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P2. NATIONAL



Justice Narasimha to be part of SC Collegium as Justice Maheshwari retires - Justice P.S. Narasimha's induction into the Supreme Court Collegium reflects the functioning of India's judicial appointments system established through constitutional interpretation.

P3. NATIONAL



New Anaemia Mukta Bharat norms seek early action - The revised Anaemia Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan strengthens anaemia control through expanded beneficiary coverage, dietary interventions and digital monitoring under the new T4 strategy.

P4. ECOLOGY



How saving elephants helps forests breathe easier - Protection of the endangered Asiatic elephant strengthens long-term forest carbon storage by conserving healthy and connected forest ecosystems.

P7. INTERNATIONAL



Indian Ocean a shared responsibility: Modi - India and Seychelles expanded their strategic partnership through enhanced cooperation in maritime security, the Blue Economy, connectivity, technology and sustainable development.

Editor's Note

This week, we introduce a new feature—**Global Snapshots**—bringing together the latest international developments through concise summaries complemented by maps that help you locate and understand places in the news.

Our national coverage examines the latest developments across governance, health, environment, economy, and the judiciary. The Supreme Court Collegium returns to the spotlight with the induction of a new member, while the Union Government has unveiled a science-based roadmap to strengthen tiger conservation through active reintroduction and habitat management. In the environment section, we explore how conserving the Asiatic elephant also safeguards forests as long-term carbon sinks, highlighting the close relationship between biodiversity conservation and climate action.

Our Decoded Editorials analyse two important policy developments. The first examines the expanded Schedule H2 drug traceability framework, which introduces QR code-based tracking for vaccines, antimicrobials, anti-cancer drugs, and controlled substances to strengthen pharmaceutical quality and regulatory oversight. The second explains how India's macroeconomic indicators have improved following the easing of tensions in West Asia, while also highlighting the structural vulnerabilities that continue to challenge long-term economic stability. In international affairs, we cover the outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles. Finally, Global Snapshots presents concise updates on the latest developments in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the evolving security situation in West Asia.

We hope this edition helps you build both conceptual clarity and current affairs awareness for your examinations. Happy reading, and happy learning!

Editorials Decoded

Reprieve to rupee, bond markets is short-term

India has witnessed a temporary improvement in macroeconomic indicators following the easing of West Asian tensions, although structural vulnerabilities continue to pose risks.

Buyer Beware

India has expanded QR code-based drug traceability to high-risk therapeutic categories to strengthen pharmaceutical quality, curb counterfeit medicines and improve regulatory oversight.

Justice Narasimha to be part of SC Collegium as Justice Maheshwari retires

Following the retirement of Justice J.K. Maheshwari, Justice P.S. Narasimha has become the fifth senior-most judge of the Supreme Court and is set to join the five-member Supreme Court Collegium until his retirement in May 2028. The Collegium, now comprising the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, is responsible for recommending the appointment, elevation, and transfer of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Although the Union Government may return a recommendation for reconsideration, it is conventionally expected to accept the recommendation if it is reiterated by the Collegium.

The constitutional basis for judicial appointments lies in Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution, which empower the President to appoint judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India and other judges deemed necessary. However, the Constitution does not expressly mention the Collegium system. The present mechanism evolved through judicial interpretation in the Second Judges Case (1993) and was further refined in the Third Judges Case (1998), which established the Collegium as a body comprising the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most Supreme Court judges. Although the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014 sought to replace the Collegium with the NJAC, the Supreme Court, in the Fourth Judges Case (2015), struck down both as unconstitutional, holding that they undermined the independence of the judiciary, thereby restoring the Collegium system.

Govt flags priority intervention in 25 of 58 tiger reserves which are low on big cats or have none

To mark 18 years of tiger reintroduction in **Sariska Tiger Reserve**, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released two reports outlining a Roadmap for Active Tiger Management and key learnings from tiger reintroductions across India. While India's tiger population has steadily increased over the years, the reports identify **25 of the country's 58 tiger reserves as priority recipient sites** where tiger populations are absent, critically low or declining despite possessing suitable ecological potential. Reserves such as Satkosia (Odisha), Kawal (Telangana), Dampa and Kamlang (Northeast), and Buxa (West Bengal) currently have no tigers, primarily due to **low prey abundance, habitat fragmentation, and weak connectivity with source populations**.

The reports emphasise that scientifically planned, evidence-based interventions are essential for establishing viable tiger populations. Since 2008, India has undertaken tiger recovery programmes in 12 landscapes, including Sariska, Panna, Rajaji, Satkosia, Mukundara Hills, Similipal, and Sanjay Dubri, but the outcomes have been mixed, highlighting that tiger translocation alone cannot guarantee success. The reports stress that prey base augmentation, habitat restoration, ecological connectivity, continuous monitoring, and active community participation are indispensable for successful reintroductions.

The Centre further notes that the recovery of low-density tiger reserves ultimately depends on the existence of strong source populations capable of supplying dispersing tigers naturally. **High-performing reserves such as Bandipur, Kanha, Ranthambore, and Corbett, which possess healthy tiger densities, abundant prey, and well-managed habitats**, are expected to serve as source landscapes for future recovery initiatives. The reports therefore advocate a landscape-based conservation approach, integrating habitat management, corridor restoration, scientific translocation, and community-inclusive governance to secure long-term, self-sustaining tiger populations across India's protected areas.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (GS II – Indian Polity – 2017)

RELEVANCE GS II : Indian Polity
 GS III : Biodiversity & conservation

New Anaemia Mukh Bharat norms seek early action

The Union Health Ministry is set to release revised operational guidelines for the Anaemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB) to strengthen India's strategy for anaemia prevention and control. The programme has been expanded by adding **low birth weight infants (0-6 months)** as the **seventh beneficiary group**, recognising the importance of early intervention. The revised framework also introduces 'Eating Right' as the **seventh intervention** to promote regular consumption of iron-rich and diversified diets, alongside a new institutional mechanism for digital monitoring and evaluation of beneficiaries.

The guidelines replace the existing T3 strategy with a **T4 strategy – Test, Treat, Talk and Track**. The new approach focuses on routine haemoglobin testing, treatment as per national protocols, counselling on healthy dietary practices, and systematic digital tracking for referral and follow-up through an integrated digital ecosystem. The revision comes against the backdrop of a high anaemia burden in India, with **NFHS-5 reporting anaemia among 67.1% of children (6-59 months), 57% of women (15-49 years), 52.2% of pregnant women, and 59.1% of adolescent girls (15-19 years).**

Govt. launches portal for auditing of rural schemes



Ahead of the implementation of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) from 1 July, the **Ministry of Rural Development** launched an **AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal** to strengthen transparency and accountability in the implementation of rural development programmes. The portal provides a unified digital platform for end-to-end management of risk-based and compliance-based internal audits, replacing fragmented, paper-based audit processes with a technology-driven, data-based monitoring system to improve financial oversight and governance.

The launch is accompanied by reforms aimed at improving the implementation of rural employment schemes. The Ministry highlighted past irregularities in the implementation of MGNREGA, including the use of machines instead of labour, inaccuracies in muster rolls, incorrect attendance records, and consequent misappropriation of funds. To strengthen programme delivery, the revamped mission proposes to increase the maximum guaranteed employment from 100 days to 125 days while leveraging digital audit mechanisms to improve monitoring, reduce leakages, and ensure that eligible rural households receive employment and livelihood support.



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements in the context of interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukh Bharat Strategy:

- It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
- It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child-birth.
- It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.
- It addresses non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

RELEVANCE GS II : Indian Polity
 GS II : Social Services : Health

How saving elephants helps forests breathe easier

A recent study published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa examined the relationship between elephant conservation, the expansion of elephant reserves, and forest carbon storage in India during the period 1992–2025. The study concludes that protecting the endangered Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) indirectly strengthens India's climate mitigation efforts by safeguarding forests that function as major carbon sinks.

Major Findings

- India's elephant reserve network expanded from **3 reserves (18,297 sq. km.) in 1992 to 33 reserves (80,777 sq. km.) in 2025**.
- During the same period, the estimated elephant population increased by only 6.7%, whereas the estimated carbon stored within elephant reserves increased by 38%.
- ***The increase in carbon storage primarily reflects better protection of existing forests and reduced forest degradation***, rather than elephants directly increasing forest biomass.

How Elephant Conservation Supports Climate Action

- Forests protected under elephant conservation programmes act as significant carbon sinks, helping remove atmospheric carbon dioxide and mitigate climate change.
- Approximately 95% of the increase in forest carbon stocks was attributed to the expansion and protection of forested areas within elephant reserves.
- The findings demonstrate that biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation are mutually reinforcing objectives.

Ecological Importance of Elephants as Ecosystem Engineers

- Elephants are regarded as ecosystem engineers because they significantly influence forest structure and ecological processes by facilitating seed dispersal, allowing the regeneration of diverse tree species across large landscapes.
- Elephant dung enriches soil nutrients and supports microbial activity, thereby improving soil fertility.
- Their movement creates natural forest openings that promote vegetation diversity and maintain ecological balance.
- They help sustain forests capable of storing carbon over long periods.
- Similar ecological patterns have been documented in African savannah ecosystems, where effective management of large herbivores has enhanced vegetation carbon stocks by 20–30%.

Challenges and Conservation Concerns

- The study finds only a weak relationship between the increase in elephant reserves and elephant population growth, indicating that expanding reserve boundaries alone is insufficient for species recovery.
- Administrative notification of reserves must be supported by effective habitat management, ecological restoration and wildlife-friendly governance.
- ***Elephant habitats continue to face fragmentation due to infrastructure development and land-use change.***
- ***Wildlife corridors require restoration to ensure safe movement and maintain genetic diversity.***
- The latest Synchronised All-India Elephant Estimate (SAIEE) 2021–25 estimated 22,446 elephants, approximately 4,065 fewer than the 2017 estimate.
- However, direct comparison with previous estimates is discouraged because SAIEE employs a different census methodology.

Conservation Priorities

- Conservation efforts should prioritise ***improving habitat quality, restoring wildlife corridors, reducing forest degradation and strengthening forest management***, rather than relying solely on declaring additional elephant reserves.
- Integrating wildlife conservation into broader climate and forest policies can generate both biodiversity and ecosystem-service benefits.
- Wildlife-inclusive carbon accounting can strengthen India's commitment to create an additional 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent carbon sink by 2030.
- Incorporating elephant conservation within REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) frameworks can generate measurable ecosystem-service credits.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. What is Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)? What is the potential role of CCUS in tackling climate change? (GS III – 2025)

Reprieve to rupee, bond markets is short-term (Indian Express : 29-06-2026)

Following the easing of geopolitical tensions in West Asia, India's macroeconomic indicators have shown signs of recovery. The Indian Rupee appreciated from its record low of ₹96.6 per US dollar to around ₹94.4, while the yield on the 10-year Government Security (G-Sec) declined from over 7.1% to below 6.8%. Global crude oil and urea prices also moderated significantly, easing pressure on India's import bill, while Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) returned to Indian debt markets with net inflows of about US\$5.2 billion in June after months of weak or negative flows.

Factors Behind India's Improved Position

- The easing of conflict-related disruptions in West Asia has reduced supply-side pressures on energy, fertilisers and global trade.
- Lower crude oil and fertiliser prices are expected to moderate imported inflation.
- The Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have implemented coordinated measures to attract foreign capital, including - **tax incentives for investments in Government securities, concessional swap facilities for Foreign Currency Non-Resident [FCNR(B)] deposits, and measures to encourage External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs).**



Why the Recovery Remains Fragile

- Renewed tensions in West Asia continue to pose risks to global energy supplies and shipping.
- Fiscal pressures remain elevated due to fuel tax reductions and fertiliser subsidy commitments, despite the recent moderation in global prices.
- India continues to witness sustained Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) outflows from equity markets.
- A deficient monsoon and the possibility of El Niño could adversely affect agricultural production, inflation and rural demand, adding further macroeconomic risks.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Indian Economy

Why the Focus is on FDI Rather than FPI

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** refers to long-term investments through ownership or controlling stakes in productive assets such as industries, infrastructure or businesses. FDI investors actively participate in management and contribute to employment generation, technology transfer and productive capacity.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments in financial assets such as shares and bonds without managerial control. These investments are highly sensitive to global market conditions and can enter or leave an economy rapidly.
- Sustainable economic growth depends more on stable FDI inflows than on volatile FPI inflows.

Way Forward

- Fiscal consolidation should continue to reduce the General Government Debt-to-GDP ratio, improve macroeconomic stability and create greater policy space for future shocks.
- Reducing dependence on imported energy and fertilisers, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and maintaining prudent macroeconomic management will improve resilience against external disruptions.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements (2025):
 Statement I: As regards returns from an investment in a company, generally, bondholders are considered to be relatively at lower risk than stockholders.
 Statement II: Bondholders are lenders to a company whereas stockholders are its owners.
 Statement III: For repayment purpose, bondholders are prioritized over stockholders by a company.
 Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
 (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
 (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
 (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
 (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Buyer Beware (The Hindu : 29-06-2026)

The Union Government has expanded Schedule H2 of the Drugs Rules, 1945 by extending the QR code/barcode-based traceability mechanism from a curated list of 300 top-selling brands to entire therapeutic categories. The mandate now covers **vaccines, antimicrobials, anti-cancer drugs, narcotic drugs, and addictive/psychotropic medicines**, shifting regulation from a revenue-based approach to a **risk-based approach**. The implementation will be phased, with vaccines, narcotics and anti-cancer drugs coming under the system by July 2027, followed by antimicrobials by July 2028.

Track-and-Trace Mechanism

- Every medicine pack must carry a unique QR code or barcode on its primary or secondary packaging.
- The code will contain information such as the product identifier, brand and generic name, manufacturing licence number, batch number, manufacturing and expiry dates, and manufacturer details.
- Every unit of the medicine will be digitally tracked across the entire supply chain—from manufacturing and distribution to retail sale—through specialised track-and-trace platforms.

Significance of the QR Code-Based Tracking System

- It enhances authentication, traceability and verification of medicines at every stage of the supply chain.
- It significantly reduces the risk of counterfeit, diluted, tampered or substandard medicines entering the market by assigning a unique identity to each vial or blister pack.
- It enables regulators to identify whether quality defects originated during manufacturing or resulted from tampering during transportation or distribution.
- The enhanced traceability allows rapid identification and recall of defective or contaminated batches, thereby strengthening pharmacovigilance.
- It also makes practices such as refilling used medicine vials or reusing original packaging for counterfeit drugs substantially more difficult.

Why the Reform is Important

- Counterfeit medicines disproportionately affect vaccines, antimicrobials and anti-cancer drugs, posing serious threats to patient safety.
- India has one of the world's highest burdens of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and substandard antimicrobials contribute to resistance by exposing pathogens to sub-therapeutic drug concentrations.
- Improved traceability also helps prevent the diversion of narcotic and psychotropic medicines into illicit markets.
- The reform responds to recurring concerns raised by international regulators regarding pharmaceutical quality control, including issues relating to contaminated cough syrups.
- A robust traceability framework can improve India's standing under the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool for drug regulatory systems and strengthen global confidence in Indian pharmaceutical exports.



Way Forward

- The success of the QR code-based traceability system depends on robust digital infrastructure, interoperable software platforms, capacity building across the supply chain, and widespread stakeholder adoption.
- The Government should support smaller manufacturers through financial assistance or phased compliance measures to facilitate smooth implementation.
- The reform should be integrated with broader pharmaceutical quality assurance initiatives to strengthen India's position as the "Pharmacy of the World."

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription, be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. (GS III – 2014)

RELEVANCE

GS II : Social Services - Health sector

Indian Ocean a shared responsibility: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles reaffirmed India's vision of the Indian Ocean as a region of shared security, sustainability, and prosperity, where partnerships are founded on mutual respect and trust. The two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in maritime security and defence, unveiling 19 bilateral outcomes covering strategic sectors. India announced the gifting of a Fast Patrol Vessel, 10 utility vehicles, and five Laser Radial class boats to the Seychelles Defence Force, completed the refit of the PS Zoroaster for the Seychelles Coast Guard, and upgraded a Dornier aircraft with a modern glass cockpit. India's participation in Seychelles' 50th National Day celebrations, including Army and Navy marching contingents, further underscored the growing defence partnership and India's role as a reliable security partner in the Indian Ocean Region.

Expanding Economic, Developmental and Technological Cooperation

Both leaders agreed to broaden bilateral cooperation beyond security into emerging areas of economic growth and development. The two sides signed agreements on UPI-based digital payments, the peaceful uses of outer space, and an extradition treaty, while also concluding an umbrella Line of Credit Agreement with the Export-Import Bank of India and initiating preparations for a new Seychelles National Hospital. Discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation in industries, connectivity, digital infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, education, clean energy, and green hydrogen. Enhanced connectivity between India and Seychelles was identified as a means to boost bilateral trade while improving India's engagement with East Africa and the wider Indian Ocean region.

Call for Climate Justice

Prime Minister Modi highlighted that *island nations are among the most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions, advocating climate action based on the principles of fairness, responsibility, and equity*. In recognition of his contributions to sustainable development and the interests of developing countries, he was conferred Seychelles' highest civilian honour, '**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**'. The visit also strengthened cultural and people-to-people ties through commitments to expand youth exchanges, promote educational cooperation, and build on the popularity of Yoga and Indian cinema in Seychelles, thereby broadening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

RELEVANCE GS II : International Relations

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

- **Seychelles:** an archipelagic nation of ~115 islands in the western Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar; small land area (~459 sq km) but a vast Exclusive Economic Zone.
- **SAGAR:** India's 2015 maritime doctrine for the IOR emphasising security, capacity-building and cooperative regional growth.
- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface):** India's real-time interbank payment system run by NPCI; its internationalisation (now extended to Seychelles) is a key digital diplomacy tool.
- **EXIM Bank Lines of Credit:** concessional credit India extends to partner countries for development projects, a pillar of its development partnership.
- **Laser Radial:** a class of small one-person sailing dinghy, here gifted for naval training.
- **Global South:** developing nations of Asia, Africa, Latin America; India positions itself as their voice (e.g., Voice of Global South Summits).

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following countries (2025):

- I. United Arab Emirates
- III. France
- III. Germany
- IV. Singapore
- V. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

Two killed, major oil refinery damaged in Russia as Ukraine keeps up assault

Ukraine intensified its long-range drone strikes on Russia, targeting energy infrastructure in the **Krasnodar region**, where debris from intercepted drones ignited a fire at the **Slavyansk-na-Kubani oil refinery**, one of southern Russia's major refineries with an annual processing capacity of nearly 4 million tonnes of crude oil. The attack killed one person, while another civilian was killed in the Belgorod region in a separate drone strike. The attacks form part of Ukraine's strategy to target Russia's military-industrial and energy infrastructure, even as Russia continued its own aerial offensive against Ukraine with drones and missiles, underscoring the continuing escalation of the conflict.



Iran attacks Bahrain and Kuwait after U.S. air strikes, threatens to halt talks

Iran expanded the ongoing regional conflict by launching drone and missile attacks against Bahrain and Kuwait in retaliation for fresh U.S. airstrikes on Iranian military infrastructure. While Kuwait intercepted the incoming projectiles, Bahrain reported damage near its international airport, highlighting the vulnerability of Gulf states that host major U.S. military installations. Iran also warned that continued U.S. military action could halt negotiations and reiterated that it alone should oversee navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, opposing any alternative security arrangements. The developments underscore rising tensions in the Persian Gulf and the continued strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security.



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following countries:

1. Bulgaria
2. Czech Republic
3. Hungary
4. Latvia
5. Lithuania
6. Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) Only five

Israel strikes south Lebanon despite framework accord

Israel resumed airstrikes in southern Lebanon despite a recently signed framework agreement between the two countries, highlighting the fragile nature of the ceasefire. While the Lebanese government reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the agreement, Hezbollah rejected it, describing it as unacceptable and warning that it could trigger internal conflict. The developments underscore the continued volatility along the Israel-Lebanon border and the challenges of achieving durable peace amid the presence of armed non-state actors.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements (2025) :

Statement I: As regards returns from an investment in a company, generally, bondholders are considered to be relatively at lower risk than stockholders.

Statement II: Bondholders are lenders to a company whereas stockholders are its owners.

Statement III: For repayment purpose, bondholders are prioritized over stockholders by a company. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Ans : a

Statement I is correct: Bondholders have fixed interest payments and are paid before shareholders, making their investments less risky.

Statement II is correct: Bondholders lend money to the company (debt), while stockholders own equity (a share in ownership).

Statement III is correct: For repayment purpose, bondholders are prioritized over stockholders by a company. In liquidation or bankruptcy, bondholders are paid before shareholders.

Since both II and III are correct, and both explain why bondholders are at lower risk (Statement I), the correct answer is: **(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I**

Q. Consider the following countries (2025) :

I. United Arab Emirates

III. France

III. Germany

IV. Singapore

V. Bangladesh

How many countries amongst the above are there other than India where international merchant payments are accepted under UPI?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

Ans : b

UPI stands for Unified Payments Interface, a system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that enables instant money transfers between any two bank accounts using a smartphone. List of countries where international merchant payments are accepted at select merchant outlets: Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates.

Q. The term "Levant" often heard in the news roughly corresponds to which of the following regions? (2022)

- a) Region along the eastern Mediterranean shores
- b) Region along North African shores stretching from Egypt to Morocco
- c) Region along Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa
- d) The entire coastal areas of Mediterranean Sea

Ans: a

Levant, the region along the eastern Mediterranean shores, roughly corresponding to modern-day Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and certain adjacent areas.

PYQ Compass
UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Consider the following statements in the context of interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukht Bharat Strategy:

- 1.It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
- 2.It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child- birth.
- 3.It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.
- 4.It addresses non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

a) Only one
b) Only two
c) Only three
d) All four

Anc : c

The Anaemia Mukht Bharat- intensified Iron-plus Initiative aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms and foster newer strategies for tackling anemia. It focuses on six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions and six institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target under the POSHAN Abhiyan. A key intervention is to give Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to children, adolescents and women of reproductive age and pregnant women irrespective of anemia, under Anaemia Mukht Bharat. So only statement 1 is incorrect.

Q. Q. Consider the following countries:

- 1.Bulgaria
- 2.Czech Republic
- 3.Hungary
- 4.Latvia
- 5.Lithuania
- 6.Romania

How many of the above-mentioned countries share a land border with Ukraine?

a) Only two
b) Only three
c) Only four
d) Only five

Ans : a

Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. The country sits on the southwestern part of the Russian Plain. It is bordered by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov to the south, Russia to the east and north, Belarus to the north, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to the west, and Romania and Moldova to the south.

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Regions often mentioned in news	Reason for being in news
1.North Kivu and Ituri	War between Armenia and Azerbaijan
2.Nagorno-Karabakh	Insurgency in Mozambique
3.Kherson and Zaporizhzhia	Dispute between Israel and Lebanon

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

a) Only one
b) Only two
c) All three
d) None

Ans : d

North Kivu and Ituri : Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo
Nagorno - Karabakh : war between Armenia and Azerbaijan
Kherson and Zaporizhzhia : Attacks sites in Ukraine

Practice Questions and answers

Q. With reference to the Supreme Court Collegium, consider the following statements:

1. The Collegium system is explicitly provided for in the Constitution of India.
2. The Supreme Court Collegium comprises the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
3. Under the Collegium system, the Union Government may return a recommendation for reconsideration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

Statement 1: Incorrect.

- The Constitution (Articles 124 and 217) provides only for consultation during judicial appointments.
- The Collegium system evolved through judicial pronouncements, particularly the Second and Third Judges Cases.
- Statement 2: Correct.
- The Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges.
- Statement 3: Correct.
- The Government may return a recommendation once.
- If reiterated by the Collegium, it is conventionally expected to accept it.

Q. The ecological importance of elephants primarily arises because they are regarded as:

- (a) Keystone predators
- (b) Ecosystem engineers
- (c) Indicator species
- (d) Apex scavengers

Answer: (b)

Elephants are regarded as ecosystem engineers because they actively shape and maintain forest ecosystems. Through seed dispersal, nutrient enrichment via dung, and the creation of forest clearings, they promote vegetation diversity, enhance habitat quality, and support long-term carbon storage, making them vital for both biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

Q. The Slavyansk-na-Kubani oil refinery, recently in the news, is located in:

- (a) Ukraine
- (b) Belarus
- (c) Russia
- (d) Kazakhstan

Answer: (c)

It is located in Russia's Krasnodar region. The Slavyansk-na-Kubani oil refinery is located in Russia's Krasnodar Krai and is one of the country's major oil refining facilities. It was recently in the news after being targeted in a Ukrainian drone strike, reflecting Ukraine's strategy of disrupting Russia's energy infrastructure and logistics supporting the ongoing conflict.