



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

23 | September 2026
WEDNESDAY

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TOPICS

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Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

5 Things You Must Know

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UNGA 81st Session: Reform of Multilateral Institutions and Regional Security Dynamics

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UNGA 81st Session: Reform of Multilateral Institutions and Regional Security Dynamics



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

UN Secretary-General Calls for Urgent Security Council Reform at 81st General Assembly

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered a high-level address calling for urgent reforms to the UN Security Council to enhance its global legitimacy and operational effectiveness.

The speech was delivered at the UN Headquarters in New York during the opening General Debate of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.

The address marks the final UNGA high-level week for Guterres, whose second five-year tenure as UN Secretary-General concludes in December 2026.

Guterres emphasized that existing global governance structures reflect post-WWII power dynamics, rendering them ill-equipped to address modern geopolitical fragmentation and global crises.

The call for Security Council expansion directly aligns with India's longstanding demand for permanent representation and broader multilateral institutional reforms.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Turkey Advocates UN Charter Framework for Kashmir Resolution at UNGA Address

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the Kashmir issue during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly, calling for dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The address was delivered at the UN General Assembly in New York, targeting international diplomatic representatives during the annual high-level debate.

Erdogan referenced the Mecca Pact, a trilateral military arrangement signed in August 2026 between Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan to strengthen defence cooperation.

India consistently rejects third-party mediation on Jammu and Kashmir, maintaining that the region remains an integral part of India subject only to bilateral dialogue.

The statement highlights complex diplomatic challenges in India's bilateral relations with Turkey and underscores India's firm stance on sovereign territorial integrity.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluates the imperative for UN Security Council reforms and multilateral approaches to resolving regional conflicts under UN Charter principles.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The United Nations General Assembly convened its 81st session in September 2026 in New York City.
- Antonio Guterres completes his second five-year tenure as UN Secretary-General in December 2026.
- India consistently rejects third-party intervention on Jammu and Kashmir, upholding bilateral resolution under the 1972 Simla Agreement.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The 81st UN General Assembly session highlighted growing global frustration over institutional inertia in multilateral bodies, with urgent calls for UN Security Council structural reforms.

DIMENSIONS

- **Institutional Deficits:** The Security Council's archaic structure reflects 1945 realities, causing frequent gridlocks due to P5 veto power.
- **Geopolitical Polarization:** Unilateral actions and bloc-based security alignments challenge international law and erode confidence in global dispute resolution.
- **Sovereignty vs Multilateralism:** Member states balance international law compliance with sovereign non-interference principles regarding domestic territorial issues.

Way forward: Accelerate text-based negotiations for Security Council expansion, enhance representation for developing nations, and strictly adhere to bilateral and multilateral dispute mechanisms.

PYQ LINK

Examines the need for restructuring the United Nations Security Council to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities, echoing UPSC Mains 2020 GS Paper II.

KEY TERMS

UN Security Council Reform

UN Charter

Multilateralism

P5 Veto Power

Strategic Autonomy

ACTS & ARTICLES

Internal Security & Judicial Process: Narcotics Elimination Roadmap and UAPA Interim Relief



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Union Home Ministry Targets Complete Elimination of National Drug Trade by 2029

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a comprehensive national roadmap aiming to completely eliminate the illicit drug trade across India by December 2029.

The strategy was detailed during a national conference on anti-narcotics enforcement held in New Delhi, attended by central and state law enforcement chiefs.

Enforcement directives shift focus from basic drug seizures to dismantling full trafficking chains, targeting financial profits, and enforcing foreign trafficker deportations.

The Home Ministry instructed enforcement agencies to conduct thorough financial audits, trace digital footprints, and prevent foreign offenders from re-entering the country.

The strategy strengthens internal security mechanisms against narco-terrorism and organized transnational criminal networks threatening national security and youth welfare.



Delhi Court Grants Interim Bail to Sharjeel Imam in 2020 Riots UAPA Case

A Delhi session court granted a seven-day interim bail to activist Sharjeel Imam, an accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots conspiracy case.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai issued the order at Karkardooma Courts, permitting temporary release from October 4 to October 10 for a family event.

Imam faces charges under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act concerning anti-CAA protests and an alleged larger criminal conspiracy surrounding the 2020 communal clashes.

This temporary release follows an earlier 10-day interim bail granted in March 2026, while his regular bail application remains pending before the High Court.

The judicial ruling highlights procedural mechanisms governing temporary liberty under strict anti-terror statutes like UAPA while balancing fundamental rights.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzes anti-narcotics enforcement strategies, financial asset tracing in organized crime, and judicial balances in anti-terror legislation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Union Government established December 31, 2029, as the target deadline to eliminate drug trafficking in India.
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act permits stringent conditions for bail while authorizing judicial discretion for temporary interim relief.
- Modern anti-narcotics strategies prioritize financial investigations and digital link tracing over routine physical contraband seizures.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Combating internal security threats requires a dual approach combining intelligence-led financial tracking against drug cartels with fair judicial administration under special penal laws.

DIMENSIONS

- **Financial Decoupling:** Targeting money laundering and illicit financial flows is crucial to dismantling organized narco-syndicates permanently.
- **Digital Enforcement:** Modern cartels utilize encrypted channels, requiring law enforcement to upgrade digital forensic capabilities.
- **Judicial Balance:** Ensuring national security under special laws like UAPA while safeguarding constitutional rights to legal remedies and temporary relief.

Way forward: Establish specialized financial investigation cells, enhance inter-agency coordination under NCORD, and ensure speedy trial procedures for detention cases.

Examines the role of law enforcement and financial investigations in combating drug trafficking networks, echoing UPSC Mains 2022 GS Paper III.

KEY TERMS

Narcotics Control

UAPA

Financial Investigations

Interim Bail

Organized Crime

ACTS & ARTICLES

NDPS Act 1985

UAPA 1967

Article 21 of the Constitution

03

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ECONOMY

International Trade & Geopolitics: Trade Investigations and Middle East Security Coalitions



STORY 1 The Hindu

United States Delays India Trade Deal Pending Section 301 Competitor Probes

A proposed trade agreement between India and the United States is stalled until Washington completes new Section 301 trade investigations against competitor nations.

The trade negotiations involve the US Trade Representative, targeting industrial excess capacity in competing economies across South Asia and Southeast Asia.

The US strategy requires placing tariffs on competing nations such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines following excess capacity probes launched in March 2026.

Sources noted a strategic error in omitting certain regional competitors from initial probe lists, necessitating administrative adjustments before finalizing deals with India.

The development illustrates how domestic trade remedies and unilateral tariff frameworks in partner nations directly impact India's foreign trade negotiations.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Four Nations Reaffirm Saudi Arabia Self-Defence Rights Amid Houthi Attacks

Foreign Ministers from Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan issued a joint declaration affirming Riyadh's inherent right to self-defence against maritime threats.

The diplomatic summit occurred on the sidelines of international meetings, addressing escalating security vulnerabilities across the Red Sea and Arabian Peninsula.

The joint statement focused on ongoing regional strikes by Houthi forces, emphasizing the imperative of maintaining safe, uninterrupted international maritime navigation.

The four nations expressed grave concern over regional escalation, while offering formal diplomatic support to Yemen's recognized government for peace initiatives.

Red Sea maritime security remains crucial for India's foreign commerce and energy imports, highlighting the strategic necessity of regional anti-piracy stability.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzes unilateral trade measures under Section 301 and regional security shifts in the Middle East.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974 authorizes the US government to investigate and tariff foreign trade practices deemed unfair.
- Maritime navigation security in the Red Sea is regulated under international law via UNCLOS guidelines.
- Sri Lanka's High Court convicted 14 individuals in September 2026 for involvement in the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Global trade stability and energy security rely heavily on predictable tariff regimes and secure maritime choke points like the Red Sea.

DIMENSIONS

- **Unilateral Trade Protections:** Section 301 probes distort bilateral trade predictability and force structural realignments in export supply chains.
- **Maritime Security Threats:** Non-state actor strikes in the Red Sea jeopardize international trade corridors and increase freight insurance costs.

- **Diplomatic Coalitions:** Regional groupings balancing defense partnerships with political negotiations to preserve stability in West Asia.

Way forward: Diversify export destinations through multilateral FTAs, participate in international maritime security missions, and pursue rule-based WTO dispute settlements.

PYQ LINK

Examines the impact of foreign trade policy and regional security pacts on India's strategic interest, echoing UPSC Mains 2021 GS Paper II.

KEY TERMS

Section 301 Investigations

Trade Tariff

Right to Self-Defence

Red Sea Security

Houthi Attacks

ACTS & ARTICLES

Section 301 US Trade Act 1974

UNCLOS 1982

Article 51 UN Charter

04

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration: Global Landscape Restoration and Species Migration



STORY 1 Times of India

South Africa Launches ReLISA Program to Restore 100,000 Hectares Ecosystems

South Africa formally launched 'ReLISA', a major five-year environmental restoration programme targeting degraded grasslands, savannas, and thicket ecosystems.

The launch was led by South African Forestry Minister Dion George alongside German officials on the sidelines of a G20 environment ministerial meeting.

The initiative secures 15 million Euros in funding to restore 100,000 hectares of degraded land by 2030 while expanding protected conservation areas.

Financial backing is provided by Germany's Federal Ministry for Environment through its International Climate Initiative to enhance water and climate resilience.

The program demonstrates how bilateral international climate finance supports large-scale ecosystem restoration goals established under global biodiversity targets.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Nests on California Coast in Recorded First

An Olive Ridley sea turtle successfully laid eggs on a Southern California beach, marking the first recorded natural nesting event in the region.

The nesting site was identified near Seal Beach in Orange County, monitored jointly by local wildlife authorities and federal marine biologists.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials confirmed the incident, establishing a 60-day monitoring period to safeguard the developing eggs.

While Olive Ridley turtles occasionally travel north along unusually warm ocean currents, natural beach nesting on the US West Coast was previously unobserved.

The phenomenon illustrates potential shift patterns in marine megafauna distribution caused by changing ocean temperatures and broader marine climate dynamics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines landscape restoration models, international climate finance, and climate-induced shift in marine species nesting behavior.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ReLISA (Restoring Landscapes in South Africa) aims to restore 100,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030.
- Olive Ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are famous for synchronized mass nesting events called Arribadas.
- Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) provides bilateral funding for global biodiversity and climate mitigation projects.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Ecological preservation requires proactive landscape restoration programs alongside scientific monitoring of marine biodiversity adaptation under climate change.

DIMENSIONS

- **Ecosystem Degradation:** Savanna and grassland loss diminishes natural carbon sinks and degrades local hydrological cycles.
- **Climate-Driven Migration:** Warming sea currents alter marine species ranges, pushing tropical turtles to non-traditional northern latitudes.

- **International Climate Finance:** Bilateral grants like IKI bridge financial gaps in global south conservation and habitat rehabilitation.

Way forward: Combine community-led landscape restoration with global funding mechanisms and establish international biological corridor monitoring networks.

PYQ LINK

Discusses international initiatives for ecological restoration and biological diversity preservation, reflecting UPSC Mains 2021 GS Paper III.

KEY TERMS

ReLISA Project

Landscape Restoration

Olive Ridley Turtle

International Climate Initiative

Habitat Conservation

ACTS & ARTICLES

CBD Kunming-Montreal Framework

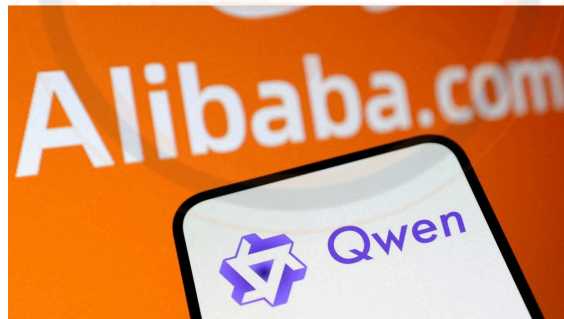
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Wild Life Protection Act 1972

05

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Technological Sovereignty & Artificial Intelligence: AI Hardware Advances and Global Competition



STORY 1 The Hindu

Alibaba Group Launches Zhenwu V900 AI Chip to Accelerate Frontier Model Training

Chinese technology conglomerate Alibaba Group unveiled its latest artificial intelligence chip, the Zhenwu V900, positioning it as China's most powerful AI processor.

The semiconductor unit T-Head developed the chip, with product announcements made at Alibaba's annual technology symposium in Hangzhou.

The Zhenwu V900 delivers three times the processing performance of its predecessor, supporting plans to train models with 5 to 10 trillion parameters.

The rollout occurs amid intense global debates over AI safety standards, technology distillation, and US semiconductor trade restrictions targeting Chinese firms.

The development emphasizes the escalating global race for technological sovereignty in frontier computing and high-performance semiconductor design.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzes semiconductor innovation, frontier AI model training, and geopolitical technology export controls.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Alibaba's T-Head semiconductor division engineered the Zhenwu V900 AI processing chip.
- AI model capability scales significantly with parameter size, with frontier systems reaching multi-trillion parameter scales.
- Global semiconductor export controls specifically target advanced AI hardware capabilities to manage strategic dual-use risks.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The strategic competition over artificial intelligence is increasingly defined by indigenous semiconductor manufacturing capacity and ultra-large AI parameter models.

DIMENSIONS

- **Hardware Sovereignty:** Reliance on foreign high-performance chips creates strategic vulnerabilities in national digital infrastructure.
- **Frontier AI Scale:** Training multi-trillion parameter models requires massive compute power, energy infrastructure, and specialized silicon design.
- **Export Controls & Geopolitics:** Unilateral tech restrictions accelerate domestic research and development in competing technological hubs.

Way forward: Invest heavily in national semiconductor missions, foster public-private AI compute hubs, and establish international standards for AI hardware safety.

PYQ LINK

Discusses artificial intelligence developments and the strategic importance of semiconductor hardware, reflecting UPSC Mains 2023 GS Paper III.

KEY TERMS

AI Chip

Zhenwu V900

Parameter Model

Semiconductor Ethics

Export Controls

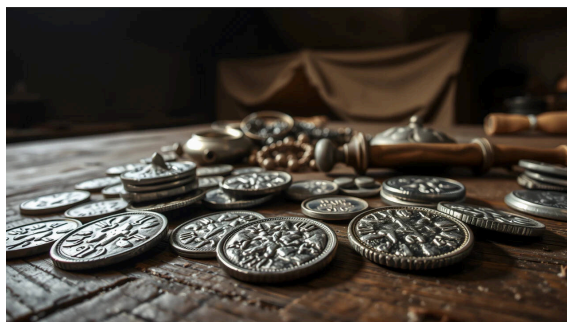
ACTS & ARTICLES

India Semiconductor Mission

National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (NITI Aayog)

IT Act 2000

History, Archaeology & Geography: Ancient Hoards and Riverine Ecosystem Exploration



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Sweden's Largest Medieval Silver Coin Hoard Uncovered Near Stockholm

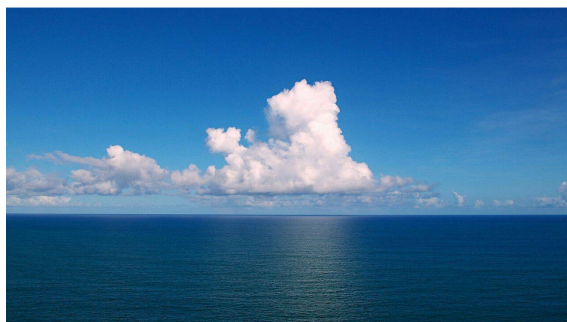
Archaeologists in Sweden confirmed the discovery of the nation's largest medieval coin hoard, containing thousands of historic silver coins and artifacts.

The discovery occurred on the Mörkö peninsula near Södertälje, submitted for evaluation to Sweden's National Heritage Board (Riksantikvarieämbetet).

The hoard comprises approximately 24,100 silver coins and 144 historical artifacts, weighing 4.7 kilograms and dating primarily to the 12th century.

The find provides rare numismatic evidence regarding trade routes, currency circulation, and wealth accumulation during the Viking transition into medieval Scandinavia.

Invaluable archaeological finds demonstrate how chance discoveries enhance historical understanding of medieval monetary systems and economic regional networks.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Historical Expedition Retraces Transcontinental Navigation across Amazon River

A retrospective historical analysis documented the first successful complete human navigation of the Amazon River system from headwaters to ocean.

The expedition was accomplished by Polish explorer Piotr Chmielinski and American writer Joe Kane, traversing Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.

The arduous journey spanned approximately 4,200 miles, starting with a 200-mile mountain trek followed by continuous river paddling to the Atlantic Ocean.

The expedition overcame severe geographical hazards including high-altitude rapids, dense rainforest environments, extreme climate variability, and remote river navigation.

The historical record provides key geographical insights into the hydrological gradient, remote biodiversity, and human settlement patterns along the Amazon basin.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines numismatic research methodology, medieval economic history, and geographical exploration of major transcontinental river systems.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Sweden's largest medieval hoard discovered on Mörkö peninsula contained 24,100 silver coins weighing 4.7 kg.
- The Amazon River is the world's largest river by discharge volume and flows roughly 4,200 miles from the Andes to Atlantic Ocean.
- Numismatic discoveries of silver hoards help historians reconstruct medieval trade networks and regional minting standards.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Archaeological coin discoveries and geographical explorations provide vital empirical frameworks for understanding historical economic routes and physical geography.

DIMENSIONS

- **Numismatic Evidence:** Ancient silver coins serve as primary indicators of commercial monetization, trade networks, and regional political authority.
- **Riverine Ecosystem Geography:** Transcontinental river basins like the Amazon display complex hydrological profiles, rich biodiversity, and distinct human geography.
- **Heritage Conservation Protocols:** Scientific extraction, documentation, and state heritage management ensure historical artifacts remain preserved for public knowledge.

Way forward: Strengthen statutory heritage protection frameworks, encourage systematic numismatic cataloging, and utilize satellite cartography for river basin studies.

PYQ LINK

Examines numismatic evidence in reconstructing economic history and geographical features of major river basins, echoing UPSC Mains 2021 GS Paper I.

KEY TERMS

Medieval Numismatics

Viking Age Coins

Amazon Basin

Geographical Explorations

Archaeological Preservation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Infrastructure & Heritage Conservation: Public Financing and Historic Structure Preservation



STORY 1 **Times of India**

United States Approves \$2.52 Billion Infrastructure Loan for Alabama Bridge Project

The US Department of Transportation approved a \$2.52 billion low-interest federal loan for the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway infrastructure project.

The project is located in southern Alabama, managing key freight transit corridors along the Gulf Coast Interstate 10 highway network.

Total project expenditure is estimated at \$4.15 billion, featuring a high-clearance cable-stayed bridge designed to relieve severe regional traffic bottlenecks.

A core objective of the engineering overhaul is rerouting hazardous material transport away from heavily populated urban tunnels to dedicated bridge lanes.

The initiative highlights public infrastructure financing models using low-cost federal loans to modernize aging transit corridors and improve hazardous material safety.



Wisconsin County Delays Demolition of Historic 1897 Jail Museum for Preservation Review

Local officials in Wisconsin voted overwhelmingly to halt the planned demolition of a historic 19th-century jail museum to evaluate preservation alternatives.

The decision was finalized by the Clark County Board in Neillsville following an extensive public consultation session with local community heritage advocates.

The county board voted 26-1 to enact a three-month moratorium on a \$259,000 demolition plan previously slated due to structural water damage.

The 1897 building, listed on national and state historic registers, faced replacement by a municipal parking lot owing to maintenance and heating costs.

The case demonstrates public governance tensions between municipal structure maintenance costs and public policies aimed at protecting historic heritage infrastructure.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzes public infrastructure debt instruments, hazardous cargo management, and institutional heritage preservation policies.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Federal low-interest loans represent key infrastructure financing mechanisms for mega-bridge and highway construction projects.
- Cable-stayed bridges utilize direct cables from towers to support deck loads, making them ideal for long-span river crossings.
- Hazardous material (Hazmat) transport planning requires dedicated urban bypasses to minimize industrial accident risks in densely populated areas.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Modern municipal governance requires balancing massive capital investments for transport infrastructure with institutional mechanisms for historic architectural heritage preservation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Infrastructure Financing:** Sovereign and federal credit loans provide long-term capital required for multi-billion dollar transit modernization projects.
- **Public Safety & Logistics:** Rerouting hazardous industrial cargo outside urban congestion zones mitigates disaster vulnerability in civic corridors.
- **Heritage Governance:** Evaluating economic maintenance burdens against cultural heritage preservation when making urban renewal decisions.

Way forward: Deploy innovative bond financing for public transit infrastructure while establishing heritage trust funds to sustain historical structures adaptively.

Evaluates public financing mechanisms for urban infrastructure and policy frameworks for heritage structure conservation, reflecting UPSC Mains 2022 GS Paper I & III.

KEY TERMS

Infrastructure Loan

Hazmat Transport

Historic Preservation

Demolition Moratorium

Urban Planning

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Highways Authority of India Act 1988

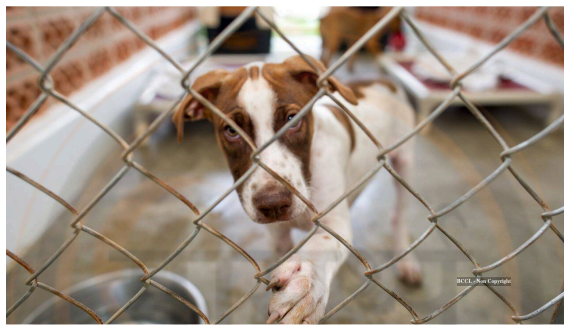
Disaster Management Act 2005

Article 49 of the Constitution

08

SOCIAL ISSUES & SPORTS

Community Governance & Sports Achievements: Indigenous Welfare and Asian Games Success



STORY 1 Times of India

First On-Reserve Animal Shelter Opened in Manitoba First Nation Community

Indigenous activist June Thomas established Manitoba's first on-reserve animal shelter to manage stray animal populations and improve public health safety.

The facility operates at Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation in southern Manitoba, operated by the non-profit Ginew Animal Care Services.

The effort surveyed 200 homes, facilitated over 65 animal sterilizations, and provided veterinary care directly within the indigenous community.

The shelter addresses long-standing challenges involving unvaccinated stray dogs, reducing disease transmission and the need for off-reserve animal transfers.

The initiative highlights community-led welfare solutions within autonomous indigenous reserves, offering models for rural health and animal population control.



STORY 2 The Hindu

Indian Women's Cricket Team Clinches First Gold Medal at 2026 Asian Games

The Indian Women's Cricket Team secured India's first gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games with a decisive victory in the tournament final.

The match took place at the Karogi Athletic Park in Nisshin, near Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, during the 20th Asian Games competition.

Led by captain Harmanpreet Kaur, India posted 216/3 and bowled out Sri Lanka for 69, securing victory by 147 runs.

The victory successfully defended India's Asian Games gold title while Indian shooters added multiple silver and bronze medals in 10m rifle events.

The sporting achievement demonstrates the rising global competitiveness of Indian women athletes supported by targeted sports development and training programs.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluates community-led social interventions in indigenous reserves and analyzes India's sporting performance at Asian multilateral events.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The 20th Asian Games in 2026 are hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- Indian Women's Cricket Team defended their Asian Games title by defeating Sri Lanka in the 2026 final.
- Community-led health initiatives in autonomous tribal reserves demonstrate localized model effectiveness in disease vector control.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Inclusive development requires empowering local indigenous communities with decentralized welfare initiatives while nurturing national sporting excellence through systemic grassroots support.

DIMENSIONS

- **Decentralized Tribal Governance:** Empowering reserve communities to design localized sanitation, animal welfare, and health solutions.
- **Gender Inclusion in Sports:** Targeted investments in women's sports yield international victories, boosting national prestige and youth participation.
- **Public Health Resilience:** Addressing zoonotic health vectors in rural and indigenous settlements prevents broader public health risks.

Way forward: Institutionalize autonomous community welfare programs and scale up the Khelo India framework to support elite athletic talent across all disciplines.

PYQ LINK

Discusses community-led welfare models for vulnerable populations and institutional strategies for sports development, reflecting UPSC Mains 2020 GS Paper II.

KEY TERMS

Indigenous Governance

Animal Welfare Shelter

Asian Games 2026

Women's Cricket Gold

Sports Infrastructure

ACTS & ARTICLES

Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution

National Sports Development Code

Article 243G of the Constitution



Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNGA 81st Session: Reform of Multilateral Institutions and Regional Security Dynamics

UN Secretary-General Calls for Urgent Security Council Reform at 81st General Assembly

Q1. With reference to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and its structural reform discussions, consider the following statements: 1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations serves a tenure of five years per term. 2. Proposed reforms to the UN Security Council require amendments to the UN Charter. 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

SECURITY & LAW

Internal Security & Judicial Process: Narcotics Elimination Roadmap and UAPA Interim Relief

Union Home Ministry Targets Complete Elimination of National Drug Trade by 2029

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding anti-narcotics enforcement strategies in India: 1. The Union Home Ministry has set a national target to uproot the drug trade by December 31, 2029. 2. Financial audits and tracking digital profits of drug cartels form a key component of the new enforcement approach. 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

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ECONOMY

International Trade & Geopolitics: Trade Investigations and Middle East Security Coalitions

United States Delays India Trade Deal Pending Section 301 Competitor Probes

Q3. In the context of international trade policy, what does 'Section 301' under the United States Trade Act primarily empower the US government to do?

- A. Grant immediate duty-free quota access to developing nations.
- B. Investigate and impose trade sanctions or tariffs on foreign trade practices deemed unfair or restrictive.
- C. Provide bilateral aid to nations experiencing severe balance of payments crises.
- D. Regulate foreign direct investment inflows into domestic US defense sectors.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration: Global Landscape Restoration and Species Migration

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Nests on California Coast in Recorded First

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Olive Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*): 1. They are best known for synchronized mass nesting events called Arribadas. 2. Natural nesting of Olive Ridley turtles on the US West Coast in California was recently recorded by NOAA for the first time. 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

SOCIAL ISSUES & SPORTS

Community Governance & Sports Achievements: Indigenous Welfare and Asian Games Success

Indian Women's Cricket Team Clinches First Gold Medal at 2026 Asian Games

Q5. Where are the 20th Asian Games (2026) being held?

- A. Hangzhou, China
- B. Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
- C. Doha, Qatar
- D. Bangkok, Thailand



Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

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

Statement 1 is correct: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is serving his second five-year tenure, which ends in December 2026. Statement 2 is correct: Reforming the UN Security Council, including expanding permanent seats or altering veto powers, requires amending the UN Charter under Article 108.

Q2 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a target date of December 31, 2029, to completely eliminate the drug trade from India, stressing that enforcement agencies must shift from simple drug seizures to financial investigations and digital link tracing to break trafficking networks.

Q3**Option B · Investigate and impose trade sanctions or tariffs on foreign trade practices deemed unfair or restrictive.**

Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974 grants the Office of the US Trade Representative authority to investigate foreign trade practices that are unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory, and to enforce US rights under trade agreements or impose unilateral trade sanctions/tariffs.

Q4 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Olive Ridley turtles are renowned for 'arribadas' (mass nesting). NOAA confirmed that an Olive Ridley turtle nested at Seal Beach, California, marking the first recorded natural nesting event by any sea turtle species on the US West Coast.

Q5 Option B · Aichi-Nagoya, Japan

The 20th Asian Games 2026 are hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where the Indian Women's Cricket Team won India's first gold medal of the games by defeating Sri Lanka.