

Understanding India's legal and institutional response to cross-border terrorism through the role of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), UAPA, and the challenge of proxy terrorist organisations.

Examining the constitutional status of voting rights and the Supreme Court's evolving jurisprudence on the right to be informed, choose, and reject candidates.

Understanding the Quad's evolution from a security-focused strategic partnership to a broader platform addressing maritime security, critical technologies, resilient supply chains, and regional governance in the Indo-Pacific.

E-rickshaw battery 'hacks' and Bluetooth BMS vulnerabilities - Using the recent misuse of Bluetooth-enabled battery management systems to understand cybersecurity risks in connected devices and the importance of secure supply chains.

In the Decoded section, we analyse why Mumbai continues to experience recurrent urban flooding despite sustained infrastructure investments, and examine the changing character of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, particularly the growing role of drone warfare and the need for a negotiated settlement. Our international coverage focuses on the evolving role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) and the changing strategic priorities shaping the Indo-Pacific. In the Science & Technology section, we explain the recent misuse of Battery Management System (BMS) applications in e-rickshaws, using the incident to understand the broader challenges of cybersecurity, connected devices, and supply-chain resilience. Together, these themes reflect several recurring areas of UPSC examination, making them valuable not only from a current affairs perspective but also for building a strong conceptual foundation for both the Preliminary and Main examinations. We encourage students to study each topic in depth and understand the wider issues they represent. Happy reading!

Editorials Decoded

Exploring how drone warfare, economic sanctions, and geopolitical rivalry have reshaped modern warfare while highlighting the growing need for a negotiated peace.

Analysing how rapid urbanisation, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure continue to make Mumbai vulnerable to recurrent urban flooding.

Pahalgam attack: NIA files charges against LeT chief

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against Hafiz Saeed, chief of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and its proxy outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF), in connection with the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025, in which 26 civilians were killed. Filed before the NIA Special Court in Jammu, the chargesheet invokes provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, including offences relating to waging war against India and criminal conspiracy. It supplements the earlier chargesheet filed in December 2025 by presenting additional evidence regarding Pakistan-based planning, Hafiz Saeed's alleged role, and the involvement of LeT and TRF in facilitating and executing the attack.

The case underscores India's legal and institutional framework for combating cross-border terrorism through specialised investigation and prosecution. As the country's premier counter-terrorism investigation agency, the NIA investigates scheduled offences affecting national security under the NIA Act, 2008, while the UAPA provides the principal legal framework for dealing with terrorist organisations, terrorist financing, and unlawful activities. The investigation also highlights the growing use of proxy organisations such as TRF by established terrorist groups to conceal operational links, reinforcing the need for coordinated intelligence gathering, scientific investigation, and international cooperation to address evolving cross-border terrorist threats.

Stealth frigate Mahendragiri set to join Indian Navy



The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth and final Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026. Named after the Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats, it is the first Indian Naval warship to bear this name. Designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, the commissioning marks another milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme and further strengthens the Navy's operational capabilities under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

INS Mahendragiri incorporates advanced stealth features, reduced radar signature, enhanced survivability, and a high degree of automation. Powered by a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system, it possesses over 75% indigenous content and is equipped with advanced indigenous weapons and sensors, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile systems, electronic warfare systems, anti-submarine warfare capabilities, and an integrated Combat Management System. Designed for anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare, the frigate is also capable of undertaking maritime security, power projection, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Search and Rescue (SAR), and sustained presence missions, reinforcing India's maritime security and Indo-Pacific strategy.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. (GS III – Internal Security – 2025)

RELEVANCE

GS III : Internal Security

In India, voting cannot remain merely a statutory right

In India, the right to vote is presently recognised as a statutory right rather than a fundamental right. Although Article 326 of the Constitution provides for universal adult suffrage in elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, the detailed right to vote is operationalised through the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951. Consequently, Parliament retains the authority to prescribe qualifications, disqualifications, and electoral procedures. The Supreme Court has consistently upheld this position, beginning with *N.P. Ponnuswami v. Returning Officer*, which held that the rights to vote and contest elections are statutory rights created by legislation. This view was reaffirmed in *Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal*, where the Court observed that the right to elect, though fundamental to democracy, is not itself a fundamental right, and again in *Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India*, which reiterated that the individual right to vote flows from statute even though democracy forms part of the Constitution's basic structure.

Constitutionalisation of the Electoral Process

The Supreme Court has progressively recognised several constitutional dimensions of voting under Article 19(1)(a):

- **Right to be Informed (*Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms, 2002*):** Held that voters have a fundamental right to know the criminal antecedents, educational qualifications, and financial assets of candidates to make an informed electoral choice.
- **Right to Make an Informed Choice (*People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India, 2003*):** Distinguished between the statutory right to vote and the fundamental freedom of voting, holding that the freedom to make an informed choice is protected under Article 19(1)(a).
- **Right to Reject Candidates (NOTA) (*PUCL v. Union of India, 2013*):** Recognised the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option as a form of political expression protected under Article 19(1)(a) and extended ballot secrecy even to voters choosing NOTA.

Democracy, Basic Structure and the Constitutional Basis of Voting

In *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala*, the Court held that democracy forms part of the Constitution's basic structure. This principle was reinforced in *Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain*, which declared that free and fair elections are an indispensable feature of Indian democracy. Since democracy derives its legitimacy through elections and elections derive their legitimacy through citizens exercising their vote, many constitutional scholars argue that the right to vote possesses an inherent constitutional character.

Emerging Judicial Thinking and the Continuing Debate

In *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India*, while the Constitution Bench did not declare voting to be a fundamental right, Justice Ajay Rastogi, in his separate opinion, explicitly favoured recognising it as one. The judgment repeatedly referred to voting as a constitutional right, signalling an evolution beyond the earlier narrow statutory approach.



Way Forward

The continuing debate suggests the need to harmonise India's electoral jurisprudence with its constitutional commitment to democracy. While Parliament should continue regulating electoral qualifications, disqualifications, electoral rolls, and procedural aspects to ensure free and fair elections, the core entitlement of every eligible citizen to participate in the democratic process merits stronger constitutional recognition.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Indian Polity

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a (2017)

- (a) Fundamental Right
- (b) Natural Right
- (c) Constitutional Right
- (d) Legal Right

The missing link in India's maternal health story

Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) refers to feeding an infant only breast milk for the first six months of life. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF recommend initiating breastfeeding within one hour of birth and further maintaining exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. EBF is regarded as one of the most effective public health interventions because breast milk provides complete nutrition, strengthens immunity through antibodies, reduces the incidence of diarrhoea and respiratory infections, supports healthy brain development, and lowers the risks of malnutrition and infant mortality.

India's Current Status: What Does NFHS-6 Reveal?

India has made significant progress in maternal and child healthcare over the past decade, reflected in the sharp rise in **institutional deliveries**, which reached **90.6% in NFHS-6 (2023-24)**. Early initiation of breastfeeding also improved from 41.8% in NFHS-5 to 50.1% in NFHS-6, indicating better awareness and healthcare support immediately after childbirth. However, the proportion of infants below six months who were exclusively breastfed fell from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6. Several large States recorded substantial declines, including Uttar Pradesh (59.7% to 34.6%), Haryana (69.5% to 41.2%), and Delhi (64.3% to 54%), although States such as Kerala, Gujarat, and West Bengal registered improvements. ***The decline has been more pronounced in rural India, where EBF fell from 65.1% to 56.2%, compared with a smaller decline in urban areas.***

Why is Exclusive Breastfeeding Declining?

The decline in EBF highlights the growing influence of socio-economic factors on infant feeding practices. Rising migration, increasing participation of women in informal and agricultural work, early return to employment after childbirth, weakening of traditional family support systems, inadequate postnatal counselling, and increasing penetration of infant formula have all reduced mothers' ability to exclusively breastfeed for the recommended period. The ***rising rate of caesarean deliveries***, which increased from 21.5% to 27.2%, ***has further complicated breastfeeding by delaying initiation and increasing the need for specialised lactation support.*** These trends suggest that awareness alone cannot ensure higher breastfeeding rates when economic and workplace realities make exclusive breastfeeding difficult.

RELEVANCE

GS I : Indian Society

Government Initiatives

India has established several policy measures to promote breastfeeding, including the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Comprehensive Lactation Management Centres, Lactation Management Units, and the Infant Milk Substitutes (IMS) Act, which restricts the promotion and advertisement of infant formula to protect breastfeeding from commercial influence. Women employed in the organised sector are also entitled to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (as amended in 2017). However, the effectiveness of these measures is constrained because a large majority of Indian women are employed in the informal sector without adequate coverage of these rights.

Way Forward and Significance

The experience of NFHS-6 demonstrates that improving exclusive breastfeeding requires moving beyond health awareness campaigns to addressing broader social and economic barriers. Expanding maternity benefits and income support to women in the informal sector, strengthening postnatal lactation counselling, ensuring breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and childcare facilities, improving support following caesarean deliveries, and strictly enforcing regulations on the marketing of infant milk substitutes are essential to reversing the recent decline.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements in relation to Janani Suraksha Yojana:

1. It is a safe motherhood intervention of the State Health Departments.
2. Its objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality among poor pregnant women.
3. It aims to promote institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.
4. Its objective includes providing public health facilities to sick infants up to one year of age.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Bad for both (The Hindu : 07-07-2026)

The Russia–Ukraine conflict has transformed the character of modern warfare by demonstrating the growing role of drones, precision strikes, and long-range attacks alongside conventional military operations. Ukraine has increasingly used drones to target Russian troops, oil refineries, logistics networks, and infrastructure, raising the economic and military costs of the war. These relatively low-cost, dual-use technologies have enabled Ukraine to challenge a militarily superior adversary, highlighting how emerging technologies are reshaping contemporary warfare and reducing the dominance of traditional battlefield superiority.

Russia–Ukraine Conflict: Implications for European Security and Energy

The conflict has fundamentally altered Europe's security landscape by reviving geopolitical rivalry and reinforcing the strategic importance of collective security arrangements. It has also exposed the vulnerability of energy infrastructure, with attacks on oil facilities, electricity networks, and fuel logistics disrupting supplies and increasing energy insecurity. Notably, Ukraine has targeted the electricity infrastructure and fuel logistics of Crimea—*the strategically important Black Sea peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014*—forcing a state of emergency and highlighting the growing role of critical infrastructure as a theatre of modern conflict.



Limits of Economic Sanctions

Western countries imposed extensive economic sanctions on Russia to weaken its war-making capacity and increase the economic costs of the conflict. While sanctions have constrained sectors such as finance, technology, and energy, they have not compelled Russia to end military operations or prevented continued territorial gains. At the same time, Ukraine has sought to complement sanctions through long-range drone attacks on Russian energy infrastructure. The conflict demonstrates that sanctions alone rarely achieve strategic objectives without corresponding military, diplomatic, and political pressure.

RELEVANCE

GS II : International Relations

Diplomacy versus Military Solutions

More than four years into the conflict, neither side has secured a decisive military advantage. Russia continues to gain territory despite mounting economic pressure, while Ukraine has successfully increased the costs of the war through asymmetric tactics but remains heavily dependent on external support. The prolonged conflict has resulted in significant human, economic, and geopolitical costs, indicating that military means alone are unlikely to deliver a lasting resolution. Sustainable peace ultimately depends on meaningful diplomatic engagement alongside credible security guarantees.

Way Forward

A durable resolution requires both Russia and Ukraine to move beyond maximalist positions and pursue sustained negotiations supported by the international community. Any peace process should address immediate humanitarian concerns, establish a durable ceasefire, and provide credible security assurances while respecting international law and legitimate security interests. Simultaneously, countries should draw lessons from the conflict by strengthening energy security, investing in emerging defence technologies, enhancing resilience against hybrid warfare, and promoting diplomatic mechanisms to prevent prolonged interstate conflicts.

PYQ Compass

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



- Q. Turkey is located between (2014)
- Black Sea and Caspian Sea
 - Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
 - Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
 - Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea

Falling Behind (The Hindu : 07-07-2026)

The recent flooding in Mumbai was triggered by an active southwest monsoon over western India, with moisture-laden southwesterly winds bringing intense rainfall along the Konkan coast after crossing the Western Ghats. Offshore weather systems further enhanced moisture inflow over Mumbai and surrounding areas. While the city can generally withstand moderate rainfall spread over several hours, intense downpours within a short duration overwhelmed its drainage network. Simultaneously, high tides reduced the efficiency of stormwater outflows into the sea, aggravating urban flooding.

Why is Mumbai Highly Flood-Prone?

Mumbai's geographical setting makes it inherently vulnerable to flooding. Built on a peninsula comprising reclaimed land, former marshes, tidal flats, and low-lying coastal areas, the city faces heightened flood risks when heavy rainfall coincides with high tide. Decades of rapid and unplanned urbanisation have further increased vulnerability by replacing natural drainage channels and permeable surfaces with concrete infrastructure. As a result, rainwater runs off quickly instead of being absorbed into the ground, placing enormous pressure on stormwater drains that frequently exceed their design capacity.



Impact of the Floods: Infrastructure and Urban Vulnerabilities

The heavy rainfall disrupted transport and exposed the fragility of critical infrastructure across Maharashtra. Flooding and landslides suspended Mumbai-Pune rail services, affected flight operations, and forced the closure of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Mumbai-Goa Highway, and sections of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Expressway. Rivers in parts of Maharashtra, including around Nashik, also overflowed. The collapse of a chawl in Mankhurd and fatal tree falls highlighted the human cost of extreme weather. Collectively, these events demonstrate how intense rainfall can trigger cascading failures across transport, housing, and urban infrastructure.

RELEVANCE

GS I : Urbanisation

BRIMSTOWAD: Mumbai's Flood Mitigation Strategy

Following the 2005 Mumbai floods, the Brihanmumbai Storm Water Disposal System (BRIMSTOWAD) project was launched to modernise the city's century-old drainage system through drain widening, pumping stations and desilting. However, the project has missed successive completion deadlines due to land acquisition, slum rehabilitation, and statutory clearance challenges. Moreover, changing rainfall patterns driven by climate change have reduced the effectiveness of drainage designs based on historical monsoon assumptions.

Way Forward

The recent floods exposed gaps in urban governance despite improvements in disaster preparedness since 2005. Responsibilities for flood management remain fragmented among the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), railway authorities, the State Government, and highway agencies, often limiting coordinated action. While pre-monsoon desilting and emergency responses helped reduce casualties in some areas, the recurring disruptions underline the need for integrated urban flood management, climate-resilient infrastructure, timely completion of mitigation projects, stronger inter-agency coordination, and urban planning.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Right to the City' is an agreed human right and the UN-Habitat monitors the commitments made by each country in this regard.
2. 'Right to the City' gives every occupant of the city the right to reclaim public spaces and public participation in the city.
3. 'Right to the City' means that the State cannot deny any public service or facility to the unauthorized colonies in the city.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Questions surrounding the Quad's future

The recent India–Japan Annual Summit reaffirmed commitment to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision, but the future of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) has come under renewed scrutiny following the United States' decision to rename its Indo-Pacific Command back to the Pacific Command and the reduced emphasis on the Indo-Pacific and the Quad in its 2025 National Security Strategy. These developments have raised questions about Washington's evolving strategic priorities and the future role of the Quad in the Indo-Pacific.

Is the Quad Becoming a Trade and Development-Oriented Grouping?

The Quad is often criticised for gradually transforming from a security-focused grouping into a platform centred on economic cooperation and the provision of regional public goods. Since 2021, its agenda has expanded significantly beyond traditional security issues to include critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains, critical minerals, infrastructure, climate change, health security, disaster resilience, maritime domain awareness, and secure communications. However, this expansion reflects an evolving understanding of security itself, where **technological leadership, economic resilience, and supply chain security are viewed as essential components of national and regional security in the Indo-Pacific.**



Why the Quad Continues to Retain a Strong Security Character

Despite its expanded developmental agenda, the Quad remains fundamentally a strategic partnership. Most of its initiatives focus on security-related domains such as maritime cooperation, technology sovereignty, secure communications, interoperability, information sharing, maritime monitoring, and capacity building. Although these initiatives primarily involve civilian applications, many possess dual-use capabilities that can support defence objectives. The Quad has deliberately avoided projecting itself as a formal military alliance or explicitly naming China, partly to encourage wider regional participation and avoid bloc politics. Nevertheless, China's growing military and economic assertiveness continues to shape the Quad's strategic agenda.

RELEVANCE

GS II : International Relations

Challenges and Limitations of the Quad

Unlike formal security alliances, it lacks an institutional framework or collective defence obligations and has not evolved into a Quad-level **2+2 ministerial dialogue involving both Foreign and Defence Ministers**, even though all four members maintain such mechanisms bilaterally. QUAD has used a cautious approach towards openly addressing China's actions. Another major concern is the **mismatch between the Quad's ambitious security agenda and its financial commitments**. While recent initiatives such as the proposed \$20 billion Critical Minerals Initiative and Framework seek to strengthen resilient supply chains, much of the funding has so far remained focused on health and climate initiatives, with limited capital committed towards security-related infrastructure and technological resilience.

Overall Significance

The evolution of the Quad demonstrates that it is not transforming from a military alliance into a trade bloc, but rather evolving into a comprehensive strategic partnership that addresses both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. Going forward, the Quad's credibility will depend on translating its broad strategic vision into concrete outcomes through greater investment in critical technologies and supply chains, enhanced maritime cooperation, stronger institutional coordination, and sustained financial commitments.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times Discuss. (GS II – International Relations – 2019)

SCIENCE

E-rickshaw battery 'hacks' and Bluetooth BMS vulnerabilities

Recent viral videos showed individuals using Bluetooth-enabled battery management applications such as **BAT-BMS**, **Lossigy**, and **Epoch-i-ion** to remotely disable the batteries of e-rickshaws. Although these applications were originally developed for battery diagnostics and maintenance, they were misused due to vulnerabilities in certain Battery Management Systems (BMS). The incident exposed cybersecurity weaknesses in connected electronic components and highlighted the growing importance of securing Internet-connected devices and supply chains.

Understanding Battery Management Systems (BMS) and the Security Flaw

A **Battery Management System (BMS)** is an electronic system that monitors, protects, and optimises the performance of rechargeable battery packs by *tracking parameters such as voltage, current, temperature, and state of charge* while reporting battery status to external devices. To simplify maintenance, many modern BMS modules incorporate Bluetooth connectivity for wireless diagnostics. However, some imported BMS modules lacked basic authentication mechanisms, allowing unauthorised devices to establish Bluetooth connections and misuse legitimate diagnostic functions, thereby exposing vehicles to preventable cybersecurity risks.



What Does the Incident Reveal?

The incident highlights broader concerns surrounding cybersecurity in connected devices and global supply chains. A significant proportion of electronic components used in Indian e-rickshaws are imported, making the security of embedded hardware and firmware as important as software security. The vulnerability reportedly existed in certain imported BMS modules for several years, illustrating how inadequate authentication, insufficient cybersecurity testing, and weak supply-chain due diligence can expose critical systems to exploitation. As connected devices become increasingly common, cybersecurity must extend beyond networks to include hardware, firmware, and component-level security.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Science and Technology

Regulatory Challenges

India has established regulatory standards for e-rickshaws through Gazette Notifications GSR 709(E) and S.O. 2590(E) (2014), covering vehicle dimensions, brakes, tyres, and identification requirements. However, these regulations provide limited guidance on cybersecurity standards. Following the viral incidents, authorities directed app stores to remove certain battery management applications. While this may have reduced immediate misuse, it did not address the underlying vulnerability within the affected BMS modules.

Significance

The incident underscores the need to integrate cybersecurity into the design, manufacturing, and regulation of connected electronic products. This requires mandatory authentication protocols for Battery Management Systems, regular firmware security audits, cybersecurity certification of electronic components, and stronger supply-chain verification to identify vulnerabilities before products enter the market. Regulatory frameworks should also assign clear responsibilities to manufacturers for the security of embedded electronics while promoting secure-by-design principles. As electric vehicles and other connected devices become more widespread, cybersecurity must be treated as a core component of product safety.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements:

- I. Cobalt
- II. Graphite
- III. Lithium
- IV. Nickel

How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

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

PYQ Compass

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Q. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a (2017)

- (a) Fundamental Right
- (b) Natural Right
- (c) Constitutional Right
- (d) Legal Right

Ans : C

The right to vote and to be elected in India is a Constitutional Right. It is governed by Article 326 of the Constitution, which provides that elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States shall be based on adult suffrage. While **it is not a Fundamental Right**, it is essential for the democratic process.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Right to the City' is an agreed human right and the UN-Habitat monitors the commitments made by each country in this regard.
2. 'Right to the City' gives every occupant of the city the right to reclaim public spaces and public participation in the city.
3. 'Right to the City' means that the State cannot deny any public service or facility to the unauthorized colonies in the city.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans : c

Statement 1 is correct. The right to the city is at the heart of the New Urban Agenda agreed at Habitat III. UN-Habitat partners with national and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector in the implementation and monitoring of the commitment made under the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights commits to social justice through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of all human rights related to habitat, including the Human Right to Adequate Housing, Land and the Right to the City in every region of the world. There is also a "World Charter for the Right to the City" which provides a progressive framework to rethink cities and urbanization. **Statement 2 is correct.** The Right to the City is the right of all inhabitants (present and future, permanent and temporary) to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, transform, govern and enjoy cities, towns and human settlements that are just, inclusive, safe, sustainable and democratic, defined as common goods for enjoying life with dignity and peace. The right to the city further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The 'Right to the City' does not mean the guarantee of any public service or facility to the unauthorized colonies in a city. It guarantees the common goods and services which are essential for the quality of life.

PYQ Compass

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Q. Turkey is located between (2014)

- Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean Sea
- Gulf of Aqaba and Dead Sea

Ans : b

Turkey is strategically located between the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. It serves as a bridge between Europe and Asia, with the Bosphorus Strait linking the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles Strait connecting the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea, which is part of the Mediterranean.



Q. Consider the following statements in relation to Janani Suraksha Yojana:

- It is a safe motherhood intervention of the State Health Departments.
- Its objective is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality among poor pregnant women.
- It aims to promote institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.
- Its objective includes providing public health facilities to sick infants up to one year of age.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans : b

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme. **So, statement 1 is not correct .**

It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women. **So, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Under the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram scheme (and not under JSY), all pregnant women and infants will get free treatment benefits at public health institutions including zero expenses delivery. **So, statement 4 is not correct .**

PYQ Compass

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Q. In the context of electric vehicle batteries, consider the following elements: (2025)

- I. Cobalt
- II. Graphite
- III. Lithium
- IV. Nickel

How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes?

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

Ans : C

A lithium-ion battery typically has: a cathode (positive electrode), an anode (negative electrode) and electrolyte. I. Cobalt: It is commonly used in cathodes of batteries like Lithium Cobalt Oxide (LCO), NMC (Nickel Manganese Cobalt), and NCA (Nickel Cobalt Aluminum). Cobalt improves energy density and battery life. **So option I is correct.**

II. Graphite: It is used in the anodes, not the cathode. Furthermore, it's the most common anode material in lithium-ion batteries. **So option II is not correct.**

III. Lithium: It is present in both cathodes and electrolyte. In the cathode, it forms compounds like LiCoO_2 , LiFePO_4 , LiNiMnCoO_2 , etc. **So option III is correct.**

IV. Nickel: Nickel is used in cathodes like NMC and NCA. Enhances energy density and storage capacity. **So option IV is correct.**

Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

Practice Questions and answers

Q. With reference to a Battery Management System (BMS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It monitors battery parameters such as voltage, current, and temperature.
- 2. It helps optimise battery performance and ensures battery protection.
- 3. It is primarily responsible for generating electricity for an electric vehicle.

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

Ans : b

Statement 1 is correct. A Battery Management System (BMS) continuously monitors critical battery parameters such as voltage, current, temperature, and state of charge (SoC) of individual cells or battery modules. This real-time monitoring helps maintain safe operating conditions and prevents battery damage.

Statement 2 is correct. One of the primary functions of a BMS is to optimise battery performance by balancing individual cells, estimating the battery's operational state, and preventing conditions such as overcharging, over-discharging, overheating, and short circuits. These functions improve battery efficiency, safety, and service life.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A BMS does not generate electricity. Electricity is produced by the electrochemical reactions within the battery cells and supplied to the vehicle's electric motor. The BMS is an electronic control system that monitors, protects, and manages the battery pack to ensure its safe and efficient operation.