THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | 2 NOVEMBER 2026

TODAY'S COVERAGE

Table of Contents

9	4	9
ARTICLES	GS PAPERS	MCQS & MAINS QS

GS Paper 1: Society & Health — Page 1

1. Menstrual Hygiene Among Young Women: What NFHS-6 Shows — 1
   GS1 · Women & Society: Health, Hygiene and Gender

GS Paper 2: Polity & Governance — Page 2

2. Voter-Roll Integrity: Pilibhit and the Accountability of Electoral Registration Officers — 2
   GS2 · Polity: Elections and Electoral Reforms
3. Jan Vishwas Act, 2026: Decriminalisation and Trust-Based Governance — 3
   GS2 · Governance: Regulation, Ease of Living and Legislation

GS Paper 3: Economy, Environment & Security — Page 5

4. Tata Sons and the RBI's Scale-Based Regulation: Why Size Now Decides the Rulebook — 5
   GS3 · Indian Economy: Banking and Financial Regulation
5. Delhi's Non-BS-VI Entry Ban: Emission Norms Meet Air-Quality Governance — 6
   GS3 · Environment: Air Pollution and Governance
6. Mahadev App Case: Extradition from Oman and the Law Against Illegal Betting — 8
   GS3 · Internal Security: Organised Crime and International Cooperation
7. A Naxal-Free India: What the End of 'LWE-Affected' Districts Means — 9
   GS3 · Internal Security: Left Wing Extremism
8. Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026: The ISA Assembly and the Green Hydrogen Push — 11
   GS3 · Environment and Energy: Renewable Energy and Climate Cooperation

GS Paper 4: Ethics & Probity — Page 12

9. Declared but Not Disclosed: Asset Declarations by Senior Civil Servants and Probity — 12
   GS4 · Probity in Governance: Transparency and Accountability

PRELIMS POINTERS — TODAY IN ONE LINE EACH

1. **Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya)** — India's men's hockey team beat Malaysia 5-1 to retain the gold on 3 October 2026, a result that also earns a Los Angeles 2028 Olympic berth.
2. **Cyclone Murasu** — cyclone names come from a list agreed by the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones; India contributed the name Murasu, forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast on 3 November 2026.
3. **Digi Yatra** — facial-recognition-based, paperless airport entry run by the Digi Yatra Foundation; the Kerala High Court's 2026 order noted it is not Aadhaar-only.
4. **Shey Phoksundo** — Nepal's deepest lake, inside Shey Phoksundo National Park in Dolpa, the largest national park of Nepal.
5. **IL&FS** — infrastructure-finance NBFC whose 2018 defaults led the Government to supersede its board under the Companies Act, 2013 (NCLT order, October 2018).

HOW TO READ THIS BRIEF

☐ Why in News ☐ Target Prelims MCQ ☐ How to Use in UPSC Mains ☐ Mains Practice / Case Study Question

GS PAPER 1: Society & Health

Menstrual Hygiene Among Young Women: What NFHS-6 Shows

Why in news: NFHS-6 (2023-24) shows 79.2% of women aged 15-24 using hygienic methods of menstrual protection, up from 77.6% in NFHS-5.

Story so far: The Brief covered NFHS-6's sterilisation gender gap on 29 Sep 2026. New today: the same survey's menstrual-hygiene indicator, with the gain slowing to 79.2%.

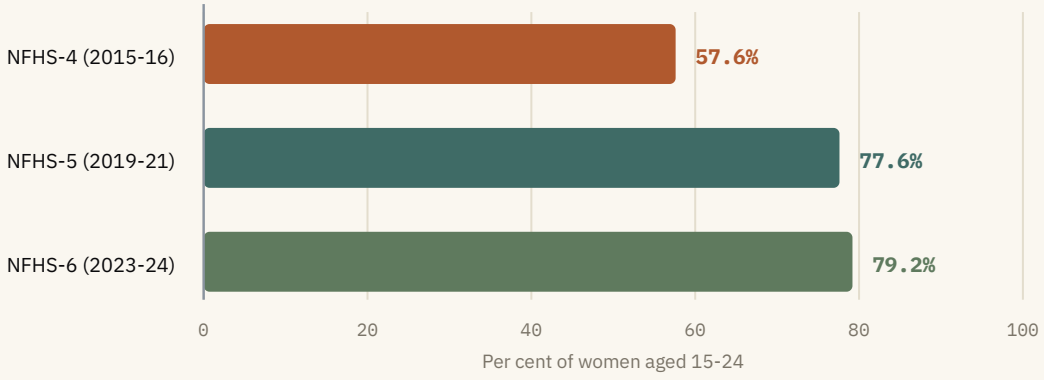
Key Details:

- **The trend:** Hygienic-method use among women aged 15-24 rose from 57.6% (NFHS-4, 2015-16) to 77.6% (NFHS-5, 2019-21) and 79.2% (NFHS-6, 2023-24), so the pace of gain has slowed sharply.
- **What counts as hygienic:** NFHS counts locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins, tampons and menstrual cups as hygienic methods of protection.
- **Why the last mile is hard:** Remaining non-users are likely to be concentrated among rural, poorer and less-educated women, where cost, privacy and disposal facilities are the binding constraints.
- **Social layer:** Taboos around menstruation shape school attendance, mobility and health-seeking, so the issue sits at the junction of health, education and gender equality.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Policy anchors:** The Menstrual Hygiene Scheme under the National Health Mission promotes napkins through ASHAs; the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana sells low-cost napkins at Janaushadhi Kendras.
- **Constitutional link:** Article 47 makes raising the level of nutrition and public health a duty of the State, and Article 21 includes the right to health and dignity.
- **Environmental side:** Rising use of disposable napkins creates a solid-waste challenge, so disposal and biodegradable options matter alongside access.

Women aged 15-24 using hygienic methods of menstrual protection



National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

- **What it is:** A large-scale, multi-round household survey on health, nutrition and family welfare, conducted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Who runs it:** The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, is the nodal agency.
- **Rounds:** NFHS-1 was in 1992-93; NFHS-4 in 2015-16; NFHS-5 in 2019-21; NFHS-6 in 2023-24.
- **Not to confuse:** NFHS gives State and district estimates on health indicators; the Census counts the whole population; PLFS measures employment.

Prelims angle: The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana is implemented by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, not by the Health Ministry, a favourite statement trap.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the slowing gain from 77.6% to 79.2% to argue that universal access needs last-mile delivery, disposal infrastructure and social change, not only supply of napkins.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Menstrual hygiene is a marker of how far health policy has reached adolescent girls and young women.
BODY	Trend (57.6% to 79.2%); social (taboo, school attendance); economic (cost, rural-poor gap); environmental (napkin disposal); institutional (NHM, Janaushadhi).
WAY FORWARD	Napkins in schools, local manufacturing by self-help groups, safe disposal systems, and menstrual-health education for boys and girls.

Mains value-add: Mohinder Singh Chawla v. State of U.P. (1997): the Supreme Court held that the right to life under Article 21 includes the right to health; read with Article 47, it frames access to hygiene as a State duty.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in India, consider the following statements:
1. The International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, is the nodal agency for the survey.
2. NFHS is conducted under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
3. NFHS-6 was conducted in 2023-24 and NFHS-5 in 2019-21.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong: NFHS is conducted under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with IIPS as the nodal agency.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NFHS: National Family Health Survey | IIPS: International Institute for Population Sciences | ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist | BPPI: Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India | PLFS: Periodic Labour Force Survey

GS PAPER 2: Polity & Governance

Voter-Roll Integrity: Pilibhit and the Accountability of Electoral Registration Officers

Why in news: The Election Commission suspended two Electoral Registration Officers of the 127-Pilibhit Assembly constituency in Uttar Pradesh and ordered FIRs over irregularities in the electoral roll.

Story so far: The Brief covered Form 6 and the 1960 Rules on 13 Oct 2026. New today: the Commission acts against officers for roll irregularities, using Forms 8 and 6 as the route.

Key Details:

- **Action taken:** The Commission suspended Mayank Goswami and Hemant Chaudhary with immediate effect, directed the Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer to file FIRs, and said the officers shall not be reinstated without its prior approval.
- **The alleged lapse:** Names of some voters in the final roll published on 10 April were replaced with other persons' EPIC numbers after the Special Intensive Revision; changes were also alleged to have been made at night and on public holidays.
- **Scale:** Of 13,779 Form 8 applications filed between 31 May and 29 August, 10,470 were approved without physical forms or supporting documents, and the probe flagged irregularities in all 10,470.
- **Legal charge:** The Commission asked for cases under Section 198 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which punishes a public servant who knowingly disobeys the law, against the two officers and a computer operator.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Accountability chain:** Section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 places officers engaged in electoral-roll work on deputation to the Election Commission, subject to its control, superintendence and discipline.
- **Roll-keeping rules:** The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 prescribe the forms and the verification steps; officers' departures from them are what the Commission is now treating as offences.
- **Wider direction:** The Commission asked DEOs and EROs to re-examine rolls, especially data entry of modifications done through Forms 6, 7 and 8.

Forms used in electoral-roll work (Registration of Electors Rules, 1960)

Form	Used for	Typical misuse risk
Form 6	Inclusion of a new elector	Bogus or duplicate additions
Form 6A	Inclusion of an overseas (NRI) elector	Wrong residence proof
Form 7	Objection to inclusion or request for deletion	Mass malicious deletions
Form 8	Correction of entries, shifting of residence, replacement of EPIC	Silent substitution of identity numbers

Prelims angle: Each State has a Chief Electoral Officer designated by the Election Commission under Section 13A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in consultation with the State Government; the CEO is not a constitutional post.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Treat Pilibhit as a lesson that free and fair elections depend on a clean roll, and that the officers who keep it must be answerable to the Commission, not left to administrative drift.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	A clean electoral roll is the base of the principle of one person, one vote.
BODY	Legal (RP Act 1950 S.13CC; BNS S.198); institutional (EC control over roll officers); technological (ERONET, data entry); democratic (voter trust).
WAY FORWARD	Mandatory document verification, audit trails for every online change, and prompt, public action against erring officers.

Mains value-add: Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner (1978): Article 324 gives the Commission wide residuary powers to ensure free and fair elections where law is silent, but it must act fairly.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to electoral rolls in India, consider the following statements:
1. Form 7 is used for objection to inclusion of a name or for deletion from the electoral roll.
2. Section 13CC of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 places officers engaged in electoral-roll work under the Election Commission's discipline.
3. Form 6A is used for correction of entries in the electoral roll.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: Form 6A is for inclusion of an overseas elector; corrections are made through Form 8.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** ERO: Electoral Registration Officer | DEO: District Election Officer | CEO: Chief Electoral Officer | EPIC: Electors Photo Identity Card | FIR: First Information Report | NRI: Non-Resident Indian

Jan Vishwas Act, 2026: Decriminalisation and Trust-Based Governance

Why in news: The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, dated 7 April 2026, replaces criminal penalties with monetary ones across many Central laws; an IE editorial argues the approach can be extended to wage and labour interventions.

> **Story so far:** The Brief covered the Railways Act's Jan Vishwas fines on 10 Oct and the GST Council's decriminalisation proposals on 9 Oct 2026. New today: the 2026 omnibus Act itself and its design.

Key Details:

- **Core idea:** Minor, technical and procedural offences attract fines rather than imprisonment, reducing the compliance burden and the fear of prosecution among businesses and citizens.
- **Reach:** The Act amends 80 Central statutes, from the Court Fees Act, 1970 to the Indian Ports Act, 2025, in a single omnibus Act issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice.
- **Built-in revision:** Fines and penalties under the listed Acts rise by 10% of the minimum amount every three years after the Act comes into force; laws with their own revision method are excluded.
- **Second wave:** The 2026 Act follows the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, the first omnibus exercise.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Rationale:** Over-criminalisation clogs courts and breeds rent-seeking; proportionate penalties keep deterrence while freeing police and courts for serious crime.
- **Ease of living:** Decriminalisation is a pillar of the ease of doing business and ease of living agenda, since inspectors lose the leverage of threatening prosecution.
- **Safeguard:** Safety, health and public-interest offences are not meant to be diluted; the test is whether harm to others is serious.

Jan Vishwas: the 2023 Act and the 2026 Act

Feature	2023 Act	2026 Act
Statutes amended	42 Central Acts	80 Central Acts
Committee stage	Joint Committee of Parliament	Select Committee
Penalty revision	No automatic revision	10% of minimum every 3 years (with exclusions)
Thrust	Imprisonment to fines, removal of petty offences	Wider omnibus clean-up across Acts

Prelims angle: A Joint Committee has members from both Houses; a Select Committee in the Lok Sabha has members only from that House. This distinction is a frequent Prelims trap.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use Jan Vishwas as an example of the shift from a regulation-by-fear state to a trust-based state, while stressing safeguards for health, safety and the environment.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Decriminalisation moves from policing compliance to trusting citizens, with penalty scaled to harm.
BODY	Legal (omnibus amendment; proportionality); economic (compliance cost); governance (court backlog); social (fear of harassment).
WAY FORWARD	Graded penalties, independent adjudication, regular fine revision and carve-outs for safety and public-health offences.

Mains value-add: K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) laid down the proportionality test (legitimate aim, rational nexus, necessity, balance), a useful lens for judging whether a penalty is proportionate to the harm.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Decriminalisation of minor offences is described as a step towards trust-based governance. Examine its merits and the safeguards needed to keep deterrence in matters of public safety and health. (250 words)

▪ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** IE: Indian Express

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 2

Israel's Nation-State Law (2018): a Basic Law defining Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people; Israel's Supreme Court upheld it in July 2021 by a 10-1 majority of an 11-judge panel.

How to use: *Use as a comparative example in Polity answers on how constitutions entrench a national identity, and on judicial review of basic laws.*

GS PAPER 3: Economy, Environment & Security

Tata Sons and the RBI's Scale-Based Regulation: Why Size Now Decides the Rulebook

Why in news: RBI has placed Tata Sons in the Upper Layer of NBFCs, and whether the holding company must list now turns on its pending application to give up its Core Investment Company registration.

Story so far: The Brief covered RBI's tighter liquidity rules on 10 Oct and the IDBI Bank stake sale on 15 Oct 2026. New today: how scale-based regulation applies to a large holding company.

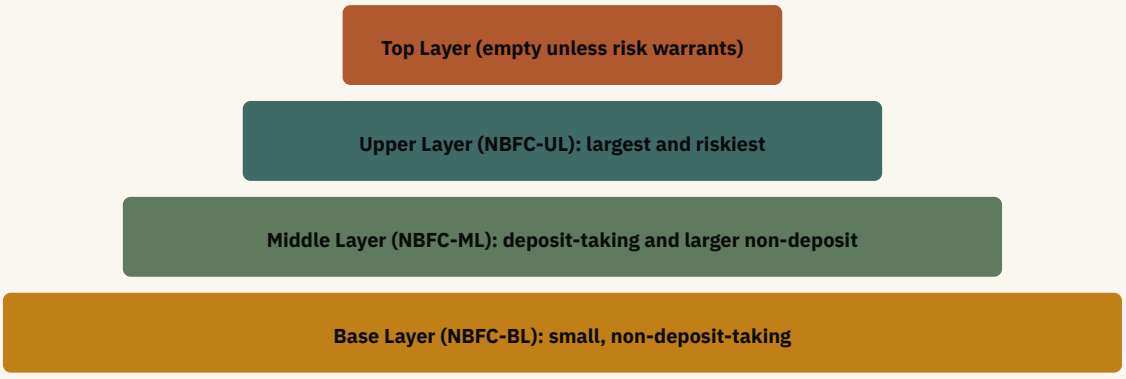
Key Details:

- **Classification:** RBI classified Tata Sons as an Upper Layer NBFC on 6 August 2026, saying the step is without prejudice to its pending deregistration application.
- **Size:** Tata Sons' standalone assets exceeded ₹2 lakh crore as of March 2026.
- **Listing rule:** Upper Layer NBFCs must list within three years of identification; if RBI approves deregistration of the CIC licence before the rule applies, Tata Sons may avoid the listing obligation.
- **Annual list:** RBI's 2026-27 Upper Layer list has 17 NBFCs.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Framework:** Scale-Based Regulation, introduced by RBI in 2021, sorts NBFCs into layers by size, activity and perceived riskiness, with stricter capital, governance and disclosure rules as size grows.
- **Regulatory logic:** Large, interconnected NBFCs can pass stress to banks and markets, as the IL&FS default of 2018 showed; the aim is to treat them closer to banks.
- **CIC angle:** A Core Investment Company holds mainly group-company shares and is a special category of NBFC; surrendering the CIC registration would take Tata Sons outside that route.

RBI's scale-based regulation: four layers of NBFCs



Stricter rules apply as one moves up the pyramid

Scale-Based Regulation of NBFCs

- **Basis:** RBI regulates NBFCs under Chapter III-B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934; Section 45-IA requires registration and a minimum net-owned fund.
- **Layers:** Base, Middle, Upper and (normally empty) Top Layer, so that regulatory intensity rises with size and risk.
- **Upper Layer:** Identified each year by RBI using a scoring methodology; under the 2021 framework the ten largest NBFCs by asset size were always placed in this layer.
- **Always fixed:** Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs and Standalone Primary Dealers are always in the Middle Layer; Housing Finance Companies are classified by size like other NBFCs.

Prelims angle: Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs and Standalone Primary Dealers always sit in the Middle Layer under the scale-based framework, whatever their size.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use this to show that financial regulation is moving from entity-type rules to size-and-risk rules, balancing stability with the flexibility of non-bank credit.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	As non-bank finance grows, regulation shifts from what an entity is to how big and risky it is.
BODY	Legal (RBI Act Ch. III-B); prudential (capital, governance, disclosure); systemic (IL&FS contagion); market (listing and transparency).
WAY FORWARD	Clear timelines for compliance, consistent treatment across group structures and strong supervision of interconnected entities.

Mains value-add: Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934 is the entry point to NBFC regulation: no NBFC can carry on business without a certificate of registration and the minimum net-owned fund.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to the regulation of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India, consider the following statements:
1. Under RBI's scale-based regulation, NBFCs are classified into layers according to size and risk.
2. NBFCs are registered under Section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
3. Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs are placed in the Upper Layer.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs and Standalone Primary Dealers are always in the Middle Layer.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** RBI: Reserve Bank of India | NBFC: Non-Banking Financial Company | CIC: Core Investment Company | NBFC-UL: NBFC Upper Layer | NBFC-ML: NBFC Middle Layer | NBFC-BL: NBFC Base Layer

Delhi's Non-BS-VI Entry Ban: Emission Norms Meet Air-Quality Governance

Why in news: On the first day of the ban on non-BS-VI vehicles entering Delhi, checks turned back 714 vehicles and impounded 38 end-of-life vehicles.

Story so far: The Brief covered Delhi entering GRAP Stage I on 22 Oct 2026. New today: the stricter vehicle-entry curb that adds to the seasonal measures.

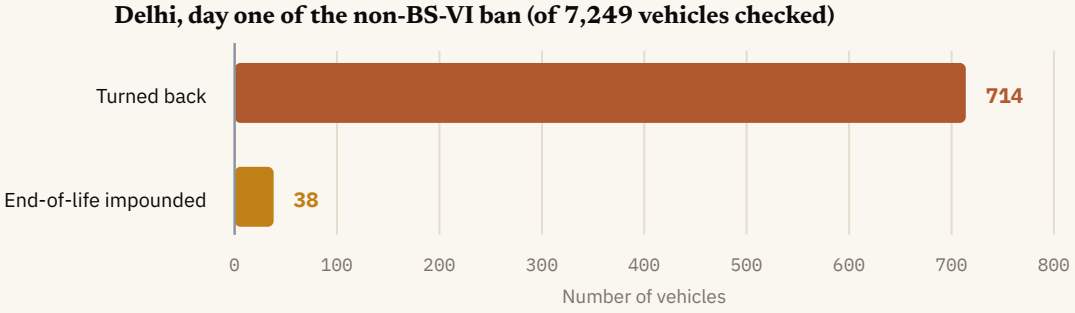
Key Details:

- **Day-one enforcement:** Forty teams checked 7,249 vehicles; 714 were turned back and 38 end-of-life vehicles were impounded.
- **The scale of the problem:** About 48 lakh non-BS-VI vehicles are registered in the districts adjoining Delhi in the NCR.

- **Regulator:** The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, set up by an Act of 2021, coordinates action across Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Penalty:** Section 14 of the CAQM Act, 2021 provides for imprisonment of up to five years or a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both, for violations.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Emission standards:** Bharat Stage norms, modelled on European norms, set permissible tailpipe emissions; BS-VI came into force nationwide from April 2020, skipping BS-V.
- **Why entry curbs:** Vehicles registered outside Delhi can still add to the city's PM2.5 load, so State-level rules need NCR-wide enforcement.
- **Equity concern:** Owners of older commercial vehicles bear the transition cost, so scrappage incentives and phased timelines matter.



Bharat Stage Emission Norms

- **What:** Standards that cap pollutants such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter from vehicle engines.
- **Origin:** India adopted the Bharat Stage series from 2000, aligned broadly with European norms; BS-VI came into effect nationwide in April 2020.
- **Fuel link:** Cleaner fuel with lower sulphur content is needed alongside cleaner engines for the norms to work.
- **Not to confuse:** Bharat Stage norms regulate vehicles at the source; the Graded Response Action Plan is a seasonal emergency measure for city air quality.

Prelims angle: The Graded Response Action Plan was notified in 2017 and has four stages, I to IV, each with progressively stricter curbs as the Air Quality Index worsens.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use this to show how air-quality governance needs a regional airshed approach, with regulation at source, enforcement at borders and support for the affected transport sector.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Delhi's air problem is regional, so the rulebook has to cross administrative boundaries.
BODY	Legal (CAQM Act S.14); technical (BS-VI, fuel quality); social (livelihood of operators); governance (airshed coordination).
WAY FORWARD	Scrappage incentives, electric and CNG transitions for freight, and common enforcement across all NCR States.

Mains value-add: M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (the Delhi vehicular pollution case): Supreme Court orders from 1998 onwards pushed Delhi's public transport to CNG, an early example of the Court shaping air-quality policy.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ EASY–MODERATE

Q. With reference to vehicular emission norms and air-quality management in India, consider the following statements:
1. Bharat Stage norms are emission standards for vehicles modelled on European norms.
2. BS-VI norms came into force nationwide from April 2020.
3. The Graded Response Action Plan has four stages of curbs based on Air Quality Index levels.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three statements are correct: Bharat Stage norms follow European norms, BS-VI applied nationwide from April 2020, and GRAP has Stages I to IV tied to the AQI.

▪ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** BS-VI: Bharat Stage VI | CAQM: Commission for Air Quality Management | NCR: National Capital Region | PM2.5: Particulate Matter below 2.5 micrometres | GRAP: Graded Response Action Plan | AQI: Air Quality Index

Mahadev App Case: Extradition from Oman and the Law Against Illegal Betting

Why in news: Saurabh Chandrakar, promoter of the Mahadev Online Book betting syndicate in a case worth about ₹6,000 crore, was extradited from Oman and brought to India on 1 November 2026.

Story so far: The Brief covered the NIA's extraterritorial jurisdiction over an attack on an Indian pilot on 11 Oct 2026. New today: how India secures an accused abroad through Interpol and extradition.

Key Details:

- **The route:** The Royal Oman Police detained him on a Red Corner Notice; a CBI team then travelled to Muscat and escorted him back.
- **The case:** Chhattisgarh sought the CBI's help; the ED is probing under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, and cases invoke the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Act and penal laws on cheating and forgery.
- **Money trail:** Investigators say proceeds were routed through mule accounts and hawala, and part was used to pay public servants to shield the syndicate.
- **Attachment:** The ED has attached 20 immovable properties worth about ₹1,700 crore, including properties in Dubai and New Delhi.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Legal basis:** Extradition from India and to India is governed by the Extradition Act, 1962, along with bilateral treaties and arrangements.
- **Betting law:** Gambling and betting are State subjects (Entry 34, State List), so States legislate, while money laundering is a Union concern under the PMLA.
- **Transnational crime:** Online betting syndicates run through foreign-based operators and shell structures, which makes mutual legal assistance and extradition central.

Mahadev app case: from notice to extradition



Sequence of key steps in the extradition

Extradition and Principles

- **Meaning:** Formal surrender of an accused or convict by one State to another for trial or punishment, usually under a treaty.
- **Dual criminality:** The alleged act must be an offence in both the requesting and the requested State.
- **Speciality:** The person can be tried only for the offences for which extradition was granted.
- **Interpol notices:** Notices are colour-coded; a Red Notice seeks the location and provisional arrest of a person wanted for prosecution, and is not an international arrest warrant.

Prelims angle: The CBI functions as India's National Central Bureau for Interpol; a Red Notice is a request for provisional arrest, not an arrest warrant.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the case to show how online betting links State gambling law, central money-laundering law and international cooperation in an internal-security answer.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Online betting syndicates exploit borders, so India's response must travel beyond them.
BODY	Legal (Extradition Act 1962; PMLA; State gambling laws); institutional (CBI as Interpol NCB, ED); financial (mule accounts, hawala); diplomatic (treaties).
WAY FORWARD	Uniform regulation of online betting, faster mutual legal assistance and tracking of hawala and mule-account networks.

Mains value-add: Article 51(c) of the Constitution directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, the constitutional basis for cooperation in extradition.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to extradition and Interpol notices, consider the following statements:
1. The principle of dual criminality requires that the act be an offence in both the requesting and requested States.
2. The principle of speciality limits trial to the offences for which extradition was granted.
3. An Interpol Red Notice is an international arrest warrant issued by Interpol.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: a Red Notice is a request to locate and provisionally arrest a person; it is not an arrest warrant issued by Interpol.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CBI: Central Bureau of Investigation | ED: Enforcement Directorate | PMLA: Prevention of Money Laundering Act | CCF: Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files

A Naxal-Free India: What the End of 'LWE-Affected' Districts Means

Why in news: After a security review completed after 31 March 2026, the Home Ministry told States that no district now falls in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected category, and discontinued the classification.

Story so far: The Brief covered the Bastar camp-to-hostel empathy case on 5 Oct 2026 and Sardar Patel's idea of the civil service on 1 Nov 2026. New today: the official end of the LWE-affected category.

Key Details:

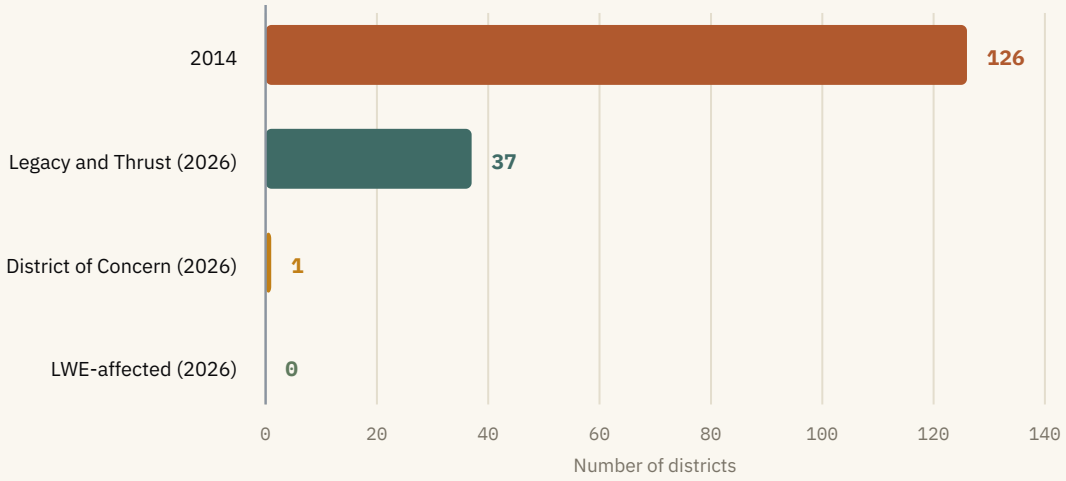
- **The milestone:** The Government had set 31 March 2026 as the target for a Naxal-free India on 24 August 2024; the MHA communication of 8 April 2026 says no district is LWE-affected.
- **New categories:** 37 districts are classed as Legacy and Thrust (free of insurgency but needing sustained security and development effort) and one, West Singhbhum in Jharkhand, as a District of Concern.

- **Scale of the fall:** 126 districts were LWE-affected in 2014; 2,337 Naxalites laid down arms in 2025.
- **States covered:** Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal were notified.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Policy approach:** The National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE, approved in 2015, combined security operations, development and rights-and-entitlements measures.
- **Development push (April 2015 to March 2026):** 15,189 km of roads built, 9,497 mobile towers commissioned, 1,804 bank branches and 6,025 post offices opened, and 259 Eklavya Model Residential Schools sanctioned in LWE-affected areas.
- **Root causes:** Forest-rights deficits, displacement, weak last-mile governance and tribal alienation fed the movement, so durable peace depends on delivery, not only force.

LWE-affected districts: 2014 and after the April 2026 review



Left Wing Extremism: Framework and Safeguards

- **What:** Armed insurgency by Left-wing groups, active in a belt of tribal and forest districts across central and eastern India.
- **Constitutional anchors:** The Fifth Schedule governs administration of Scheduled Areas, and the PESA Act, 1996 extends Panchayat provisions to those areas with gram-sabha powers.
- **Rights-based tools:** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises forest-dwellers' rights over land and produce, addressing a core grievance.
- **Not to confuse:** The Fifth Schedule covers most tribal States; the Sixth Schedule covers tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Prelims angle: Eklavya Model Residential Schools are residential schools for Scheduled Tribe students, run under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not the Ministry of Education.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the end of LWE-affected classification to show how internal-security success needs sustained development, rights recognition and trust-building, so that gains are not reversed.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Declaring no LWE-affected district marks a security milestone, but the real test is preventing relapse.
BODY	Security (forces, intelligence, surrenders); development (roads, towers, schools); legal (Fifth Schedule, PESA, FRA); social (tribal trust).
WAY FORWARD	Sustain Legacy and Thrust district support, enforce forest and land rights, and keep welfare delivery at the last mile.

Mains value-add: Samatha v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1997): the Supreme Court barred transfer of tribal land to non-tribals in Scheduled Areas, an early judicial anchor for protecting tribal land rights.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to Left Wing Extremism-affected areas of India, consider the following statements:
1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools are meant for Scheduled Tribe students.
2. The PESA Act, 1996 extends Panchayat provisions to the Fifth Schedule areas.
3. The Fifth Schedule applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram fall under the Sixth Schedule, not the Fifth.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** LWE: Left Wing Extremism | MHA: Ministry of Home Affairs | PESA: Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act

Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026: The ISA Assembly and the Green Hydrogen Push

Why in news: The Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026 runs from 2 to 5 November at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, alongside the 9th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen.

Story so far: The Brief covered India's carbon market (CCTS) on 19 Oct and the UNEP Emissions Gap Report on 23 Oct 2026. New today: the renewable-energy and solar-diplomacy side of India's climate response.

Key Details:

- **Organiser:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy organises the Summit; the International Solar Alliance hosts its own Assembly alongside it.
- **First of its kind:** The Summit brings the Expo, the ISA Assembly and the green-hydrogen conference together on one platform for the first time.
- **Reach:** Invitations went to 34 countries for the Summit, and the ISA invited 128 countries to its Assembly.
- **Capacity milestone:** India is about to cross 300 GW of installed non-fossil-fuel capacity.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Energy security:** Renewables cut fossil-fuel import dependence, while storage, grids and transmission determine how much solar and wind power the system can absorb.
- **Industrial route:** Green hydrogen, made by electrolysing water with renewable power, is meant to decarbonise steel, fertiliser and refining.
- **Diplomacy:** The ISA is India's flagship climate-diplomacy platform, linking developing sunshine-rich countries to finance and technology.

International Solar Alliance and the Green Hydrogen Mission

- **ISA:** Launched by India and France at the COP21 climate conference in Paris on 30 November 2015, with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
- **Status:** Its Framework Agreement came into force in December 2017, making the ISA a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation.
- **Membership:** Originally limited to sunshine countries lying between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, membership was later opened to all UN member States.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Approved in January 2023 with an outlay of ₹19,744 crore and a target of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen a year by 2030.

Prelims angle: The International Solar Alliance has its headquarters in Gurugram, India, and was launched by India and France; it is not hosted by the UN or the World Bank.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the Summit to link energy security, climate diplomacy and industrial policy: India pairs domestic capacity with leadership of a global solar coalition.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	India's renewable push serves three goals at once: energy security, climate commitments and industrial competitiveness.
BODY	Economic (import substitution, green hydrogen); environmental (net-zero path); diplomatic (ISA leadership); infrastructure (grids, storage).
WAY FORWARD	Faster transmission and storage, domestic manufacturing of equipment, and affordable finance for developing partners through the ISA.

Mains value-add: Article 51(c) of the Constitution directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, the constitutional basis for India's leadership in treaty bodies such as the ISA.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ MODERATE

Q. With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by India and France at the COP21 climate conference in Paris.
2. Its headquarters is in Gurugram, India.
3. Membership is restricted to countries lying between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: membership was later opened to all UN member States, so it is no longer restricted to countries between the Tropics.

- **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** MNRE: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy | ISA: International Solar Alliance | GW: gigawatt

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 3

UPI, October 2026: a record 25.47 billion transactions, with the average daily value crossing ₹1 lakh crore (₹1,00,871 crore) for the first time.

How to use: *Use as evidence of digital public infrastructure scale in Economy and Governance answers on financial inclusion.*

GST collections, October 2026: gross GST revenue rose 22.9% to ₹2,31,290 crore, with net collections up 25.6%, the second-highest monthly mop-up after the April record.

How to use: *Use as a fiscal-buoyancy data point in Economy answers on tax compliance and the effect of rate rationalisation.*

GS PAPER 4: Ethics & Probity

Declared but Not Disclosed: Asset Declarations by Senior Civil Servants and Probity

Why in news: An Indian Express review of declarations by 102 top-ranking officials shows gaps in the details of immovable property that public filings are meant to reveal.

Story so far: The Brief covered a probity case study on the Indore officer's posting on 15 Oct and the RTI gaps on 12 Oct 2026. New today: asset declarations as a tool of probity.

Key Details:

- **What was reviewed:** The immovable-asset declarations of 102 Secretary-rank IAS and other officers, published on official portals under the mandatory filing for 2025.
- **Missing details:** Of 244 self-acquired properties, 115 lack details of dimensions, and 115 lack a current value.
- **Concentration:** 44 officials declared three or more self-acquired properties, while 10 declared none.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Statutory basis:** Section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 requires public servants to declare assets and liabilities, along with those of spouse and dependent children.
- **Verification gap:** Declarations are largely taken on trust, with no routine cross-check against land and property records, so vague entries defeat the purpose of transparency.

Immovable-asset declarations of 102 senior officials: key numbers

Indicator	Number
Self-acquired properties declared	244
Properties without details of dimensions	115
Properties without current value	115
Officials with three or more self-acquired properties	44
Officials with zero self-acquired properties	10

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- **Purpose:** Creates a Lokpal at the Centre and requires States to set up Lokayuktas to inquire into corruption complaints against public servants.
- **Section 63:** Each State must establish a Lokayukta within one year of the Act's commencement.
- **Section 44:** Public servants must declare their assets and liabilities, and those of spouse and dependent children.

Prelims angle: Section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 requires every State to set up a Lokayukta within one year of the Act's commencement, though the Act does not fix its structure.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use the numbers to argue that formal declaration without verification is a weak shield; connect to transparency, accountability and the ethics of public service.

Answer skeleton

INTRO	Asset declaration turns the integrity of a public servant from a claim into something checkable.
BODY	Legal (Lokpal Act S.44; service rules); ethical (honesty, accountability); institutional (verification, audit); social (public trust).
CONCLUSION	Standard forms with mandatory dimensions and values, random verification, and penalties for false or incomplete filings.

Mains value-add: Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (2002): the Supreme Court recognised the citizen's right to know the antecedents and assets of candidates as part of Article 19(1)(a), an anchor for transparency in public life.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Mandatory asset declaration by senior civil servants is a key instrument of probity, yet declarations are often incomplete. Discuss the ethical and institutional measures needed to make asset disclosure meaningful. (250 words)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** IAS: Indian Administrative Service

THE WEEK IN ONE PAGE – 26 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2026

The past week's key concepts, one line each: a quick revision sheet.

Paper	Concept	Remember
GS1	**Cyclone Arnab landfall**	Very severe cyclonic storm near Narsapur on 28 Oct; post-landfall rain brought rivers and landslides in Odisha; NDRF and ODRAF deployed.
GS2	**Local-body reservation**	Articles 243D and 243T cover SC/ST seats; the 50% ceiling comes from Indra Sawhney (1992); backward-class quotas need the triple test.
GS2	**Article 243O**	Bars courts from interfering in panchayat electoral matters except by an election petition; do not confuse with Article 329(b).
GS3	**Digital arrest scams**	Section 66D of the IT Act, 2000 punishes cheating by personation using a computer resource; the SC took up the issue suo motu.
GS3	**Beneficial ownership**	The natural person who ultimately owns or controls an entity; FPI is portfolio investment, FDI carries lasting interest and control.
GS2	**Census 2027 schedule**	House listing 25 Jan to 28 Feb 2027 under the Census Act, 1948; reference date 1 March 2027.
GS2	**PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana**	Centrally sponsored scheme for panchayats, ₹7,395.55 crore for 2026-31; Part IX of the Constitution.
GS2	**Social security board**	Board for unorganised, gig and platform workers under the Code on Social Security, 2020; chaired by the Labour Minister.
GS2	**Consent and rape law**	A failed relationship is not rape; consent obtained by a false promise is judged on intent from the start (BNS Sections 63 and 69).
GS2	**Legislative Councils**	Articles 168-172 and 169; Council can be created or abolished by Parliament on the Assembly's resolution; it has limited role on Money Bills.
GS3	**NVS-03 and NavIC**	Navigation satellite launched on GSLV; NavIC provides regional positioning; NVS-02 earlier failed orbit-raising.
GS3	**World Bank poverty brief**	Extreme poverty fell from 27.1% to 2.6% (2011 to 2023) at the 2021 PPP line.
GS4	**Timely disclosure in disasters**	Honest, dated casualty figures keep public trust; RTI Section 4 and the DM Act duties apply.
GS4	**Sardar Patel and civil service**	Neutrality and the 'steel frame'; Article 312 creates All-India Services.