



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

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October 2026

SUNDAY

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TOPICS

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MCQS

Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion

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Institutional Governance and Constitutional Accountability in Election Oversight



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Rahul Gandhi Launches Satyagraha Digital Platform Amid Ongoing Protests Against CEC

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi launched the Satyagraha digital platform designed to aggregate and track nationwide resistance movements.

The platform launch followed ongoing capital protests demanding the immediate removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over perceived electoral integrity issues.

Over 10,000 public grievance submissions were registered on the portal within nine hours of its public launch across various states.

Opposition political leaders and civil society activists organized marches toward Jantar Mantar while facing police detentions near Patel Chowk.

Illustrates the strategic integration of digital crowdsourcing tools by constitutional opposition parties to mobilize public dissent and demand electoral accountability.

STORY 2 **Google News**

Opposition Coalitions Plan Capital Demonstrations Demanding Resignation of Election Chief

Political coalitions announced plans for a organized protest march in New Delhi demanding the immediate resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The upcoming demonstration scheduled for October 10 targets perceived institutional bias and demands structural reforms in national poll governance.

Protesting groups assert that institutional checks are urgent to uphold administrative neutrality across upcoming state and national elections.

Public agitation intensified following consecutive police detentions of youth leaders, civil rights activists, and senior advocates during capital marches.

Highlights democratic avenues for expressing grievances against statutory bodies and highlights legislative calls for election commission reform.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on the constitutional framework under Article 324, institutional independence of election management bodies, public accountability, and legal mechanisms for CEC removal.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Article 324 of the Constitution vests the superintendence, direction, and control of all elections to Parliament and State Legislatures in the Election Commission.
- A Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through parliamentary impeachment in a manner similar to a Supreme Court Judge.
- Digital resistance platforms are increasingly deployed by opposition leaders to crowdsource grievances and coordinate civic demonstrations nationwide.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Institutional independence and public trust in the Election Commission of India are fundamental to sustaining democratic legitimacy and constitutional governance.

DIMENSIONS

- Constitutional mechanisms safeguarding Chief Election Commissioner independence against executive overreach.
- Role of digital political platforms and grassroots civil society movements in demanding institutional transparency.
- Parliamentary oversight procedures and judicial remedies for preserving democratic poll credibility.

Way forward: Institutionalize a multi-stakeholder appointment panel and establish structured statutory mechanisms to review grievances against election management authorities.

PYQ LINK

Evaluates the institutional independence and functional autonomy of statutory and constitutional bodies in conducting free and fair elections.

KEY TERMS

Electoral Integrity Constitutional Bodies Article 324 Public Accountability Civil Disobedience

ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 324 Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act 2023 Article 19(1)(a)



STORY 1 **The Hindu**

India and Pakistan Issue Reciprocal Diplomatic Summons Over Border Infiltration Incident

India and Pakistan issued reciprocal diplomatic summons following a lethal border interception along the International Border in Punjab.

Border Security Force personnel killed two Pakistani infiltrators attempting unauthorized entry through the border sector in Tarn Taran district.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry accused Indian forces of using unprovoked force, while India rejected the claim and protested facilitated cross-border infiltration.

BSF authorities conducted post-mortem procedures before handing over the deceased individuals' bodies to Pakistani border officers at the frontier.

Highlighted diplomatic communications between Charges d'Affaires in Islamabad and New Delhi following mission downgrades enacted since 2019.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Indian Diplomatic Stance on Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Travel Protocol

Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi clarified India's diplomatic position regarding former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's arrival in August 2024.

Trivedi stated Hasina arrived on a Bangladeshi military aircraft while serving as Prime Minister during rapid regional political transitions.

India fulfilled neighborly diplomatic duties by accommodating incoming political leadership without sending military aircraft or interfering in internal governance.

Bangladesh's formal request for Hasina's extradition remains under legal evaluation without fixed completion timelines due to judicial participation.

Demonstrates non-interference principles, international legal asylum norms, and complex legal obligations inherent in South Asian bilateral treaties.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines cross-border infiltration security, border security operations, diplomatic Charge d’Affaires interactions, and legal complexities surrounding bilateral extradition treaties.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's primary border guarding organization tasked with securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- A Charge d’Affaires serves as the temporary head of a diplomatic mission when accredited Ambassadors or High Commissioners are absent.
- Extradition between sovereign states requires compliance with bilateral treaty provisions, judicial verification, and dual criminality principles.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Securing national borders while navigating volatile bilateral relationships requires combining robust paramilitary surveillance with structured diplomatic channels.

DIMENSIONS

- Operational challenges faced by paramilitary forces in detecting cross-border infiltration along riverine and land sectors.
- Role of Charge d’Affaires in maintaining functional diplomatic lines during periods of mission downgrades.
- Legal mechanisms governing political asylum, sovereign non-interference, and formal extradition processes.

Way forward: Deploy comprehensive integrated grid technology along borders while keeping formal diplomatic channels active to prevent localized escalations.

PYQ LINK

Analyzes effective border management strategies and diplomatic protocols required to address security threats along volatile international borders.

KEY TERMS

Infiltration Control

Border Security Force

Extradition Treaty

Diplomatic Protocol

Charge d’Affaires

ACTS & ARTICLES

Border Security Force Act 1968

Extradition Act 1962

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961

Global Energy Security, Reserve Buffers, and Maritime Transit Routes



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Gulf Crude Exports Recover to Pre-War Levels Despite Blockade of Strait of Hormuz

West Asian crude exports recovered to 16.5 million barrels daily in September, matching pre-war baseline volumes despite maritime blockades.

Exporters successfully bypassed the choked Strait of Hormuz by rerouting 40% of outbound crude through overland regional pipeline networks.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE utilized cross-country pipelines to deliver crude directly to alternative deepwater terminals outside the Persian Gulf.

Remaining crude shipments crossing Hormuz relied heavily on short-distance shuttle tankers to reduce risk exposure during volatile conditions.

Illustrates operational flexibility in global energy logistics when navigating militarized maritime bottlenecks and chokepoint blockades.

STORY 2 **Google News**

G7 Nations Announce Coordinated Release of 100 Million Barrels of Strategic Oil Reserves

The Group of Seven industrialized nations authorized a coordinated release of 100 million barrels from emergency crude and diesel stockpiles.

The intervention aims to counteract global fuel inflation triggered by West Asian conflict disruptions and maritime supply bottlenecks.

Member countries plan to inject reserve fuel directly into global markets to stabilize volatile petroleum prices across import-dependent economies.

The reserve draw reflects strategic buffer coordination maintained by major economies to cushion energy markets during geopolitical crises.

Demonstrates international economic cooperation mechanisms designed to protect global supply chains and sustain macroeconomic growth.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Focuses on strategic maritime chokepoints, overland energy infrastructure bypasses, emergency petroleum reserves, and international energy market stabilization.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, serving as a vital petroleum conduit.
- Saudi Arabia and the UAE operate overland pipelines capable of bypassing the Strait of Hormuz to reach Red Sea and Gulf terminals.
- Coordinated strategic reserve releases are organized by industrialized nations to mitigate energy price shocks during supply disruptions.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Protecting energy supply chains against maritime chokepoint disruptions is vital for preserving macroeconomic stability in import-dependent countries.

DIMENSIONS

- Geopolitical vulnerabilities of maritime petroleum transit through narrow ocean chokepoints like Hormuz.
- Effectiveness of cross-country pipeline infrastructure in bypassing militarized maritime conflict zones.
- Multilateral intervention strategies utilizing emergency crude reserves to calm global commodity price volatility.

Way forward: Diversify national energy import origins, build robust overland pipeline connections, and expand strategic domestic crude storage capacity.

PYQ LINK

Examines critical global maritime chokepoints and evaluates strategic energy security measures available to import-dependent economies.

KEY TERMS

Strait of Hormuz

Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Maritime Chokepoint

Pipeline Bypass

Crude Supply Chain

ACTS & ARTICLES

UNCLOS 1982

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Framework

International Energy Agency Directives

Digital Sovereignty, Cybersecurity Regulation, and Cyber Crime Enforcement

STORY 1 **The Hindu**

Apple Delists Offline Messaging Application Bitchat Following Demand From IT Ministry

Apple removed Bluetooth-based offline messaging application Bitchat from its Indian App Store following orders from the IT Ministry.

Developer Jack Dorsey published Apple's compliance notice confirming app removal in response to formal Indian government regulatory demands.

Bitchat previously faced regulatory action when the Home Ministry's cybercrime unit requested source code repository removals on GitHub.

Government agencies raised national security concerns regarding unmonitored mesh networks operating without centralized server infrastructure or traceable logs.

Highlights ongoing tensions between state digital surveillance mandates, encrypted peer-to-peer software, and platform compliance obligations.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

Jordanian Authorities Detain Suspected ShinyHunters Cybercrime Group Member Saif al-Din Khader

Jordanian security forces detained Saif al-Din Khader, a suspected key member of the international hacking collective ShinyHunters.

The arrest follows allegations that ShinyHunters exfiltrated sensitive personnel records belonging to internal Federal Bureau of Investigation employees.

Khader is in custody assisting international law enforcement and the FBI to locate additional members of the hacking syndicate.

The FBI reaffirmed global law enforcement partnerships to pursue cross-border cyber criminals threatening critical digital infrastructure.

Demonstrates cross-border mutual legal assistance protocols and intelligence sharing mechanisms essential for combating organized transnational cybercrime.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Covers regulatory powers under Section 69A of the IT Act, governance of offline mesh communication technologies, and international legal enforcement against cybercrime collectives.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Section 69A of the IT Act 2000 empowers the Central Government to block public access to online information for national security purposes.
- The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs handles cybercrime coordination across national jurisdictions.
- Bluetooth mesh messaging enables peer-to-peer digital communication without internet connections or centralized server logging.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Balancing national security considerations with platform rights requires proportional executive powers and transparent digital regulation.

DIMENSIONS

- Executive powers under Section 69A of the IT Act regarding platform censorship and software blocking orders.
- Security risks posed by serverless, decentralized peer-to-peer communications during public order incidents.
- Mechanisms of international law enforcement cooperation in arresting transnational cyber criminals.

Way forward: Establish clear statutory oversight for app removal orders while expanding international legal assistance treaties to combat global cyber threats.

PYQ LINK

Analyzes the legal balance between digital privacy rights, state regulatory authority, and national cyber security frameworks.

KEY TERMS

Information Technology Act

Section 69A

Cyber Security

Bluetooth Mesh Network

Transnational Cybercrime

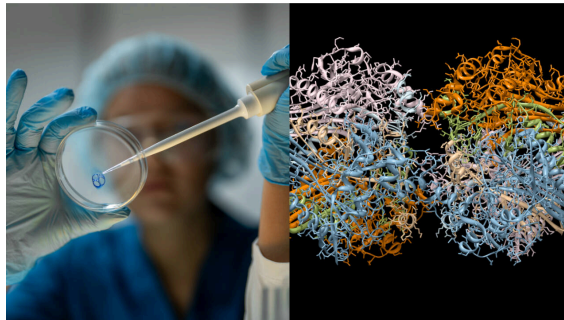
ACTS & ARTICLES

Information Technology Act 2000

IT Rules 2021

Article 19(1)(a)

Evolutionary Biotechnology and Innovations Against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



STORY 1 **Times of India**

Scientists Reconstruct 160-Million-Year-Old Mammalian Proteins to Counter Drug-Resistant Superbugs

University of Oregon researchers reconstructed 160-million-year-old ancestral mammalian proteins to identify novel bacterial defense mechanisms.

Study published in PLOS Biology showed ancestral lactoferrin fragments exhibited superior potency against resistant pathogens compared to modern human versions.

Researchers pinpointed structural modifications acquired during evolutionary history to design engineered antimicrobial peptide therapies.

Evolutionary sequence analysis revealed novel biological targets capable of overcoming contemporary bacterial resistance mechanisms.

Offers promising scientific pathways for developing next-generation bio-therapeutics to combat escalating global antimicrobial resistance.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Explores computational biological applications, ancestral protein resurrection, bio-therapeutics, and scientific innovations tackling multi-drug resistant superbugs.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) arises when microorganisms evolve mechanisms to survive exposure to antimicrobial drugs.
- Lactoferrin is a multifunctional immune protein naturally found in secretory fluids like milk, tears, and saliva.
- Ancestral sequence reconstruction uses computational models to infer historical protein structures from modern genomic data.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance requires innovative bio-therapeutic approaches beyond traditional synthetic antibiotic discovery.

DIMENSIONS

- Public health threats posed by multi-drug resistant bacterial strains resistant to conventional treatments.
- Application of evolutionary computational biology to identify potent ancestral bio-therapeutic molecules.
- Translational challenges in converting resurrected protein peptides into clinically approved pharmaceutical treatments.

Way forward: Invest in computational biomimetic research and strengthen One Health frameworks to combat multi-drug resistant pathogens.

PYQ LINK

Discusses scientific advancements in biotechnology and evaluates national strategies required to address antimicrobial resistance.

KEY TERMS

Antimicrobial Resistance

Lactoferrin

Ancestral Sequence Reconstruction

Bio-therapeutics

Superbugs

ACTS & ARTICLES

National Action Plan on AMR

Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940

WHO Global AMR Framework

06

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

International Humanitarian Law, Critical Infrastructure, and Conflict Escalation



Russian Military Doctrine Targets Kyiv Civilian Infrastructure Prompting Diplomatic Evacuation Warnings

Russian Foreign Ministry issued warnings of ongoing targeted strikes against military and urban infrastructure across Ukrainian cities.

Moscow advised foreign diplomats and international citizens to evacuate Kyiv immediately, assigning sole responsibility for potential harm to non-evacuees.

Ukrainian intelligence cited updated Russian military doctrines expanding pre-winter strike targets across civilian power and transit grids.

Intensive drone and missile strikes damaged critical urban bridges, severing transportation and energy distribution corridors across the capital city.

Raises critical international legal questions regarding non-combatant protections, diplomatic safety, and humanitarian law adherence during urban conflict.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Examines protection of civilian infrastructure under the Geneva Conventions, diplomatic mission safety in war zones, and compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 establish international legal protections for non-combatants and civil infrastructure during war.
- Diplomatic premises and personnel enjoy absolute protection and immunity under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
- Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions prohibits attacks targeting dual-use civilian energy and transit infrastructure.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: The systematic targeting of civilian energy and transport infrastructure during modern conflicts violates established principles of International Humanitarian Law.

DIMENSIONS

- Protections guaranteed to dual-use civil infrastructure under international war conventions.
- Security obligations and diplomatic withdrawal protocols enforced during active urban warfare.
- Socioeconomic impacts of infrastructure destruction on civilian survival during severe weather conditions.

Way forward: Reinforce international monitoring mechanisms and hold warring parties accountable to Geneva Convention obligations protecting civilian lives.

PYQ LINK

Evaluates international legal conventions governing the protection of non-combatants, diplomats, and civil infrastructure during armed conflicts.

KEY TERMS

Geneva Conventions

International Humanitarian Law

Critical Infrastructure

Diplomatic Immunity

Warfare Doctrine

ACTS & ARTICLES

Geneva Conventions 1949

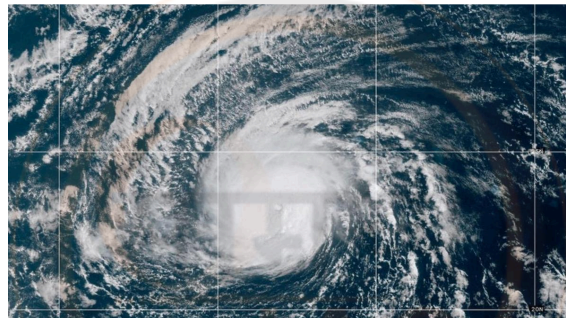
Vienna Convention 1961

UN Charter Article 2(4)

07

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Meteorological Dynamics and Ecosystem Vulnerability of Severe Tropical Cyclones



STORY 1 The Hindu

Hurricane Nolo Escalates to Category 3 Major Storm in Remote Central Pacific Ocean

Hurricane Nolo rapidly intensified into a Category 3 major storm with maximum sustained wind speeds reaching 115 miles per hour.

The National Hurricane Center tracked the storm 210 miles south-southwest of Maro Reef, tracking westward across the Central Pacific Ocean.

Forecasters issued tropical storm warnings for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument encompassing protected Pacific reefs, shoals, and low-lying atolls.

Meteorological models indicated large storm-generated ocean swells would likely inundate low-lying coral atolls without directly threatening populated island centers.

Illustrates tropical cyclone wind dynamics, rapid ocean intensification, and severe storm surge vulnerabilities across low-elevation oceanic reserves.

India's Performance and Medal Standings at the 2026 Asian Games

Indian sports contingents achieved notable podium finishes across multiple competitive events during the ongoing Asian Games continental tournament.

The Asian Games represents a premier quadrennial multi-sport event bringing together elite athletes from national Olympic committees across Asia.

Targeted sports federation investments and government training initiatives contributed to improved national performances in track, field, and team sports.

Elite Indian athletes demonstrated competitive progress across traditional disciplines, enhancing the country's overall medal tally and international profile.

Highlights state sports policy interventions, athlete development frameworks, and the broader soft power significance of international athletic success.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Covers tropical cyclone classification, oceanic storm dynamics, Saffir-Simpson wind scales, and disaster vulnerability of protected marine reserves.

PRELIMS FACTS

- The Saffir-Simpson Scale categorizes hurricanes from Category 1 to Category 5 based on sustained wind speeds.
- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is one of the world's largest protected marine conservation areas, located west of Hawaii.
- Low-lying oceanic atolls are particularly vulnerable to storm surges and swell-induced inundation during major tropical cyclones.

MAINS FRAMEWORK

Intro: Escalating cyclone intensity driven by warm ocean conditions threatens fragile oceanic atolls and low-lying marine protected ecosystems.

DIMENSIONS

- Oceanographic factors influencing the rapid intensification of tropical storms into Category 3 major hurricanes.
- Physical vulnerability of remote marine reserves and low-elevation coral atolls to oceanic storm surges.
- Role of disaster management protocols and satellite monitoring in tracking severe oceanic weather systems.

Way forward: Strengthen satellite oceanographic monitoring and integrate climate resilience frameworks to safeguard fragile marine biodiversity reserves.

PYQ LINK

Explains the formation dynamics of severe tropical cyclones and assesses their ecological impacts on fragile oceanic ecosystems.

KEY TERMS

Tropical Cyclone

Saffir-Simpson Scale

Marine National Monument

Atoll Inundation

Storm Surge

ACTS & ARTICLES

Disaster Management Act 2005

UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Sendai Framework for DRR



Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Institutional Governance and Constitutional Accountability in Election Oversight

Rahul Gandhi Launches Satyagraha Digital Platform Amid Ongoing Protests Against CEC

Q1. With reference to the removal process of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, consider the following statements: 1. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in the same manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court. 2. Other Election Commissioners can be removed from office on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner. 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 & SECURITY

Border Management, Bilateral Diplomacy, and Extradition Dynamics

India and Pakistan Issue Reciprocal Diplomatic Summons Over Border Infiltration Incident

Q2. In international diplomatic practice, what does the title 'Charge d'Affaires' designate?

- A. An ambassador holding special diplomatic immunity appointed directly by the UN Security Council.
- B. A diplomatic official who heads an embassy or diplomatic mission in the absence of an accredited Ambassador or High Commissioner.
- C. A military attache strictly responsible for conducting bilateral cross-border flag meetings.
- D. A special judicial envoy appointed exclusively to process international extradition treaties.

ECONOMY & GEOGRAPHY

Global Energy Security, Reserve Buffers, and Maritime Transit Routes

Gulf Crude Exports Recover to Pre-War Levels Despite Blockade of Strait of Hormuz

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

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Digital Sovereignty, Cybersecurity Regulation, and Cyber Crime Enforcement

Apple Delists Offline Messaging Application Bitchat Following Demand From IT Ministry

Q4. Under which section of the Information Technology Act, 2000 is the Central Government empowered to issue directions for blocking public access to information through computer resources on national security grounds?

- A. Section 43A
- B. Section 66F
- C. Section 69A
- D. Section 79

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Evolutionary Biotechnology and Innovations Against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Scientists Reconstruct 160-Million-Year-Old Mammalian Proteins to Counter Drug-Resistant Superbugs

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Lactoferrin: 1. It is a natural immune protein present in secretory fluids including milk, tears, and saliva. 2. Recent evolutionary biology studies demonstrate that resurrected ancestral lactoferrin fragments exhibited potent antimicrobial activity against drug-resistant bacteria. 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

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Meteorological Dynamics and Ecosystem Vulnerability of Severe Tropical Cyclones

Hurricane Nolo Escalates to Category 3 Major Storm in Remote Central Pacific Ocean

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument: 1. It is a vast marine conservation area protecting coral reefs, atolls, and seamounts in the Pacific Ocean. 2. It is geographically located to the west of Hawaii's main islands. 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

Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

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

Under Article 324(5) of the Indian Constitution, the Chief Election Commissioner cannot be removed except in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court. Any other Election Commissioner can only be removed from office on the recommendation of the CEC.

Q2**Option B · A diplomatic official who heads an embassy or diplomatic mission in the absence of an accredited Ambassador or High Commissioner.**

A Charge d'Affaires is a diplomatic officer who heads a diplomatic mission when an Ambassador or High Commissioner is not accredited or is absent, maintaining essential formal communication between sovereign nations.

Q3 Option B · Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

The Strait of Hormuz is a key strategic maritime chokepoint situated between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, providing the primary sea route for West Asian oil exports.

Q4 Option C · Section 69A

Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 grants statutory power to the Central Government to order the blocking of public access to online information in the interests of national sovereignty, integrity, security, or public order.

Q5 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Lactoferrin is a multifunctional immune protein naturally found in mammalian body fluids. Research published in PLOS Biology showed 160-million-year-old resurrected lactoferrin fragments displayed superior potency against drug-resistant bacteria compared to modern human versions.

Q6 Option C · Both 1 and 2

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is a protected marine reserve containing islands, atolls, and coral reefs situated in the Pacific Ocean west of the main Hawaiian islands.