



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

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Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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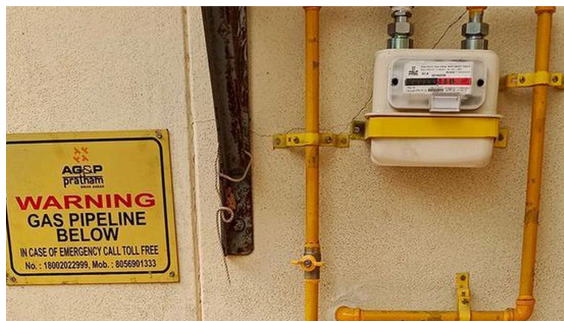
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National PNG Drive 3.0 and India's Clean Energy Transition



STORY 1 The Hindu

Union Petroleum Ministry launches PNG Drive 3.0 targeting 50 lakh domestic connections

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri alongside the PNGRB launched National PNG Drive 3.0 to accelerate household piped natural gas adoption across urban and rural centers.

The drive targets 50 lakh new domestic PNG connections, converting 40 lakh existing connections into active consumers, and onboarding 50 lakh domestic PNG registrations by FY27.

During PNG Drive 2.0 held in early 2026, average daily additions of domestic PNG connections rose 43 percent to 6,690 from 4,702, adding 13.4 lakh billed connections.

The initiative shifts policy focus toward maximizing actual gas network utilization and pushing state governments to appoint district-level officers to coordinate the transition from LPG.

This development provides vital insights into India's infrastructure strategy, clean energy transitions, and regulatory frameworks governing the petroleum and city gas distribution sectors.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Infrastructure development, natural gas economy, city gas distribution, and energy transition goals.

PRELIMS FACTS

- National PNG Drive 3.0 is scheduled to run until the end of fiscal year 2027 under PNGRB oversight.
- PNG Drive 3.0 targets establishing 50 lakh new domestic piped natural gas connections across India.
- Phase two of the drive achieved a 43 percent increase in daily domestic PNG connection additions.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The launch of National PNG Drive 3.0 marks a strategic push by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and Union Petroleum Ministry to accelerate India's transition toward a clean, gas-based economy.

DIMENSIONS

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Expanding City Gas Distribution networks to convert 40 lakh existing connections into active consumers and onboard 50 lakh domestic registrations by FY27.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Accelerating domestic PNG adoption reduces reliance on traditional LPG and subsidized fossil fuels, contributing to carbon emission reduction targets.
- **Administrative Coordination:** Mandating state and district-level officers to streamline administrative approvals and drive smooth LPG-to-PNG transition.

Way forward: Strengthen last-mile PNG pipeline connectivity, ensure regulatory compliance through PNGRB, and establish synchronized state-level monitoring committees to eliminate rollout bottlenecks.

PYQ LINK

Examine the potential and challenges of developing a gas-based economy in India with focus on energy infrastructure.

KEY TERMS

Natural Gas Economy

City Gas Distribution (CGD)

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Energy Security

Clean Energy Transition

ACTS & ARTICLES

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006

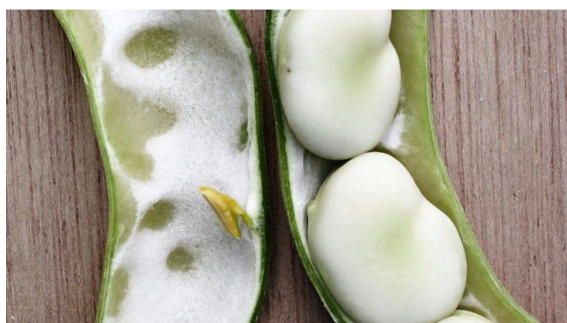
Article 39(b) - Distribution of material resources for public good

National Energy Policy Framework

02

GS PAPER III - BIODIVERSITY & AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Agrobiodiversity Conservation & Seed Bank Preservation



STORY 1 Times of India

150-year-old broad bean heirloom enters national heritage seed collection in UK

A broad bean variety continuously cultivated by the Burge family in Somerset since 1875 has been officially inducted into Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library.

Known as the Grandfather Bean, the heirloom seed was passed down across generations for 150 years before undergoing formal assessment and accession into the national collection.

The seed library selected the variety alongside 10 other threatened vegetable types to protect rare genetic traits from being permanently lost to industrial farming practices.

This long-term family stewardship illustrates how individual agriculturalists can safeguard plant genetic diversity essential for climate resilience and ecological stability.

The story highlights key concepts in agrobiodiversity, gene bank conservation strategies, and community-based preservation of genetic resources relevant for environmental security.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Conservation agreement permanently protects over 120 acres of historic Massachusetts farmland

Over 120 acres of historic farmland and woodland at Hoyt Farm in Massachusetts were placed under a permanent conservation restriction to block commercial housing development.

The regional land trust, local municipal leaders, and state environmental agencies collaborated to execute the conservation deal preserving property cultivated for over 200 years.

The agreement legally guarantees that the historic estate will remain permanently restricted to agricultural farming, forestry activities, and open space preservation.

Public-private land trust partnerships demonstrate practical instruments for protecting ecologically sensitive rural land, maintaining soil health, and combatting suburban sprawl.

This initiative serves as a model case study for agricultural land preservation, legal conservation easements, and environmental policy governance.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Preservation of heirloom genetic resources, agrobiodiversity, and community-led land conservation.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Grandfather Bean heirloom broad bean variety has been preserved continuously by a single family since 1875.
- Heritage seed collections serve to safeguard threatened crop varieties against genetic erosion and industrial monoculture.
- Conservation restrictions on farmland prevent commercial development and ensure permanent agricultural land preservation.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The preservation of traditional crop varieties and farmland conservation demonstrate the critical role of community stewardship in protecting agricultural biodiversity against climate vulnerability.

DIMENSIONS

- **Genetic Resource Protection:** Safeguarding heirloom crop seeds preserves unique genetic traits resistant to diseases and changing environmental conditions.
- **Farmland Conservation:** Placing permanent conservation restrictions on historic agricultural land protects soil health and prevents commercial urban encroachment.
- **Food Security Resilience:** Maintaining diverse plant lineages provides essential genetic material for future plant breeding programs and sustainable agriculture.

Way forward: Integrate local community seed keepers into formal gene bank registries, incentivize private land conservation trusts, and promote heirloom crop cultivation in climate-smart agriculture programs.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the significance of preserving crop genetic diversity and traditional plant varieties in ensuring long-term food security under changing climatic conditions.

KEY TERMS

Heirloom Crop

Agrobiodiversity

Heritage Seed Library

In-situ Conservation

Genetic Diversity

ACTS & ARTICLES

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Article 48A - Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests

03

GS PAPER III - ECOSYSTEMS, ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation & Invasive Species Dynamics



Historical introduction of Nile perch in Lake Victoria drives extinction of 200 native cichlid species

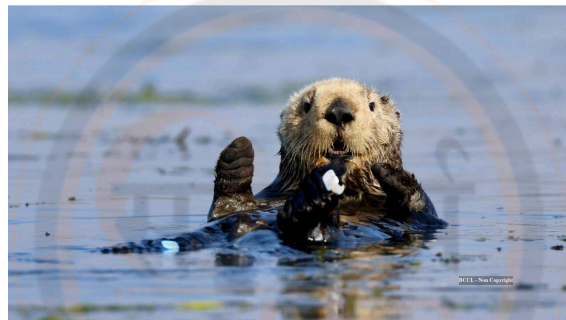
Nile perch introduced into Lake Victoria during the late 1950s and early 1960s to boost commercial fisheries caused severe ecological disruption across the freshwater basin.

According to the National Invasive Species Information Center, the invasive predatory fish wiped out approximately 200 endemic cichlid species through extreme predation and resource competition.

Lake Victoria, shared by Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, experienced a complete transformation of its aquatic biodiversity and traditional fishing economic structures.

The collapse highlights the catastrophic unintended consequences when exotic species are introduced into sensitive freshwater environments without ecological risk evaluations.

This classic case study illustrates ecological tipping points, food web disruption, invasive alien species management, and biodiversity conservation principles.



Monterey Bay Aquarium sea otter program saves over 1,000 marine mammals via surrogate care

The Monterey Bay Aquarium, funded by an initial 57 million dollar gift in 1984, marked four decades of pioneering marine conservation and coastal research programs.

The institution's Sea Otter Recovery Program has successfully rescued over 1,000 stranded sea otters and surrogate-raised 84 wild-released pups using captive adult females.

Sea otters serve as a critical keystone species in kelp forest ecosystems, keeping sea urchin populations in check to prevent severe underwater habitat degradation.

The facility has welcomed more than 70 million visitors, demonstrating how private philanthropy can construct world-class public education and marine ecosystem restoration infrastructure.

The initiative underscores key concepts in wildlife rehabilitation, keystone species management, coastal habitat restoration, and ex-situ conservation models.

Ecological impacts of invasive alien species and wildlife conservation models in aquatic environments.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Nile perch was introduced into Lake Victoria during the mid-20th century to boost commercial fisheries.
- The introduction of Nile perch led to the loss and extinction of approximately 200 native cichlid fish species.
- Monterey Bay Aquarium's Sea Otter Recovery Program has surrogate-raised 84 otter pups for wild release.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Anthropogenic interventions in aquatic environments, ranging from alien species introductions to target marine recovery projects, dictate the ecological equilibrium of aquatic ecosystems.

DIMENSIONS

- **Ecological Disruption by Alien Species:** Unintended trophic cascades caused by introducing predatory Nile perch into Lake Victoria destroyed endemic cichlid populations.
- **Species Recovery & Conservation:** Targeted interventions such as the sea otter rehabilitation program utilize surrogate nursing to restore keystone marine predators.
- **Socio-Economic Impacts:** Short-term fishery benefits from non-native species can produce long-term ecological collapse and destroy traditional artisanal fishing communities.

Way forward: Implement rigid environmental impact assessments prior to biological introductions, enforce global ballast and invasive species protocols, and expand funding for marine sanctuary conservation.

PYQ LINK

Examine how the introduction of invasive alien species disrupts native ecological balances and impacts biodiversity in aquatic habitats.

KEY TERMS

Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Biodiversity Loss

Trophic Cascade

Marine Conservation

Surrogate Raising

ACTS & ARTICLES

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Aichi Target 9



STORY 1 **Times of India**

U.S. Department of Energy removes 17 million tons of radioactive waste near Colorado River

Cleanup crews at the Moab Remedial Action Project successfully removed 17 million tons of radioactive uranium mill tailings from the banks of Utah's Colorado River.

The hazardous legacy waste was generated by a Cold War-era uranium processing mill that left contaminated sand-like residue immediately adjacent to the critical water supply.

Since rail operations commenced in 2009 under the US Department of Energy, waste was systematically hauled 30 miles away to an engineered disposal cell in Crescent Junction.

The achievement removes a severe toxic threat to the Colorado River ecosystem, which supplies drinking and irrigation water across vast portions of western North America.

This project offers crucial lessons regarding radioactive waste disposal, industrial site decommissioning, river catchment protection, and long-term environmental remediation frameworks.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Managing nuclear and industrial tailings, river basin protection, and long-term environmental remediation projects.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Moab project successfully removed 17 million tons of radioactive uranium mill tailings from riverbanks.
- Tailings were transported 30 miles by rail to an engineered disposal cell at Crescent Junction, Utah.
- Uranium mill tailings are the radioactive sand-like waste generated during nuclear ore processing.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The removal of millions of tons of radioactive tailings from major riverbanks highlights the necessity of multi-decade environmental remediation to prevent catastrophic water contamination.

DIMENSIONS

- **Water Basin Protection:** Preventing leaching of radioactive materials and heavy metals into vital freshwater systems serving millions of agricultural and municipal consumers.
- **Engineered Waste Management:** Relocating toxic waste to secure, engineered disposal cells far removed from floodplains and vulnerable geological zones.

- **Long-Term State Accountability:** Sustaining multi-decade public expenditure and remediation efforts to rectify legacy pollution left by industrial operations.

Way forward: Establish strict regulatory oversight over mining tailings, incorporate mandatory site decommissioning funds into industrial leases, and mandate continuous riverine water quality monitoring.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the challenges involved in the safe disposal and long-term management of hazardous industrial and radioactive wastes to protect major river systems.

KEY TERMS

Uranium Mill Tailings

Environmental Remediation

Colorado River Basin

Radioactive Waste Disposal

Engineered Disposal Cell

ACTS & ARTICLES

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Guidelines

Article 21 - Right to clean environment and safe drinking water

05

GS PAPER III - DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Reduction & River Basin Flood Management in Bihar



STORY 1 The Hindu

Gandak River overflows breaching embankments across three Bihar districts

Severe floodwaters inundated rural settlements across Saran, Gopalganj, and Muzaffarpur districts following fresh breaches in embankments along the Gandak River.

The collapse of the Shitalpur dam in Gopalganj and breaches in the Tirhut main embankment ring bund flooded dozens of agricultural villages across Northern Bihar.

Water levels at Dumaria Ghat in Gopalganj hovered 22 cm above the Highest Flood Level for 36 consecutive hours following heavy rain in Nepal and Uttar Pradesh.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary stated the administration issued high alerts as flood control personnel struggled to reinforce deteriorating earthen bunds.

This situation illustrates critical disaster management concepts including structural flood defenses, transboundary water management, emergency evacuation protocols, and embankment maintenance.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Embankment vulnerability, river breaches, flood management strategies, and transboundary hydrological risks.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Floodwaters breached embankments along the Gandak River in Saran, Gopalganj, and Muzaffarpur districts.
- The water level at Dumaria Ghat remained 22 cm above the Highest Flood Level for over 36 hours.
- Heavy precipitation in upper catchment areas of Nepal and Uttar Pradesh triggered severe downstream flooding in Bihar.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Recurrent embankment breaches along transboundary rivers like the Gandak underscore the limitations of structural flood defenses and the necessity for integrated river basin management in Bihar.

DIMENSIONS

- **Structural Vulnerabilities:** Heavy reliance on earthen embankments leads to catastrophic breach incidents when river discharge exceeds Highest Flood Levels.
- **Transboundary Hydrological Factors:** Heavy rainfall in Nepal upper catchments rapidly escalates downstream discharge, overloading state hydraulic infrastructure.
- **Socio-Economic Disruption:** Inundation of agrarian villages destroys standing crops, forces mass human displacement, and escalates rural economic distress.

Way forward: Shift from structural reliance on embankments to room-for-the-river concepts, real-time transboundary hydrological data sharing with Nepal, and bio-engineering of river banks.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the reasons behind recurrent embankment breaches in eastern India and suggest sustainable flood management strategies.

KEY TERMS

Embankment Breach

Gandak River

Highest Flood Level (HFL)

River Basin Management

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act, 2005

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Guidelines on Floods

Article 21 - Right to safety and life

Food Processing Sector & Agrarian Economy Expansion



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

India's food market reaches \$600 billion growing at 7 percent CAGR says Ministry official

Ministry of Food Processing Industries Joint Secretary Devesh Deval highlighted that India's food market reached 550 to 600 billion dollars, growing at 6-7 percent CAGR.

Speaking at Anuga FoodTec India in Mumbai, officials confirmed that food processing contributes nearly 8 percent of Gross Value Added within the national manufacturing sector.

The processing industry stands as the second-highest employment creator in Indian manufacturing, offering vital structural support to urbanizing consumer demographics.

Government policies focus on increasing processing intensity across all 16 sub-sectors including cereals, fruits, vegetables, and meeting growing vegetarian protein requirements.

This data provides comprehensive material for questions on agro-based manufacturing, agricultural marketing reforms, supply chain optimization, and rural economic growth.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Economic value addition, post-harvest infrastructure, processing growth, and farmer income enhancement.

PRELIMS FACTS

- India's total food market is estimated at \$550 billion to \$600 billion, expanding at a CAGR of 6 to 7 percent.
- Food processing contributes nearly 8 percent of total Gross Value Added in India's manufacturing sector.
- Food processing ranks as the second-highest employment generating sector within Indian manufacturing.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The food processing industry serves as a crucial pillar for transforming Indian agriculture from a production-driven sector into a high-value, market-linked enterprise.

DIMENSIONS

- **Economic Contribution:** Food processing accounts for 8 percent of manufacturing GVA and represents the second-largest employer in manufacturing.
- **Value Addition for Farmers:** Increasing processing levels across 16 sub-sectors directly reduces post-harvest wastage and augments primary producer incomes.
- **Nutritional Security:** Processing innovations address national protein deficits by scaling plant and dairy-based protein product distribution.

Way forward: Expand cold chain logistics infrastructure, streamline credit access for rural food processing MSMEs, and promote mega food parks near major agricultural hubs.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the role of the food processing industry in connecting farm production with market demand and enhancing rural prosperity.

KEY TERMS

Gross Value Added (GVA)

Supply Chain Logistics

Value Addition

Post-Harvest Losses

Protein Security

ACTS & ARTICLES

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

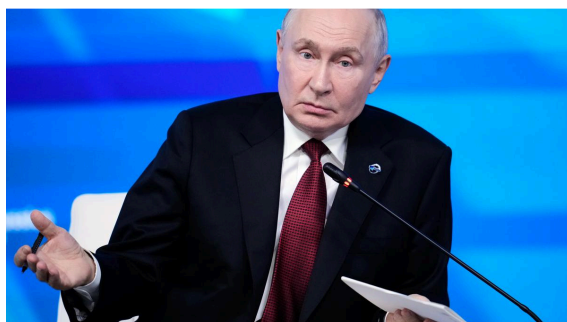
Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY)

Article 47 - Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living

07

GS PAPER II - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & STRATEGIC SECURITY

Conflict Escalation and Strategic Deterrence in NATO-Russia Dynamics



President Putin warns Russia will deploy all weapons to defend Kaliningrad exclave

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared at the Valdai Discussion Forum that Moscow would deploy all arsenal weapons if any Russian territory comes under attack.

The statement issued a direct warning to NATO regarding any military attempt to cut off Kaliningrad, Russia's strategic Baltic exclave surrounded by NATO nations.

Moscow accused Western nations of escalating tensions through Baltic Sea naval exercises, seizing Russian shipping vessels, and preparing for future European warfare.

European leaders and intelligence agencies counter-argued that Russian military posture threatens neighbor stability, signaling potential future conflicts across Eastern Europe.

This crisis underscores key concepts in international security, nuclear brinkmanship, sovereign territorial defense, and NATO-Russia geopolitical relations.



UK counter-terrorism police arrest dual British-Iranian national over RAF Fairford airbase incident

British counter-terrorism police arrested a dual UK-Iranian citizen following a major security breach at RAF Fairford, a key military base used by US forces.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham stated there were strong indicators of Iranian state involvement in the security incident targeting the strategic military base.

Tehran rejected the claims as baseless allegations, condemning London for allowing its military infrastructure to be utilized for military strikes in the Middle East.

Police launched investigations under the Explosives Act, highlighting escalating state-backed hybrid security risks against critical defense infrastructure in Western Europe.

The development provides crucial material regarding international security, state-sponsored hybrid warfare, counter-terrorism enforcement, and diplomatic tensions.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Nuclear deterrence, geopolitical exclaves, NATO expansion, and European security architecture.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Kaliningrad is a strategic Russian exclave situated on the Baltic Sea, surrounded by NATO member state territories.
- RAF Fairford in England serves as an airbase utilized by United States military forces for long-range operations.
- Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty governs collective defense commitments among member states.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Heightened security posture and explicit nuclear warnings regarding strategic exclaves like Kaliningrad reflect deteriorating stability in European security architecture.

DIMENSIONS

- **Strategic Exclave Vulnerability:** Kaliningrad's isolation creates severe security flashpoints where NATO maritime drills are perceived as potential blockade actions.
- **Nuclear Deterrence Posturing:** Reiterating readiness to deploy 'all weapons' lowers the nuclear threshold and destabilizes long-standing strategic equilibrium.
- **Asymmetric Military Threats:** Incidents at key military bases like RAF Fairford indicate expanding hybrid warfare tactics involving foreign actors.

Way forward: Re-establish bilateral de-escalation communication channels, restore arms control verification treaties, and avoid provocative military exercises near sensitive exclave borders.

PYQ LINK

Analyze how regional security alliances and nuclear deterrence postures impact global geopolitical stability in Eastern Europe.

KEY TERMS

Kaliningrad Exclave

NATO Escalation

Nuclear Deterrence

Geopolitical Conflict

RAF Fairford

ACTS & ARTICLES

UN Charter Article 51 - Right of self-defense

North Atlantic Treaty - Article 5 Collective Defense

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Saudi Arabia extradites Omani co-pilot to UAE after flydubai mid-air assault

Saudi Arabian authorities extradited an Omani co-pilot to the United Arab Emirates following preliminary investigations into a violent mid-air attack aboard a flydubai flight.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 carrying 182 passengers made an emergency landing in Tabuk after the co-pilot stabbed the captain, causing the aircraft to drop rapidly.

United States President Donald Trump warned that Iran would face severe military retaliation if intelligence investigations establish any state link to the sabotage attempt.

Multi-agency international security investigators are analyzing whether the assault represented an intentional act to destroy the Israel-bound commercial airliner.

This incident emphasizes vital themes in international civil aviation law, cross-border extradition procedures, threat intelligence sharing, and Middle East security dynamics.

UPSC RELEVANCE

In-flight security vulnerabilities, international extradition, cross-border crime, and Middle East geopolitics.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Tokyo Convention and Hague Convention govern offenses and acts committed on board aircraft.
- Saudi Arabia executed a suspect transfer to the UAE under bilateral cross-border judicial cooperation protocols.
- A flydubai Boeing 737 Max 8 made an emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, following an mid-air attack.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: In-flight sabotage attempts on commercial airliners highlight vulnerabilities in civil aviation security and necessitate rapid cross-border extradition and intelligence coordination.

DIMENSIONS

- **Civil Aviation Vulnerabilities:** Mid-air attacks on flight crew threaten passenger safety and expose gaps in pre-flight mental health and background screening.
- **Cross-Border Judicial Cooperation:** Transferring foreign national suspects between Gulf states demonstrates regional judicial cooperation under international air law.

- **Geopolitical Escalation Risks:** State-linked suspicions behind aviation incidents risk triggering broader retaliatory military actions across volatile geopolitical zones.

Way forward: Harmonize global pilot psychological evaluation standards under ICAO, enforce cockpit security protocols, and establish expedited diplomatic extradition treaties.

PYQ LINK

Discuss the international legal framework governing civil aviation security and cross-border extradition of offenders in international airspace.

KEY TERMS

Aviation Security

Cross-Border Extradition

In-Flight Sabotage

Middle East Escalation

Air Law

ACTS & ARTICLES

Tokyo Convention on Offences Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963

The Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970

ICAO Annex 17 - Aviation Security

09

GS PAPER II - POLITY & JUDICIAL GOVERNANCE

Conflict of Laws & Cross-Border Recognition of Religious Personal Laws



STORY 1 Times of India

Canada rejects spousal PR application ruling Sharia religious divorce legally invalid

Canadian immigration authorities rejected a sponsorship application filed by a Canadian citizen for his Ethiopian wife, citing non-recognition of her previous Sharia divorce.

The visa officer and Immigration Canada appeal panel ruled the Ethiopian bride was not legally free to marry because her 2017 religious divorce lacked statutory validity.

The ruling affirmed that religious divorces executed without formal civil decree do not satisfy legal requirements under Canadian federal family and immigration laws.

The decision left the couple's 2021 marriage legally void under Canadian jurisdiction, blocking the spouse's permanent resident visa application process completely.

This case presents significant material for studying conflict of laws, private international law, recognition of personal religious codes, and cross-border civil status verification.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Recognition of religious personal laws, international civil private law, immigration regulations, and conflict of laws.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Private international law determines whether foreign personal law divorces are legally recognized in civil law jurisdictions.
- Canadian immigration law requires proof that a sponsored spouse is legally free to marry under domestic statutory standards.
- Religious personal law divorces lacking judicial civil registration often face invalidation in foreign secular courts.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Rejection of foreign religious divorces by secular immigration authorities highlights the tension between private international law and domestic statutory marriage requirements.

DIMENSIONS

- **Legal Friction:** Discrepancies between religious personal codes and civil law standards create severe legal invalidity for cross-border spousal visa applicants.
- **Jurisdictional Sovereignty:** Secular nations enforce strict civil standards requiring formal judicial dissolution of previous marriages before granting legal recognition.
- **Humanitarian & Administrative Impact:** Non-recognition of foreign customary or religious divorces leaves immigrants in legal limbo, stalling permanent residency applications.

Way forward: Promote international harmonization through Hague Conferences on Private International Law and require bilateral civil verification of foreign divorce certificates.

PYQ LINK

Analyze the legal challenges arising from the conflict between religious personal laws and foreign statutory civil laws in cross-border marriage disputes.

KEY TERMS

Private International Law

Personal Law

Sharia Divorce

Conflict of Laws

Immigration Adjudication

ACTS & ARTICLES

Hague Marriage Convention, 1978

Article 14 - Equality before law

Special Marriage Act, 1954 (India Parallel Framework)

Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

GS PAPER III - INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

National PNG Drive 3.0 and India's Clean Energy Transition

Union Petroleum Ministry launches PNG Drive 3.0 targeting 50 lakh domestic connections

Q1. With reference to the National PNG Drive 3.0 launched in India, consider the following statements: 1. It is monitored by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). 2. The initiative aims to achieve 50 lakh new domestic piped natural gas connections by the end of FY27. 3. City gas distribution companies operate under statutory guidelines established by the Central Electricity Authority. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

GS PAPER III - BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Agrobiodiversity Conservation & Seed Bank Preservation

150-year-old broad bean heirloom enters national heritage seed collection in UK

Q2. Which of the following best describes the ecological and agricultural importance of preserving 'heirloom' crop varieties in heritage seed libraries? 1. They contain traditional genetic traits that can enhance climate resilience and crop disease resistance. 2. They prevent genetic erosion caused by widespread industrial monoculture farming. 3. They are genetically engineered seeds patented under commercial intellectual property laws. Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

GS PAPER III - ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation & Invasive Species Dynamics

Historical introduction of Nile perch in Lake Victoria drives extinction of 200 native cichlid species

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and aquatic ecosystems: 1. The introduction of Nile perch into Lake Victoria led to significant ecological loss including the extinction of native cichlid species. 2. Invasive predatory species can alter freshwater food webs and trigger trophic cascades. 3. The Convention on Biological Diversity strictly mandates that alien species cannot be introduced for commercial fisheries under any circumstances. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

India's food market reaches \$600 billion growing at 7 percent CAGR says Ministry official

Q4. With reference to the food processing sector in India, consider the following statements: 1. It accounts for approximately 8 percent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's manufacturing sector. 2. It represents the single largest foreign exchange earner among all service export sectors in India. 3. It is the second-highest employer within the manufacturing sector in India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Conflict Escalation and Strategic Deterrence in NATO-Russia Dynamics

President Putin warns Russia will deploy all weapons to defend Kaliningrad exclave

Q5. The region of 'Kaliningrad', recently featured in news regarding international security tensions, is best described as:

- A. A landlocked territory situated in Central Asia bordering Afghanistan.
- B. A strategic Russian exclave located on the Baltic Sea surrounded by NATO member states.
- C. An island territory in the Black Sea jointly administered by Turkey and Ukraine.
- D. A dispute-free autonomous zone situated along the Arctic Ocean coast.

Aviation Security, Extradition, and Geopolitical Tensions in the Middle East

Saudi Arabia extradites Omani co-pilot to UAE after flydubai mid-air assault

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding international legal conventions on civil aviation security: 1. The Tokyo Convention of 1963 confers authority on the aircraft commander to take reasonable measures against acts endangering flight safety. 2. The Hague Convention of 1970 focuses specifically on the suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft. 3. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) operates as a specialized agency under the United Nations. Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

Q1: A**Q2: B****Q3: A****Q4: B****Q5: B****Q6: D**

Q1 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: National PNG Drive 3.0 was launched by the Union Petroleum Minister along with PNGRB to target 50 lakh new domestic PNG connections by FY27. Statement 3 is incorrect because City Gas Distribution is regulated by the PNGRB, not the Central Electricity Authority.

Q2 Option B · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Heirloom seeds represent traditional, non-hybridized plant lineages cultivated over generations, providing genetic diversity crucial against diseases and climate stress, and reversing genetic erosion. Statement 3 is incorrect because heirloom seeds are open-pollinated traditional seeds, not genetically engineered patented commercial seeds.

Q3 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The predatory Nile perch introduced into Lake Victoria destroyed around 200 endemic cichlid species through predation and competition, altering the lake's food web. Statement 3 is incorrect because the CBD sets targets (like Aichi Target 9) to control and prevent invasive species through management and risk assessment, but does not impose absolute prohibition clauses on all alien introductions.

Q4 Option B · 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: According to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, food processing contributes nearly 8% of GVA in manufacturing and is the second-highest employment creator in manufacturing. Statement 2 is incorrect as it is a manufacturing/agro-based industry, not the single largest service export sector.

Q5

Option B · A strategic Russian exclave located on the Baltic Sea surrounded by NATO member states.

Kaliningrad is a strategically critical Russian exclave located on the Baltic Coast, physically separated from mainland Russia and bordered by NATO member states Poland and Lithuania.

Q6 Option D · 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct: The Tokyo Convention (1963) empowers aircraft captains to maintain order, the Hague Convention (1970) addresses aircraft hijacking/unlawful seizure, and ICAO is a UN specialized agency setting global aviation security standards.