



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

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MONDAY

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MCQS

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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Sustainable Transport Infrastructure and Railway Decarbonisation



STORY 1 The Hindu

Home Minister flags off India's first dual-fuel LNG train from Sabarmati station

Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off India's first dual-fuel Liquefied Natural Gas train from Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad alongside Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

The new dual-fuel train utilizes up to 40 percent LNG in its Driving Power Car, significantly reducing total reliance on conventional diesel fuel during operation.

Indian Railways consumed 293 crore litres of diesel during 2015-16, and the central government aims to reduce total rail diesel consumption to absolute zero by 2030.

The initiative was showcased alongside the powerful WAG-12 electric locomotive, highlighting modern infrastructure upgrades including Dedicated Freight Corridors and rapid rail transit systems.

This technological advancement aligns with India's broader climate commitments by lowering carbon intensity in transport networks and advancing national sustainable infrastructure goals for UPSC GS-3.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Evaluates Indian Railways' green transition strategies, alternative fuels, and targets for net-zero carbon emissions in transport.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's first dual-fuel LNG train incorporates up to 40% Liquefied Natural Gas in its Driving Power Car.
- Indian Railways consumed 293 crore litres of diesel in 2015-16, with a target to reduce diesel consumption to zero by 2030.
- The WAG-12 electric locomotive is deployed alongside dual-fuel power cars to enhance heavy-haul freight transport efficiency.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The operationalisation of India's first dual-fuel LNG train marks a significant technological leap towards decarbonising the national rail network and achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

DIMENSIONS

- **Environmental Impact:** Transitioning from diesel to dual-fuel LNG and electrification significantly lowers particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions across major rail corridors.
- **Economic Efficiency:** Reduces India's massive fuel import bill and reliance on imported crude oil while lowering operational expenditure for Indian Railways.
- **Technological Integration:** Adoption of high-capacity WAG-12 electric locomotives alongside LNG technology optimizes heavy freight logistics and improves train speeds.

Way forward: Accelerate global best practices in green hydrogen propulsion, complete 100% railway track electrification, and expand Dedicated Freight Corridors to maximize modal shift from road to rail.

PYQ LINK

Examine the role of infrastructure development and sustainable energy adoption in achieving India's climate goals.

KEY TERMS

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Net-Zero Emissions

Dedicated Freight DFC

WAG-12 Electric Locomotive

Decarbonisation

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Energy Conservation Act, 2001

02

GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE & JUDICIARY

Judicial Supervision and Infrastructure in POCSO Special Courts



Kerala High Court directs state government to ensure mandated facilities at POCSO courts

The Kerala High Court directed the State government to ensure all special courts under the POCSO Act comply with statutory guidelines due to observed infrastructure deficiencies.

A Division Bench led by Chief Justice Soumen Sen instructed the government to disclose additional court requirements in compliance with binding Supreme Court directives across districts.

Apex court mandates stipulate that every district with more than 100 registered POCSO cases must establish dedicated special courts funded jointly by central and state authorities.

The court highlighted the State's failure to appoint required exclusive public prosecutors, ordering immediate provision of suitable physical space and full infrastructure for designated courtrooms.

This judicial intervention highlights enforcement mechanisms of statutory rights, court administration standards, and state accountability under child protection laws for civil service aspirants.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on judicial enforcement of child protection laws, structural adequacy in special courts, and constitutional guarantees of speedy trial.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Supreme Court directives mandate dedicated POCSO special courts in districts registering over 100 cases under the POCSO Act, 2012.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act mandates child-friendly court infrastructure and trial procedures to prevent re-traumatisation.
- The Union government provides financial support to states for appointing presiding officers, exclusive public prosecutors, and auxiliary staff for POCSO courts.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The Kerala High Court's directive underlines systemic gaps in special court infrastructure, highlighting the legal imperative to protect child victims through dedicated judicial mechanisms.

DIMENSIONS

- **Infrastructure & Accessibility:** Failure to establish child-friendly courtrooms and separate waiting spaces compromised the psychological well-being of young victims during legal proceedings.
- **Human Resource Deficits:** Non-appointment of exclusive Special Public Prosecutors leads to procedural delays, case backlogs, and compromised trial outcomes.
- **Federal Responsibility:** Highlights the shared statutory and financial burden between the Union and state governments in sustaining Fast Track Special Courts.

Way forward: Establish mandatory quarterly judicial compliance audits, ensure dedicated budgetary allocation for court infrastructure, and recruit permanent child psychologists and specialized legal officers.

PYQ LINK

Critically evaluate the implementation of special court mechanisms for vulnerable groups under legal mandates in India.

KEY TERMS

POCSO Act 2012

Fast Track Special Courts

Special Public Prosecutors

Child-Friendly Courtrooms

Judicial Mandate

ACTS & ARTICLES

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

Article 21 (Right to Speedy Trial)

Article 39(f) (Directive Principles on Child Welfare)

03

GS PAPER 2 - INDIAN CONSTITUTION & GOVERNANCE

Electoral Governance, Political Contestation, and Local By-Elections



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Nandigram and Rejinagar bypolls face opposition dropout claims ahead of October voting

Bypolls for West Bengal's Nandigram and Rejinagar Assembly constituencies scheduled for October 6 face reduced contestation following opposition candidate dropouts and intimidation complaints.

In Nandigram, representing approximately 2.5 lakh voters with a 27 percent Muslim demographic, non-ruling parties reported severe administrative pressure and field campaigning barriers.

The election marks a notable electoral shift as former regional party leaders contest under newly assigned election symbols rather than traditional party insignia.

Opposition political parties allege widespread voter and candidate coercion, challenging democratic parity across the 17 gram panchayats comprising the strategic Nandigram constituency.

The situation provides relevant insights for UPSC GS-2 regarding ground-level electoral management, candidate protection standards, and institutional oversight during high-stakes state by-elections.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines democratic processes, political neutrality of institutions, candidate security, and the role of the Election Commission in local by-polls.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Assembly bypolls are mandated under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, when a sitting member's seat becomes vacant.
- Unrecognized political parties or candidates whose recognized party symbol is altered must contest on free symbols allotted by the Election Commission.
- Article 324 of the Constitution vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission of India.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Allegations of candidate intimidation and symbol transitions in local assembly by-elections highlight political friction and the critical need for robust electoral oversight.

DIMENSIONS

- **Institutional Trust:** Persistent political friction over electoral processes requires transparent communication and proactive measures by electoral management bodies.
- **Level Playing Field:** Allegations of candidate coercion and intimidation threaten grassroots democracy and multi-party contestation in state assembly seats.
- **Electoral Reforms:** Shifts in party symbols and candidate withdrawals underscore the necessity of strong voter education and strict enforcement of model conduct codes.

Way forward: Strengthen local deployment of central observers, streamline grievance redressal mechanisms, and strictly enforce legal safeguards against pre-poll intimidation.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the statutory role and challenges faced by the Election Commission in ensuring free and fair elections amidst political polarisation.

KEY TERMS

Election Commission of India

Assembly Bypolls

Representation of the People Act

Model Code of Conduct

Electoral Integrity

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 324 (Superintendence of Elections)

Representation of the People Act, 1951

Escalation in West Asia, Strait of Hormuz Crisis, and Regional Diplomacy



STORY 1 The Hindu

Trump expects resumed diplomatic talks with Iran despite rejecting Tehran's truce proposal

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that formal diplomatic talks with Iran could resume despite his immediate rejection of Tehran's recent seven-day truce proposal.

Iranian officials presented a framework at the UN General Assembly requesting an immediate cessation of regional hostilities and reopening of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

President Trump criticized Tehran for overplaying its diplomatic position while reaffirming that potential indirect negotiations could materialize in New York.

The proposed truce aimed to halt hostilities across West Asia, including Lebanon, restoring terms from previously collapsed ceasefires in exchange for maritime access.

The conflict dynamic illustrates diplomatic bargaining tactics, international mediation challenges, and maritime choke point vulnerabilities relevant to UPSC International Relations.



Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu reportedly undertakes unannounced diplomatic visit to the UAE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly made an unannounced single-day visit to the United Arab Emirates to hold top-level talks with President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The high-level diplomatic meeting took place amidst ongoing U.S.-Israel military conflicts involving Iran that erupted earlier in the year across West Asia.

The visit underscores delicate regional diplomatic channels established under the 2020 U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords despite escalating regional security tensions.

Reports surfaced following controversies over intelligence sharing and strategic warnings exchanged between Middle Eastern leaders prior to major regional escalation.

This development highlights fluid security alliances, secret back-channel diplomacy, and geopolitical realignments in West Asia for civil service competitive examinations.



Ex-Israeli Defence Minister Gallant details unheeded intelligence warnings prior to October 7

Former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant revealed that Hamas issued advance warnings prior to October 7, 2023, conveyed through internal security intelligence channels.

Gallant stated that Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar warned of plans to shake the prisons, asserting that key political leadership failed to brief security ministers.

The former minister alleged that crucial security intelligence provided by foreign heads of state was withheld from defense department operational leaders during critical periods.

Gallant emphasized that strategic warnings received from foreign nations should be treated as paramount security matters rather than internal political tools.

The disclosure offers strategic insights into national security decision-making, intelligence assessment failures, and command-and-control protocols relevant to international security studies.

Analyzes maritime choke points, international security, diplomatic negotiations, and the geo-economic impact of West Asian conflicts on global energy supply chains.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime choke point connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- The Remus 600 is a high-end unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) designed for undersea oceanographic mapping, search, and hydrographic survey operations.
- The Abraham Accords, brokered in 2020, facilitated formal diplomatic normalization between Israel and Arab nations including the United Arab Emirates.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The ongoing confrontation involving Iran, the United States, and Israel around the Strait of Hormuz directly threatens global maritime security and energy stability.

DIMENSIONS

- **Global Energy Security:** Stalemates over Hormuz shipping routes send crude oil prices upward, triggering global inflationary pressures and energy vulnerability for net importers like India.
- **Diplomatic Stalemate:** Demands for upfront sanctions relief versus verified nuclear compliance create recurring negotiation deadlocks between Washington and Tehran.
- **Sub-Surface Security Dynamics:** Cyber, electronic warfare, and underwater drone operations reflect an escalating grey-zone warfare dimension in international waters.

Way forward: Promote multilateral maritime confidence-building measures, de-escalate regional friction through regional frameworks, and safeguard international shipping lanes under UNCLOS.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security and India's trade interests amidst regional geopolitical instability.

KEY TERMS

Strait of Hormuz **Maritime Choke Point** **Abraham Accords** **Sanctions Relief**
Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV)

ACTS & ARTICLES

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) **UN Security Council Resolution 2231**
International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions

05

GS PAPER 3 - BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION

Landscape Connectivity, Ecological Corridors, and Habitat Protection



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Yellowstone to Yukon conservation initiative named finalist for 2026 Earthshot Prize

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, launched in 1993, was selected as one of 15 global finalists for Prince William's 2026 Earthshot Prize.

Over 33 years, the cross-border initiative has constructed 204 dedicated wildlife crossings and protected approximately 24 million hectares along a 3,400-kilometre Rocky Mountain corridor.

The landscape corridor project brings together Indigenous Nations, government bodies, scientists, and private landholders to facilitate safe long-distance animal migrations.

The conservation effort was originally inspired by satellite movement tracking of a collared wolf named Pluie that traversed expansive multi-state territories.

This initiative offers exemplary models for UPSC GS-3 concerning landscape-scale habitat restoration, linear infrastructure mitigation, and transboundary ecosystem management.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

California acquires 640 acres of desert land for climate-resilient Joshua tree protection

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife completed the purchase of 640 acres near Pioneertown to protect climate-resilient western Joshua tree habitats.

Environmental modeling identifies the San Bernardino County parcel as one of the most viable long-term refugia for western Joshua trees amid rising global temperatures.

State conservation authorities are partnering with the Native American Land Conservancy and local tribes to establish joint co-management and long-term protection plans.

The acquisition targets critical climate refugia to ensure flora survival, combining ecological forecasting with traditional ecological knowledge systems.

The strategy illustrates climate-adaptive conservation planning, species protection legalities, and indigenous collaborative management frameworks for environmental studies.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

South Carolina acquires 4,148 acres to establish new Carvers Bay State Forest

South Carolina state authorities approved plans to acquire 4,148 acres in Georgetown County to establish the newly designated Carvers Bay State Forest.

The land purchase forms part of an expansive 8,000-acre conservation intervention designed to prevent commercial resort development and preserve coastal timberlands.

The State Department of Natural Resources will simultaneously manage an adjoining 3,492-acre reserve to protect coastal watersheds and regional biodiversity.

Local educational and civic boards backed the acquisition to curb rapid residential sprawl and preserve critical natural drainage infrastructure against climate risks.

This case provides valuable insights into land-use planning, public forest land acquisition strategies, and urban sprawl containment mechanisms relevant to UPSC aspirants.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines landscape-scale conservation, wildlife corridors, habitat fragmentation mitigation, public-private land stewardship, and eco-tourism impacts.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative spans a 3,400-kilometre ecological corridor across North America, protecting over 24 million hectares.
- Wildlife crossings, including overpasses and underpasses, mitigate linear infrastructure impacts on migratory species.
- Fragile thermal features in protected areas suffer degradation from non-biodegradable anthropogenic litter and physical disruption.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Landscape-scale conservation initiatives demonstrate the vital role of cross-border ecological corridors and public acquisition in counteracting severe habitat fragmentation.

DIMENSIONS

- **Ecological Connectivity:** Wildlife corridors enable genetic exchange and long-distance animal migration necessary for species survival under changing climate conditions.
- **Indigenous Co-Management:** Integrating Native communities and private landowners into land conservation frameworks ensures sustainable stewardship and local governance.
- **Anthropogenic Pressures:** Unregulated tourism and commercial development severely disrupt sensitive ecosystems, demanding strict ecological carrying-capacity management.

Way forward: Incorporate mandatory eco-passages in linear transport infrastructure, expand community reserve networks, and strictly enforce waste management protocols in protected national parks.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the significance of wildlife corridors and connectivity in preserving biodiversity amidst urban expansion and climate change.

KEY TERMS

Ecological Corridors

Habitat Fragmentation

Earthshot Prize

Western Joshua Tree

Geothermal Ecosystems

ACTS & ARTICLES

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 3)

06

GS PAPER 3 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Reduction and Himalayan Transboundary Vulnerability



STORY 1 Times of India

Severe torrential rain triggers widespread floods and landslides across Nepal, killing 21

Four days of torrential monsoon rainfall across Nepal triggered devastating landslides and flash floods, killing at least 21 people and leaving five missing.

Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority reported that landslides caused 14 deaths, while continuous flooding damaged hundreds of homes.

The Narayani River breached its critical nine-metre danger threshold, inundating low-lying settlements and forcing emergency evacuations of over 3,000 residents.

Critical transport arteries leading to Chitwan highway junction were blocked by massive slope failures, severing transport corridors across central Nepal.

The event provides critical material for UPSC GS-3 regarding Himalayan slope instability, transboundary flood risks, and emergency disaster response mechanisms.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on monsoon extreme weather, landslide hazard zoning, transboundary river hazards, and disaster resilience in fragile mountain terrains.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Landslides account for the majority of fatalities during extreme monsoon rainfall events in steep Himalayan terrain.
- The Narayani River (known as the Gandak in India) is a major transboundary Himalayan river originating in Nepal.
- Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) leads national disaster response, evacuations, and hazard mapping.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Torrential monsoon rainfall triggering fatal landslides and river flooding in Nepal underscores the acute vulnerability of the ecologically fragile Himalayan region.

DIMENSIONS

- **Geomorphological Fragility:** Unplanned slope modification, deforestation, and extreme precipitation trigger mass wasting and debris flows across Himalayan mountain passes.
- **Transboundary Hydrological Risks:** Swelling rivers like the Narayani pose downstream flood inundation threats to low-lying riparian districts in neighboring Indian states.
- **Socio-Economic Disruptions:** Severing critical highway junctions isolates rural populations, disrupts emergency supply chains, and damages vital transport infrastructure.

Way forward: Establish real-time transboundary hydrological data sharing, build climate-resilient slope protection infrastructure, and implement community-based early warning networks.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem to climate-induced disaster risks and suggest integrated disaster management strategies.

KEY TERMS

Landslide Hazard Mitigation

Transboundary River Inundation

Narayani River

NDRRMA Nepal

Early Warning Systems

ACTS & ARTICLES

Industrial Relations and Financial Sector Stability



STORY 1 The Hindu

Bank unions defer nationwide strike following successful talks with bank management

Major bank unions deferred a planned three-day nationwide strike following formal consensus reached during conciliation negotiations with the Indian Banks' Association.

All India Bank Employees Association General Secretary C.H. Venkatachalam confirmed normal operations across public and private sector bank branches nationwide.

The deferral prevented major disruptions to commercial banking, clearinghouse processing, and cash logistics across regional and national financial institutions.

Financial institutions briefly maintained Sunday operations to manage transaction backlogs prior to the scheduled conciliation talks between unions and management.

The industrial dispute resolution demonstrates statutory negotiation mechanisms, economic impact of labor actions, and financial sector governance for GS Paper 3.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines collective bargaining in public sector banks, financial inclusion impacts, industrial disputes act mechanisms, and banking sector reforms.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) represents management teams of public, private, and foreign banks operating in India.
- The All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) is one of the oldest and largest trade union federations representing bank workers.

- Banking services are classified under essential public utility services, where strike notices are governed by specific statutory reconciliation timelines.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The deferral of a nationwide bank strike following conciliation highlights the delicate balance between labor rights and financial system continuity in India.

DIMENSIONS

- Economic Continuity:** A nationwide bank shutdown severely disrupts digital transactions, clearinghouse operations, credit flow, and business liquidity across the economy.
- Labor Governance:** Proactive conciliation between management bodies like IBA and employee unions prevents prolonged industrial friction and service disruptions.
- Public Convenience:** Maintaining open branches during designated periods ensures uninterrupted financial access for retail depositors and small enterprises.

Way forward: Institutionalize structured bi-partite consultation mechanisms, streamline wage and service condition agreements, and modernize dispute resolution frameworks.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the impact of industrial action in the banking sector on economic stability and financial inclusion in India.

KEY TERMS

Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

AIBEA

Industrial Disputes Act

Essential Financial Services

Collective Bargaining

ACTS & ARTICLES

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Article 19(1)(c) (Right to Form Associations/Unions)

08

GS PAPER 2 - SOCIAL JUSTICE & VULNERABLE SECTIONS

Inclusive Employment Models for Persons with Disabilities



Charles Baker's non-profit initiative provides training and employment to over 12,500 workers

Charles P. Baker III, founder of Baker Industries, passed away after establishing a non-profit model that trained and employed over 12,500 vulnerable individuals.

Founded initially in 1980 as a small garage enterprise to employ his son living with epilepsy, the initiative evolved into a major vocational non-profit.

The organization provided specialized packaging, light manufacturing, and skill mentoring tailored for workers with disabilities, mental health challenges, and re-entry needs.

Operating over 46 years, the social enterprise model demonstrated how structured workplace accommodations foster long-term economic independence for marginalized workers.

The model provides valuable study material for GS-2 regarding social justice frameworks, non-profit sector contributions, and sustainable employment strategies for Divyangjan.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on vocational empowerment, non-profit social entrepreneurship, legal frameworks for divyangjan, and inclusive labor market integration.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 recognizes 21 distinct categories of disabilities, expanding vocational inclusion obligations.
- Social enterprises and non-profit models complement public sector reservation by providing skill mentoring and commercial employment pathways.
- Article 41 of the Constitution directs the State to make effective provision for securing the right to work and public assistance for disabled individuals.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The multi-decade success of community-based non-profit initiatives illustrates the transformative potential of non-profit social models in facilitating mainstream employment for disabled workers.

DIMENSIONS

- **Livelihood Security:** Providing structured skill acquisition and packaging jobs enables financial independence and social dignity for neurodiverse individuals.
- **Corporate-Civic Synergy:** Non-profit enterprises bridging commercial supply chains with specialized labor forces demonstrate scalable sustainable economic models.
- **Policy Integration:** Complements statutory schemes like the National Action Plan for Skill Development of PwDs by providing practical workplace accommodations.

Way forward: Scale up public-private partnership models in vocational training, expand accessible workplace infrastructure incentives, and provide tax breaks for inclusive employers.

Examine the effectiveness of socio-economic empowerment initiatives for Persons with Disabilities in securing sustainable livelihoods.

KEY TERMS

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act

Vocational Training

Social Entrepreneurship

Inclusive Labor Market

Divyangjan Empowerment

ACTS & ARTICLES

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Article 41 (Right to Work and Public Assistance)

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)



Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

GS PAPER 3 - INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Transport Infrastructure and Railway Decarbonisation

Home Minister flags off India's first dual-fuel LNG train from Sabarmati station

Q1. With reference to the decarbonisation initiatives of Indian Railways, consider the following statements: 1. India's first dual-fuel LNG train incorporates Liquefied Natural Gas in its Driving Power Car to partially replace diesel. 2. Indian Railways has set an official target to achieve net-zero target operational diesel consumption by the year 2030. 3. The WAG-12 is a heavy-haul electric locomotive utilized to enhance rail freight capacity. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

GS PAPER 2 - GOVERNANCE & JUDICIARY

Judicial Supervision and Infrastructure in POCSO Special Courts

Kerala High Court directs state government to ensure mandated facilities at POCSO courts

Q2. Regarding the statutory guidelines and judicial directives for POCSO Special Courts in India, consider the following statements: 1. Dedicated special courts under the POCSO Act are mandated in any district having more than 100 registered cases under the Act. 2. Funding for presiding officers and special public prosecutors in designated POCSO courts is supported by the Union Government. 3. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was enacted in the year 2005. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

GS PAPER 2 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Escalation in West Asia, Strait of Hormuz Crisis, and Regional Diplomacy

US Military dismisses Iranian claims of capturing underwater drone in Strait of Hormuz

Q3. Which of the following bodies of water are directly connected by the Strait of Hormuz?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden | B. Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman |
| C. Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara | D. Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea |

GS PAPER 3 - BIODIVERSITY & CONSERVATION

Landscape Connectivity, Ecological Corridors, and Habitat Protection

Yellowstone to Yukon conservation initiative named finalist for 2026 Earthshot Prize

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding ecological corridors and landscape conservation: 1. Wildlife overpasses and underpasses are structural interventions designed to reduce habitat fragmentation caused by linear infrastructure. 2. The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative spans across North America protecting an ecological corridor over 3,000 kilometres in length. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

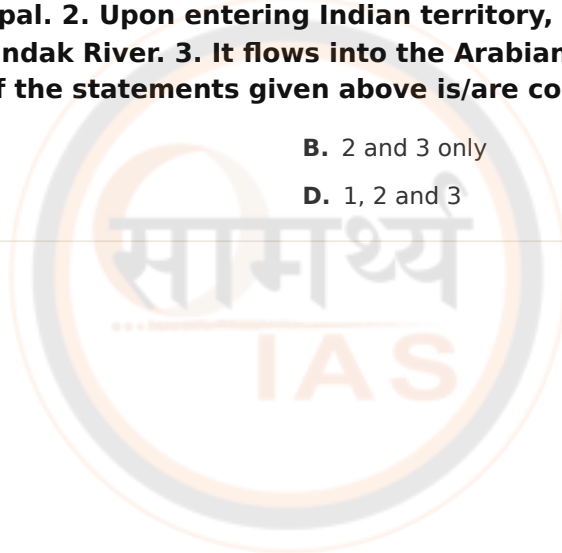
GS PAPER 3 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Reduction and Himalayan Transboundary Vulnerability

Severe torrential rain triggers widespread floods and landslides across Nepal, killing 21

Q5. With reference to the Narayani River, often in the news during monsoon flooding events, consider the following statements: 1. The Narayani River originates in the Himalayan region of Nepal. 2. Upon entering Indian territory, the Narayani River is widely known as the Gandak River. 3. It flows into the Arabian Sea after traversing Western India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

Q1: D**Q2: A****Q3: B****Q4: C****Q5: A****Q1 Option D · 1, 2 and 3**

All three statements are correct based on the news article. India's first dual-fuel LNG train utilizes up to 40% LNG in its Driving Power Car. Indian Railways consumed 293 crore litres of diesel in 2015-16 and aims to reduce this consumption to zero by 2030. The WAG-12 electric locomotive is deployed to enhance heavy-haul freight logistics.

Q2 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Supreme Court mandated dedicated POCSO courts in districts with over 100 registered cases, funded with central support. Statement 3 is incorrect because the POCSO Act was enacted in 2012, not 2005.

Q3 Option B · Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman

The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial maritime choke point located between Iran and Oman/UAE that connects the Persian Gulf directly with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Q4 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Wildlife crossings mitigate fragmentation from roads, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative covers a 3,400-kilometre corridor protecting 24 million hectares.

Q5 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Narayani River originates in Nepal and enters India as the Gandak River. Statement 3 is incorrect because the Gandak is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga River, ultimately draining into the Bay of Bengal, not the Arabian Sea.