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DAILY UPSC COMPANION

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Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

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Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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Manufacturing Sector Metrics and Industrial Policy Assessment



STORY 1 The Hindu

Twelve years of Make in India shows patchy growth and limited sector gains

The Make in India initiative completed twelve years since its launch on September 25, 2014, prompting a comprehensive review across key economic performance metrics.

Senior economic analyst TCA Sharad Raghavan evaluated the campaign across twelve core indicators spanning industrial growth, domestic investment, employment generation, and global export shares.

Data indicates that manufacturing share in India's total economic output and exports remains largely unchanged, with recent production incentives achieving success primarily in limited sectors.

While targeted incentive schemes spurred growth in specific industries, broader structural metrics reflecting an overall business-enabling environment continue to underperform across major industrial regions.

This performance analysis provides critical empirical grounding for evaluating industrial policy design, incentive effectiveness, and factor market bottlenecks under GS Paper 3 economic growth themes.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluating the structural impact of Make in India and PLI schemes on industrial GVA, employment generation, and global export share.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Make in India initiative was launched on September 25, 2014, to boost domestic manufacturing and increase its share in GDP.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes offer financial incentives to companies based on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- Manufacturing sector contribution to India's Gross Value Added (GVA) has remained stagnant around 16-17 percent over the past decade.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Twelve years after the launch of Make in India, manufacturing continues to face structural bottlenecks, requiring a shift from subsidy-driven incentives to ecosystem-wide factor market reforms.

DIMENSIONS

- **Growth and GVA stagnation:** Limited expansion of manufacturing share in GDP due to persistent high logistics costs and regulatory friction.
- **Employment elasticity:** Failure of capital-intensive industrial growth to absorb surplus labor moving out of the agricultural sector.
- **Sectoral concentration of PLI:** Gains restricted to high-tech assembly sectors like electronics while traditional labor-intensive industries lag.

Way forward: Focus on comprehensive factor market reforms including land assembly, labor flexibility, power tariff rationalization, and boosting deep R&D infrastructure.

PYQ LINK

Examine the performance of the manufacturing sector in India and analyze whether incentive schemes like PLI can transform India into a global manufacturing hub.

KEY TERMS

Manufacturing Sector

Gross Value Added

Production Linked Incentive

Capital Formation

Export Competitiveness

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Manufacturing Policy 2011

Foreign Trade Policy 2023

Factories Act 1948

02

GS PAPER 2: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Institutional Independence and Judicial Scrutiny of the Election Commission



Supreme Court directs Election Commission to set timeline for party symbol dispute

The Supreme Court declined to stay an interim Election Commission order freezing the All India Trinamool Congress symbol during ongoing byelections.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant in New Delhi directed the poll panel to establish a reasonable adjudication timeline for the leadership dispute.

The dispute centers on rival leadership claims under the Election Symbols Order of 1968, affecting party representation and campaign symbols across constituencies.

The court emphasized that while judicial intervention in interim poll orders is limited, constitutional bodies must not prolong dispute determinations indefinitely without hearing parties.

This judicial directive highlights the constitutional oversight mechanism governing election administration and quasi-judicial functions of the Election Commission under GS Paper 2.

Plea filed in High Court challenging executive orders passed by Chief Election Commissioner

A petition was moved in the Bombay High Court seeking to quash fourteen administrative orders passed by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The legal challenge filed in Mumbai contends that decisions were issued despite formal objections raised during internal Commission proceedings.

The court petition raises questions regarding administrative unanimity, procedural fairness, and statutory compliance within the constitutional election body.

This filing comes amid heightened parliamentary scrutiny and notices regarding the functioning and decision-making processes of the election authority.

The development serves as a practical case study for understanding judicial review of constitutional bodies and electoral administrative governance in India.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examining judicial oversight on the Election Commission's quasi-judicial powers regarding party symbol disputes and removal procedures for constitutional authorities.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the Election Commission to decide disputes among splinter groups of a recognized party.
- Article 324(5) of the Constitution stipulates that the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

- Interim orders passed by the Election Commission freezing party symbols operate during ongoing elections until final dispute adjudication.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Ensuring timely dispute resolution and protecting the Election Commission from procedural arbitrariness are essential for sustaining public trust in India's democratic institutional architecture.

DIMENSIONS

- **Quasi-judicial timelines:** Delays in deciding internal party leadership disputes can freeze symbols indefinitely, impacting democratic party functioning.
- **Judicial review boundaries:** Courts balance non-interference in ongoing electoral processes with ensuring time-bound adjudication of constitutional bodies.
- **Removal procedures and safeguards:** High threshold for CEC removal under Article 324 protects independent constitutional functioning from partisan legislative pressures.

Way forward: Establish statutory timelines for symbol dispute adjudication under the 1968 Order and ensure transparent, multi-stakeholder mechanisms for Commission functioning.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections and evaluate the need for constitutional safeguards to maintain its autonomy.

KEY TERMS

Election Symbols Order 1968

Chief Election Commissioner

Article 324

Quasi-Judicial Powers

Constitutional Authorities

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 324 of the Constitution

Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968

Representation of the People Act 1951

03

GS PAPER 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT

Disaster Preparedness and Ecological Regulation in Vulnerable Hill Regimes



Wayanad administration halts quarrying and tourism following severe weather alerts

The Wayanad district administration in Kerala ordered the immediate suspension of all quarrying activities, adventure tourism, and forest trekking sites.

District Collector V. Chelsasini issued the emergency regulatory orders in her capacity as Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority.

The directive follows heavy rainfall alerts from the India Meteorological Department, targeting high-risk areas including Chooralmala, Mundakkai, and tunnel construction corridors.

Local grama panchayat and municipal secretaries were instructed to arrange relocation camps for vulnerable populations threatened by soil erosion and landslides.

This administrative action illustrates practical disaster mitigation strategies and localized risk prevention under the Disaster Management Act framework.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluating preemptive disaster mitigation measures, land-use controls, and quarrying restrictions in ecologically fragile Western Ghats districts.

PRELIMS FACTS

- District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) are chaired by the District Collector under Section 25 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Heavy rainfall alerts issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) trigger mandatory precautionary suspensions of hazardous economic activities.
- Eco-sensitive zones in the Western Ghats require strict land-use zoning to prevent slope destabilization caused by quarrying and heavy tourism.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Proactive enforcement of disaster risk reduction policies in ecologically fragile terrain like Wayanad is vital to prevent catastrophic slope failures during severe weather events.

DIMENSIONS

- **Regulatory enforcement:** Suspension of quarrying and mining operations to prevent ground vibration and slope disruption during monsoon bursts.
- **Preemptive community relocation:** Early evacuation protocols for populations living near construction corridors and historical landslide tracks.
- **Ecosystem-based adaptation:** Regulating high-impact adventure tourism and land clearing in designated high-hazard vulnerability zones.

Way forward: Implement Gadgil/Kasturirangan committee recommendations on Western Ghats zoning alongside real-time micro-level landslide early warning systems.

Discuss the vulnerability of the Western Ghats region to landslides and evaluate the effectiveness of local disaster management frameworks in mitigating climate risks.

KEY TERMS

Disaster Risk Reduction

Ecologically Sensitive Zones

Landslide Susceptibility

District Disaster Management Authority

Western Ghats

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act 2005

Environment Protection Act 1986

Kerala Municipality Act 1994

04

GS PAPER 2: GOVERNANCE & HEALTH

Artificial Intelligence and Primary Healthcare Empowerment



STORY 1 The Hindu

ASHA workers in Assam assist design of AI platform for cervical cancer screening

Around 110 Accredited Social Health Activists in Assam's Barak Valley collaborated with medical experts to design an AI-enabled cancer screening platform.

The collaborative effort was organized in Silchar by the George Institute for Global Health India and Cachar Cancer Hospital.

The project forms part of an Indian Council of Medical Research funded three-year pilot study leveraging AI and multilingual voice chatbots for community counselling.

ASHAs shared field insights regarding rural counselling obstacles, technology usability, and patient navigation to tailor digital training tools to ground realities.

This operational model demonstrates effective public health innovation combining grassroots worker insights with artificial intelligence for GS Paper 2 healthcare objectives.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Assessing the role of AI-enabled training tools and ASHA worker collaboration in improving rural non-communicable disease screening.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) are community health workers instituted under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer mortality among women in rural India, primary prevention relies on HPV screening and early detection.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) funds digital health innovation studies to enhance capacity building among primary healthcare providers.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Integrating AI-driven decision support tools with grassroots health networks empowers frontline workers and addresses chronic diagnostic shortages in rural healthcare.

DIMENSIONS

- **Grassroots co-design:** Involving ASHAs ensures digital tools account for local literacy levels, linguistic barriers, and field operational constraints.
- **Early diagnostic scalability:** AI chatbots assist non-specialist health personnel in identifying high-risk cervical lesions and improving referral pathways.
- **Data privacy and ethical AI:** Protecting sensitive patient health data during digital screening trials in remote community health centers.

Way forward: Scale up AI-assisted frontline clinical training modules across National Health Mission programs with robust institutional data protection protocols.

PYQ LINK

Analyze how digital healthcare solutions and frontline health workers can combinedly improve primary healthcare delivery and early disease detection in rural India.

KEY TERMS

ASHA Workers

Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Cervical Cancer Screening

ICMR Pilot Study

Multilingual Chatbots

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Health Policy 2017

Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023

National Rural Health Mission Framework

05

GS PAPER 3: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Marine Conservation Technologies and Coastal Habitat Recovery



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Replacing traditional anchors with eco-moorings reduces seagrass scarring by 94 percent

A five-year marine study at Studland Bay demonstrated that replacing conventional boat anchors with eco-moorings reduced seagrass scarring by 94 percent.

Research conducted by Kira Dunn from the University of Southampton monitored seabed recovery following eco-mooring installations by local marine conservation groups.

Data revealed that bare seabed patches shrank dramatically, while control areas with traditional chain moorings showed significantly lower recovery rates of 65 percent.

Marine biologists reported that recovering seagrass meadows are actively supporting expanding populations of native seahorses and other benthic marine organisms.

This study offers key technical evidence for sustainable marine management, coastal biodiversity protection, and blue carbon conservation strategies under GS Paper 3.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluating sustainable marine management practices, eco-mooring infrastructure, and seagrass meadow restoration for coastal biodiversity.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that form vast underwater meadows, providing critical nursery habitats and sequestering blue carbon.
- Eco-moorings utilize flexible helical screws or elastic risers anchored to the seabed, preventing heavy chain dragging that destroys marine benthic vegetation.
- Seahorses rely heavily on dense seagrass canopy structures for shelter, camouflage, and feeding grounds.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Replacing destructive traditional anchoring systems with eco-friendly marine infrastructure offers an effective technological path for restoring degraded coastal ecosystems.

DIMENSIONS

- **Benthic habitat protection:** Eliminating mechanical scarring caused by heavy anchor chains allows native seagrass beds to naturally regenerate.

- **Biodiversity recovery:** Restored seagrass habitats lead to population recovery of sensitive marine organisms like seahorses and juvenile fish species.
- **Blue carbon benefits:** Intact seagrass meadows act as long-term carbon sinks, capturing atmospheric carbon up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests.

Way forward: Mandate eco-mooring installations in protected marine zones, integrate seagrass restoration into Coastal Regulation Zone frameworks, and engage local maritime users.

PYQ LINK

Explain the ecological significance of seagrass beds in coastal ecosystems and discuss human intervention strategies for marine habitat restoration.

KEY TERMS

Seagrass Meadows

Eco-Moorings

Marine Biodiversity

Benthic Habitat Restoration

Coastal Carbon Sequestration

ACTS & ARTICLES

Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019

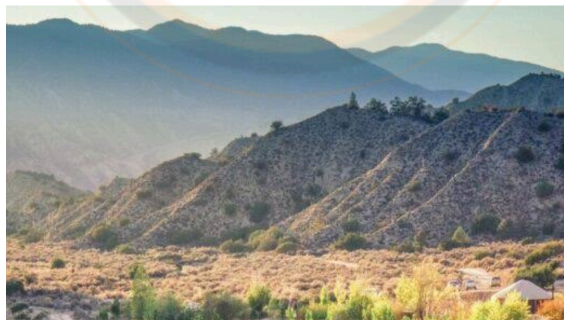
Wildlife Protection Act 1972

UN Convention on Biological Diversity

06

GS PAPER 3: ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

Protected Land Easements and Environmental Land Management



STORY 1 Times of India

Historic land grant parcel permanently protected through agricultural conservation easement

A historic 5,650-acre parcel of the Spanish Ranch in California's Cuyama Valley was permanently protected from commercial development through a conservation campaign.

The Doiron family partnered with the California Rangeland Trust to establish a permanent agricultural conservation easement supported by a one million dollar campaign.

The protected land forms the largest surviving portion of an 1843 Mexican land grant spanning across San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

The legal agreement guarantees that working cattle operations continue indefinitely while shielding native oak forests, headwaters, and critical wildlife corridors.

This achievement illustrates how legal easement frameworks and private land trusts can successfully maintain landscape connectivity and protect agricultural biodiversity.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examining private land conservation easements, community land trusts, and public-private partnerships for ecosystem preservation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement that permanently limits land uses to protect its conservation values while retaining private ownership.
- Agricultural conservation easements prevent non-agricultural development, industrialization, and land fragmentation on historic farm properties.
- Protecting contiguous private ranches establishes critical landscape-scale wildlife corridors between public national parks and forest reserves.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Agricultural conservation easements represent an innovative policy mechanism for preserving critical biodiversity corridors and working lands without acquiring public ownership.

DIMENSIONS

- **Legal protection mechanisms:** Permanent easements legally separate development rights from land ownership, ensuring long-term environmental stewardship.
- **Corridor connectivity:** Preventing subdivision of large contiguous ranches protects habitat connectivity for apex predators and migratory species.
- **Financial and community sustainability:** Grassroots funding combined with land trust partnerships allows private landowners to maintain viable agricultural operations.

Way forward: Incentivize voluntary land conservation agreements in India along eco-sensitive buffers using compensatory tax mechanisms and payment for ecosystem services.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the scope of utilizing legal easements and community land conservation frameworks to protect wildlife corridors and agricultural land from urban encroachment.

KEY TERMS

Conservation Easement

Agricultural Land Protection

Wildlife Corridors

Land Use Regulation

Ecosystem Preservation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Indian Easements Act 1882

Biological Diversity Act 2002

Forest Conservation Act 1980

Organic Agriculture and Farm Diversification Strategies



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Texas agricultural operation wins efficiency award following successful organic diversification

Agriculturalist Henry Froese successfully built a multi-crop farming enterprise in Gaines County, Texas, spanning organic peanuts, cotton, livestock, and vineyards.

Operating across challenging sandy soils, Froese demonstrated that organic farming and viticulture are economically viable without traditional family capital.

His twenty-two-year operational expansion earned him the prestigious 2026 Peanut Efficiency Award for sustainable yield performance in the Southwest region.

The farm incorporates sustainable soil management, water efficiency techniques, and integrated crop-livestock rotation to maintain high productivity across diverse commodities.

This success case offers practical insights into farm diversification, soil resilience, and agricultural entrepreneurship relevant to GS Paper 3 farming systems.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Analyzing climate-resilient farming systems, crop diversification, organic soil management, and micro-irrigation efficiency.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Organic peanut cultivation requires specialized soil organic matter management to maintain yields in sandy, low-fertility soils.
- Crop diversification combining leguminous crops with vineyards and livestock improves on-farm nitrogen fixation and soil health.
- Efficient irrigation scheduling and crop selection significantly boost water productivity in semi-arid agricultural regions.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Adopting diversified organic farming systems enables agricultural enterprises to build climate resilience, improve soil health, and secure economic viability in marginal soils.

DIMENSIONS

- **Soil health restoration:** Utilizing organic practices in sandy soils restores microbial activity, improves moisture retention, and reduces chemical input dependence.
- **Risk mitigation through diversification:** Combining annual legume cash crops with perennial viticulture and livestock hedges against single-crop failure.
- **Water productivity enhancement:** Precision water management in drylands ensures sustainable groundwater utilization under changing climatic conditions.

Way forward: Expand institutional credit support for organic transition periods, promote bio-inputs, and strengthen market linkages under schemes like PKVY.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the role of crop diversification and organic farming practices in enhancing farm income resilience against climate anomalies and soil degradation.

KEY TERMS

Organic Farming

Crop Diversification

Soil Micro-climate

Resource-Use Efficiency

Sustainable Agriculture

ACTS & ARTICLES

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

08

GS PAPER 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & INDIAN DIASPORA

Global Skilled Labor Mobility and Immigration Regulatory Enforcement



United States administration issues warnings against replacing domestic workers with H-1B holders

United States Vice President JD Vance issued a stern warning to corporate entities against replacing domestic workers with foreign H-1B visa holders.

The White House released an executive fact sheet outlining stricter compliance measures to scrutinize corporate hiring histories and prevent worker layoffs.

Department of Labor Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito reiterated that administrative audits will target firms terminating domestic staff while sponsoring foreign visas.

The regulatory crackdown enforces executive orders mandating strict evaluation of employment petitions to deter low-cost foreign labor substitution across technology sectors.

This policy shift carries major strategic implications for Indian technology firms, skilled labor migration, and diaspora economic interests under GS Paper 2.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examining changes in foreign labor visa regulations, domestic employment protection mandates, and implications for Indian IT professionals.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa category allowing United States companies to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- Executive orders regulating specialty visas mandate enhanced employer scrutiny regarding displacement of domestic workers prior to foreign hiring.
- Indian technology professionals constitute the largest percentage of annual H-1B visa beneficiaries issued worldwide.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Stricter regulatory scrutiny on foreign non-immigrant work visas highlights shifting global labor dynamics, necessitating strategy shifts for Indian technology exporters.

DIMENSIONS

- **Economic impact on IT exporters:** Increased visa compliance costs and audit risks compel Indian IT firms to shift toward nearshoring and domestic hiring.
- **Protectionist policy trends:** Legislative and executive measures in destination countries prioritize domestic labor protection over global talent cost arbitrage.
- **Diaspora uncertainty:** Tighter scrutiny creates residence stability challenges and career mobility constraints for high-skilled Indian professionals abroad.

Way forward: Strengthen bilateral labor mobility partnerships, advocate for predictable immigration frameworks, and accelerate high-value domestic R&D services.

Discuss the impact of changing immigration and work visa policies in major developed economies on the Indian IT services sector and diaspora mobility.

KEY TERMS

H-1B Visa

Skilled Labor Mobility

Executive Order Scrutiny

Indian Diaspora

Workforce Displacement Controls

ACTS & ARTICLES

US Immigration and Nationality Act

Bilateral Migration and Mobility Partnerships

Article 19(1)(g) Mobility Principles

09

GS PAPER 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GLOBAL HEALTH

Regional Immunization Policies and Epidemic Disease Control

STORY 1

Google News

WHO South-East Asia immunization experts meet to address measles outbreaks and immunity gaps

Health experts and immunization advisory groups from the WHO South-East Asia region convened to formulate urgent strategies against recurring measles outbreaks.

The regional consultation focused on identifying population immunity gaps caused by routine vaccination disruptions and sub-optimal coverage across member countries.

Delegates evaluated technical frameworks to accelerate catch-up campaigns, strengthen epidemiological surveillance, and reinforce primary healthcare delivery channels.

The expert committee emphasized achieving ninety-five percent coverage with two doses of measles vaccine to build herd immunity and prevent child mortality.

This regional health initiative highlights institutional mechanisms for managing communicable diseases and international health governance under GS Paper 2 topics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluating regional immunization strategies, vaccine-preventable disease containment, and WHO South-East Asia regional health cooperation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Measles is a highly contagious, airborne viral disease that can be effectively prevented through two doses of the Measles-Containing Vaccine (MCV).
- The WHO South-East Asia Region has set a regional target for the elimination of measles and rubella through high routine immunization coverage.

- Immunity gaps arise when routine immunization coverage falls below 95 percent, leading to localized outbreak resurgences among vulnerable children.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Addressing widening immunity gaps through coordinated regional strategies is essential to eliminate measles resurgences and fortify global health security.

DIMENSIONS

- **Epidemiological risks:** Low coverage pockets lead to explosive measles outbreaks, threatening regional elimination milestones and child survival goals.
- **Health system recovery:** Post-pandemic disruption of routine immunization schedules requires targeted catch-up vaccination campaigns in high-density districts.
- **Cross-border surveillance:** Regional technical collaboration enables rapid outbreak response, joint data sharing, and standardized diagnostic protocols.

Way forward: Strengthen routine immunization delivery, mobilize community awareness against vaccine hesitancy, and sustain WHO regional technical support.

PYQ LINK

Examine the role of international health organizations in eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases and closing regional immunization coverage gaps.

KEY TERMS

Measles Outbreaks

Immunity Gaps

WHO South-East Asia Region

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Routine Immunization

ACTS & ARTICLES

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

WHO International Health Regulations 2005

Mission Indradhanush Framework

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

GS PAPER 3: INDIAN ECONOMY

Manufacturing Sector Metrics and Industrial Policy Assessment

Twelve years of Make in India shows patchy growth and limited sector gains

Q1. With reference to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in India, consider the following statements: 1. Financial incentives under the scheme are provided directly on incremental sales from goods manufactured in domestic units. 2. The scheme covers only the electronics and semiconductor sectors to reduce import dependency. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

GS PAPER 2: POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Institutional Independence and Judicial Scrutiny of the Election Commission

Supreme Court directs Election Commission to set timeline for party symbol dispute

Q2. Under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, which authority is empowered to resolve disputes between rival sections or splinter groups of a recognized political party regarding its name and symbol?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. Supreme Court of India | B. Election Commission of India |
| C. Union Ministry of Law and Justice | D. Delimitation Commission |

GS PAPER 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT

Disaster Preparedness and Ecological Regulation in Vulnerable Hill Regimes

Wayanad administration halts quarrying and tourism following severe weather alerts

Q3. Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, who acts as the ex-officio Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. District Magistrate / District Collector / Deputy Commissioner | B. Superintendent of Police of the district |
| C. Elected Chairperson of the Zilla Parishad | D. State Disaster Management Minister |

GS PAPER 3: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Marine Conservation Technologies and Coastal Habitat Recovery

Replacing traditional anchors with eco-moorings reduces seagrass scarring by 94 percent

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding seagrass ecosystem conservation is/are correct? 1. Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that form underwater meadows in shallow coastal waters. 2. Eco-moorings reduce benthic habitat damage

by avoiding the dragging of heavy anchor chains across the seabed. 3. Seagrass meadows act as blue carbon sinks, sequestering carbon significantly faster than terrestrial forests. 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 |

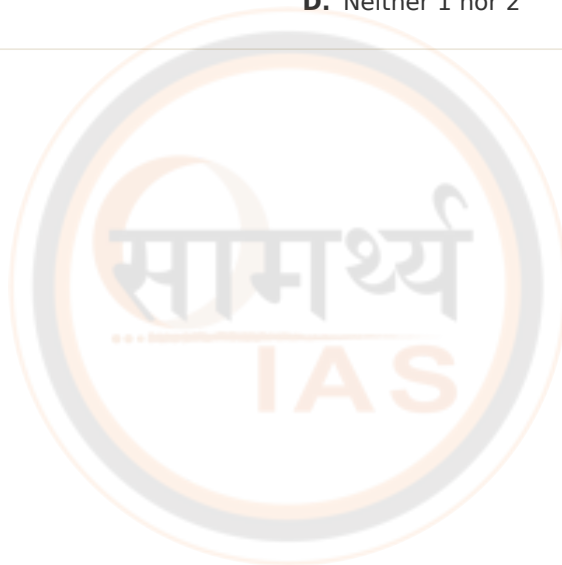
GS PAPER 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & GLOBAL HEALTH

Regional Immunization Policies and Epidemic Disease Control

WHO South-East Asia immunization experts meet to address measles outbreaks and immunity gaps

Q5. Which of the following statements regarding Measles and its prevention is/are correct? 1. Measles is a non-communicable bacterial infection that primarily affects the central nervous system. 2. Sustaining a minimum herd immunity threshold of 95 percent with two doses of vaccine is essential to interrupt transmission. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 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: A**Q2: B****Q3: A****Q4: D****Q5: B****Q1 Option A · 1 only**

Statement 1 is correct as PLI offers financial incentives based on incremental sales from domestic manufacturing. Statement 2 is incorrect because the scheme spans 14 key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, and solar modules, not just electronics.

Q2 Option B · Election Commission of India

Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 explicitly empowers the Election Commission of India to decide disputes among rival sections or splinter groups of a recognized political party claiming its name and symbol.

Q3 Option A · District Magistrate / District Collector / Deputy Commissioner

Section 25 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 specifies that the District Collector, District Magistrate, or Deputy Commissioner of the district acts as the ex-officio Chairperson of the DDMA.

Q4 Option D · 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Seagrasses are marine angiosperms (flowering plants) that form key benthic habitats, eco-moorings prevent chain dragging, and seagrass beds are highly efficient blue carbon ecosystems.

Q5 Option B · 2 only

Statement 1 is incorrect as Measles is a highly contagious viral disease (caused by a morbillivirus), not a bacterial non-communicable disease. Statement 2 is correct as 95% two-dose vaccination coverage is required for herd immunity.