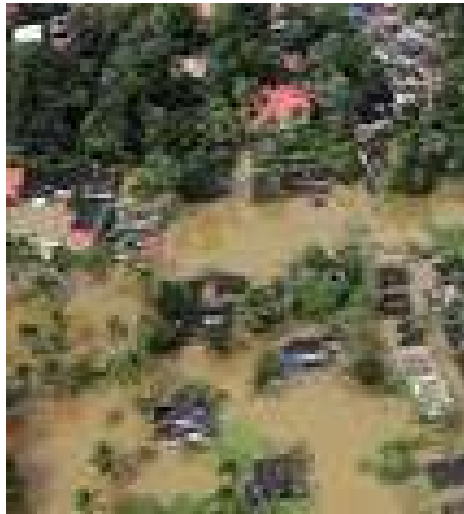


P2. NATIONAL



Safe Harbour Protection for Digital Intermediaries in India - Safe harbour protection grants conditional intermediary immunity, making platform accountability and legal compliance central to digital governance.

P3. NATIONAL



Why floods in Kerala are becoming more severe - Kerala's flash floods highlight how sedimentation, wetland loss, and altered hydrology can amplify the impacts of extreme rainfall.

P4. NATIONAL



'Why Assam is experiencing unprecedented flooding this year - The Assam floods highlight how extreme rainfall, sedimentation and watershed degradation together intensify flood disasters and reinforce the need for integrated river basin management.

Editor's Note

In the latest edition of the Pala Civil Times, we examine key developments shaping India's governance, economy, disaster management, health and environment. We begin with the regulation of digital intermediaries, exploring safe harbour protection, platform accountability and the evolving debate over liability for harmful online content. The disaster management section turns to the severe floods in Assam and Kerala, examining how extreme rainfall interacts with sedimentation, changing land use, watershed degradation and altered drainage systems to intensify flood risks. In our decoded editorials, we analyse what rising GST collections reveal about India's economic resilience, import dependence, inflation and regional disparities in tax buoyancy. We also examine the Supreme Court's recent expansion of criminal-law protection against domestic cruelty in live-in relationships, and what it indicates about evolving understandings of family and legal protection. The health section focuses on shifting cancer care from advanced-stage treatment towards prevention and early detection. Finally, the ecology page examines the recovery of the Asiatic lion and the continuing challenges of habitat connectivity, disease and landscape-level conservation. Together, these themes provide a multidimensional understanding of contemporary India.

Editorials Decoded

P7. HEALTH



India's cancer focus must shift to early detection - India's cancer strategy needs to shift from predominantly treating advanced disease towards prevention, screening and early detection supported by technology and decentralised healthcare.

The Indian EXPRESS

Supreme Court safeguards for live-in partners are much-needed and long-overdue



Section 85 BNS can protect women from domestic cruelty in live-in relationships that are in the nature of marriage and accompanied by an intent to marry.

THE HINDU

Highs and lows



India's 2036 Olympic bid seeks to combine world-class event hosting with long-term transformation of the country's sporting ecosystem through grassroots development, institutional reforms and enhanced international competitiveness.

Safe Harbour Protection for Digital Intermediaries in India

Safe harbour protection enables digital intermediaries to host third-party content without being held directly liable, provided they comply with prescribed legal obligations. It forms the foundation of digital platform governance by balancing innovation with accountability. Recent developments involving social media platforms, concerns over child sexual abuse material (CSAM), deepfake content, content moderation and platform responsibility have renewed discussions on the scope and implementation of intermediary immunity in India.

Legal and Institutional Framework

Safe Harbour: Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 provides conditional immunity to intermediaries for third-party content.

Conditional Protection: Immunity applies only when intermediaries comply with prescribed legal obligations.

IT Rules, 2021: The Rules expand compliance requirements, including removal of content upon notice by authorised agencies.

Government Oversight: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology engages digital platforms regarding legal compliance and platform operations.

Parliamentary Scrutiny: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology examines intermediary accountability and regulatory issues.



Current Status and Recent Developments

Meta Engagement: Meta's global public policy leadership met government officials and conveyed an apology on behalf of the company regarding platform errors, CSAM-related issues and deepfake content.

Platform Concerns: Questions were raised regarding the temporary removal of the Prime Minister's video message, promotion of illegal content and paid amplification of specific content.

Committee Action: The Parliamentary Standing Committee sought withdrawal of safe harbour protection for Meta and similarly demanded removal of Google's intermediary protection in specified cases.

Cybercrime Concerns: The committee referred to cyber fraud complaints involving applications downloaded through Google Play, where losses exceeded ₹48 lakh.

Significance

Platform Accountability: Safe harbour encourages responsible content moderation while recognising the role of intermediaries in managing user-generated content.

User Safety: Effective regulation helps curb CSAM, deepfakes and other unlawful digital content, strengthening online safety.

Digital Governance: Clear intermediary obligations improve transparency and accountability in platform operations.

Regulatory Balance: A predictable liability framework supports innovation while ensuring compliance with legal responsibilities.

Institutional Oversight: Parliamentary scrutiny and government engagement strengthen oversight of digital platforms.

Way Forward

India's intermediary framework should continue balancing innovation with accountability through transparent content moderation, timely compliance with legal obligations and greater clarity on the scope of safe harbour protection. Stronger coordination among government, digital platforms and oversight institutions can improve user safety while ensuring regulatory consistency. A fair, predictable and rights-based enforcement framework will strengthen trust in the digital ecosystem and support responsible digital governance.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents? (2017)

1. Service providers
2. Data centers
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Why floods in Kerala are becoming more severe

Flash floods in Kerala have become increasingly severe due to the interaction of extreme rainfall with long-term environmental and land-use changes. Reduced carrying capacity of rivers and reservoirs, shrinking wetlands and paddy fields, and widespread urbanisation have weakened the State's natural ability to absorb and safely drain excess water. These factors have accelerated runoff, increased river overflow, and intensified flooding in both urban and rural areas, making flood management an important governance and environmental priority.

Factors Aggravating Flash Floods

Reduced River Capacity: Sedimentation has lowered river water-holding capacity and obstructed floodwater flow.

Reservoir Siltation: Dam storage has declined due to long-term sediment accumulation.

Landslide Deposits: Soil and sand from hilly regions have further raised river beds.

Wetland Loss: Declining wetlands and paddy fields have reduced natural rainwater absorption.

Altered Hydrology: Concrete and paved surfaces rapidly channel stormwater into rivers.

Present Situation

Human Impact: Flooding claimed 26 lives, 4 persons remained missing, and over 27,000 people took shelter in nearly 460 relief camps.

Reduced River Capacity: Sedimentation from the 2018 floods and subsequent landslides has lowered river carrying capacity and created deltas that obstruct floodwater flow.

Shrinking Water Storage: Kallarkutty Dam lost 47% of gross storage in 45 years, while Anayirankal Dam lost 30.92% in 33 years.

Declining Natural Buffers: Wetlands reduced from 5,950 ha (2005–06) to 2,937 ha (2023–24).

Rapid Surface Runoff: Extensive concrete roads and paved surfaces now channel stormwater quickly into rivers, causing low-lying areas to flood within hours.

Government's Response

Priority Desilting: Rivers and reservoirs will be desilted to restore their water-holding and flood-carrying capacity.

Water Body Inventory: An asset register will be prepared for rivers, streams and lakes to improve monitoring and management.

Preventing Encroachments: Land auditing will be undertaken to check encroachment of river systems and protect natural drainage.

Pilot Desilting Works: Desilting has already been initiated through tender system for affected regions.

Resource Utilisation: Regulated extraction of desilted river and reservoir sand is proposed as a potential revenue source while supporting restoration activities.



Way Forward

Kerala's recent flooding demonstrates that disaster intensity is influenced not only by extreme rainfall but also by changes in river systems, land use and natural hydrology. **Strengthening flood resilience requires restoring river carrying capacity, conserving wetlands and paddy fields, preventing encroachments, and adopting integrated river, reservoir and watershed management.** Regulated desilting and environmentally sustainable sand extraction can complement these efforts, enabling long-term flood mitigation while promoting sustainable environmental governance.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods. (GS III – 2024)

RELEVANCE

GSIII : Disaster Management

Why Assam is experiencing unprecedented flooding this year

Flooding in Assam is a recurrent natural hazard, but recent events demonstrate how extreme rainfall interacting with environmental degradation and altered watershed conditions can significantly magnify disaster impacts. Excessive rainfall, reduced river carrying capacity due to sediment deposition, declining forest cover and drainage constraints together accelerated flooding across several districts. The episode highlights the growing importance of ecosystem-based flood management alongside effective forecasting and disaster response.

Factors Aggravating Flash Floods

Extreme Rainfall: Exceptionally high rainfall in adjoining Nagaland districts and Assam rapidly raised water levels in Brahmaputra tributaries.

Reduced River Capacity: Excess silt deposition has raised river beds, lowering their capacity to safely carry floodwaters.

Mining Impacts: Excessive excavation along river valley slopes may have increased sediment flow into rivers.

Forest Loss: Reduced forest cover has lowered infiltration and accelerated surface runoff carrying large quantities of silt.

Drainage Constraints: High Brahmaputra levels hindered the discharge of swollen tributaries, worsening inundation.

Present Situation

Large-scale Impact: Around 66 lives were lost, nearly 7 lakh people were affected across 856 villages in 12 districts, and over 1.15 lakh people were housed in relief camps.

Relief Operations: More than 4,455 people were evacuated by the NDRF, Army, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services and local administration.

Accessibility Challenges: Several regions remained inaccessible due to thick sediment deposits left behind by receding waters.

Critical River Levels: The *Dikhow, Disang and Dhansiri rivers* remained above danger levels, with severe flood conditions reported.

Exceptional Rainfall: Rainfall departures reached 436% in Charaideo and 493% in Mokokchung, resulting in an unprecedented rise in water levels.

Flood Management and Way Forward

Watershed Restoration: Afforestation in watershed areas can improve infiltration, reduce runoff and limit sediment transport.

River Capacity: Controlling sediment inflow and maintaining river carrying capacity are essential for flood moderation.

Scientific Forecasting: Improved forecasting using advanced precipitation monitoring systems can strengthen preparedness and response.

Sustainable Resource Use: Regulating excavation and mining in river valleys can reduce sediment accumulation.

Integrated Basin Management: Coordinated management of catchments, tributaries and downstream river systems can enhance long-term flood resilience.



Way Forward

The Assam floods demonstrate that disaster severity is determined by the interaction of extreme rainfall with watershed degradation, sediment accumulation and drainage constraints. Strengthening flood resilience requires restoring watershed ecosystems, protecting river carrying capacity, improving forecasting systems and adopting integrated river basin management to reduce future flood risks while supporting sustainable environmental governance.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events. (GS III – 2016)

RELEVANCE

GSIII : Disaster Management

Highs and lows (The Hindu : 06-08-2026)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections serve as a key indicator of economic activity, consumption, trade and tax compliance. While higher GST collections generally reflect economic resilience, their composition is equally important. A balanced tax trajectory should be supported by broad-based domestic production, consumption and income growth rather than temporary gains arising from imports, inflation or exchange-rate movements. The recent GST trends highlight important structural aspects of India's economy and fiscal system.

GST Trends and Underlying Drivers

Strong Revenue Growth: Gross GST collections reached ₹2.11 lakh crore in July, registering 15.4% year-on-year growth, the second-highest growth in FY27.

Import-led Buoyancy: Import IGST grew by 26.9%, compared with only 4.5% growth in domestic GST revenues, indicating stronger contribution from imports.

Exchange-rate Impact: A 10–12% depreciation of the rupee increased the rupee value of imports such as crude oil, electronics, machinery and chemicals, boosting IGST collections.

Inflation Effect: Manufacturing WPI inflation rose to 7.18% in June from 1.52% a year earlier, supporting higher GST receipts under the ad valorem tax system.

Sectoral Variation: Manufacturing growth remained subdued, while services recorded their slowest expansion in 53 months, with GST growth concentrated in a few sectors and regions.

Present Situation and Fiscal Trends

Regional Disparities: Only 16 States/UTs recorded post-settlement GST growth above the national average, reflecting uneven economic expansion.

Concentrated Tax Base: Manufacturing and organised services concentrated in a limited belts, while States with larger unorganised sectors generate lower tax buoyancy.

Dependence on Transfers: Lower tax buoyancy increases reliance on Central transfers and Finance Commission devolution.

Improved Compliance: Faster domestic GST refunds indicate expanding formalisation and improved compliance within the GST ecosystem.

Pending Challenges: Input Tax Credit (ITC) disputes and litigation continue to affect the efficiency of the GST framework.

Significance

Economic Indicator: GST trends provide insights into production, consumption, imports and overall economic momentum.

Fiscal Sustainability: Broad-based GST growth strengthens government revenue and fiscal capacity.

Regional Development: Uneven GST performance highlights disparities in industrialisation and formal economic activity across States.

Tax Administration: Faster refunds reflect improvements in GST compliance and administrative efficiency.

Growth Assessment: Analysing the composition of GST collections helps distinguish sustainable domestic growth from temporary external factors.



Way Forward

India achieved its best-ever 21st-century Olympic finish at 48th place with seven medals at the Tokyo Olympics (2021), followed by 71st place with six medals at the Paris Olympics (2024). In this regard, India's 2036 Olympic aspiration extends beyond hosting a global sporting event to building a robust and inclusive sporting ecosystem. Expanded investments, grassroots development and institutional reforms provide a strong foundation, but lasting success will depend on transparent implementation, sporting integrity and sustained improvement in international performance.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Examine the evolving pattern of Centre–State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? (2025)

RELEVANCE

GS III : Indian Economy



Supreme Court safeguards for live-in partners are much-needed and long-overdue (I.E : 06-08-2026)

The Supreme Court has held that criminal protection against domestic cruelty can extend to women in live-in relationships that are “in the nature of marriage” and accompanied by an intent to marry. The ruling interprets the former **Section 498A of the IPC**, now corresponding to **Section 85 of the BNS**, in light of the objective of preventing domestic cruelty. It recognises that *absence of formal solemnisation cannot by itself determine whether a woman facing domestic abuse deserves criminal-law protection*.

Legal Framework and Judicial Interpretation

Section 85 BNS: Corresponds to former Section 498A IPC, which penalises cruelty by a husband or his relatives.

Nature of Relationship: A live-in relationship must possess features as financial pooling, shared domestic arrangements, sexual relations and being held out as spouses.

Intent to Marry: Criminal protection additionally requires a genuine intent to marry, distinguishing qualifying relationships from general cohabitation.

Civil-Criminal Distinction: The DV Act, 2005 provides civil remedies, while Section 85 carries criminal deterrence.

The recent NFHS found that over 22 per cent of ever-married women have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence at the hands of their partners.

Recent Judicial Development and Present Position

Purposive Interpretation: The Court held that the law must respond to changing social realities.

Equality Principle: Denying criminal protection solely because partners are not formally married was considered to lack a rational nexus with preventing domestic violence and implicate Article 14.

Existing Precedents: *D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal* and *Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma* identified characteristics of relationships in the nature of marriage.

Burden of Proof: The woman seeking protection bears the initial burden of establishing the requisite intent to marry.

Legal Gap: The Court did not specify precise parameters for determining an individual's internal intent to marry.

Significance

Substantive Protection: Criminal-law protection is linked to the reality of domestic abuse rather than formal marital status alone.

Gender Justice: The judgment addresses additional legal and social vulnerabilities faced by women in live-in relationships.

Evolving Law: It demonstrates purposive interpretation responding to changing forms of intimate relationships.

Complementary Remedies: Criminal deterrence under Section 85 is distinguished from the predominantly civil remedies available under the DV Act.

Balanced Approach: The intent-to-marry requirement and procedural safeguards seek to prevent indiscriminate extension of a penal provision.



Way forward

The expanded protection should be implemented with careful judicial assessment of whether a relationship possesses the characteristics of marriage and whether the requisite intent to marry existed. Clearer parameters for establishing such intent can reduce uncertainty while preserving access to criminal protection. Consistent application of safeguards under Armesh Kumar can further balance protection against domestic cruelty with procedural fairness. The judgment ultimately reinforces a substantive approach in which the legal response to domestic abuse is informed by the nature of the relationship rather than formal status alone.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society. (GS II – 2023)

RELEVANCE

GS II : Fundamental Rights

HEALTH

India's cancer focus must shift to early detection

Cancer is an increasing public-health challenge in India, where more than 70% of patients present at advanced stages, reducing the effectiveness and affordability of treatment. India recorded an estimated 1.56 million new cancer cases and over 8.74 lakh deaths in 2024, while the lifetime risk of developing cancer is about 11% nationally and exceeds 20% in some northeastern States. Strengthening prevention and shifting diagnosis towards earlier stages is therefore essential to improving survival and reducing economic hardship.

Cancer Burden and Prevention

Late Presentation: Over 70% of patients reach oncology clinics with advanced-stage cancer, limiting curative possibilities.

Economic Burden: More than three-fourths of affected households experience catastrophic healthcare expenditure.

Preventability: Nearly half of all cancers are considered preventable, strengthening the case for preventive health.

Early Education: Health education should begin in schools, covering lifestyle, diet, addictions, vaccination and physical, mental and social health.

Rising Burden: Population ageing and changing lifestyles are expected to increase cancer incidence without stronger preventive strategies.

Significance

Survival: Earlier diagnosis can improve the possibility of curative treatment and narrow survival gaps.

Financial Protection: Preventing advanced disease can reduce catastrophic healthcare expenditure among affected households.

Health Equity: Decentralised screening and referral systems can address India's geographical and socioeconomic diversity.

Research Transition: The Draft National Health Research Policy 2026 creates an opportunity to emphasise implementation science and measurable health outcomes.

Innovation: Affordable screening technologies, risk-prediction models and digital platforms can strengthen cancer detection across diverse healthcare settings.

Way Forward

India needs to shift cancer strategy from predominantly advanced-stage treatment towards lifelong prevention and early detection. School-based health education, wider screening, locally validated MCED technologies, AI-assisted diagnosis and mobile diagnostic services should be integrated through strong referral networks. Research should prioritise affordable technologies and measurable implementation outcomes suited to India's diverse healthcare settings.



Early Detection and Emerging Approaches

Symptom Awareness: Persistent symptoms lasting more than three weeks should prompt medical evaluation.

Screening: Screening can identify cancers before symptoms emerge and remains central to reducing diagnostic delays.

MCED Tests: Blood-based Multi-Cancer Early Detection tests may identify biological signals from multiple malignancies through a single blood sample.

AI Applications: A NITI Aayog-supported imaging biobank with 20,000+ cancer patient profiles can support AI-based identification of suspicious lesions.

Layered Healthcare: Community workers, digital risk assessment, AI, mobile diagnostics and referral pathways can connect primary care with cancer centres.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Issues relating to Social Sector/Health

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India's public sector health care system largely focuses on curative care with limited preventive, promotive and rehabilitative care.

Statement-II: Under India's decentralized approach to health care delivery, the States are primarily responsible for organizing health services. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

ECOLOGY

Asiatic Lion Conservation: Protected Areas to Landscape-Level Recovery

The Asiatic lion is currently restricted to the Gir landscape and surrounding areas, where its population has expanded beyond the designated protected area into agricultural fields, grasslands, coastal habitats and other landscapes. Its recovery over six decades reflects the importance of habitat quality, prey availability, administration and community support. However, the species remains vulnerable because the entire population is concentrated within a single broad forested landscape, making habitat connectivity and disease management critical to its long-term conservation.

Habitat Expansion and Conservation Landscape

Population Recovery: The lion population increased from about 100–150 individuals six decades ago to over 1,000 today.

Range Expansion: Lions now occupy Girnar, Mitiyala, Savarkundla-Liliya and coastal Saurashtra.

Landscape Matrix: Agricultural fields and traditional grasslands function as passages, stepping stones and refuges for dispersing lions.

Satellite Population: Around 50 lions inhabit coastal Jafrabad, identified as Satellite IV among nine recognised satellite populations.

Community Support: Local communities accommodate lions across shared landscapes, supporting continued range expansion.



Emerging Threats and Conservation Concerns

Corridor Pressure: A proposal to divert about 75 hectares of reserved forest for limestone mining could disrupt the Babarkot corridor.

Habitat Loss: The proposed project may require felling nearly 5,000 mature trees, potentially disconnecting the coastal population.

Disease Vulnerability: More than 20 lions died from Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) during the 2018 outbreak.

Recent Mortality: Lion deaths associated with babesiosis in May 2026, alongside possible CDV involvement, raise renewed concerns.

Single Population: Despite recovery, the species remains concentrated in one forested landscape, leaving it vulnerable to landscape-level disturbances and disease.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Biodiversity Conservation

Significance

Conservation Recovery: The lion's rise to over 1,000 individuals demonstrates the effectiveness of sustained conservation efforts.

Landscape Conservation: Nearly half the population now lives outside the designated protected area, highlighting the importance of habitat connectivity.

Community Coexistence: Local acceptance enables lions to use human-dominated and shared landscapes beyond protected boundaries.

Global Importance: The Asiatic lion has moved from **Critically Endangered** to **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List and represents a stable northern lion subpopulation exceeding 250 individuals.

Incomplete Recovery: Green Status assessments indicate that population recovery has not yet translated into full ecological and historical restoration.

Way Forward

Long-term conservation requires protecting not only Gir but also satellite habitats, movement corridors and the wider landscape supporting dispersing lions. Development decisions affecting critical corridors should safeguard habitat connectivity, while disease surveillance and lessons from previous outbreaks need sustained attention. The recovery of the Asiatic lion demonstrates what sustained conservation, administration, funding and community support can achieve.

PYQ Compass

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



Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)
 1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
 2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
 3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 a) 1 only b) 2 only c) 1 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3

PYQ Compass

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



Q. In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents? (2017)

1. Service providers
2. Data centers
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans : d

In India, it is legally mandatory for service providers, data centers, and body corporates to report cybersecurity incidents under the provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and related guidelines issued by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

1. Service providers: Service providers such as telecom companies, internet service providers (ISPs), and cloud service providers are required to report cybersecurity incidents as part of maintaining the integrity and security of their services.

2. Data centers: Data centers, which host and manage data storage and processing, are mandated to report incidents that may affect the security of the data they handle or the systems they operate.

3. Body corporate: As defined under the IT Act, body corporates include companies and other organizations that handle sensitive data. They are required to ensure the security of personal and sensitive information and report breaches or incidents.

CERT-In Guidelines: CERT-In mandates reporting of cybersecurity incidents such as:

Unauthorized access to IT systems.

Denial-of-service attacks.

Malware infections.

Data breaches and leaks.

Failure to report can lead to penalties under the IT Act.

Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans : a

1 is Correct. The Asiatic lion, also known as the Persian lion, is found only in the Gir Forest National Park in Gujarat, India. It is considered to be naturally found only in India.

2. is Incorrect. The double-humped camel (Bactrian camel) is found in Central Asia, particularly in Mongolia and parts of China, and is not native to India. However, India has some populations of Bactrian camels in Ladakh, but they are not naturally found in India only.

3 is Incorrect. The one-horned rhinoceros (Indian rhinoceros) is primarily found in India, particularly in Assam, but it also inhabits parts of Nepal and Bhutan. Therefore, it is not confined to India only. Thus, the only correct statement is 1, which makes the correct answer a) 1 only.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the factors intensifying flash floods in Kerala, consider the following statements:

1. Sedimentation has reduced the carrying capacity of rivers.
2. Loss of wetlands has weakened the natural absorption of rainfall.
3. Concrete roads and paved surfaces slow down stormwater movement into rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Statement 1 – Correct: Sediment accumulation has reduced river carrying capacity.

Statement 2 – Correct: Wetland and paddy field loss has reduced natural flood buffering.

Statement 3 – Incorrect: Impervious surfaces accelerate, rather than slow, stormwater runoff.

Q. With reference to safe harbour protection under the Information Technology Act, 2000, consider the following statements:

1. Safe harbour grants intermediaries unconditional immunity for all user-generated content.
2. Compliance with prescribed legal obligations is necessary to claim safe harbour protection.
3. The Information Technology Rules, 2021 expand intermediary compliance requirements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Statement 1 – Incorrect: Safe harbour is conditional, not absolute or unconditional.

Statement 2 – Correct: Protection depends upon compliance with prescribed legal obligations.

Statement 3 – Correct: The IT Rules, 2021 expand intermediary responsibilities, including compliance with lawful content removal requirements.

Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Depreciation of the Indian rupee contributed to a higher import bill.

Statement 2: A weaker rupee increases the rupee value of imported goods, thereby contributing to higher import-related GST collections.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect.
- (d) Statement 1 is incorrect, but Statement 2 is correct.

Answer: (a)