



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

22 | **September 2026**
TUESDAY

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Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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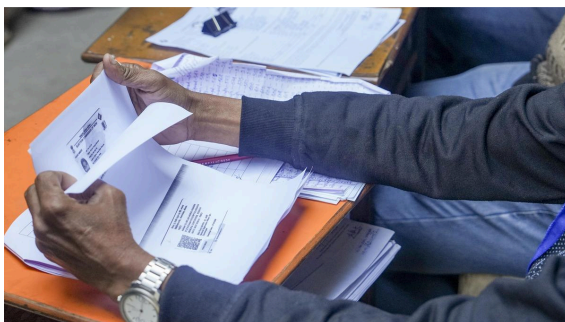
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Electoral Roll Revision and Electoral Integrity in India



STORY 1 The Hindu

17.66 Lakh Names Struck Off from Odisha Electoral Roll Post Revision

Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer published the final electoral roll following a Special Intensive Revision, reducing total voters to 3.16 crore after striking off 17.66 lakh ineligible names.

The Chief Electoral Officer executed the intensive audit across all polling booths in the state to clean voter rolls ahead of upcoming electoral processes.

A total of 17,66,837 names were removed, including 8,32,544 deceased voters, 8,08,205 shifted electors, 1,58,118 duplicate entries, and 1,99,249 absent individuals from pre-revision figures.

Special Intensive Revisions are periodic exercises conducted under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to ensure democratic integrity and prevent fake or proxy voting.

Relevant for GS Paper II under electoral reforms, role of the Election Commission of India, representation of citizens, and administrative transparency in democratic processes.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Role of the Election Commission of India in maintaining accurate voter lists, preventing electoral fraud, and upholding democratic representation through periodic revisions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Special Intensive Revisions (SIR) are authorized under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to purge invalid entries from state voter rolls.
- Statutory categories for voter roll deletion include deceased electors, permanently shifted residents, duplicate registrations, and unverified absent voters.
- Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) act as the primary state-level executive authority supervising electoral roll accuracy and booth-level audits.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Clean and updated electoral rolls are fundamental to electoral integrity, ensuring that universal adult franchise is exercised without impersonation, duplication, or disenfranchisement.

DIMENSIONS

- **Administrative Precision:** Intensive door-to-door audits systematically identify deceased, shifted, and duplicate electors across rural and urban constituencies.
- **Democratic Inclusion vs. Exclusion:** Balancing the deletion of non-resident or duplicate names with safeguards preventing arbitrary disenfranchisement of migrant workers.
- **Technological Integration:** Utilizing digital databases and geo-tagging to cross-verify voter shifts and streamline electoral database cleaning.

Way forward: Implement real-time inter-state data sharing under strict privacy standards, conduct periodic booth-level verification drives, and mandate transparent grievance redressal mechanisms before final publication.

PYQ LINK

Examine the role of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections and ensuring voter roll purity.

KEY TERMS

Special Intensive Revision

Electoral Roll

Representation of the People Act 1950

Chief Electoral Officer

Demographic Audit

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 324 of the Constitution of India

Representation of the People Act, 1950

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960

02

GS PAPER II - GOVERNANCE & EDUCATION

University Autonomy and Legislative Control in Higher Education



STORY 1 The Hindu

Academicians Oppose Inter-University Teacher Transfers Under West Bengal Amendment Bill

Prominent academicians submitted a formal representation to the West Bengal Governor opposing proposed amendments enabling inter-university transfers of university teaching and non-teaching faculty.

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly passed the bill, while 14 distinguished academicians wrote directly to Governor R.N. Ravi, who serves as Chancellor of state universities.

The West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amends Section 14A of the 2017 Act to enable state-directed transfers.

Academics argue that forced transfers erode institutional autonomy, disrupt specialized research pipelines, and compromise unique academic structures maintained independently across different state universities.

Essential for GS Paper II regarding governance of higher education, center-state relations, role of the Governor as Chancellor, and institutional autonomy in academic administration.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Issues surrounding state legislative interference in higher education institutions, faculty management, institutional autonomy, and the role of the Governor as Chancellor.

PRELIMS FACTS

- State universities are governed by acts passed by state legislatures, which define faculty recruitment, tenure, and administrative structures.
- The Governor of a state typically serves as the ex-officio Chancellor of state public universities, exercising statutory administrative powers.
- Section 14A of state administrative acts frequently regulates service conditions, transfer policies, and appointment norms for higher education employees.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Higher education institutions require academic and administrative autonomy to foster research excellence, retain institutional identity, and maintain high pedagogical standards.

DIMENSIONS

- **Impact on Research Continuity:** Centralized faculty transfers disrupt long-term research projects, grant management, and specialized department development.
- **Institutional Identity:** Every university maintains distinct academic structures, specialized syllabi, and administrative traditions that risk homogenization under centralized control.
- **Constitutional and Statutory Balance:** Conflicts arising between state executive mandates and the federal guidelines set by bodies like the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Way forward: Protect core academic appointments from arbitrary executive transfers, establish independent state higher education councils, and uphold UGC guidelines regarding university governance.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the implications of state executive and legislative interventions on the academic autonomy and governance of higher education institutions in India.

KEY TERMS

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 246 (List I Entry 66 and List III Entry 25)

University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956

West Bengal Universities and Colleges Act

03

GS PAPER III - AGRICULTURE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Agricultural Drought Management and Disaster Relief Frameworks

STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Maharashtra Prepares 100% Drought Declaration Amid Severe Dry Spell Impacting Crops

Maharashtra Cooperation Minister announced plans to declare state-wide 100% drought by the end of September following unprecedented crop damage caused by prolonged dry weather.

Cooperation Minister Babasaheb Patil confirmed the Mahayuti government's upcoming declaration affecting key agricultural districts across Maharashtra state following extensive crop losses.

The declaration will cover major commercial crops including soybean, cotton, and sugarcane under standard National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines and assessment norms.

Immediate mitigation steps already deployed include student fee waivers, rural electricity bill waivers, and emergency water tanker dispatches to severely impacted drought-hit talukas.

Critical for GS Paper III under disaster management frameworks, agricultural risk mitigation, climate vulnerability, and government safety nets for distressed agrarian populations.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Mechanism of drought declaration, disaster mitigation under NDRF norms, risk assessment for cash crops, and government relief measures during severe dry spells.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Drought declarations in India follow official criteria prescribed under the Manual for Drought Management and criteria aligned with NDRF/SDRF funding.
- NDRF funds provide supplementary financial assistance to state governments during severe natural disasters beyond State Disaster Response Fund capabilities.
- Cash crops like soybean, cotton, and sugarcane exhibit heightened vulnerability to extended mid-season rain deficits and dry spells.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Prolonged dry spells and rainfall deficits severely impact rainfed agriculture, necessitating swift drought declarations and multi-tiered disaster relief deployment to protect agrarian livelihoods.

DIMENSIONS

- **Socio-Economic Relief:** Direct financial interventions such as tuition fee waivers, rural electricity subsidies, and emergency drinking water deployments.
- **Crop Vulnerability:** Severe yield drops in major kharif cash crops threaten rural incomes, food security, and agricultural supply chains.
- **Institutional Assessment:** Reliance on standardized NDRF norms and satellite remote sensing for objective crop loss evaluation across drought-hit talukas.

Way forward: Expand micro-irrigation networks, promote drought-resistant crop varieties, automate satellite disaster assessment, and streamline SDRF/NDRF relief fund disbursements.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the effectiveness of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and state mechanisms in mitigating climate-induced agricultural disasters.

KEY TERMS

National Disaster Response Fund

Dry Spell

Agrarian Distress

Crop Damage Assessment

Disaster Mitigation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act, 2005

Manual for Drought Management (Ministry of Agriculture)

PM Fasal Bima Yojana Guidelines

04

GS PAPER II - EXECUTIVE & JUDICIARY

Access to Justice and Administrative Appeals in Traffic Regulations



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Delhi Lawyers Strike Against 50% Pre-Deposit Rule for Motor Vehicle Appeals

Lawyers across all seven district courts in Delhi abstained from work to protest a mandatory pre-deposit requirement for contesting administrative traffic challans in court.

The day-long work boycott was organized by the Coordination Committee of All District Court Bar Associations across Delhi's district court complexes and India Gate.

Protesters demanded the repeal of amendments to Rule 167 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, which mandate a 50% penalty deposit before filing appeals.

The revised rules force citizens to either pay penalties directly or deposit half the amount prior to judicial review, which lawyers claim restricts fundamental judicial recourse.

Direct relevance for GS Paper II concerning access to justice, delegated legislation, judicial review, administrative law, and reasonable restrictions on legal remedies.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Issues of administrative overreach, delegated legislation, financial barriers to legal remedies, and the constitutionality of pre-deposit rules in appeal processes.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 were framed under the statutory authority of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- Rule 167 regulates electronic enforcement, traffic challan issuance, and contestation mechanisms across Indian states.
- Mandatory pre-deposit rules require petitioners to deposit a fixed percentage of a penalty prior to executive or judicial review of an administrative order.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Mandatory financial pre-deposits in administrative challenge mechanisms aim to prevent frivolous litigation but often end up creating economic barriers that curtail fundamental rights to legal recourse.

DIMENSIONS

- **Constitutional Access:** High monetary pre-deposit thresholds disproportionately penalize lower-income citizens, impeding their right to fair judicial review.
- **Delegated Legislation Scrutiny:** Subordinate rules framed by executive ministries must remain within the reasonable boundaries established by parent acts.

- **Administrative Efficiency:** Balancing streamlined fine collection mechanisms with fair procedural hearing rights for contested traffic penalties.

Way forward: Replace mandatory high pre-deposits with nominal filing fees, digitize online appeal processing, and ensure robust judicial oversight of executive traffic penalty notifications.

PYQ LINK

Critically analyze how administrative conditions on judicial appeals impact the constitutional right of access to justice for ordinary citizens.

KEY TERMS

Pre-Deposit Condition

Central Motor Vehicles Rules

Access to Justice

Delegated Legislation

Judicial Remedies

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India

Article 39A (Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid)

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 & Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

05

GS PAPER III - ENVIRONMENT & URBANIZATION

Urban Stream Daylighting and Ecological Restoration Mechanisms



STORY 1 Times of India

Mill Brook Stream Uncovered in Massachusetts to Mitigate Urban Flooding and Heat

The town of Athol, Massachusetts, completed the Mill Brook Crossing project, daylighting a stream buried for 50 years under asphalt to create urban wetlands.

The municipal government of Athol, in collaboration with Massachusetts state environmental authorities, executed the stream daylighting project in its downtown commercial district.

The project restored the natural stream channel, created 12,000 square feet of wetland habitat, and transformed 53,000 square feet of paved parking into vegetation.

Stream daylighting removes artificial culverts and pavement to restore natural hydrological flows, reduce localized flooding, and mitigate urban heat island effects in paved areas.

Important for GS Paper III under urban infrastructure resilience, nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation strategies for sustainable cities.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Washington Family Permanently Preserves 40 Acres of Farmland Through Conservation Trust

A multi-generational farming family partnered with a regional land trust to secure a permanent conservation easement preventing real estate development on agricultural land.

Brian and Connie Foster collaborated with conservation organization Forterra along State Route 530 NE in Washington State's Stillaguamish Valley.

Nearly 40 acres of private agricultural land, cultivated for over 70 years as dairy, hay, and agritourism operations, were protected from commercial conversion permanently.

Agricultural conservation easements allow landowners to retain property ownership and farming operations while permanently extinguishing development rights to protect food production belts.

Relevant for GS Paper III under land policy reforms, agricultural sustainability, land-use planning, and private-public partnerships in biodiversity and soil conservation.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Nature-based urban infrastructure solutions, urban flood mitigation, stream daylighting techniques, and permanent agricultural conservation easements.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Stream daylighting is an urban planning strategy that uncovers and restores historically culverted or paved natural waterways.
- Uncovering urban streams increases permeable surfaces, reducing surface runoff and mitigating urban heat island intensity.
- Agricultural conservation easements legally restrict real estate development rights on private land in perpetuity while preserving agricultural usage.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Transforming concrete-heavy urban centers through ecological restoration practices like stream daylighting and rural land conservation creates climate resilience against urban heat and flash flooding.

DIMENSIONS

- **Urban Hydrology & Flood Control:** Replacing impermeable asphalt with open channels and urban wetlands absorbs extreme stormwater runoff.
- **Microclimate Regulation:** Restored open streams and vegetation lower ambient temperatures, combating severe urban heat island effects.
- **Land Conservation Models:** Public-private partnerships and land trusts preserve critical farmland buffer zones against uncontrolled urban sprawl.

Way forward: Incorporate blue-green infrastructure into municipal master planning, offer tax incentives for agricultural land trusts, and mandate permeable surface quotas in city planning regulations.

PYQ LINK

Discuss nature-based solutions and ecological restoration models for tackling urban climate vulnerabilities such as urban flooding and extreme heat.

KEY TERMS

Stream Daylighting

Urban Heat Island

Conservation Easement

Nature-based Solutions

Urban Hydrology

ACTS & ARTICLES

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

National Water Policy

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

06

GS PAPER III - DISASTER MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT

Wildfire Mitigation Technologies and Aerial Suppression Risks



STORY 1 Times of India

British Schoolgirls Build Wildfire Firebreak Robot to Mitigate Bushfire Spreads

A team of five high school students engineered a specialized firefighting robot equipped with five-metre folding arms to create artificial firebreaks in dry terrain.

Team Megabyte, formed by students aged 14–15 from The Folkestone School for Girls in Kent, developed the prototype to represent Great Britain internationally.

The robot features 5-metre folding mechanical arms designed to clear combustible vegetation and remove fuel sources ahead of advancing wildfire fronts.

Wildfire firebreaks are crucial vegetative gaps that stop fire progression; autonomous mechanical clearing reduces physical risks to human firefighters during catastrophic forest fires.

Highly relevant for GS Paper III under disaster management technology, robotics in emergency response, youth innovation, and technological adaptation for climate disasters.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Two Aerial Firefighters Killed in Helicopter Crash During Yosemite Dome Fire

A Eurocopter AS32 firefighting helicopter crashed during aerial suppression operations in Yosemite National Park, killing both crew members on board.

The incident occurred in Mariposa County, California, involving contractors aligned with the U.S. Forest Service's Price Valley Rappel Crew during the Dome Fire.

The fatal aviation crash occurred while fighting the Dome Fire, which burned over 3,000 acres of protected forest within Yosemite National Park.

Aerial firefighting carries extreme operational hazards, including turbulent thermal drafts, dense smoke plumes, low-altitude maneuvering, and mechanical stress during water drops.

Applicable to GS Paper III regarding forest fire management hazards, aviation safety standards in disaster relief, and operational protocols for environmental emergencies.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Technological innovation in forest fire prevention, mechanical creation of firebreaks, and risk hazards in aerial wildfire suppression operations.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Firebreaks are gaps in vegetation or combustible material designed to stop or deliberate the progress of forest fires.
- Aerial suppression involving water drops and retardant drops carries elevated hazards due to extreme micro-turbulences and reduced visibility in fire zones.
- Robotic automation in wildfire fighting focuses on clearing fuel loads autonomously along advance paths without placing personnel in extreme heat zones.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: As climate change accelerates wildfire frequency and intensity, combining advanced robotics for preventive firebreak creation with safety protocols in aerial suppression is imperative for forest hazard mitigation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Technological Prevention:** Deploying mechanical and robotic units to clear dry biomass and create controlled firebreaks ahead of advancing wildfire fronts.
- **Operational Aviation Safety:** Managing severe hazards in aerial firefighting, including thermal updrafts, dense smoke, low-altitude navigation, and airframe stress.
- **Ecosystem Protection:** Balancing chemical retardant usage and artificial clearing with natural forest regeneration requirements.

Way forward: Standardize safety protocols for contracted aerial firefighters, scale youth and startup robotics innovations for disaster response, and expand satellite-based real-time fire tracking.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the causes, ecological consequences, and technological frameworks needed for effective forest fire management and hazard mitigation.

KEY TERMS

Firebreak

Wildfire Suppression

Aerial Firefighting

Thermal Drafts

Disaster Technology

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Action Plan on Forest Fires (NAPFF)

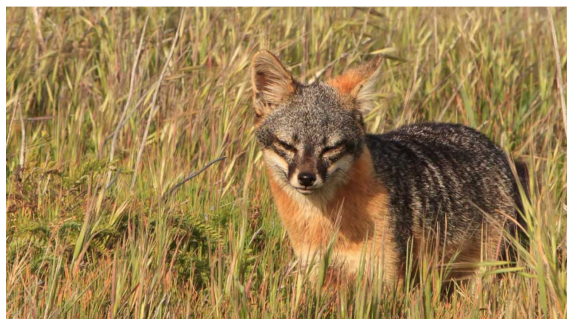
Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Disaster Management Act, 2005

07

GS PAPER III - ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

Island Biodiversity Restoration and Trophic Cascade Management



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Captive Breeding and Trophic Management Restore California Island Fox Population

Comprehensive conservation intervention successfully pulled the endemic island fox back from near extinction through captive breeding and ecological food web restoration.

Channel Islands National Park and conservation partners managed recovery efforts on San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands off the northern California coast.

Populations had plummeted to just 15 individual foxes on San Miguel Island and 15 on Santa Rosa Island in 1999 before emergency recovery programs were implemented.

DDT contamination eliminated native bald eagles, allowing mainland golden eagles to colonize islands and prey on foxes; removing golden eagles restored ecological equilibrium.

Crucial for GS Paper III under wildlife conservation strategies, invasive species management, ex-situ breeding programs, bioaccumulation effects, and ecological food web dynamics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Ecosystem restoration, captive breeding strategies, ecological food web interactions, bioaccumulation impacts, and species recovery from near extinction.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Bioaccumulation of organochlorines like DDT led to eggshell thinning in bald eagles, causing severe local extirpations across coastal habitats.
- The absence of native apex predators can allow invasive or non-native predators to occupy empty ecological niches, triggering rapid trophic cascades.
- Captive breeding combined with predator removal represents one of the most effective ex-situ to in-situ recovery frameworks for endangered endemic fauna.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Island ecosystems are exceptionally vulnerable to food web disruptions caused by anthropogenic pollutants and non-native predator colonization, requiring holistic trophic management for species recovery.

DIMENSIONS

- **Trophic Interdependence:** Chemical pollution (DDT) eliminated bald eagles, permitting mainland golden eagles to colonize islands and decimate endemic fox populations.
- **Ex-Situ Interventions:** Captive breeding programs successfully raise endangered populations from critical thresholds (such as 15 individuals) to resilient baseline numbers.
- **In-Situ Habitat Rehabilitation:** Removing invasive golden eagles and reintroducing native bald eagles restores top-down ecological regulation over island food webs.

Way forward: Integrate holistic ecosystem restoration over single-species conservation, monitor bioaccumulative toxins in coastal food chains, and establish emergency captive breeding protocols for critically endangered endemics.

PYQ LINK

Explain the concept of trophic cascades and evaluate how ex-situ and in-situ conservation methods can restore threatened island ecosystems.

08

GS PAPER III - INDIAN ECONOMY

Indirect Tax Rationalisation and Inflationary Pressures

STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Galloping Inflation Erodes Benefits of GST Rate Cuts on Consumer Goods

Senior opposition leaders highlighted that the consumer benefit of previous GST rate rationalisations has been undermined by persistent inflation driving prices back up.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh released an economic commentary in New Delhi assessing market impacts following the September 2025 GST rationalisation.

Despite September 2025 rate cuts aimed at boosting domestic consumption, retail prices returned to pre-cut levels within a single year across key commodity sectors.

While specific sectors like automobile manufacturing registered temporary demand gains, broader retail segments like apparel saw negligible long-term consumption growth due to input cost inflation.

Direct relevance for GS Paper III under fiscal policy, indirect tax rationalisation, inflation dynamics, consumer demand cycles, and macroeconomic stability in India.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Macroeconomic impacts of GST rate rationalisation, inflationary erosion of tax cuts, sectoral disparities in demand transmission, and fiscal policy coordination.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate changes are decided by the constitutional GST Council chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- Tax rate cuts boost private demand primarily in price-elastic consumer sectors like automobiles, whereas price-inelastic segments show muted response.

- Input cost inflation can neutralize statutory tax cuts when raw material and logistics expenses push retail prices back to pre-cut levels.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: While rationalising indirect tax rates is aimed at lowering final consumer prices and driving private consumption, systemic headline inflation can erode these benefits, neutralizing fiscal stimulus.

DIMENSIONS

- **Tax Pass-Through Mechanics:** Retailers and manufacturers facing high input costs may retain higher retail prices despite reduced tax rates, diluting consumer pass-through.
- **Sectoral Demand Asymmetry:** High-value durable goods (automobiles) benefit strongly from tax cuts, whereas low-margin fast-moving consumer goods (apparel) face margin compression.
- **Fiscal Coordination:** Aligning supply-side inflation control with indirect tax rate rationalisation to preserve real purchasing power.

Way forward: Strengthen anti-profiteering oversight mechanisms, streamline input tax credit flows, and time tax rationalisation drives with periods of stable headline inflation.

PYQ LINK

Examine the effectiveness of GST rationalisation in boosting private consumption and controlling inflationary expectations in the Indian economy.

KEY TERMS

GST Rationalisation

Galloping Inflation

Consumer Price Index

Indirect Tax Transmission

Demand Elasticity

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 279A of the Constitution of India (GST Council)

Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

GS PAPER II - GOVERNANCE

Electoral Roll Revision and Electoral Integrity in India

17.66 Lakh Names Struck Off from Odisha Electoral Roll Post Revision

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the revision of electoral rolls in India: 1. Special Intensive Revisions (SIR) are conducted under the statutory framework of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to eliminate duplicate and ineligible entries. 2. Deletion of names from an electoral roll occurs automatically without field verification if a voter is unverified in a single preliminary survey. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

GS PAPER III - ENVIRONMENT

Urban Stream Daylighting and Ecological Restoration Mechanisms

Mill Brook Stream Uncovered in Massachusetts to Mitigate Urban Flooding and Heat

Q2. In the context of sustainable urban water management, what does the term 'stream daylighting' refer to?

- A. Diverting surface river waters into underground concrete culverts to increase urban land availability.
- B. Restoring previously buried or culverted natural waterways to the surface to mitigate urban heat and flooding.
- C. Constructing artificial canal systems to facilitate municipal industrial wastewater transport.
- D. Paving natural urban wetlands to install solar energy infrastructure over water bodies.

GS PAPER III - ECOLOGY

Island Biodiversity Restoration and Trophic Cascade Management

Captive Breeding and Trophic Management Restore California Island Fox Population

Q3. In ecological trophic dynamics, how did widespread mid-20th century DDT contamination indirectly cause the near-extinction of the California island fox?

- A. DDT accumulated directly in island plants, causing toxic mortality among herbivorous prey.
- B. DDT caused severe bald eagle population crashes, allowing golden eagles to occupy the ecological niche and prey heavily on foxes.
- C. DDT depleted marine fish stocks, forcing native bald eagles to shift their diet exclusively to island foxes.
- D. DDT induced hyper-aggressive territorial behaviors in native bald eagles against island foxes.

GS PAPER II - POLITY

Access to Justice and Administrative Appeals in Traffic Regulations

Delhi Lawyers Strike Against 50% Pre-Deposit Rule for Motor Vehicle Appeals

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding subordinate traffic enforcement rules in India: 1. Rule 167 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 deals with electronic enforcement and traffic challan contestation procedures. 2. Mandating high monetary pre-deposits prior to judicial appeal can be legally challenged on grounds of restricting access to judicial remedies. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only**
- B. 2 only**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 nor 2**

GS PAPER III - DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Agricultural Drought Management and Disaster Relief Frameworks

Maharashtra Prepares 100% Drought Declaration Amid Severe Dry Spell Impacting Crops

Q5. Which national disaster framework primary fund provides financial relief assistance to states facing severe drought conditions following official assessments?

- A. National Small Savings Fund (NSSF)**
- B. National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**
- C. Contingency Fund of the Prime Minister**
- D. NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**



Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

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

Q1 Option A · 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: Electoral roll revisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, clean electoral lists by identifying duplicate, deceased, absent, and shifted electors. Statement 2 is incorrect: Deletions require proper field verification and systematic audit procedures before final removal, as executed during the Odisha revision.

Q2

Option B · Restoring previously buried or culverted natural waterways to the surface to mitigate urban heat and flooding.

Stream daylighting is a nature-based urban planning strategy that uncovers historically buried, culverted, or paved streams (such as Mill Brook in Athol), restoring open channels and wetlands to reduce urban flooding risks and mitigate microclimate urban heat island effects.

Q3

Option B · DDT caused severe bald eagle population crashes, allowing golden eagles to occupy the ecological niche and prey heavily on foxes.

DDT contamination severely depleted native bald eagle populations (which primarily fed on marine life). The loss of territorial bald eagles allowed mainland golden eagles to colonize the empty ecological space and prey heavily on terrestrial island foxes, driving fox numbers down to just 15 individuals on key islands by 1999.

Q4 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Rule 167 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 regulates traffic challan issuance and dispute procedures. Requiring a mandatory 50% pre-deposit before filing a court appeal has been challenged as an unconstitutional financial barrier that curtails a citizen's right to judicial review.

Q5 Option B · National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

Official state drought declarations, such as Maharashtra's planned 100% drought declaration, align with assessment criteria established under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) guidelines to trigger emergency federal disaster assistance.