

PRAYAAS TIMES

CA CAPSULE

OCTOBER THIRD & FOURTH WEEK

UPSC/MPSC 2025-26

UPSC/MPSC

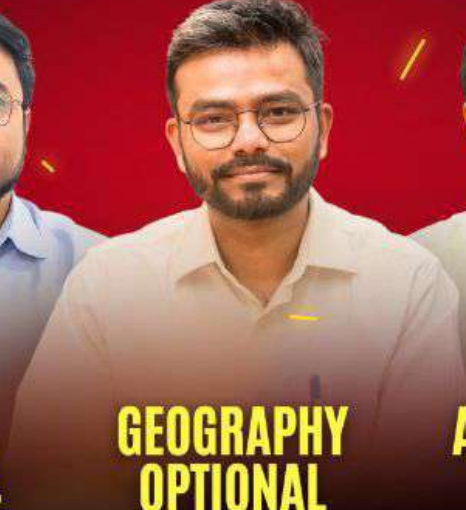
Marathi / English Medium



**ANTHROPOLOGY
OPTIONAL**
AISHWARYA
MADAM



**PSIR
OPTIONAL**
DHANANJAY SIR



**GEOGRAPHY
OPTIONAL**
AADITYA SIR



**AGRICULTURE
OPTIONAL**
CHAITANYA SIR



**SOCIOLOGY
OPTIONAL**
ONKAR SIR

Batch Features:

➤ Expert Faculty & Personal Mentorship

Each subject is led by experienced mentors who provide personalized guidance and support, including doubt-solving and one-on-one mentorship.

➤ Structured & Comprehensive Study Material

Ready-to-use, exam-focused notes/booklets prepared with relevant examples, case studies, and diagrams. No need to refer to multiple sources.

➤ Answer Writing Practice

All batches emphasize daily and/or weekly answer writing, integrated with class topics to build exam-oriented skills.

➤ Strategic Integration with GS/Ethics/Essay

Smart linkage of optional subject content with General Studies, Ethics, and Essay to ensure broader relevance in Mains answers.

ADMISSION

OPEN NOW



Contact Us
7378743031 | 7767073031



PRAYAAS EDUCATION

Above Axis Bank Loan Centre, Office 301a,
301 Second Floor Sterling Plaza, J M Road, Pune.

Table of Contents

1.General Studies I..... 1

1.1. How social media is Reshaping Morality in

India's Classrooms 1

Context..... 1

How digital spaces is becoming as New Social

Ecosystems? 1

Impact of social media on morality in the

classroom:..... 1

Impact on Teachers and Educational Spaces . 2

Way-forward:..... 2

Conclusion 2

Mains Question for Practice- 2

1.2. Women to Join TA H&H Infantry 3

Context..... 3

What is Ta H&H?..... 3

Territorial Army (TA) 3

Significance of Inducting Women into

Territorial Army H&H Battalions..... 3

Challenges in Integrating Women into TA

Infantry..... 3

Government Initiatives to Enhance Women's

Participation in Defence 4

Way Forward..... 4

Conclusion 4

Mains Question for Practice- 4

2.General Studies II 5

2.1 Indian constitution: Progressive and Living

document 5

Context: 5

Features of Indian Constitution: 5

Why is the Indian Constitution Considered a

Progressive and Living Document? 5

Challenges the Indian Constitution Faces at

Present: 6

Way Forward..... 6

Conclusion: 6

Mains practice question: 6

2.2 Presidential Reference Under Article 143 7

Context: 7

What is Article 143 of the Indian Constitution?

..... 7

About Article 143 7

Current Legal Status 7

Constitutional Utility of Article 143..... 8

Challenges & Criticism of Article 143 8

Way Forward for Strengthening Article 143.... 8

Conclusion 8

Mains Question for Practice- 9

2.3 India-Bhutan Relations.....9

Key Highlights of India's State Visit to Bhutan:

-9

About Bhutan: -9

Significance of Bhutan for India: -9

Evolution of India-Bhutan Relations: -9

Convergences in India-Bhutan Relations: -...10

India-Bhutan Relations: Divergences.....10

Way Forward for India-Bhutan Relations: -...10

Conclusion: -.....10

3.General Studies III..... 11

3.1 Labour Reform- New Labour code is in place...11

Context:11

What are the new labour codes?11

Significance of the New Labour Codes:11

Challenges associated with New Labour code:

.....12

Labour reform in India.....12

Way Forward:13

Conclusion:.....13

Mains Practice question:.....13

4.General Studies IV 14

4.1 Clean India needs mindset and policy change. 14

Context14

Sanitation is a Civic Duty.....14

Sanitation as a Public Good: -14

What Needs to Be Done:.....15

Case Studies15

Conclusion16

Mains Question for Practice-16

PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC..... 17

1.Gavi, UNICEF announce new agreement to make R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines more accessible ..17

1.1 GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccines and

Immunization:.....17

2. Places in News: The Hayli Gubbi.....17

2.1 Types of Volcanoes Based on Activity:17

3. Rupee Depreciation18

4. Nano- Satellite.....18

5. COP3018

6.Species in News: Leopard and Human Animal Conflict20

7.Ningaloo Reef20

8. National Investigation Agency:.....21

9. Cabinet approves schemes for rare earth Magnets.....	21	4. Kabaddi World Cup 2025.....	24
10. UNCTAD	21	5. The Davis Cup	24
11. G-Sec and Yields.....	22	About the World Boxing Cup.....	25
PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific	23	6. India at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025.....	25
1. Sanchar Saathi	23	India's Overall Performance	25
2. Surya Kiran	23	Women's Category – Historic Sweep	25
3. National Milk Day-2025	23	Men's Category – Gold Medal Winners.....	25
		7. Niveshak Shivr, Jaipur.	25



Features of Crash Course

- ▶ Day-wise well prepared schedule till Mains
- ▶ Comprehensive Content Enrichment Sessions (**150+ teaching hours**)
- ▶ **12 Intensive Live Flash Answer Writing Sessions**
- ▶ **6 Sectional Tests, 13 Full Length Tests** (Including 2 rounds of Simulator), **6 Essay Tests** followed by Model Answers and Test Discussions.
- ▶ Intensive value addition sessions based on **PYQ** themes (live point generation Exercise, Live **brain storming** exercise, speed **enhancement Techniques**, emphasis on memorisation rather than mugging up, more emphasis on high yielding areas)
- ▶ 2 rounds of Revisions
- ▶ **Personal Mentorship** and weekly counselling
- ▶ **Experienced Faculty** with the combined experience of **19 UPSC Mains** and **7 UPSC Interviews**
- ▶ Detailed **Static Notes**, **Micronotes** and **Pocket diary** for value addition will be provided
- ▶ Evaluation within 5 days
- ▶ **Targeted** Preparation
- ▶ Complimentary **Mains** Model Answer Book.
- ▶ Available in **English** and **Marathi Medium**
- ▶ **Online** and **Offline** Mode

Our Mentors



AADITYA SIR



VISHAL SIR



DHANANJAY SIR



RUSHIKESH SIR

Experienced Faculty with the combined experience of 19 UPSC Mains and 7 UPSC Interviews

MAINS FOCUS

1. General Studies I

1.1. How social media is Reshaping Morality in India's Classrooms

Context

- **Indian society is being reshaped by digital connectivity**, and this change is most visible in schools.
- For today's youth, social media has become the main space for interaction and identity formation, influencing how students think, behave and negotiate values within educational settings.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-1- (Society) Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India. Relevant: changing social behaviour, empathy decline, digital culture.

How digital spaces is becoming as New Social Ecosystems?

- Social media functions as a **parallel social universe** in India.
- **Identity formation:** Adolescents rely on online interactions to shape their sense of self, belonging and status.
- **Moral testing ground:** Digital spaces have become arenas **where ideas of right and wrong**, fairness, conflict and solidarity are continuously negotiated.
- **Digital literacy as a civic skill:** Navigating misinformation, harassment, and curated realities is no longer a technical skill but a social necessity.

Impact of social media on morality in the classroom:

- The very features that make digital platforms vibrant are anonymity, instant feedback, visibility which also create fertile ground for negative behaviour.

Psychological research describes a cluster of traits known as the Dark Tetrad:

- **Narcissism**: A trait marked by **grand self-importance**, constant need for praise, and sensitivity to criticism.
- **Machiavellianism**: Involves calculated, often **deceptive behaviour** aimed at gaining advantage, with a focus on self-interest.
- **Psychopathy**: Characterised by shallow emotions, lack of empathy or guilt, and impulsive or antisocial tendencies.
- **Sadism**: Refers to deriving enjoyment from causing or witnessing pain, humiliation, or discomfort in others.

These traits often surface more easily online, leading to:

- **Trolling and harassment:** For Indian youth, these **behaviours normalise a culture of spectacle**, impulsiveness, and emotional detachment, impacting school environments and peer relationships.
- **Moral Confusion:** Cruelty gets reframed as "trauma," blurring the line between harm and hardship.
- **Youth Desensitisation:** Repeatedly seeing stylish violence reduces shock and normalises aggression.
- **Glamourising Toxic Traits:** Manipulation, dominance, and emotional coldness appear desirable when packaged through charismatic characters.
- **Victim Erasure:** Stories focus on the offender's feelings while sidelining the pain of those harmed.
- **Copycat Interest:** Stylised portrayals spark fascination and imitation among vulnerable viewers.
- **Skewed Sense of Justice:** Audiences empathise with perpetrators, undermining trust in law and accountability.
- **Trivialised Harm:** Real violence gets treated as aesthetic content or entertainment.

Impact on Teachers and Educational Spaces

Teachers, especially in India's increasingly diverse and digitalised classrooms, face the direct consequences of this changing behaviour:

- **Disrupted Classroom Discipline:** More time spent controlling conflict, distraction, and disrespect.
- **Need for Behavioural Management Skills:** Teachers must handle entitlement, mood swings, and manipulation.
- **Digital Spillover:** Online fights and bullying enter classroom dynamics.
- **Parental Over-involvement:** Parents challenge decisions and undermine teacher authority.
- **Surveillance Culture:** Students record teachers, causing fear and self-censorship.
- **Pressure to "Perform":** Teachers feel pushed to entertain rather than teach.
- **Moral Value Conflicts:** Students' online-influenced values clash with school norms.
- **Declining Respect:** Casual disrespect and entitlement weaken classroom control.
- **Mental Health Strain:** Constant stress leads to fatigue and burnout. The result is a loss of moral confidence and a sense of diminished purpose—key markers of teacher burnout.
- **Digital Misconduct in Schools:** Cyberbullying, sharing of inappropriate content, fake accounts, and targeted humiliation of teachers have become common challenges.

Way-forward:

- **Mental Health Awareness:** Normalize seeking help and teach basic emotional skills like empathy, conflict resolution, and stress management.
- **Ethical Use of Technology:** Promote mindful screen-time, responsible sharing, and awareness of digital footprints.
- **School-Based Value Education:** Integrate kindness, cooperation, and tolerance into daily classroom activities and discussions.
- **Youth Leadership Programs:** Create platforms where students practice service, teamwork, and community problem-solving.
- **Workplace Sensitivity Training:** Encourage organisations to build cultures of respect, dignity, and non-aggressive communication.
- **Responsible Influencer Culture:** Promote creators who model empathy, accuracy, and ethical behaviour over sensationalism.
- **Public Campaigns for Civility:** Government and civil society can run campaigns encouraging respectful online and offline conduct.
- **Conflict-Free Public Spaces:** Support libraries, cultural centres, and community programmes that foster cooperation and shared learning.

Conclusion

- As **digital spaces increasingly shape the attitudes and behaviour of young people**, schools must respond by **strengthening digital literacy, empathy and responsible online conduct**.
- By guiding students to **use technology with awareness** and dignity, educational institutions can ensure that digital change becomes a force for social harmony rather than disruption.

Mains Question for Practice-

The moral imagination of young learners is increasingly shaped by online narratives rather than real-world mentorship." Critically evaluate.

1.2. Women to Join TA H&H Infantry

Context

- The Directorate General of the Territorial Army has approved the induction of women soldiers into TA Home & Hearth (H&H) Infantry battalions for the first time, marking a significant expansion of women's participation in the armed forces.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-1- (Society) Role of women and women's organisations, women empowerment, social issues.

What is Ta H&H?

- The TA H&H battalions, comprising the local population, have been raised in the northern and eastern theatres for counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism operations.**
- They assist the regular Army and civil administration in multiple tasks, such as intelligence gathering, road opening, and assistance in case of natural calamities, among others.

Significance of Inducting Women into Territorial Army H&H Battalions

- Broadens Operational Roles:** Enables women to take up field duties in sensitive areas.
- Improves Community Engagement:** Facilitates better interaction with local women and trust-building.
- Strengthens Disaster Response:** Ensures gender-sensitive relief for women and vulnerable groups.
- Boosts Human Resources:** Fills manpower gaps in H&H units and support roles.
- Promotes Gender Inclusion:** Advances equal opportunities in military deployments.
- Reduces Misconduct Allegations:** Female presence improves sensitivity during searches.
- Supports Constitutional Equality:** Upholds Articles 14, 15 and 16.
- Encourages Women's Empowerment:** Inspires greater female participation in national service.
- Enables Professional Diversity:** Brings specialised civilian skills into operations.

Territorial Army (TA)

- A part-time voluntary military force that supplements the Regular Indian Army.
- Based on the Citizen Soldiers / Sons of Soil concept.**
- Functions under the Territorial Army Act, 1948.**
- Enables trained civilian volunteers to serve in uniform while continuing their civilian professions.

Background

- Origins trace back to **Volunteer Forces of 1857** formed **after the First War of Independence**.
- Indian Defence Force Act, 1917** mandated formation of university defence units.
- Formally inaugurated **on 9 October 1949** by **Governor-General C. Rajagopalachari**.
- Celebrated as Territorial Army Raising Day.**

Challenges in Integrating Women into TA Infantry

- Operational Deployment Challenges:** Integrating women into counter-insurgency zones requires careful planning of patrols, task distribution, and risk management in sensitive areas.
- Infrastructure Limitations:** Most bases lack separate and secure accommodation and sanitation facilities for women, especially in remote forward locations.
- Training and Physical Standards:** Setting fair and realistic physical and combat-readiness standards for women in infantry-style duties is essential for effective integration.
- Cultural Resistance:** Traditional infantry mindsets may hinder acceptance of women, making sensitisation and firm leadership guidance necessary.
- Role Clarity Issues:** Women must be assigned meaningful operational tasks to avoid symbolic participation and ensure genuine integration.
- Administrative Adjustments:** Policies related to deployment, medical support, leave, and living arrangements must be updated to suit mixed-gender units.
- Leadership Preparedness:** Officers and JCOs (Junior Commissioned Officers) need training to manage mixed-gender teams effectively and maintain discipline and cohesion.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Clear assessment mechanisms are needed to track performance, address challenges, and guide future expansion of women's roles.

Government Initiatives to Enhance Women's Participation in Defence

- **Agnipath / Agniveer Scheme:** Allows women to join the armed forces at the soldier level through gender-neutral recruitment.
- **Permanent Commission for Women Officers:** Provides long-term career opportunities for women across multiple branches of the armed forces.
- **NDA Entry for Women:** Enables women to undergo foundational officer training alongside men.
- **Women Military Police Recruitment:** Opens soldier-level roles for women in the Corps of Military Police.
- **Mission Shakti:** Promotes women's empowerment and supports defence awareness and outreach.
- **Expanded Roles in Air Force and Navy:** Allows women to serve as fighter pilots and take permanent commission in key naval branches.
- **Women's Inclusion in CAPFs:** Increased recruitment and deployment of women in border forces strengthens overall security integration.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Training Systems:** Expand gender-inclusive training modules and ensure women receive equal access to combat-oriented skill development.
- **Improve Infrastructure:** Upgrade accommodation, sanitation, and secure living facilities to support mixed-gender deployment, especially in remote areas.
- **Clarify Roles and Career Paths:** Define clear operational roles for women in TA infantry units and link them to long-term career progression across services.
- **Enhance Sensitisation and Leadership Training:** Introduce structured gender-sensitisation programmes for officers and JCOs (Junior Commissioned Officers) to foster a supportive environment.
- **Streamline Policies and Administration:** Update rules on deployment, welfare, healthcare, and logistics to meet the needs of mixed-gender operational teams.
- **Use Government Schemes for Support:** Leverage initiatives like Mission Shakti, Agniveer, MoD infrastructure programmes, NCC reforms, and Skill India to strengthen recruitment and integration.
- **Adopt Data-Driven Evaluation:** Monitor the performance and challenges of the first women cohorts to guide realistic scaling across all TA Home & Hearth battalions.

Conclusion

- The **induction of women soldiers into H&H battalions underscores the growing recognition** of their capabilities and the need for a gender-balanced defence structure. This step strengthens operational effectiveness while advancing the broader agenda of equality and women's empowerment.

Mains Question for Practice-

Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with deploying women soldiers in infantry-linked roles within conflict-prone regions of India. (250 words)

2. General Studies II

2.1 Indian constitution: Progressive and Living document

Context:

- **President Draupadi Murmu**, in her address at the **75th Constitution Day celebrations** on Tuesday, hailed the Constitution of India as a “**progressive and living document**,” emphasising its enduring relevance and transformative power in shaping the country’s growth.
- **Link For reference:** [Press Release: Press Information Bureau](#)

Syllabus of Mains – GS-2- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.

Features of Indian Constitution:

- **Longest Written Constitution:** With 448 articles, 12 schedules, and numerous amendments, it is one of the world’s longest constitutions. This was necessary due to India’s social diversity, complex administrative system.
- **Drawn From Multiple Sources:** Borrowed from the British, Irish, Canadian, U.S., Australian, and Weimar Constitutions, etc. **India’s ability to adapt global best practices to its own context.** **Example:** Parliamentary system from Britain, judicial review from the U.S., DPSPs from Ireland.
- **Combination of Rigidity and Flexibility:** Article 368 provides a detailed amendment procedure. Some provisions require only a simple majority; others need a special majority + state ratification.
- **Federal System with Unitary Bias:** Indian federalism is often called “quasi-federal” or “cooperative federalism.”
- **Federal Features:** Division of powers (Union, State, Concurrent Lists), Bicameral legislature, independent judiciary, Written Constitution, Supremacy of Constitution
- **Unitary Features:** Strong Centre (more subjects & financial power), Emergency provisions, Governor’s discretionary powers, All-India Services (IAS, IPS)
- **Parliamentary System of Government:** President is head of state; Prime Minister is head of government. Executive responsible to Parliament → collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Ensures accountability and stability.
- **Fundamental Rights (Part III):** Enforceable rights against the State; cornerstone of Indian democracy.
- **Blend of Socialism, Democracy, and Rule of Law:** Preamble added the words “Socialist” and “Secular” in 1976. Commitment to social justice, economic equality, and dignity.
- **Strong Focus on Social and Economic Justice:** Land reforms, labour laws, welfare schemes, and affirmative action all flow from constitutional ethos.

Why is the Indian Constitution Considered a Progressive and Living Document?

- **Ability to Adapt to Changing Social and Economic Needs:** The Constitution is designed to evolve with time. Through amendments, Parliament can update provisions to reflect new realities. **Example:** 73rd & 74th Amendments empowering local governance, GST (2016) creating a unified tax regime.
- **Progressive Vision of Social Justice:** The Constitution embeds a transformative agenda, not just a legal framework. It aims to dismantle historic injustices through: Abolition of untouchability (Art. 17), Reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs.
- **Wide Scope for Judicial Interpretation:** Judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, has expanded rights through dynamic interpretation. Examples of judicial innovations that keep the Constitution “alive” is “**Basic Structure Doctrine**”, **Right to privacy**.
- **Blend of Flexibility and Rigidity:** Amendments require a special majority, ensuring stability; But not too difficult to prevent progressive change. Over 100 amendments show continuous evolution.
- **Responsibility to Build a Welfare State:** Directive Principles (DPSPs) guide governments towards progressive goals such as equitable distribution of wealth, worker welfare.
- **Accommodation of Social and Cultural Diversity:** Federalism with flexibility allows different states to protect their traditions. Special provisions for tribal areas, North-East, and minorities show progressive inclusiveness.
- **Recognition of Emerging Groups:** The Constitution evolves to protect new communities and rights. **Example:** legal recognition of transgender persons (2014 judgement)
- **Continuous Expansion of Rights:** Fundamental Rights have grown from narrow civil liberties to broad human rights. Modern rights like data protection, digital privacy, and environmental rights arise from constitutional interpretation.

Challenges the Indian Constitution Faces at Present:

- **Federal Tensions Between Centre and States:** Increasing centralisation in areas like taxation (GST), agricultural policies, and financial devolution. Misuse of Article 356, governor's discretionary powers, and central agencies often fuel accusations of weakening cooperative federalism.
- **Threats to Constitutional Morality & Values:** Rise in majoritarian sentiments, communal polarisation, and erosion of pluralism. Constitutional ideals like secularism, tolerance, and liberty are stressed by identity-based politics.
- **Strain on Institutions:** Judiciary, Election Commission, CBI, and ED often face questions over independence and credibility.
- **Challenges to Rights and Freedoms:** Restrictions on civil liberties through misuse of sedition, UAPA, internet shutdowns, pressures on media. Growing tension between state security and individual rights.
- **Socio-Economic Inequalities:** Persistent inequalities in caste, gender, region, and income undermine the Constitutional promise of equity and justice. Rising unemployment and informalisation weaken economic justice.
- **Identity-Based Conflicts:** **Caste discrimination, communal tensions, and regional movements** challenge the Constitution's vision of unity in diversity. Debates around reservation policies, citizenship, and minority rights continue.
- **Digital Governance Challenges:** Big data, AI surveillance, and digital privacy issues require updates in legal and constitutional frameworks.
- **Legislative-Executive Dominance:** Declining quality of parliamentary deliberation, frequent use of ordinances, and passing bills without debate weaken legislative scrutiny.
- **Environmental Stress:** Climate change, ecological degradation, and development pressures complicate enforcement of environmental rights under Article 21.
- **Rise of Populism:** Populist policymaking sometimes bypasses constitutional principles of fiscal prudence, rule of law, and procedural fairness.

Way Forward

- **Strengthen Cooperative Federalism:** Promote fiscal autonomy, reform the role of Governors, and improve Centre-State consultations through institutions like the Inter-State Council.
- **Protect Constitutional Morality:** Reinforce pluralism, secular values, and rule of law through civic education, responsible political discourse, and independent institutions.
- **Reform and Empower Institutions:** Ensure transparency in appointments, reduce political interference, and modernise the judiciary to cut delays and pendency.
- **Safeguard Rights & Freedoms:** Protect free speech, media independence, and privacy; review restrictive laws like sedition/UAPA in line with constitutional values.
- **Reduce Inequalities:** Strengthen welfare schemes, improve access to education/health, and create jobs to realise social and economic justice.

Conclusion:

- The President's assertion that the Indian Constitution is a progressive and living document reaffirms its transformative character and enduring relevance. Designed with both flexibility and foresight, the Constitution continues to evolve through dynamic judicial interpretation, responsive amendments, and its ability to address emerging societal, technological, and economic challenges.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** rightly observed that **"the Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document; it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of the age."** This essence captures why the Indian Constitution is seen as a living document.

Mains practice question:

How does the doctrine of constitutional morality reinforce the progressive and living character of the Indian Constitution? (10 Marks, 150 words)

2.2 Presidential Reference Under Article 143

Context:

- The Supreme Court bench in the Presidential Reference held that **Governors cannot indefinitely withhold action on a Bill**, and that prolonged inaction may be subjected to **limited judicial review**.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-2- Polity, Governance, and International Relations (Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary)

What is Article 143 of the Indian Constitution?

About:

- Article 143 (**Advisory jurisdiction**) empowers the President of India **to seek the SC's advisory opinion on any question of law or fact that is of public importance** and is likely to arise or has already arisen.
- This provision establishes the SC's advisory jurisdiction, **which is exclusive to the President**.

Types of Questions Referred

Article 143(1): Optional Opinion

- The President may refer to the Supreme Court any question of law or fact that is of public importance and has either arisen or is expected to arise. **In such cases, the Supreme Court has the discretion to either offer its opinion or decline to do so.**

Examples

- Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Dispute (1993):** - President sought the Supreme Court's opinion on whether a Hindu temple existed at the disputed site before the construction of the Babri Masjid. **The Supreme Court refused to give its opinion.**

Article 143(2): Mandatory Opinion

- This clause **empowers the President to seek the Supreme Court's opinion on disputes arising from any pre-Constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, sanad, or similar instruments**. Here, the Supreme Court is **obligated to provide its opinion**.
- Article 143(2) is rarely used. One major instance exists related to princely state agreements.**

About Article 143

- Relation to Article 131:** Article 131 deals with adjudication of legal disputes between the Centre and States, whereas **Article 143 provides only advisory opinions, not binding judgments**.
- Historical Basis:** Derived from **Section 213 of the Government of India Act, 1935**, which allowed the Federal Court to give advisory opinions.
- Presidential Satisfaction:** The President must be convinced that the issue contains substantial legal significance and affects public interest.
- Council of Ministers' Advice:** The President acts on the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers when making a reference under Article 143.
- No Suo Motu Power:** The Supreme Court **cannot use Article 143 independently**; it acts solely when a Presidential reference is made.
- Constitution Bench Requirement:** As mandated by Article 145(3), advisory references **must be heard by a Constitution Bench of at least five judges**.

Current Legal Status

- Advisory Nature:** Article 143 confers only advisory jurisdiction; the Supreme Court does not deliver enforceable decisions.
- Reason for the Term "Opinion":** The Constitution uses "opinion" instead of "judgment" to stress that the advice is consultative, not adjudicatory.
- Presidential Responsibility:** If the President disagrees with the opinion, they must provide cogent and well-recorded justification.

- **Purpose in Constitutional Scheme:** Article 143 helps prevent constitutional deadlocks by enabling the Executive to seek clarity on complex legal or constitutional issues.

Constitutional Utility of Article 143

- **Preventive Clarity:** It resolves constitutional doubts before the government takes action.
- **Institutional Dialogue:** It strengthens coordination between the Executive and the Judiciary in complex situations.
- **Federal Harmony:** It helps settle Centre-State disputes early, preventing escalation.
- **Constitutional Morality:** It reinforces democratic values through reasoned constitutional interpretation.
- **Institutional Balance:** It maintains the balance of power by providing a structured legal consultative mechanism.
- **Policy Guidance:** It gives the government authoritative legal input on sensitive policy matters.
- **Crisis Management:** It acts as a stabilizing tool during constitutional or political crises.
- **Avoids Litigation:** Early advice prevents unnecessary and prolonged court cases.
- **Strengthens Rule of Law:** Decisions are based on legal clarity rather than political uncertainty.
- **Promotes Good Governance:** It helps the Executive act within constitutional limits.

Challenges & Criticism of Article 143

- **Judicial Workload:** References increase the burden on an already overloaded Supreme Court.
- **Advisory Delays:** No time limit may reduce the utility of the opinion in urgent situations.
- **Limited Force:** Since opinions are non-binding, they may fail to influence executive action.
- **Political Misuse:** Governments may use references to postpone or avoid difficult decisions.
- **Vague Threshold:** “Public importance” is undefined, leading to broad or unnecessary referrals.
- **Judicial Overreach Risk:** Advisory opinions may draw the judiciary into political arenas.
- **Selective Use:** References are often made only in politically sensitive cases.
- **Undermines Finality:** Non-binding advice can cause uncertainty instead of resolution.
- **Executive Dependence:** Overreliance may weaken the autonomy of executive decision-making.
- **Federal Concerns:** States are not formally involved even when matters impact federal relations.

Way Forward for Strengthening Article 143

- **Clear Invocation Protocols:** Lay down specific criteria and procedures for invoking Article 143 to prevent misuse and ensure uniformity.
- **Constitution Benches Mandatory:** Require all important constitutional references to be examined by a Constitution Bench of at least five judges.
- **Fixed Timelines:** Introduce reasonable statutory deadlines for delivering advisory opinions to maintain relevance in urgent matters.
- **Follow-up Frameworks:** Establish institutional mechanisms to ensure advisory opinions are systematically integrated into governance and legal processes.
- **Greater Transparency:** Make the referral process more transparent to enhance public trust and prevent political manipulation.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Allow inputs from states or concerned parties in matters with federal implications.
- **Strengthen Parliamentary Oversight:** Ensure Parliament reviews the use of Article 143 to prevent over-reliance by the Executive.

Conclusion

- Article 143 serves as a **vital bridge** between the Executive and Judiciary, providing constitutional clarity in sensitive situations. **Though advisory and non-binding, it promotes institutional dialogue and strengthens the rule of law.**

Mains Question for Practice-

- Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 in maintaining constitutional balance, with suitable examples.

2.3 India-Bhutan Relations

Context: -

- India's Prime Minister undertook a **State Visit to Bhutan** to attend the **70th birthday celebrations** of Bhutan's **4th king (Druk Gyalpo), Jigme Singye Wangchuck**, father of the current monarch.

Key Highlights of India's State Visit to Bhutan: -

- **Economic Support:** India reaffirmed assistance for **Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan**, Economic Stimulus Programme, **Gelephu Mindfulness City**, and Hatisar ICP (Assam).
- **New MoUs:** Three MoUs signed in renewable energy, health, and mental health.
- **Hydropower Cooperation:** Inaugurated 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II and work resumed on 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I.
- India extended ₹40 billion **Line of Credit** for energy projects.
- **Connectivity Push:** Progress on Gelephu-Kokrajhar and Samtse-Banarhat cross-border rail links; reaffirmed focus on ICPs and terminals.
- **Trade & Agriculture:** Institutionalised supply of essential commodities and fertilisers, with the first consignment dispatched.

About Bhutan: -

- Bhutan is a **landlocked country in south-central Asia**, situated on the eastern ridges of the Himalayas.
- Capital: Thimpu.
- **Borders:** Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and west, and the Indian states of West Bengal and Assam to the south, Arunachal Pradesh to the east, and Sikkim to the southwest.

Significance of Bhutan for India: -

- **Geographical:** Shares borders with four Indian states—Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Sikkim—and safeguards access to the Northeast through the Siliguri Corridor.
- **Cultural:** Deep civilizational and Buddhist connections; India supports Bhutan in preserving its cultural and spiritual heritage.
- **Strategic:** Acts as a crucial buffer between India and China, reinforcing India's Himalayan and border security.
- **Regional Stability:** A stable Bhutan contributes to peace and stability in the eastern Himalayas and broader South Asia.
- **Policy Anchor:** Strengthens India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy through cooperation in trade, hydropower, connectivity, and security.
- **Diplomatic:** Bhutan's alignment with India in regional and global forums enhances India's diplomatic influence and helps balance China's presence.

Evolution of India-Bhutan Relations: -

- **Treaty of Punakha (1910):** Made Bhutan a protected state of British India, allowing Britain to control its foreign policy and defence affairs during regional unrest.
- **Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1949):** Recognized Bhutan's sovereignty and established perpetual peace and friendship. Bhutan agreed to be guided by India in external affairs.
- **Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit (1972):** Created a free trade regime and allowed duty-free movement of Bhutan's exports and imports through India.
- **Agreement on Cooperation in Hydropower (2006):** Provided a framework for India to support Bhutan's hydropower projects and facilitate the import of surplus electricity.
- **Revised India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty (2007):** Ended the 1949 guidance clause and reaffirmed equal partnership based on mutual interests.

Convergences in India-Bhutan Relations: -

- **Bilateral Trade:** India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. Trade has grown nearly fourfold—from USD 484 million (2014–15) to USD 1744.44 million (2024–25)—making up ~80% of Bhutan's total trade.
- **Cultural Ties:** Shared Buddhist heritage dating back to the 8th century when Guru Padmasambhava travelled from India to Bhutan and shaped the Nyingmapa tradition.
- **Development Partnership:** India has supported Bhutan's development since its first Five-Year Plan (1961). Currently, 71 Project-Tied Assistance projects and 572 High-Impact Community Development Projects are underway.
- **Connectivity:** Rail links such as Kokrajhar–Gelephu and Banarhat–Samtse are being developed to boost trade and border connectivity.
- **Hydropower Cooperation:** Five major hydropower projects (2986 MW) built with India: Chukha (1988), Kurichhu (2001), Tala (2007–08), Mangdechhu (2019), and Punatsangchhu-II (2024).
- **Space Cooperation:** Both nations launched the India-Bhutan SAT and inaugurated the Ground Earth Station of the South Asia Satellite in Thimphu.
- **Education & Capacity Building:** India provides 1000+ scholarships annually for Bhutanese students; ~50,000 Indians work in Bhutan. Under ITEC, 325 annual training seats are offered in premier institutions.

India-Bhutan Relations: Divergences

- **Chinese Engagement:** China's increasing border talks and infrastructure projects challenge India's traditional strategic influence in Bhutan.
- **Economic Diversification:** Bhutan's efforts to diversify its economy and seek new partners may lead to policy differences over trade and investment priorities.
- **Connectivity Constraints:** The mountainous terrain and limited road and rail networks hinder trade and regional integration, while environmental concerns delay new connectivity projects.
- **Perception Gap:** A section of the Bhutanese view India's dominant role as overbearing, reinforcing the perception of India as a 'big brother'.
- **Border Security:** Despite joint operations like 'All Clear' (2003-04), insurgent groups still exploit the porous border areas as temporary hideouts.

Way Forward for India-Bhutan Relations: -

- **Diversify Economic Engagement:** Move beyond hydropower to IT, digital economy, tourism, agriculture value-chains, and startups.
- **Accelerate Connectivity Projects:** Fast-track railway links, border infrastructure, and digital facilitation to boost trade and mobility.
- **Modernise Energy Cooperation:** Ensure timely completion of hydropower projects and expand collaboration to solar, wind, and green energy.
- **Enhance Security Coordination:** Strengthen intelligence sharing, border management, and cyber security, especially around the Siliguri Corridor.
- **Support Bhutan's Economic Transition:** Assist in LDC graduation through market access, investments, and skilling.
- **Strengthen Climate Cooperation:** Joint efforts on GLOF prevention, climate-resilient infrastructure, and Himalayan ecology.
- **Deepen People-to-People Links:** Simplify travel, cultural exchanges, youth programs, and Buddhist circuits.
- **Maintain Strategic Alignment:** Regular high-level dialogue to ensure coordination amid China-Bhutan boundary talks.

Conclusion: -

- India-Bhutan relations remain one of South Asia's most stable and mutually respectful partnerships, built on trust, sensitivity, and shared civilizational values. **As noted by former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran**, the India-Bhutan relationship is **"a model of how asymmetry in size need not translate into asymmetry in trust."**

3. General Studies III

3.1 Labour Reform- New Labour code is in place

Context:

- In a historic decision, the Government of India has **announced that the four Labour Codes** - the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 are being made **effective from 21st November 2025**.
- **Link for the reference:** [Press Release: Press Information Bureau](#)

Syllabus of Mains – GS-3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

What are the new labour codes?

- The Government of India undertook one of the biggest labour reforms since independence by consolidating **29 Central labour laws into 4 Labour Codes**. These codes aim to simplify, modernize, and improve compliance in labour legislation while balancing worker welfare and industry flexibility.

Code on Wages, 2019

- **Purpose:** To set uniform wage definitions and ensure timely and fair wage payments across all sectors.
- **Key Features:**
 - Universal Minimum Wage Framework
 - Applies to all employees, not just scheduled employments.
 - Introduces a floor wage set by the Centre; states cannot fix wages below this.
 - **Single Definition of 'Wage' Reduces litigation.** Timely Wage Payments
 - Wage period standardized (daily/weekly/fortnightly/monthly).

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- **Purpose:** To balance labour rights with employer flexibility and reduce disputes.
- **Key Features:**
 - For the first time, recognition of the sole negotiating union or negotiating council.
 - Industries employing up to 300 workers can hire and fire without prior government approval (earlier 100 workers).
 - Strikes and Lockouts Regulations
 - Mandatory 14-day notice for strikes in all sectors.
 - Dispute resolution strengthened and streamlined.

Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020

- **Purpose:** To enhance workplace safety, health standards, and uniform working conditions.
- **Key Features:**
 - Single Registration for Establishments. One license for multiple state operations.
 - Simplifies compliance for construction and contract labour.
 - Daily/weekly working hours defined (proposed: 12-hour max with cap on weekly hours).
 - Women can work night shifts (with safety measures). **Promotes gender inclusivity.**
 - Database of inter-state migrant workers.
 - Uniform Safety Standards

Code on Social Security, 2020

- **Purpose:** To expand social security coverage to all employees, including gig and platform workers.
- **Key Features:**
 - Universal Social Security. PF, ESI, maternity benefits, gratuity—integrated under one framework.
 - Gig & Platform Workers. First time in India's labour laws.
 - Welfare fund created for workers of companies like Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber.
 - Fixed-Term Employment (FTE)
 - FTE employees eligible for all benefits similar to permanent workers, including gratuity (after 1 year).

Significance of the New Labour Codes:

- **Simplification and Consolidation of Labour Laws:** 29 central laws merged into 4 codes, reduces confusion, overlap, and litigation. Creates a uniform, transparent, and predictable labour law framework.

- **Boost to Ease of Doing Business:** Simplifies compliance through single licensing, single registration, and digital filings. Employer flexibility improved through revised thresholds for layoffs (from 100 to 300 workers).
- **Improved Wage Security and Worker Protection:** Universal minimum wage framework and central floor wage protect workers from exploitation. Uniform definition of 'wages' ensures clarity in PF, gratuity, and bonuses.
- **Expansion of Social Security Net:** Extends PF, ESI, gratuity, and maternity benefits to all workers, including gig and platform workers. For the first time, delivery partners, ride-hailing drivers, freelancers, and app-based workers are recognized under social security schemes.
- **Better Working Conditions and Safety:** OSH Code sets higher standards for industrial safety, health, and working hours.
- **Promotion of Formalization of the Workforce:** Mandatory digital record-keeping and Aadhaar-based registration. Increased contributions under social security encourage formal jobs.
- **Faster Dispute Resolution:** Strengthened industrial tribunals help reduce pendency of labour disputes. Recognition of negotiating unions brings clarity in collective bargaining.
- **Alignment with Global Labour Standards:** Makes India's labour laws more compatible with ILO norms, and modern global supply chains' expectations.

Challenges associated with New Labour code:

- **Delay in Implementation Across States (Federal Challenge):** Labour is in the **Concurrent List**, so both Centre and states must frame rules. The Centre wants **simultaneous implementation**, which is not possible unless all states fall in line.
- **Concerns Over Worker Job Security:** The Industrial Relations Code increases the threshold for **layoffs from 100 workers to 300 workers**, permitting industries to retrench employees without prior government approval. **Example:** In the manufacturing sector of states like Haryana and Maharashtra, unions have protested that **retrenchment without approval** may lead to mass contractualization and job insecurity.
- **Complications in the New Wage Definition:** The uniform definition mandates that basic pay + DA must be at least 50% of total compensation. This may increase employer liability for PF, gratuity, and bonuses. **Example:** IT and service companies that previously offered high allowances may face higher payroll costs, leading to resistance.
- **Gig & Platform Workers:** The Social Security Code extends coverage to gig/platform workers but does not clearly specify: Who contributes how much (government or companies?). **Example:** Apps like Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber raise concerns about the added cost of contributions.
- **Administrative Burden on Small Businesses:** Digital compliance, online registration, and maintenance of electronic records are difficult for small and informal businesses.
- **Centralization Concerns and Potential Federal Tensions:** The Codes give substantial powers to the Centre such as to set floor wages, to regulate inter-state migrant workers, to create central databases and rules. **Example:** States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have expressed concerns that a centrally fixed "floor wage" may not reflect local cost-of-living realities.
- **Worker Representation and Trade Union Objections:** Recognition of a sole negotiating union may weaken minority unions, leading to inter-union rivalry. **Example:** In large public sector factories like in Chennai or Jamshedpur, multiple unions claim representational status, leading to disputes over who becomes the sole bargaining agent.

Labour reform in India

1. Pre-Independence Era

- 1881: First Factories Act.
- 1926: Trade Unions Act.
- 1936–1947: Wage regulation + industrial relations laws emerge.

2. Post-Independence (1950s–1980s)

- Rapid expansion of labour protection laws.
- Key laws: EPF (1952), ESI expansion, Payment of Gratuity (1972).

3. Liberalisation Phase (1991–2000s)

- Economic reforms highlight rigidity of labour laws.
- 2002: Second National Commission on Labour recommends merging 100+ laws into a few codes.

4. Consolidation Phase (2010s)

- Drafts of simplified labour codes prepared.
- 2019: Code on Wages passed.

5. Major Reform Year – 2020

- Three new codes enacted: Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code, OSH & Working Conditions Code. Together with Wages Code → 29 laws merged into 4 codes.

6. Implementation Phase (2020–2025): Centre and states frame rules (Concurrent List requirement).

- **Ambiguity Around Working Hours:** The proposed 12-hour daily working limit (with weekly cap) has raised concerns about worker exploitation.
- **Enforcement Challenges:** Even with better digital systems, enforcement in the informal sector where 85–90% of workers are employed remains weak. **Example:** Construction workers often lack documentation, making it hard to integrate them into social security databases despite new provisions.

Way Forward:

- **Ensure Uniform and Timely Implementation by States:** Labour is a Concurrent List subject → states need to frame their own rules. Centre–state coordination mechanisms are needed to avoid uneven implementation and regulatory uncertainty.
- **Build Capacity of Labour Departments:** Train inspectors, grievance officers, and digital compliance teams. Strengthen labour inspectorate to prevent over-regulation and under-enforcement.
- **Provide Clarity Through Rules and Notifications:** Issue detailed guidelines on fixed-term employment, gig worker coverage, wage definition, and hire-and-fire provisions. Prevent ambiguous interpretations that may lead to litigation.
- **Support for MSMEs:** Simplify compliance for small enterprises with phased implementation. Provide digital tools, helplines, and tax incentives to reduce compliance burden.
- **Strengthen Social Security Delivery:** Ensure real coverage of gig workers, platform workers, and informal workers through e-Shram and direct benefit mechanisms. Integrate social security schemes EPFO, ESIC, state boards—on a unified digital platform.
- **Promote Tripartite Dialogue:** Institutionalise regular dialogue between government, employers, and trade unions to reduce conflict and maintain industrial peace.
- **Robust Grievance Redressal Systems:** Establish fast-track labour courts or tribunals to resolve disputes quickly. Enhance transparency in settlements, retrenchment, and compensation.
- **Strengthen Digital Labour Ecosystem:** Expand the Shram Suvidha Portal unified registrations, inspections, and returns. Promote e-reporting by employers; reduce physical inspections.

Conclusion:

- The real test of the new labour codes **lies in whether they can genuinely foster an environment that supports the growth of labour-intensive industries within the formal sector.** While the codes promise greater flexibility in retrenchment, simplified compliance, and reduced licences—which can lower hiring costs—the concerns raised about increased social security contributions and higher operational expenses, particularly under the EPF provisions, cannot be ignored.

Mains Practice question:

The key to India's manufacturing ambitions lies in a flexible yet secure labour market." Analyse whether the New Labour Codes will help India transition from informal to formal employment. (15 Marks, 250 words)

4. General Studies IV

4.1 Clean India needs mindset and policy change.

Context

- As India moves toward Viksit Bharat@2047, persistent sanitation gaps in policy, infrastructure, and civic behaviour raise urgent concerns about sustaining clean, healthy, and dignified urban environments.

Syllabus of Mains – GS-4- Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude (Moral and ethical values in everyday life (cleanliness, civic sense, public behaviour)

Quotes:

- “Sanitation is the true measure of a nation’s civilisation.” Mahatma Gandhi
- “Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education.” Benjamin Disraeli
- On the launch of Swachh Bharat on 2 October 2014**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that “**a clean India would be the best tribute we can offer to Mahatma Gandhi,**” emphasising cleanliness as a national duty and collective responsibility.

Sanitation as a Public Good: -

Sanitation as a Civic and Ethical Duty

- Sanitation reflects **civic sense, cultural discipline, and ethical behaviour** of both citizens and policymakers.
- A country cannot claim development if people treat public spaces irresponsibly.

High Economic, Social, and Health Costs of Poor Cleanliness

- Dirty surroundings raise disease levels, increase healthcare costs, and reduce worker productivity.

Infrastructure Exists, But Maintenance and Governance Fail

- Large funds are spent on new projects, but the upkeep of existing infrastructure (flyovers, road dividers, footpaths) is neglected.

Urbanisation Exposes Policy and Planning Weaknesses

- Rapid, unplanned urbanisation overwhelms waste management systems and infrastructure.

Sanitation as a Public Good: The Free-Rider Problem

- Cleanliness is a public good (non-rival, non-excludable): **everyone benefits, but few contribute.**
- This leads to the **free-rider problem (someone who enjoys benefits without contributing)** people expect others or the government to maintain sanitation while they avoid responsibility.

Sanitation is a Civic Duty

- 1. Reflection of Civic Virtue:** Sanitation demonstrates citizens’ commitment to public welfare, discipline, and respect for shared spaces—core elements of civic ethics.
- 2. Protection of Public Health:** Clean surroundings prevent disease and suffering, aligning with the ethical principles of non-maleficence (do no harm) and beneficence (promote well-being).
- 3. Collective Responsibility & Public Good:** Sanitation is a non-excludable, non-rival public good. Ethical citizenship requires overcoming the “free rider” problem through individual participation.
- 4. Accountability of State & Citizens:** The government must provide infrastructure, but citizens share equal responsibility in proper use, maintenance, and compliance with cleanliness norms.
- 5. Moral Duty Toward Vulnerable Groups:** Poor sanitation disproportionately hurts children, women, elderly, and the poor, making it an ethical obligation to ensure dignity and equity for all.
- 6. Foundation for National Development & Integrity:** Sanitation enhances national image, supports tourism, boosts productivity, and aligns with constitutional duties—making it essential for Viksit Bharat@2047.

What Needs to Be Done:

Embed civic responsibility through education and behavioural nudges

- Promote cleanliness as a moral and social duty through schools, community campaigns, and public messaging.
- Use behavioural tools (nudges, social norms, peer influence) to shift attitudes toward shared responsibility.

Strengthen ethical governance and accountability

- Ensure timely maintenance of public infrastructure as an ethical obligation, not an administrative formality.
- Enforce **anti-littering rules** fairly and consistently to build trust in institutions.

Move from announcement-driven policies to outcome-based ethics

- Prioritise long-term maintenance over short-term project launches.
- Create transparent monitoring systems so citizens can track sanitation expenditure and performance.

Foster community participation and collective ownership

- Encourage resident welfare associations, local groups, and civil society to co-manage waste and cleanliness.
- **Promote “adopt a spot”** and community-led sanitation drives.

Build ethical urban planning practices

- Plan cities not just for expansion but for dignity, sustainability, and liveability.
- Ensure inclusion of migrant and informal workers in sanitation policies.

Incentivise responsible behaviour

- Reward clean neighbourhoods, promote competition among city wards, and recognise ethical leadership by officials.

Case Studies

Indore: Behavioural Change-Driven Cleanliness Model

- **Indore topped Swachh Survekshan** for several consecutive years by prioritising citizen behaviour over mere infrastructure.
- **100% door-to-door waste collection**, strict fines for littering, live GPS tracking of garbage vehicles, and public reporting tools.

Kerala’s Suchitwa Mission: Community Sanitation and Education

- Large-scale campaigns in schools, Kudumbashree groups, and municipalities.
- Emphasis on source segregation, household composting, and community participation.

Pune: Integrating Informal Waste Pickers (SWaCH Model)

- **Pune Municipal Corporation partnered with SWaCH**, a cooperative of over 3,000 waste pickers.
- Instead of replacing informal workers, the city integrated them, providing safety gear and steady incomes.

Japan’s School Cleaning System

- Japanese students clean classrooms, toilets, corridors daily.
- Cleanliness becomes a moral responsibility, not a government job.

Conclusion

- A cleaner India demands more than infrastructure, it requires **a shift in mindset, stronger policy discipline, and smart behavioural nudges** that make cleanliness a shared habit.
- For public administrators, the task is to design ethical, people-centric systems that encourage responsible behaviour, enable community participation, **and turn sanitation into a sustained cultural norm essential for Viksit Bharat@2047.**

Mains Question for Practice-

Sanitation is not merely an infrastructural challenge but a test of civic ethics and public morality.” Discuss with suitable examples.



PULSE

ANSWER WRITING MODULE

UPSC MAINS 2026

English / Marathi

Key Features:

- ✦ 23 Tests + 1 UPSC Simulation Round
- ✦ Progressive Writing Strategy: Basic to Adv.
- ✦ Flash Answer Writing Practice (Wed & Fri)
- ✦ Prelims + Mains Integrated Approach
- ✦ One-to-One Mentorship & Planning
- ✦ Answer Enrichment Exercises
- ✦ Value Addition Notes
- ✦ Available in English & Marathi Mediums

ADMISSIONS OPEN



Contact Us
7378743031 | 7767073031



PRAYAAS EDUCATION
Above Axis Bank Loan Centre, Office 301a,
301 Second Floor Sterling Plaza, J M Road, Pune.



PRAYAAS Shorts- UPSC & MPSC

1. Gavi, UNICEF announce new agreement to make R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines more accessible

Context:

- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and UNICEF have announced a **new agreement that it said will make the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines significantly more accessible** and affordable, paving the way to protect more children.

About:

- The deal, **backed by Gavi and executed by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, is expected to generate up to \$90 million in savings for Gavi and countries, equivalent to more than 30 million additional doses enabling the full vaccination of nearly seven million more children against malaria over the next five years.
- The deal is financed by Gavi **through an advance payment enabled by the innovative International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm)** mechanism.

2.1 GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization:

- Founded:** 2000
- Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Objective:**
 - Improve access to immunization in **low- and middle-income countries** and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases. Provide equitable access to new and underused vaccines.
 - Strengthen health systems and immunization infrastructure.
 - Reduce childhood morbidity and mortality globally.
 - Promote research, development, and innovation in vaccines



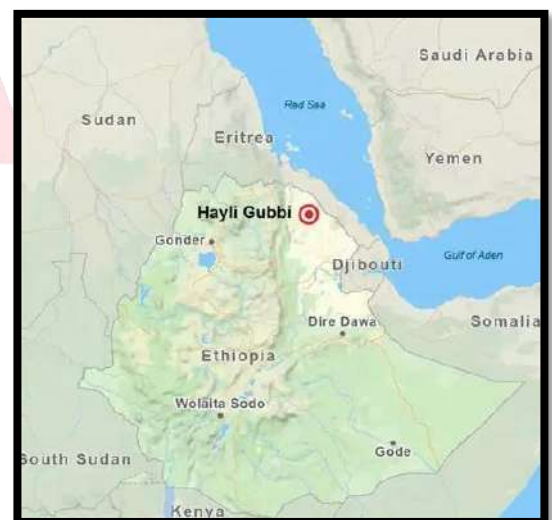
2. Places in News: The Hayli Gubbi

Context:

- A **long-inactive volcano** in northern Ethiopia unexpectedly erupted on Sunday, sending up plumes of volcanic ash and dust, which have since spread across continents and disrupted flights in India and the United Arab Emirates.

About:

- Ethiopia has 50 known volcanoes**, according to the Smithsonian, several of which have been dormant for thousands of years.
- The Ethiopian Rift Valley, **where many of the volcanoes are located, extends from Afar southwards** through neighbouring countries.
- It was formed by shifting tectonic plates, which pulled apart to form the land masses of Africa and Arabia, and is one of the most important geological sites in the world.



2.1 Types of Volcanoes Based on Activity:

- Active Volcano:** A volcano that is currently erupting or shows signs of erupting in the near future.
- Characteristics:**
 - Emits lava, ash, gases regularly or intermittently,
 - Has a magma chamber that is still active. **Examples:** Mount Etna (Italy), Mount Vesuvius (Italy) etc.
- Dormant Volcano:** volcano that is currently inactive but may erupt in the future.
- Characteristics:**
 - No eruption for hundreds or thousands of years.

- Shows signs of underground activity (earthquakes, hot springs). **Examples:** Mount Fuji (Japan), Mount Rainier (USA)
- **Extinct Volcano:** A volcano that has not erupted in recorded history and is unlikely to erupt again.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Magma supply has ceased.
 - Erosion may flatten its structure over time. Examples: Arthur's Seat (Scotland), Edinburgh (UK), Mount Buninyong (Australia).

3. Rupee Depreciation

Context:

- The Indian rupee is likely to face **further depreciation pressure in later part of this year Nov-Dec 2025**, with traders eyeing a move toward 90 per U.S. dollar in the absence of firm central bank intervention, while bond yields will track liquidity movements and local growth data.

About:

- Depreciation of the Rupee refers to a **fall in the value of the Indian currency relative to foreign currencies** in the foreign exchange market.
- In simpler terms, it means more rupees are needed to buy 1 unit of a foreign currency, e.g., USD. **Example:** If earlier 1 USD = ₹75, and now 1 USD = ₹90, the rupee has depreciated.

Causes of Depreciation:

- **Trade Deficit:** Imports > Exports → more demand for foreign currency → rupee weakens.
- **Capital Outflow:** Foreign investors withdraw investments from India → demand for foreign currency rises.
- **Inflation Differential:** Higher domestic inflation → goods become expensive → currency loses value.
- **Interest Rate Differential:** Lower interest rates in India → investors move funds abroad.
- **Global Factors:** Dollar strengthening, geopolitical tensions, oil price shocks.

Effects of Depreciation:

- **Positive Effects:** Boosts exports (Indian goods cheaper abroad), Encourages domestic production
- **Negative Effects:** Increases import costs (oil, machinery) → higher inflation, Raises external debt burden

4. Nano- Satellite

Context:

- Grahha Space, a Bengaluru-based space tech startup, has obtained authorisation from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to launch its maiden nano satellite mission called Solaras S2, as technology demonstration by the end of November.

About:

- Nano satellites are small artificial satellites with a **mass between 1 kg and 10 kg**.
- They are a subset of small satellites, designed for cost-effective space missions.
- Lightweight and compact easy to launch, often as secondary payloads.
- Shorter development time weeks to months.
- Can be used in constellations for enhanced coverage.
- Equipped with miniaturized technology for communication, imaging, and scientific experiments.

Applications:

- Earth Observation – crop monitoring, disaster management, climate studies.
- Communication – data relay, Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity.
- Scientific Research – space experiments, technology testing.
- Education & Training – hands-on experience for students and researchers.

5. COP30

Context:

- The UN climate conference, COP30, took place in November 2025 in **Belém, the capital of the Brazilian state of Pará**.

About:

- COP, standing for the Conference of the Parties, is an annual high-level meeting organized by the United Nations, and the Climate COP is organized by the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

- COP30 took place in 2025 in Belém, Brazil. This follows **COP29**, which brought nearly 200 countries together to coordinate global climate action during **November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan**.

Agenda of the summit:

1. Finalizing the Post-2025 Global Climate Finance Goal (NCQG)

- Replacing the earlier **USD 100 billion/year** target.
- Discussion on **scale, scope, transparency, and contributors** (whether rich countries alone or major economies too).
- Ensuring predictable finance for **mitigation, adaptation & loss & damage**.

2. Submitting Stronger Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2035

- All countries are required to submit **next round of NDCs in 2025**.
- Agenda: Raising mitigation ambition, Clearer adaptation targets

3. Amazon Rainforest Protection & Forest Conservation

- Since COP30 will be held in the Amazon region, a major agenda will be, Zero deforestation pathways, Indigenous rights

4. Operationalizing the Loss & Damage Fund

- Ensuring **capitalisation**, fairness in access, and speed in disbursement.
- Clarifying rules for developing countries to receive funds.

5. Implementation After Global Stocktake (GST-1) Outcome

- COP30 will turn GST recommendations into **national policies**, especially: Rapid fossil fuel reduction, Tripling renewable energy capacity.

Key Outcome:

- **Belem Pact:** 195 Parties agreed on a 29-point package focused on just transition, adaptation finance, technology, trade, and gender. Many countries have updated their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), renewing global commitment to the 1.5°C target.
- **Adaptation finance and clear Measurement rules:** The Baku-Belém Roadmap (2026–2028) will guide countries in planning adaptation actions before the next Global Stocktake review.
- **Belem Health action plan:**
- **Built on two principles:**
 - Climate justice and health equity
 - Participatory and accountable climate-health governance
- **Key components include:**
 - Climate-based health surveillance
 - Evidence-backed policies and training
 - Digital health tools and climate-resilient medical infrastructure
- **Tropical forest forever facility (TFFF):**
 - A new system where countries that protect forests get paid based on satellite-verified performance. Aims to mobilize USD 125 billion using public and private investments.
 - 20% of funds will go directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, recognizing their vital role in conservation.
- **Santa-Marta conference on Fossil Fuel phased out:**
 - Announced by **Colombia and the Netherlands for April 2026**.
 - Discussion will take place how to phase out fossil fuels in a way that protects economies, jobs, national security, and fair global trade.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- It is a global environmental treaty adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.
- The UNFCCC entered into force on March 21, 1994.
- The Convention has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- The original secretariat was in Geneva. Since 1996, the secretariat has been located in Bonn, Germany.

Structure:

- **Conference of Parties (COP):** as the “supreme body” of the Convention, as it is its highest decision-making authority. The climate change process revolves around the annual sessions of the COP.
- **COP President:** Normally rotates among five United Nations Regional groups. The President is usually Environment Minister of his or her country.

6.Species in News: Leopard and Human Animal Conflict

Context:

- Various part of India has been facing increasing leopard attacks, **particularly in Pune (Maharashtra)**, leading to significant public concern and government action.

About:

- The leopard is one of the five big cats of the **genus Panthera**.
- It is known for its distinct **rosette-patterned coat**, stealth, and high adaptability.

Distribution:

- Global Range:** They occur across Africa and parts of Asia, including Sub-Saharan Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia), Middle East (Iran, Arabian Peninsula)
- India:** India hosts the largest wild population of leopards. They are found in: Western Ghats, Himalayas (up to 3,000–3,200 m), Central India forests, Northeast India, Aravalli's, Human-dominated landscapes (agricultural fields, sugarcane belts)

Animal Behaviour:

- Solitary and Territorial:** Leopards are mostly solitary (except mating season & mothers with cubs). Mark territories using scent marks, scratches, and calls.
- Nocturnal:** Mostly active at night (nocturnal), helps them avoid humans and larger predators like tigers/lions.
- Excellent Climbers:** Can drag prey three times their weight up a tree to avoid scavengers. **One of the best tree climbers among big cats.**

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- Indian Wildlife Protection Act:** Schedule I
- Protected in national parks, sanctuaries, and forest areas.



7.Ningaloo Reef

Context:

- 'Unprecedented' heatwave kills nearly **two-thirds of corals at UNESCO-listed Ningaloo Reef**. Australia's most intense and prolonged marine heatwave on record blamed for mass bleaching.

About:

- Location:** Situated off the north-west coast of Western Australia, along the Ningaloo Coast in the Indian Ocean.
- UNESCO Status:** Declared a World Heritage Site in 2011 for its rich marine biodiversity and intact coral systems.

Key Features:

- One of the longest fringing coral reefs in the world, stretching ~300 km.
- Unlike the Great Barrier Reef (which is offshore), Ningaloo is very close to the shore—in some places just a few hundred meters from beaches.
- Contains over 500 species of fish and ~300 species of coral.

Ecological Importance:

- Globally famous for seasonal aggregation of whale sharks (largest fish species) between March–July.
- Important habitat for manta rays, humpback whales, dugongs, sea turtles, and migratory marine species.
- Serves as a nursery ground for many fish and coral species due to its shallow, protected lagoon.



8. National Investigation Agency:

Context:

- Red Fort blast accused sent to 7-day NIA custody

About:

- Established:** 2008 under the NIA Act, 2008 (Statutory Body) after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- Nature:** India's central counter-terrorism agency; **functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**
- Mandate:** Investigates and prosecutes offences related to: Terrorism (UAPA cases), Hijacking, Human trafficking linked to terrorism, Counterfeit currency
- Jurisdiction:** Has pan-India jurisdiction and can take over cases from state police.
- 2019 Amendment: Expanded powers to investigate crimes outside India (subject to international treaties) and added more offences under its purview.
- Special Courts:** NIA has special designated courts for speedy trial of terror-related cases.
- Significance:** Strengthens national security, ensures centralized investigation of terror networks, and promotes coordination between central and state agencies.



9. Cabinet approves schemes for rare earth Magnets

Context:

- The Union **Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** today approved the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets' with a financial outlay of Rs.7280 crore.

About:

- This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 Metric Tons per Annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth PM India Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market.
- REPMs are one of the strongest types of permanent magnets** and are vital for electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence applications. The Scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, PM India involving conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.

Rare Earth Permanent Magnet:

- High-performance magnets made using rare earth elements (REEs), especially Neodymium (Nd), Samarium (Sm), and Dysprosium (Dy).
- Types:**
 - NdFeB (Neodymium-Iron-Boron):** strongest, widely used.
 - SmCo (Samarium-Cobalt):** high-temperature resistance.
- Key Features:**
 - Extremely strong magnetic field, lightweight, durable, and maintain magnetism over long periods.
 - Critical for miniaturization of advanced technologies.
- Applications:** EV motors, wind turbines, defence systems, missiles, satellite technology, MRI machines, mobile phones, and computer hard drives.
- Strategic Importance:** Essential for clean energy, electronics, and defence industries. China controls 80–90% of global rare earth processing, creating supply-chain vulnerabilities. India is working to boost domestic production through IREL, KABIL, and partnerships with Japan/EU.

10. UNCTAD

Context:

- The West Bank is experiencing its sharpest economic downturn on record, driven by movement restrictions, insecurity, and loss of productive capacity as reported by UNCTAD.

About:

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Established:** 1964
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Parent Body:** Part of the UN General Assembly.
- **Purpose:** Works to integrate developing countries into the global economy. Focuses on trade, investment, finance, and technology for sustainable development.
- **Key Functions:** Conducts research, policy analysis, and provides technical assistance. Promotes fair global trade rules and helps developing nations use trade for development.
- Publishes important reports such as the “**World Investment Report**” and “**Trade and Development Report**” and “**The Least Developed Countries Report**”.
- **Significance:** Advocates for inclusive globalisation, fair market access, debt relief, and development-friendly policies.

11.G-Sec and Yields

Context:

- As 2025 draws to an end, a high-stakes battle is underway to keep the yield on India’s benchmark 10-year government security (G-sec) in check. After nearing 6.6 per cent, the yield stabilised around 6.53 per cent in late October — lower than recent peaks yet still elevated.

About:

Government Securities (G-Sec)

- G-Secs are government-issued debt instruments used to borrow money from the public. Issued by the Government of India and considered risk-free because repayment is guaranteed by the government.

Types:

- T-Bills (short term: 91, 182, 364 days)
- Dated Securities (long term: 5–40 years)
- Investors receive fixed interest (coupon) and repayment at maturity.
- Bought by banks, mutual funds, RBI, institutions, and even individuals through RBI’s Retail Direct Scheme.

What is Yield?

- Yield = Return earned by an investor on a bond/G-Sec.
- **It is inversely related to price:**
 - If G-Sec price falls → Yield rises
 - If G-Sec price rises → Yield falls
- Yield changes daily due to interest rates, inflation expectations, and demand–supply.

PRAYAAS

PRAYAAS Shorts- MPSC Specific

1. Sanchar Saathi

Context:

- Sanchar Saathi Helps Recover over 50,000 Phones in October 2025, Strengthening Digital Security Nationwide.

About:

- Sanchar Saathi is a citizen centric initiative of Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** to empower mobile subscribers, strengthen their security and increase awareness about citizen centric initiatives of the Government.
- Sanchar Saathi is available in form of Mobile App and web portal.
- In addition, Keep Yourself Aware facility provides latest updates and awareness material on different aspects related to end user security, telecom and information security.

Chakshu:

- It facilitates citizens to report the suspected fraud communications with the intention of defrauding telecom service users for cyber-crime, financial frauds, non-Bonafide purpose like impersonation or any other misuse through Call, SMS or WhatsApp.
- Few examples of suspected fraud communications are communication related to impersonation as DoT / TRAI, police, Government official, suspected investment & trading, KYC & Payment related to Bank / Electricity / Gas / Insurance etc.

2. Surya Kiran

Context:

- 19th Surya Kiran (2025) launched in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) with 334 troops each from Assam Regiment (India) and Devi Datta Battalion (Nepal); runs till December 8.

About:

- The 19th edition of the India-Nepal bilateral military exercise, 'Surya Kiran', began in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh on Tuesday with an aim to strengthen battalion-level synergy in jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, and integrated ground-aviation operations.

India-Nepal Defence relationship:

- Based on the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship; ensures open borders and defence cooperation.
- India is Nepal's main defence partner, providing training, equipment, and military assistance.
- Joint exercise: Surya Kiran (annual).
- Training: Majority of Nepal Army officers train in Indian military academies.
- Tradition: Army Chiefs of both countries are made Honorary Generals of each other's armies.
- Gorkha soldiers: Thousands from Nepal serve in the Indian Army.

3. National Milk Day-2025

Context:

- National Milk Day, **celebrated annually on November 26**, commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, hailed as the Father of the White Revolution in India.

About:

- In the 1950s and 1960s, India faced acute milk shortages, despite having the world's largest cattle population. The turning point came with the creation of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 1965 and the launch of Operation Flood in 1970, modelled on the success of the Anand cooperative.

White Revolution

- During 1951-52, India produced only 17 tonnes of Milk, which marked the dairy production** as the highly concerned area. To address this issue, the **National Dairy Development Board was set up in 1965 with Prof. V. Kurien as the chairman** of the organization appointed by the Prime Minister Shastri.
- The Revolution along with several operations led to transforming India as one of the largest producers of Milk globally.

Operation Flood

- Operation Flood was the programme that led to the major contribution for White Revolution in India.
- It was launched in 1970 by NDDB led by Kurien to increase the production of milk by focusing on the high yield, reasonable price for the consumers.
- While ensuring the producers to get fair profit without including middlemen in the process of distribution.
- It created a massive link between the Rural Producers and Urban Consumers

4. Kabaddi World Cup 2025

- The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 was **held in Wolverhampton, England, marking a historic milestone as the tournament was organized for the first time outside Asia.**
- The event showcased the growing global appeal of kabaddi and witnessed strong participation from European nations along with traditional powerhouses.

Key Highlights

- **Venue: Wolverhampton, England**
- **Host Year: 2025**
- Notable Feature: First-ever Kabaddi World Cup hosted outside Asia
- **Men's Champion: India**
- **Women's Champion: India**
- **Runner-up (Men & Women): England**

Participating Teams

- **Men's Tournament**
- Group A: Hungary, England, Poland, Germany, USA
- Group B: India, Italy, Scotland, Wales, Hong Kong (China)
- **Women's Tournament**
- Group D: India, Wales, Poland
- Group E: Hong Kong (China), Hungary, England

Previous World Cup (2019)

- The 2019 Kabaddi World Cup was hosted by **Malaysia.**
- India won both Men's and Women's titles in the 2019 edition as well.

Key Features of 2025 Edition

- **Participation from multiple European teams**, showing rising popularity of kabaddi in Europe.
- England reached both finals in Men's and Women's categories.
- **Strengthened India-UK sports cooperation through hosting and promotion.**

5. The Davis Cup**About: -**

- The Davis Cup is the **premier international team event in men's tennis.**
- It is organised by **the International Tennis Federation (ITF)** and is held annually.
- More than one hundred fifty countries participate, making it **the world's largest annual team sporting competition.**

Women's Kabaddi World Cup

- The Women's Kabaddi World Cup is an international kabaddi competition for women's teams.
- **It is organized by the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF).**
- The tournament features top kabaddi teams from around the world, competing for the title.
- **The first Women's Kabaddi World Cup was held in 2012 in Patna, Bihar.**

- It is widely referred to as the World Cup of Tennis, and the champions are recognised as the world champions.

Historical Background: -

- **The competition began in 1900** as a challenge tie between Great Britain and the United States.
- It was **originally known as the International Lawn Tennis Challenge**.
- The event gradually became known as the Davis Cup, named after the **trophy donated by Dwight F. Davis**.

Performance and Records: -

- The United States is the most successful nation in Davis Cup history, with thirty two titles and twenty nine runner-up finishes.

The most recent champions are Italy, who defeated Spain to win their fourth Davis Cup title, which was also their third consecutive title, in 2025.

6. India at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025

India's Overall Performance

- India achieved its best-ever performance at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025.
- **Event held at Shahee d Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh).**
- India won a total of **20 medals**
- **Final tally: 9 gold medals, 6 silver medals, 5 bronze medals.**

Women's Category – Historic Sweep

- India's women **secured 7 of the 9 gold medals**, showcasing dominance across multiple weight-classes.
- **Gold medallists (Women):** Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), Nupur Sheoran (80+kg), Nikhat Zareen (51kg), Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Parveen Hooda (60kg)
- **The significance:** With the **2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles** aiming for gender-parity in weight-categories, this sweep highlights India's rising stature in women's boxing.

Men's Category – Gold Medal Winners

- Indian men added 2 gold medals on the final day.
- **Gold medallists (Men):** Sachin Siwach (60kg – men), Hitesh Gulia (70kg – men).

About the World Boxing Cup

- **The World Boxing Cup is an annual multi stage series** in which elite boxers compete across various events to collect ranking points.
- **The season concludes with a Finals event featuring the highest ranked boxers of the year.**

World Boxing Cup Timeline

- The **first edition** was organised in **Cologne, Germany, in October 2023.**
- The **2024 series** was held across **England, the United States of America, and Mongolia, and the Finals took place in England in November 2024.**
- The **2025 series** took place in **Brazil, Germany, and Kazakhstan, and the Finals were held in India.**

India's Role and Past Hosting

- **The Boxing Federation of India hosted the 2025 Finals.**
- India had earlier hosted the Women's World Boxing Championship in 2018 and 2023, both in New Delhi.

7. Niveshak Shivir, Jaipur.

Context: -

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MCA**) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) **will jointly organise a Niveshak Shivir in Jaipur on December 6, 2025.**

- **Aim:** Provide a **one-stop facilitation platform** for resolving issues related to **unclaimed dividends and shares**.

About: -

- **Objective:** Provides a **one-stop facilitation platform** for resolving issues related to unclaimed dividends and shares.
- **Instant Redressal:** Enables **on-the-spot grievance resolution through dedicated service kiosks**.
- **KYC/Nomination Updates:** Allows investors to update **KYC** and nomination details instantly at the venue.

PRAYAAS

PULSE
ANSWER WRITING

INTEGRATED APPROACH
PRELIMS + MAINS

Integrated Approach

Mentorship

Flash Answer writing

UPSC MAINS
ENGLISH / MARATHI

“
Mains begins where
your books end

@PRAYAAS 2.0

PRAYAAS Education