



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

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WEDNESDAY

9
TOPICS

12
STORIES

6
MCQS

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

5 Things You Must Know

01**GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

India Raises Deep Concern Over Red Sea and Persian Gulf Blockades

Maritime Security Chokepoints: Red Sea and Persian Gulf Shipping Blockades

02**GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

US House Advances Sanctions Bill Authorising 100 Percent Tariffs on India

Unilateral Secondary Sanctions and Impact on India's Energy Security

03**GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / SECURITY**

Russia Warns US Orbital Weapons Deployment Threatens Outer Space Stability

Militarisation of Outer Space and International Space Governance

04**GS PAPER 2 - JUDICIAL PROCESS & CRIMINAL LAW**

Bombay High Court Quashes Defamation Process Against Media Company Directors

Criminal Procedure and Verification Safeguards in Defamation Suits

05**GS PAPER 3 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT / GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE**

Bihar CM Transfers ₹579 Crore Flood Assistance via Direct Benefit Transfer

Fiscal Governance in Disaster Relief and Direct Benefit Transfer

Topic Index

#	CATEGORY	TOPIC	STORIES
01	GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Maritime Security Chokepoints: Red Sea and Persian Gulf Shipping Blockades	1
02	GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Unilateral Secondary Sanctions and Impact on India's Energy Security	1
03	GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / SECURITY	Militarisation of Outer Space and International Space Governance	1
04	GS PAPER 2 - JUDICIAL PROCESS & CRIMINAL LAW	Criminal Procedure and Verification Safeguards in Defamation Suits	1
05	GS PAPER 3 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT / GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE	Fiscal Governance in Disaster Relief and Direct Benefit Transfer	1
06	GS PAPER 3 - ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY	Ecological Restoration of Riparian Wetlands Through Dam Removal	1
07	GS PAPER 3 - ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	Circular Plastic Management and Innovation in Additive Manufacturing Waste	1
08	GS PAPER 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE / URBAN DEVELOPMENT	Industrial Brownfield Adaptive Reuse and Urban Ecological Parks	2
09	GS PAPER 3 - INDIAN ECONOMY / GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE	Private Capital Mechanisms and Urban Housing Shortage Interventions	3

Maritime Security Chokepoints: Red Sea and Persian Gulf Shipping Blockades



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

India Raises Deep Concern Over Red Sea and Persian Gulf Blockades

The Ministry of External Affairs expressed deep concern over ongoing maritime blockades in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Strait of Hormuz.

Rising Houthi military strikes targeted Saudi municipal centers and a merchant vessel carrying 14 Indian seafarers off the coast of Oman.

Disruptions across West Asian sea lanes threaten global commercial trade, causing significant delays and increased security costs for international shipping vessels.

The geopolitical crisis places vital Indian energy imports and diaspora workforce safety under severe operational vulnerabilities across Persian Gulf waters.

This development highlights UPSC syllabus aspects of maritime chokepoints, international security, energy supply stability, and bilateral engagement in West Asia.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Impact of West Asian maritime instability on India's trade, energy supplies, and diaspora security in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.
- Maritime attacks in West Asia directly threaten vital Sea Lines of Communication carrying India's crude oil imports.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Rising blockades and asymmetric attacks in key West Asian maritime chokepoints present severe risks to global commercial shipping and India's vital trade links.

DIMENSIONS

- **Economic Impact:** Escalation in freight rates, insurance premiums, and supply chain delays for Indian exports and energy imports.
- **Security Concerns:** Physical risks to Indian seafarers navigating high-risk maritime zones near Oman and the Red Sea.
- **Strategic Neutrality:** Balancing diplomatic relations with Gulf nations while ensuring freedom of navigation under international law.

Way forward: India must enhance naval anti-piracy patrols, collaborate through multilateral maritime security frameworks, and diversify international energy transit routes.

PYQ LINK

Examine the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb for India's maritime trade and energy security.

KEY TERMS

Strait of Hormuz

Bab-el-Mandeb

Freedom of Navigation

Energy Security

Sea Lines of Communication

ACTS & ARTICLES

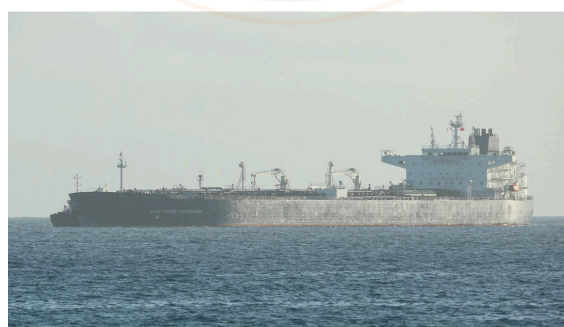
UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) Article 38 (Right of Transit Passage)

UNCLOS Article 87 (Freedom of the High Seas)

02

GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Unilateral Secondary Sanctions and Impact on India's Energy Security



STORY 1 The Hindu

US House Advances Sanctions Bill Authorising 100 Percent Tariffs on India

The US House of Representatives approved a procedural vote advancing legislation to mandate 100 percent tariffs on countries purchasing Russian energy.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act cleared the House procedural hurdle by a narrow 214-211 bipartisan vote margin.

The proposed measure empowers the US administration to penalise foreign nations importing Russian oil and gas while extending economic sanctions against Iran.

Congressional leadership scheduled the controversial bill for a final decision, raising critical international trade policy concerns for major oil-importing economies.

This topic relates directly to UPSC questions on unilateral secondary sanctions, international trade governance, strategic autonomy, and India-US diplomatic relations.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analysis of foreign legislative sanctions targeting third-nation trade and their strategic implications for India's foreign policy autonomy.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The US House of Representatives advanced procedural approval for sanctions targeting foreign purchasers of Russian crude oil.
- Proposed secondary sanctions include potential punitive tariffs of up to 100 percent on target nations' exports.
- Strategic autonomy allows India to maintain diversified international crude suppliers despite external political pressure.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Legislative proposals in foreign jurisdictions seeking coercive tariffs against nations purchasing Russian energy challenge international trade rules and national sovereignty.

DIMENSIONS

- **Energy Security:** Vulnerability of domestic refineries to high crude costs if traditional or discounted supplies are restricted.
- **Diplomatic Dilemma:** Managing strategic ties with Western trade partners while preserving independent bilateral commercial relations with Russia.
- **Legal and WTO Compliance:** Violation of multilateral non-discrimination principles under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade rules.

Way forward: Expand domestic strategic petroleum reserves, accelerate non-fossil energy transition, and leverage diplomatic forums to defend multi-aligned foreign policy.

PYQ LINK

Discuss how unilateral trade sanctions by major powers impact India's economic diplomacy and strategic autonomy in energy sourcing.

KEY TERMS

Secondary Sanctions

Strategic Autonomy

Tariff Barriers

Energy Import Diversification

Bilateral Trade Relations

ACTS & ARTICLES

03

GS PAPER 3 - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY / SECURITY

Militarisation of Outer Space and International Space Governance

STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Russia Warns US Orbital Weapons Deployment Threatens Outer Space Stability

Russia criticised official US statements confirming orbital military arms deployments, warning of severe risks to peaceful human space activities.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova stated that armed conflict in orbit would cause catastrophic consequences for global terrestrial socio-economic operations.

The Russian diplomatic statement warned that active US weapons presence in Earth orbit jeopardises long-term space exploration and satellite infrastructure.

Moscow announced plans to submit UN General Assembly resolutions aimed at banning space weapon deployment and enhancing orbital usage transparency.

The issue provides key context for UPSC topics regarding outer space militarisation, global space laws, satellite security, and international disarmament.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluation of orbital arms deployment risks, space debris creation, and the necessity of strengthening multilateral space security frameworks.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibits placing nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit.
- Orbital space weapons pose severe collision and debris risks to critical civilian communication satellites.
- The United Nations General Assembly addresses space security through resolutions on preventing an arms race in outer space (PAROS).

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Acknowledged deployment of orbital military hardware escalates global tensions and threatens the sustainability of peaceful space exploration.

DIMENSIONS

- **Technological Risks:** Potential destruction of critical satellite constellations supporting global navigation, telecommunications, and weather monitoring.
- **Governance Deficit:** Inadequacy of existing international legal instruments to prevent non-nuclear space weapon deployment.
- **Strategic Instability:** Miscalculation risks during space operations triggering broader international terrestrial conflicts.

Way forward: Establish binding international treaties banning space weapon placement and enforce transparent orbital movement norms under UN oversight.

PYQ LINK

Critically analyze the security risks associated with the militarisation of outer space and suggest measures for global governance.

KEY TERMS

Orbital Weapons

Outer Space Treaty

Militarisation of Space

Space Debris

UN General Assembly

ACTS & ARTICLES

1967 Outer Space Treaty (Article IV)

UN Resolution on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS)

04

GS PAPER 2 - JUDICIAL PROCESS & CRIMINAL LAW

Criminal Procedure and Verification Safeguards in Defamation Suits



STORY 1 The Hindu

Bombay High Court Quashes Defamation Process Against Media Company Directors

The Bombay High Court set aside a trial court order issuing process against corporate directors of TV9 in a private criminal defamation case.

Justice Ranjitsinha Bhonsale ruled that the Magistrate Court erred by issuing summons without recording the complainant's mandatory verification statement post-amendment.

The original complaint, filed by a police officer regarding 2013 television broadcasts, failed to fulfill statutory pre-summons examination requirements.

High Court directions remitted the case back to the Magistrate Court to proceed strictly from the legal stage of statement verification.

This judgment highlights UPSC criminal law concepts regarding Section 200 CrPC compliance, freedom of press, and judicial standards for issuing process.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Role of mandatory judicial verification procedures in preventing frivolous criminal defamation complaints against media entities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Mandatory examination of complainant under oath is prescribed before issuing summons in private criminal complaints.
- Failure to record a verification statement following amendments invalidates the magistrate's process order.
- Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates judicial scrutiny prior to taking cognizance of offenses.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Strict judicial adherence to statutory criminal procedure is vital to safeguard fundamental speech rights against procedural misuse in defamation litigation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Procedural Compliance:** Mandatory recording of complainant statements under oath ensures valid prima facie evaluation by magistrates.
- **Media Protection:** Shielding news organizations from arbitrary prosecution arising from unverified amendments in private complaints.
- **Judicial Efficiency:** Preventing docket clutter by filtering out non-substantive criminal complaints at the pre-process stage.

Way forward: Subordinate courts must strictly follow mandatory verification requirements before issuing process to protect freedom of expression.

PYQ LINK

Discuss procedural safeguards mandated by Indian courts to protect media freedom against arbitrary criminal defamation proceedings.

KEY TERMS

Criminal Defamation

Section 200 CrPC

Issuance of Process

Complainant Verification

05

GS PAPER 3 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT / GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE

Fiscal Governance in Disaster Relief and Direct Benefit Transfer



STORY 1 The Hindu

Bihar CM Transfers ₹579 Crore Flood Assistance via Direct Benefit Transfer

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary disbursed ₹579.23 crore directly to 8,27,472 flood-affected families using Direct Benefit Transfer systems.

Each verified flood-impacted family received ₹7,000 in direct financial assistance ahead of an upcoming central damage assessment team visit.

Disaster Management Department figures confirmed that floodwaters affected nearly 50 lakh residents and inundated 55,000 hectares of crops across 15 districts.

A high-level central delegation led by the Union Agriculture Minister was scheduled to visit state districts to conduct comprehensive flood assessments.

The initiative underscores UPSC syllabus topics involving disaster financial management, digital governance through DBT, and center-state disaster coordination.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Utilization of Direct Benefit Transfer for efficient disaster relief funding and inter-governmental coordination in flood damage evaluation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Direct Benefit Transfer ensures immediate assistance directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts, eliminating middleman leakages.

- State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) are augmented by Central Inter-Ministerial Teams for post-disaster financial assessment.
- Flood damage assessments cover both residential displacement and agricultural crop destruction.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Leveraging digital public infrastructure for direct relief payments speeds up rehabilitation for disaster-stricken populations while enhancing fiscal accountability.

DIMENSIONS

- **Targeted Assistance:** Instant transfer of cash assistance mitigates immediate distress among vulnerable rural households.
- **Federal Collaboration:** Coordination between state administrations and central assessment teams ensures accurate compensation allocation.
- **Agricultural Resilience:** Compensating crop loss across flood-inundated hectares supports rural economic recovery.

Way forward: Combine direct cash transfers with long-term climate-resilient flood control infrastructure and precise satellite-based damage mapping.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the efficacy of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms in providing timely disaster relief to vulnerable agricultural communities.

KEY TERMS

Direct Benefit Transfer

Disaster Relief

State Disaster Response Fund

Fiscal Federalism

Flood Management

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act, 2005 (Section 46 and 47)

Article 282 of the Constitution of India (Grants for Public Purposes)

06

GS PAPER 3 - ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Ecological Restoration of Riparian Wetlands Through Dam Removal



River Dam Removal Rebuilds 56 Acres of Coastal Wetland Ecosystem

Decommissioning three historic dams along the Coonamessett River successfully restored 56 acres of coastal wetlands and reopened migratory fish routes.

Local authorities worked alongside state and federal environmental agencies to remove artificial flow barriers that had altered the river for three centuries.

Targeted ecological reconstruction turned former commercial cranberry farming bogs back into thriving natural habitats supporting over 200 native plant species.

Hydrological restoration enabled migratory fish to return to ancestral upstream spawning grounds, restoring historical aquatic ecological balances.

This conservation project illustrates UPSC environment topics including wetland ecosystem management, dam decommissioning, and biological diversity recovery.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems and river connectivity through targeted decommissioning of obsolete dams.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Removing obsolete river dams restores natural hydrological flows and re-establishes native aquatic biodiversity.
- Wetlands act as natural carbon sinks, flood buffers, and filtration systems for coastal watersheds.
- Decommissioning artificial barriers reopens critical upstream spawning grounds for migratory fish species.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Decommissioning historic artificial barriers along altered riverways allows natural wetland ecosystems to recover biological diversity and hydrological balance.

DIMENSIONS

- **Biodiversity Revival:** Returning natural river flows enables native flora and migratory fish populations to re-establish breeding habitats.
- **Water Quality Improvement:** Reconstituted wetlands serve as biological filtration zones, trapping excess sediments and agricultural runoff.
- **Flood Mitigation:** Natural floodplains absorb excess storm surge, reducing downstream inundation risks during extreme weather.

Way forward: Implement science-backed dam removal protocols globally, balancing historic infrastructure needs with ecological conservation priorities.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the ecological impact of artificial river barriers and evaluate eco-restoration strategies for degraded wetlands.

KEY TERMS

Ecological Restoration

Wetland Reconstitution

Dam Decommissioning

Migratory Fish Corridors

Riparian Ecosystems

ACTS & ARTICLES

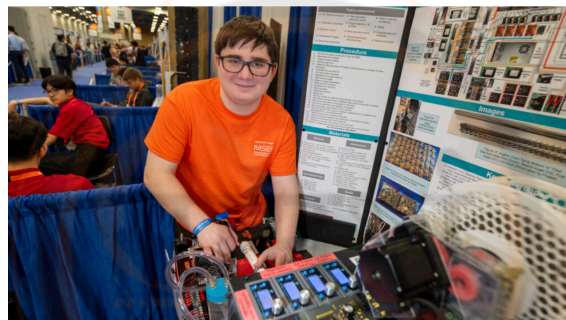
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Environment Protection Act, 1986 (Section 3)

07

GS PAPER 3 - ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Circular Plastic Management and Innovation in Additive Manufacturing Waste



STORY 1 Times of India

Student Innovation Converts 3D-Printer Waste into Reusable Plastic Filament

High school student Benjamin Davis developed a compact recycling machine capable of converting discarded 3D-printer plastic scraps back into functional filament.

The recycling system processes misprinted plastic fragments and leftover strands, re-extruding them into uniform material suitable for standard digital printers.

The engineering research project won top honors and a \$75,000 prize at a major international youth science and engineering competition.

The solution addresses an escalating waste challenge in digital fabrication labs, preventing thermoplastic waste from entering regional municipal landfill streams.

This innovation demonstrates UPSC concepts surrounding circular economy models, plastic waste management, grassroots technology research, and resource sustainability.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Grassroots technological innovations for upcycling plastic waste in advanced manufacturing into closed-loop production cycles.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Additive manufacturing produces discarded thermoplastic scrap during support structure removal and failed print jobs.
- Converting waste polymers directly into reusable filament reduces virgin plastic demand and landfill deposition.
- Closed-loop recycling models support sustainable industrial consumption aligned with SDG Goal 12.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Developing localized upcycling mechanisms for specialized industrial waste streams accelerates the transition toward zero-waste manufacturing.

DIMENSIONS

- **Waste Reduction:** Diverting complex polymer scraps from landfills minimizes persistent microplastic pollution risks.
- **Economic Efficiency:** Recycling raw materials lowers input costs for small-scale digital fabrication laboratories.
- **Grassroots Innovation:** Promoting youth-led technical research fosters scalable environmental solutions across educational institutions.

Way forward: Incentivize commercial adoption of localized recycling technologies and integrate circular waste standards into additive manufacturing sectors.

PYQ LINK

Examine the role of innovative recycling technologies in promoting a circular plastic economy and reducing industrial microplastic pollution.

KEY TERMS

Circular Economy

Plastic Waste Recycling

3D-Printing Polymer Waste

Resource Efficiency

Closed-Loop Manufacturing

ACTS & ARTICLES

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (Extended Producer Responsibility)

UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)

08

GS PAPER 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE / URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Brownfield Adaptive Reuse and Urban Ecological Parks



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Former Glass Factory Site Transformed into 250-Acre Public Park

A non-profit conservancy transformed a 75-acre abandoned glass factory site in Ohio into a 250-acre public park featuring lakes and trails.

The adaptive reuse project converted a historical 286-foot industrial smokestack into the Rastin Observation Tower, preserving local industrial heritage.

Land remediation efforts integrated former industrial quarry sites into three surrounding public lakes linked by community recreational walking trails.

The initiative serves as a model for reclaiming polluted industrial brownfields and converting them into functional ecological and community green spaces.

This project illustrates key UPSC urban development themes including brownfield remediation, adaptive reuse infrastructure, urban ecology, and public land management.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Historic Bel-Air Heritage Estate Restored After Comprehensive Five-Year Project

A historic 10,600-square-foot Spanish-style estate built in 1928 by Bel-Air founder Alphonzo Bell completed a five-year comprehensive restoration.

Purchased for \$5.5 million in 2010 by investor Michael Wexler, the restored landmark property entered the real estate market at \$32.5 million.

The multi-year restoration preserved original architectural features while integrating modern structural and sustainability upgrades across the historic site.

The project highlights real estate restoration methods aimed at safeguarding historic building stock without compromising urban residential utility.

This story connects to UPSC urban planning perspectives on architectural heritage preservation, adaptive property restoration, and high-value urban real estate dynamics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Transforming derelict industrial sites into green public infrastructure through sustainable urban planning and architectural adaptive reuse.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Brownfield redevelopment transforms former industrial lands into public recreational, commercial, or ecological spaces.
- Adaptive reuse preserves historic structural elements, reducing energy consumption associated with complete demolition and new construction.
- Urban parks constructed on brownfield sites help mitigate the urban heat island effect and enhance urban biodiversity.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Adaptive reuse of former industrial properties offers sustainable urban renewal solutions that balance ecological restoration with heritage preservation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Environmental Mitigation:** Decontaminating legacy industrial land restores soil quality and creates urban green lung infrastructure.
- **Heritage Conservation:** Reclaiming historic industrial structures maintains local architectural identity while repurposing land for public benefit.
- **Community Well-being:** Developing urban parks provides accessible recreational spaces, enhancing public health and municipal livability.

Way forward: Formulate comprehensive brownfield redevelopment guidelines integrating environmental remediation incentives and community-focused public space design.

PYQ LINK

How does brownfield redevelopment contribute to sustainable urban development while preserving industrial heritage?

KEY TERMS

Brownfield Redevelopment

Adaptive Reuse

Urban Green Spaces

Industrial Heritage

Sustainable Urbanism

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Urban Policy Framework (Urban Green Infrastructure)

Environment Protection Act, 1986 (Environmental Remediation Standards)

Private Capital Mechanisms and Urban Housing Shortage Interventions



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Airbnb Commits \$250 Million Accelerator for Stalled Affordable Housing

Airbnb launched a \$250 million Housing Accelerator program providing below-market financing to restart stalled residential housing construction projects.

The initial \$6.4 million capital deployment directly supports the construction of 201 affordable housing units located in Austin, Texas.

Program projections indicate that targeted gap financing could unlock over \$5 billion in wider real estate investment over the coming decade.

Research estimates show nearly 750,000 approved multi-family housing units across the US remain stalled due to high financing costs.

This initiative presents relevant UPSC insights into private sector housing interventions, urban financial instruments, and affordable housing governance.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Volunteer Aviation Network Relocates 12,000 Animals to Prevent Shelter Overcrowding

Volunteer pilot organization Animals Away surpassed 12,000 animal rescues, flying dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters to high-demand adoption regions.

Founded in 2010 in Winter Park, Florida, the non-profit connects private pilots donating flight time and fuel with overcrowded municipal animal shelters.

The aviation network transports vulnerable pets from high-capacity southern shelters to rescue organizations located in the US Northeast and Midwest.

What began as a municipal effort expanded into a multi-state logistical network mitigating shelter euthanasia risks caused by capacity shortages.

The program demonstrates UPSC themes regarding non-governmental civic intervention, animal welfare management, voluntary logistics networks, and urban shelter capacity.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

Australian Youth Leader Awarded Young Citizen of the Year for Community Service

Melbourne student Angus Liddell received the Young Citizen of the Year honor at the 2026 Kingston Youth Awards for community leadership.

Liddell raised nearly \$10,000 through a organized 10km charity swim and actively volunteered with the local Mentone Life Saving Club.

The recognition highlights outstanding youth leadership initiatives that engage citizens in grassroots community service and water safety efforts.

Local government authorities praised the volunteer effort for demonstrating how youth civic engagement drives localized social welfare outcomes.

This narrative highlights UPSC perspectives on civic responsibility, youth volunteerism, local governance recognition programs, and community welfare leadership.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Impact of private financing tools and blended capital models in clearing funding bottlenecks for affordable urban housing construction.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Below-market debt financing helps unlock stalled real estate developments facing liquidity shortages.
- Private capital accelerators supplement traditional bank loans to complete shovel-ready affordable housing projects.
- Housing deficits in growing metropolitan areas disproportionately impact low- and middle-income urban residents.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Private financial interventions offering flexible, below-market capital help bridge critical funding gaps, accelerating affordable housing delivery.

DIMENSIONS

- **Financial Liquidity:** Injecting gap-funding unlocks stalled construction projects that have already cleared regulatory planning approvals.
- **Affordability Mandates:** Ensuring new urban residential developments reserve dedicated units for low-income households.
- **Economic Multiplier:** Housing construction drives demand across secondary manufacturing sectors including steel, cement, and labor.

Way forward: Establish blended finance frameworks combining private impact capital with government subsidies to scale up affordable urban housing.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the challenges of urban housing supply deficits and evaluate public-private financing models for affordable housing delivery.

KEY TERMS

Affordable Housing

Blended Financing

Urban Housing Deficit

Impact Investment

Public-Private Collaboration

ACTS & ARTICLES

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U Directive)

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA)

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Maritime Security Chokepoints: Red Sea and Persian Gulf Shipping Blockades

India Raises Deep Concern Over Red Sea and Persian Gulf Blockades

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding key maritime chokepoints in West Asia: 1. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf directly with the Gulf of Oman. 2. The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. 3. Both straits are classified as international chokepoints critical for global energy transportation. 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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Unilateral Secondary Sanctions and Impact on India's Energy Security

US House Advances Sanctions Bill Authorising 100 Percent Tariffs on India

Q2. With reference to secondary sanctions in international trade, consider the following statements: 1. Secondary sanctions target foreign entities or nations engaging in economic transactions with a primary sanctioned country. 2. Imposing mandatory 100 percent import tariffs on non-signatory nations is explicitly mandated under default World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. 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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Militarisation of Outer Space and International Space Governance

Russia Warns US Orbital Weapons Deployment Threatens Outer Space Stability

Q3. Which international treaty serves as the primary legal framework governing peaceful activities in outer space and prohibiting the placement of weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit?

- A. The Artemis Accords of 2020
- B. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967
- C. The Moon Agreement of 1979
- D. The Geneva Convention on Outer Space

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Criminal Procedure and Verification Safeguards in Defamation Suits

Bombay High Court Quashes Defamation Process Against Media Company Directors

Q4. Under Section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, what is the mandatory statutory requirement for a Magistrate taking cognizance of an offense on

a private complaint?

- A.** To immediately arrest the accused named in the complaint.
- B.** To examine the complainant and the witnesses present upon oath.
- C.** To forward the complaint to the State Human Rights Commission.
- D.** To issue a public notification in regional newspapers.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Ecological Restoration of Riparian Wetlands Through Dam Removal

River Dam Removal Rebuilds 56 Acres of Coastal Wetland Ecosystem

Q5. Which of the following ecological benefits are associated with the removal of obsolete artificial dams on river ecosystems? 1. Restoration of natural hydrological flow regimes. 2. Re-establishment of biological migratory corridors for aquatic species. 3. Complete elimination of natural wetland flora species. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

GOVERNANCE

Fiscal Governance in Disaster Relief and Direct Benefit Transfer

Bihar CM Transfers ₹579 Crore Flood Assistance via Direct Benefit Transfer

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding disaster management funding in India: 1. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) delivers assistance directly into bank accounts to minimize administrative leakages. 2. State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) can be supplemented by financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) after evaluation by central teams. 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: D**Q2: A****Q3: B****Q4: B****Q5: A****Q6: C****Q1 Option D · 1, 2 and 3**

All three statements are geographically and strategically correct. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, while the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, making both vital sea lines of communication for global energy shipments.

Q2 Option A · 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: secondary sanctions seek to exert coercive pressure on third-party countries to cease business with targeted states. Statement 2 is incorrect: unilateral imposition of punitive 100% tariffs generally conflicts with WTO Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) principles unless justified under explicit national security exceptions.

Q3 Option B · The Outer Space Treaty of 1967

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty (Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies) forms the foundation of international space law and prohibits placing WMDs in orbit.

Q4 Option B · To examine the complainant and the witnesses present upon oath.

Section 200 of the CrPC mandates that a Magistrate taking cognizance of an offense on a complaint shall examine upon oath the complainant and the witnesses present, reducing the substance of such examination to writing.

Q5 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Decommissioning obsolete dams restores natural flow dynamics and enables migratory fish to reach upstream spawning areas. Statement 3 is incorrect because dam removal promotes and rejuvenates native wetland vegetation rather than eliminating it.

Q6 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. DBT mechanisms ensure transparent financial relief directly to affected families, while severe disasters exceeding SDRF capacity receive additional central support from the NDRF following assessment by Inter-Ministerial Central Teams.