

PRAYAAS TIMES

**CA CAPSULE
JUNE FIRST WEEK
UPSC/MPSC 2025-26**

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MAINS FOCUS

GS 1

Urban Floods

News Context: -

- Indian cities have a drainage problem. *Indian cities are experiencing frequent urban flooding due to unplanned urbanisation.*

Syllabus of Mains – GS-1- Geographical features and their location, changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and polar ice caps) and, in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Data/Statistics: -

- Urban drainage refers** to the system of natural and man-made infrastructure—like stormwater drains, channels, and retention systems—used to collect, convey, and dispose of excess rainwater.
- Over **70% of urban areas lack scientifically planned** stormwater drains.
- Mumbai has stormwater drains dating back to the 1860s**, designed for 25 mm/hour rainfall, while the city frequently sees over 100 mm/hour. 80% of its natural water bodies have disappeared in last 40 years.
- Delhi's drainage systems follow 1976 norms**, designed for 50 mm/day rainfall. In May 2025, the city received 185.9 mm in one day, more than 9 times the norm.
- Bengaluru lacks a natural river system and has outdated, narrow drains**. Over 65% of interlinked lakes (e.g., Bellandur) are now encroached and concretised, severely limiting water retention.

Causes of Urban Drainage Failure: -

Natural Causes: -

- Intensifying Rainfall:** Climate change is causing a sharp rise in short-duration, high-intensity rainstorms. E.g. In 2023, Delhi received 100 mm+ rainfall in less than an hour, overwhelming the city's drainage.
- Low-lying Terrain:** Cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru are naturally prone to waterlogging due to their topography.
- Tidal Effects and Sea-Level Rise:** Coastal cities like Chennai and Mumbai face backflow in drains during high tides, hindering rainwater discharge.
- Silting of Natural Water Channels:** Natural rivers, lakes, and nullahs get choked with silt and debris, reducing their capacity to carry stormwater.
- Loss of Natural Absorption Zones:** Shrinking wetlands, forests, and open areas reduce groundwater recharge and increase surface runoff.

Man-made Issues: -

- Unplanned Urbanisation:** Rapid growth has led to the encroachment of floodplains, concretisation, and reduced soil permeability—increasing surface runoff.

- **Outdated Design Standards:** Most urban drainage systems are built for a 1 in 2 year flood event, which is woefully inadequate for today's rainfall patterns.
- **Illegal Constructions:** Unauthorized structures over drains prevent access and hinder maintenance and desilting.
- **Sewage Infiltration:** In many cities like Patna and Bhopal, stormwater drains are contaminated with sewage due to poor or non-existent separate sewerage lines.

Government Initiatives to Tackle Drainage Crisis: -

- **AMRUT 2.0 Scheme:** Advocates for integrated stormwater networks, protection of water bodies, and emphasis on rainwater harvesting around them.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan & Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Promote groundwater recharge using check dams and urban recharge pits, reducing surface runoff and improving stormwater absorption.
- **Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016:** Rainwater harvesting is mandated for plots over 100 sq. meters, aiming to reduce runoff and improve aquifer recharge.
- **Amrit Sarovar Mission:** Aims to rejuvenate urban waterbodies, improving their capacity to retain stormwater and act as natural buffers during heavy rainfall.
- **Manual on Stormwater Drainage Systems (2019):** Recommends cities design drains for 1-in-5 or 1-in-10-year events rather than outdated 1-in-2 models, accounting for changing rainfall patterns due to climate change.
- **GIS-Based Drainage Mapping:** Cities like Delhi are adopting simulation-based frameworks using GIS technology to dynamically redesign drainage systems based on real-time land use, population, and rainfall data.

Way Forward: -

Strict Enforcement of Building Codes:

- Ensure strict adherence to MBBL and zoning laws, especially in high-density urban areas.

Decentralised Drainage Solutions:

- Encourage rooftop gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements to naturally manage runoff and reduce load on drainage systems.

Underground Storage Systems:

- Construct rainwater retention tanks under parks and public spaces to capture and slowly release stormwater.

Routine Desilting and Maintenance:

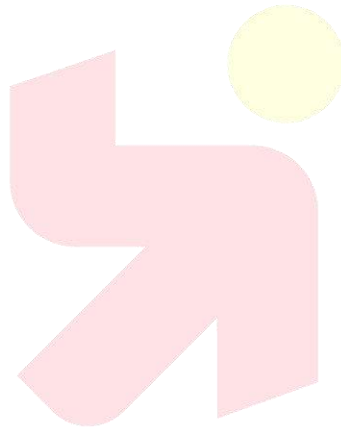
- Implement a strict maintenance regime, ensuring timely desilting and unclogging, especially for covered or encroached drains.

Community Awareness Campaigns:

- Conduct public outreach to reduce waste dumping in drains, encourage water conservation, and promote local-level solutions like harvesting.

Conclusion: -

- Urban flooding in India is ***no longer a seasonal nuisance but a chronic governance and planning failure***. According to NITI Aayog, unplanned urban expansion, inadequate drainage infrastructure, and loss of natural water bodies have significantly increased flood vulnerability.
- The ***Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) also highlights*** poor coordination between urban local bodies, lack of data-driven planning, and weak enforcement of land-use norms as key contributors.
- Urban flooding is **both a development and disaster management challenge** — demanding urgent and systemic reforms to make Indian cities safe, sustainable, and resilient.



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GS 2

Women in Defence Forces

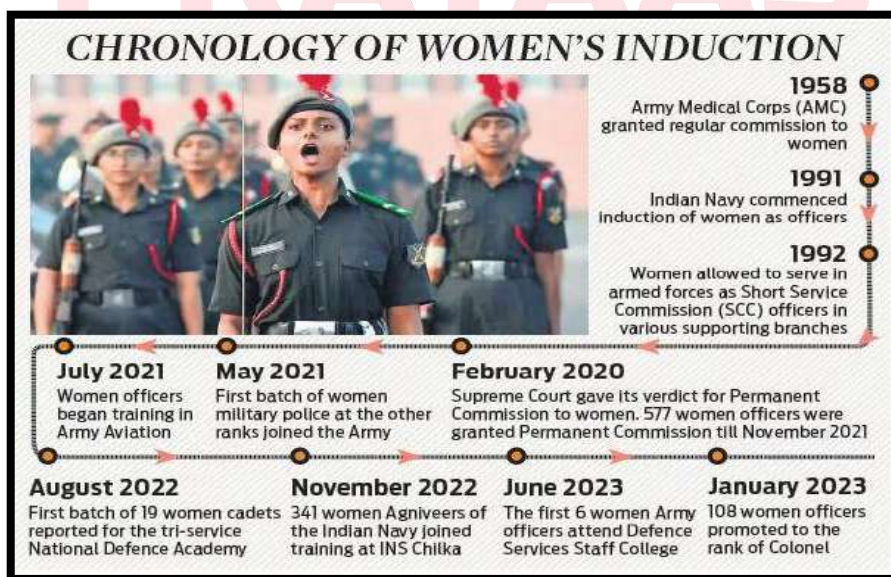
Context: -

- Transformative milestone in **NDA's nation-building legacy: First-ever batch of 17 Female Cadets pass out from NDA** after completing 148th Course.
- Women officers, including **Col. Sofiya Qureshi and Wg Cdr. Vyomika Singh** played a key role in Operation Sindoor, highlighting their leadership in military strategy.
- Lt. Cdrs. **Dilna K and Roopa A completed Navika Sagar Parikrama II**, a 25,600-nautical-mile expedition, proving women's endurance in maritime defence.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-2- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

History of Women in Indian Armed Forces: -

- The **induction of women officers into the Indian Army through the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES)** started in 1992, after the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
- In 2006, the **WSES scheme was replaced by the SSC** (Short Service Commission) scheme for women. Existing WSES officers were given the option to move to the new scheme.
- In 2019, the government **granted permanent commission** to women officers in eight streams of the Army.
- In 2020, SC, in '**Secretary, Ministry of Defence vs. Babita Puniya**' upheld the demands of women in the SSC and granted Permanent Commission or a full-length career to women in Army.
- In 2021, Indian army started to induct women in short service commission as fighter pilots.
- The Indian Air Force and Navy now allow women in all roles including combat.



Current Status

- **Women Agniveers:** The Agnipath scheme (launched in 2022) includes **women recruits in all three Services** (Army, Navy, and Air Force), signalling a paradigm shift in recruitment norms.
- **Current status of Women in Armed Forces:** In India's over one million-strong Army, women **comprise only about 4% of the force**, compared to 16% in the US.
- Over 8,000 women personnel are serving in the Indian Army at present followed by more than 1,800 in the Indian Air Force and 900 plus in the Navy, as per data provided by GoI in March 2024.

Importance of Women in Armed Forces: -

- **Diversity of thought and experience:** Women bring diverse perspectives and problem-solving approaches to the table, fostering creativity and innovation leading to better decision-making and improved mission outcomes.
- **Enhanced operational capabilities:** Modern warfare relies heavily on technology, communication, and intelligence gathering. Women often excel in these areas, contributing significantly to the operational capabilities of the armed forces.
- **Stronger social cohesion:** Women's presence can foster better understanding and communication between different communities and cultures, both within the forces and during deployments.
- **Meeting recruitment challenges:** Including women in the armed forces broadens the talent pool, allowing militaries to access a wider range of qualified recruits to meet their needs.
- **Role models and inspiration:** Seeing women excel in leadership roles and challenging traditional stereotypes inspires future generations, both within the military and in broader society.

Challenges Faced by Women in Armed Forces

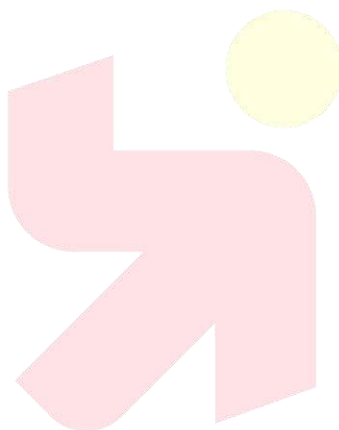
- Deep-seated stereotypes and biases
- Low acceptance for women officers
- Sexual assault and harassment
- Pregnancy, post-partum recovery, and motherhood
- A lack of rules and regulations for women officers

Women in Defence: Situation in Other countries

- Women officially became **eligible for combat positions in the American military in 2013**.
- In 2018, the UK military lifted a ban on women serving in close combat ground roles, clearing the way for them to serve in elite special forces.
- **Israel has gradually opened up 90% of its roles to women but they are still excluded from frontline** combat roles in the main infantry units and some of the most elite commando units that traditionally operate across enemy lines in wartime.

Conclusion: -

- India is moving towards greater gender inclusivity in its defence forces. However, policy changes and societal mindsets need to evolve further to allow women equal opportunities to serve in all capacities.

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GS 2

China's Brahmaputra Dams

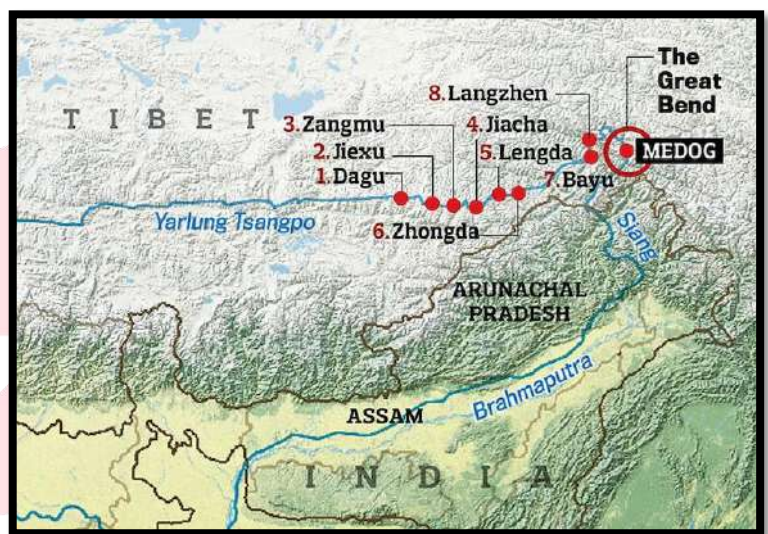
News Context: -

- To counter “Pakistan’s scare narrative” about Chinese dams on the Brahmaputra, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has pointed out that “65-70% [of the Brahmaputra’s flow] is generated within India, and “even if China were to reduce water flow, it may actually help in mitigating the annual floods in Assam”.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-2- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

Data/Facts: -

- China has planned **Medog (or Motuo) Hydropower Project**, in Medog County near the ‘Great Bend’ where Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) makes a U-turn and plunges into a canyon before entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- The planned 60,000-MW Medog project will be the **world’s largest hydropower facility, with a generation capacity three times that of Three Gorges Dam**, currently the world’s largest hydropower station.



Impact of China’s upstream interventions on India: -

Seismic Risks:

- Construction of large dams and reservoirs **increases the risk of earthquake-induced dam failure or landslides**, aggravating disaster vulnerability.

Geopolitical & Strategic Concerns:

- China has used water control as a geopolitical tool, **withholding critical hydrological data** during tense moments (e.g., 2017 Doklam standoff).
- Due to the **absence of binding water-sharing treaty between India and China for Brahmaputra**, control over upstream water flow gives China strategic leverage in regional politics and security.

Hydrological Risks:

- Most Chinese dams are **run-of-the-river projects with minimal water storage**, but they can still affect river flow impacting hydropower projects in Assam and downstream states.

Agricultural Impact:

- Large dams **may trap silt and sediments**, which normally enrich the fertile floodplains. This can lead to **reduced soil fertility** in agricultural regions of Assam and West Bengal.

Ecological impact:

- **Disruption of fragile Himalayan ecosystem** due to altered water flow & habitat changes. Sudden release of stored water **can lead to flash floods**, threatening flood-prone areas like Assam.
- **Increased risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, potentially triggered by dam-induced changes.

Steps taken by India: -**Hydropower Projects:**

- **Upper Siang Project:** A multipurpose dam aimed at regulating water flow and generating clean hydroelectric power to balance upstream interventions.
- **Dibang Valley Project (10 GW capacity):** One of India's largest hydropower initiatives designed to counterbalance China's infrastructure build-up on the Brahmaputra.
- **River-Linking Projects:** Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga Link and Jogighopa-Teesta-Farakka Link. Both projects aim to transfer surplus water from Brahmaputra tributaries to the Ganga basin.

Data Sharing Mechanisms:

- **Expert Level Mechanism:** Established in 2006 to facilitate hydrological data sharing, although effectiveness is limited.
- **MoUs on Brahmaputra & Sutlej:** The Brahmaputra MoU lapsed in 2023 (renewable every 5 years), raising concerns over transparency. An Umbrella MoU signed in 2013 remains valid but lacks binding enforcement.

Way Forward: -**Scientific & Strategic Monitoring:**

- Conduct continuous assessment of flow variations, sedimentation, and seismic risks linked to upstream dams.

Hydro-Diplomacy:

- Advocate for a **treaty-based, legally binding water-sharing agreement with China** to ensure transparency and equitable usage. Promote multilateral cooperation involving India, China, Bangladesh, and Bhutan to manage Brahmaputra basin resources jointly.

Disaster Preparedness:

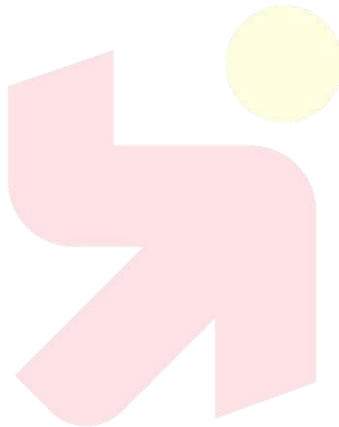
- **Strengthen early-warning systems** for floods & dam-related emergencies. Develop flood-resilient infrastructure in flood-prone Assam & northeastern states to mitigate risks.

Ecological Safeguards:

- Preserve **riverine biodiversity, wetlands, and forests to maintain ecological balance**. Monitor environmental changes like desertification in Tibet, which could worsen water scarcity downstream.

Conclusion: -

- As freshwater scarcity rises due to climate change, overuse, and geopolitical tensions, water is emerging as a key strategic resource. Experts warn that **future conflicts may not be over land or oil, but over rivers, dams, and access to clean water**. To avoid such "water wars," **nations must adopt cooperative hydro-diplomacy, strengthen transboundary treaties, and ensure sustainable, equitable sharing** of water resources. Peace depends on water security.



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GS 3**India- World's 4th Largest Economy****News Context: -**

- NITI Aayog, the Union government's policy body for transforming India, announced that the Indian economy had **overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy**, following the USA, China and Germany.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-3- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development and employment.

India's Economic Growth Snapshot

- India's **nominal GDP is set to reach \$4,187 billion**, surpassing Japan (\$4,186 billion), though per capita GDP remains low at \$2,880 vs. Japan's \$33,900.
- India is the **fastest-growing major economy**, with over 6% annual growth projected for the next two years.
- IMF projects India will **become the 3rd largest economy by 2028, overtaking Germany**, with a GDP of \$5.58 trillion.

Key Drivers of India's Economic Rise: -**Expanding Domestic Consumption: -**

- Private consumption forms ~60% of GDP, with notable rural growth.
- Urban population projected to hit 600 million by 2030 (UN); rising middle class and youth spending fuel demand.

Demographic Dividend: -

- Median age of 29 ensures a young, productive workforce for decades.

Infrastructure & Digital Transformation: -

- Massive investments in transport, energy, and Digital Public Infrastructure (Aadhaar, UPI).
- India Stack and JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) promote digital and financial inclusion.

Global Realignment & FDI: -

- "China Plus One" and Supply Chain Resilience Initiative attracting FDI (e.g. Apple, Samsung).
- Strategic partnerships with Japan, QUAD nations boost India's appeal.

Reform-Led Growth: -

- GST created a unified market; IBC improved credit discipline.
- Corporate tax cuts (22% for existing firms, 15% for new manufacturers) enhance business ease.

Key Challenges for India's Economic Growth: -

Geopolitical Uncertainty: -

- Supply Chain Disruptions: Russia-Ukraine war & Red Sea crisis have raised shipping costs by up to 300%.
- US-China Rivalry: Disrupting global tech and semiconductor supply chains.
- Export Volatility: Sectors like textiles and electronics face global demand shocks and trade barriers.

Inflation & Price Volatility: -

- Stubborn Core Inflation: April 2025 CPI eased to 4.8%, but services inflation remains ~6%.
- Food & Fuel Stress: Unseasonal rains and global crude (~\$80/barrel) pressure household budgets.
- Urban Living Costs: Rising housing and transport expenses limit discretionary spending.

Employment & Workforce Issues: -

- Automation Threat: AI/robotics displacing repetitive jobs; 400 million workers need upskilling by 2030 (NASSCOM).
- Informal Employment: Over 80% workforce lacks job and social security.

Trade & Export Headwinds: -

- Current Account Deficit: Narrowed to 1% of GDP in FY24-25, helped by services and remittances.
- Merchandise Export Decline: Down 4.6% YoY in FY25 due to weak global demand.

Infrastructure & Investment Gaps: -

- Capex-to-GDP at 3.3% – highest in a decade (Budget 2024-25), but more needed.
- Green Infrastructure: Greater push needed in solar, wind, and battery tech for Net Zero 2070.
- Urban Infra: Smart Cities and PM Gati Shakti require faster rollout and private sector support.

Way Forward for India's Economic Growth: -

Diversify Trade Partnerships:

- Reduce dependence on China, EU, and US by expanding FTAs with Africa, ASEAN, and Latin America to access new markets and resources.

Boost Manufacturing:

- Develop sectors like semiconductors, EVs, drones, and green hydrogen; support MSMEs with credit, tech, and skill development to integrate into global value chains.

Enhance Digital & Financial Inclusion:

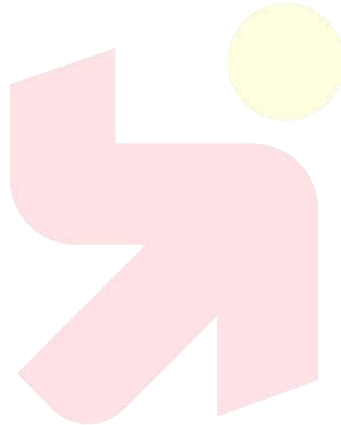
- Expand 5G, AI, and platforms like UPI and ONDC beyond urban areas; strengthen cybersecurity and data governance.

Promote Sustainable & Inclusive Growth:

- Invest in climate-smart agriculture, reduce inequality, and enhance education, R&D, and innovation to ensure long-term, inclusive development.

Conclusion: -

- India's economic ascent is driven by strong fundamentals—robust consumption, a young workforce, and digital innovation. However, global uncertainties and structural challenges remain. Experts emphasize the need for inclusive reforms, green growth, and global integration.
- As Prime Minister envisions, India must aim to become a “Viksit Bharat” by 2047—resilient, self-reliant, and globally competitive.



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Mains Question for Practice

Question 1-

- "India has become the world's 4th largest economy, yet remains a lower-middle income country." Critically examine the implications of this paradox for inclusive and sustainable development in India. (150W)

Question 2-

- "Despite technological advances and growing awareness, urban flooding continues to paralyze Indian cities." Discuss the key causes and suggest a multi-pronged approach to tackle this urban challenge. (150W)

Question 3-

- "Gender diversity in the armed forces is not just about rights but also about operational effectiveness." Examine with current above statement with current changes in Indian armed forces. (150W)

Question 4-

- Critically examine the progress made in integrating women into the Indian Defence Forces. Discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in this endeavour. (150W-10M)



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Prelims Focus- UPSC & MPSC

NAKSHA Programme

Context (PIB):

- **Ministry of Rural Development**, is set to launch the 2nd phase of **NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HAbitations (NAKSHA)** capacity-building programme.

About the Programme: -

- Pilot City Survey Programme **under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme**.
- **Integrates aerial & field survey with GIS technology** to improve efficiency and accuracy in land mapping.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Land Resources (DoLR), in collaboration with Survey of India, National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSeDC), and five Centres of Excellence (CoEs).
- Technical Partner: **Survey of India** (responsible for aerial surveys & providing orthorectified imagery).
- Coverage: Implemented across **157 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in 27 States and 3 UTs. (Not in Rural areas)**
- Eligibility Criteria for Cities: Area less than 35 square kms; and population less than 2 lakh.
- Funding: 100% Centrally funded.

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Context:

- ED has recently **faced SC criticism for overstepping** constitutional federal boundaries.

About: -

- The ED is a **multi-disciplinary organisation mandated to investigate offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws**.
- The Enforcement Directorate was established in the year 1956 as an 'Enforcement Unit' **under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**.
- Later, in 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate' & administrative **control transferred to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- Headquarters: New Delhi | Five regional offices located in Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Delhi.

Laws under ED: -

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002
- Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999
- Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), 2018
- Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974

Powers of the ED: -

- Summon individuals, enforce attendance, and **record statements valid as evidence.**
- Conduct searches and seize property or documents linked to money laundering with justified reasons.
- Arrest and Detention: Authority to arrest suspects based on material evidence and written justification, with legal grounds communicated to the accused.
- Attachment and Confiscation of Assets: Temporarily attach properties suspected as crime proceeds for up to 180 days to prevent disposal. Confiscate assets permanently after conviction under PMLA.
- Quasi-Judicial Functions: Under FEMA, ED adjudicates foreign exchange violations & imposes penalties.

specifically designed for the diverse and unique requirements of India.

About Bharat Gen: -

- 'Bharat Gen', is **India's 1st of its kind, indigenously developed, Artificial Intelligence (AI) based,** government-funded, Multimodal LLM designed for Indian languages.
- Developed **under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** and implemented through TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay.
- Aims to revolutionize AI development across India's linguistic and cultural spectrum.
- **Backed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and brings together a consortium of top academic institutions, experts, and innovators to lead AI research and application.

Bharat Gen**Context (PIB):**

- **Union Minister for Science and Technology launched 'Bharat Gen', an AI-based multi-modal Large Language Model (LLM) at the BharatGen Summit.**

Summit: -

- 'BharatGen Summit' is **India's largest Generative Artificial Intelligence & LLM summit** and hackathon.
- It brings together a consortium of leading academic institutions, with the objective of advancing generative AI technologies and an active AI ecosystem in the country

Operation Spider's Web**Context: -**

- Ukraine announced a successful covert operation named Operation Spider's Web.

About: -

- Conducted by: Ukrainian Security Service (SBU)
- Objective: Deep strike on Russian airbases to cripple strategic air power.

Targeted Locations:

- Belaya Air Base: Irkutsk, Southeastern Siberia.
- Olenya Air Base: Murmansk, Northwestern Russia.

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- Dyagilevo Air Base: Ryazan, Western Russia.
- Ivanovo Severny Air Base: Ivanovo, Western Russia.
- Amur region, Far East Russia (claimed by Russian Defence Ministry)

Chagos Islands

Context: -

- **United Kingdom (U.K.) officially handed over sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius** after finalising the political treaty agreed to last year.
- Under the deal, the **important naval and bomber base on Diego Garcia, one of the archipelago's largest islands, operated by U.S. forces, will be leased by the U.K. from Mauritius** which will maintain sovereignty over the region.

About: -

- The Chagos archipelago is a **group of seven atolls in the Indian Ocean**, comprising at least 60 islands about 500 km south of the Maldives and more than 2000 km northeast of Mauritius.
- Chagos Islands are the **southernmost archipelago of the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge**, a long submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.
- **Key Islands:** Salomon Islands, Diego Garcia, Nelsons Island, etc.
- The Great Chagos Bank is the largest atoll in the world.
- The **Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, house a critical US military base** in the Indian Ocean.

Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve

Context: -

- **Telangana declared the tiger corridor area connecting the Kawal Tiger Reserve in the State with the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra** as 'Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve'.

About: -

- The area is a critical part of the wildlife corridor connecting Kawal with not only Tadoba but also Kanhargaoon, Tipeswar, and Chaprala wildlife sanctuaries in Maharashtra, as well as the Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh.
- **Fauna:** Tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, wolves, hyenas, honey badgers, jungle cats, sambar, nilgai, chital, four-horned antelopes, muntjacs, etc.

Conservation Reserve: -

- The **State government may declare any areas owned by it**, particularly those adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries, as well as areas that link one protected area with another, as a conservation reserve.
- There is the precondition of having consultation with the local communities.
- **Legal Basis:** Section 36(A) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Introduced in the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002.**
- **Activities:** Regulated low-impact activities; hunting and habitat destruction are banned.

Nomadic Elephant

Context (PIB):

- 17th edition of **India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise Nomadic Elephant** is to be conducted at **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

About: -

- Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an **annual event conducted alternately in India and Mongolia**. 16th edition of the exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in 2024.
- Objective:** To enhance interoperability between the two forces while employing joint task force in semi conventional operations in semi urban/mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate.

IATA Annual General Meeting

Context (PIB):

- Prime Minister addresses **International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st Annual General Meeting** and plenary Session of World Air Transport Summit (WATS).

About: -

- IATA's Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit (WATS) took **place on 1-3 June 2025 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, hosted by IndiGo**.
- The last AGM in India was held 42 years ago in 1983.

About International Air Transport Association (IATA): -

- IATA is trade **association for world's airlines**, representing over 350 airlines over 80% of global air traffic.
- Formed in April 1945 in Havana, Cuba** and is successor to the International Air Traffic Association.
- Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada with executive offices in Geneva, Switzerland.
- India has **become the 3rd largest domestic aviation market** in the world.

New regulations for Ladakh

Context (IE): -

- Centre has **notified new regulations for Ladakh's land, jobs and cultural preservation**.

Ladakh Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment (Amendment) Regulation, 2025: -

- Introduces **domicile-based recruitment for government jobs**.
- Domicile criteria:
 - 15 years residence in Ladakh
 - 7 years of schooling + passed Class 10 or 12 from Ladakh
 - Children of Central Govt employees with 10+ years' service in Ladakh
 - Children/spouses of Ladakhi domiciles

Ladakh Civil Services Domicile Certificate Rules, 2025: -

- Lays down procedure and documentation required to obtain domicile certificate.
- Issuing authority: Tehsildar; Appellate authority: Deputy Commissioner.

Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025

- Total reservation for SC/ST/OBC/Other Backward Groups: 85%. Excludes 10% EWS quota from cap.
- Now applicable to professional institutes (engineering, medical colleges): New cap: 85% (early 50%)

Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025

- Recognizes English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, Purgi as official languages.
- Mandates institutional support for: Shina, Brokskat, Balti, Ladakhi.

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025

- Reserves 1/3rd of LAHDC seats for women, via rotational reservation.
- LAHDCs remain administrative (not legislative) bodies.

Zangezur Corridor

Context:

- The **Zangezur Corridor**, supported by Turkey and Azerbaijan, aims to establish a new trade link through Armenia that could bypass India's Chabahar-Armenia-Black Sea route.



About: -

- Zangezur corridor is a **proposed land link connecting Azerbaijan's mainland to its exclave Nakhchivan via Armenia's Syunik region**, ultimately connecting to Turkey through Kars.
- Conceptualized after the 2020 Second Karabakh War ceasefire, with Armenia agreeing to unimpeded transit rights.
- Includes rail & road infrastructure, complementing the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) route (connects Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey).

Mount Etna

Context: -

- Mount Etna **erupted again, sending clouds of smoke** and ash into the sky.

About: -

- Mount Etna is an **active stratovolcano located on the east coast of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, Italy.**
- As a **stratovolcano**, it is formed by **thick, viscous lava that builds steep**, conical slopes (about 60% of Earth's volcanoes are stratovolcanoes).
- It is **Europe's largest and most active volcano and the highest peak in Italy south of the Alps**, standing at approximately 3,300 metres.
- Unlike many volcanoes that remain dormant for long periods, Etna is in a near-constant state of activity.
- Designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013.**

Census 2027

Context: -

- Government has announced that data collection for India's next Population Census, along with a nationwide caste enumeration, will begin in early 2026.

About: -

- Census of India is conducted **under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948** and the Census Rules, 1990.
- The census is conducted **by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **1st census in India was conducted in 1872** non-synchronously in different parts of India. Since 1881, censuses have been conducted every 10 years.
- Census is a **subject listed in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule** under Article 246 of the IC.
- Last Census was conducted in 2011. The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Features of Census 2027: -

- India's Census is likely to commence on April 1, 2026, culminating on March 1, 2027. The Census will be carried out in two phases:
- **Phase 1:** House Listing (5–6 months from April 1, 2026).
- **Phase 2:** Population Enumeration (February 2027 – completed by March 1, 2027).
- It will be **India's 1st digital census**, marking a shift from paper-based enumeration to a digital format using mobile apps and online platforms.

- **Caste Enumeration:** For the 1st time in post-Independence India, caste data beyond SC/ST categories will be collected. The last complete caste enumeration was conducted in 1931.
- Post-Independence, censuses excluded detailed caste enumeration, recording only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Reference Dates:

- October 1, 2026: For hilly and snow-bound regions (e.g., Ladakh, J&K, Himachal, Uttarakhand).
- March 1, 2027: For the rest of India.

Unified approach to CAPF

Context: -

- SC decreed that **Group 'A' cadres of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) be recognised as 'Organised Services' for all purposes.**

About: -

- Also instructed a **phased reduction of IPS officers deputed to CAPFs over 2 years to empower CAPF cadres and resolve** long-standing promotion grievances.
- Organised Services are Central Group 'A' services with structured career progression and cadre management.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- BSF, ITBP, SSB: Guard international borders, prevent infiltration, smuggling, and cross-border crimes.
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF): Secures critical infrastructure like airports, nuclear plants, PSUs.

Prabhav Current Affairs Capsule

- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF): Handles internal unrest, assists state police in counter-insurgency, election duty, etc.

New Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan

Context (PIB):

- Khichan and Menar wetlands in Rajasthan have been designated as new Ramsar Sites, increasing India's total to 91 Ramsar Sites.

Menar Wetland: -

- **Freshwater monsoon wetland complex** located in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- Formed by Braham talab or pond, Dhand talab, Kheroda talab, and adjoining farmland.
- Conservation: Exemplary community-led initiative—locals actively protect wildlife & prevent poaching.

Khichan Wetland: -

- Location: Northern Thar Desert, Phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Significance: Globally renowned wintering site; popular for eco-tourism and research.

Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

Context: -

- Tamil Nadu government notified the establishment of the **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** at **Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.**

About: -

- The Sanctuary, **located within the ecologically sensitive Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**, is a

critical stopover along the Central Asian Flyway.

About Greater Flamingo: -

- Greater flamingo is the most widespread and the largest flamingo species.
- **Distribution:** Found in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, and southern Europe.
- In India, found **almost everywhere except the high-altitude Himalayas, East and NE India.**

Aravalli Green Wall Project

Context: -

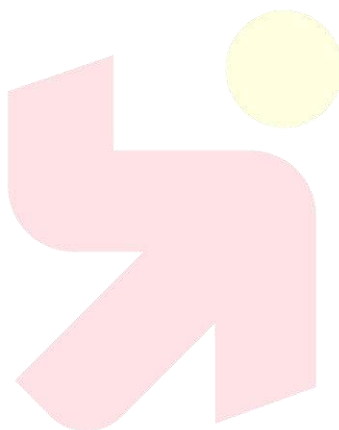
- On occasion of World Environment Day, **PM has launched the Aravalli Green Wall Project.**

About: -

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project **aims to weave a 1,500 km long, 5 km wide green belt, spanning 29 districts across Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi.**
- It is inspired by Africa's Green Wall.
- It was introduced at COP16 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Riyadh & launched in 2019.
- It is a **centrally coordinated initiative with multi-stakeholder** execution such as central and state governments, forest departments, research institutes, civil society organisations, private sector entities and local communities.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Duration: Phase I till 2027, with long-term landscape restoration planned.

Objective:

- Combat desertification and **arrest the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert.**
- Create a green barrier against dust and pollution.
- Restore biodiversity, improve groundwater recharge, and enhance climate resilience



PRAYAAS

Prelims Focus- MPSC Specific

Chenab Rail Bridge

Context: -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Chenab Railway Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir, now **officially the highest railway arch bridge in the world.**

About: -

- This **marks the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)**, a 42-year-old project aimed at integrating the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network.
- The bridge is now the **highest railway arch bridge in the world, surpassing even the Eiffel Tower** in height.
- USBRL Total Length: 272 km (Udhampur to Baramulla)

Highlights of the Chenab Rail Bridge: -

- Height: 359 meters (higher than the Eiffel Tower)
- 1,315m length
- Span: 467 meters (arch span)
- Design: Steel and concrete arch
- Total Project Cost- ₹46,000 crore

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0

- On the **occasion of World Environment Day**, (5th June) **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second phase of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign** by planting a sapling in New Delhi's Mahavir Jayanti Park.

About: -

- Launched: Originally in 2024 by PM Modi; Phase 2 began on June 5, 2025.
- Venue: Mahavir Jayanti Park, New Delhi.
- Aim: Promote environmental protection through symbolic personal action — planting a tree in honour of one's mother.
- Target: 10 crore trees to be planted across India from June 5 to September 30, 2025.
- Theme: Aligns cultural sentiment (motherhood) with climate action, symbolizing nurturing and protection of life.

Static Facts & Background: -

- World Environment Day is **celebrated annually on June 5, established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1972.**
- The **2025 World Environment Day theme is: "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience."**

World's Top Creditor

Context: -

- In a major shift on the global financial stage, **Germany has overtaken Japan as the world's top creditor country in 2024**, ending Japan's 34-year reign

Reasons for Japan's Slip to Second Place:

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- Germany's Surging Current Account Surplus, reached €240 billion in 2024 (~\$250 billion).

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- Imports declined more than exports, widening the trade surplus.
- Exchange Rate Advantage, Euro appreciated ~5% against the Japanese yen.
- Made Germany's foreign assets look more valuable in yen terms.

Annalena Baerbock

- On June 2, 2025, former German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock was **elected as the President of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- Her election marks a significant moment in UN history as she becomes the first woman from the Western European group to assume the post and the fifth woman overall to lead the UNGA.

Nicaragua

- Nicaragua advanced **global marine conservation efforts by becoming the 101st World Trade Organization member** to formally accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- This milestone, marked by the submission of its acceptance to **WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**.

Background of the Agreement: -

- Adopted at the **12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)** in Geneva in June 2022.
- **First WTO agreement with a strong focus on sustainability** and marine resource conservation.
- It was the result of decades of negotiation to address one of the

root causes of declining global fish stocks—harmful subsidies.

Key Provisions: -

Prohibits subsidies for-

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU).
- Fishing of overfished stocks.
- Fishing in unregulated high seas.

Creates a WTO Fish Fund to support-

- Technical and legal assistance.
- Capacity-building for implementation.

India Secures Presidency of IIAS

- India has been elected to lead the **International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** for the 2025–2028 term.
- V. Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), will lead the **international body headquartered in Brussels**.

About IIAS (International Institute of Administrative Sciences): -

- Established: 1930
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Nature: Independent international association focused on the scientific study of public administration.
- UN Collaboration: Not officially a UN body but actively collaborates on global public administration reforms.

India's Journey and Victory: -

- Member Since: 1998 (represented by DARPG)
- Nomination: V. Srinivas nominated by PM Narendra Modi in Nov 2024

Prabhav Current Affairs Capsule

- Candidature Support: Strong global backing across continents
- Election Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Final Contenders: India vs Austria

- 2 for Western Europe and Others
- 1 for Eastern Europe

UN Elects Five Non-Permanent Members

- On June 3, 2025, the **United Nations General Assembly elected Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Latvia, and Liberia as non-permanent members** of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term starting in January 2026.
- These countries will join the 15-member Council, which plays a central role in maintaining international peace and security. **Notably, Latvia will be serving on the UNSC for the first time**, marking a significant diplomatic milestone.

S Mahendra Dev

- Eminent economist S Mahendra Dev has been appointed as the **new Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.
- Known for his extensive expertise in agriculture, rural economy, and development economics, Dev brings with him decades of experience in public policy and academia.
- He stepped down from his post as independent director on the board of Axis Bank following this full-time appointment.
- His academic pedigree includes a PhD in Economics from Delhi School of Economics and post-doctoral research at Yale University.

EAC-PM

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister is a **non-constitutional, non-permanent body set up to advise the PM**.
- It **operates under the NITI Aayog framework**, with inputs often shaping major economic decisions.
- Recent heads included Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.

UN Security Council Composition: -

- Permanent Members (P5): China, France, Russia, UK, USA
- Non-Permanent Members: 10, elected for staggered two-year terms
- Previous Members Whose Term Ends in December 2025: -Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia
- Non-Permanent Members Elected in 2024 (to serve till 2026): Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia

Regional Seat Distribution (out of 10 non-permanent seats): -

- 3 for Africa
- 2 for Asia-Pacific
- 2 for Latin America and the Caribbean

IPL 2025 Final

Award Category	Prize Money (INR)	Prize Money (USD approx.)	2025 Winner
IPL 2025 Winner	₹20 Crore	\$2.4 Million	Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
IPL 2025 Runners-up	₹13 Crore	\$1.5 Million	Punjab Kings
IPL 2025 Orange Cap	₹10 Lakh	\$12,000	Sai Sudarshan (759 Runs in 15 Matches)
IPL 2025 Purple Cap	₹10 Lakh	\$12,000	Prasidh Krishna (25 wickets in 15 Matches)
IPL 2025 Emerging Player	₹20 Lakh	\$24,000	Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans)
IPL 2025 Most Valuable Player (MVP)	₹10 Lakh	\$12,000	Suryakumar Yadav (MI) – 320.5 points
IPL 2025 Super Striker	₹10 Lakh	\$12,000	Vaibhav Suryavanshi (RR) – 206.6
IPL 2025 Maximum Sixes	₹10 Lakh	\$12,000	Nicholas Pooran (LSG) – 40 Sixes

- The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 came to an **exciting conclusion on June 3, 2025**, with a historic final match between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS).
- The match was **played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad**, one of the largest cricket stadiums in the world. After years of waiting and heartbreaks, RCB finally lifted their maiden IPL trophy.

Norway Chess 2025

- Magnus Carlsen won Norway Chess 2025**, his seventh title in the prestigious tournament. Indian **teenager D Gukesh was in contention till the final round but slipped to third place** after a tactical blunder.
- The closely contested finale showcased some of the world's top chess talents, including Carlsen, Gukesh, Caruana, and Erigaisi.

Miss World 2025

- Thailand's **Opal Suchata Chuangsri** wins Miss World 2025 in Hyderabad,

marking Thailand's first-ever victory. Ethiopia's Hasset Dereje Admassu named runner-up; India's Nandini Gupta misses Top 8.

- The grand finale took **place on Saturday, May 31, in Hyderabad, Telangana**
- She was **crowned by the reigning Miss World 2024, Krystyna Pyszkova** of the Czech Republic
- Notably, this is the **second consecutive year the Miss World pageant was hosted in India**, breaking a 28-year gap since its last Indian edition.

55th Monetary Policy Committee Meeting

Key Updates

Policy Rate Cut: -

- Repo Rate: Reduced by 50 basis points (bps), **from 6.00% to 5.50%.**
- Reason: To support growth while CPI inflation is well below target.
- This is the second cut in 2025, totalling 100 bps since February.

Adjusted Policy Corridor: -

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate: Cut to 5.25% (25 bps below repo rate).
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and Bank Rate: Lowered to 5.75% (25 bps above repo rate).

Shift in Policy Stance

- From "Accommodative" to "Neutral".
- RBI indicates it will now take a data-dependent approach, reducing scope for further aggressive rate cuts.

Prelims Question for Practice

Question 1

Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate (ED):

- 1) The Enforcement Directorate was initially established under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1956.
- 2) It exercises powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), and Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).
- 3) ED has quasi-judicial powers under PMLA to adjudicate foreign exchange violations.
- 4) The ED can arrest individuals and attach properties suspected to be proceeds of crime under PMLA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 2

With reference to the Chagos Islands, consider the following statements:

- 1) The Chagos archipelago lies in the Pacific Ocean and is administered by the United Kingdom.
- 2) The island of Diego Garcia, part of the Chagos Islands, hosts a major military base operated by the United States.

- 3) Mauritius has officially gained sovereignty over the Chagos Islands, although the U.K. retains military rights via a lease.
- 4) The Great Chagos Bank is one of the smallest coral atolls in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 3

Consider the following statements regarding the Census of India:

- 1) The first complete synchronous Census in India was conducted in 1881.
- 2) Census operations are carried out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 3) Census is a subject under the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 4

With reference to Norway Chess 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1) Magnus Carlsen won the tournament, marking his seventh title in this event.
- 2) Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh finished second in the tournament.
- 3) The tournament featured top global players like Fabiano Caruana and Arjun Erigaisi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 5

With reference to the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), consider the following statements:

- 1) IIAS is an independent international association headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on public administration reforms.
- 2) India has been a member of IIAS since 1998 and is now elected to lead the body for the 2025–2028 term.
- 3) V. Srinivas, Secretary of DARPG, was elected to lead the IIAS, defeating Austria at the election held in Brussels.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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