



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

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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Electoral Roll Management and Special Intensive Revision



STORY 1 The Hindu

Election Commission extends Special Intensive Revision dates for Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya

The Election Commission of India extended the publication dates for final electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya following a full bench meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The full bench, including Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, convened twice in four days in New Delhi to review ongoing Special Intensive Revision progress across various states.

Revised publication schedules establish October 16 for Andhra Pradesh and October 26 for Meghalaya, pushing back original deadlines of October 3 and October 7 after draft revisions excluded 1.8 lakh voters in Meghalaya.

The extension grants electoral registration officers additional time to process public claims and objections, ensuring eligible citizens are not inadvertently omitted due to compressed procedural timelines.

This decision illustrates the administrative complexities of managing electoral rolls in India, a central theme for UPSC questions on constitutional election machinery and administrative law.



Opposition INDIA bloc announces nationwide campaign challenging Election Commission procedures

Opposition leaders convened an INDIA bloc coordination meeting in New Delhi to form a united front against current electoral administrative practices and the ongoing Special Intensive Revision exercise.

Key leaders including Mamata Banerjee, Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi held joint consultations regarding the functioning of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and systemic voter list concerns.

The alliance resolved to initiate a coordinated nationwide public campaign beginning October 2 to highlight alleged voter exclusion risks and advocate for structural reforms in election supervision.

Tensions highlight growing political friction over independent institutional functioning, election administration transparency, and procedural safeguards required during electoral roll updates across Indian states.

The movement reflects democratic debate surrounding statutory bodies, public trust in regulatory institutions, and federal political dynamics relevant to UPSC Mains Paper II.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Electoral integrity, role of the Election Commission of India under Article 324, and challenges in updating voter lists.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Article 324 grants the Election Commission of India the power of superintendence, direction, and control of electoral rolls.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR) involves door-to-door verification to remove deceased, shifted, or duplicate entries from voter lists.
- Electoral rolls publication timelines are statutorily determined under the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The Election Commission of India (ECI) relies on periodic Special Intensive Revisions (SIR) to maintain clean and accurate electoral rolls, which form the bedrock of adult suffrage.

DIMENSIONS

- Administrative efficiency vs voter exclusion risk during intensive revisions
- Inter-party trust and political consensus in electoral roll updates
- Technological integration versus manual door-to-door verification challenges

Way forward: Implement continuous registration mechanisms, leverage digitized state registers while retaining field audit protocols, and ensure transparent institutional consultation with all political parties.

PYQ LINK

Examine the role and powers of the Election Commission of India in conducting free and fair elections, focusing on voter list accuracy.

KEY TERMS

Article 324

Special Intensive Revision

Electoral Roll

Electoral Integrity

Democratic Legitimacy

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 324 of the Indian Constitution

Representation of the People Act, 1950

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960

02

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Governance of Artificial Intelligence and AI Safety Oversight



STORY 1

Times of India

US Federal Trade Commission initiates probe into leading artificial intelligence developers

The US Federal Trade Commission initiated a formal investigation into major artificial intelligence developers, including OpenAI and Anthropic, concerning product safety and consumer protection compliance.

Regulators in Washington prepared formal information requests following reports that leading AI models breached third-party security boundaries, raising significant consumer safety concerns.

The probe targets high-profile cybersecurity vulnerabilities where advanced AI deployments compromised external systems, exposing companies to potential billion-dollar regulatory enforcement actions.

This regulatory intervention marks a global shift towards evaluating AI security risks under statutory consumer protection and antitrust mandates rather than relying solely on voluntary industry guidelines.

The investigation provides vital context for UPSC study on global tech governance, digital sovereignty, and the evolution of consumer protection laws in high-tech sectors.



STORY 2 **The Hindu**

OpenAI releases Dots agentic AI capabilities integrated into enterprise platform

OpenAI launched 'Dots', an always-on agentic artificial intelligence system capable of managing complex enterprise workflows by directly accessing user files, applications, and contextual data.

Unveiled by OpenAI technology teams, Dots operates as an autonomous digital assistant capable of delegating software development, monitoring system bugs, and coordinating corporate calendars.

The service is bundled into existing ChatGPT Pro, Business Premium, and Enterprise subscriptions at no extra cost, integrating with enterprise tools like Slack and Microsoft Teams.

Unlike traditional virtual assistants, agentic AI operates with higher agency to perform multi-step projects independently, escalating debates over automated system oversight and operational safety.

This technological milestone highlights the shift toward agentic automation, directly relating to UPSC discussions on industry 4.0, workplace displacement, and digital ethics.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

Billionaire Ken Griffin commits three billion dollar grant to Carnegie Mellon University

Citadel founder Ken Griffin pledged \$3 billion to Carnegie Mellon University, marking the largest single financial donation to an academic institution in higher education history.

The massive gift was announced by university leadership in Pittsburgh, with Griffin joining the university's board of trustees to oversee capital allocation and strategic expansion.

The donation allocates \$1 billion to the Pittsburgh campus—including \$500 million to rename the Kenneth C. Griffin School of Computer Science—and \$2 billion to establish CMU Miami.

This unprecedented academic endowment aims to accelerate advanced computer science research, artificial intelligence education, and foundational STEM infrastructure across dual

physical campuses.

The development underlines the growing reliance on private capital for cutting-edge scientific research, relevant for UPSC topics on educational investment and innovation ecosystems.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and safety compliance in autonomous AI systems.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Agentic AI systems possess autonomous execution capabilities beyond simple prompt-response interactions by accessing external APIs and files.
- Market oversight bodies use consumer protection mandates to regulate cybersecurity vulnerabilities in commercial AI products.
- Venture and philanthropic capital flows into academic computing institutes represent primary drivers for fundamental AI architecture research.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The rapid development of agentic artificial intelligence tools capable of taking autonomous actions requires robust regulatory architecture to prevent systemic cybersecurity and consumer safety risks.

DIMENSIONS

- Balancing software innovation with regulatory compliance and system auditing
- Cybersecurity risks arising from full system and file access by AI agents
- Institutional capacity of regulatory agencies to evaluate advanced machine learning safety

Way forward: Establish mandatory third-party safety audits, define clear liability models for agentic actions, and adopt international benchmarks for artificial intelligence governance.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the challenges posed by autonomous artificial intelligence systems to regulatory bodies and consumer safety standards.

KEY TERMS

Agentic AI

Product Safety Regulation

Consumer Protection Laws

Cybersecurity Incident

Autonomous Agents

ACTS & ARTICLES

Information Technology Act, 2000

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Global Supply Chain Vulnerabilities and Agricultural Fertilizer Security



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Sulphur prices surge nearly fourfold globally due to West Asia and Eurasia conflicts

Global elemental sulphur prices surged nearly four-fold within twelve months, rising from \$280 per tonne in July 2025 to \$1,050 per tonne by July 2026, creating severe import pressure.

An analytical report tracked price spikes across major shipping hubs, attributing the surge to compounding supply disruptions from the Russia-Ukraine war and military escalations in West Asia.

Data indicates 92% of world sulphur supply is non-discretionary, obtained as a refining by-product, leaving production unable to adjust rapidly when fertilizer and nickel leaching demand rises.

The steep price hike significantly increases input costs for phosphate fertilizer production, directly expanding India's national fertilizer subsidy bill to protect farm incomes.

This raw material crisis offers a practical case study for UPSC preparation regarding international trade shocks, import dependence, and macro-agricultural management.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Impact of geopolitical conflicts on primary raw materials, agricultural input costs, and national subsidy burdens.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Approximately 92% of global elemental sulphur is produced non-discretionarily as a by-product of petroleum refining and natural gas processing.
- Sulphur is an essential feedstock for manufacturing sulphuric acid, which is critical for phosphate fertilizer production and nickel leaching.
- India relies heavily on sulphur imports to manufacture phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) regime.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The sharp escalation in global elemental sulphur prices underscores the vulnerability of India's agricultural supply chain to geopolitical conflicts affecting refined petroleum markets.

DIMENSIONS

- Fiscal strain on state exchequer due to expanding fertilizer subsidy outlays
- Structural inelasticity of non-discretionary by-product commodity supply chains
- Downstream agricultural impacts on crop yield and domestic food price stability

Way forward: Diversify import sources, encourage recovery of industrial sulphur waste, and promote balanced soil nutrient usage to mitigate raw material price shocks.

PYQ LINK

Analyze how international geopolitical conflicts disrupt critical raw material supply chains and impact India's agricultural economy.

KEY TERMS

Non-discretionary Supply

Petroleum Refining By-product

Fertiliser Subsidy Burden

Supply Chain Vulnerability

Input Cost Inflation

ACTS & ARTICLES

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

Fertiliser Control Order, 1985

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy

04

INTERNAL SECURITY

Civil Aviation Security and In-Flight Emergency Response



STORY 1 The Hindu

Indian pilot praised for thwarting deliberate crash attempt aboard commercial flight

Indian pilot Smit Machchhar successfully foiled an attempt by his co-pilot to deliberately crash a Dubai-Tel Aviv flydubai flight, forcing an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.

International leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, publicly commended Machchhar after he fought off a knife attack inside the cockpit.

During the struggle, Machchhar opened the flight deck door while wounded, enabling passengers—including a plumber who assisted in stabilizing controls—to restrain the attacker before safely landing.

The incident exposed severe vulnerabilities in crew monitoring procedures, driving calls for stricter psychological evaluations and multi-layer cockpit access controls across commercial airlines.

The event provides critical insight for UPSC studies on civil aviation security frameworks, emergency response coordination, and international maritime and air jurisdiction.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Eyewitness accounts detail passenger intervention during mid-air cockpit attack

Passengers aboard the diverted flydubai flight described restraining an attacker using headphone cords after the aircraft experienced a sudden nose-dive during a cockpit altercation.

Eyewitness Tzvika Manes recounted the incident to media outlets, explaining how cabin crew alerted passengers when the primary pilot fell through the flight deck door during the attack.

Three passengers intervened as the airliner lost significant altitude, physically subduing the perpetrator until the aircraft safely touched down at a Saudi Arabian airfield.

The accounts highlight the role of passenger intervention and cabin safety protocols when automated or structural cockpit security systems are breached from within.

This incident emphasizes the importance of human-factor security strategies within transport networks, a relevant topic in UPSC internal security analyses.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Aviation security protocols, cockpit security standards, and response mechanisms during international flight incidents.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Tokyo Convention 1963 grants aircraft commanders authority to impose reasonable measures on persons committing offences on board.
- International civil aviation safety guidelines mandate reinforced, bullet-resistant cockpit doors locked during flight.

- Unplanned flight diversions due to unlawful interference are governed by strict international civil aviation organization (ICAO) notification protocols.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: A mid-air security crisis aboard a commercial aircraft highlights the critical necessity of stringent aviation security protocols, crew training, and clear jurisdictional frameworks under international law.

DIMENSIONS

- Structural physical barriers versus human factor vulnerabilities in cockpit access
- Cross-border legal jurisdiction over crimes committed in international airspace
- Psychological evaluation standards for commercial aviation flight crews

Way forward: Standardize advanced pilot psychological screening, enhance secondary cabin security barriers, and streamline international coordination under ICAO protocols.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate international conventions and domestic security measures designed to prevent airborne sabotage and unauthorized flight deck intrusions.

KEY TERMS

Aviation Security

Cockpit Integrity Protocols

In-flight Intervention

Tokyo Convention 1963

Emergency Landing Protocol

ACTS & ARTICLES

Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016

Tokyo Convention Act, 1975

ICAO Annex 17 (Security)

05

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

State-Sponsored Hybrid Threats and Post-Brexit Foreign Policy Realignments



UK Prime Minister links Iranian state to security incident near RAF Fairford airbase

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham stated there are strong indications the Iranian state was involved in a suspicious security breach near RAF Fairford military airbase.

UK counter-terrorism police arrested five men in Gloucestershire after discovering three vehicles containing a quantity of petrol near the airbase used by US forces for strategic bomber operations.

Although bomb disposal units confirmed no explosive devices were present at the scene, law enforcement agencies bailed the suspects while continuing a complex foreign state intelligence investigation.

Burnham emphasized ongoing coordination with international intelligence partners to establish whether the incident represents state-sponsored sabotage aimed at undermining Western defense operations.

The incident demonstrates key dimensions of hybrid warfare and foreign state interference, serving as vital preparation for UPSC questions on international security.



British counter-terrorism police probe fuel recovery near military airbase

Law enforcement officials in Gloucestershire sustained a major counter-terrorism inquiry into suspicious activities detected outside RAF Fairford's security perimeter.

Investigators recovered fuel containers from three vehicles parked near the base, initiating specialized chemical forensic analysis to determine potential incendiary objectives.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham verified that intelligence assessments point toward state-backed coordination, raising diplomatic tensions between London and Tehran.

The probe highlights heightened security protocols around critical military infrastructure during active geopolitical conflicts involving West Asian state actors.

This development illustrates the growing overlap between domestic counter-terrorism laws and international diplomatic sanctions, highly relevant for UPSC Paper II.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

UK Prime Minister indicates potential re-evaluation of post-Brexit ties with European Union

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham suggested the UK could re-evaluate its long-term relationship with the European Union, including reconsidering membership if economic benefits outweigh drawbacks.

Addressing the Labour Party conference, Burnham stated Brexit had failed to deliver economic control, resulting in persistent trade friction and macroeconomic challenges across Britain.

European leaders from France and Spain responded positively to the statements, indicating openness to dialogue ahead of a rescheduled UK-EU summit planned for November.

The declaration marks a major political shift in post-Brexit UK foreign policy, signaling potential re-integration into single market mechanisms or customs frameworks.

This diplomatic posture offers valuable insight for UPSC studies on global geopolitical dynamics, international trade blocs, and European institutional governance.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Hybrid warfare, state-sponsored sabotage targeting military installations, and changing multilateral alliances in Europe.

PRELIMS FACTS

- RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire serves as a strategic forward-operating location for US military heavy bomber deployments in Europe.
- Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union governs the legal process for a member state exiting the European Union.
- Foreign state intelligence operations involving local proxies fall under statutory national counter-terrorism frameworks.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Allegations of state-sponsored intelligence operations targeting military bases highlight the modern shift toward hybrid threats, occurring alongside major realignments in post-Brexit European foreign policy.

DIMENSIONS

- Vulnerabilities of critical military infrastructure to asymmetric and proxy attack vectors

- Diplomatic and legal instruments to counter state-sponsored sabotage
- Economic and security recalibration of post-Brexit foreign relations between the UK and EU

Way forward: Strengthen joint intelligence sharing mechanisms, harden perimeter security around military assets, and establish clear diplomatic red lines regarding state-backed sabotage.

PYQ LINK

Examine the operational challenges posed by state-sponsored hybrid warfare and foreign interference to sovereign military infrastructure.

KEY TERMS

Hybrid Warfare

State-Sponsored Sabotage

Counter-Terrorism Investigation

Post-Brexit Integration

Multilateral Realignment

ACTS & ARTICLES

UK National Security Act 2023

Treaty on European Union (Article 50)

NATO Article 5 Collective Defence

06

GOVERNANCE

Accountability in Land Digitisation and Public Procurement Transparency



STORY 1 The Hindu

Kerala High Court orders government decision on expert panel probe into digital survey tenders

The Kerala High Court directed the State government to decide on constituting an expert committee to investigate alleged financial irregularities in equipment procurement for digital re-surveys.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Soumen Sen and Justice V.M. Syam Kumar issued the ruling on a petition alleging a ₹150 crore loss to the exchequer caused by tender manipulation.

State Revenue officials informed the court that the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau recommended an expert panel featuring technical specialists to assess survey equipment standards.

The probe targets procurement processes initiated during previous administrative terms, highlighting structural risks in managing high-value e-governance hardware contracts.

This judicial intervention serves as an important benchmark for UPSC analyses on administrative law, public procurement integrity, and land administration reforms.

UPSC RELEVANCE

E-governance integrity, judicial oversight over public procurement, and anti-corruption mechanisms in state land re-surveys.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Digital land re-surveys utilize Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) and drone technology to modernize land records.
- Statutory vigilance bureaus possess authority to recommend multi-disciplinary expert committees for investigating public tender irregularities.
- High Courts exercise public interest jurisdiction under Article 226 to mandate executive investigations into exchequer losses.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Modernizing land records through digital surveys is critical for administrative efficiency, but procurement corruption and equipment standard failures undermine public trust and exchequer resources.

DIMENSIONS

- Risk of financial impropriety in large-scale technological equipment procurement
- Judicial intervention as a check against executive delays in vigilance investigations
- Impact of inaccurate land survey data on property rights and citizen grievance redressal

Way forward: Implement open-contracting standards, conduct mandatory pre-procurement technical audits, and enforce strict timelines for vigilance committee probes.

PYQ LINK

Evaluate the role of judicial oversight and vigilance bodies in ensuring transparency during public procurement for major e-governance projects.

KEY TERMS

Digital Land Survey

Public Procurement Audit

Vigilance Investigation

Exchequer Loss

E-Governance Integrity

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 226 of the Constitution

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

Eminent Domain, Constitutional Property Rights, and Labor Protection Standards



STORY 1 Times of India

University drops eminent domain lawsuit against historic residence following public protests

Arizona State University formally dismissed an eminent domain lawsuit attempting to forcibly acquire a 124-year-old historic home in downtown Phoenix after facing intense public backlash.

The Arizona Board of Regents filed legal papers seeking immediate possession of the property owned by John Young for 51 years to construct a medical campus headquarters.

Widespread public opposition and media scrutiny forced university regents to abandon acquisition efforts, permitting the long-term owner and tenant to retain full property title.

The dismissal highlights growing civic resistance against expansive state condemnation powers when applied against historic residential properties for institutional expansion.

The case offers a valuable practical perspective for UPSC students analyzing constitutional property rights, eminent domain doctrine, and civic participation limits.



STORY 2 Times of India

Allegations of H-1B visa wage deductions spark debate on migrant labor safeguards

An Indian family running an IT staffing firm in Plano, Texas, involved local police after a journalist directly confronted them over alleged H-1B visa wage violations.

Allegations surfaced after an Indian tech worker reported that Global Star IT Serve LLC illegally withheld salary payments for two months and executed unauthorized compensation deductions.

The incident triggered debates surrounding oversight mechanisms for middleman staffing agencies managing foreign technical professionals under temporary work visa programs.

The confrontation underscores systemic vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers dependent on employer sponsorship, leading to calls for stricter regulatory enforcement.

This development links directly to UPSC GS Paper II themes regarding diaspora welfare, international labor regulations, and ethical corporate management.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

Surgical error lawsuit underscores healthcare regulatory oversight and systemic medical negligence

A 74-year-old military veteran filed a major medical negligence lawsuit in Ohio after surgeons mistakenly amputated her healthy left leg instead of her diseased right leg.

The legal suit filed in Washington County Common Pleas Court names Selby General Hospital and nine surgical team members, accusing them of gross negligence and reckless conduct.

Following the initial surgical error in September 2025, the patient required a second operation four months later to remove the correct leg, leaving her a double amputee.

The case emphasizes the vital need for mandatory surgical checklist protocols, institutional oversight, and liability frameworks to enforce patient safety standards across clinical settings.

The legal battle highlights fundamental aspects of consumer safety law, medical ethics, and institutional accountability relevant to public health policy studies in UPSC.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Eminent domain limits, constitutional property protections, and international labor standards safeguarding migrant workers.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Eminent domain is the sovereign power of the state to acquire private property for public use upon paying compensation.
- In India, the Right to Property is a constitutional right under Article 300A, having been moved from Part III by the 44th Amendment Act.

- Foreign temporary work visas strictly prohibit unauthorized employer wage deductions under international labor standards.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The exercise of statutory power—whether taking property under eminent domain or managing contractual obligations for skilled foreign workers—requires transparent standards to prevent rights violations.

DIMENSIONS

- Balancing state development objectives against individual ownership rights and heritage preservation
- Public accountability mechanisms in reversing arbitrary acquisition proceedings
- Regulatory oversight of staffing agencies to safeguard migrant workers against illegal wage practices

Way forward: Strengthen legal aid mechanisms for affected property owners and enforce strict audit protocols on labor intermediaries handling international work permits.

PYQ LINK

Discuss how judicial interpretation and public accountability balance state powers of eminent domain against individual constitutional rights.

KEY TERMS

Eminent Domain

Property Rights

H-1B Visa Oversight

Wage Deductions

Public Interest Acquisition

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 300A of the Indian Constitution

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, 2013

Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Electoral Roll Management and Special Intensive Revision

Election Commission extends Special Intensive Revision dates for Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in India: 1. The superintendence and control of electoral roll preparation is constitutionally vested in the Election Commission under Article 324. 2. Special Intensive Revision involves door-to-door physical verification to update elector entries. 3. Electoral rolls published by the Election Commission cannot be altered once draft rolls are released. Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Governance of Artificial Intelligence and AI Safety Oversight

US Federal Trade Commission initiates probe into leading artificial intelligence developers

Q2. Regarding 'Agentic Artificial Intelligence' systems, consider the following statements: 1. They differ from standard chatbots by possessing autonomous multi-step execution capabilities across software tools. 2. They operate strictly without requiring external application programming interface (API) access. 3. Regulatory concerns surrounding agentic AI primarily stem from potential system safety and cybersecurity breaches. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

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

INDIAN ECONOMY

Global Supply Chain Vulnerabilities and Agricultural Fertilizer Security

Sulphur prices surge nearly fourfold globally due to West Asia and Eurasia conflicts

Q3. With reference to global elemental sulphur production and its economic usage, consider the following statements: 1. Over 90% of global elemental sulphur is obtained as a non-discretionary by-product of petroleum refining and natural gas processing. 2. Sulphur is a crucial raw material used in manufacturing sulphuric acid for phosphate fertilizer production. 3. Inelastic supply of non-discretionary commodities makes them resilient to geopolitical price shocks. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only

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

INTERNAL SECURITY**Civil Aviation Security and In-Flight Emergency Response**

Indian pilot praised for thwarting deliberate crash attempt aboard commercial flight

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding international legal framework governing civil aviation security: 1. The Tokyo Convention 1963 empowers an aircraft commander to restrain persons committing acts jeopardizing safety on board. 2. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards require flight deck doors to remain unlocked during cruise altitude. 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**State-Sponsored Hybrid Threats and Post-Brexit Foreign Policy Realignments**

UK Prime Minister links Iranian state to security incident near RAF Fairford airbase

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding foreign state hybrid threats and international defense bases: 1. Hybrid warfare includes state-sponsored sabotage, cyber operations, and proxy actions targeting critical defense infrastructure. 2. RAF Fairford is a strategic airbase in the United Kingdom utilized for heavy bomber forward deployments. 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

GOVERNANCE**Accountability in Land Digitisation and Public Procurement Transparency**

Kerala High Court orders government decision on expert panel probe into digital survey tenders

Q6. Which of the following constitutional and administrative tools enables High Courts in India to direct executive inquiries into public procurement corruption allegations?

- A.** Writ Jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution
- B.** Advisory Jurisdiction under Article 143 of the Constitution
- C.** Original Civil Jurisdiction under Article 131 of the Constitution
- D.** Appellate Jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution

Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

Q1: A**Q2: B****Q3: A****Q4: A****Q5: C****Q6: A****Q1 Option A · 1 and 2 only**

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 324 grants the ECI full authority over electoral rolls, and SIR involves physical door-to-door verification. Statement 3 is incorrect because statutory claims and objections periods specifically allow draft rolls to be revised before final publication.

Q2 Option B · 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Agentic AI performs complex workflows autonomously and presents cybersecurity risks due to deep software access. Statement 2 is incorrect because agentic AI relies extensively on APIs to interact with calendars, enterprise apps, and file systems.

Q3 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. 92% of sulphur comes as a refining by-product, and it is vital for sulphuric acid and phosphatic fertilizers. Statement 3 is incorrect because supply inelasticity makes prices highly volatile during demand surges or geopolitical supply disruptions, rather than resilient.

Q4 Option A · 1 only

Statement 1 is correct under the Tokyo Convention 1963. Statement 2 is incorrect because ICAO Annex 6 mandates that cockpit doors must be locked and reinforced against unauthorized access throughout the flight.

Q5 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Both statements 1 and 2 are correct. Hybrid warfare encompasses non-traditional sabotage techniques by state-backed actors, and RAF Fairford serves as a primary European forward location for US strategic bombers.

Q6 Option A · Writ Jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution

High Courts issue directions and writs under Article 226 of the Constitution in public interest petitions to enforce administrative accountability and order vigilance probes into public exchequer losses.