

THE PALA CIVIL TIMES

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P2. NATIONAL



Army chief unveils road map 'VIJAY' for a future-ready, tech-savvy force -
The Chief of the Army Staff unveiled the VIJAY Roadmap to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready, and multi-domain fighting force.

P3. NATIONAL



Why India has asked WhatsApp to halt its username feature rollout -
The Government of India is examining WhatsApp's proposed username feature over concerns that it could increase online impersonation, cyber fraud, and other digital security threats.

P4. INTERNATIONAL



WHO sounds alarm on disease outbreaks in Venezuela amid post-quake relief efforts -
The WHO has warned of an increased risk of infectious disease outbreaks in Venezuela following devastating earthquakes that severely disrupted the country's healthcare infrastructure.

P7. SCIENCE



Unchecked AI progress may pose catastrophic risks, warns UN panel -
A UN expert panel has warned that AI capabilities are advancing faster than scientific understanding and regulatory frameworks, creating significant global governance and safety challenges.

Editor's Note

Today's edition of Pala Civil Times brings together a diverse range of developments spanning governance, economy, international relations, internal security, defence, science, and technology.

We begin with the VIJAY Roadmap unveiled by the Chief of the Army Staff, which outlines the Indian Army's vision of becoming a technology-enabled, future-ready force through innovation, jointness, and self-reliance. We also examine WhatsApp's proposed username feature, exploring both its privacy benefits and the cyber security concerns that prompted the Government of India to review its rollout.

Our Decoded Editorials section analyses the current state of the Indian economy, highlighting the macroeconomic strengths that have sustained growth while examining emerging domestic and global risks. We also discuss the findings of the National Study Report on Low Participation in Gram Sabhas, understanding why grassroots democratic institutions require greater empowerment to fulfil the constitutional vision of democratic decentralisation.

In the International section, we examine the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold birthright citizenship, reaffirming a long-standing constitutional principle with important implications for migration, citizenship, and the rule of law. We also assess the humanitarian aftermath of the devastating Venezuela earthquakes. Finally, our Science & Technology pages explore the exciting discovery of complex organic matter on Mars, which offers fresh insights into the planet's past habitability.

From the challenges of governance on Earth to discoveries beyond our planet, today's edition brings together the issues that matter most for informed citizens and civil service aspirants alike.

Happy Reading!

Editorials Decoded

The Indian EXPRESS

Signs of resilience, but risks need monitoring



India's economy remains resilient despite global uncertainties, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals while facing emerging risks from weak private investment, household debt, and climate-related disruptions.

THE HINDU

Yes and no



A national study has identified the key causes of declining public participation in Gram Sabha meetings and recommended reforms to strengthen grassroots democracy in India.

Army chief unveils road map 'VIJAY' for a future-ready, tech-savvy force

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Dhiraj Seth, unveiled the VIJAY Roadmap, outlining his vision for transforming the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready, and multi-domain force capable of addressing evolving security challenges. Inspired by the Defence Minister's vision of the "Decade of Transformation", the roadmap seeks to modernise the Army by enhancing operational preparedness, technological capability, joint military functioning, indigenous defence production, and soldier welfare. It aligns with India's broader objective of strengthening national security while contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



Key Pillars of the VIJAY Roadmap

The roadmap is built around the acronym VIJAY, with each letter representing a core strategic priority.

- **V – Vigilance** emphasises continuous operational readiness and border security.
- **I – Innovation** and Transformation focuses on modern military doctrines, emerging technologies, and capability development to address the changing character of warfare.
- **J – Jointness** and Integration seeks deeper coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, while promoting military-civil fusion through a Whole-of-Nation approach.
- **A – Atmanirbharta** reinforces the Army's commitment to indigenous defence technologies and self-reliance.
- **Y – Yodha** First prioritises the welfare, training, technological skills, and empowerment of soldiers, veterans, and Veer Naris, recognising personnel as the Army's greatest strength.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Security forces and their mandate

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

- **General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM**, assumed charge as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on 30 June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, who retired after more than four decades of distinguished service in the Indian Army.
- **The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is the professional head of the Indian Army** and is responsible for its overall operational preparedness, administration, force modernisation, training, and capability development.
- The COAS exercises command through the Army Headquarters (AHQ) in New Delhi, which serves as the apex headquarters for planning, policy formulation, force management, and strategic direction.

The VIJAY Roadmap reflects India's transition towards a modern, integrated, and technology-driven military capable of responding to conventional and emerging threats across multiple domains, including land, cyber, space, and information warfare. By combining operational readiness with technological innovation, indigenous capability development, joint military planning, and human resource development, the initiative strengthens India's long-term defence preparedness. It also complements key national priorities such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, theatre integration, and Viksit Bharat 2047, making it an important institutional reform in India's evolving national security architecture.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee.
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs.
3. Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all triservice matters.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Why India has asked WhatsApp to halt its username feature rollout

WhatsApp has announced a new username feature that will allow users to communicate without sharing their phone numbers, thereby enhancing privacy during first-time interactions. Users will be able to choose a unique username as an optional identifier, while their mobile number remains hidden. However, before the feature's rollout, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has sought a detailed explanation from WhatsApp, following concerns raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) regarding its potential misuse. The government is currently assessing whether the feature poses risks under India's existing legal and cyber security framework.

Internal Security & Cybercrime Concerns

The proposed username feature could significantly expand the scope of cyber-enabled crimes. Key concerns include:

- **Impersonation of Individuals and Institutions:** Fraudsters may create usernames that closely resemble those of public figures, government agencies, financial institutions, businesses, or other trusted organisations, making it difficult for users to identify genuine accounts.
- **Rise in Phishing and Financial Fraud:** Fake usernames can be used to send deceptive messages that trick users into revealing sensitive information such as passwords, OTPs, banking credentials, or personal details, resulting in financial losses.
- **Increase in Digital Arrest and Social Engineering Scams:** Cybercriminals may impersonate police officers, investigative agencies, or government officials to intimidate victims into transferring money or sharing confidential information through fabricated legal threats.
- **Identity Theft and Misinformation:** Anonymous usernames can facilitate identity theft, spread false information, damage reputations, and create confusion by posing as well-known individuals or organisations.
- **Greater Difficulty in Detecting Fraud:** Many users, particularly those with limited digital literacy, may find it difficult to distinguish genuine usernames from look-alike accounts, thereby increasing the effectiveness and scale of cyber fraud.

Existing Safeguards and Government Response

To address these concerns, WhatsApp has stated that it has incorporated multiple safeguards into the username system. These include reserving usernames of public figures, government entities, celebrities, and verified Meta accounts, preventing the creation of look-alike usernames, limiting the number of new users an account can contact, requiring knowledge of the exact username for first-time communication, and deploying automated systems to detect impersonation and abusive behaviour. Simultaneously, the Government of India is conducting a comprehensive risk assessment and has indicated that additional regulatory measures, including delaying or restricting the feature's rollout, may be considered if existing safeguards are found to be inadequate.

Significance and the Way Forward

The proposed username feature highlights the growing challenge of balancing digital privacy with cyber security and public safety. While protecting users' personal information is an important objective, anonymity should not create opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit digital platforms for fraud, misinformation, or identity-based crimes. Going forward, effective regulation will require close cooperation between technology companies and government agencies, stronger identity verification and impersonation detection mechanisms, continuous monitoring of emerging cyber threats, and greater public awareness of online scams. Achieving this balance is essential for building a secure, trusted, and resilient digital ecosystem in India.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (GS IV – 2025)

Court rejects Trump bid to limit birthright citizenship



The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6–3 decision, struck down President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to restrict birthright citizenship, reaffirming that children born in the United States are entitled to citizenship under the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, irrespective of their parents' immigration status, provided they are subject to U.S. jurisdiction. The ruling upholds a long-standing constitutional principle, blocks one of the administration's key immigration measures, and marks another judicial check on executive authority after the Court's earlier rejection of Trump's global tariff policy.

Beyond its domestic implications, the judgment has significant international relevance. By preserving birthright citizenship, the Court reinforces the rule of law, constitutional supremacy, and judicial oversight over executive action. The decision also carries wider implications for international migration and global mobility by safeguarding the legal status of children born to immigrants, reducing uncertainty for transnational families, and reaffirming the stability and predictability of citizenship rights in one of the world's leading destination countries for migration.

BRAIN BOOSTERS

Did You Know?

Birthright Citizenship

Why in news? The U.S. Supreme Court is examining the legality of an executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship for children of undocumented or temporary migrants.

Birthright Citizenship

- Birthright citizenship refers to the acquisition of citizenship by virtue of being born within a country's territory.
- It is based on the principle of **jus soli (right of soil)**, derived from English law.
- At least 37 other countries grant citizenship to anyone born on their soil, mostly in South America and the Caribbean.
- India initially adopted a broad form of birthright citizenship under the Constitution and the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- The **1986** and **2003** amendments to the Citizenship Act progressively restricted birthright citizenship in India by introducing parental eligibility conditions.

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WHO sounds alarm on disease outbreaks in Venezuela amid post-quake relief efforts



On 24 June 2026, Venezuela experienced two powerful earthquakes measuring Mw 7.2 and Mw 7.5, occurring just 39 seconds apart. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) classified the event as a seismic doublet, making it the country's strongest earthquake in over a century. The twin earthquakes caused widespread destruction across Caracas and neighbouring States, severely damaging critical infrastructure, including healthcare facilities. Subsequently, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a heightened risk of disease outbreaks, as damaged health infrastructure and overwhelmed medical services have weakened disease surveillance and response capacity.

With 38 hospitals affected and pre-existing low vaccination coverage, the WHO has expressed concern over outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and diphtheria, along with yellow fever. It has also warned of an increased risk of vector-borne diseases, including malaria, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika, as well as water-borne diseases, owing to disrupted sanitation, population displacement, and deteriorating public health conditions.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements: (2017)

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

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

RELEVANCE

GS II : International relations

Signs of resilience, but risks need monitoring (Indian Express : 02-07-2026)

India's economy maintained a healthy growth momentum in the fourth quarter of the last financial year despite disruptions to global trade and energy markets arising from the West Asia conflict. High-frequency indicators such as e-way bill generation, Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), and electricity consumption suggest that economic activity has remained resilient in the subsequent months. However, there are early signs of moderation, with the Index of Eight Core Industries recording only 1.1% growth during April–May, indicating that while the economy remains on a strong footing, growth impulses require close monitoring amid an uncertain global environment.

Macroeconomic Strengths Supporting Economic Resilience

India entered the current phase of global uncertainty with strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including robust growth, relatively low inflation, and healthy banking and corporate sectors. According to the Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report, banks have witnessed a **significant decline in gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 1.8%** (March 2026), while maintaining comfortable **capital adequacy**, strong liquidity buffers, and stable profitability. **Corporate leverage** has also declined, improving debt-servicing capacity. These factors have helped preserve macro-financial stability and enhanced the resilience of the financial system against potential domestic and external shocks.

Emerging Challenges and Downside Risks

Despite favourable macroeconomic indicators, several challenges continue to weigh on the economic outlook. Private corporate investment remains subdued despite stronger balance sheets, while rising household debt, increasingly driven by consumption rather than asset creation, raises concerns over financial sustainability. Externally, prolonged uncertainty in West Asia continues to pose risks to trade and energy prices. Domestically, a deficient monsoon and the possibility of a strengthening El Niño could adversely affect kharif and rabi crop production, increasing the risk of food inflation similar to that witnessed during 2023–24, thereby affecting both consumer demand and overall economic stability.

Outlook and Policy Priorities

Going forward, sustaining India's growth trajectory will require balancing macroeconomic stability with proactive measures to address emerging vulnerabilities. Policymakers must continue to strengthen the financial sector, encourage greater private investment, and monitor the quality of household borrowing to prevent excessive consumption-led indebtedness. Simultaneously, mitigating inflationary pressures through effective food supply management and enhancing agricultural resilience to climate variability will be crucial. Maintaining prudent fiscal and monetary policies, while remaining vigilant to evolving domestic and global risks, will be essential to ensuring durable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI): A leading economic indicator based on surveys of purchasing managers that provides an early assessment of business conditions and economic activity in the manufacturing and services sectors before official industrial production and GDP data are released.

Nonperforming asset (NPA) is a loan or debt where the borrower has been unable to meet payment obligations for at least 90 days.

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) measures the combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation. (GS III – 2024)

Q. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer. (GS III – 2021)

RELEVANCE

GS III : Indian Economy

Yes and no (The Hindu : 02-07-2026)

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has released the National Study Report on "**Low Participation in Gram Sabha across States and Union Territories**" to examine the factors affecting citizen participation in Gram Sabha meetings. Based on nationwide surveys, the report identifies barriers to effective public engagement, evaluates State- and UT-wise trends, highlights best practices, and recommends policy measures to strengthen grassroots democracy. The study is significant because **Gram Sabhas constitute the foundation of participatory governance and democratic decentralisation in rural India.**

Causes of Low Participation and Key Challenges

The report attributes low participation primarily to **participation fatigue**, the absence of tangible outcomes, and livelihood-related constraints, with many citizens perceiving Gram Sabha meetings as having little influence over local decision-making. More than half the identified barriers are linked to economic pressures, as daily wage earners often forgo income to attend meetings. The report recommends measures such as greater use of digital platforms like the NIRNAY App, improved documentation, and stronger institutional oversight. However, *excessive emphasis on procedural compliance overlooks deeper structural issues such as weak fiscal autonomy, increasing centralisation of local planning, and the limited role of Gram Sabhas beyond implementing government schemes.*

Constitutional and Legal Framework for Gram Sabhas

The constitutional vision of local self-government is embodied in the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which inserted Part IX (Articles 243–243O) into the Constitution and granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Article 243A recognises the Gram Sabha as the basic institution of direct democracy, while Article 243G, read with the Eleventh Schedule, envisages Panchayats as institutions of self-government responsible for local planning and development across 29 functional subjects. **In Scheduled Areas, the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996 further empowers Gram Sabhas** by granting them a decisive role in matters such as land acquisition, management of community resources, and local governance.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Indian Polity - Local Government

Way Forward: Revitalising Grassroots Democracy

Strengthening Gram Sabhas requires moving beyond procedural reforms towards genuine democratic decentralisation. This calls for greater functional, financial, and administrative devolution to Panchayats, enhanced flexibility in local planning and resource mobilisation, and reducing excessive bureaucratic compliance that limits meaningful deliberation. Participation can be improved through better public awareness, livelihood-sensitive scheduling of meetings, and stronger social accountability mechanisms. **Effective implementation of the 73rd Amendment and the PESA Act, coupled with respect for Gram Sabha decisions, is essential for making local governance more participatory, accountable, and responsive to the needs of rural communities.**

PYQ Compass

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



Q. The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective? (2013)

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Q. The fundamental object of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? (2015)

- 1. People's participation in development
- 2. Political accountability
- 3. Democratic decentralisation
- 4. Financial mobilisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

SCIENCE

Unchecked AI progress may pose catastrophic risks, warns UN panel

A preliminary report by the **United Nations' Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence** warns that AI development is advancing faster than scientific understanding and regulatory frameworks, creating significant governance and safety challenges. The panel cautions that current research cannot guarantee AI systems will remain free from catastrophic risks, particularly as evidence of deceptive AI behaviour emerges and increasingly powerful systems become available to malicious actors. It emphasizes the need for evidence-based global governance despite the difficulty of keeping pace with rapid technological change. The report also highlights AI's transformative potential, noting its growing ability to perform expert-level reasoning, accelerate drug and vaccine development, and automate complex real-world tasks through the emergence of agentic AI systems. In the long term, it anticipates the convergence of AI with technologies such as quantum computing and biotechnology, making effective international cooperation, scientific oversight, and adaptive regulation essential to maximizing benefits while minimizing global risks.



RELEVANCE

GS III : Science and Technology

Life on Mars: enduring mystery



A new study published in *Science Advances* has reported the strongest evidence to date of complex organic matter on Mars, with NASA's Perseverance rover detecting macromolecular carbon in ancient mudstones within Jezero Crater's Neretva Vallis channel. Unlike earlier findings by the Curiosity rover, which identified simpler organic molecules in Gale Crater, this marks the first direct detection of such complex organic material on a natural Martian rock surface, suggesting that organic matter may be more widespread across the planet than previously believed. Although the study does not establish the existence of past life, as the compounds may have formed through non-biological (abiotic) processes, the discovery is considered astrobiologically significant because it demonstrates that complex carbon compounds can survive Mars' harsh environment for billions of years, strengthening the case for future exploration into the planet's past habitability.

PYQ Compass

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



- Q. Consider the following statements:
 (2016) The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO:
1. Is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
 2. Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
 3. Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

PYQ Compass

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Q. The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective? (2013)

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans : C

The Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) was enacted to empower Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in Scheduled Areas by extending the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to these regions, with modifications. The objectives of PESA include:

- a) To provide self-governance: Empowering tribal communities to self-govern through Gram Sabhas and Panchayats.
- b) To recognize traditional rights: Protecting and safeguarding the customary and community rights of tribal people.
- c) However, creating autonomous regions in tribal areas is not an objective of PESA. Autonomous regions are governed under the provisions of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which applies to certain areas in the northeastern states, not under PESA.
- d) To free tribal people from exploitation: Preventing exploitation of tribal populations by ensuring control over local resources and decision-making.

Thus, the correct answer is (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas.

Q. The fundamental object of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? (2015)

- 1. People's participation in development
- 2. Political accountability
- 3. Democratic decentralisation
- 4. Financial mobilisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans : C

The fundamental objective of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure grassroots democracy by promoting people's participation in development and achieving democratic decentralization.

1. People's participation in development: Panchayati Raj institutions aim to empower local communities to actively participate in planning and executing developmental activities.

2. Political accountability: While political accountability is important, it is not the primary objective of Panchayati Raj. This aspect is more aligned with representative democracy at higher levels of governance.

3. Democratic decentralization: Panchayati Raj is a system of decentralized governance, transferring decision-making and administrative powers to elected bodies at the village, block, and district levels.

4. Financial mobilisation: Financial mobilisation is not a primary objective, though Panchayati Raj institutions may play a role in resource allocation and utilization.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements: (2017)

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

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

Ans : C

Statement 1 : In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue: **This is correct:** Zika virus is primarily transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the same mosquito responsible for spreading dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions.

Statement 2 : Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible: **This is correct:** In addition to being transmitted by mosquitoes, Zika virus can also be spread through sexual contact. This has been well documented, and individuals with Zika should take precautions to prevent sexual transmission, especially if they are in areas where the virus is prevalent.

Q. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee.
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs.
3. Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all triservice matters.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: D

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) holds a critical and influential role within the Indian Armed Forces as the head of the Department of Military Affairs.

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee. This statement is correct.

One of the primary roles of the CDS is to serve as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. In this capacity, the CDS facilitates coordination, tri service integration, and ensures the implementation of combined strategies among the Indian Armed Forces.

2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs. This statement is incorrect. The CDS does not exercise military command over the Service Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Each of the Service Chiefs retains operational control over their respective forces. The CDS acts as a principal advisor and coordinates matters of tri-service agencies, organizations, and commands, as well as integration and prioritization of procurements.

3. Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all triservice matters. This statement is correct. The CDS acts as the principal military advisor to the Defence Minister specifically on all tri-service matters. While the respective Service Chiefs continue to advise the Minister on matters specific to their respective services, the CDS focuses on combined concerns and tri-service integration.

Therefore, the correct statements that describe the duties of the CDS as the head of the Department of Military Affairs are 1 and 3, making the correct answer d) 1 and 3 only .

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements: (2016) The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO:

1. Is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
 2. Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
 3. Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans : C

Statement 1: Mangalyaan, launched by ISRO, is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM). **This statement is correct.** It was India's first interplanetary mission, aimed at studying the Martian surface and atmosphere.

Statement 2: The claim that India became the second country to have a spacecraft orbit Mars after the USA is **incorrect**. Other countries, including the former Soviet Union and the European Space Agency (ESA), had successfully sent missions to Mars before India.

Statement 3: Mangalyaan made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit Mars on its very first attempt. **This statement is correct.** India achieved this milestone in its maiden attempt, a feat not accomplished by any other nation.

Practice Questions and answers

Q. With reference to the VIJAY Roadmap recently unveiled by the Chief of the Army Staff, consider the following statements:

1. The roadmap seeks to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled and future-ready force.
 2. It emphasises greater integration among the Army, Navy and Air Force.
 3. It primarily focuses on increasing India's defence imports to improve military capability.
- 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

Answer: (b)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The VIJAY Roadmap aims to transform the Indian Army into a technology-enabled, future-ready, and multi-domain force capable of addressing emerging security challenges through modernisation, innovation, and capability development.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** One of the key pillars of the roadmap is Jointness and Integration, which seeks to enhance operational synergy among the Army, Navy, and Air Force while promoting a Whole-of-Nation approach through greater military-civil integration.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The roadmap does not advocate increasing defence imports. Instead, it emphasises Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) by promoting the development, adoption, and induction of indigenous defence technologies and equipment, in line with the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.