

**SATYADHEESH**
सत्याधीश

UPSC DAILY DETAILED NOTES

Current Affairs • 15 September 2026

28

NOTES

2

STORIES MERGED

10

MCQS

GS2 • 10

PAPER MIX

GS3 • 18

CONTENTS

Every note, grouped by paper

GS2 • Polity • Governance • Social Justice • IR

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Practice — 10 MCQs

HOW EACH NOTE READS

Why in news → facts to remember → a Mains question with keywords. Duplicate stories are merged.

SHORT ON TIME?

The 5-page **Brief** has the stories that matter most, plus a quiz. Same day, same notes.

Polity & Constitution

3

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

M

15 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/121928

Supreme Court launches Jan Soochna Seva for simplified Hindi legal bulletins

WHY IN NEWS The Supreme Court launched 'Jan Soochna Seva' on Hindi Diwas to provide simplified Hindi legal bulletins and multimedia summaries of significant judgments to improve judicial accessibility.

CONCEPT	Jan Soochna Seva — A public information service providing simplified legal summaries in Hindi
EVENT	Hindi Diwas — Celebrated annually on September 14th to promote the Hindi language
BODY	Supreme Court of India — The highest judicial body in the country

MAINS Q Discuss how the simplification of legal language and multi-lingual dissemination of judgments can enhance the principle of 'Access to Justice' for marginalized sections in India.

USE: Access to Justice Judicial Transparency Legal Literacy Inclusive Governance Linguistic Accessibility

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

P

15 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/121916

Bihar Governor swears in Justice V. Kameswar Rao as Patna High Court Chief

WHY IN NEWS Bihar Governor Syed Ata Hasnain administered the oath of office to Justice V. Kameswar Rao as the new Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

PERSON	Justice V. Kameswar Rao — Chief Justice of the Patna High Court
PLACE	Patna High Court — Principal High Court of the state of Bihar
CONCEPT	Governor's Role — Administers the oath of office to the Chief Justice of the respective High Court
DATE	2015 — Year Justice V. Kameswar Rao was elevated as a permanent judge

MAINS Q Discuss the constitutional role of the Governor in the appointment and swearing-in of High Court judges and its implications for judicial independence.

USE: Judicial Independence Constitutional Role High Court Governor's Powers Separation of Powers

JUDICIARY & LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

M

15 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/121827

Chief Justice Kant invokes Supreme Court in NCERT textbook row, demands transparency

WHY IN NEWS Chief Justice Surya Kant invoked the Supreme Court's intervention in the NCERT Class 8 textbook row, demanding transparency and public trust in judicial accountability.

POST	Chief Justice Surya Kant: Presiding head of the Supreme Court of India
FACT	The court initially ordered the withdrawal of a chapter due to reckless depictions of the judiciary

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of judicial transparency and public trust in maintaining the integrity of the Indian judiciary.

USE: Judicial Accountability Transparency Public Trust Institutional Integrity Judicial Scrutiny

INDIA & NEIGHBOURHOOD

P

2 REPORTS MERGED

15 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/121886

India to export power to Nepal for 18 hours daily to aid flood recovery

WHY IN NEWS India's Ministry of Power approved exporting electricity to Nepal for 18 hours daily until December 31, 2026, to support recovery from flood-induced hydropower destruction.

BODY	Ministry of Power — Central government body overseeing the power sector
PLACE	Nepal — Landlocked neighbor of India
FIGURE	1,451 MUs — Amount of electricity exported by India to Nepal in FY 2025-26
FIGURE	3,299 MUs — Amount of electricity imported by India from Nepal in FY 2025-26

MAINS Q Discuss how regional energy cooperation can serve as a tool for disaster resilience and bilateral strengthening in South Asia.

USE: Energy Diplomacy Regional Cooperation Disaster Mitigation Bilateral Trade Infrastructure Resilience

POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AFFECTING INDIA

P

M

15 Sep · BBC · satyadheesh.in/news/121955

US deploys first orbital space weapon to counter Russia and China

WHY IN NEWS US Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink confirmed the deployment of the first-ever space weapon in Earth's orbit to counter Russian and Chinese space threats.

CONCEPT	Space weapon: A device designed to damage, disable, or destroy satellites or space stations
PERSON	Troy Meink: US Secretary of the Air Force who confirmed the deployment
CONCEPT	Golden Dome: The system linked to the deployment of the space weapon
EVENT	Russia launched a satellite in February 2024 capable of attacking other satellites

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of space weaponization on global security and the necessity of establishing international norms for orbital defense.

USE: Space Weaponization Orbital Defense Security Dilemma Strategic Autonomy Space Warfare

INDIA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS

P

15 Sep · Al Jazeera · satyadheesh.in/news/121876

Finland joins France's Forward Deterrence Initiative to counter Russian threats

WHY IN NEWS Finland joined France's Forward Deterrence Initiative to extend French nuclear deterrence coverage amid escalating Russian threats and US uncertainty.

CONCEPT	Forward Deterrence Initiative — A French-led initiative to bolster European security against Russian threats.
FIGURE	10th European state — Finland's position in joining the Forward Deterrence Initiative.
PLACE	Helsinki — The location where the agreement was formalized.
CONCEPT	Nuclear Umbrella — The agreement clarifies it does not replace the existing NATO nuclear umbrella.
CONCEPT	Peacetime Policy — Finland does not plan to station nuclear weapons on its territory during peacetime.

MAINS Q Discuss how the expansion of European nuclear deterrence frameworks reflects changing security dynamics in the Baltic region amidst shifting transatlantic alliances.

USE: Nuclear Deterrence Strategic Autonomy Forward Deterrence Initiative Baltic Security Geopolitical Realignment

China and India reach important consensus at BRICS Summit

WHY IN NEWS China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that India and China reached an 'important consensus' to be partners during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

- CONCEPT** | Important consensus — agreement between India and China to act as partners during the BRICS Summit.
- EVENT** | BRICS Summit — hosted in New Delhi in September 2026.
- DATE** | October 2024 — date when bilateral relations were normalized after a four-year freeze.
- CONCEPT** | BRICS — an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the 'important consensus' between India and China in the context of regional stability and the evolving dynamics of the BRICS bloc.

USE: bilateral ties strategic consensus multilateralism regional stability diplomatic normalization

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman prioritizes UN General Assembly over India visit

WHY IN NEWS Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has yet to accept India's invitations for a bilateral visit and the BRICS summit, opting instead to attend the 81st UN General Assembly.

- EVENT** | 81st UN General Assembly — Scheduled for September 2024 in New York
- CONCEPT** | UN General Assembly — The main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN
- CONCEPT** | BRICS — An association of countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

MAINS Q Analyze the significance of bilateral diplomacy over multilateral forums in managing regional issues like the Rohingya refugee crisis between India and Bangladesh.

USE: bilateral diplomacy multilateralism regional cooperation refugee crisis geopolitical alignment

Pakistan's FIA increases reward for UN-designated terrorist Maulana Masood Azhar

WHY IN NEWS Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) increased the reward for UN-designated terrorist Maulana Masood Azhar to PKR 70 lakh ahead of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting.

- BODY** | FATF: An intergovernmental body that sets global standards to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.
- PERSON** | Maulana Masood Azhar: Founder of Jaish-e-Mohammed and a UN-designated terrorist wanted for the 2019 Pulwama bombing.
- FIGURE** | PKR 70 lakh: The increased reward for Maulana Masood Azhar by Pakistan's FIA.

MAINS Q Examine the role of international financial monitoring bodies in curbing cross-border terrorism and the implications of 'grey-listing' on a nation's economic stability.

USE: Counter-terrorism financing Grey-listing Extradition Transnational terrorism FATF compliance

US Central Command refutes Iran's claims over El Gaia tanker attack

WHY IN NEWS US Central Command (CENTCOM) refuted Iran's Revolutionary Guards' claim regarding the cause of damage to the Panama-flagged oil tanker El Gaia in the Strait of Hormuz.

PLACE	Strait of Hormuz: A strategic chokepoint for global oil trade located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
BODY	US Central Command (CENTCOM): A combatant command of the United States Armed Forces responsible for the Middle East.
CONCEPT	El Gaia: A Panama-flagged oil tanker involved in a maritime incident involving Iranian forces.

MAINS Q Discuss the significance of the Strait of Hormuz in global energy security and the implications of maritime insecurity on international trade routes.

USE: [Maritime security](#) [Energy corridors](#) [Geopolitical friction](#) [Strategic chokepoints](#)

Economy

10

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

15 Sep · Economic Times · satyadheesh.in/news/122153

Government exempts RuPay and UPI fees up to ₹2,000

WHY IN NEWS Paytm shares fell after the government announced no charges for RuPay/UPI transactions up to Rs 2,000 while leaving the door open for future Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on higher values.

ACT	Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007: Provides the framework for MDR on electronic payment modes.
CONCEPT	Merchant Discount Rate (MDR): A fee paid by merchants to banks/payment providers for processing transactions.
FIGURE	₹2,000: The current transaction limit for RuPay/UPI fee exemption.

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of a self-sustaining revenue model for India's digital public infrastructure to ensure long-term cybersecurity and scalability.

USE: Merchant Discount Rate Digital Public Infrastructure Payment and Settlement Systems Act Financial Inclusion Cybersecurity

MONETARY POLICY, RBI & BANKING

P

15 Sep · NDTV · satyadheesh.in/news/122149

New 0.4% Charge on Transactions Above ₹2,000 Caps Merchant Costs at ₹300

WHY IN NEWS The Indian government introduced a new UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework effective October 15 to impose a 0.4% charge on merchant transactions exceeding ₹2,000.

FACT	UPI MDR charge: 0.4% for transactions above ₹2,000
FACT	Maximum cap on merchant transaction charge: ₹300
BODY	NPCI: National Payments Corporation of India, the body clarifying the new framework
FACT	Free transaction limit: P2P and P2M transactions up to ₹2,000

MAINS Q Discuss how the introduction of Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on high-value UPI transactions balances the sustainability of digital payment infrastructure with financial inclusion goals.

USE: Digital Public Infrastructure Financial Inclusion Merchant Discount Rate Payment Systems Monetary Policy

EXTERNAL SECTOR, TRADE & FDI

P

15 Sep · The Hindu · satyadheesh.in/news/121935

India and EU reach FTA allowing higher steel exports

WHY IN NEWS India and the EU reached a free trade agreement on September 11, 2026, allowing India to export up to 1.64 million metric tons of steel annually to the EU.

CONCEPT	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) — An EU policy applying to Indian steel exports despite the FTA.
FIGURE	1.64 million metric tons — The annual steel export capacity allowed to the EU under the new agreement.
FIGURE	694,853 tons — The preferential quota for steel provided above the existing WTO quota.
DATE	September 11, 2026 — The date the agreement was released.

MAINS Q Discuss how trade agreements like the India-EU steel pact balance market access with environmental regulations like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

USE: Trade Liberalization Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Preferential Quota Market Access Trade Policy

Government prohibits bank charges on UPI and RuPay transactions

WHY IN NEWS The Government of India notified changes to the Payment and Settlement Act, 2007, prohibiting banks from charging for UPI transactions up to ₹2,000 and RuPay debit card payments.

ACT	Payment and Settlement Act, 2007 — Primary legislation governing electronic payment systems in India.
CONCEPT	Protected electronic modes of payment — UPI and RuPay transactions under the zero-charge mandate.
FIGURE	₹2,000 — The transaction limit for zero-charge mandate on UPI.
CONCEPT	Unified Payments Interface (UPI) — An instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI.

MAINS Q Discuss the implications of regulating transaction fees on digital payment systems for financial inclusion and the growth of the digital economy in India.

USE: Financial Inclusion Digital Public Infrastructure Monetary Policy Transaction Costs Retail Payments

Tamil Nadu secures Rs 12,300 crore investment deals in UK

WHY IN NEWS Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay signed four investment agreements in the UK worth Rs 12,300 crore, aiming to create 9,000 jobs and establish a Global Capability Centre in Chennai.

FIGURE	Rs 12,300 crore — Total investment secured by Tamil Nadu during the UK trip
FIGURE	Rs 11,000 crore — Deal with Samvardhana Motherson International Limited to create 7,000 jobs
CONCEPT	India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (ECTA) — Came into force in July
PLACE	Chennai — Site for the proposed Global Capability Centre

MAINS Q Examine how bilateral trade agreements and state-led investment initiatives contribute to India's goal of becoming a global manufacturing and services hub.

USE: Foreign Direct Investment Global Capability Centre Trade Facilitation Industrial Policy Employment Generation

CCPA fines Rapido for using illegal dark patterns in advertisements

WHY IN NEWS The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) fined Rapido's operating company, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited, Rs 10 lakh for using illegal 'dark patterns' in advertisements to mislead customers.

BODY	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA): The regulatory body for consumer rights in India.
ACT	Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023: Issued by CCPA to regulate deceptive UI/UX designs.
FIGURE	₹10 lakh: The fine imposed on Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited (Rapido).
CONCEPT	Dark Patterns: Deceptive UI/UX designs like color-coded pricing sliders and confirm shaming used to prompt extra payments.

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of regulating 'dark patterns' in digital interfaces to ensure consumer protection and fair competition in the gig economy.

USE: Dark Patterns Consumer Protection Information Asymmetry Gig Economy Algorithmic Transparency

Nifty India Volatility Index Rises 10.33% to 13.57

WHY IN NEWS The Nifty India Volatility Index (India VIX) rose by 10.33% to 13.57, signaling increased expectations of near-term market uncertainty.

FACT	Nifty India Volatility Index (India VIX) rose 10.33% to 13.57 on September 15, 2026
BODY	NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) launched a three-party AePS cash deposit service
SCHEME	Spice Money's three-party AePS service allows cash deposits into Aadhaar-linked accounts of registered beneficiaries
REPORT	CEEW study indicates Rajasthan can save Rs 85 billion by 2030 by choosing renewables-plus-storage over coal
FACT	90% of Rajasthan's projected 5.5-billion-unit power deficit occurs during non-solar hours

MAINS Q Discuss the role of renewable energy and storage systems in addressing the intermittency of solar power to ensure grid reliability in India.

USE: Volatility Index Renewables-plus-storage AePS Grid Reliability Fintech

Karnataka to fund 100 startups with ₹25 crore under Government First initiative

WHY IN NEWS The Government of Karnataka announced the 'Government First' initiative to support 100 startups with a ₹25 crore outlay to pilot innovations in sectors like AI and healthcare.

SCHEME	Government First — initiative to fund startups for pilot implementation in key sectors.
SCHEME	Karnataka Startup Policy 2025–30 — the policy framework under which the initiative is formulated.
FIGURE	₹25 crore — total outlay for the Government First initiative.
FIGURE	₹25 lakh — maximum funding provided per startup for pilot implementation.

MAINS Q Discuss how 'Government First' initiatives can foster a robust startup ecosystem while ensuring effective public procurement and inter-departmental coordination.

USE: Public-Private Partnership Startup Ecosystem Digital Governance Pilot Implementation Innovation Policy

Gold loans surge 62.2% as consumer durables lead new credit borrowers

WHY IN NEWS TransUnion Cibil reported a significant surge in India's retail credit portfolio, highlighting gold loans as a major growth driver among new-to-credit borrowers.

FIGURE	₹179 lakh crore — Total retail credit portfolio in India as of June
FIGURE	62.2% — Increase in gold loans within the retail credit portfolio
FIGURE	46% — Share of consumer durable loans among new-to-credit customers
FIGURE	890 million — India's credit-eligible population as of March
CONCEPT	First-time borrowers — 13% of India's credit-eligible population

MAINS Q Analyze the factors driving the expansion of retail credit in India and the implications of rising gold loan demand on financial inclusion.

USE: Financial Inclusion Retail Credit Asset-backed Lending Credit Penetration Consumer Durables

SEBI introduces 20-minute end-of-day auction to curb market manipulation

WHY IN NEWS SEBI directed local stock exchanges to implement a 20-minute end-of-day auction to prevent large traders from manipulating closing prices, following allegations against the Jane Street Group.

BODY | SEBI: The primary regulator for the securities and commodity markets in India.

CONCEPT | End-of-day auction: A 20-minute mechanism to prevent large traders from artificially influencing closing prices.

CONCEPT | Market liquidity: Influenced by factors such as securities transaction taxes and short-selling restrictions.

MAINS Q Discuss how regulatory interventions like end-of-day auctions can balance the need for market integrity with the requirement for high liquidity in capital markets.

USE: [Market Integrity](#) [Price Discovery](#) [Liquidity Constraints](#) [Regulatory Oversight](#) [Speculative Trading](#)

Agriculture

2

Transboundary haze hits Singapore and Malaysia as Indonesian wildfires peak

WHY IN NEWS Singapore and Malaysia are experiencing severe transboundary haze due to wildfires in Indonesia, with air quality matching 2019 crisis levels.

CONCEPT | El Niño: Climate pattern of unusual warming of surface waters in eastern and central Pacific Ocean

PLACE | Kalimantan and Sumatra: Indonesian islands identified as major sources of transboundary haze

FIGURE | Over 9,000 hotspots: Recorded in Indonesia during August 2024

BODY | ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre: Regional body monitoring weather and climate in Southeast Asia

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in managing transboundary air pollution in Southeast Asia and the role of regional cooperation in mitigating wildfire-induced haze.

USE: [transboundary pollution](#) [El Nino](#) [ASEAN cooperation](#) [environmental governance](#) [wildfire management](#)

Ladakh establishes India's first Dark Sky Reserve in Hanle

WHY IN NEWS Ladakh has established India's first Dark Sky Reserve in Hanle to promote astro-tourism and alleviate rural poverty.

PLACE | Hanle — location of India's first Dark Sky Reserve in the Union Territory of Ladakh

FIGURE | 4,500 metres — the altitude at which the Dark Sky Reserve is situated

CONCEPT | Astro-tourism — a niche tourism model enabling local homestays to earn up to ₹2 lakh monthly

CONCEPT | Astro-ambassadors — local villagers, including women, employed to preserve celestial visibility

MAINS Q Discuss how the promotion of niche tourism like astro-tourism can serve as a tool for rural livelihood diversification and poverty alleviation in high-altitude regions.

USE: [Astro-tourism](#) [Livelihood diversification](#) [Rural development](#) [Light pollution](#) [Sustainable tourism](#)

Nurdle pollution peaks off Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts

WHY IN NEWS The Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) released a study on persistent nurdle pollution and ecological impacts along the Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts following the May 2025 sinking of the MSC ELSA-3.

CONCEPT	Nurdles: Pre-production plastic resin pellets used in manufacturing plastic products.
PLACE	Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts: Locations where the MSC ELSA-3 sank and nurdle pollution was recorded.
FIGURE	31,230 items per m2: Peak shoreline abundance of nurdles recorded by SDMRI.
REPORT	SDMRI study: Monitored 93 sites over one year following the sinking of the MSC ELSA-3.

MAINS Q Discuss the ecological and health implications of microplastic pollution in marine ecosystems and suggest measures for effective maritime spill management.

USE:
Microplastic pollution
Bioaccumulation
Marine ecology
Spill management
Environmental monitoring

Meta Agrees to Report Child Abuse Cases to Police in India After Government Crackdown

WHY IN NEWS Meta agreed to report child sexual abuse cases to Indian law enforcement following a government crackdown and a summons by the NCPDR regarding child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM).

ACT / BILL	POCSO Act: Legislation governing mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse
FACT	Meta: Parent company of Facebook

MAINS Q Discuss the challenges in enforcing mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse on digital platforms and the role of regulatory bodies in ensuring online safety.

USE:
Digital Safety
Mandatory Reporting
Child Sexual Exploitation
Regulatory Compliance
Platform Accountability

Microsoft drafts AI code of conduct rejecting legal personhood

WHY IN NEWS Microsoft unveiled a draft code of conduct for its AI models to ensure human control, safety, and non-resistance to shutdowns following safety concerns raised by industry peers.

CONCEPT	Legal personhood — The draft code explicitly rejects the concept of legal personhood for AI systems.
CONCEPT	Human-centric AI — The code mandates that AI must not resist shutdowns or corrections and prioritize human understanding.
FIGURE	Development period — The draft code of conduct was developed over a period of five to six months.

MAINS Q Discuss the necessity of establishing international regulatory frameworks for AI safety and human-centric control to mitigate risks of autonomous systems.

USE:
Human-centric AI
Algorithmic accountability
AI safety protocols
Legal personhood
Technological governance

Anthropic CEO advocates for slowing advanced AI development to mitigate safety risks

WHY IN NEWS Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei proposed slowing advanced AI development due to risks from the OpenAI-Hugging Face incident, receiving mixed reactions from tech leaders and political figures.

- CONCEPT** | AI Governance: The debate highlights geopolitical competition between the US and China for AI leadership.
- CONCEPT** | Existential Risk: The core concern driving the call for a slowdown in advanced AI development.
- BODY** | Anthropic: An AI safety and research company known for developing the Claude LLM.
- BODY** | OpenAI: A leading AI research laboratory that developed the GPT series of models.

MAINS Q Discuss the ethical and security implications of rapid AI advancement and evaluate the necessity of international regulatory frameworks to mitigate existential risks.

USE: Artificial Intelligence Algorithmic Governance Existential Risk Technological Sovereignty Regulatory Frameworks

Tech giants threaten AI boycott over intellectual property misuse

WHY IN NEWS Tech giants Palantir, Nvidia, and Booz Allen Hamilton are considering boycotting AI models from Anthropic and OpenAI over concerns regarding intellectual property misuse and data retention.

- CONCEPT** | Intellectual Property (IP) misuse: Concerns regarding the use of proprietary data in training AI models.
- CONCEPT** | Data Retention Policies: Critical measures for protecting proprietary information in AI model environments.
- CONCEPT** | Isolated Cloud Environments: Solutions promoted by Microsoft to address security and privacy concerns.
- BODY** | Anthropic and OpenAI: Prominent developers of Large Language Models (LLMs).

MAINS Q Discuss the ethical and legal challenges surrounding intellectual property rights and data privacy in the rapid deployment of generative AI models.

USE: Intellectual Property Data Retention Generative AI Data Sovereignty Algorithmic Accountability

Environment & Ecology

1

African wild dogs trek 2,485 miles in search of mate, dodging poachers

WHY IN NEWS Scientists tracked a pack of African wild dogs completing a record-breaking 2,485-mile trek across Zambia, highlighting wildlife connectivity and poaching risks.

- ENVIRONMENT** | African wild dogs: Species capable of traversing vast distances despite human pressures and poaching snares.
- PLACE** | Zambia: Location of the 2,485-mile trek recorded by scientists.
- FACT** | 2,485 miles: The record-breaking distance traveled by the pack in search of a mate.

MAINS Q Discuss the importance of landscape-scale connectivity in wildlife conservation and the limitations of relying solely on protected areas for species survival.

USE: landscape connectivity anthropogenic pressure wildlife corridors genetic diversity conservation biology

10 questions, 10 minutes

Answers at the bottom, upside down

1 With reference to India–Nepal energy cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. The power export arrangement is approved until December 31, 2026.
2. India approved exporting power to Nepal for 18 hours daily to aid flood recovery.
3. India exported 3,299 million units (MUs) to Nepal in FY 2025–26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2 Which Act provides the framework for Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on electronic payment modes in India?

- ☐ a Information Technology Act, 2000 ☐ b Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
☐ c Banking Regulation Act, 1949 ☐ d Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

3 Which system is linked to the deployment of the US orbital space weapon?

- ☐ a Iron Veil ☐ b Silver Shield
☐ c Golden Dome ☐ d Aegis Orbit

4 Which EU policy applies to Indian steel exports despite the new free trade agreement?

- ☐ a Steel Import Levy ☐ b Green Tariff Policy
☐ c Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ☐ d Global Trade Tax

5 With reference to Jan Soochna Seva, consider the following statements:

1. It provides audio and video bulletins of significant judgments.
2. It provides simplified legal summaries in English only.
3. It was launched to coincide with Independence Day.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6 With reference to France's Forward Deterrence Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. The agreement replaces the existing NATO nuclear umbrella.
2. Finland is the 10th European state to join the initiative.
3. Finland plans to station nuclear weapons on its territory during peacetime.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7 With reference to India–China relations and the BRICS Summit, consider the following statements:

1. Bilateral relations between India and China were normalized in October 2024.
2. India and China reached an important consensus to act as partners during the BRICS Summit.
3. The BRICS Summit was hosted in New Delhi in September 2025.

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

8 With reference to the amendments to the Payment and Settlement Act, 2007, consider the following statements:

1. The notification prohibits both direct and indirect charges on the specified transactions.
2. RuPay-powered debit card payments are included in the zero-charge notification.
3. Banks are prohibited from charging fees on UPI transactions up to ₹5,000.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9 With reference to the investment deals secured by Tamil Nadu in the UK, consider the following statements:

1. The total investment secured during the UK trip amounted to Rs 12,300 crore.
2. The deal with Samvardhana Motherson International Limited is valued at Rs 300 crore.
3. The Global Capability Centre is proposed to be established in Mumbai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10 Which regulatory body in India issued the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023?

- (a) Central Consumer Protection Authority (b) Competition Commission of India
(c) Reserve Bank of India (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India

ANSWERS · 1 (c) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (c) 5 (a) 6 (a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (a) 10 (a)



TELEGRAM



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