



SAMARTHYA IAS · AHMEDABAD

DAILY UPSC COMPANION

# Samarthya Current Affairs

Prelims facts · Mains frameworks · Practice MCQs

**5** | **October 2026**  
**MONDAY**

**7**  
TOPICS

**12**  
STORIES

**5**  
MCQS

*Your Complete UPSC Current Affairs Companion*

## 5 Things You Must Know

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Green Energy Corridor Phase-III and Battery Storage Integration

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### **Supreme Court agrees to hear plea regarding peaceful protests at Jantar Mantar**

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## Green Energy Corridor Phase-III and Battery Storage Integration



### STORY 1 **The Hindu**

#### **Union Cabinet approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III with battery storage framework**

The Union Cabinet approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) infrastructure initiative to bridge the geographic and temporal mismatch between renewable power generation and grid consumption hubs across India.

The Union Government led the approval, benefiting renewable-rich states and major electricity utilization centers by strengthening intra-state transmission lines and large-scale battery storage facilities.

The initiative carries a total budget of ₹1.86 lakh crore, including ₹1.36 lakh crore for intra-state transmission, ₹50,000 crore for 50 GWh storage systems, and ₹54,082 crore central assistance.

India's rapid renewable expansion faces serious curtailment and grid integration risks because solar and wind generation peaks do not always align with geographic demand centers or temporal demand spikes.

This development is vital for UPSC GS-3, highlighting national energy security, renewable grid integration, viability gap funding mechanisms, and infrastructure development strategies for sustainable economic growth.

#### **UPSC RELEVANCE**

Integration of renewable energy into the national grid and overcoming geographic-temporal mismatches in clean energy transition.

#### **PRELIMS FACTS**

- The Union Cabinet approved Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) with an outlay of ₹1.86 lakh crore.

- GEC-III allocates ₹1.36 lakh crore for intra-state transmission and ₹50,000 crore for 50 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- Central financial support for the GEC-III project stands at ₹54,082 crore utilizing a viability-gap funding mechanism.

## MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** The Union Cabinet's approval of the ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) marks a strategic shift in India's energy transition from mere renewable capacity addition to enhancing grid reliability and storage.

### DIMENSIONS

- **Infrastructure & Grid Reliability:** Addresses the geographic mismatch between renewable generation hubs and consumption centers while mitigating temporal generation variability.
- **Storage Infrastructure & Investment:** Incorporates 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) backed by Viability Gap Funding to stabilize the national grid during peak load demand.
- **Federal Collaboration:** Allocates ₹1.36 lakh crore specifically for intra-state transmission infrastructure, fostering state-level grid modernization and evacuation efficiency.

**Way forward:** Expedite intra-state transmission project execution, incentivize domestic battery storage manufacturing, and establish dynamic tariff mechanisms to support storage grid integration.

### PYQ LINK

Examine the challenges in integrating renewable energy into India's national grid and the policy measures required for grid stability.

### KEY TERMS

Green Energy Corridor

Battery Energy Storage System

Viability Gap Funding

Grid Integration

Intra-state Transmission

### ACTS & ARTICLES

Electricity Act, 2003

National Electricity Policy

Article 298 (Executive Power over Trade and Energy)



## STORY 1 **The Hindu**

### **Supreme Court agrees to hear plea regarding peaceful protests at Jantar Mantar**

The Supreme Court indicated it will list a petition alleging that Delhi Police is prohibiting peaceful assembly and marches to Jantar Mantar by citizens and political representatives.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant addressed oral submissions made on behalf of students, citizens, party leaders, and lawmakers seeking judicial intervention.

The plea relates to demonstrations seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged misconduct, pressing for constitutional accountability and assembly rights.

Delhi Police routinely restricts public gatherings near political corridors citing public order concerns, leading to rights enforcement petitions regarding designated urban protest sites.

This topic directly connects to UPSC GS-2 polity topics including Article 19 fundamental freedoms, reasonable restrictions, judicial review of police powers, and procedures for constitutional officer accountability.



## STORY 2 **The Hindu**

### **Supreme Court seeks response on relocation of historic Central Secretariat Library**

The Supreme Court requested a detailed response from the Union government on plans to relocate the historical Central Secretariat Library under the ongoing Central Vista redevelopment.

A Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva directed Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to submit an affidavit within three weeks detailing safety arrangements.

The 135-year-old library, founded in 1891, spans four floors and 5,500 square meters in Shastri Bhawan, storing over 8.5 lakh books and rare historical manuscripts dating to 1802.

The relocation arises amid the planned demolition of Shastri Bhawan and Krishi Bhawan, prompting legal scrutiny over the protection and digitisation of national documentary heritage.

Relevant for UPSC GS-1 and GS-2, covering administrative protection of cultural heritage, judicial oversight of public infrastructure projects, and archival conservation policies.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Constitutional balance between public order restrictions and fundamental freedoms under Article 19, alongside executive management of public heritage assets.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- The Supreme Court agreed to list a petition challenging Delhi Police restrictions on peaceful protests near Jantar Mantar.
- The petition involves demands for the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner following allegations of misconduct.
- The Supreme Court separately issued notice on the proposed relocation of the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library established in 1891.

### MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** The Supreme Court's intervention in protest permissions and the preservation of institutional heritage highlights the ongoing constitutional friction between executive discretion, reasonable restrictions, and citizen rights.

#### DIMENSIONS

- **Fundamental Rights vs Public Order:** Evaluating whether blanket prohibitions on public demonstrations around designated protest zones satisfy the proportionality test under Article 19(2).
- **Institutional Independence:** Balancing democratic freedom to criticize constitutional functionaries with the procedural integrity required for removing constitutional authorities.
- **Preservation of Public Knowledge Heritage:** Judicial oversight regarding the relocation of historical archives like the Central Secretariat Library during large-scale urban infrastructure updates.

**Way forward:** Formulate clear spatial guidelines for urban protest grounds and create transparent protocols for safeguarding historical public archives during administrative

redevelopments.

## KEY TERMS

Article 19(1)(b)

Reasonable Restrictions

Constitutional Accountability

Judicial Review

Public Order

## ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 19(1)(a) & 19(1)(b)

Article 19(2) & 19(3)

Article 324 (Election Commission)

Public Records Act, 1993

03

GS-2: GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

# Constitutional Validity of Public Transport Fare Concessions and State Subsidies



## STORY 1 The Hindu

### Private bus operator challenges Tamil Nadu Vettri Payanam scheme in High Court

A private transport operator filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court seeking to declare Tamil Nadu's 'Vettri Payanam' zero-fare bus travel scheme unconstitutional.

Petitioner N. Kalamani, a bus operator from Erode district, submitted the challenge before the High Court against the State Government's public transport welfare policy.

The scheme grants free travel to women and transwomen across 12,695 state buses, which private operators claim diverts male passengers too as families choose state transport.

Private bus companies contend that exclusive state subsidies force non-subsidized private transport businesses toward financial insolvency, violating equal opportunity and commercial freedom rights.

This case provides an exemplary study for UPSC GS-2 and GS-3 regarding judicial review of affirmative action policies, state subsidy distortions, and fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(g).

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Socio-economic welfare schemes versus freedom of trade and economic non-discrimination principles under the Indian Constitution.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- A writ petition was filed in the Madras High Court challenging the Tamil Nadu government's 'Vettri Payanam' no-fare bus scheme.
- The 'Vettri Payanam' scheme provides free bus travel to women and transwomen passengers across 12,695 state-run public buses.
- Private operators claim financial distress under Article 19(1)(g) due to passenger diversion toward subsidized government transport.

### MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** The legal challenge to Tamil Nadu's 'Vettri Payanam' scheme in the Madras High Court accentuates the constitutional tension between state-sponsored social welfare initiatives and commercial freedom for private enterprises.

#### DIMENSIONS

- **Socio-Economic Inclusion:** Enhances female labor force participation, mobility, and financial autonomy by eliminating urban transit cost barriers.
- **Economic Impact on Private Sector:** Private transport operators face revenue losses and business unviability due to government cross-subsidization.
- **Constitutional Validity:** Balancing Article 15(3) affirmative action provisions for women with Article 19(1)(g) freedom to practice any trade or business.

**Way forward:** Implement targeted direct benefit transfers for transport, compensate private operators through public-private partnership models, and establish level playing fields in public service provision.

### KEY TERMS

Affirmative Action

Article 19(1)(g)

Article 14

Welfare State

Market Distortion

### ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 14 (Equality before Law)

Article 15(3) (Special provisions for women)

Article 19(1)(g) (Right to practice any profession)

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

## Ecosystem Restoration through Invasive Alien Species Eradication and Land Easements



STORY 1 **Times of India**

### Eradication of invasive black rats leads to recovery of seabird population

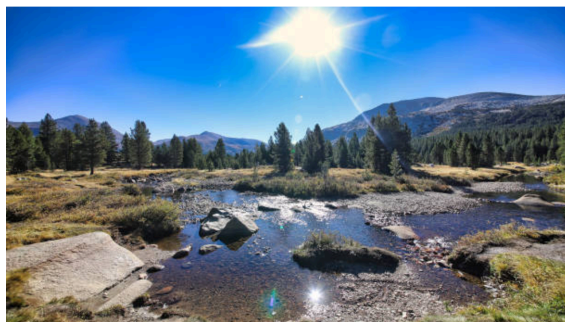
A long-term Mediterranean island conservation initiative demonstrated dramatic biological recovery following the systematic eradication of invasive alien black rats on Zannone island.

Italian conservation authorities targeted black rat populations on Zannone island off Italy's coast to protect native burrow-nesting pelagic seabird colonies.

Following complete rat eradication in 2007, breeding pairs of Scopoli's shearwater increased significantly from 27 pairs in 2007 to 80 pairs by 2016.

Invasive rodents pose severe ecological threats to isolated island biota by preying on bird eggs and chicks, making eradication campaigns essential for preventing avian extinctions.

Highly relevant for UPSC GS-3 environment papers, illustrating invasive alien species management, ecosystem rehabilitation techniques, and international biodiversity targets.



## Conservation easement on private land protects vital watershed and wildlife corridor

A 128-acre private estate was permanently preserved as a wildlife corridor and aquatic sanctuary through a legally binding voluntary conservation easement.

Schoolteacher Jeanne Paisley placed her 128-acre retreat in Richford, Tioga County, New York, under a land trust protection agreement.

The easement permanently safeguards contiguous forests, wetlands, and a critical tributary stream ecologically linked to the broader Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Conservation easements allow landowners to retain property title while legally restricting future real estate development to protect continuous ecological services.

This provides valuable policy insights for UPSC GS-3 concerning community-driven conservation, private land stewardship models, and watershed ecosystem protection.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Ecological restoration methodologies, invasive species control on fragile ecosystems, and private land conservation legal frameworks.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Black rat eradication completed in 2007 on Italy's Zannone island increased Scopoli's shearwater breeding pairs from 27 to 80 by 2016.
- Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) act as severe invasive alien predators targeting burrow-nesting island seabird colonies globally.
- Conservation easements legally restrict land development to permanently safeguard forests, wetlands, and watershed corridors.

### MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** Targeted ecological interventions, ranging from invasive alien predator eradication on fragile island ecosystems to private land conservation easements, provide proven models for halting global biodiversity loss.

#### DIMENSIONS

- **Island Biodiversity Protection:** Eliminating invasive species like black rats removes predation pressure, allowing native seabird populations like Scopoli's shearwater to recover rapidly.
- **Landscape Connectivity:** Private conservation easements create permanent biological corridors linking fragmented forests, wetlands, and aquatic systems.
- **Legal Frameworks for Conservation:** Combining regulatory prohibition of invasive species with voluntary legal instruments like land easements for sustainable ecosystem

management.

**Way forward:** Scale up invasive species management across national island sanctuaries and introduce legal frameworks for private land conservation easements in domestic environment legislation.

#### KEY TERMS

Invasive Alien Species

Conservation Easement

Ecological Succession

Watershed Protection

Biodiversity Recovery

#### ACTS & ARTICLES

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Kunming-Montreal Framework)

05

GS-3: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Artificial Intelligence Safety Governance and Open Access Debates



### STORY 1 The Hindu

#### OpenAI CEO advocates public access to AI while accepting manageable risks

OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman publicly stated that society should accept manageable risks associated with artificial intelligence to maximize broad societal benefits.

Sam Altman delivered these remarks during an industry policy interview, detailing strategic differences in regulatory philosophy between OpenAI and developer rival Anthropic.

Altman rejected centralized safety approaches where a single enterprise restricts public AI distribution, advocating instead for accessible technology and distributed user agency.

The statement comes amid heightened debate over whether advanced AI development requires strict pre-deployment government oversight or open deployment with iterative safeguards.

Directly relevant for UPSC GS-3 Science & Technology topics including AI ethics, technology regulation policies, digital sovereignty, and balancing technological innovation with public safety.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Ethical considerations, public accessibility, risk mitigation, and international regulatory approaches to advancing frontier artificial intelligence.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- OpenAI CEO Sam Altman argued that society must accept manageable risks to ensure broad public access to artificial intelligence.
- Significant divergence exists between major AI laboratories like OpenAI and Anthropic regarding centralized control versus democratized AI deployment.
- Current regulatory policy discussions pit centralized safety containment against open-source public agency models.

### MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** The escalating technological debate between centralized AI risk containment and democratized technology access highlights the challenge of crafting global AI governance frameworks.

#### DIMENSIONS

- **Innovation vs Safety:** Balancing rapid commercial AI deployment with safeguards against systemic risks, misuse, and automated decision biases.
- **Market Concentration Risks:** Risks associated with limiting high-capability frontier models to a few technology firms versus open-source distribution risks.
- **Regulatory Approaches:** Contrasting state-centric precautionary regulations with risk-tolerant development models prioritizing public agency.

**Way forward:** Establish global safety standards, promote transparent open-source auditing protocols, and deploy risk-tiered regulatory frameworks that safeguard national security without stifling digital innovation.

### KEY TERMS

Artificial Intelligence Safety

AI Governance

Frontier AI Models

Open Access AI

Risk Assessment

### ACTS & ARTICLES

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

Information Technology Act, 2000

06

GS-2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & MARITIME SECURITY

## International Law, Non-Refoulement, and Maritime Counter-Narcotics Operations



STORY 1 **Times of India**

### Repatriation of 1,500 Myanmar migrants from Malaysia raises international human rights concerns

Nearly 1,500 Myanmar nationals arrived in Yangon after being repatriated by Malaysia, drawing sharp criticism from the UN refugee agency and human rights organizations.

The repatriation operation involved Malaysian immigration authorities and Myanmar naval vessels carrying returnees, including 86 women convicted of immigration violations.

The transfer represents the first batch of approximately 5,000 Myanmar detainees scheduled for phased return from Malaysian holding centers housing over 10,000 migrants.

Human rights bodies warned that forced returns violate safety principles given ongoing domestic hostilities in Myanmar, highlighting gaps in regional refugee protection mechanisms.

Crucial for UPSC GS-2 international relations, illustrating customary international law, non-refoulement principles, ASEAN regional migration challenges, and human rights conventions.



STORY 2 **Times of India**

## US military conducts lethal strike on suspected Caribbean drug trafficking vessel

The United States military launched a kinetic strike against a high-speed vessel in the Caribbean Sea, killing four individuals accused of narco-trafficking activities.

US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and Joint Task Force Western Hemisphere executed the targeted strike along known maritime drug transit corridors in international waters.

Officials stated intelligence confirmed active narcotics trafficking, classifying the deceased as narco-terrorists while releasing aerial surveillance footage of the ocean explosion.

International legal experts questioned the resort to lethal military force against suspected civilian maritime vessels under international law and law of the sea standards.

Relevant for UPSC GS-2, touching upon extraterritorial jurisdiction, UNCLOS maritime security enforcement, international counter-narcotics conventions, and human rights accountability.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Compliance with customary international law, human rights obligations under refugee protection frameworks, and maritime counter-narcotics kinetic actions.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Malaysia repatriated 1,500 Myanmar nationals via naval vessels despite UN refugee agency warnings regarding ongoing conflict conditions.
- UN refugee agencies emphasize adherence to the principle of non-refoulement prohibiting forced returns to dangerous territories.
- US Southern Command conducted kinetic lethal strikes against suspected drug trafficking vessels operating along Caribbean maritime routes.

## MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** Recent unilateral state actions—including forced migrant repatriations to conflict zones and extraterritorial maritime kinetic strikes—test the resilience of international legal frameworks and human rights conventions.

### DIMENSIONS

- **Refugee Rights & Humanitarian Law:** Forced deportation of foreign nationals to active conflict regions threatens customary international law principles, notably non-refoulement.
- **Maritime Law & State Sovereignty:** Executing lethal strikes against suspected smuggling vessels in international waters raises procedural concerns under UNCLOS and international human rights law.
- **Regional Security Implications:** Uncoordinated state responses to irregular migration and transnational maritime crime exacerbate regional humanitarian crises.

**Way forward:** Strengthen multilateral compliance mechanisms under UN oversight, institute clear rules of engagement for maritime interdictions, and ensure human rights vetting during migrant returns.

### KEY TERMS

Principle of Non-Refoulement

1951 Refugee Convention

UNCLOS

Maritime Interdiction

Customary International Law

### ACTS & ARTICLES

1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 14)

07

GS-2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

## Geopolitical Alliances, Electoral Governance, and Global Strategic Shifts



## **US National Defense Strategy update emphasizes burden-sharing with regional partner nations**

US Under Secretary of War for Policy Elbridge A. Colby presented a mid-term assessment of the 2026 US National Defense Strategy focusing on partner burden-sharing.

The strategy update outlines policy priorities including US homeland defense, deterring China, rebuilding defense industrial capacity, and encouraging partner military self-reliance.

The framework shifts away from unilateral security guarantees toward expecting partner states to assume larger financial and operational contributions for regional security.

For India, this evolving American strategic posture provides strategic space and economic leverage to expand indigenous defense manufacturing while deepening Indo-Pacific partnerships.

Extremely relevant for UPSC GS-2 International Relations, analyzing US foreign policy shifts, Indo-Pacific strategic stability, defense technology cooperation, and strategic autonomy.



## **Brazil presidential election heads to runoff between Lula and Flavio Bolsonaro**

Brazil's electoral court announced that incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flavio Bolsonaro will compete in a presidential runoff election.

Brazilian election authorities processed over 97% of votes, placing Flavio Bolsonaro at 47.45% (55.8 million votes) and Lula da Silva at 44.66% (53.2 million votes).

Because neither major candidate obtained the absolute majority required in the first round, a secondary runoff vote was scheduled for late October 2026.

Key campaign issues dominating voter priorities across the Latin American nation included rising living costs, anti-corruption reforms, public safety, and economic stabilization.

Useful for UPSC GS-2 comparative politics, demonstrating runoff electoral mechanics, global democratic trends, and Latin American political dynamics.



STORY 3 **Times of India**

## **Misinterpretation of Indian presidential electoral system highlights global democratic awareness issues**

Public statements by international political figures erroneously claimed 125 million citizens voted directly in an Indian presidential election, confusing India's process with Brazil's.

US political commentary contrasted alleged immediate Indian presidential vote tallying with delayed election administrative timelines across several American municipal voting jurisdictions.

In reality, India did not hold a direct popular presidential election, as the Indian constitutional system prescribes an indirect electoral process.

The President of India is elected by an Electoral College consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories.

Serves as an instructive comparative point for UPSC GS-2 polity, illustrating constitutional procedures under Article 54 and distinguishing direct presidential systems from Parliamentary republics.

### **UPSC RELEVANCE**

Evolving strategic partnerships, international defense burden-sharing, electoral systems comparison, and aviation security governance.

### **PRELIMS FACTS**

- The 2026 US National Defense Strategy framework emphasizes partner self-reliance, defense industrial rebuilding, and regional security burden-sharing.
- Brazil's presidential election utilizes a two-round runoff system requiring candidates to secure an absolute majority of valid votes.

- The President of India is elected indirectly by an electoral college consisting of elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

## MAINS FRAMEWORK

**Intro:** Shifts in major power defense postures, coupled with diverse global electoral mechanisms and cross-border security challenges, shape international stability and bilateral partnerships.

### DIMENSIONS

- **US Defense Policy Shift:** Transition toward burden-sharing demands stronger defense capabilities from allies and partners, influencing India-US strategic calculations.
- **Comparative Electoral Systems:** Comparing Brazil's majoritarian runoff system with India's indirect Electoral College system underlines diverse democratic design choices.
- **Transnational Aviation Security:** Multi-country intelligence gaps highlight the need for unified international civil aviation background screening frameworks.

**Way forward:** Leverage strategic burden-sharing to build domestic defense manufacturing, expand bilateral security intelligence sharing, and promote institutional democracy awareness globally.

### KEY TERMS

National Defense Strategy

Strategic Autonomy

Runoff Election System

Electoral College

Aviation Security Security Management

### ACTS & ARTICLES

Article 54 & 55 (Election of President of India)

Representation of the People Act, 1951

ICAO Annex 17 (Aviation Security Standards)

## Practice MCQs (UPSC Prelims)

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

### GS-3: INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

#### Green Energy Corridor Phase-III and Battery Storage Integration

Union Cabinet approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III with battery storage framework

**Q1. Regarding the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) approved by the Union Cabinet, consider the following statements: 1. Over 70% of the total financial allocation under GEC-III is earmarked for intra-state transmission systems. 2. The project incorporates 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported by central viability gap funding. 3. The primary objective of GEC-III is to build inter-country grid interconnections across South Asia. 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   |

### GS-2: GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### Constitutional Validity of Public Transport Fare Concessions and State Subsidies

Private bus operator challenges Tamil Nadu Vettri Payanam scheme in High Court

**Q2. Which Constitutional provision empowers Indian States to make special provisions, including targeted social welfare schemes, specifically for women?**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A. Article 15(3) | B. Article 19(1)(g) |
| C. Article 301   | D. Article 32       |

### GS-3: ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

#### Ecosystem Restoration through Invasive Alien Species Eradication and Land Easements

Eradication of invasive black rats leads to recovery of seabird population

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Invasive Alien Species (IAS): 1. Invasive alien species are a primary driver of biodiversity loss on fragile island ecosystems. 2. Eradication of the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) on Italy's Zannone island led to a measurable recovery in Scopoli's shearwater breeding pairs. 3. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework completely excludes invasive alien species from its global target indicators. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| A. 1 only | B. 1 and 2 only |
|-----------|-----------------|

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

**GS-2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & MARITIME SECURITY**

**International Law, Non-Refoulement, and Maritime Counter-Narcotics Operations**

Repatriation of 1,500 Myanmar migrants from Malaysia raises international human rights concerns

**Q4. The customary international law principle of 'Non-Refoulement' primarily prohibits states from doing which of the following?**

- |                                                                            |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> Imposing commercial tariffs on foreign maritime cargo vessels    | <b>B.</b> Returning refugees or asylum seekers to territories where their life or freedom would be threatened |
| <b>C.</b> Executing bilateral extraditions of convicted criminal offenders | <b>D.</b> Conducting joint naval operations in international waters                                           |

**GS-2: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ELECTORAL SYSTEMS**

**Geopolitical Alliances, Electoral Governance, and Global Strategic Shifts**

Misinterpretation of Indian presidential electoral system highlights global democratic awareness issues

**Q5. In the Indian Constitutional setup, who among the following forms part of the Electoral College for the election of the President of India under Article 54? 1. Elected members of both Houses of Parliament 2. Elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of States 3. Nominated members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha 4. Elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry** Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> 1 and 2 only    | <b>B.</b> 1, 2 and 4 only |
| <b>C.</b> 1, 2 and 3 only | <b>D.</b> 1, 2, 3 and 4   |

## Answer Key — Practice MCQs

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

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

### Q1 Option A · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Out of the ₹1.86 lakh crore outlay, ₹1.36 lakh crore (roughly three-fourths) is earmarked for intra-state transmission lines, and ₹50,000 crore is earmarked for 50 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems with central financial support. Statement 3 is incorrect because GEC-III focuses on bridging intra-state and national grid geographic/temporal mismatches, not inter-country interconnections.

### Q2 Option A · Article 15(3)

Article 15(3) of the Constitution explicitly empowers the State to make special provisions for women and children, providing the constitutional foundation for schemes like 'Vettri Payanam' offering zero-fare travel to women.

### Q3 Option B · 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Invasive alien species severely impact island biodiversity, and the removal of black rats on Zannone directly allowed Scopoli's shearwater breeding pairs to grow from 27 to 80. Statement 3 is incorrect because the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework explicitly targets the reduction and management of invasive alien species (Target 6).

### Q4

#### Option B · Returning refugees or asylum seekers to territories where their life or freedom would be threatened

The fundamental principle of non-refoulement under international law explicitly guarantees that no nation should return or deport refugees or asylum seekers to countries where they face persecution, armed conflict, or threats to life.

### Q5 Option B · 1, 2 and 4 only

Under Article 54, the Electoral College consists of elected members of both Houses of Parliament, elected members of State Legislative Assemblies, and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry (added by the 70th Constitutional Amendment Act). Nominated members do not participate in the presidential election.