policy modifications.
- **Educational Mobility:** Utilizing diaspora ties and transnational academic partnerships to drive skills development and innovation.

Way forward: Digitize postal insurance administration for faster claim settlements and establish mutual recognition of academic qualifications between India and partner nations.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the role of social security schemes in promoting inclusive growth and examine how diaspora linkages strengthen bilateral international relations.

KEY TERMS

Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI)

Financial Inclusion

Talent Harvest

Diaspora Diplomacy

University-Industry Partnership

ACTS & ARTICLES

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Article 41 (Right to work, to education and to public assistance)

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Glacial Hazards and Disaster Management in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

Scientific assessments warned of escalating Himalayan glacial risks months before Nepal disaster

Q1. With reference to the March 2026 assessments on the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) cryosphere by ICIMOD, consider the following statements: 1. Glacier ice loss across the Hindu Kush Himalaya has doubled since the year 2000. 2. Himalayan glaciers have lost up to 27 metres of ice thickness since 1975. 3. Small and high-altitude glaciers in the region are expanding due to increased winter snowfall. Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | B. 2 and 3 only |
| C. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

GOVERNANCE & FEDERALISM

Decentralised Agricultural Governance and Regional Development Planning

Kerala restructures Agriculture Development Committees across local body levels

Q2. Regarding the reorganized Krishi Bhavan-level Agriculture Development Committees (ADCs) in Kerala, consider the following statements: 1. The chairperson of the 23-member Krishi Bhavan-level ADC is the local Gram Panchayat President. 2. The Principal Agriculture Officer nominates three farmer representatives, including at least one woman farmer, to the committee. 3. ADCs are legally prohibited from assessing farm sector credit availability or calamity responses. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 only | B. 1 and 2 only |
| C. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

Environmental Constraints of Digital Infrastructure and Resource Consumption

British political leaders demand moratorium on data centre expansion amid resource strain

Q3. Why did political leaders in England demand a moratorium on approvals for new hyper-scale data centres?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Due to excessive carbon emissions violating international nuclear treaties. | B. Because data centres put heavy strain on energy and water supplies while much of the country experienced drought. |
| C. To prevent data centres from competing directly with agricultural subsidy funds. | D. Because data centres are classified as temporary structures under local zoning laws. |

BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY**Ecological Conservation Strategies and Human-Wildlife Conflict Dynamics**

Scientific study reveals ecological drawbacks of artificial sea turtle nest relocation

Q4. According to a study published in Marine Biology on green sea turtles at Heron Island, what were the consequences of relocating turtle nests to safer sand?

- A.** Higher hatching success but severe male-biased sex ratio skews.
- B.** Lower hatching success, smaller hatchlings, and a heavily female-biased sex ratio.
- C.** Increased hatchling size accompanied by complete nest destruction from tidal floods.
- D.** Equal proportion of male and female hatchlings but reduced adult migration rates.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE**Artificial Intelligence Governance and Executive Supply Chain Restrictions**

US Federal Court strikes down executive sanctions against artificial intelligence firm Anthropic

Q5. In the context of technology governance, what was the primary legal ground on which the US Federal Court blocked executive sanctions against the AI firm Anthropic?

- A.** The firm failed to register as a foreign defense contractor under international commercial law.
- B.** The invocation of national security cannot be used to penalize and retaliate against corporate critics.
- C.** Executive orders automatically expire after 30 days unless ratified by multilateral security councils.
- D.** Artificial intelligence algorithms are exempt from all federal procurement regulations.

SECURITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**Defense Procurement and India-US Bilateral Defense Cooperation**

India signs deal with US to procure advanced Javelin anti-tank missile systems

Q6. The Javelin missile system, recently contracted in a defense deal between India and the United States, is best described as a:

- A.** Submarine-launched anti-ship cruise missile system
- B.** Man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system
- C.** Long-range surface-to-air air defense missile system
- D.** Autonomous hypersonic glide interceptor vehicle

Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

Q1: A

Q2: B

Q3: B

Q4: B

Q5: B

Q6: B

Q1 Option A · 1 and 2 only

According to the ICIMOD reports cited in the text, glacier ice loss across the Hindu Kush Himalaya doubled since 2000, and glaciers lost up to 27 metres of ice thickness since 1975. Statement 3 is incorrect as the smallest and most vulnerable glaciers are shrinking rapidly, escalating GLOF hazards.

Q2 Option B · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct as per the official order: the 23-member committee is chaired by the Panchayat President, and three farmer representatives (including one woman) are nominated by the Principal Agriculture Officer. Statement 3 is incorrect because assessing farm sector credit and coordinating calamity response are explicitly mandated duties of the ADCs.

Q3

Option B · Because data centres put heavy strain on energy and water supplies while much of the country experienced drought.

Green Party leader Zack Polanski called for a freeze on new data centres in England because they guzzle massive amounts of energy and water, putting pressure on public supplies while three-quarters of the country was experiencing drought conditions.

Q4 Option B · Lower hatching success, smaller hatchlings, and a heavily female-biased sex ratio.

The study by UNSW and University of Queensland researchers found that relocated green turtle nests produced lower hatching success, smaller hatchlings, and a heavily female-biased sex ratio (with only an estimated 8% males in one season) due to warmer sand temperatures.

Q5

Option B · The invocation of national security cannot be used to penalize and retaliate against corporate critics.

US District Judge Rita Lin ruled that the administration acted unlawfully and violated constitutional rights, stating that 'the empty invocation of national security is not a blank check to punish and retaliate against government critics.'

Q6 Option B · Man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system

The Javelin anti-tank missile system acquired by India from the United States is a man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile system utilized by infantry units against armoured targets.