

THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | 13 OCTOBER 2026

TODAY'S COVERAGE

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PRELIMS POINTERS — TODAY IN ONE LINE EACH

1. **INS Mangrol (P82)** — third Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, built by Cochin Shipyard with over 80% indigenous content; named after a fishing town in Gujarat's Junagadh district.
2. **Lakshadweep** — declared a 100% literate Union Territory under ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram after 1,113 adult non-literates cleared the foundational literacy test.
3. **IBSAMAR IX** — India–Brazil–South Africa maritime exercise; INS Tarkash is India's participant in the 2026 edition.
4. **Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026** — multinational air exercise hosted by the Indian Air Force, themed on partnership and self-reliance.
5. **PKK** — the Kurdistan Workers' Party has vacated four camps in the Metina region of northern Iraq, near the Turkish border, as part of a peace process with Türkiye.

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: GEOGRAPHY & SOCIETY

Warming Himalayas: Permafrost Thaw, Glacier Collapse and the Case for Hazard-Averse Development

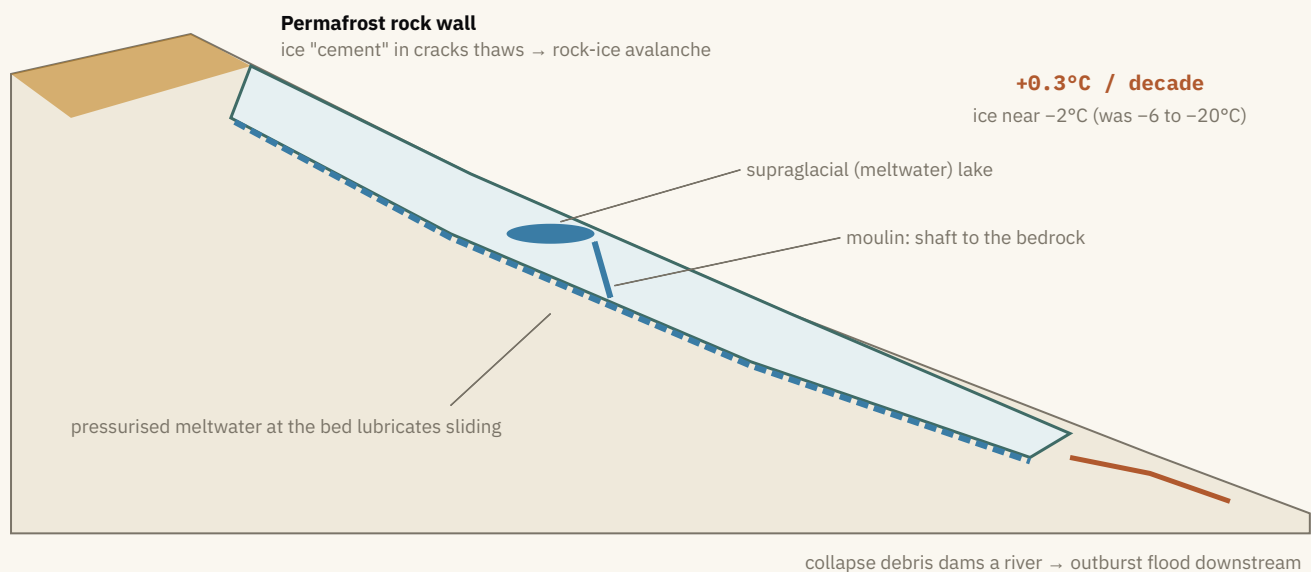
Why in news: The 26 August rock-ice collapse at Langtang (Nepal) and fresh ICIMOD data have renewed calls to reassess every development project in the IHR.

Key Details:

- **Faster warming:** High mountains of Asia are warming $\sim 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ per decade, nearly twice the global average (IPCC, WMO); the western Himalaya is warming fastest, especially winter nights.
- **Thawing 'cement':** Permafrost holds steep rock walls together; as it thaws, slopes fail as rock avalanches, landslides and debris flows.
- **Moulins and sliding:** Meltwater drains through moulins to the bedrock, forming a pressurised layer that lubricates the glacier and fractures the ice.
- **Policy asks:** Satellite and drone surveillance, acoustic sensors on glacier-fed rivers, slope-based flood zoning and an elevation limit for hydropower.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Langtang, 26 Aug 2026:** a 600-m-wide ice-rock mass fell 1.2 km from 5,600 m into the Lhende Khola, dammed it, and the breach sent a debris flood 170 km down the Bhote Koshi valley.
- **ICIMOD, March 2026:** ice-loss rates across the HKH have doubled since 2000; Nepal emits only $\sim 0.1\%$ of global GHGs.
- **Indian parallels:** the 2021 Chamoli rock-ice avalanche and the 2023 South Lhonak GLOF, which destroyed Sikkim's Teesta-III dam, followed the same cascade.

How warming destabilises a Himalayan glacier and its rock walls

Schematic diagram, not to scale

Glacial Hazards: Key Terms

- **Permafrost:** Ground or rock that stays at or below 0°C for at least two consecutive years; in high mountains it binds fractured rock.
- **Moulin:** A vertical shaft carved by meltwater that carries surface water down to the glacier bed.
- **Supraglacial lake:** A pond of meltwater on the glacier surface; it can drain suddenly through moulins.
- **GLOF:** Sudden release of water from a glacial lake when its moraine or ice dam fails.
- **Landslide-dam flood:** A slope or ice collapse first blocks a river and the temporary lake then bursts (Langtang, Chamoli type).
- **ICIMOD:** Intergovernmental centre in Kathmandu (est. 1983) with eight member countries, including India.
- **Not to confuse:** A GLOF starts from an existing glacial lake; a landslide-dam flood starts from a fresh blockage.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS1 (glaciers, geomorphology) and GS3 (disaster management, EIA) answers on Himalayan fragility and hydropower; Langtang is a fresh case of a cascading hazard.

Mains value-add: The Ravi Chopra expert body, set up after the 2013 Kedarnath floods on the SC's direction, found hydropower projects had aggravated the damage and advised against dams in the paraglacial zone — cite it to argue for elevation-based limits on construction.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Thawing permafrost and unstable glaciers are turning the Indian Himalayan Region into a zone of cascading hazards. Examine the implications for hydropower and infrastructure planning, and suggest a hazard-averse development framework. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2020, GS Paper I: "How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India?"

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** IHR: Indian Himalayan Region | ICIMOD: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development | IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | WMO: World Meteorological Organization | HKH: Hindu Kush Himalaya | GHG: Greenhouse gas | GLOF: Glacial Lake Outburst Flood | EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment | SC: Supreme Court

Caring for an Ageing India: The Case for a Trained Caregiving Workforce

Why in news: With India's 60-plus population projected at 347 million by 2050, experts urge scaling up the Budget 2026-27 plan to train 1.5 lakh NSQF-aligned caregivers.

Story so far: The 6 Oct Brief covered the demographic dividend and the youth jobs gap. New today: the other end of the transition — a looming shortage of trained carers for the elderly.

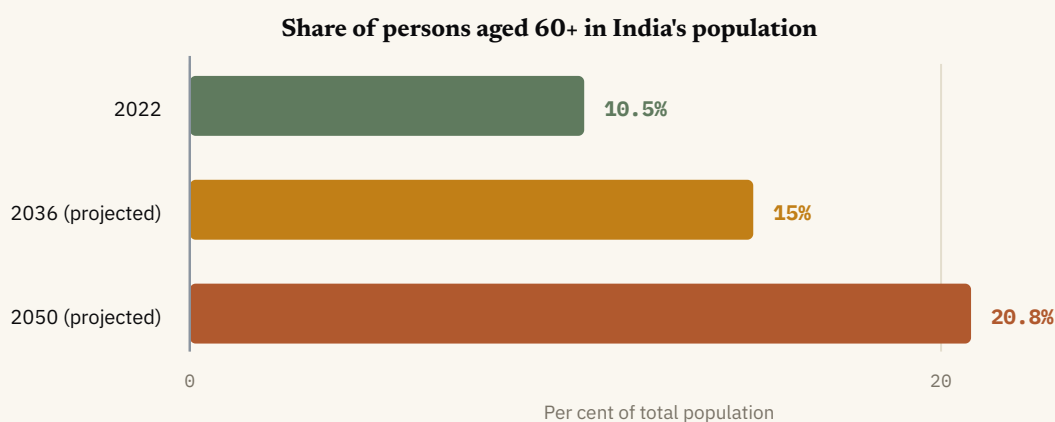
Key Details:

- **Policy shift:** NITI Aayog's August 2026 report 'Reimagining Care' treats caregiving as economic activity rather than welfare — a first at the national policy level.
- **End of the joint family:** In nuclear households, untrained relatives — mostly women — manage medicines, falls, dementia and emergencies by trial and error.
- **Existing pilots:** Kudumbashree's K4 Care (Feb 2024) has certified only 838 carers; NHSRC's elderly-care manual trains ASHAs via AB-HWCs.
- **Way forward:** Upskill informal carers, use Kudumbashree and ASHA workers as trainers, and set up a National Caregiver Council with a certified-carer portal.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Elderly population:** ~149 million (10.5%) in 2022, rising to 347 million (20.8%) by 2050 (India Ageing Report 2023, UNFPA-IIPS).
- **Unpaid care:** ~146 million people (10% of the population, NITI Aayog estimate) give untrained care; women spend 299 minutes a day on unpaid domestic work and care vs 97 for men (NSO).

- **Dependants:** ~26.8 million elderly and differently-abled persons rely on such informal carers.



Elderly Care: Laws and Policies

- **MWPSC Act, 2007:** Lets parents and senior citizens claim maintenance from children or relatives through Maintenance Tribunals.
- **Maintenance cap:** A Tribunal can order up to ₹10,000 a month; abandoning a senior citizen is punishable.
- **Who must pay:** 'Children' include grandchildren but not minors; a relative who will inherit a childless senior's property is also liable.
- **NPOP, 1999:** First national policy on older persons — financial security, health care, shelter and protection.
- **Schemes:** AVYAY is the MoSJE umbrella scheme for senior citizens; NPHCE (2010) provides geriatric care through the MoHFW.
- **Data:** LASI, run by IIPS, is India's largest survey of the health and well-being of people aged 45+.
- **Not to confuse:** The MWPSC Act is a maintenance law (MoSJE); NPHCE is a health programme (MoHFW).

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS1 (population, women, social empowerment) and GS2 (vulnerable sections) answers on ageing, the care economy and women's unpaid work.

Mains value-add: The ILO's '5R' framework for decent care work (2018) — recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care; reward and represent paid carers — cite it to argue for formal training, pay and recognition of caregivers.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, consider the following statements:

1. A Maintenance Tribunal may order a monthly allowance of up to ₹10,000.
2. 'Children' under the Act include grandchildren but not minors.
3. Only biological children can be made liable to maintain a senior citizen.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the Act caps the allowance at ₹10,000 a month. Statement 2 is correct: grandchildren are covered, minors excluded. Statement 3 is incorrect — a common misconception; a relative who possesses or will inherit a childless senior citizen's property is also liable.

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2013, GS Paper I: "Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India."

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NSQF: National Skills Qualifications Framework | NITI: National Institution for Transforming India | NHSRC: National Health Systems Resource Centre | ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist | AB-HWC: Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre | UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund | IIPS: International Institute for Population Sciences | NSO: National Statistics Office | MWPSC: Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens | NPOP: National Policy on Older Persons | AVYAY: Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana | MoSJE: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | NPHCE: National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly | MoHFW: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | LASI: Longitudinal Ageing Study in India | ILO: International Labour Organization

GS PAPER 2: POLITY, GOVERNANCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Form 6, the 1960 Rules and the SIR: Who Can Change How Voters Enrol?

Why in news: The SC said its 27 May Bihar SIR ruling predated the July changes to Form 6, as a former EC argued the ECI cannot amend statutory forms on its own.

Story so far: The 6 Oct Brief covered the SC's notice on Form 6 changes; the 2 Oct Brief covered Form 7 mass deletions. New today: the SC says the Form 6 changes were never placed before it, and INDIA bloc leaders seek ECINet logs and SIR files.

Key Details:

- **Statutory form:** Form 6 (inclusion in the roll) is part of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, made by the Centre under Sec 28 of the RP Act, 1950 after consulting the ECI.
- **The Declaration:** The SIR-era Declaration (Annexure D) sorts applicants by date of birth to match the Citizenship Act and asks for documents — beyond what the Rules require.
- **Two versions:** ECI's 1 Oct letter: Form 6 with the Declaration in SIR States, without it elsewhere; critics call it a 'quasi-NRC' test unrelated to Art 326 eligibility.
- **Scale:** ~13.3 crore names deleted across three SIR phases; ~9.5 crore (71%) were 'absent, shifted and others', many possibly eligible to re-enrol.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Deletion grounds:** ~2.7 crore (20%) for death; ~1.01 crore (7.6%) flagged as duplicates.
- **Proviso to Sec 21(3):** the existing roll stays in force until a special revision is complete — critics say pre-SIR rolls could be used for coming State polls.

SIR then and now: key safeguards compared

Aspect	SIR 2002-04	SIR 2025-26
Enumeration	Door-to-door from the existing roll	Electors not found or not returning forms left out of the draft roll
Supervision	Supervisors re-check 25% of homes; AERO/ERO/DEO 12%/5%/2%	10% random check by supervisors (Bihar notification)
Shifted electors	Treated as a transfer; enrolled at new address in the same exercise	Deleted; must re-apply via Form 6 or 8
Onus of proof	Presence on existing roll given probative value (Lal Babu Hussein, 1995)	Electors must link to the last roll or produce documents
Bulk objections	Rejected summarily	Cap on objections per person only from 9 Oct 2026

Revising Electoral Rolls: The Legal Framework

- **Article 324(1):** Vests superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls in the ECI.
- **Article 326:** Every citizen aged 18+ not otherwise disqualified is entitled to be registered as a voter.
- **Sec 21, RP Act 1950:** Rolls are revised before elections (summary or intensive); under Sec 21(3) the ECI may order a special revision of any constituency or part 'as it thinks fit'.
- **Sec 28:** Rule-making power lies with the Central Government, after consulting the ECI — hence the 1960 Rules and their Forms.
- **Sec 31:** Making a false declaration in connection with the roll is punishable with up to one year in jail.
- **Key forms:** Form 6 — inclusion; Form 7 — objection/deletion; Form 8 — shifting or correction.
- **Not to confuse:** The ERO (RP Act 1950) prepares rolls; the Returning Officer (RP Act 1951) conducts the election.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS2 answers on the ECI's autonomy, delegated legislation and the right to vote; use the 2002-04 vs 2025-26 comparison to argue for procedural safeguards.

Mains value-add: Mohinder Singh Gill v. CEC (1978): Article 324 is a reservoir of power where law is silent, but the ECI must act in conformity with, not in derogation of, laws made by Parliament — cite it to argue that changing a statutory form needs amended Rules, not an administrative letter.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, consider the following statements:

1. Section 28 empowers the Election Commission of India to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act.
2. Under Section 21(3), a special revision of the electoral roll may be ordered for any constituency or part of a constituency.
3. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 have been framed under this Act.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect — the trap: Sec 28 gives rule-making power to the Central Government, after consulting the ECI, not to the ECI itself. Statement 2 is correct: Sec 21(3) allows a special revision for any constituency or part of it. Statement 3 is correct: the 1960 Rules (which contain Forms 6, 7 and 8) are made under the 1950 Act.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2017: "Consider the following statements: 1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body. 2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and by-elections. 3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?" — Answer: (d) 3 only.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** SC: Supreme Court | SIR: Special Intensive Revision | EC: Election Commissioner | ECI: Election Commission of India | RP Act: Representation of the People Act | NRC: National Register of Citizens | ERO: Electoral Registration Officer | AERO: Assistant Electoral Registration Officer | DEO: District Election Officer | CEC: Chief Election Commissioner | INDIA: Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance

From Drug Mark-ups to Hospital Bills: The Push for Price Transparency in Health Care

Why in news: The SC asked the Centre to plan price caps for all medicines, not only cancer drugs, while the Health Ministry told States to make clinical establishments display their rates.

Story so far: The 9 Oct Brief covered the 30% trade-margin cap on non-scheduled cancer drugs. New today: the SC calls it 'the tip of the iceberg' and gives the Centre till 27 Oct to work out modalities for wider caps.

Key Details:

- **Court's question:** Why limit caps to cancer drugs when a ₹5,000 India-made stent sells above ₹25,000 and some PTR-to-MRP mark-ups touch 1,000%?
- **Centre's plan:** A 30% trade-margin cap on both patented and non-patented cancer drugs; the ASG cautioned against one uniform cap for all medicines.
- **Rate display:** Clinical establishments must show rates for each service in the local language and English, plus package rates for foreign patients on medical or Ayush visas.
- **Regulatory gap:** The DPCO caps prices only of scheduled (NLEM) drugs; non-scheduled drugs face just a 10% annual limit on MRP increases.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **2019 precedent:** NPPA's trade-margin pilot capped margins at 30% on 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, using Para 19 of the DPCO.
- **Stents:** coronary stent prices were capped in 2017 after stents were added to the NLEM — the model the Bench is pointing to.

The Clinical Establishments Act, 2010

- **Purpose:** Registration and regulation of clinical establishments, with minimum standards of facilities and services.
- **Coverage:** Hospitals, clinics and diagnostic labs of all systems of medicine, public or private (armed forces units excluded).
- **Legal route:** Health is a State subject, so Parliament enacted it under Art 252; it applies to States that adopt it by resolution, and to UTs.
- **Rule 9, 2012 Rules:** Establishments must display rates for each service and charge within the range set by the Centre with the States.
- **Court push:** In 2024 the SC asked the Centre to notify standard rates under these Rules, failing which CGHS rates could be applied.
- **Not to confuse:** The CE Act regulates hospitals; the DPCO, 2013 (under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955) regulates drug prices via the NPPA.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS2 (health, issues relating to health services) and GS3 (pricing, regulation) answers on out-of-pocket spending, private-sector regulation and universal health coverage.

Mains value-add: Article 47 makes improving public health a primary duty of the State, and in Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity (1996) the SC read access to health care into Article 21 — cite both to frame affordable treatment as a rights issue, not just a market one.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The Supreme Court has described exorbitant mark-ups on medicines as 'broad daylight dacoity'. Critically examine the adequacy of India's framework for regulating drug prices and hospital charges, and suggest reforms that balance affordability with innovation. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2015, GS Paper II: "The public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest?"

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** SC: Supreme Court | PTR: Price to Retailer | MRP: Maximum Retail Price | ASG: Additional Solicitor-General | DPCO: Drugs (Prices Control) Order | NLEM: National List of Essential Medicines | NPPA: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority | UT: Union Territory | CGHS: Central Government Health Scheme | CE Act: Clinical Establishments Act

Should the Supreme Court Speak Hindi? Article 348 and the Language of Justice

Why in news: Hearing a PIL seeking Hindi as the SC's official language, a Bench led by CJI Surya Kant said the change would need a constitutional amendment and that reform is under way through phased translation.

Key Details:

- **The rule:** Art 348(1)(a): until Parliament provides otherwise by law, all SC and HC proceedings are in English — Parliament has never enacted such a law.
- **State route:** Under Art 348(2), a Governor, with the President's prior consent, may allow Hindi or a State language in HC proceedings — but not in judgments, decrees or orders.
- **Judgments:** Sec 7 of the OL Act, 1963 allows HC judgments in Hindi or a State language if an authoritative English translation accompanies them.
- **Limits of courts:** Courts cannot issue a mandamus forcing Parliament to legislate; the SC instead translates judgments into 16 languages with SUVAS.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Hindi in HCs:** Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar permit Hindi in HC proceedings under Art 348(2).
- **Madhu Limaye v. Ved Murti (1970):** the SC held 'the language of this Court is English'; an intervener who insisted on Hindi could not be heard.
- **Law Commission:** its 216th Report (2008) found it not feasible to make Hindi compulsory in the SC and HCs.

Official Language Provisions: Part XVII (Articles 343–351)

- **Article 343:** Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the Union, with the international form of Indian numerals.
- **Article 344:** Provides for an Official Language Commission and a 30-member Parliamentary committee (20 LS, 10 RS).
- **Articles 345–347:** A State legislature may adopt one or more languages for the State's official purposes.
- **Article 348:** Language of the SC and HCs, and of the authoritative texts of Bills, Acts and Ordinances (English).
- **Article 351:** Directs the Union to promote the spread and development of Hindi.
- **OL Act, 1963:** Allows English to continue alongside Hindi for official Union purposes without a time limit.
- **Not to confuse:** The Eighth Schedule lists 22 languages; it does not make them official languages of the Union.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS2 answers on the judiciary, access to justice and separation of powers; contrast 'replacing English' with 'making justice accessible in Indian languages'.

Mains value-add: Article 350 lets every person submit a representation for redress of grievance in any language used in the Union or the State — cite it to argue for multilingual access to justice without displacing a common working language of the court.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the language of the higher judiciary in India:

1. Until Parliament provides otherwise by law, all proceedings in the Supreme Court and every High Court shall be in English.
 2. A Governor, with the prior consent of the President, may authorise Hindi for a High Court's proceedings, including its judgments, decrees and orders.
 3. The High Courts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh permit the use of Hindi in their proceedings.
- 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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Art 348(1)(a). Statement 2 is incorrect — the trap: the proviso to Art 348(2) excludes judgments, decrees and orders; those may be in Hindi only under Sec 7 of the OL Act, 1963, with an English translation. Statement 3 is correct: Rajasthan, UP, MP and Bihar have such authorisations.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** PIL: Public Interest Litigation | SC: Supreme Court | CJI: Chief Justice of India | HC: High Court | OL Act: Official Languages Act | SUVAS: Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software | LS: Lok Sabha | RS: Rajya Sabha | UP: Uttar Pradesh | MP: Madhya Pradesh

Attacks in the Strait of Hormuz: Freedom of Navigation and India's Seafarers

Why in news: Two tankers with Indian crew were struck in the Strait of Hormuz; India condemned the attacks and NSA Ajit Doval spoke to Iran's top security official.

Story so far: The 12 Oct Brief's Quick Facts noted an Indian killed in a Houthi strike on Riyadh, and the 11 Oct Brief flagged attacks on Indian crews in the Black Sea. New today: ships with Indian crew hit in Hormuz, where Iran has enforced a blockade for months.

Key Details:

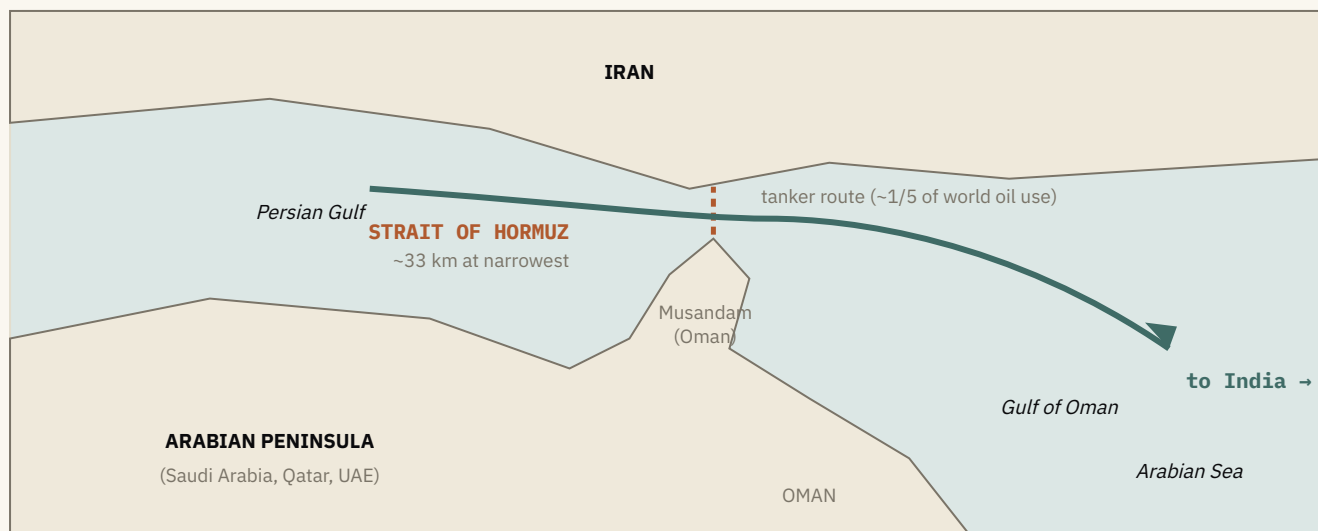
- **The incidents:** Nicaragua-flagged MT Petro Dolphin (hit by a drone) and Marshall Islands-flagged MT Valthera (hit by a projectile) carried 23 sailors; two Indians are missing.
- **India's position:** MEA: attacks on commercial vessels, seafarers and civilian infrastructure must cease; freedom of navigation must be upheld under international law.
- **Diplomacy:** NSA Doval spoke to SNSC Secretary Mohsin Rezaei, keeping channels open with Iran while India engages the Gulf States.
- **Wider front:** Houthi strikes on Riyadh and Dammam airports and Saudi vows of retaliation have pushed oil above \$105 a barrel.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Chokepoint:** Hormuz links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman; ~33 km wide at its narrowest; about a fifth of world oil consumption passes through it (U.S. EIA).

- **India's exposure:** India imports over 85% of its crude; ADNOC alone supplied almost one in ten barrels of India's crude imports in 2025.
- **Naval cover:** Since 2019 the Navy's Operation Sankalp has escorted Indian-flagged ships in the Gulf region.

The Strait of Hormuz chokepoint



Schematic diagram, not to scale

Navigating Straits under UNCLOS

- **Territorial sea:** Up to 12 nm; foreign ships enjoy innocent passage, which the coastal State may temporarily suspend for security.
- **Transit passage:** Part III gives all ships the right of continuous and expeditious transit through straits used for international navigation.
- **No suspension:** Under Article 44, States bordering such straits shall not suspend transit passage.
- **EEZ:** Up to 200 nm; coastal State has rights over resources, others keep freedom of navigation.
- **Status:** India ratified UNCLOS in 1995; Iran has signed but not ratified it; the U.S. is not a party.
- **Not to confuse:** Innocent passage (territorial sea, suspendable) vs transit passage (international straits, not suspendable).

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS2 (India and West Asia, international law) and GS3 (energy security, maritime security) answers; use Hormuz as the case for diversifying crude sources and strategic reserves.

Mains value-add: The ICJ's first judgment, Corfu Channel (1949), held that in peacetime States may send ships through international straits without the coastal State's prior authorisation — cite it as the customary-law root of freedom of navigation.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
 2. It lies between Iran and the Musandam peninsula of Oman.
 3. Under UNCLOS, ships passing through it enjoy only innocent passage, which the bordering States may suspend.
- 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: Hormuz joins the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, between Iran and Oman's Musandam exclave. Statement 3 is incorrect — the trap: a strait used for international navigation carries the right of transit passage (UNCLOS Part III), which Article 44 says cannot be suspended; innocent passage applies in the territorial sea.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2026: "Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean? 1. Bahrain 2. Syria 3. Qatar 4. Egypt" — Answer: (b) 1 and 3.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NSA: National Security Adviser | MT: Motor Tanker | MEA: Ministry of External Affairs | SNSC: Supreme National Security Council (Iran) | EIA: Energy Information Administration | ADNOC: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company | UNCLOS: UN Convention on the Law of the Sea | nm: nautical miles | EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone | ICJ: International Court of Justice

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 2

Jantar Mantar denotified. Delhi Police removed Jantar Mantar as a designated protest venue, naming Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground instead (partly modifying Standing Order L&O/48/22 of 2022). The Supreme Court had backed finding a spacious alternative on 9 Oct; in *Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan* (2018) it set the 'golden rule' of balancing the right to protest with residents' rights.

How to use: GS2 answers on Article 19(1)(b) and reasonable restrictions — an example of 'regulation by relocation' and the debate on protest visibility.

Karnataka High Court strikes down quota hike. Sections 3 and 4 of the Karnataka SC/ST Reservation Act, 2022 (SC 15 → 17%, ST 3 → 7%) were held unconstitutional because total reservation rose from 50% to 56%, breaching the *Indra Sawhney* (1992) ceiling.

How to use: Add to the run of 2026 rulings upholding the 50% ceiling in answers on reservation and federal policy space.

Keralam Assembly resolution. With support from both the ruling United Democratic Front and the Opposition Left Democratic Front, the Assembly sought the Chief Election Commissioner's removal and a selection panel that includes the Chief Justice of India. Under Article 324(5), the CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge.

How to use: GS2 answers on the Election Commission's independence and the CEC Act, 2023 selection panel — shows State legislatures voicing federal concern.

Cauvery in a distress year. Tamil Nadu told the Supreme Court it faces an 11.719 tmc ft shortfall at Biligundlu; Karnataka cited drought and drinking-water needs. The Court asked how a backlog can be cleared in a deficit year; the Cauvery Water Management Authority requires a daily average of 3,000 cusecs at Biligundlu.

How to use: Use as an example of 'distress-sharing' — pro-rata cuts — in answers on inter-State water disputes and Article 262.

Governors reshuffled. R.V. Arlekar becomes full-time Governor of Tamil Nadu after holding additional charge since March; Sudha Yadav goes to Karnataka. The 7th Amendment (1956) allows one person to be Governor of two or more States.

How to use: GS2 example on the office of the Governor (Arts 153–156) and the practice of additional charge.

GS PAPER 3: ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

A Nobel for Stabilisation Economics as India's Inflation Hits a Two-Year High

Why in news: Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the 2026 economics Nobel for the 'microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation'; India's CPI inflation rose to 5.5% in September.

Story so far: The 8 Oct Brief covered the RBI's 25-basis-point repo hike to 5.5%. New today: September CPI inflation at 5.5% — the highest since October 2024 — suggests the hike was timely.

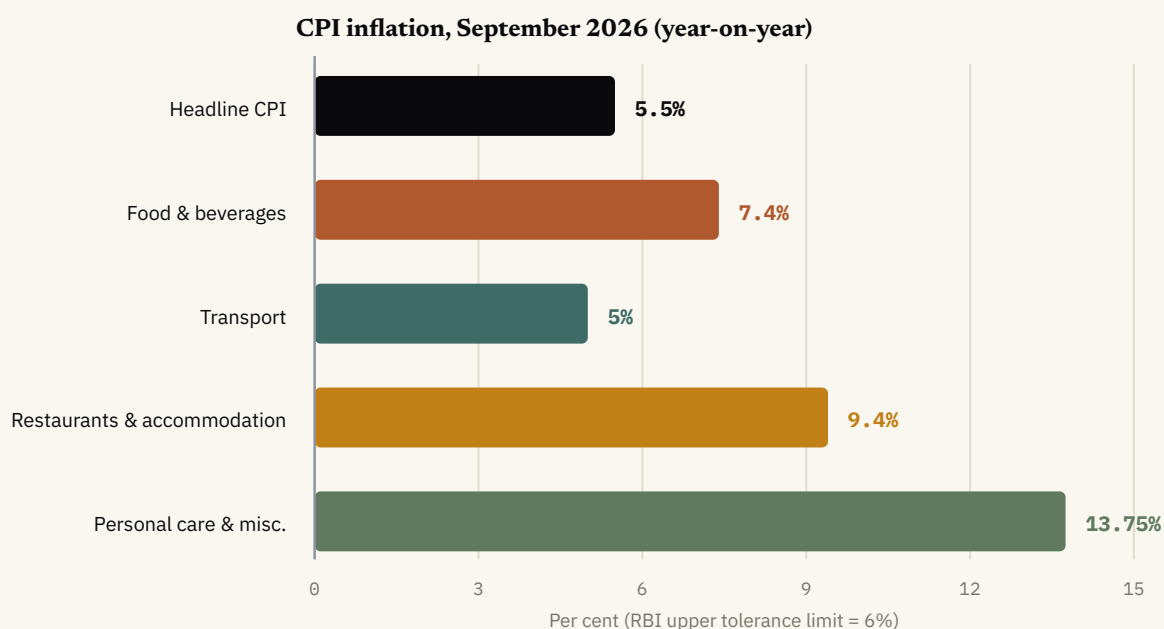
Key Details:

- **Hall's insight:** In a 1978 paper, Hall showed household spending depends almost as much on expected future income as on current disposable income.
- **Woodford's insight:** Firms' price-setting and expectations drive inflation, so how credibly a central bank communicates shapes how well policy works.

- **India's print:** CPI 5.5% (August 4.8%); food 7.4% (from 5.7%); transport 5% after five straight monthly rises.
- **Outlook:** With a weak monsoon and low reservoirs clouding rabi sowing, ICRA expects inflation to cross the 6% upper tolerance limit in October.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **The prize:** formally the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, instituted in 1968 and first awarded in 1969.
- **New CPI series:** base 2024=100; category-wise history is available only from January 2026.



Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT)

- **Origin:** The Urjit Patel Committee (2014) recommended a CPI-based target; a Monetary Policy Framework Agreement followed in 2015.
- **Legal basis:** The RBI Act, 1934 was amended in 2016; under Sec 45ZA the Centre sets the target, in consultation with the RBI, once every five years.
- **Target:** CPI-Combined inflation of 4%, with a tolerance band of 2% to 6%.
- **Who decides rates:** The six-member MPC fixes the policy repo rate to meet the target.
- **Failure:** Average inflation above 6% or below 2% for three consecutive quarters; the RBI must then report reasons and remedial steps to the Centre.
- **Not to confuse:** CPI (compiled by the NSO, MoSPI) is the target index; WPI (compiled by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT) is not.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS3 answers on monetary policy, inflation and growth; use the Nobel to explain why expectations and central-bank credibility matter as much as the rate itself.

Mains value-add: The Taylor rule (John Taylor, 1993) holds that policy rates should rise more than one-for-one with inflation — cite it to explain why the RBI tightens when inflation expectations risk de-anchoring.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to India's flexible inflation targeting framework, consider the following statements:

1. The inflation target is set by the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, once every five years.
2. The RBI is deemed to have failed if average inflation stays outside the tolerance band for any two consecutive quarters.
3. The target is defined in terms of the Consumer Price Index (Combined).

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: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Sec 45ZA of the RBI Act. Statement 2 is incorrect — the trap: failure is defined as three consecutive quarters outside the 2–6% band, not two. Statement 3 is correct: the target is CPI-Combined (headline) inflation, not WPI.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2017: "Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)? 1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates. 2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year. 3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister." — Answer: (a) 1 only.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CPI: Consumer Price Index | RBI: Reserve Bank of India | ICRA: a credit rating agency (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency) | FIT: Flexible Inflation Targeting | MPC: Monetary Policy Committee | NSO: National Statistics Office | MoSPI: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | WPI: Wholesale Price Index | DPIIT: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Drought in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh: How India Declares Drought and Funds Relief

Why in news: After a deficient monsoon, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have declared most of their taluks and mandals drought-hit; an IMCT's findings will decide central aid from the NDRF.

Story so far: The 1 Oct Brief covered the 2026 monsoon ending 12.6% below normal (87% of LPA). New today: drought declarations widen in the south, and Karnataka seeks NDRF help.

Key Details:

- **Process:** States declare drought using rainfall triggers, impact indicators and field ground-truthing; an IMCT then verifies the claim before NDRF assistance.
- **Tighter rules:** Since the 2009 Manual, its later updates and Finance Commission norms, declarations rely on objective data rather than subjective claims.
- **Centre–State friction:** The Centre has delayed NDRF releases before, including to Karnataka in 2024, even as it raises States' own relief obligations.
- **Resilience gap:** States offer micro-irrigation incentives and advisories but no binding limits on water use; crop choice must match rainfall and aquifers.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **2024 precedent:** Karnataka moved the SC under Article 32 over delayed drought aid; the Centre then released ₹3,454 crore from the NDRF.
- **Monsoon 2026:** the weakest since 2015; a strengthening El Niño is suspected, but an attribution study is pending.

Drought 2026 at a glance

	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
Rainfall shortfall	~35% (June–September)	53% (June–August)
Declared drought-hit	217 of 240 taluks	388 of 688 mandals
Crops hit	Red gram, maize, cotton, sugarcane	Horticulture on ~18,000 ha at risk
Relief step	Sought ₹11,000 crore from the NDRF	₹190 crore set aside for horticulture

Drought Declaration: The Manual for Drought Management

- **Nodal ministry:** Drought is handled by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, not the MHA as for most disasters.
- **The Manual:** Issued in 2016 (revised 2020), replacing the 2009 Manual; it standardises when and how States declare drought.
- **Step 1 — triggers:** Mandatory indicators: rainfall deviation and dry spells.
- **Step 2 — impact:** Impact indicators: crop sowing, vegetation indices from satellites (NDVI, NDWI), soil moisture and hydrology (reservoirs, groundwater).
- **Step 3 — ground truth:** Sample field surveys confirm crop loss; drought is then classed as moderate or severe.
- **Funding:** SDRF first; NDRF (Sec 46, DM Act 2005) for severe drought after an IMCT visit.
- **Not to confuse:** The NDRF fund (Sec 46) is different from the NDRF force (Sec 44, National Disaster Response Force).

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS3 (disaster management, agriculture, water) and GS2 (fiscal federalism) answers on drought preparedness and Centre–State relief disputes.

Mains value-add: In *Swaraj Abhiyan v. Union of India* (2016), the SC directed that the drought manual be updated and that States declare drought without delay, criticising under-declaration — cite it on timely, objective drought declaration.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to drought management in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Union ministry for drought.
2. Under the Manual for Drought Management, rainfall deviation and dry spells act as mandatory trigger indicators.
3. The National Disaster Response Fund is constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect — the trap: while the MHA is nodal for most disasters, drought falls under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Statement 2 is correct: rainfall deviation and dry spells are the Manual's mandatory indicators. Statement 3 is correct: the NDRF is constituted under Sec 46 of the DM Act, 2005.

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2014, GS Paper III: "Drought has been recognised as a disaster in view of its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effects on vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), discuss the mechanisms for preparedness to deal with likely El Niño and La Niña fallouts in India."

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** IMCT: Inter-Ministerial Central Team | NDRF: National Disaster Response Fund | LPA: Long Period Average | SC: Supreme Court | MHA: Ministry of Home Affairs | NDVI: Normalised Difference Vegetation Index | NDWI: Normalised Difference Water Index | SDRF: State Disaster Response Fund | DM Act: Disaster Management Act

Living Planet Index 2026: Reading the 73% Wildlife Decline Correctly

Why in news: WWF's Living Planet Report 2026 shows an average 73% fall in monitored vertebrate populations since 1970 — a figure that is often misreported as species loss.

Story so far: The 8 Oct Brief covered India's species-recovery gains (lions 674 → 891). New today: the global index, which also cites India's recoveries of tigers and lions.

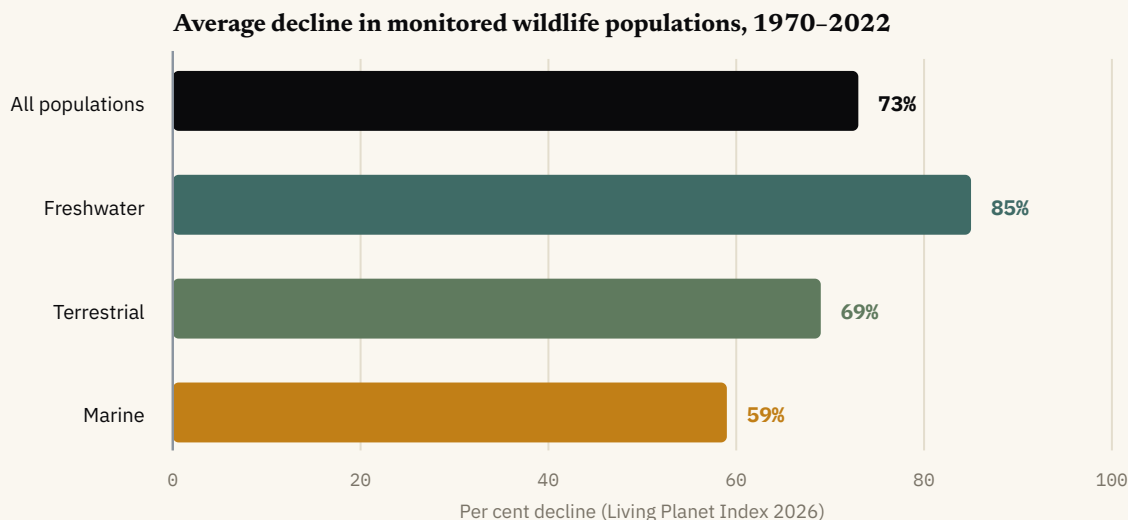
Key Details:

- **What 73% means:** The average change across 35,803 monitored populations — not 73% of species extinct, nor 73% of populations declining.
- **The split:** 50% of populations declined, 43% increased and 7% were stable; the index is a weighted geometric mean of rates of change.
- **Why 73% again:** ~1,000 more populations and ~300 more species redrew the whole trend line; since 2024 only native species are counted.

- **Regions:** Latin America and the Caribbean –95% (deforestation, farm expansion), Africa –80%, Asia –49%, Europe –23%.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Coverage:** mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish; invertebrates and plants are not yet included.
- **India's gains cited:** tigers 3,682 (2022 estimate), Asiatic lions 891 (2025), snow leopards 718 in the first national assessment.



The Living Planet Index (LPI)

- **Publisher:** WWF with the ZSL; released in WWF's Living Planet Report, usually every two years since 1998.
- **What it measures:** Average trend in population abundance of vertebrate species, with 1970 as the baseline.
- **Method:** Geometric mean of population trends, weighted by region and species group.
- **Policy use:** Used to track progress on biodiversity goals under the CBD.
- **Not to confuse:** The LPI tracks abundance; the IUCN Red List Index tracks extinction risk; the Ecological Footprint measures human demand on nature.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS3 (biodiversity, conservation) answers; use the 'average decline vs extinction' distinction to show data literacy, and India's recoveries as positive evidence.

Mains value-add: Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal GBF (2022) — conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030 ('30x30') — cite it when linking falling population trends to the global policy response.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Living Planet Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the WWF together with the Zoological Society of London.
2. A 73% decline in the index means that 73% of the species monitored have gone extinct since 1970.
3. In the 2026 edition, freshwater populations show the steepest average decline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: WWF and ZSL produce the LPI. Statement 2 is incorrect — the common misreading: 73% is the average change in population size, not the share of species lost; about half the populations actually declined. Statement 3 is correct: freshwater –85% vs terrestrial –69% and marine –59%.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature | ZSL: Zoological Society of London | LPI: Living Planet Index | CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity | IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature | GBF: Global Biodiversity Framework

IPCC Deadlock: Why the Timing of the Next Climate Assessment Matters

Why in news: Meeting in Addis Ababa, the IPCC's 195 member states remain divided over whether its seventh-cycle reports will be ready before the 2028 UN climate talks.

Key Details:

- **The proposal:** Co-chairs proposed approving all three Working Group reports by September 2028, based on workload; opponents want WG II and WG III moved to 2029.
- **Why 2028 matters:** That year's talks will assess progress on Paris Agreement goals, guiding climate finance and national emission targets.
- **Equity argument:** India, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Russia and China want more time so scientists from less-resourced countries can contribute.
- **Pressure:** The US, the IPCC's biggest funder, quit in January; a deadlock over timelines is unprecedented in the IPCC's history.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Three reports:** WG I — physical science; WG II — impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; WG III — mitigation.
- **Global stocktake:** Article 14 of the Paris Agreement requires one every five years; the first concluded at COP28 (2023), the next is due in 2028.

The IPCC: Structure and Assessment Cycles

- **Origin:** Set up in 1988 by the WMO and UNEP, and endorsed by the UNGA; secretariat in Geneva.
- **Role:** Assesses published science — it does not carry out its own research or monitoring.
- **Members:** 195 member governments; Summaries for Policymakers are approved line by line.
- **Track record:** The First Assessment Report (1990) led to the UNFCCC (1992); AR6 was completed in 2023.
- **Recognition:** Shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore.
- **Not to confuse:** IPCC assesses science; the UNFCCC negotiates treaties at COPs; IPBES (2012) assesses biodiversity.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS3 (climate change, international environmental institutions) and GS2 (global governance) answers on science-policy links and equity in climate negotiations.

Mains value-add: AR6 (2021) stated that human influence has 'unequivocally' warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land — cite it as the IPCC's strongest attribution finding.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.
2. It conducts its own original research and climate monitoring to prepare its reports.
3. Its assessments inform the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: WMO and UNEP set up the IPCC in 1988. Statement 2 is incorrect — the trap: the IPCC only assesses published literature; it runs no research or monitoring of its own. Statement 3 is correct: IPCC assessments are a key input to the five-yearly global stocktake.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | UN: United Nations | WG: Working Group | US: United States | COP: Conference of the Parties | WMO: World Meteorological Organization | UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme | UNGA: UN General Assembly | UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change | AR6: Sixth Assessment Report | IPBES: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana at One: Converging 36 Schemes in 100 Districts

Why in news: Marking the scheme's first year, the Agriculture Ministry ranked Gaya, Nagaur and Umaria as the top districts and announced a Khet Bachao Abhiyan for soil health.

Key Details:

- **Design:** Approved in July 2025 for six years from 2025-26; converges 36 schemes of 11 Departments with State schemes and private partnerships in 100 districts.
- **Selection:** Districts with low productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit disbursal; shares by net cropped area and holdings, at least one per State.
- **Governance:** DM-led District Dhan-Dhaanya Samitis draft district agriculture plans; a State samiti under the Chief Secretary; NITI Aayog guides the plans.
- **Tracking:** Monthly rankings on a dashboard of 121 indicators (74 output, 47 outcome), up from the 117 KPIs listed at approval in 2025.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Khet Bachao Abhiyan:** 22 October–30 November 2026 in all States, promoting balanced fertiliser use and soil health.
- **CSR link:** the DPE has asked CPSEs to adopt PMDDKY districts for CSR spending in FY27 and FY28.

PMDDKY year one: objectives and example top districts

Objective	Districts felicitated
Overall ranking	Gaya (Bihar), Nagaur (Rajasthan), Umaria (MP)
Productivity	Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Chitrakoot, Geyzing
Crop diversification	Mahoba, Dindori, Chamoli
Irrigation	Kishtwar, Dahod, Chhota Udaipur
Credit access	Narayanpet, Jalaun, Sri Sathya Sai

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

- **Launch:** January 2018, covering 112 of India's least-developed districts; anchored by NITI Aayog.
- **Approach:** The '3 Cs' — Convergence of schemes, Collaboration among governments, and Competition among districts.
- **Indicators:** 49 KPIs across five themes: health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skills, basic infrastructure.
- **Monitoring:** The 'Champions of Change' dashboard publishes monthly 'delta' rankings of improvement.
- **Extension:** The Aspirational Blocks Programme (January 2023) applies the model to 500 blocks.
- **Not to confuse:** ADP is multi-sector (112 districts); PMDDKY is agriculture-only (100 districts) but borrows the same model.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS3 (agricultural productivity, credit, irrigation) and GS2 (government schemes, cooperative federalism) answers; cite PMDDKY as the ADP model applied to farming.

Mains value-add: The Ashok Dalwai Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (2018) urged treating agriculture as an enterprise and converging schemes on productivity, cost reduction and markets — cite it as the intellectual basis for district-level convergence.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is modelled on the Aspirational Districts Programme and covers 100 districts.
2. Districts are selected on low productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit disbursement.
3. It is a standalone scheme with its own components that replaces existing Central schemes in the selected districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: it draws on NITI Aayog's ADP and covers 100 districts. Statement 2 is correct: these are the three selection criteria. Statement 3 is incorrect — the trap: PMDDKY converges 36 existing schemes of 11 Departments; it does not replace them.

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2018, GS Paper II: "Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success."

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** DM: District Magistrate | NITI: National Institution for Transforming India | KPI: Key Performance Indicator | MP: Madhya Pradesh | DPE: Department of Public Enterprises | CPSE: Central Public Sector Enterprise | CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility | FY: Financial Year | PMDDKY: PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana | ADP: Aspirational Districts Programme

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 3

ADNOC and India's energy security. Abu Dhabi National Oil Company supplied over 5 lakh barrels of crude a day to India in 2025 — almost one in ten barrels of India's crude imports — and is open to long-term LPG deals beyond the contract in place since 2023.

How to use: GS3 answers on energy security and diversification — pair with the Hormuz chokepoint risk.

Coal stocks stabilise. Thermal plants held 18.205 million tonnes of coal on 10 October; daily depletion fell from 0.24 million tonnes in September to 0.06 million tonnes in early October as rake loading rose to 447–482 rakes a day.

How to use: Use as data on supply-side management in answers on power-sector reliability.

Retail investors steady. Systematic investment plan (SIP) inflows hit a record ₹32,490 crore in September; equity mutual funds drew ₹38,306 crore — the 67th straight month of net inflows — even as foreign institutional investors sold.

How to use: GS3 example of domestic savings financialisation cushioning foreign outflows.

Delhi's dust-control gap. None of the 140 mechanical road sweepers due by July has arrived; only 70 large machines are ordered and the small-machine fleet was cut to 30.

How to use: Example of an implementation gap in urban air-pollution plans (answers on the Graded Response Action Plan and the Commission for Air Quality Management).

GS PAPER 4: ETHICS**Lohia's Idea of Equality and the Missing Margins at the Top of the Bureaucracy**

Why in news: As the 60th year since Ram Manohar Lohia's death began on 12 October, a serving officer argues that reservation brings marginalised groups into the civil services but inter-se seniority keeps them from apex posts.

Key Details:

- **Lohia's test:** Lohia wrote that equality 'has not been stated comprehensively', and held that talk of equality without concrete results is either hypocrisy or lethargy of the mind.
- **Entry–exit barrier:** Inter-se seniority, fixed by UPSC rank and academy marks, keeps reserved-category officers lower in the civil list until retirement.

- **Age paradox:** Age relaxation lets disadvantaged candidates enter later, but a uniform retirement age shortens their careers and chances of empanelment.
- **GS4 concept:** A textbook illustration of formal equality (same rules for all) versus substantive equity — fairness to the weaker sections as a civil-service value.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Lohia's warning:** when more than four-fifths of a nation's leadership comes from one-fifth of its population, atrophy follows.
- **Apex posts:** Cabinet Secretary, IB Director, DGs of CAPFs, DGPs and Chief Secretaries show minuscule marginalised presence despite entry-level representation.
- **Proposed fixes:** equal service years regardless of entry age, batchmates at par after training, and a redesigned civil list.

Ram Manohar Lohia: Key Ideas

- **Life:** 1910–1967; a founder of the CSP (1934), an underground leader of the Quit India Movement, and active in the 1946 Goa civil-liberties struggle.
- **Sapta Kranti:** 'Seven revolutions' against inequality of gender, colour, caste, nations and wealth, for privacy, and for non-violent satyagraha over weapons.
- **Preferential opportunity:** 'Pichhda pave sau mein saath' — backward groups, including women, should get 60 of every 100 opportunities.
- **Chaukhamba Raj:** A 'four-pillar' state — village, district, province and Centre — for deep decentralisation of power.
- **Not to confuse:** Lohia's Sapta Kranti differs from JP's 'Sampoorna Kranti' (Total Revolution) of 1974.

How to use in UPSC Mains: GS4 (moral thinkers, foundational values — fairness, impartiality, compassion for weaker sections) and the Essay; also GS2 answers on representation in the civil services.

Mains value-add: B.R. Ambedkar, 25 November 1949: 'political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy' — cite it to argue that equality at entry must become equality of opportunity at the top.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Ram Manohar Lohia held that talk of equality in abstraction, without concrete results, is either hypocrisy or lethargy of the mind. In this light, examine the distinction between formal equality and substantive equity in public administration, with reference to representation in senior civil services. (150 words)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** UPSC: Union Public Service Commission | IB: Intelligence Bureau | DG: Director General | CAPF: Central Armed Police Forces | DGP: Director General of Police | CSP: Congress Socialist Party | JP: Jayaprakash Narayan