



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Monday

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20 stories

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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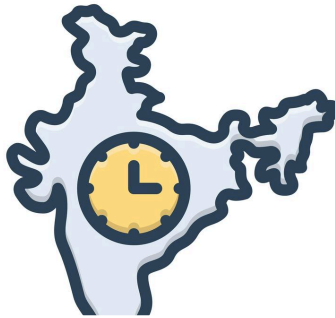
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Legal Metrology Rules 2026 and 'One Nation, One Time' Standardisation



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Centre notifies Legal Metrology Rules 2026 to mandate Indian Standard Time

The Central Government notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, mandating Indian Standard Time as the sole reference for legal, official, and commercial purposes.

Notified on August 27, 2026, by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the rules mandate uniform timing across digital payment gateways, telecom operators, and public utilities nationwide.

Institutions and enterprises have been provided a 180-day grace period from the publication date to reconfigure internal IT architectures and server clock synchronization mechanisms.

The growing dependence of banking systems, railways, power grids, and administrative records on precise time stamps prompted the Centre to issue standard operational directives.

Relevant for UPSC GS-3 under infrastructure and technology policy, highlighting how standardized digital metrics bolster economic efficiency, forensic auditing, and critical national infrastructure security.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Standardisation of Indian Standard Time (IST) for critical national infrastructure, financial systems, and cyber-physical security.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 make Indian Standard Time mandatory across administrative, commercial, and official digital systems.
- Organizations and government departments have been granted a transition period of 180 days from the date of official publication to align their timing systems.
- Standardized time references are critical for high-frequency digital payments, telecommunications networks, power grid synchronization, and railway operational logs.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The Centre's notification of the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 establishes IST as the uniform legal reference for all digital and official operations across India.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Technological Necessity — Prevents timing desynchronization in digital payments, telecommunication networks, and automated power grid management.
- **Dimension 2:** Security & Forensic Auditability — Enhances cybersecurity, log analysis, and legal evidentiary standards for transactional and telecommunication records.
- **Dimension 3:** Economic Efficiency — Reduces friction in cross-sectoral supply chains, financial markets, and real-time logistics networks.

Way forward: Upgrading hardware clock synchronization mechanisms across public and private infrastructure within the 180-day transition timeline while establishing redundant atomic clock references.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the importance of robust digital and physical infrastructure for sustaining India's growing digital economy and critical national security.

KEY TERMS

Legal Metrology Rules 2026

Indian Standard Time (IST)

Time Synchronization

Critical Information Infrastructure

Cyber-Physical Systems

ACTS & ARTICLES

Legal Metrology Act, 2009

Information Technology Act, 2000

Article 256 of the Constitution of India

02

GS PAPER 2: JUDICIARY & EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Judicial Oversight on Probe Agencies, Public Assembly, and Regulatory Scrutiny



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Supreme Court highlights dual standards in probe agency speeds for powerful versus commoners

A three-judge Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant observed that probe agencies move slowly against powerful individuals while acting swiftly against common citizens.

The remarks were made during the hearing of a petition filed by Sumit Roy, personal assistant to MP Abhishek Banerjee, regarding the Salboni land-grabbing case.

The apex court had previously stayed Roy's arrest while directing him to cooperate fully with ongoing interrogations conducted by the Directorate of Enforcement.

The Bench questioned the nature of questioning by the agency, emphasizing that investigative processes must remain unbiased and consistent regardless of political affiliations.

Crucial for UPSC GS-2 Governance, illustrating judicial concerns regarding institutional autonomy, executive overreach, and the fundamental right to equal treatment under Article 14.

STORY 2 **Google News**

Supreme Court declines to restrict planned public march in New Delhi

The Supreme Court refused to pass orders restricting a planned public march in New Delhi scheduled for September 5, leaving law enforcement to competent administrative authorities.

Hearing a plea against the procession organized by CJP, the court reaffirmed that maintaining public order falls squarely within the jurisdiction of police and local administration.

The ruling emphasizes that judicial intervention should not preemptively restrict constitutional rights to peaceful assembly unless clear, imminent public safety risks are established.

The bench observed that law enforcement agencies possess adequate legal powers to manage assemblies and ensure public peace without needing specific judicial directions.

Relevant for UPSC GS-2 Polity, reinforcing the constitutional demarcation between judicial oversight and executive responsibility in safeguarding fundamental rights under Article 19.

STORY 3 **Google News**

Supreme Court refuses plea seeking ethanol percentage disclosure at fuel stations

The Supreme Court declined to entertain a Public Interest Litigation seeking mandatory display of ethanol blending percentages at commercial petrol pump dispensers across India.

The bench indicated that fuel policy specifications and consumer disclosure standards fall within technical regulatory domain managed by the executive and oil marketing corporations.

India's Ethanol Blending Programme aims to increase biofuel composition in motor spirit, requiring complex technical calibration and supply chain management by public refiners.

By dismissing the petition, the court highlighted limits of PIL jurisdiction when dealing with regulatory details already governed by executive guidelines and petroleum standards.

Useful for UPSC GS-2 Governance and GS-3 Environment, highlighting regulatory mechanisms governing biofuel policy implementation and judicial deference in technical executive decisions.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Supreme Court observations on impartiality of investigative agencies, protection of civil liberties, and judicial restraint in public interest petitions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Supreme Court observed that investigative agencies show contrasting speeds when dealing with high-profile individuals versus ordinary citizens.
- Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution guarantees the right to assemble peaceably and without arms, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(3).
- The Supreme Court declined a petition seeking mandatory display of ethanol blending percentages at petrol pumps, exercising judicial restraint on policy choices.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Recent Supreme Court rulings underscore the delicate balance between executive investigative powers, maintenance of public order, and judicial restraint in policy matters.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Institutional Neutrality of Agencies — Ensuring independent and non-discriminatory investigation processes across political and socio-economic strata.
- **Dimension 2:** Preservation of Democratic Rights — Protecting the freedom of peaceful assembly while placing administrative responsibility on state executive authorities.
- **Dimension 3:** Limits of Judicial Intervention — Refusing to entertain PILs on complex techno-economic matters best handled by executive regulatory bodies.

Way forward: Establishing independent oversight mechanisms for federal agencies, defining clear guidelines for protest permissions, and maintaining judicial deference to expert administrative regulations.

PYQ LINK

Critically analyze the role of the Supreme Court of India in enforcing executive accountability and safeguarding fundamental constitutional rights.

KEY TERMS

Judicial Review

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Article 19(1)(b)

Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

Equality Before Law

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 14 of the Constitution of India

Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution of India

Article 21 of the Constitution of India

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

Industrial Infrastructure and Semiconductor Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Tamil Nadu announces ₹175-crore semiconductor manufacturing park in Kancheepuram

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced a Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Park at Maduramangalam in Kancheepuram district costing ₹175 crore.

Developed by SIPCOT, the park features a global-standard research and development facility designed to support new semiconductor manufacturing and assembly units.

The state projects that the microelectronics infrastructure hub will attract external private investments worth ₹2,000 crore while generating 5,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The announcement made via a suo motu statement in the State Assembly aims to strengthen Tamil Nadu's position within India's national semiconductor manufacturing mission.

Highly relevant for UPSC GS-3 Economy and Technology, demonstrating state-level policy interventions to capture high-value electronics supply chains and boost industrial R&D.



STORY 2 **The Hindu**

Tamil Nadu plans ₹20,800-crore supercritical power plant and ₹33,066-crore transmission scheme

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced a ₹20,800-crore supercritical thermal power station in Thoothukudi alongside a ₹33,066-crore Transmission Improvement Scheme.

The State Assembly statement included a ₹1,762-crore allocation for upgrading Chennai's urban power distribution network to prevent outages during peak demand periods.

The Transmission Improvement Scheme mandates construction of 196 new substations and 15,000 kilometres of transmission lines to connect major consumption centers across the state.

While Tamil Nadu leads in wind and solar power, supercritical thermal units are required to provide reliable baseline supply against renewable energy generation fluctuations.

Essential for UPSC GS-3 Infrastructure, illustrating state efforts to balance baseline thermal generation technology with grid strengthening for energy transition management.

UPSC RELEVANCE

State-led industrial policy targeting semiconductor manufacturing, R&D parks, and power transmission infrastructure.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Tamil Nadu announced a ₹175-crore Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Park at Maduramangalam in Kancheepuram district through SIPCOT.
- A new ₹20,800-crore supercritical thermal power station is planned for Thoothukudi to secure baseline industrial power supply.
- Supercritical power plants operate at higher temperatures and pressures, achieving higher thermodynamic efficiency and lower carbon emissions per unit of electricity generated.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Tamil Nadu's industrial expansion initiative integrates advanced manufacturing infrastructure with multi-billion rupee energy generation and transmission grid upgrades.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** High-Tech Manufacturing Push — Establishing SIPCOT semiconductor parks with R&D hubs to attract global microelectronics investments.
- **Dimension 2:** Energy Security & Grid Stability — Balancing renewable energy variability through base-load supercritical power generation and transmission network expansion.
- **Dimension 3:** Regional Job Creation — Generating direct and indirect employment while building local technical talent pools.

Way forward: Accelerating land acquisition, streamlining single-window clearances, and integrating renewable energy with state-of-the-art power distribution networks.

PYQ LINK

Examine the significance of high-tech manufacturing hubs and reliable power infrastructure in driving regional industrial growth and export competitiveness.

KEY TERMS

India Semiconductor Mission

Supercritical Thermal Power

SIPCOT

Transmission Improvement Scheme

04

GS PAPER 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS / GS PAPER 3: ENERGY SECURITY

Geopolitical Escalation in West Asia and Energy Supply Vulnerabilities



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

US strikes Iranian rocket launchers on Larak Island, triggering West Asia oil price surge

Global crude oil prices rose over \$1 per barrel following US military strikes on Iranian rocket launchers located on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps confirmed casualties on Larak Island and retaliated by launching targeted attacks against US military installations positioned in Jordan.

The strikes mark the first direct US attack on Iranian territory in a month, extending the West Asian conflict into its sixth consecutive month.

Military activity near the Strait of Hormuz threatens vital sea lanes through which a significant portion of the world's seaborne petroleum exports transit daily.

Highly relevant for UPSC GS-2 International Relations and GS-3 Energy Security, illustrating the geopolitical fragility of strategic maritime chokepoints and oil price shocks.



US military leaders warned Defense Secretary over operational strain from prolonged Iran campaign

Senior US military commanders warned Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that sustained large-scale operations against Iran were weakening troop readiness and overall force capacity.

The joint military assessment detailed in the Secretary of Defense Orders Book highlighted resource strain across Army, Navy, Air Force, and theater combatant commands.

Four-star commanders expressed concerns that continuous deployments in the Middle East degrade the military's capability to respond to emerging crises in Asia and Europe.

The internal report documented that operating at peak intensity for six months creates severe logistical bottlenecks and accelerates hardware wear-and-tear across strategic assets.

Relevant for UPSC GS-2 International Security, underscoring how prolonged foreign military entanglements strain strategic reserves and force posture recalibrations.

Iran dismisses reports of attack on key Kharg Island energy export hub

Iranian state authorities dismissed official claims regarding alleged military strikes targeting the nation's primary oil export terminal situated on Kharg Island.

Kharg Island serves as the principal maritime terminal for Iranian crude oil loading, handling the majority of the nation's seaborne petroleum export trade.

Tehran labeled statements claiming damage to the energy hub as misinformation, attempting to calm international energy markets and regional security anxieties.

The denial comes amidst heightened security alerts across Gulf oil infrastructure following exchange of missile and drone strikes between US forces and Iranian units.

Crucial for UPSC GS-2 International Relations, highlighting the strategic sensitivity of key oil processing infrastructure in maintaining global hydrocarbon supply stability.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Military confrontations in the Strait of Hormuz, global crude oil price volatility, and strategic doctrine constraints of foreign militaries.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Strait of Hormuz is a vital maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- Larak Island is a strategic Iranian island located in the narrowest part of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Prolonged military operations strain operational readiness, force logistics, and equipment maintenance reserves of deploying nations.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: US strikes on Iranian installations in the Strait of Hormuz and subsequent retaliatory strikes have triggered crude oil spikes, exposing vulnerabilities in maritime chokepoints.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Global Energy Security — Disruption of oil transit through the Strait of Hormuz escalates import bills and inflation risk for import-dependent economies like India.
- **Dimension 2:** Strategic Military Overstretch — Internal military assessments warn that prolonged engagements weaken broader operational readiness and global posture.
- **Dimension 3:** Regional Instability — Expanding conflict zones into Jordan and Gulf waters threaten trade corridors and diaspora security.

Way forward: Diversifying crude sourcing, expanding Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR), and promoting diplomatic dialogue to ensure unhindered freedom of navigation.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the geopolitical and economic implications of West Asian conflicts on India's energy security and regional maritime trade routes.

KEY TERMS

Strait of Hormuz

Chokepoints

Energy Security

Crude Oil Volatility

Strategic Autonomy

ACTS & ARTICLES

UNCLOS 1982 (Transit Passage Rights)

Article 51 of the UN Charter (Self-Defense principles)

05

GS PAPER 3: AGRICULTURE & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Water Resource Management and Regional Irrigation Projects in South India



STORY 1 The Hindu

Andhra Pradesh inaugurates first phase of Veligonda irrigation project after 30 years

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first phase of the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda irrigation project, releasing Krishna waters into Nallamala Sagar.

The project draws 10.70 tmc ft of water from the Srisailem reservoir to irrigate 1.19 lakh acres and supply drinking water to 4 lakh people.

First conceptualized with its foundation laid on March 5, 1996, the irrigation complex fulfills a thirty-year ambition for drought-prone Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa.

The diversion structure utilizes twin tunnels driven through the Nallamala forest range to convey flood waters into a natural storage basin created by earthen dams.

Highly relevant for UPSC GS-3 Agriculture and Irrigation, demonstrating how mega surface water diversion schemes mitigate persistent agrarian distress in rain-shadow regions.



STORY 2 **The Hindu**

Delayed monsoon delays water release from Tamil Nadu's historic Mettur Dam

Water release from the historic Mettur Dam in Salem district was delayed beyond its traditional June 12 opening date due to weak monsoonal rainfall in Cauvery catchments.

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay scheduled the water opening for September 1, 2026, with current reservoir storage standing near the critical 90-foot depth threshold.

Constructed across the Cauvery River between 1925 and 1934, Mettur Dam acts as the economic lifeline for short-term and long-term rice crops in delta districts.

Engineers plan to release water for 45 consecutive days to sustain late-sown paddy nurseries across Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam agricultural regions.

Crucial for UPSC GS-3 Water Management, highlighting climate vulnerability of monsoon-dependent reservoir systems and their direct impact on seasonal crop cycles.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Drought mitigation infrastructure, inter-basin water transfers, and reservoir dependency during monsoon deficits.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Phase 1 of the Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Irrigation Project transfers Krishna water from the Srisailem reservoir into Nallamala Sagar.
- The Veligonda project aims to irrigate 1.19 lakh acres and supply drinking water to 4 lakh residents across Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa districts.

- Mettur Dam, constructed across the Cauvery River between 1925 and 1934 in Salem district, serves as the primary irrigation source for the Cauvery delta.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The commissioning of long-pending irrigation projects and delayed reservoir releases emphasize the critical role of river water management in countering climate variability.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Drought Alleviation & Agricultural Security — Canal diversion schemes deliver surface irrigation to chronically rain-shadowed rural hinterlands.
- **Dimension 2:** Hydrological Risk Management — Delayed monsoon releases from key dams like Mettur disrupt paddy sowing calendars in agricultural delta belts.
- **Dimension 3:** Project Execution Dynamics — Long construction lifecycles emphasize the need for streamlined inter-departmental clearances and financial allocation.

Way forward: Implementing micro-irrigation systems alongside mega-canal networks, modernizing sluice gates, and adopting participatory irrigation management models.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the role of large river valley projects and inter-basin water transfers in drought alleviation and agricultural sustainability in India.

KEY TERMS

Veligonda Project

Krishna River Water

Srisaillam Reservoir

Mettur Dam

Inter-Basin Transfer

ACTS & ARTICLES

Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956

Article 262 of the Constitution of India

National Water Policy

06

GS PAPER 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT & URBANIZATION

Urban Disaster Management and Flood Resilience Infrastructure



Greater Chennai Corporation targets desilting over 70% of stormwater drains before October

The Greater Chennai Corporation completed desilting 493.83 km out of its 1,671.6-km stormwater drain network as of August 28, targeting over 70% completion by September.

Desilting operations span 8,252 urban roads divided into 101 execution packages, covering 43,614 machine holes and over 1,10,000 silt catch-pits across 15 administrative zones.

Zone-wise progress varied significantly, with Tiruvottiyur achieving 57.43% completed physical drainage clearance while Thiru Vi Ka Nagar recorded the lowest progress at 17.01%.

Municipal contractors are deploying mechanical excavators and manual crews across low-lying zones to prevent severe waterlogging ahead of the incoming northeast monsoon season.

Relevant for UPSC GS-3 Disaster Management, highlighting urban civic readiness, seasonal drain maintenance, and structural flood risk reduction strategies in vulnerable coastal cities.

Drone camera captures glacier collapse preceding destructive Nepal flash floods

High-definition drone footage captured the structural collapse of a glacial mass moments before downstream river channels experienced sudden, destructive flash floods in Nepal.

The aerial video provides crucial empirical evidence showing how rapid thermal degradation triggers glacial fracturing, releasing millions of cubic meters of impounded meltwater.

Local emergency responders used early visual warnings from drone monitoring operators to alert downstream riverbank settlements, aiding evacuation efforts prior to flood surge arrival.

Himalayan watersheds are experiencing accelerated ice loss due to rising average temperatures, increasing the frequency of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods across regional river basins.

Important for UPSC GS-3 Environment and Disaster Management, demonstrating the role of unmanned aerial systems in real-time disaster monitoring and mountain ecosystem hazard assessment.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Climate risk mitigation in urban drainage systems and early warning monitoring of glacial risks in fragile mountain ecosystems.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is desilting a 1,671.6-km stormwater drain network in preparation for northeast monsoon rains.
- Drone footage captured initial glacial collapse events in Nepal prior to downstream flash flooding in Himalayan catchments.

- Silt accumulation in urban drain catch-pits severely reduces hydraulic carrying capacity, causing acute urban waterlogging.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Recent events in coastal cities and mountain catchments demonstrate the urgent need for structural drainage maintenance and real-time remote monitoring for disaster resilience.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Municipal Pre-Monsoon Readiness — Contractual desilting of stormwater drains and machine holes to ensure peak discharge capacity in coastal metropolises.
- **Dimension 2:** Himalayan Glacial Monitoring — Utilizing aerial drone technology and remote sensing to detect glacial mass failures before catastrophic flash floods.
- **Dimension 3:** Integrated Drainage Planning — Upgrading urban grey infrastructure alongside blue-green spaces to absorb extreme rainfall events.

Way forward: Standardizing pre-monsoon desilting audits, installing automated flow meters, and expanding cross-border early warning networks in GLOF-prone valleys.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the vulnerability of coastal cities and Himalayan zones to severe hydrometeorological disasters and suggest structural mitigation measures.

KEY TERMS

Stormwater Drain Networks

Desilting Operations

Urban Flooding

Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)

Disaster Preparedness

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act, 2005

NDMA Guidelines on Management of Urban Flooding

NDMA Guidelines on Management of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

07

GS PAPER 3: CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Ecological Restoration, Invasive Species Control, and Wildlife Behavior



Washington watershed sees chum salmon numbers rebound after \$9.7M river restoration

A \$9.7 million multi-agency river restoration project on the Big Quilcene River restored summer-run chum salmon returns from under 1,000 in 1990 to 32,600 annually.

Decades of unmitigated logging and road construction had choked river channels with sediment, burying gravel spawning beds essential for threatened migratory salmon reproduction.

Engineers cleared accumulated silt, re-connected historical side channels, and stabilized stream banks along the Olympic Peninsula watershed draining into Hood Canal.

NOAA Fisheries cited the initiative as a successful benchmark demonstrating how targeted hydromorphological restoration can rescue threatened fish populations from local extinction.

Relevant for UPSC GS-3 Conservation, illustrating how scientific river basin management and habitat restoration restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and threatened species.



Alaska uses plant-derived piscicide rotenone to eradicate invasive pike and restore native char

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists treated an entire lake with rotenone, successfully eradicating invasive northern pike before restocking 6,836 native Arctic char.

Northern pike, illegally introduced into Southcentral Alaska lakes, decimated native salmon and char populations due to their unchecked predatory habits.

Post-treatment biological surveys confirmed complete removal of the invasive pike, allowing hatchery-reared Arctic char fingerlings to establish a thriving, sustainable native fishery.

Rotenone is a naturally occurring plant derivative that breaks down rapidly in water, making it an effective bio-degradable tool for targeted aquatic invasive species management.

Useful for UPSC GS-3 Environment, highlighting chemical intervention protocols for invasive alien species management and native biodiversity reintroduction strategies.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

Researchers investigate decade-long accumulative stone-throwing behavior in wild chimpanzees

Field scientists in Guinea-Bissau's Boé region documented wild western chimpanzees repeatedly collecting and throwing rocks at specific trees for over ten years.

The behavior, termed accumulative stone throwing, results in noticeable stone piles at tree bases and distinct scarring along the targeted tree trunks.

Researchers observed that adult males predominantly perform this action, combining rock throws with vocal pant-hoots and rhythmic drumming against hollow tree roots.

Hypotheses suggest these localized sites serve as landmark communication hubs, territorial boundary markers, or complex ritualized social display mechanisms among primate troops.

Relevant for UPSC GS-3 Environment and Science, offering insights into primate ethology, non-human tool creation, and evolutionary origins of symbolic communication.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Watershed restoration techniques, chemical eradication of invasive aquatic species, and non-human tool use dynamics.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Rotenone is a naturally derived plant chemical used as a selective piscicide to eradicate invasive fish species from freshwater bodies.
- Summer-run chum salmon in the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin are protected under the US Endangered Species Act.
- Wild chimpanzees in Guinea-Bissau perform 'accumulative stone throwing,' repeatedly hurling rocks at specific trees over decades.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Ecosystem management combines habitat rehabilitation and invasive species eradication to recover imperiled native biodiversity, alongside advancing observational ecology.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Watershed Rehabilitation — Removing river barriers and sediment deposits restores natural gravel spawning beds for endangered migratory fish.

- **Dimension 2:** Targeted Chemical Biocontrol — Using biodegradable piscicides like rotenone eliminates invasive predators without causing long-term bioaccumulation.
- **Dimension 3:** Evolutionary Behavioral Ecology — Studying localized cultural traditions in primates expands scientific understanding of tool use and spatial memory.

Way forward: Expanding community-led habitat restoration projects, establishing strict biosecurity protocols against invasive species introductions, and protecting wildlife corridors.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the ecological impacts of invasive alien species on freshwater ecosystems and evaluate methods used for habitat recovery.

KEY TERMS

Endangered Species Act

Invasive Species

Rotenone

Piscicide

Habitat Restoration

ACTS & ARTICLES

Environment Protection Act, 1986

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

08

GS PAPER 3: INDIAN ECONOMY & FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Corporate Governance, Insolvency Frameworks, and Banking Dynamics

STORY 1 Google News

NCLAT to hear appeal against NCLT order reducing promoter liability from ₹22,000 crore to ₹6.25 crore

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal scheduled an urgent hearing for an appeal challenging an NCLT order that sharply reduced promoter Subhash Chandra's financial liability.

The NCLT ruling reduced the personal guarantee liability from ₹22,000 crore to ₹6.25 crore, prompting creditors to file an immediate appellate challenge.

Financial institutions contend that such drastic write-downs undermine the personal guarantee framework established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

The outcome will set an important judicial precedent regarding the extent to which bankruptcy tribunals can modify personal guarantee obligations during insolvency resolution.

Crucial for UPSC GS-3 Economy, illustrating judicial interpretation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, creditor rights, and promoter personal guarantee liabilities.

HDFC Bank shares rise following surprise Chief Executive Officer exit announcement

Shares of HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, registered gains on stock exchanges following the unexpected announcement of its Chief Executive Officer's upcoming departure.

Market analysts attributed the positive equity reaction to robust underlying asset quality, strong capital adequacy ratios, and clear institutional succession plans.

The Reserve Bank of India requires Systemically Important Banks to maintain structured executive transition protocols to ensure market stability during leadership changes.

Financial commentators noted that institutional investor confidence remained resilient due to transparent corporate disclosures and steady quarterly earnings performance.

Relevant for UPSC GS-3 Economy, demonstrating how corporate governance standards and regulatory transition guidelines safeguard systemic bank stability during executive shifts.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Appellate review of corporate debt restructuring under IBC and institutional stability during executive leadership transitions in private banks.

PRELIMS FACTS

- NCLAT is the statutory appellate authority hearing appeals against orders passed by National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under IBC.
- Subhash Chandra's personal liability order was dramatically reduced from ₹22,000 crore to ₹6.25 crore by NCLT before being challenged in NCLAT.
- Banking equity movements post-CEO announcements reflect investor confidence in institutional governance and succession planning.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Recent legal challenges in debt resolution tribunals and executive transitions in major private banks highlight the importance of corporate governance and financial regulation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Judicial Oversight of Debt Haircuts — NCLAT appellate scrutiny of massive liability reductions prevents moral hazard in corporate debt resolution.
- **Dimension 2:** Corporate Governance & Leadership Continuity — Managing smooth executive transitions in systemic banks prevents market volatility.
- **Dimension 3:** Insolvency Mechanism Efficiency — Ensuring NCLT/NCLAT processes balance promoter accountability with speedy asset resolution.

Way forward: Setting benchmark parameters for personal guarantee haircuts under IBC and strengthening corporate board oversight during executive departures.

Examine the effectiveness of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in resolving stressed assets and protecting creditor rights in India.

KEY TERMS

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Corporate Liability

Systemically Important Banks

Capital Adequacy Ratio

ACTS & ARTICLES

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

Companies Act, 2013

Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

09

GS PAPER 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Multilateral Security Dynamics and Global Geopolitical Shift

STORY 1 Google News

Russian and Chinese leaders to convene bilateral talks at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit

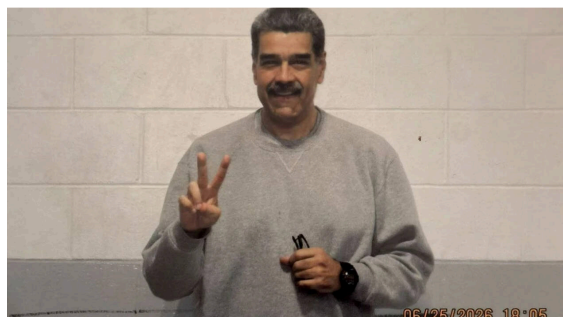
Leaders of Russia and China confirmed bilateral talks scheduled on the sidelines of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit to discuss regional economic integration.

The high-level meeting focuses on expanding Eurasian trade corridors, cross-border energy settlements in national currencies, and regional counter-terrorism cooperation initiatives.

The SCO platform has expanded its strategic footprint, serving as a prominent multilateral forum for non-Western powers to coordinate geopolitical and economic policy.

Discussions are expected to address regional security stability in Central Asia and joint economic counter-measures against unilateral trade restrictions and sanctions.

Crucial for UPSC GS-2 International Relations, illustrating Eurasian strategic consolidation, the operational role of the SCO, and shifting balances in global multipolarity.



Nicolás Maduro releases first photographs from US federal custody in Brooklyn

Former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro released photographs from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn nearly eight months after his capture in Caracas by US forces.

The social media photos show the 63-year-old in prison attire, accompanied by a message asserting confidence that Venezuela would rebuild despite his ongoing detention.

US authorities detained Maduro during a covert operation in Caracas, leading to federal criminal indictments and protracted legal battles over sovereign immunity.

The unprecedented capture of a sitting head of state created sharp diplomatic divisions globally regarding extraterritorial law enforcement and national sovereignty principles.

Relevant for UPSC GS-2 International Relations, highlighting diplomatic disputes over extraterritorial jurisdiction, head-of-state immunity, and international law enforcement limits.

UPSC RELEVANCE

SCO multilateral diplomacy and international legal accountability surrounding state leaders.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance comprising major regional powers including China and Russia.
- Former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was detained and placed in a US federal detention facility in Brooklyn following a military raid.
- The SCO summit serves as a key platform for bilateral engagements between Eurasian heads of state outside Western diplomatic frameworks.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Eurasian diplomatic convergences at the SCO summit alongside controversial extraterritorial detentions highlight evolving dynamics in global multipolarity and international law.

DIMENSIONS

- **Dimension 1:** Strategic Eurasian Alignment — SCO summits provide non-Western platforms for economic cooperation, energy partnerships, and regional security coordination.
- **Dimension 2:** Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Debates — The capture and imprisonment of foreign political figures raises questions under international law and national sovereignty principles.
- **Dimension 3:** Geopolitical Balance — Developing nations balance ties between Western sanctions regimes and emerging Eurasian blocs.

Way forward: Strengthening international legal consensus on extradition protocols while utilizing SCO mechanisms to promote regional trade and security stability.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in fostering Eurasian regional security and economic cooperation.

KEY TERMS

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Multilateral Diplomacy

State Sovereignty

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Strategic Multipolarity

ACTS & ARTICLES

SCO Charter, 2002

UN Charter Article 2(4) (Principle of Non-Intervention)

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

GS PAPER 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY

Legal Metrology Rules 2026 and 'One Nation, One Time' Standardisation

Centre notifies Legal Metrology Rules 2026 to mandate Indian Standard Time

Q1. With reference to the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, consider the following statements: 1. The rules make Indian Standard Time (IST) the mandatory single reference for legal, administrative, and official digital purposes across India. 2. Entities and government departments are given a transition period of 180 days from the publication date to adjust their systems. 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 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial Infrastructure and Semiconductor Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu plans ₹20,800-crore supercritical power plant and ₹33,066-crore transmission scheme

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding supercritical thermal power generation: 1. Supercritical thermal power plants operate at pressures above the critical point of water, eliminating the distinct phase change between liquid water and steam. 2. Supercritical units achieve higher overall thermodynamic efficiency and produce lower carbon emissions per kilowatt-hour compared to subcritical units. 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 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Geopolitical Escalation in West Asia and Energy Supply Vulnerabilities

US strikes Iranian rocket launchers on Larak Island, triggering West Asia oil price surge

Q3. Larak Island, recently in the news due to military tensions, is strategically located in which of the following water bodies?

- A. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- B. Strait of Hormuz
- C. Suez Canal
- D. Strait of Malacca

GS PAPER 3 - AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

Water Resource Management and Regional Irrigation Projects in South India

Andhra Pradesh inaugurates first phase of Veligonda irrigation project after 30 years

Q4. The Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh transfers water from which river reservoir to supply drought-prone regions?

- A. Godavari River (Polavaram Reservoir)
- B. Krishna River (Srisaillam Reservoir)
- C. Penna River (Somasila Reservoir)
- D. Cauvery River (Mettur Reservoir)

GS PAPER 3 - ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Ecological Restoration, Invasive Species Control, and Wildlife Behavior

Alaska uses plant-derived piscicide rotenone to eradicate invasive pike and restore native char

Q5. Which of the following best describes 'rotenone', recently featured in environmental restoration efforts?

- A. A synthetic organophosphate pesticide used for termite control in mangroves.
- B. A naturally derived plant chemical used as a selective piscicide to eradicate invasive fish species.
- C. A bio-fertilizer used to boost agricultural output in saline soils.
- D. A chemical dispersant used to remediate deep-sea oil spills.

GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Multilateral Security Dynamics and Global Geopolitical Shift

Russian and Chinese leaders to convene bilateral talks at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit

Q6. Regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements: 1. It was founded in 2001 as a regional political, economic, and security organization in Eurasia. 2. India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO in 2017. 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 Key — Practice MCQs

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

Q1: C**Q2: C****Q3: B****Q4: B****Q5: B****Q6: C****Q1 Option C · Both 1 and 2**

Both statements are correct. The Central Government notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, making IST mandatory across legal, administrative, and commercial operations. The rules provide a 180-day transition period from the date of publication to enable institutions to update their timing and IT systems.

Q2 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Supercritical thermal power technology operates above water's thermodynamic critical pressure, converting water directly into steam without boiling, which results in higher efficiency and reduced carbon dioxide emissions per unit of power produced compared to conventional subcritical thermal plants.

Q3 Option B · Strait of Hormuz

Larak Island is an Iranian island located in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Q4 Option B · Krishna River (Srisailem Reservoir)

The Poola Subbaiah Veligonda project draws water from the Krishna River via the Srisailem reservoir, carrying it through tunnels into the Nallamala Sagar basin to irrigate drought-prone districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Q5**Option B · A naturally derived plant chemical used as a selective piscicide to eradicate invasive fish species.**

Rotenone is a naturally occurring plant-derived chemical compound used by wildlife managers as a piscicide to eradicate invasive fish species (such as northern pike in Alaska) from isolated freshwater bodies before native species reintroduction.

Q6 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. SCO was established in June 2001 in Shanghai. India and Pakistan officially joined as full member states at the Astana Summit in 2017.