LUKMAAN IAS

Mentoring the Steel-frame of India

EDITION

31 OCTOBER 2026

The Daily Gist

The Hindu & The Indian Express

NEWS | EDITORIALS | EXPLAINED | ANALYSIS

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UPSC GS Core Group 2027

Prelims + Mains • GS I - IV • Essay • Public Administration Optional

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DAILY GIST: THE HINDU & THE INDIAN EXPRESS

(31/10/2026)

Today at a Glance

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1	India–China: managed coexistence	[The Hindu]	GS-II
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11	Kariyachalli island, Gulf of Mannar	[Both]*	GS-I, GS-III
12	Bhimbandh sanctuary & protected-area law	[Indian Express]	GS-III

*Source note: thehindu.com and indianexpress.com block automated retrieval; items were compiled from the papers' coverage as summarised by reliable secondary sources (Vajiram & Ravi, Drishti, Insights IAS, Chahal Academy) and from PIB/AIR/agency reports. Tags marked * could not be matched to a specific paper. All text is original.*

1. Lead: Can India and China Coexist Peacefully?

[The Hindu] | GS-II

Context:

The lead article describes the present phase of India–China ties as 'managed coexistence' — engagement alongside border tension and strategic mistrust — and argues that conflict is neither inevitable nor desirable.

Key Highlights:

- **Legacy of mistrust:** 1962 war, disputes in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, China's rejection of the McMahon Line and the 2020 Galwan clash.
- **1988 template:** Rajiv Gandhi's visit and meeting with Deng Xiaoping delinked the boundary question from wider cooperation.
- **2005 agreement:** Political Parameters and Guiding Principles: no use or threat of force; settled populations to be protected in any boundary settlement.
- **Quad factor:** Closer India–US ties deepen Chinese suspicion; India must retain strategic autonomy.
- **Military balance:** PLA modernisation is real, but Himalayan terrain favours defence; India must invest in border infrastructure and intelligence.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
McMahon Line	Drawn at the Simla Convention, 1914 (Britain–Tibet); not accepted by China.
LAC	Line of Actual Control — ~3,488 km, divided into western, middle and eastern sectors.
Galwan	Tributary of the Shyok river in Ladakh; site of June 2020 clash.
SR talks	Special Representatives mechanism on the boundary question (2003).
WMCC	Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India–China Border Affairs (2012).

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Stable ties matter for trade, supply chains (APIs, electronics) and regional order.
Concerns	Trade deficit, Brahmaputra dams, China–Pakistan nexus, infrastructure build-up along the LAC.
Way Forward	Sustained dialogue, CBMs, de-escalation after disengagement, deterrence through capability.
Probable Question (GS-II)	'Competition without conflict' — assess the prospects of India–China relations after the 2024 border patrolling arrangement. (250 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

Peace with China will come neither from appeasement nor confrontation but from engagement backed by credible deterrence. Managed coexistence can mature into durable stability if both sides read each other's intentions accurately and keep channels open even in crisis.

2. Editorial: Suboptimal Outcomes — Centralised Social Security Boards Under the 2020 Code

[The Hindu] | GS-II, GS-III

Context:

The Union Labour Ministry has notified two National Social Security Boards under the Code on Social Security, 2020 — one for unorganised workers and one for gig and platform workers. The editorial argues their composition sidelines States and independent trade unions.

Key Highlights:

- **Composition:** Both boards are chaired by the Union Labour Minister, with most members nominated by the Centre.
- **Federal question:** Labour is in the Concurrent List; limited State representation weakens cooperative federalism.
- **Coverage claim:** Government cites social-protection coverage rising from 19% (2015) to 64.3% (2025), about 94 crore people (ILO data).
- **Ground reality:** Informal, gig and platform workers form over 90% of the workforce yet lack pensions, paid leave and injury protection.
- **Unfinished agenda:** Many recommendations of the Arjun Sengupta-led NCEUS remain unaddressed two decades on.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Code on Social Security, 2020	One of four Labour Codes; first to define 'gig worker' and 'platform worker'.
e-Shram portal	National database of unorganised workers, launched 2021.
Labour	Entry 22–24, Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule).
NCEUS	National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (2004), chaired by Arjun Sengupta.
ILO Convention 102 (1952)	Minimum standards of social security.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Statutory recognition of gig work; possible aggregator cess (1–2% of turnover) for welfare funds.
Concerns	Centralisation, weak worker voice, unclear funding, portability across States.
Way Forward	Tripartite boards with States and central trade unions; universal social-security number; State-level gig-worker laws (e.g., Rajasthan, Karnataka) as models.

Dimension	Key Points
Probable Question (GS-II)	Examine the adequacy of the Code on Social Security, 2020 in protecting gig and platform workers. (250 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

Social security cannot remain a perk of formal employment in an economy where nine of ten workers are informal. Boards that are inclusive, adequately funded and co-owned by the Union and States are the minimum condition for turning legal recognition into real protection.

3. Editorial: Beyond Gullibility — Curbing 'Digital Arrest' Scams Needs Bank Accountability

[The Hindu] | GS-III

Context:

The Supreme Court, hearing the digital arrest matter on 29 October, pressed the RBI to finalise draft KYC Amendment Directions, 2026 to tackle mule accounts. SEBI has separately unveiled new tools to protect investors from online fraud.

Key Highlights:

- **Scale of loss:** Around Rs 800 crore has been lost to 'digital arrest' frauds this year even after recoveries; senior citizens are the main targets.
- **Modus operandi:** Fraudsters pose as CBI/police on video calls, threaten arrest and coerce victims into transfers via mule accounts.
- **Draft RBI norms:** Banks to identify suspect mule accounts and impose temporary debit freezes; unusual transactions of Rs 1,000+ may be held up to 60 days. AG told the Court rules will apply by 31 December.
- **Liability gap:** RBI's 2017 zero-liability circular covers unauthorised transactions, not 'authorised' transfers made under coercion.
- **SEBI's response:** Verified-app badges on Google Play, AI tool 'Sudarshan' to scan social media, SEBI Check and Saarthi app, SCORES 2.0 grievance portal.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Digital arrest	No such legal procedure exists in Indian law — it is purely a fraud tactic.
I4C	Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre under the MHA; helpline 1930 and portal cybercrime.gov.in.
Mule account	Bank account used to route proceeds of crime, often opened on rented/forged KYC.
Sudarshan	SEBI's AI-based tool to detect market-related fraud on social media.
RBI zero liability (2017)	Customer bears no loss if a third-party breach is reported within 3 working days.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Protects trust in India's UPI-led digital payments ecosystem and financial inclusion gains; Scam compounds in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos reportedly use trafficked Indians.
Concerns	Bank-staff collusion in mule accounts; blanket freezes may hurt small traders and Jan Dhan holders; privacy in automatic police reporting.
Way Forward	AI-based transaction monitoring, proportionate and time-bound holds, a compensation framework for coerced transfers, diplomatic action on scam hubs.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Digital arrest scams reveal gaps in both cyber policing and banking due diligence. Discuss. (150 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

Awareness campaigns alone cannot beat organised cyber-fraud. Banks must carry part of the liability when due diligence fails, and the regulator must design curbs that are proportionate and time-bound — so that the war on mule accounts does not become a war on financial inclusion.

4. Explained: Legislative Councils — Role and Relevance of the Vidhan Parishad

[Indian Express] | GS-II

Context:

Elections to Legislative Councils in several States have revived the old debate over why only six States keep a second chamber, and whether these Houses add value or merely add cost.

Key Highlights:

- **Historical roots:** Bicameralism at the Centre came with the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms (1919); the Government of India Act, 1935 extended it to some provinces.
- **Where they exist:** Six States — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka. J&K's council was abolished by the 2019 Reorganisation Act.
- **Creation/abolition:** Under Article 169, the Assembly passes a resolution by special majority; Parliament then acts by simple majority — it is not a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
- **Limited powers:** A council can only delay an ordinary Bill (up to three months, then one more month — Article 197) and a Money Bill by 14 days; there is no joint sitting.
- **The debate:** Supporters see a revising chamber and a seat for experts, graduates and teachers; critics call it costly, a 'parking lot' for defeated politicians and lacking the Rajya Sabha's federal role.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Article 169	Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States.
Article 171	Strength: not more than one-third of the Assembly, not less than 40.
Composition	1/3 by local bodies, 1/3 by MLAs, 1/12 by graduates, 1/12 by teachers, 1/6 nominated by the Governor.
Tenure	Permanent House; members serve 6 years, one-third retire every 2 years; minimum age 30.
Voting system	Proportional representation by single transferable vote.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Checks hasty legislation, brings expertise and varied interests into law-making; Second ARC and several scholars suggest a national policy rather than ad hoc creation and abolition.
Concerns	Fiscal burden, weak powers, dependence on the Assembly's majority for its very existence.
Way Forward	Uniform national guidelines, meaningful graduate/teacher constituencies, better committee work.
Probable Question (GS-II)	Do State Legislative Councils serve their intended purpose? Critically examine. (150 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

A second chamber is valuable only when it revises, refines and represents. Without clear criteria for creation and a stronger deliberative role, Legislative Councils risk being seen as political conveniences rather than instruments of better law-making.

5. Explained: Youth Unrest under Neoliberalism — Jobs, Welfare and the Precariat

[The Hindu] | GS-I, GS-III

Context:

Youth-led protests from France and Spain to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India are being linked to shrinking welfare, rising living costs and scarce secure jobs. The article argues that India must treat youth employment as a central policy priority.

Key Highlights:

- **Global trend:** In G7 economies youth unemployment is roughly twice the overall rate.
- **Indian data:** The India Employment Report 2024 (ILO–IHD) finds young people account for about 83% of the unemployed.
- **Precarious work:** The Code on Social Security, 2020 recognises gig and platform workers but not as 'employees', leaving minimum wages and bargaining rights out of reach.
- **Climate stress:** A World Bank estimate suggests India could account for 34 million of 80 million global job losses from heat stress by 2030.
- **Economic cost:** IMF research links major unrest to output about 1% below baseline six quarters later.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Article 41	DPSP: right to work, education and public assistance in certain cases.
Article 39(b)–(c)	Distribution of material resources for common good; prevent concentration of wealth.
Olga Tellis (1985)	Supreme Court read the right to livelihood into Article 21.
India Employment Report 2024	Published by ILO and Institute for Human Development.
PMKVY 4.0	Skill India's flagship short-term training scheme, phase 4.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Demographic dividend can turn into a demographic burden without decent jobs.
Concerns	Educated unemployment, informality, gig precarity, skill mismatch, heat stress.
Way Forward	Labour-intensive manufacturing, universal basic services, portable social security, green-job skilling, urban employment guarantee pilots.
Probable Question (GS-III)	'India's demographic dividend is time-bound.' Discuss the policy choices needed to convert it into growth. (250 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

Youth discontent is an economic signal before it is a political one. Secure jobs, portable social protection and skills matched to a greener economy are the surest way to turn India's youthful population from a source of anxiety into an engine of growth.

6. Editorial: Israel's Election Deadlock and the Limits of Change

[Indian Express] | GS-II

Context:

Israel's election has produced a hung Knesset: neither Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc nor the opposition camp led by Gadi Eisenkot has the 61 seats needed in the 120-member House, raising the prospect of long coalition talks or a fresh poll.

Key Highlights:

- **Numbers:** Likud won 27 seats and Netanyahu's wider bloc 53, well short of a majority; he may continue as caretaker.
- **Arab parties:** The Joint List and Ra'am together won 19 seats, their best-ever showing, but both main camps have ruled out partnering them.
- **Little policy change:** Eisenkot also opposes Palestinian statehood and backs a security presence in Gaza, so a change of leader may not shift core policy.
- **Regional stakes:** Prolonged uncertainty could slow Saudi normalisation and the Abraham Accords track and keep US–Israel ties strained.
- **India's stake:** India has deep defence, water and agri-tech ties with Israel, and the planned IMEC corridor runs through the region.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Knesset	Unicameral Israeli legislature; 120 members; majority = 61.
Electoral system	Nationwide party-list proportional representation with a 3.25% threshold.
Abraham Accords (2020)	Normalisation of Israel's ties with UAE, Bahrain, later Morocco and Sudan.
I2U2	India, Israel, UAE, US grouping (2021–22).

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Defence, agriculture-tech and IMEC corridor ties with Israel; balance with Arab partners and Palestine policy.
Concerns	Gaza instability, Red Sea shipping risks, energy prices, Indian workers in the region.
Way Forward	Continue de-hyphenated engagement; support two-state solution and humanitarian access.
Probable Question (GS-II)	How should India balance its strategic partnership with Israel and its interests in the Arab world? (150 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

Israel's fragmented verdict shows that a change of faces need not mean a change of direction. For India, the lesson is to keep its West Asia policy anchored in interests rather than personalities — engaging Israel and the Arab world in parallel.

7. Opinion: Good Governance — The Signal That Matters for India's Next Generation

[Indian Express] | GS-II

Context:

An opinion piece argues that young Indians judge governments by visible improvements in daily life — clean delivery, jobs, fiscal prudence — rather than by announcements or protest politics.

Key Highlights:

- **Delivery reforms:** The JAM trinity and Direct Benefit Transfer are credited with cutting leakages; over Rs 53 lakh crore has been transferred directly since 2014.
- **Poverty data:** Citing NITI Aayog, it notes about 25 crore people exited multidimensional poverty, with the headcount ratio falling from 29.17% (2013-14) to 11.28% (2022-23).
- **Fiscal caution:** It flags rising State borrowings to fund guarantee schemes as a risk that crowds out capital spending.
- **Dissent vs disruption:** Legitimate dissent is distinguished from repeated disruption of Parliament and blockades without policy alternatives.
- **Way forward:** Outcome budgeting, social audits, welfare balanced with capital formation, and youth engagement on policy.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
JAM trinity	Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and Mobile — backbone of DBT.
DBT Mission	Launched 1 January 2013; now under the Cabinet Secretariat.
National MPI	Prepared by NITI Aayog using Alkire–Foster method; 12 indicators.
Social audit	Mandatory for MGNREGA works under Section 17 of the Act.
FRBM Act	Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Governance quality shapes trust, investment and the demographic dividend.
Concerns	Freebie-driven fiscal stress, declining legislative productivity, polarised discourse.
Way Forward	Outcome budgets, independent evaluation (DMEO), fiscal councils, citizen charters.
Probable Question (GS-II)	'Good governance is measured by outcomes, not outlays.' Discuss. (150 words)

IN THE ESSENCE

For a young nation, governance is judged at the last mile — in the bank account, the job market and the classroom. Fiscal prudence, transparent delivery and a Parliament that debates rather than disrupts are the signals that build lasting trust.

8. Cabinet Approves Rs 10,000-crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme

[Both] | GS-III*

Context:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme, announced in Budget 2026-27, to build a domestic shipping-container industry and cut dependence on imports, largely from China.

Key Highlights:

- **Outlay and period:** Rs 10,000 crore for 2027-28 to 2039-40 — three years to set up plants and ten years of production support.
- **Capacity goal:** Raise annual output from about 70,000 TEUs to 7.5 lakh TEUs, roughly tenfold.
- **Components:** 3% interest subvention (Rs 859 crore), operating-expense support (Rs 8,891 crore), testing and certification (Rs 150 crore), administration (Rs 100 crore).
- **Local content:** At least 70% until FY 2031-32, rising to 90% from FY 2032-33.
- **Jobs:** About 3,000 direct and over 50,000 indirect jobs, plus demand for special steel, castings and coatings.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit — standard measure of container capacity.
Thresholds	Greenfield units ≥ 1 lakh TEU/year; brownfield additions ≥ 25,000 TEU/year.
Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047	Projects container traffic rising to about 175 million TEUs by 2047.
2025 maritime laws	Merchant Shipping Act, Coastal Shipping Act and Indian Ports Act, all 2025.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Supply-chain resilience (container shortages during COVID), logistics cost cuts, export competitiveness.
Concerns	Cost gap with Chinese makers, steel prices, demand assurance.
Way Forward	Link with Bharat Container Shipping Line, port-led clusters, quality certification at par with ISO norms.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Why does India need a domestic container manufacturing ecosystem? Evaluate the CMPS. (150 words)

Conclusion: Containers are the building blocks of trade; making them at home closes a strategic gap in India's ambition to become a maritime power.

9. Oil Slick Reaches UAE Coast — What Oil Spills Mean for Coasts and Desalination

[Both] | GS-III*

Context:

An oil slick spread over about 160 sq km reached the UAE coast, closing beaches in Sharjah and Umm al-Quwain and threatening desalination plants that supply most of the country's drinking water.

Key Highlights:

- **Desalination risk:** Oil can foul membranes and pumps, forcing plants to shut intakes when a slick nears.
- **Ecological harm:** Oil films cut light and gas exchange, smother corals and harm seabirds, turtles and fish.

- **Clean-up tools:** Booms, skimmers and sorbents; chemical dispersants; bioremediation such as TERI's 'Oilzapper'; in-situ burning (which adds black carbon).
- **India's set-up:** The Indian Coast Guard is the Central Coordinating Authority under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (1996).
- **Compensation route:** International conventions channel compensation through ship-owners' insurance and the IOPC Funds, but recovery is often slow.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
MARPOL 73/78	IMO convention on ship pollution; India ratified Annex I in 1986.
OPRC 1990	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation convention.
CLC 1992 Protocol	Civil liability for oil-pollution damage from tankers.
Bunker Convention 2001	Liability for bunker-fuel spills; India acceded in 2015.
Oilzapper	TERI's consortium of oil-degrading bacteria.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Gulf shipping lanes carry much of India's crude imports; similar risks exist on India's coasts (e.g., MSC Elsa-3, Kerala, 2025).
Concerns	Slow detection, liability recovery, damage to fisheries and tourism.
Way Forward	Satellite-based slick detection, regional response stockpiles, stronger port-state control.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Assess India's preparedness to deal with major oil spills along its coastline. (150 words)

Conclusion: As shipping traffic and offshore activity grow, early detection and quick, well-equipped response matter as much as liability conventions.

10. Glacial Lake Outburst in Bhutan Triggers Flood Alerts in West Bengal and Assam

[Indian Express] | GS-I, GS-III*

Context:

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) from Shintaphu lake in north-western Bhutan sent flash floods down the Mo Chhu–Sankosh system, prompting the Central Water Commission and border districts in West Bengal and Assam to issue warnings.

Key Highlights:

- **What a GLOF is:** Sudden release of water from a glacial lake when its moraine or ice dam fails, often after heavy melt, avalanche or quake.
- **Transboundary risk:** Bhutan's rivers flow into India's Brahmaputra basin, so upstream events quickly hit Indian districts.
- **Recent precedent:** The October 2023 South Lhonak GLOF in Sikkim washed away the Chungthang dam on the Teesta.
- **Warming link:** Glacial retreat is enlarging and multiplying high-altitude lakes across the Himalaya.
- **National programme:** NDMA's National GLOF Risk Mitigation Programme targets 189 high-risk glacial lakes for monitoring and mitigation.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Sankosh	Formed by Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu (Puna Tsang Chhu); joins the Brahmaputra in Assam.
NDMA GLOF Guidelines	Issued 2020 for management of glacial lake outburst floods.
CWC	Central Water Commission — national flood forecasting agency.
Moraine-dammed lakes	Most vulnerable type of glacial lake.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Himalayan infrastructure and hydropower are exposed to cascading hazards.
Concerns	Sparse monitoring, cross-border data gaps, unplanned construction in valleys.
Way Forward	Lake inventories, early-warning sensors, controlled lowering of lake levels, India–Bhutan data protocols.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Discuss the growing threat of GLOFs in the Himalaya and measures to reduce risk. (150 words)

Conclusion: GLOFs do not respect borders; shared early-warning systems with Bhutan and Nepal are now a disaster-management necessity.

11. Kariyachalli Island Shrinking; Tamil Nadu Deploys 8,500 Artificial Reef Modules

[Both] | GS-I, GS-III*

Context:

Kariyachalli, an uninhabited island in the Gulf of Mannar, has lost most of its land to erosion, sea-level rise and degraded coral and seagrass. Tamil Nadu is placing artificial reef modules to slow the loss.

Key Highlights:

- **Rapid loss:** An IIT Madras study found its area fell from about 20.85 ha (1969) to under 6 ha by 2024 — roughly 70% lost.
- **Future risk:** At the current rate the island could be submerged by around 2036; about a third of nearby coral is bleached.
- **Restoration:** 8,500 IIT-Madras-designed reef modules to absorb wave energy and trap sediment, plus seagrass rehabilitation.
- **Funding:** Part of the World Bank-supported Tamil Nadu SHORE (Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources) project.
- **Wider pattern:** Vaan island in the same group has also shrunk sharply and was earlier protected with artificial reef modules.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park	21 islands between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi; notified 1986.
GoM Biosphere Reserve	Declared 1989; among South Asia's first marine biosphere reserves.
Dugong	Flagship species of the region; Schedule I, Wildlife (Protection) Act.
Blue carbon	Carbon stored by mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Islands act as natural breakwaters for the mainland coast.
Concerns	Coral bleaching, sea-level rise, historical coral mining.
Way Forward	Nature-based solutions, seagrass restoration, community-based monitoring.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Examine the role of nature-based solutions in protecting India's coasts. (150 words)

Conclusion: Kariyachalli is an early warning for India's low-lying islands; restoring reefs and seagrass is cheaper than losing them.

12. Tourism Tender Inside Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary Raises Legal Questions

[Indian Express] | GS-III

Context:

The Bihar government has floated a tender, reportedly worth about Rs 62.87 crore, for tourism facilities inside Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, despite statutory limits and Supreme Court curbs on construction in protected areas.

Key Highlights:

- **Location:** Munger district, Bihar, in the Kharagpur Hills south of the Ganga, on the northern edge of the Chota Nagpur plateau.
- **Area and features:** About 682 sq km of dry and moist deciduous sal forest, known for its natural hot springs.
- **Wildlife:** Leopard, sloth bear, striped hyena, wolf and barking deer.
- **Legal issue:** Building inside a sanctuary needs wildlife-law clearances; courts have restrained permanent tourism structures in protected areas.
- **Larger debate:** Eco-tourism can fund conservation but often brings roads, hotels and disturbance to fragile habitats.

Prelims Corner:

Term / Fact	Details
Section 29, WPA 1972	No destruction or diversion of habitat in a sanctuary without the Chief Wildlife Warden's permit.
NBWL	National Board for Wildlife, chaired by the PM; its Standing Committee clears projects in PAs.
Eco-Sensitive Zones	Buffer around PAs notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
Sanctuary vs National Park	Limited activities allowed in sanctuaries; national parks have stricter protection.

Mains Facts:

Dimension	Key Points
Significance	Balancing livelihoods, tourism revenue and habitat integrity.
Concerns	Fragmentation, waste, noise, precedent for diluting protected-area rules.
Way Forward	Community-run low-impact eco-tourism, carrying-capacity studies, facilities outside the sanctuary.
Probable Question (GS-III)	Can eco-tourism and conservation coexist in protected areas? Examine. (150 words)

Conclusion: Tourism should sit at the edge of a sanctuary, not at its heart; carrying-capacity norms and statutory clearances must come first.

Quick Revision: 10 Prelims One-Liners

1. ISRO launched NVS-03, the third second-generation NavIC satellite, on GSLV-F18 from Sriharikota.
2. Dwarf-planet candidate 2026 ED138 was found by the Vera C. Rubin Observatory, about 46 AU from the Sun.
3. OICA data place India as the world's third-largest new-vehicle market in 2025, ahead of Japan.
4. Tandur red gram (Telangana), GI-tagged in 2022, has been exported to Australia for the first time.
5. Dicharax tilariensis is a new microscopic land snail from Tilari, Kolhapur (Western Ghats).
6. 'Punah Bharan' app for groundwater-recharge planning was developed by BISAG-N with the National Water Mission.
7. Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak (instituted 2024) is announced every 31 October; 490 personnel received it in 2026.
8. The US and Japan agreed to set up an AIM-120 AMRAAM air-to-air missile production line in Japan.
9. The Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh has a traditional village council called the Kebang; Solung is a major festival.
10. The Ravi rises near Rohtang Pass; the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) gives India the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej.

5 Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following about State Legislative Councils: 1. A council's strength cannot exceed one-third of the Assembly's. 2. One-sixth of members are nominated by the Governor. 3. Abolition of a council requires a constitutional amendment under Article 368. How many are correct?

(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

Answer: (b) - Under Article 169 Parliament's law is not deemed an amendment under Article 368.

Q2. The Israeli Knesset has how many members?

(a) 100 (b) 120 (c) 150 (d) 180

Answer: (b) - The unicameral Knesset has 120 members; a majority needs 61.

Q3. Permission to destroy or divert wildlife habitat in a sanctuary is governed by which section of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

(a) Section 9 (b) Section 29 (c) Section 38 (d) Section 51

Answer: (b) - Section 29 bars habitat destruction in a sanctuary without a permit from the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Q4. Which of the following conventions deals with liability for pollution from bunker fuel of ships?

(a) MARPOL 73/78 (b) OPRC 1990 (c) Bunker Convention 2001 (d) CLC 1969

Answer: (c) - The Bunker Convention 2001 covers bunker-oil spills; CLC covers tanker cargo oil.

Q5. The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park lies between:

(a) Puducherry and Karaikal (b) Rameswaram and Thoothukudi (c) Kanyakumari and Kochi (d) Chennai and Pulicat

Answer: (b) - Its 21 islands lie off the coast between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi.

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Paper-I (GS): 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Paper-II (CSAT): 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

WHY AIPMT?

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- Question papers with detailed answer explanations for every test
- Separate marklists for GS Paper-I and CSAT Paper-II
- Benchmark your preparation every month till Prelims 2027
- **Top scorer (offline mode) gets the PT Core Group course FREE**

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✓ Monthly PT CA (PIB + MCA), Nov 26 - Apr 27	06	✓ Budget 2027-28 & Eco. Survey 2026-27	04
✓ CSAT Classes (Recorded Videos)	22	✓ 50-MCQ Reinforcement Tests	51
✓ GS Sectional Full-Length Tests	12	✓ Current Affairs Full-Length Tests	05
✓ CSAT Sectional Full-Length Tests	05	✓ Mock Full-Length Tests (GS+CSAT)	03
✓ AIPMT & Panchsutra Tests (GS+CSAT)	20		

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