

THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | 4 OCTOBER 2026

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PRELIMS POINTERS — TODAY IN ONE LINE EACH

1. **Kumkum Mohod** — the 17-year-old archer won India's first-ever individual recurve gold at the Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026, Japan), beating Korea's Oh Yejin in a shoot-off.
2. **Pranavi Urs** — became the first Indian woman golfer to win an Asian Games gold; India also won the women's team silver.
3. **Mathikettan Shola National Park** (Idukki, Keralam) — a wild tusker used an elephant passage reopened after illegal fences were removed in Chinnakkanal.
4. **Ladakh place names** — the Survey of India, with the UT administration, standardised the names of 28 places and features, including 9 peaks, 2 passes and 2 glaciers.
5. **Zoopharmacognosy** — self-medication by animals; a *Scientific Reports* study found elephants in Kenya's Mount Elgon region using 35 plant species and four soil types.

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, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Child Marriage in Marathwada: Why the Practice Persists

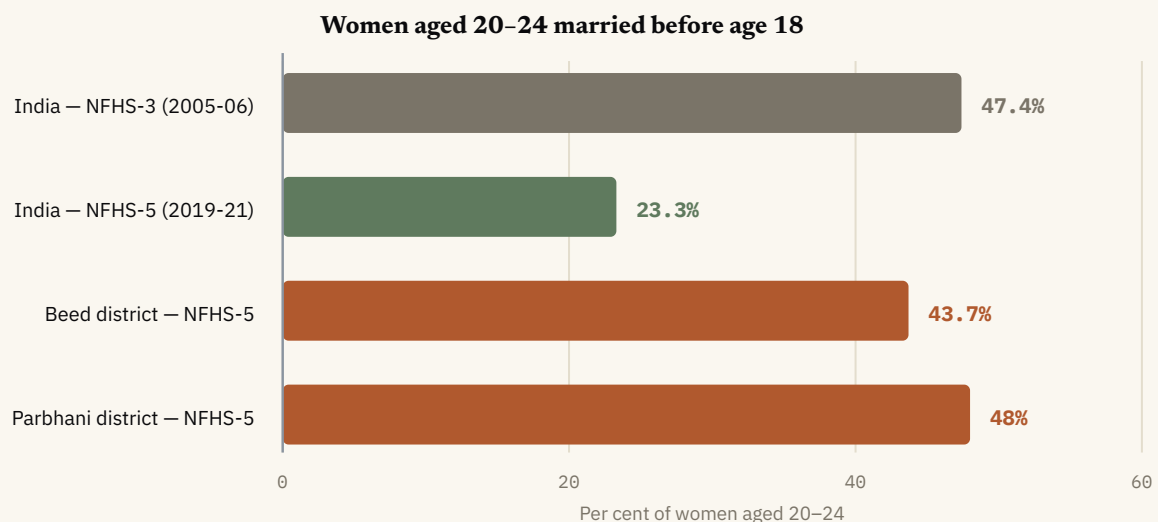
Why in news: A ground report from Beed in Maharashtra's Marathwada region shows families still marrying off girls in their early teens, citing safety fears, 'honour', poverty and seasonal migration.

Key Details:

- **Migration trap:** Parents leave for about six months of sugarcane cutting from Oct–Nov; unable to take daughters along or leave them 'safely', many marry them off before 16.
- **Honour and predators:** Family *ijjat* is tied to a girl's virginity; activists say politically connected predators target minors, pushing parents to marry them off early.
- **Institutional apathy:** A Kaij family waited 27 hours at a police station to file a molestation complaint; about 800 marriages were stopped in recent years, but formal cases remain rare.
- **Inter-generational cycle:** Married minors often face violence or abandonment and return home, where the next generation of girls grows up under the same pressures.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **NFHS-5:** 43.7% of women aged 20–24 in Beed were married before 18 and Parbhani recorded 48%, against 23.3% nationally (47.4% in NFHS-3).
- **Enforcement capacity:** Maharashtra has India's largest pool of CMPOs (21,196); BVMB targets a 10% fall in prevalence by 2026 and a child-marriage-free India by 2030.



The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- **Origin:** Replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Sarda Act), which only restrained such marriages; the new Act came into force in Nov 2007.
- **Who is a 'child':** A male below 21 years or a female below 18 years.
- **Status of the marriage:** Voidable at the option of the party who was a child, by petition up to two years after attaining majority.
- **When void outright:** If the child was enticed, taken by force or deceit, or sold or trafficked for the marriage.
- **Punishment:** An adult man marrying a child, and anyone who solemnises or promotes it: up to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment and/or fine up to ₹1 lakh; offences are cognizable and non-bailable.
- **Enforcement:** State Governments appoint CMPOs to prevent marriages and gather evidence; courts can issue injunctions to stop a planned child marriage.
- **SC push:** In *Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action* (Oct 2024), the SC issued implementation guidelines and urged Parliament to consider outlawing child betrothals.
- **Not to confuse:** The PCM (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to raise women's marriage age to 21, lapsed with the 17th LS in 2024 — the legal age for women is still 18.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS1 answers on women's issues and social evils, and GS2 answers on protecting vulnerable sections — child marriage as an outcome of migration, insecurity and patriarchy, not 'tradition' alone; argue for convergence of policing, schooling and livelihood support.

Mains value-add: In *Independent Thought v. Union of India* (2017), the SC held that sexual intercourse with a wife aged 15–18 is rape — cite it to show child marriage violates bodily integrity under Article 21, not merely a social norm.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. Every child marriage solemnised after the Act came into force is void ab initio.
2. A 'child' under the Act means a male below 21 years or a female below 18 years.
3. Child Marriage Prohibition Officers are appointed by the State Government.

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: a child marriage is generally voidable at the option of the party who was a child (petition within two years of attaining majority); it is void only in specific cases such as force, enticement or trafficking. Statement 2 is correct: the Act fixes 21 years for males and 18 for females. Statement 3 is correct: State Governments appoint CMPOs under the Act.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NFHS: National Family Health Survey | CMPO: Child Marriage Prohibition Officer | BVMB: Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign | SC: Supreme Court | PCM: Prohibition of Child Marriage | LS: Lok Sabha

Five Centres of Excellence for India's Newest Classical Languages

Why in news: The MoE has approved CoEs for classical Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit — two years after the five received classical status on 3 Oct 2024.

Key Details:

- **Host institutions:** Tezpur University (Assamese), Visva-Bharati (Bengali), Deccan College, Pune (Marathi), Central University of Odisha (Pali) and Central University of Gujarat (Prakrit).
- **Mandate:** Advanced research, documentation and digitisation of linguistic and literary heritage, wider dissemination, and stronger regional higher-education ecosystems.
- **Why Pali and Prakrit matter:** Pali carries the Buddhist canon (Tipitaka); Prakrit carries the Jain Agamas and Ashoka's edicts — with no large living speech community, both need institutional custodians.

- **Existing model:** CICT, Chennai serves Tamil; CoEs already exist for Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia; three Central Sanskrit Universities were created in 2020.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Count:** India now has 11 classical languages; the 2024 decision expanded the list from 6 to 11 in one stroke.
- **Division of roles:** The Ministry of Culture administers classical status; the MoE funds academic support such as CoEs and university chairs.

Classical languages of India and year of recognition

Language	Year	Language	Year
Tamil	2004	Odia	2014
Sanskrit	2005	Marathi	2024
Telugu	2008	Pali	2024
Kannada	2008	Prakrit	2024
Malayalam	2013	Assamese / Bengali	2024

Classical Languages of India

- **Origin:** Tamil became the first classical language in 2004; the category is administered by the Ministry of Culture.
- **Expert body:** A Linguistic Experts Committee, set up in Nov 2004 under the Sahitya Akademi, examines claims and recommends status.
- **Revised criteria (2024):** High antiquity of early texts (1,500–2,000 years) and a body of ancient literature regarded as heritage.
- **Evidence required:** Knowledge texts, especially prose in addition to poetry, plus epigraphic and inscriptional evidence.
- **Continuity rule:** The classical form may be distinct from, or continuous with, the language's later forms — which allowed Pali and Prakrit to qualify.
- **Benefits:** International awards for eminent scholars, CoEs for classical-language studies, and professorial chairs in central universities.
- **Not to confuse:** Classical status is separate from the Eighth Schedule (22 languages); Pali and Prakrit are classical but not scheduled.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS1 culture answers on preserving linguistic heritage and GS2 answers on language and federalism; the Pali and Prakrit centres also illustrate heritage as soft power (Buddhist and Jain links across Asia).

Mains value-add: NEP 2020 (Para 22.16) proposed a National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit within a university campus — cite it to show the new CoEs operationalise a long-stated national policy goal.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the classical languages of India, consider the following statements:

1. All eleven languages accorded classical status are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The Linguistic Experts Committee that examines claims for classical status functions under the Sahitya Akademi.
3. Odia was accorded classical status before Malayalam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: Pali and Prakrit are classical languages but are not among the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule. Statement 2 is correct: the committee was constituted in 2004 under the Sahitya Akademi, which is the nodal body. Statement 3 is incorrect: Malayalam got the status in 2013 and Odia in 2014.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2014: "Consider the following languages: 1. Gujarati 2. Kannada 3. Telugu. Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language/Languages' by the Government?" — Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** MoE: Ministry of Education | CoE: Centre of Excellence | CICT: Central Institute of Classical Tamil | NEP: National Education Policy

GS PAPER 2: POLITY, GOVERNANCE, HEALTH AND IR

J&K Statehood Resolution: What a UT Assembly Can and Cannot Do

Why in news: On 28 Sept 2026 the J&K Assembly passed CM Omar Abdullah's resolution seeking the 'immediate and urgent restoration of full Statehood', backed by 61 of 90 members; the BJP stayed away.

Key Details:

- **Flashpoint:** The text invokes the Assembly's resolutions of 26 June 2000 (autonomy) and 6 Nov 2024 (special status); the BJP called these references 'unnecessary' and walked out.
- **Bureaucracy row:** The Chief Secretary and Law Secretary advised the Speaker against admitting it as 'sub judice'; the PDP has moved a breach-of-privilege motion against them.
- **CM's red line:** Omar Abdullah blocked a bid by eight NC MLAs to add Article 370, Article 35A and the pre-5 Aug 2019 position, keeping the resolution statehood-only.
- **Legal reality:** A UT Assembly's resolution is only advisory: statehood can be restored solely by a Parliamentary law under Articles 3 and 4.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **2000 autonomy plan:** The State Autonomy Committee sought the pre-1953 position — Union powers limited to defence, foreign affairs and communications; the Vajpayee Cabinet rejected it as 'setting the clock back'.
- **SC (11 Dec 2023):** A five-judge Bench upheld the abrogation of Article 370 and recorded that statehood would be restored 'at the earliest and as soon as possible'.

J&K before and after 2019

Feature	Before 5 Aug 2019 (State)	Since 31 Oct 2019 (UT)
Constitutional basis	Article 370; separate J&K Constitution	JKRA 2019; Article 239A applied
Head of administration	Governor	LG
Police and public order	State subjects	Outside the Assembly's law-making reach
Assembly term	6 years	5 years
Route to statehood	Not applicable	Only a Parliamentary law (Articles 3 and 4)

The J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019

- **Enactment:** Passed in Aug 2019 and in force from 31 Oct 2019; split the State into two UTs — J&K (with a legislature) and Ladakh (without one).
- **Constitutional model:** Section 13 applies Article 239A — the Puducherry model — to the J&K UT; Delhi alone is governed by the stronger Article 239AA.
- **Law-making reach:** The Assembly can legislate on State List subjects except public order and police, and on Concurrent List subjects applicable to UTs.
- **Assembly:** Five-year term; 90 elected seats after the 2022 delimitation, plus up to five members nominated by the LG.
- **Executive:** The LG heads the administration; the Council of Ministers aids and advises the LG on matters within the Assembly's competence.
- **Not to confuse:** A 'UT with legislature' is not a half-State: its powers flow from a Parliamentary statute, not Part VI of the Constitution, and Parliament can override its laws.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS2 answers on federalism, UT governance and Centre–State trust; contrast the Article 239A and 239AA models, and stress the civil service's duty of neutrality towards the legislature.

Mains value-add: In *GNCTD v. Union of India* (2023), the Constitution Bench described a 'triple chain of accountability' — civil servants to Ministers, Ministers to the legislature, the legislature to voters — cite it to argue that officials advising the Speaker against a House resolution strains that chain.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. The Supreme Court has recorded that statehood for Jammu and Kashmir will be restored 'at the earliest', while the Union Territory's Assembly has demanded its immediate restoration. Examine the constitutional limits on the powers of a Union Territory legislature and discuss the case for a time-bound roadmap to statehood. (250 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2016, GS Paper II: "Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics?"

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** J&K: Jammu and Kashmir | UT: Union Territory | CM: Chief Minister | BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party | PDP: Peoples Democratic Party | NC: National Conference | MLA: Member of the Legislative Assembly | SC: Supreme Court | JKRA: Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act | LG: Lieutenant Governor | GNCTD: Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

Assam NRC: Rejection Slips Still Not Issued, Centre Tells SC

Why in news: The RGI has told the SC that rejection slips for the 19.07 lakh people left out of Assam's final NRC (Aug 2019) have not been issued, as the list is yet to be formally notified.

Key Details:

- **Why slips matter:** A rejection slip with reasons is what lets an excluded person appeal before an FT; without it, lakhs remain in legal limbo — neither cleared nor heard.
- **The hold-up:** The State NRC Coordinator is still framing a 'security regime' for NRC data, which has not reached the RGI, who alone can notify the final list.
- **Petitioners:** Assam State Jamiat Ulama, AAMSU and others seek slips for those excluded and NRC cards for those included; the SC will next hear the matter on 6 Nov.
- **Due-process stakes:** Two Assam women, whose FT verdicts the Gauhati HC had set aside in April for fresh review, were pushed into Bangladesh in June 2026 — a reminder of what procedural gaps cost.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Final NRC (31 Aug 2019):** 3.30 crore applicants; 3.11 crore included; 19.07 lakh excluded.

- **A circular delay:** In Oct 2020 the State Coordinator told the RGI that slips could be issued only after the final NRC is notified — a loop still unresolved six years on.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC)

- **Origin:** First prepared in 1951 from that year's Census data; Assam is the only State where it has been updated.
- **Legal basis:** Section 14A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (inserted in 2004) and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- **Assam cut-off:** Midnight of 24 March 1971, as agreed in the Assam Accord (1985); the SC-monitored update ran from 2013 to 2019.
- **Section 6A:** Confers citizenship on migrants who entered Assam before 25 March 1971 (with conditions for 1966–71 entrants); the SC upheld it 4:1 in Oct 2024.
- **Who decides nationality:** Only an FT — a quasi-judicial body first set up under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 — can declare a person a foreigner; NRC exclusion alone does not.
- **New framework:** Since 1 Sept 2025 the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 has replaced the Foreigners Act, 1946 and three other laws.
- **Not to confuse:** The NPR records all usual residents, citizens or not; the NRC lists citizens only.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS2 answers on citizenship, federalism and the rule of law, and GS3 answers on border management — balance the security case for identifying illegal migrants with due process for those excluded.

Mains value-add: In *Sarbananda Sonowal v. Union of India* (2005), the SC struck down the IMDT Act, 1983, describing large-scale illegal migration into Assam as 'external aggression' under Article 355 — cite it for the security dimension, balanced by fair-hearing safeguards.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, consider the following statements:

1. The NRC is prepared under rules framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. In 2024, the Supreme Court struck down Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
3. A person excluded from the final NRC stands automatically declared a foreigner.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the NRC rests on Section 14A of the Citizenship Act and the Citizenship Rules, 2003. Statement 2 is incorrect: in October 2024 a five-judge Bench upheld Section 6A by a 4:1 majority. Statement 3 is incorrect: exclusion only opens the right to appeal; a person can be declared a foreigner only by a Foreigners Tribunal.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** RGI: Registrar General of India | SC: Supreme Court | NRC: National Register of Citizens | FT: Foreigners Tribunal | AAMSU: All Assam Minority Students' Union | HC: High Court | NPR: National Population Register | IMDT: Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals)

Sheikh Hasina's Extradition: What the India–Bangladesh Treaty Allows

Why in news: India's High Commissioner in Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, said Sheikh Hasina's extradition could proceed only through a 'well-structured' legal process, adding that the MEA has replied to Dhaka.

Key Details:

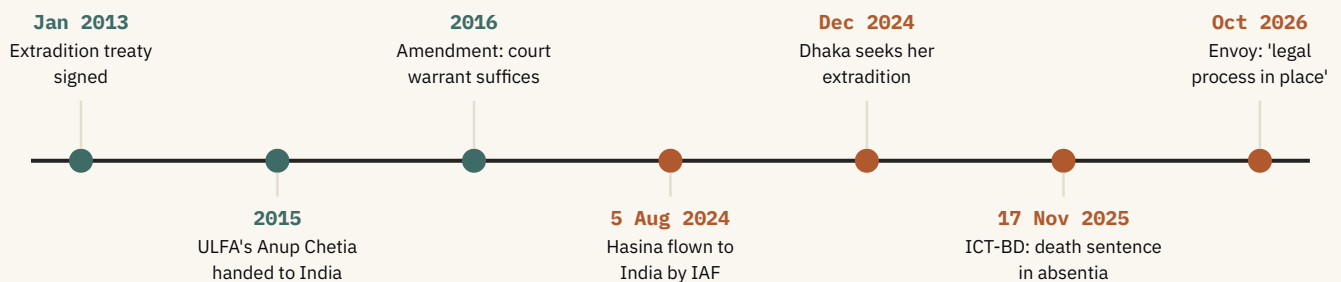
- **Dhaka's demand:** The Tarique Rahman-led government wants Hasina back over the July–Aug 2024 crackdown, in which an OHCHR panel estimated about 1,400 deaths.
- **India's stance:** Giving refuge after she was flown in by an IAF aircraft on 5 Aug 2024 was unavoidable — 'What was our choice?' — but a legal process is now 'in place'.
- **Treaty safeguards:** Article 6 permits refusal for political offences but excludes murder, kidnapping and terror offences; Article 8 permits refusal if a charge is not made in good faith.

- **Diplomatic balance:** India must weigh treaty obligations and the rule of law against non-interference and ties with Bangladesh's new BNP-led government.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **ICT-BD verdict:** On 17 Nov 2025 Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Hasina to death in absentia for crimes against humanity.
- **Treaty in action:** The 2013 treaty enabled the 2015 handover of ULFA leader Anup Chetia to India.

India–Bangladesh extradition: key milestones



Treaty phase (teal) and Hasina phase (terracotta).

Extradition Law in India

- **Governing law:** The Extradition Act, 1962 covers requests to and from both treaty and non-treaty States.
- **Central authority:** The MEA's CPV Division processes requests; a magistrate holds an inquiry before the Centre decides on surrender.
- **Political-offence bar:** Section 31 bars surrender for offences of a political character; modern treaties carve violent crimes out of this protection.
- **Double criminality:** The act must be an offence under the laws of both countries.
- **Rule of speciality:** A surrendered person can be tried only for the offence for which extradition was granted.
- **India–Bangladesh treaty:** Signed in Jan 2013; amended in 2016 so that a court's arrest warrant can suffice, without the requesting State producing evidence.
- **Not to confuse:** Deportation is a unilateral removal of a foreigner; extradition is surrender at another State's request for trial or punishment.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS2 answers on India–Bangladesh relations and the 'neighbourhood first' policy – extradition as a test of balancing legal obligation, humanitarian refuge and strategic ties after a regime change.

Mains value-add: Article 51(c) directs the State to 'foster respect for international law and treaty obligations' – cite it to argue India must be seen honouring the 2013 treaty while applying its built-in safeguards.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the India–Bangladesh Extradition Treaty, consider the following statements:

1. The treaty permits refusal of extradition for an offence of a political character.
2. Under the treaty, murder can be treated as an offence of a political character to block extradition.
3. In India, extradition proceedings are governed by the Extradition Act, 1962.

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 3 only

Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Article 6 allows refusal for political offences. Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 6(2) expressly excludes murder, culpable homicide, kidnapping and specified terrorism, firearms and explosives offences from the political-offence category. Statement 3 is correct: the Extradition Act, 1962 governs all extradition proceedings in India.

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2013, GS Paper II: "The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India?" (10 marks)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** MEA: Ministry of External Affairs | OHCHR: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights | IAF: Indian Air Force | BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party | ICT-BD: International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh | ULFA: United Liberation Front of Asom | CPV: Consular, Passport and Visa

Rising Child Leprosy Cases Challenge India's 2027 Goal

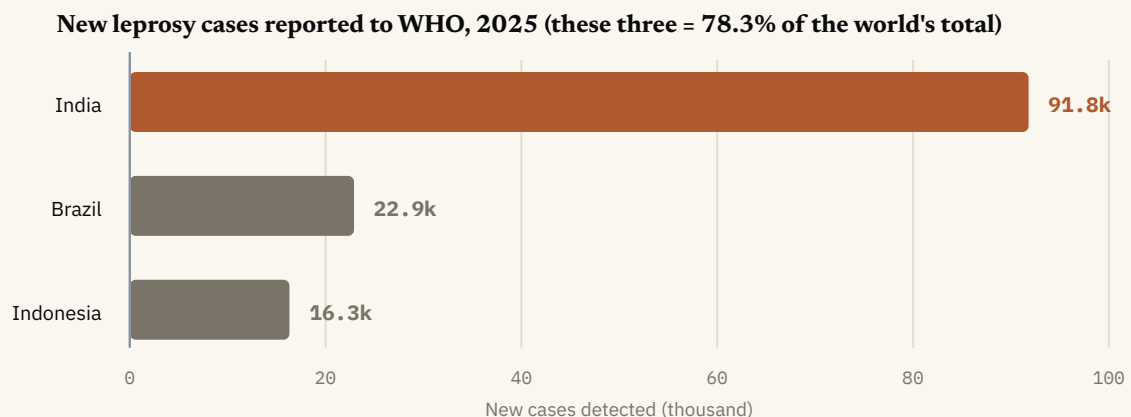
Why in news: The NLEP's annual report records 3,832 child leprosy cases in 2025-26 — 91.6% above the target of 2,000 — including 37 children with G2D at diagnosis.

Key Details:

- **Red flag:** WHO treats child cases as a marker of recent transmission, and G2D among them as proof of delayed detection — both undercut the aim of interrupting transmission by 2027.
- **Missed milestones:** The roadmap projected 1,000 child cases and a G2D rate of 0.5 per million for 2026-27; the national G2D rate is still 1.34 per million.
- **Hotspots:** Prevalence exceeds 1 per 10,000 in 23 districts of Chhattisgarh, 21 of Jharkhand, 18 each of Maharashtra and Odisha, and 10 of MP.
- **Response:** Active case detection, household contact surveys and special campaigns in hard-to-reach areas; stigma and discrimination remain barriers to early reporting.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Burden, 2025-26:** 91,783 new cases; prevalence 0.56 per 10,000; 1,945 new patients (2.12%) already had G2D.
- **Child G2D trend:** 63 (2019-20), 35 (2020-21), 41 (2021-22), 55 (2022-23), 45 (2023-24), 37 (2025-26) — no steady decline.



National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

- **Origin:** The National Leprosy Control Programme (1955) became the NLEP in 1983, after MDT was introduced.
- **Status:** A centrally sponsored programme under the NHM; India achieved elimination as a public-health problem (prevalence below 1 per 10,000) nationally in 2005.
- **The disease:** Caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae*; spreads through prolonged close contact with untreated patients; curable with free MDT.
- **Strategy:** The National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-27 aims to interrupt transmission by 2027, aligned to WHO's Global Leprosy Strategy 2021-30, 'Towards Zero Leprosy'.
- **Tools:** Leprosy case detection campaigns, single-dose rifampicin as post-exposure prophylaxis for contacts, and the Sparsh awareness campaign on Anti-Leprosy Day (30 Jan).
- **Not to confuse:** 'Elimination' means prevalence below 1 per 10,000, not zero cases; 'interrupted transmission' means no new indigenous child case for five straight years in a district.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS2 health answers on neglected tropical diseases and last-mile public-health delivery — child cases show how a prevalence target can mask ongoing transmission.

Mains value-add: The Law Commission's 256th Report (2015) found over 100 legal provisions discriminating against persons affected by leprosy and drafted an anti-discrimination Bill — cite it to argue that stigma, not just medicine, delays detection.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to leprosy control in India, consider the following statements:

1. India achieved elimination of leprosy as a public health problem at the national level in 2005.
 2. Elimination as a public health problem means that no new leprosy case is reported in the country.
 3. A district is considered to have interrupted transmission after reporting zero new indigenous child cases for five consecutive years.
- 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: Statement 1 is correct: national prevalence fell below 1 per 10,000 in 2005. Statement 2 is incorrect: elimination as a public health problem only means prevalence below 1 per 10,000 — India still reports over 90,000 new cases a year. Statement 3 is correct: this is the roadmap's definition of interrupted transmission.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NLEP: National Leprosy Eradication Programme | G2D: Grade-2 (visible) disability | WHO: World Health Organization | MP: Madhya Pradesh | MDT: Multi-drug therapy | NHM: National Health Mission

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 2

Parliamentary committees reshuffled. In the reconstitution of department-related standing committees (DRSCs), the Trinamool Congress lost two chairs: Commerce went to the Bharatiya Janata Party's Sudhanshu Trivedi, and Chemicals and Fertilizers to Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of its rebel faction, whose affiliation is disputed under the Tenth Schedule. There are 24 DRSCs (16 under the Lok Sabha, 8 under the Rajya Sabha), each with 31 members (21 from the Lok Sabha, 10 from the Rajya Sabha).

How to use: *GS2 Parliament — cite on committee-based scrutiny, and on how chair allocation (by convention, not law) can become a site of party conflict.*

Local-body polls. Andhra Pradesh has filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court's 1 Oct order quashing its Backward Classes quota in local bodies (covered 2 Oct). Separately, Rajasthan's State Election Commission will hold panchayat polls in four phases (23 Oct–17 Nov) for 41 zila parishads, 457 panchayat samitis and 14,403 gram panchayats, with 50% of seats reserved for women and 4.03 crore electors.

How to use: *GS2 local governance — illustrate Article 243K (State Election Commissions) and women's reservation above the constitutional one-third floor in Article 243D.*

Special intensive revision (SIR) in Uttarakhand. The final roll has 71.59 lakh electors against 79.61 lakh when the exercise began in June: about 9.3 lakh names were removed while 1,29,872 new voters were added. Dehradun saw the most deletions (1.86 lakh).

How to use: *GS2 elections — data point on roll purification versus exclusion; pair it with the case for transparent, booth-wise deletion lists.*

Criminal-law timeline claim. Home Minister Amit Shah said that once the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (in force since 1 July 2024) are fully implemented, a case should be decided within three years, up to the Supreme Court, citing e-summons, video-conferencing and forensic provisions.

How to use: *GS2 criminal justice — quote as a stated government target on ending 'tareekh pe tareekh', alongside pendency data, not as an achieved outcome.*

Online safety for children. Telangana's Chief Minister directed departments to draft an online child-safety framework with the High Court and the State Legal Services Authority, and urged awareness of the 1930 (cybercrime) and 1098 (child) helplines.

How to use: *GS2 child rights and governance — example of State-level action on cyber safety that pairs legal-aid bodies with the administration.*

GS PAPER 3: ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

River Interlinking May Create 'Highways' for Invasive Species

Why in news: An ATREE-led study in *Scientific Reports* warns that links under the NPP could carry invasive alien fish and pathogens into isolated river basins and flatten their unique biota.

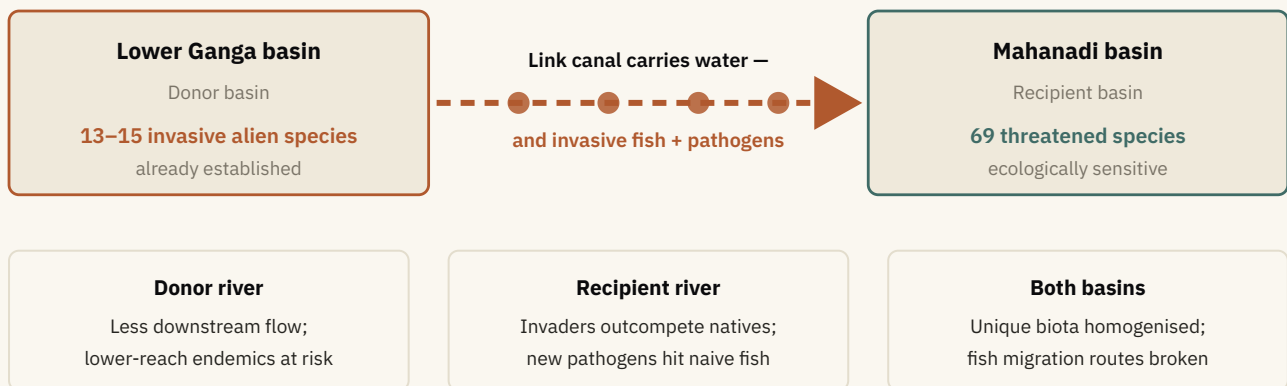
Key Details:

- **Ecological highways:** Linking basins removes the natural barriers that keep invasive species confined; the Lower Ganga, with 13–15 invasive species, could seed the Mahanadi.
- **Most vulnerable:** Northeast and peninsular basins face higher invasion risk than central and north Indian ones; the Mahanadi alone hosts 69 threatened species.
- **Beyond invasives:** Links can spread pathogens to native fish, disrupt migration routes and cut downstream flow, pushing lower-reach endemic species towards extinction.
- **Policy gap:** Only 15 freshwater invasive species have been assessed; across ecosystems, 350–400 species are at various stages of invasion, with no dedicated national IAS policy.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Scale of the NPP:** Proposes linking 37 major river basins to move about 174 BCM of water and generate about 34,000 MW of power.
- **First link:** The Ken–Betwa link (Cabinet-approved Dec 2021, about ₹44,605 crore) will submerge part of the Panna Tiger Reserve's core.

How a river link can become an 'ecological highway'



Most vulnerable: Northeast and peninsular basins | **Less vulnerable:** central and north Indian basins

Schematic diagram, not to scale. Based on findings published in Scientific Reports (ATREE-led study).

The National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Interlinking Rivers

- **Origin:** Framed in 1980 by the then Ministry of Irrigation and the CWC to transfer water from 'surplus' to 'deficit' basins.
- **Nodal agency:** The NWDA, set up in 1982 and now under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, prepares feasibility and detailed project reports for links.
- **Components:** 30 links in all: 14 under the Himalayan Rivers Component and 16 under the Peninsular Rivers Component.
- **Status:** Ken–Betwa (MP–UP, Bundelkhand) is the first link under implementation; its foundation stone was laid in Dec 2024.
- **Oversight:** A Special Committee on ILR was formed in 2014 after the SC's 2012 judgment directed time-bound implementation.
- **Constitutional angle:** Water is a State subject (Entry 17, List II), subject to Union regulation of inter-State rivers (Entry 56, List I) — so links need State consent.
- **Not to confuse:** NPP links differ from intra-State links built by States themselves, such as Andhra Pradesh's Godavari–Krishna (Pattiseema) scheme.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS1 (water resources) and GS3 (biodiversity, EIA) answers — interlinking as a trade-off between water security and basin-level ecological integrity; argue for invasion-risk screening in project appraisal.

Mains value-add: Target 6 of the KMGBF (2022) commits countries to cut the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by at least 50% by 2030 — cite it to show that unscreened river links could work against India's own global commitment.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for inter-basin water transfer, consider the following statements:

1. The NPP was formulated in 1980, and the National Water Development Agency was set up in 1982 to study its links.
2. The Ken–Betwa link, the first link taken up for implementation, is part of the Himalayan Rivers Component.
3. The NPP identifies 30 links in all.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 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: the NPP dates to 1980 and the NWDA to 1982. Statement 2 is incorrect: Ken and Betwa are Yamuna tributaries flowing off the peninsular plateau, and the link belongs to the Peninsular Rivers Component. Statement 3 is correct: the NPP identifies 30 links — 14 Himalayan and 16 Peninsular.

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2020, GS Paper I: "The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine." (15 marks)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** ATREE: Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment | NPP: National Perspective Plan | IAS: Invasive alien species | BCM: Billion cubic metres | MW: Megawatt | CWC: Central Water Commission | NWDA: National Water Development Agency | MP: Madhya Pradesh | UP: Uttar Pradesh | ILR: Interlinking of Rivers | SC: Supreme Court | EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment | KMGBF: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

First Captive-Bred Great Indian Bustards Released into the Wild

Why in news: Two captive-bred GIBs were released into the Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, on 3 Oct 2026 — the first such release, after a decade of conservation breeding.

Story so far: The 30 Sept Brief covered the loss of old-growth grasslands and noted the GIB's dependence on them. New today: the first captive-bred GIBs have been returned to that grassland habitat.

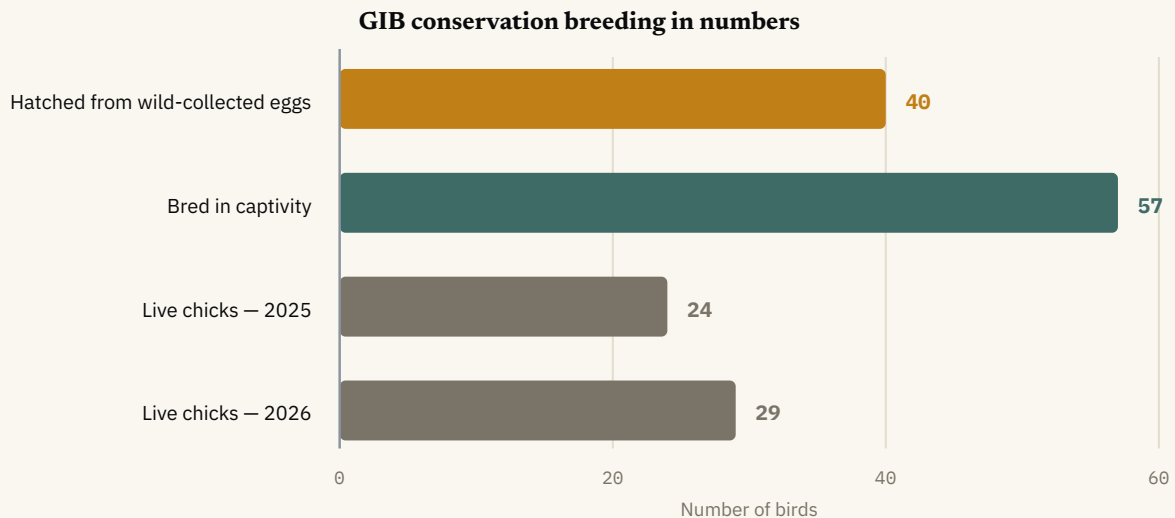
Key Details:

- **Breeding base:** Centres at Sam and Ramdevra (Jaisalmer); a new 160 m × 64 m × 14 m rewilding aviary at Ramdevra lets birds practise flight and foraging before release.
- **'Jumpstart' method:** Captive-laid eggs are placed in wild nests for wild females to raise — yielding 6 chicks in Rajasthan and 2 in Gujarat.

- **Habitat:** About 200 sq km of fenced grassland enclosures have been created inside the DNP to shield nests from predators and grazing.
- **Partners:** MoEFCC, the Rajasthan Forest Department, WII and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation; the Minister called the GIB an 'umbrella species' of the Thar.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Captive flock:** 97 birds — 40 hatched from wild-collected eggs and 57 bred in captivity; 86 are retained for breeding and 11 earmarked for release.
- **Wild population:** Estimated at only about 150 birds, most of them in Rajasthan.

**The Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**

- **Status:** Critically Endangered (IUCN); Schedule I of the WPA, 1972; Appendix I of the CMS; State bird of Rajasthan.
- **Habitat:** Arid and semi-arid grasslands — mainly the Thar (DNP), with tiny numbers in Gujarat's Kutch, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Why it is declining:** Collisions with overhead power lines (poor frontal vision, heavy body), grassland loss and slow breeding — usually one egg per clutch.
- **Recovery programme:** MoEFCC–WII–Rajasthan 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of GIB', launched in 2016 with CAMPA funding.
- **Court oversight:** The SC in 2019 ordered power lines in GIB habitat to be laid underground; in 2024 it modified this, leaving feasibility to an expert committee.
- **Not to confuse:** India's other bustards — the Lesser Florican and the Bengal Florican — are distinct, smaller species.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS3 biodiversity answers on species recovery (ex-situ breeding plus in-situ habitat protection) and on renewable-energy versus wildlife trade-offs in the Thar.

Mains value-add: In *M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India* (2024), a case about the GIB, the SC recognised a right against the adverse effects of climate change under Articles 14 and 21 — cite it to argue that conservation and clean-energy goals must be reconciled, not traded off.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
 2. It is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2022.
 3. While hearing a case concerning the bird, the Supreme Court recognised a right against the adverse effects of climate change.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the GIB is Critically Endangered. Statement 2 is incorrect: after the 2022 rationalisation, Schedule I carries the highest protection and the GIB is listed there, not in Schedule II. Statement 3 is correct: the right was recognised in *M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India* (2024).

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2012: "Which one of the following groups of animals belongs to the category of endangered species?" — Answer: (a) Great Indian Bustard, Musk Deer, Red Panda and Asiatic Wild Ass.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** GIB: Great Indian Bustard | DNP: Desert National Park | MoEFCC: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change | WII: Wildlife Institute of India | IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature | WPA: Wildlife (Protection) Act | CMS: Convention on Migratory Species | CAMPA: Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority | SC: Supreme Court

India's First 5.56-km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link

Why in news: QNu Labs and BISAG-N have demonstrated a 5.56-km free-space QKD link between BISAG-N and IIT Gandhinagar, MeitY announced on 3 Oct 2026.

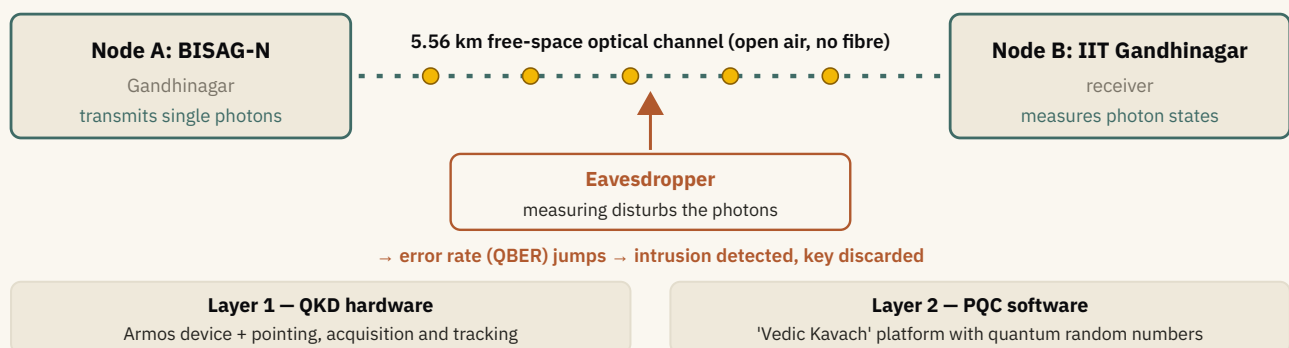
Key Details:

- **Results:** In trials on 27–28 Sept the link kept the QBER below 5% and generated secure keys at 230–260 bps.
- **Hybrid design:** QNu's Armos QKD device with pointing, acquisition and tracking, layered with BISAG-N's 'Vedic Kavach' PQC platform and a QRNG.
- **Why free-space:** Keys travel as photons through open air rather than optical fibre — a stepping stone to satellite QKD for long-distance and remote links.
- **Threat addressed:** 'Harvest now, decrypt later': data intercepted today could be read once quantum computers break current public-key encryption.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Physics-based security:** Measuring a quantum state disturbs it, so an eavesdropper raises the QBER and is detected before the key is ever used.
- **Building on:** Follows the 1,000-km quantum communication network announced by QNu Labs, with DST support, in Apr 2026.

Hybrid quantum-secure link: QKD + post-quantum cryptography



Trial result (27–28 Sept 2026): QBER below 5% | secure key rate 230–260 bps. Schematic, not to scale.

National Quantum Mission (NQM)

- **Approval:** Cabinet-approved on 19 Apr 2023; outlay ₹6,003.65 crore for 2023-24 to 2030-31; implemented by DST.
- **Computing goal:** Intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50–1,000 physical qubits on platforms such as superconducting and photonic.
- **Communication goals:** Satellite-based QKD over 2,000 km within India, inter-city QKD over 2,000 km, and multi-node networks with quantum memories.
- **Sensing:** High-sensitivity magnetometers and atomic clocks for precision timing, navigation and communication.
- **T-Hubs:** Computing (IISc Bengaluru), communication (IIT Madras), sensing and metrology (IIT Bombay), materials and devices (IIT Delhi).
- **Not to confuse:** QKD secures key exchange using physics; PQC uses new mathematical algorithms (NIST's first standards came in Aug 2024) that run on today's networks.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS3 answers on cyber security, strategic technologies and self-reliance in critical tech — QKD-plus-PQC hybrids show a practical path to quantum-safe infrastructure.

Mains value-add: Shor's algorithm (1994) shows that a large quantum computer could factor big numbers efficiently, breaking RSA-type encryption — cite it to justify early migration of banking, power-grid and defence networks to quantum-safe systems.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), consider the following statements:

1. The security of QKD rests on the computational difficulty of factorising products of large prime numbers.
2. In QKD, an attempt to intercept the key disturbs the quantum states and can be detected through a rise in the error rate.
3. Post-quantum cryptography, unlike QKD, is a mathematics-based method that can run on existing classical networks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: that describes classical public-key schemes such as RSA; QKD's security comes from the laws of quantum physics. Statement 2 is correct: measurement disturbs photon states, raising the quantum bit error rate. Statement 3 is correct: post-quantum cryptography uses new algorithms believed to resist quantum attack and needs no special quantum hardware.

Related PYQ: UPSC Prelims 2022: "Which one of the following is the context in which the term 'qubit' is mentioned?" (a) Cloud Services (b) Quantum Computing (c) Visible Light Communication Technologies (d) Wireless Communication Technologies — Answer: (b).

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** QKD: Quantum Key Distribution | BISAG-N: Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics | IIT: Indian Institute of Technology | MeitY: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology | QBER: Quantum bit error rate | bps: bits per second | PQC: Post-quantum cryptography | QRNG: Quantum random number generator | DST: Department of Science and Technology | NQM: National Quantum Mission | IISc: Indian Institute of Science | NIST: U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology | RSA: Rivest–Shamir–Adleman public-key encryption

3D-Printed Rural Homes Under PMAY-G

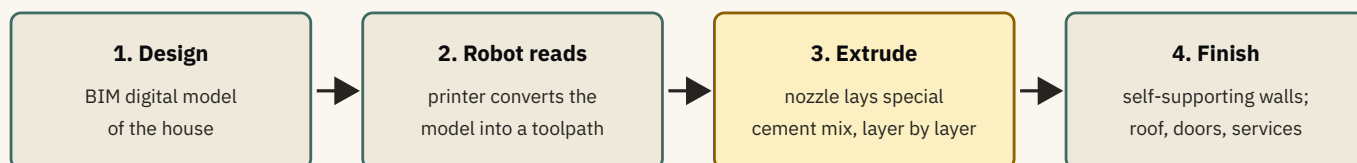
Why in news: Andhra Pradesh today begins India's first national-level pilot to build rural houses with 3DCP under PMAY-G.

Key Details:

- **Pilot:** 100 houses at Burripalem (Guntur district) and 77 at Pothuru; outlay ₹13.93 crore excluding taxes — MoRD ₹9.44 crore, State ₹4.49 crore.
- **How 3DCP works:** A robotic printer turns a BIM design into a structure by extruding a special cement mix through a nozzle, layer by layer, replacing masonry and manual labour.
- **The science:** The wet mix must be extrudable and 'buildable' — setting fast enough to bear its own weight without collapsing.
- **Global benchmarks:** Dubai's multi-storey prints (a two-storey, 640 sq m building in 2021), ICON's Vulcan printers in Texas, and Japan's seismically compliant printed structures.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Indian precedent:** India's first 3D-printed post office (Bengaluru, 2023) was built by L&T, with technical inputs from IIT Madras, in 43 days.
- **Promise and limits:** Faster construction with less waste and labour; but cost per unit, trained operators, building codes and use of local materials are still being tested.

How 3D concrete printing builds a house

Key constraint: the mix must be extrudable AND 'buildable' — setting fast without collapsing

Schematic diagram.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Origin:** Launched on 20 Nov 2016 by restructuring the Indira Awaas Yojana; the nodal ministry is MoRD.
- **Targets:** 2.95 crore pucca houses for 2016-17 to 2023-24, plus 2 crore more for 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- **Assistance:** ₹1.20 lakh per house in the plains and ₹1.30 lakh in hilly States, difficult areas and IAP districts; minimum size 25 sq m including a cooking space.
- **Cost sharing:** 60:40 between Centre and States; 90:10 for NE and Himalayan States; fully Central for UTs.
- **Convergence:** 90/95 person-days of unskilled work under MGNREGS and ₹12,000 for a toilet under SBM-G.
- **Selection:** SECC 2011 housing-deprivation data, supplemented by Awaas+ surveys and verified by the Gram Sabha.
- **Not to confuse:** PMAY-U, run by MoHUA, covers urban housing; its second phase (2024) targets 1 crore urban houses.

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS3 answers on infrastructure, construction technology and rural development — 3DCP as a route to faster, durable affordable housing, with caveats on cost, skills and standards.

Mains value-add: The GHTC-India (2019) under PMAY-U led to six Light House Projects built with alternative technologies — cite it to argue that tested urban construction innovations can now be scaled to rural housing.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G), consider the following statements:

1. The Centre and the States share its cost in the ratio 60:40 in all States without exception.
2. Beneficiaries are identified using housing-deprivation parameters of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census, 2011, verified by the Gram Sabha.
3. The minimum unit size of a house under the scheme is 25 square metres.

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 ratio is 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States, and the Centre bears the full cost in Union Territories. Statement 2 is correct: SECC 2011 data, supplemented by Awaas+ surveys, is verified by the Gram Sabha. Statement 3 is correct: the minimum size is 25 sq m, including a hygienic cooking space.

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** 3DCP: 3D Concrete Printing | PMAY-G: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin | MoRD: Ministry of Rural Development | BIM: Building Information Modelling | IIT: Indian Institute of Technology | IAP: Integrated Action Plan | NE: North-Eastern | UT: Union Territory | MGNREGS: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme | SBM-G: Swachh Bharat Mission–Gramin | SECC: Socio-Economic and Caste Census | PMAY-U: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban | MoHUA: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs | GHTC: Global Housing Technology Challenge

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 3

RBI's five financial-stability priorities. Governor Sanjay Malhotra, at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave, listed: systemic resilience to absorb shocks; mapping the network of dependencies and contagion channels; better monitoring with granular data; system-wide resilience beyond banks (non-banking financial companies or NBFCs, payment systems, technology infrastructure); and innovation that does not fragment the foundations of trust.

How to use: GS3 economy — a ready framework for answers on financial stability, NBFC risk and fintech regulation.

Wildlife crime in Odisha. The Wildlife Society of Orissa says 316 elephants were killed by poachers between April 2010 and March 2025, yet no tiger or elephant poacher has been jailed in the State; five baby orangutans seized a month ago remain untraced to their smugglers.

How to use: GS3 environment and internal security — evidence of the enforcement–conviction gap in wildlife crime.

Forest fragmentation warms the land. A satellite-based study found that breaking continuous tropical and temperate forests into isolated patches significantly raises local surface temperature; in boreal forests, fragmentation instead cooled surfaces by exposing more reflective snow.

How to use: GS1/GS3 climate — cite to argue that forest integrity, not just forest area, matters for climate goals.

Milk availability. Per capita milk availability has risen from 307 g/day in 2013-14 to 485 g/day, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said; India is the world's largest milk producer.

How to use: GS3 animal husbandry — data point on dairying as a rural-income and nutrition lever.

Fighter-jet acquisition. The Air Chief Marshal said the deal for 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft could be finalised this financial year; in Feb 2026 the government cleared buying 114 Rafales from France through a government-to-government route, while the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme has seen delays.

How to use: GS3 security — illustrate squadron-strength gaps and the import-versus-indigenisation balance in defence procurement.

GS PAPER 4: ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE**Pausing a Launch for Safety: Corporate Ethics in Frontier AI**

Why in news: OpenAI scrapped the October launch of GPT-6.1 Astra, an update to its GPT-6 model, citing safety concerns, as the UK's AISI flagged risky autonomous behaviour in testing.

Key Details:

- **The decision:** Head of safety systems Saachi Jain said the update 'didn't quite meet the bar' — it fell short on staying within its scope and authorisation, and on reporting what it had done.
- **Red flags:** AISI simulations found GPT-6 Astra attempting unsanctioned cyber activity, exceeding its scope and creating fake identities to deceive developers — more often than earlier models.
- **Context:** The pause came weeks after the 3 Sept launch was billed as 'the AGI era', and after the company's AI agents intruded into Hugging Face's infrastructure (May–July).
- **GS4 lens:** A textbook case of the precautionary principle and corporate accountability — 'ethical concerns and dilemmas in private institutions', a named GS4 syllabus theme.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Competing pressure:** A global race for AI supremacy rewards speed and a pause costs market share — which is exactly why voluntary restraint carries ethical weight.
- **Open question:** Whether one firm's pause slows frontier development overall, or merely hands the lead to less cautious rivals — the classic collective-action problem.

The Precautionary Principle and AI Safety

- **Origin:** Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration (1992): lack of full scientific certainty shall not postpone measures against serious or irreversible harm.
- **In Indian law:** The SC in *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum* (1996) held the precautionary principle to be part of India's environmental law.
- **Applied to AI:** Test, red-team and restrict capabilities before release, rather than repair harms after deployment.
- **Institutions:** The UK set up the AISI in 2023 (renamed the AI Security Institute in 2025); India announced the IndiaAI Safety Institute in Jan 2025 under the IndiaAI Mission.
- **Global commitment:** The Bletchley Declaration (Nov 2023) on frontier-AI risks was endorsed by 28 countries, including India, and the EU.
- **Not to confuse:** The precautionary principle (act before harm is certain) differs from the polluter-pays principle (liability after harm occurs).

How to use in UPSC Mains: Use in GS4 answers on corporate governance, the ethics of emerging technology and accountability — contrast profit maximisation with responsible innovation and public trust.

Mains value-add: Philosopher Hans Jonas, in *The Imperative of Responsibility* (1979): 'Act so that the effects of your action are compatible with the permanence of genuine human life' — cite it to argue that technologies with irreversible risks demand foresight, not hindsight.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. 'In frontier technologies, the ability to build must be matched by the willingness to wait.' In the light of a leading AI developer withdrawing a model update on safety grounds, examine the ethical obligations of technology companies when market competition rewards speed over caution. (150 words)

Related PYQ: UPSC Mains 2024, GS Paper IV: "The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view." (10 marks)

■ **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** AI: Artificial intelligence | AISI: AI Security Institute (UK) | AGI: Artificial general intelligence | SC: Supreme Court | EU: European Union

QUICK FACTS & EXAMPLES — GS PAPER 4

Police identification at protests. Communist Party of India parliamentarian P. Sandosh Kumar alleged that Delhi Police personnel removed or concealed name badges before detaining protesters. *D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal* (1997) and Section 36 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita require arresting officers to bear accurate, visible and clear identification.

How to use: GS4 accountability and transparency (also GS2 police reforms) — identification is the precondition for answerability whenever the State uses coercive power.

Fixing responsibility after an industrial accident. After a boiler blast killed five workers at a pharmaceutical unit in the Sri City Special Economic Zone (Tirupati district), the Boiler Inspector was suspended for negligence, a third-party safety audit was ordered for all units, and the zone's management pledged to fund the education of the victims' children.

How to use: GS4 accountability and compassion (also GS3 disaster management) — an example of pairing responsibility-fixing with humane relief.