

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER 2025 : WEEK-3

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1. Supreme Court Clarifies: Registration ≠ Ownership of Property

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA SAYS THAT SIMPLY REGISTERING A PROPERTY DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY GRANT OWNERSHIP

IN SURAJ LAMP & INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD. VS STATE OF HARYANA, THE SUPREME COURT HAS CLARIFIED THAT MERE REGISTRATION DOES NOT OFFER IMPLIED OWNERSHIP



Why does Registering Property matter?

Real estate typically accounts for 50-75% of national wealth

- In developing economies, only 30% of land is subject to a form of land registration
- Just 10% of land in Sub-Saharan Africa is registered

Unregistered property is dead capital

- Real estate holders will not risk investing on the property
- Lenders will not risk lending
- Government loses out on tax income

- The Supreme Court reiterated – for the second time in 2025 – that registering a sale deed does not prove ownership.
- Registration only records a transaction, not title.
- Only civil courts can determine who owns a property.

Why Registration Doesn't Equal Ownership

- The Transfer of Property Act governs ownership transfer.
- The Stamp Act ensures tax collection on transactions.
- The Registration Act only mandates recording of documents, not verifying title.
- India follows a presumptive title system, where ownership shown in documents can still be challenged in court.
- About 66% of civil disputes concern land titles.

April 2025 Verdict (K Gopi v Sub Registrar – Tamil Nadu)

What TN Rule 55A Required

- Sub-registrar could refuse registration unless the seller provided:
 - Previous original title deed
 - Encumbrance Certificate (within 10 days)
 - Patta, tax receipts etc.

Why SC Struck It Down

- Sub-registrar has a ministerial role – cannot verify ownership.
- Registration does not create title; it only records whatever rights the seller already has.
- Rule 55A exceeded legal powers and created major practical difficulties (lost old documents, ancestral land without deeds).

November 2025 Verdict (Samiullah v State of Bihar)

What Bihar Required

- Registration only if seller produced:
 - Jamabandi (mutation) proof
 - Holding allotment certificate

SC's Findings

- Mutation is not proof of title; it only updates land records post-sale.
- Bihar's land surveys are decades overdue, making compliance impossible.
- Making mutation a prerequisite illegally restricts the right to sell property.
- The notification was declared arbitrary and ultra vires.

SC on Ownership and Registrars

- Sub-registrars cannot be turned into mini-courts.
- Their job: record transactions, confirm parties signed voluntarily.
- Ownership disputes must be decided by the civil courts.

Court's Proposal: Blockchain for Land Records

Why Needed

- India's land system is "structurally fragile".
- Current digitisation (DILRMP, NGDRS) merely scans old, often faulty records.

Blockchain Advantages

- Immutable, transparent, tamper-proof ledger
- Ensures traceability of every transaction
- Could help shift India from presumptive to conclusive titles
- Potentially makes registered title state-guaranteed

Next Steps

- Court asked the Law Commission to study:
 - Blockchain-based registration
 - State/Centre consultations
 - Drafting a new legal framework for conclusive titling

Big Picture

- Two major SC rulings in 2025 have reset the boundaries of registration powers.
- They safeguard property rights, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and push India toward a modern, technology-backed, secure land title system.

Ownership of Property in India

- Property ownership in India is governed by a combination of statutory laws, personal laws, and judicial precedents.
 - It includes both movable and immovable property.

1. Types of Property in India

A. Movable Property

- Includes items like vehicles, cash, jewellery, stocks, furniture, etc.
- Governed mainly by the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 and general contract laws.

B. Immovable Property

- Includes land, buildings, houses, plots, agricultural land, etc.

Governed by:

- Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA)
- Registration Act, 1908
- Indian Stamp Act
- State-specific land laws

2. Modes of Acquiring Property

1. By Purchase

- Most common method.
- Requires a registered sale deed for immovable property.

2. Through Inheritance

- **Property received from parents or ancestors.**
- Governed by personal laws, depending on religion:
 - Hindu Succession Act, 1956
 - Muslim Personal Law (Shariat), 1937
 - Indian Succession Act, 1925 (for Christians, Parsis)

3. Through Gift

- Governed by Transfer of Property Act, 1882.
- Must be registered (if immovable).

4. Through Will / Bequest

- Under the Indian Succession Act, 1925, except for certain religious communities.
- Takes effect after the death of testator.

5. Through Adverse Possession

- If a person occupies land openly, peacefully, continuously for 12 years (private land) or 30 years (government land), they may gain ownership.

3. Rights of a Property Owner

- **A legal owner has the right to:**
 - Possess
 - Occupy and enjoy the property.

- **Use and enjoy**
 - Live, cultivate, rent out, or otherwise use it.
- **Transfer**
 - Gift, sell, lease, mortgage, or assign.

Exclude others

- Restrict others from entry or use.

Disposal after death

- Bequeath through a will.

4. Restrictions on Property Ownership

A. Citizenship-based Restrictions

- Only Indian citizens can buy agricultural land in many states.
- OCI cardholders cannot buy agricultural land, farmhouses, or plantations.

B. State-specific Laws

- **Example:**
Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, etc., restrict non-residents from purchasing land.

C. Land Ceiling Laws

- States restrict maximum landholding for individuals.

5. Documentation Required for Property Ownership

Key documents include:

- Sale Deed
- Title Deed / Mother Deed
- Encumbrance Certificate (EC)
- Property Tax Receipts
- Mutation records
- Approved building plan (if applicable)
- Identity & address proof

6. Joint Ownership Types

1. Joint Tenancy

- Equal share, with “right of survivorship”—if one dies, share passes to co-owner.

2. Tenancy-in-Common

- Shares may be unequal; owners can pass their share through a will.

3. Coparcenary (Hindu Law)

- Joint family ownership; includes sons and daughters (after 2005 amendment).

7. Important Laws Governing Property in India

- Transfer of Property Act, 1882
- Registration Act, 1908

- Indian Contract Act, 1872
- Indian Easements Act, 1882
- Indian Succession Act, 1925
- Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (amended 2005)
- Land Revenue Acts and Tenancy Acts (State-wise)

QUESTIONS

1. What is the position of the right to property in India?

- A. Legal right available to citizens only
- B. Legal right available to any person
- C. Fundamental Right available to citizens only
- D. Neither Fundamental Right nor legal right

2. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 301 pertains to the Right to Property.
- 2. Right to Property is a legal right but not a Fundamental Right.
- 3. Article 300A was inserted in the Constitutional Amendment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Registration of a sale deed in India establishes the ownership of property.
- 2. Mutation of land is a legal process that confirms the title of the land.
- 3. A registered sale deed is mandatory for transferring immovable property in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

4. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Transfer of Property Act, 1882 governs the sale of movable property in India.
- 2. The Indian Succession Act, 1925 applies to both testate and intestate succession for all communities in India.
- 3. A gift of immovable property under the Transfer of Property Act must be registered.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

5. Consider the following statements:

1. A Joint Tenancy in property means each co-owner holds an equal share, and in case of death, their share passes on to the co-owner.
2. Under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, daughters are considered coparceners and have equal rights in ancestral property.
3. The Registration Act, 1908 mandates the registration of all types of property transactions, including movable property.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. Only one | C. All three |
| B. Only two | D. None |

2. Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death

1. Former PM Hasina Convicted of “Crimes against Humanity”

- Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) convicted former PM Sheikh Hasina, on five charges, including ordering lethal force and failing to prevent atrocities during last July’s mass protests.
- She received the death penalty for the killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka’s Chankharpul area (August 5, 2023).
- The judgment spans 453 pages and was delivered on November 17.



2. Protests That Triggered Her Downfall

- Massive anti-government protests in 2023 over corruption allegations and a job-quota system resulted in:
 - 1,400 deaths over 46 days (UN OHCHR report).
 - Thousands injured; accusations of systematic abuse by security forces.
 - Hasina was ousted in July 2023 and has lived in exile in India since.

3. Charges against Hasina

- Incitement through speeches
 - Ordering use of lethal weapons
 - Killing of Abu Sayed (student, Rangpur)
 - Killing six protesters in Chankharpul (death penalty count)
 - Burning six people alive in Ashulia
- She was tried in absentia and convicted on all counts.

4. Hasina Rejects Charges, Blames Political Opponents

- In a recent interview, Hasina insisted the protests were infiltrated by:
 - “Radical elements”
 - “Foreign mercenaries”
- She accused current leader Muhammad Yunus and his allies of engineering the uprising.

5. Tribunal Turns on Its Creator

- ICT was set up by Hasina in 2009 to try 1971 war criminals, largely from the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami.
- Critics—including Human Rights Watch—long called the tribunal politicized and flawed.
- Following her fall, the same tribunal launched charges against Hasina only 10 days after her escape from Dhaka.

6. India Unlikely to Extradite Hasina

- Hasina is currently in Delhi at an undisclosed location.
- India–Bangladesh extradition treaty allows refusal if:
 - Charges appear politically motivated, or
 - Offences do not fall under standard criminal law.
 - Hasina is seen as a long-standing ally of India, strengthening bilateral ties and aiding Indian security interests.
 - With Bangladesh elections due next year, India is expected to hold off on any extradition decision.

7. What the Verdict Means

- Immediate impact: None, as long as India declines extradition.
- Political landscape in Bangladesh remains uncertain until a new government is elected.
- Hasina’s conviction marks a dramatic reversal—the ICT she created has now sentenced her to death.

ICT: tribunal which has convicted Sheikh Hasina

- Former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina has been convicted of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)—a tribunal she created in 2009.
- During the 2008 election campaign, Hasina pledged to prosecute “war criminals” who collaborated with Pakistan during the 1971 Liberation War.
- After winning with a two-thirds majority, she established the ICT in 2009 to pursue these cases.
- The ICT aggressively prosecuted alleged war criminals, often convicting individuals in absentia or sentencing those arrested.
- Many convicted individuals were linked to Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh’s largest Islamist party.
- Critics, including Human Rights Watch’s Brad Adams, argued in 2012 that the trials lacked judicial independence and fairness.
- Following Hasina’s ouster last year, the ICT—previously accused of being politically influenced—was redirected against her.
- Ten days after she fled Dhaka, the tribunal initiated investigations into Hasina on charges such as murder, genocide, and torture.

India–Bangladesh Relationship

1. Historical Foundations

- India played a major role in Bangladesh’s Liberation War of 1971, supporting its independence from Pakistan.
- This created a long-lasting sense of goodwill between the two countries.

2. Political & Diplomatic Relations

- Relations are generally friendly and stable, with regular high-level visits between leaders.
- Both countries cooperate closely through SAARC, BIMSTEC, and various bilateral agreements.

3. Economic Relations

Trade

- India is one of Bangladesh's largest trading partners.
- Bangladesh exports garments, jute, leather goods; India exports machinery, agricultural products, cotton, and chemicals.
- Bangladesh gets duty-free and quota-free access for most goods in the Indian market.

Connectivity

- Multiple land ports and border trade routes exist.
- Rail, road, and inland waterways have been revived or expanded:
- Kolkata–Dhaka bus/train
- Agartala–Akhaura rail link

Protocol on Inland Water Transit

- These improve Northeast India's connectivity through Bangladesh.

4. Water Sharing Issues

India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers.

- **Key agreements:**
 - Ganga Water Treaty (1996) – successful long-term sharing mechanism.

Pending issues:

- Teesta River water-sharing remains unresolved and is a major political issue, especially for West Bengal and Bangladesh.

5. Border Management & Security

- The countries share a 4,096 km border, India's longest.
- **Cooperation includes:**
 - Joint patrols and fencing to reduce smuggling and illegal crossings.
 - Counterterrorism cooperation has strengthened, especially after Bangladesh cracked down on insurgent groups formerly operating from its soil.

6. Energy Cooperation

- India exports electricity to Bangladesh (over 1,000 MW).
- **Joint projects include:**
 - The Rampal coal power plant (near Sundarbans)
 - Grid interconnections between the countries
 - Bangladesh also imports oil and gas from India and collaborates in LNG and renewable energy.

QUESTIONS

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India had accorded recognition to Bangladesh even before the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.
2. In March 2021, both India and Bangladesh had decided to celebrate 6 December as Maitri Diwas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. Both 1 and 2 |
| B. 2 only | D. Neither 1 nor 2 |

7. Consider the following statements regarding India-Bangladesh relations:

1. India played a major role in Bangladesh's Liberation War of 1971, leading to the creation of a long-lasting sense of goodwill between the two nations.
2. Both countries share 54 rivers, with water-sharing agreements in place for all of them, including the Teesta River.
3. Bangladesh exports machinery, agricultural products, and chemicals to India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. Only 1 | C. 1 and 3 |
| B. 1 and 2 | D. 1 only |

8. Consider the following statements about India-Bangladesh border relations:

1. India and Bangladesh share a 4,096 km border, making it India's longest border with any neighboring country.
2. Border cooperation includes joint patrols, fencing, and counterterrorism collaboration.
3. India and Bangladesh share a common stance on border management, with both countries having agreed on a uniform security protocol.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2, and 3 |

9. Consider the following statements about India-Bangladesh economic relations:

1. India is one of Bangladesh's largest trading partners, with Bangladesh exporting machinery, agricultural products, and chemicals to India.
2. Bangladesh benefits from duty-free and quota-free access to the Indian market for most goods.
3. India exports over 1,000 MW of electricity to Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| A. Only 1 | C. 2 and 3 |
| B. 1 and 2 | D. 1, 2, and 3 |

10. Who among the following former Prime Ministers of Bangladesh was recently sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)?

A. Khaleda Zia

C. Sheikh Hasina

B. Begum Sufia Kamal

D. Sheikh Rehana

3. Pakistan's National Assembly passes 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill

Passage of the Amendment

- Pakistan's National Assembly passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill on November 12, 2025 with a two-thirds majority (234 votes in favour; 4 against).
- Session marred by ruckus; PTI members boycotted, tore copies of the bill, and threw them towards the PM's chair.
- The bill had been approved by the Senate on November 11, a day earlier.

Major Political Figures Present

- PM Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari attended the session.
- Opposition alliance TTAP boycotted proceedings.

Purpose and Key Features of the Amendment

Creation of New Defence Structure

- Establishes a new powerful position: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).
- Army Chief will also serve as the Chief of Defence Forces.
- Post of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee to be abolished on November 27, 2025.

Appointment Powers

- President to appoint the Army Chief and Chief of Defence Forces on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Head of National Strategic Command to be appointed by the CDF in consultation with PM; position must be held by a Pakistan Army officer.

Promotion to Lifetime Military Ranks

- Government empowered to promote officers to:
 - Field Marshal
 - Marshal of the Air Force
 - Admiral of the Fleet
- Rank of Field Marshal will be for life.
- Asim Munir recently promoted to Field Marshal, becoming only the second in Pakistan's history after Ayub Khan.

Establishment of Federal Constitutional Court

- New Federal Constitutional Court to handle constitution-related cases.
- Existing Supreme Court to focus solely on civil and criminal matters.

Government's Defence & Justification

- Bill passed after a two-day debate despite opposition boycott.
- Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which was earlier approved by both houses of parliament. After his approval, the bill has now become part of the constitution.

QUESTIONS

11. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs
3. Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-Service matters

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1, 2 and 3 | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 2 only | D. 1 and 3 only |

12. Which of the following is/are correctly matched in terms of equivalent rank in the three services of Indian Defence forces?

Army	Air force	Navy
1. Brigadier	Air Commodore	Commander
2. Major General	Air Vice Marshal	Vice Admiral
3. Major	Squadron Leader	Lieutenant Commander
4. Lieutenant Colonel	Group Captain	Captain

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| A. 1 and 4 | C. 2, 3 and 4 |
| B. 1 and 3 | D. 3 only |

13. Which of the following statements regarding Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill is/are correct?

1. The bill was passed by Pakistan's National Assembly with a two-thirds majority.
2. The bill creates the position of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and abolishes the position of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

14. What is a key provision of Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill regarding military appointments?

1. The President is empowered to appoint the Army Chief and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) on the advice of the Prime Minister.
2. The Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) can appoint the Head of the National Strategic Command.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

15. Which of the following statements regarding The Indus Waters Treaty (1960) is/are correct?

1. The Indus Waters Treaty (1960) between India and Pakistan divides the waters of the Indus River system, granting India unrestricted use of the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas).
2. Pakistan primary use of the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab), with limited non-consumptive uses for India on the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab), with limited non-consumptive uses for India on the western rivers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Latest 'Gen Z protests' in Mexico

1. Why the Protests Erupted

- The killing of Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez, mayor of Uruapan (Michoacán), on November 1, triggered widespread outrage.
- Rodríguez had been cracking down on drug cartels and repeatedly sought federal help due to rising threats.
- His assassination followed other high-profile killings, including Tacámbaro mayor Salvador Bastidas in June.



2. Who Organized the Protests?

- A youth-led group called “Generation Z Mexico” issued a nationwide protest call on social media.
- The group claims to be non-partisan, representing youth “fed up with violence, corruption, and abuse of power.”
- Their symbol, the pirate skull flag (inspired by manga), signals defiance against corrupt authority.

3. What Happened During the Protests?

- Massive rallies occurred in around 50 cities across Mexico on November 15.
- In Mexico City, hooded protesters gathered near the National Palace, home of President Claudia Sheinbaum, tearing down protective fences.
- Clashes with security forces left around 100 people injured, including police.
- Sheinbaum claimed the protests were financed by right-wing groups opposed to her Morena party.

4. Background: Mexico’s Persistent Crime Crisis

- Mexico has endured severe violence since the 1980s, especially from drug cartels.
- Since 2018, over 30,000 people have been killed each year, per the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).
- Widespread issues include kidnappings, disappearances, and cartel warfare, with occasional state-linked abuses.

5. Government’s Crime Strategy

- Previous militarized crackdowns (notably under Felipe Calderón in 2006) often worsened the conflict.
- President Sheinbaum, in office since last year, remains popular but faces criticism for not doing enough on security.
- She is continuing the “hugs, not bullets” approach of her predecessor—prioritizing intelligence and investigative work over military force.
- Some believe this softer strategy is insufficient given escalating cartel violence.

6. Why Public Anger Has Intensified

- Rising violence and repeated attacks on local leaders have shaken citizens’ confidence.
- Youth groups accuse the government of failing to protect communities and underestimating cartel threats.
- Rodríguez’s death, despite his public pleas for federal help, symbolized state inaction and vulnerability, fueling nationwide frustration.

Youth-Led Protests in Morocco & Madagascar

Morocco

- **Trigger:** Death of eight women during childbirth in Agadir highlighted poor public services; anger intensified as billions were allocated to building 2030 FIFA World Cup stadiums instead of hospitals.
- **Youth Movement:** Leaderless Gen Z 212 using Discord to mobilise—similar methods seen in Nepal.

Socioeconomic Context:

- Over half the population is under 35.
- Youth unemployment (15–24) is 36%.



Per capita GDP: \$3,993 (global average: \$13,000+).

- Growing frustration over income inequality, not just poverty.

Demands & Government Response:

- Calls for the dismissal of the government and accountability.
- State responded with periodic crackdowns and arrests.
- PM signalled openness to dialogue; King urged faster reforms for jobs, services, and regional equity.

Madagascar

- **Trigger:** Widespread power and water outages in September; harsh government crackdown caused 20+ deaths, fuelling broader anti-establishment anger.
- **Youth Movement:** Gen Z Mada began organising through Facebook & TikTok, later joined by unions and civil society groups.

Socioeconomic Context:

- 50% of population under 18.
- **Per capita GDP:** \$545; over 75% live in poverty.
- Income per capita has fallen 45% since independence.

Demands & Fallout:

- President Rajoelina fired his cabinet, but protestors now seek his resignation.

Common Threads across Countries

- **Economic Inequality & Elite Dominance:** Youth anger over elites monopolising opportunities (seen also in Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia).
- **Generational Disconnect:** Young populations feel unheard—e.g., in India, average MP age (56) far above average citizen age (27.8).
- **Social Media–Driven Mobilisation:**
 - Enables rapid, decentralised organising (Discord, TikTok, Facebook).
 - But “fast mobilisation” often lacks staying power without coalitions.
- **Youth Grievances:**
 - Unequal access to jobs, resources, and representation.
 - Frustration with political dynasties flaunting wealth.
 - Awareness of shared global struggles through digital platforms.
- **Historical Pattern:** Youth have long driven major protest waves—from U.S. anti-war movements to Hong Kong democracy protests.

QUESTIONS

16. Which of the following statements regarding the “Generation Z Mexico” protests is/are correct?

1. The protests were sparked by the assassination of Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez, the mayor of Uruapan.
2. The youth-led group “Generation Z Mexico” claims to represent youth frustrated with violence, corruption, and power abuse.
3. The protests were primarily organized by left-wing groups in Mexico.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2, and 3
- D. 1 only

17. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Nepal
- 2. Morocco
- 3. Maldives
- 4. Madagaskar

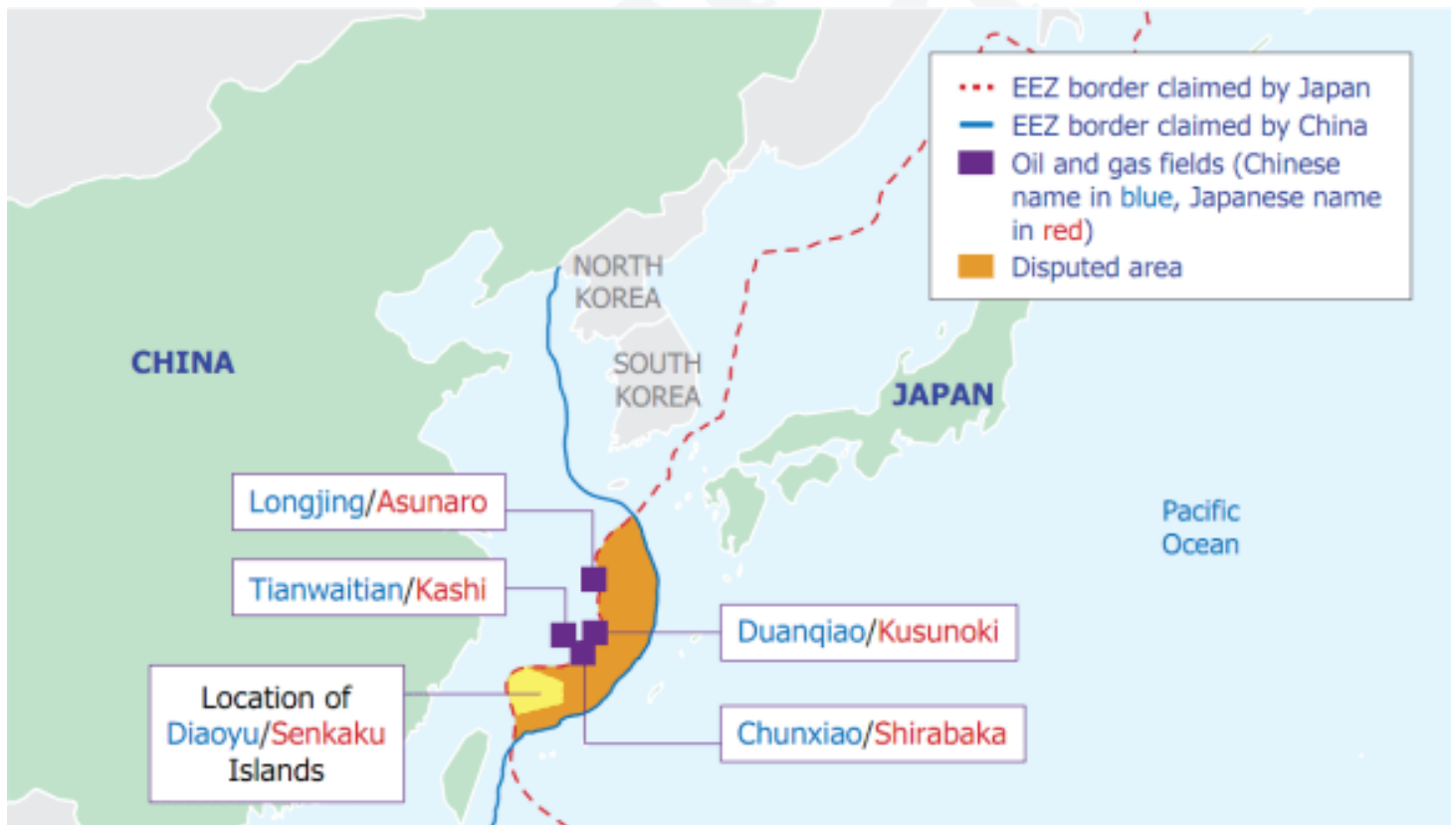
- 5. Mexico
- 6. Indonesia
- 7. Philippines

How many of the above countries faced Gen-Z protest?

- A. Three only
- B. Four only

- C. Five only
- D. All of the above countries

5. China–Japan Row over Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands



1. Why the Latest Tensions Escalated

- Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi stated that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could trigger a military response from Japan.

- China reacted strongly, summoning Japan's ambassador and issuing a safety alert to Chinese students in Japan.
- Amid the diplomatic tension, a Chinese Coast Guard formation sailed near the disputed Senkaku Islands on Nov 16, signaling China's displeasure and reaffirming its claims.

2. What Are the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands?

- Called Senkaku (Japan), Diaoyu (China), Diaoyutai (Taiwan).
- Group of five small, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, administered by Japan but claimed by all three.
- Largest island, Uotsuri, is just 1.4 square miles.
- Thought to sit atop potential hydrocarbon (oil & gas) resources, making them strategically and economically valuable.
- Sovereignty over the islands carries symbolic importance tied to national pride and regional influence.

3. Historical Background

Japan's Acquisition (1895)

- Japan took control of Taiwan and the islands after winning the First Sino-Japanese War.
- Japan claims it surveyed the islands earlier and found no evidence of Qing control, incorporating them legally in 1895.

China and Taiwan's Position

- Cite historical maps and navigation records showing ancient Chinese use of the islands.
- Argue that Japan's acquisition in 1895 was part of wartime expansion and thus illegitimate.

Post-World War II (1945–1971)

- After Japan's defeat, the US took control under the 1951 Peace Treaty.
- In 1969, a UN report suggesting offshore oil/gas potential revived interest.
- In 1971, the US handed administrative control of the islands back to Japan via the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, which China and Taiwan protested.

4. Current Status

- Japan maintains administrative control; China and Taiwan continue to assert sovereignty.
- The dispute resurfaces periodically, often during times of strained China–Japan relations.
- In 2012, Japan purchased three of the islands from private owners, triggering widespread anti-Japan protests in China, including attacks on Japanese businesses and the embassy in Beijing.
- The latest Chinese Coast Guard patrol is part of China's broader strategy to reinforce its territorial claims, especially amid renewed political tensions.

Japan–China Relationship

1. Economic Interdependence

- China is Japan's largest trading partner, and Japan is one of China's major investors.
- Japanese companies manufacture a large share of electronics and automobiles in China.
- Despite political tensions, trade and investment links remain strong.

2. Historical Issues

Historical memory plays a big role in tensions:

- Events from WWII—especially the Nanjing Massacre and Japanese invasion of China—still affect public sentiment.

- Visits by Japanese politicians to the Yasukuni Shrine often create diplomatic friction.
- China emphasizes historical injustices, while Japan argues for moving forward.

3. Strategic Competition

- China's rapid military growth and activities in the South China Sea and East China Sea worry Japan.
- Japan has strengthened security alliances, especially with:
 - United States
 - India
 - Australia
 (Notably through the Quad partnership)
- China sees this as "containment," increasing mistrust.

4. Cooperation Areas

- Despite political issues, both cooperate in:
- **Climate change**
 - Regional economic forums like RCEP, ASEAN+3
 - Business, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges
- Japan and China also support stability in:
 - North Korea (denuclearization efforts)





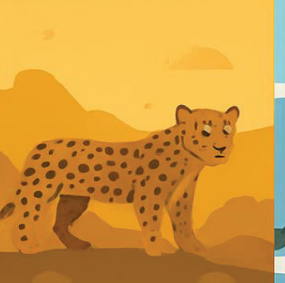

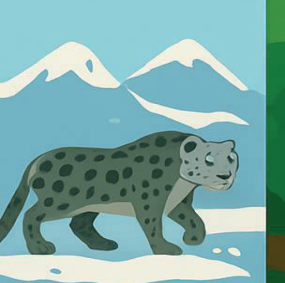

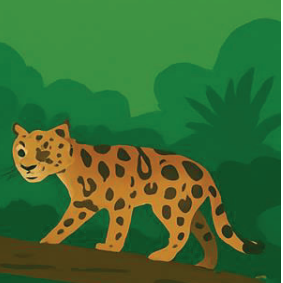

QUESTIONS

18. The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute is a territorial conflict between Japan, China, and Taiwan over a group of uninhabited islands in the _____.
 A. East China Sea
 B. South China Sea
 C. Sea of Japan
 D. Pacific Ocean
19. Which one of the following statements best reflects the issue with Senkaku Islands, sometimes mentioned in the news?
 A. It is generally believed that they are artificial islands made by a country around South China Sea.
 B. China and Japan engage in maritime disputes over these islands in East China Sea.
 C. A permanent American military base has been set up there to help Taiwan to increase its defence capabilities.
 D. Though International Court of Justice declared them as no man's land, some South-East Asian countries claim them.
20. Consider the following disputed Islands in the South China Sea:
 1. Spratly Islands
 2. Paracel Islands
 3. Scarborough Shoal
 4. Pratas Islands
- How many of the above Islands is/are disputed Islands in the South China Sea?
 A. Only one
 B. Only two
 C. Only three
 D. All Four

21. The Kuril Islands are disputed between _____.
 A. China and Japan
 B. Russia and USA
 C. Russia and Japan
 D. Russia and China
22. The United Kingdom (U.K.) has officially transferred sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to which of the following countries?
 A. Madagascar
 B. Maldives
 C. Argentina
 D. Mauritius

6. India to Host Global Big Cats Summit in New Delhi Next Year

Big Cats as Nature-Based Climate Solutions

 <p>TIGER Dense Forests</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense forests act as carbon sinks, enhance water retention, prevent soil erosion <p>PROTECTING BIG CATS</p>	 <p>ASIATIC LION Grasslands</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassland regulator, prevents overgrazing; supports prey: predator balance • Grasslands store carbon in soil, reduce desertification 	 <p>LEOPARD Rocky Hills and Mixed Landscapes</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible predator, maintains balance in fragmented habitats • Promotes regeneration in diverse landscapes, supports biodiversity corridors 	 <p>SNOW LEOPARD Mountainous, Snow-Covered Peaks</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls herbivore populations in alpine zones • Maintains mountain ecosystems, preserves glaciers, supports watersheds 	 <p>CLOUDED LEOPARD Tropical & Subtropical Forests</p>  <p>IBCA GLOBAL BIG CATS SUMMIT</p> <p>2026</p> <p>CIMALG:INESONSTORAG</p>
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- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav announced that India will host the Global Big Cats Summit in New Delhi next year.
- The Minister highlighted that the country has doubled its tiger population ahead of the target timeline, and its Asiatic lion population continues to grow well.
- He also underlined the country's ambition to bring all big cat range countries, and all nations valuing biodiversity and climate security, into the IBCA.
- Furthermore, Mr Yadav called upon all nations to join IBCA and strengthen global conservation partnerships.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a global initiative spearheaded by the Government of India to protect and conserve the world's seven major big cat species:
 - Tiger
 - Lion
 - Leopard
 - Snow Leopard
 - Puma
 - Jaguar
 - Cheetah

About IBCA

- **Launched:** 2023 by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Headquarters:** India.
- **Purpose:** Strengthen global cooperation for conservation, research, habitat protection, and combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
- **Model:** Similar in spirit to the International Solar Alliance (ISA)—a multinational, collaborative platform.
- **Membership:** Open to all countries that are home to big cats or involved in wildlife conservation.

Focus Areas:

- Scientific research and knowledge sharing
- Capacity building and technology support
- Strengthening anti-poaching and trafficking measures
- Restoring habitats and ensuring landscape-level conservation
- Funding collaborative conservation programs

Why It Matters

- Big cats are apex predators critical to ecosystem health. Many species are threatened or endangered due to:
 - Habitat loss
 - Human-wildlife conflict
 - Poaching
 - Illegal trade
- IBCA aims to create a united global front to address these challenges.

QUESTIONS

23. Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

1. IBCA was launched by India in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
2. IBCA aims to conserve only the Tiger and Lion species.
3. The Secretariat of IBCA is located in the United States.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

24. Which of the following is the primary objective of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)?
- To restrict tourism activities in big cat habitats.
 - To conserve only the Tiger population in Asia.
 - To curb illegal wildlife trade, conserve natural habitats, and mitigate climate change impacts on big cats.
 - To facilitate global trade of big cats for conservation purposes.
25. Which of the following big cat species are not found in India and are therefore not covered by the IBCA's focus on India?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Tiger and Leopard | C. Puma and Jaguar |
| B. Cheetah and Snow Leopard | D. Lion and Snow Leopard |
26. Consider the following statements:
- Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
 - Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
 - One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| A. 1 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |
27. Consider the following statements:
- Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
 - Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
 - Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

7. India's sea cows are under threat

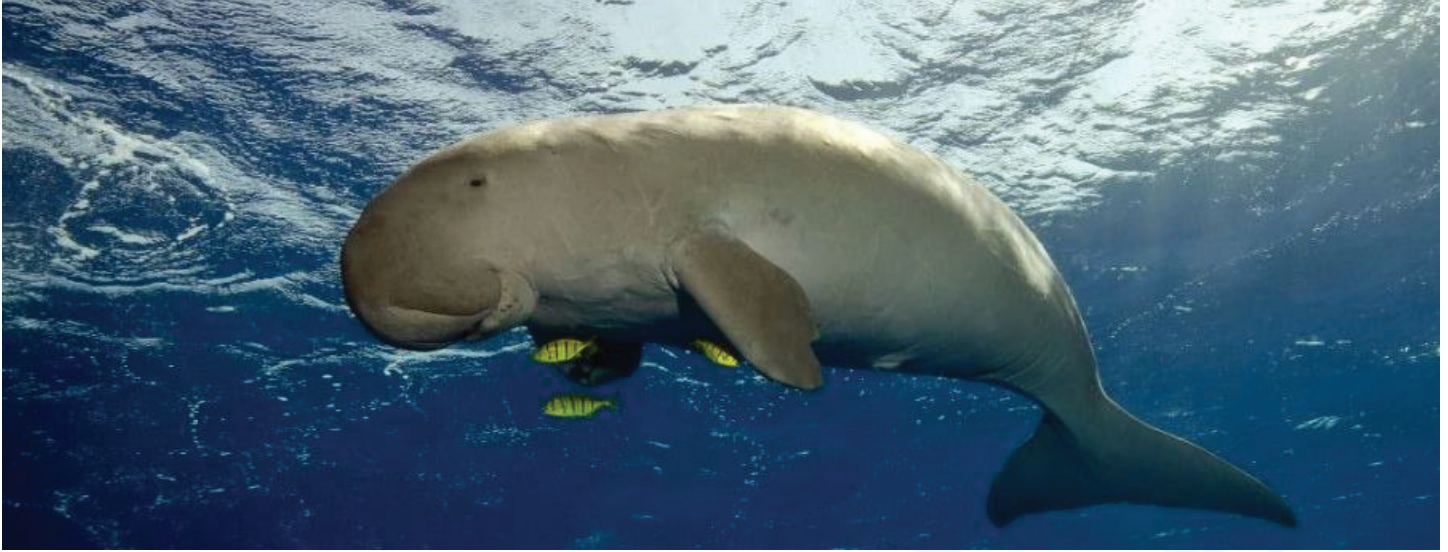
India's Sea Cows under Threat: Key Findings from New IUCN Report

- A new report — 'A global assessment of dugong status and conservation needs' — was released at the IUCN Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi.
- It highlights the growing threat to dugong (sea cow) populations in India.

2. Where Are Dugongs Found in India?

- Gulf of Kutch (Gujarat)**

- **Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay (Tamil Nadu & Sri Lanka region)**
- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**



Report's assessment:

- Gulf of Kutch: Long-term survival “highly uncertain”
- Andaman & Nicobar: Outlook “challenging”
- Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay: Population much lower than before

3. Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Classified as Vulnerable.
- **India:** Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 — highest legal protection.

4. What Are Dugongs?

- **Scientific name:** Dugong dugon
- Marine mammal, related to manatees.

Features:

- **Length:** up to 10 feet
- **Weight:** ~420 kg
- Dolphin-like fluke tail
- Exclusive herbivores; feed mainly on seagrass meadows.
- Need 30–40 kg of seagrass per day.

5. Ecological Significance

- Maintain healthy seagrass ecosystems by pruning vegetation.
- Facilitate carbon storage in seabed — important for climate regulation.
- Aid nutrient cycling, supporting fish, shellfish, and other marine species.

6. Population Status in India

- **Earlier estimate (2012):** ~200 dugongs
- **Current estimates vary:**
 - 400–450 (as per some experts)
 - <250 (as per other researchers)

- **Region-wise numbers:**
 - Palk Bay–Gulf of Mannar: ~150–200 (largest population)
 - Andaman & Nicobar: <50
 - Gulf of Kutch: <20
- Exact numbers hard to determine due to murky waters and the species' elusive nature.

7. Major Threats

A. Fisheries-Related Risks

- Accidental entanglement in fishing nets (main cause of death)
- Bycatch high in Tamil Nadu & Andamans

B. Habitat Degradation

- High turbidity, pollution, coastal development
- Loss of seagrass meadows

C. Toxic Contamination

- Study found heavy metals (As, Cd, Cr, Hg, Pb) in organs of 46 stranded dugongs.
- **Sources:** industrial waste, agricultural runoff, untreated sewage.

D. Biological Factors

- Slow reproduction rate; females give birth only once in several years.

8. Conservation Measures

Government Actions

- **2010:** Task Force for Conservation of Dugongs formed.
- National Dugong Recovery Programme launched with TN, Gujarat & Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **2022:** Creation of Dugong Conservation Reserve (448 sq km) in Palk Bay — India's first dedicated dugong reserve.

Need for Stronger Measures

- Improve enforcement in protected habitats.
- Reduce bycatch through affordable, safer fishing gear.
- Introduce incentive-based models to reduce fishing pressure.
- Strengthen monitoring and habitat restoration.

QUESTIONS

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Dugongs are primarily found in the Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India.
2. Dugongs feed primarily on algae and plankton.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. Both 1 and 2 |
| B. 2 only | D. Neither 1 nor 2 |

29. Consider the following statements:

1. Dugongs are classified as Endangered under the IUCN Red List.
2. Dugongs are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which is the highest legal protection in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. Both 1 and 2 |
| B. 2 only | D. Neither 1 nor 2 |

30. Consider the following statements:

1. The Gulf of Kutch has a “highly uncertain” outlook for the long-term survival of dugongs.
2. The Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay has a much larger dugong population than before.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| A. 1 only | C. Both 1 and 2 |
| B. 2 only | D. Neither 1 nor 2 |

31. With reference to the **dugong**, a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. 1 and 2 | C. 1 and 3 |
| B. 2 only | D. 3 only |

8. Government Launches ‘YUVA AI for ALL’ Free National AI Learning Course

- The Government has launched YUVA AI for ALL, a free national course to help everyone understand Artificial Intelligence.
- The Ministry of Electronics and IT informed that it is a completely free, 4.5-hour self-paced national course aimed at making Artificial Intelligence accessible and understandable to every Indian.
- The Ministry added that it is designed to be simple, practical, engaging, and the course consists of six short modules.
- It further highlighted that the course is available on leading platforms including FutureSkills Prime, iGOT Karmayogi and several popular ed-tech portals and every learner who completes it will receive an official Government of India certificate.



- The course is a part of the IndiaAI Mission and the initiative targets empowering one crore citizens with foundational AI skills while promoting ethical, responsible and inclusive adoption of the technology.

iGOT Karmayogi

- iGOT Karmayogi is India's national digital learning platform for civil services under the Mission Karmayogi initiative.

What is iGOT Karmayogi?

- iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi is a comprehensive online training platform designed to build the competency of all government employees—from central to state and local bodies.
- It is developed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), popularly known as Mission Karmayogi.

Objectives

- Modernize and transform civil services training.
- Shift from rules-based to role-based and competency-driven governance.
- Provide continuous learning through digital training modules.
- Improve efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centric governance.

Key Features

1. Digital Learning Platform

- **Offers courses on:**
 - Public administration
 - Technology
 - Soft skills
 - Sector-specific skills (health, education, environment, etc.)
 - Finance
 - Ethics



2. Role- and Competency-Based Training

- **Training assigned according to:**
 - Job roles
 - Identified skill gaps
 - Required competencies

3. Marketplace Model

- **Modules developed by:**
 - Government departments
 - Academia
 - Industry partners
 - Global institutions

4. Tracking and Assessment

- Training needs analysis
- Learning progress dashboards
- Competency scorecards

5. Target Group

- All government employees:
 - IAS, IPS, IFS
 - Central services
 - State government officials
 - Local body staff
 - Contractual employees

Why is it Important?

- Creates a future-ready bureaucracy.
- Encourages continuous professional development.
- Standardizes training for millions of government employees.
- Integrates technology with governance.

IndiaAI Mission

- The IndiaAI Mission is a major national initiative by the Indian government to build a strong, sovereign, and responsible AI ecosystem.

What is the IndiaAI Mission?

- The Cabinet approved the IndiaAI Mission on 7 March 2024.
- The mission has a budget of Rs. 10,371.92 crore over five years to support AI research, infrastructure, and deployment.
- The implementing agency is the IndiaAI Independent Business Division (IBD) under the Digital India Corporation, which in turn is under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

Key Pillars / Components of the Mission

- IndiaAI is structured around seven strategic pillars:

Compute Capacity

- Build a large-scale AI compute infrastructure (10,000+ GPUs) via public-private partnerships.
- Create a marketplace to offer AI-as-a-service and pre-trained models.

Innovation Centre

- Support development of indigenous foundational models (e.g., large multimodal models).
- Promote AI research targeted to India-specific domains.

Datasets Platform

- Set up a unified platform for non-personal datasets to help researchers and startups.
- The goal is to make high-quality, anonymized data available for AI development.

Application Development Initiative

- Promote development of AI applications that have socio-economic impact.
- These applications will be built in collaboration with central ministries, states, and other institutions.

Futureskills

- Expand AI education at undergraduate, masters, and PhD levels.
- Set up Data & AI Labs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to democratize access to AI learning.

Startup Financing

- Support deep-tech AI startups with funding, risk capital, and mentorship.
- Help move ideas from prototype to commercialization.

Safe & Trusted AI

- Focus on responsible AI via indigenous tools, frameworks, and governance.
- There is a plan to set up the IndiaAI Safety Institute, to work on AI risk, ethics, testing, watermarking, explainability, etc.

Key Recent Developments

- A Call for Proposals was launched under the Innovation Centre for building foundational AI models (LLMs, multimodal models) using Indian datasets.
- The 2nd round of Expression of Interest (EoI) is open for projects under Safe & Trusted AI: themes include watermarking, AI ethics frameworks, AI risk assessment, stress testing, etc.
- The IndiaAI Safety Institute has been formally announced. It will operate in a hub-and-spoke model across academic and industry partners.
- According to reports, 67 proposals were received in the first round to build indigenous AI models; many focus on large multimodal models or domain-specific small models.
- In a later round, 120 more proposals came in, doubling the pipeline.
- Under the Compute pillar, there are plans to significantly scale up GPU infrastructure.
- For skilling, 30 Data and AI Labs have been launched (some in Tier-2/3 cities) to promote education in AI.
- There is also a fellowship program targeting ~13,500 scholars (undergrad, grad, PhD) to nurture AI talent.

Significance / Why It Matters

- **Tech sovereignty:** By building its own compute, models, and data infrastructure, India is reducing reliance on foreign AI infrastructure.
- **Inclusive growth:** IndiaAI is not just about cutting-edge AI — it strongly emphasizes social good: health, education, agriculture, governance, etc.
- **Democratizing AI:** With labs in smaller cities, and large-scale compute accessible through public-private partnerships, more people (researchers, startups) can build AI.

- **Ethical AI:** The Safe & Trusted pillar ensures that AI is developed responsibly — with governance, risk frameworks, and research on explainability, bias, and watermarking.
- **Skilling the workforce:** By building AI labs and encouraging AI education, India aims to equip its talent pool for the upcoming AI-driven economy.

QUESTIONS

32. Consider the following statements regarding the **YUVA AI for ALL** course:

1. It is a free, 4.5-hour self-paced course aimed at making Artificial Intelligence accessible to every Indian.
2. The course is available only on the FutureSkills Prime platform.
3. The course is part of the IndiaAI Mission and aims to empower one crore citizens with foundational AI skills.
4. The IndiaAI Mission is aimed at building India's reliance on foreign AI infrastructure by partnering with global institutions for compute resources.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. 1 and 4 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 |

33. Consider the following statements about **iGOT Karmayogi**:

1. iGOT Karmayogi is an online training platform aimed at enhancing the competencies of all government employees.
2. It is part of the **Mission Karmayogi** initiative, which focuses on role-based and competency-driven governance.
3. iGOT Karmayogi primarily targets private sector employees to improve their skill sets in governance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 2 and 3 only |
| B. 1 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

34. With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following?

1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
3. Disease diagnosis
4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only | C. 2, 4 and 5 only |
| B. 1, 3 and 4 only | D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 |

35. Consider the following statements regarding the history of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

1. Alan Turing proposed the “Turing Test” to evaluate machine intelligence.
2. John McCarthy coined the term “Artificial Intelligence” in the 1960s.
3. Expert systems like MYCIN and DENDRAL were based on symbolic AI systems and hard-coded rules.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |

36. Consider the following statements about modern applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

1. Chatbots like **ChatGPT** by OpenAI and **Copilot** by Microsoft Bing use AI to assist in generating human-like text responses.
2. Smart assistants like **Siri**, **Alexa**, and **Cortana** leverage AI for tasks such as speech recognition, language understanding, and task automation.
3. AI-based systems like **MYCIN** are currently used to assist in real-time customer service through voice-based interaction.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | C. 1 and 3 only |
| B. 2 and 3 only | D. 1, 2 and 3 |



ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. B Legal right available to any person.

- The Right to Property in India is a legal right available to any person, not just to citizens. This right is enshrined under Article 300-A of the Indian Constitution, which provides that no person shall be deprived of their property except by authority of law. Historically, the Right to Property was a Fundamental Right under Article 31 of the original Constitution, which guaranteed the right to private ownership and the enjoyment of property. However, this changed with the Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978, which deleted the Right to Property from the Fundamental Rights, specifically removing Article 31 and Article 19(1)(f), and instead introduced Article 300-A. This amendment shifted the right to property from being a Fundamental Right to a legal right. The Supreme Court has further clarified that the right to own private property is a human right, and it is available to any person (not limited to Indian citizens), making it a legal right that ensures protection against arbitrary deprivation of property by the state. Therefore, the Right to Property is now solely a legal right and is not part of the Fundamental Rights in the Constitution.

2. B 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Article 301 deals with the **freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse** throughout the territory of India, not the Right to Property. The Right to Property was originally a Fundamental Right under Article 31, but this was changed by the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**.

- **Statement 2 is correct.**

The **Right to Property** is now a **legal right**, not a **Fundamental Right**. After the 44th Amendment, the right to property was moved from being a Fundamental Right under Article 31 to a **legal right under Article 300-A**, which ensures that no person shall be deprived of their property except by authority of law.

- **Statement 3 is correct.**

Article 300-A was inserted through the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**. It makes the **Right to Property** a legal right under the Constitution, ensuring that individuals cannot be deprived of their property except by the authority of law. This Amendment effectively removed the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights. Therefore, the correct answer is **(b) 2 and 3**.

3. B Only two

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The registration of a sale deed does not prove ownership. It merely records the transaction. Ownership of property can only be determined through civil court rulings. Registration under the Registration Act is a process to formalize the transaction, but it does not confer title.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mutation of land is the process of updating land records after a sale or transfer. However, mutation alone does not confirm ownership; it only updates the land records post-sale and provides clarity on who is the responsible party for tax purposes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A registered sale deed is mandatory for transferring immovable property in India under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, and the Registration Act, 1908. Without this, the property transfer is not legally recognized. Thus, the correct answer is **(b) Only two**.

4. B Only two

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Transfer of Property Act, 1882 governs immovable property transactions, not movable property. The sale of movable property is primarily governed by the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indian Succession Act, 1925 applies to the succession of both testate (with a will) and intestate (without a will) property, except for specific religious communities (like Hindus, Muslims, etc.), which have their own personal laws.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** According to the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, a gift of immovable property must be registered if the property value exceeds Rs. 100. Thus, the correct answer is **(b) Only two**.

5. B Only two

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Joint Tenancy means co-owners hold equal shares in the property, and if one co-owner dies, their share automatically passes to the surviving co-owners, known as the “right of survivorship.”
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per the 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, daughters are now considered coparceners in ancestral property, giving them equal rights as sons.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Registration Act, 1908 mandates the registration of transactions related to immovable property only. It does not apply to movable property, such as cash, stocks, or vehicles. Thus, the correct answer is **(b) Only two**.

6. B 2 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India officially recognized Bangladesh as an independent nation on **December 6, 1971**, after the liberation war and the formal creation of Bangladesh. India did not recognize Bangladesh before its independence in 1971.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In March 2021, India and Bangladesh agreed to celebrate **December 6 as Maitri Diwas** (Friendship Day) to commemorate the historic moment when India officially recognized Bangladesh’s independence during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Thus, the correct answer is **B. 2 only**.

7. A Only 1

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India played a pivotal role in Bangladesh’s Liberation War in 1971, providing significant military and diplomatic support, which created a strong bond between the two countries.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, the Teesta River water-sharing issue remains unresolved, particularly due to political challenges involving the West Bengal government.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Bangladesh primarily exports garments, jute, and leather goods to India. India exports machinery, agricultural products, cotton, and chemicals to Bangladesh, not the reverse. Thus, the correct answer is **(a) Only 1**.

8. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** India shares its longest border, 4,096 km, with Bangladesh.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Both countries cooperate on joint patrols, fencing to curb illegal crossings, and counterterrorism operations, especially after Bangladesh took action against insurgent groups.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While both countries cooperate on border management, there has not been a full agreement on a uniform security protocol, as border management often involves domestic concerns and regional issues. Thus, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

9. C 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bangladesh primarily exports garments, jute, and leather goods to India, not machinery, agricultural products, and chemicals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bangladesh enjoys duty-free and quota-free access to most goods in the Indian market, which has significantly boosted trade between the two countries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India exports over 1,000 MW of electricity to Bangladesh, which is an important part of their energy cooperation. Thus, the correct answer is **(c) 2 and 3**.

10. C Sheikh Hasina

- The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh who was recently sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is Sheikh Hasina. She was convicted in absentia in November 2025 on charges of crimes against humanity, specifically related to the brutal crackdown on student-led protests in July-August 2024 that ultimately led to her ouster and flight to India.

11. D 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The CDS serves as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), which includes the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This position helps promote jointness and coordination across the three services.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The CDS does not have direct operational command over the three service chiefs (Army, Navy, Air Force). Each service chief retains command over their respective forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces but the executive authority and responsibility for national security is vested in the Prime Minister of India and their chosen Cabinet Ministers. The CDS does not replace the existing service chiefs and does not exercise direct command authority in war or peace.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The CDS acts as the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister, especially on matters involving jointness, tri-service operations, and strategic planning. Each Service Chief continues to be the military advisor for matters exclusively concerning their own Service.

12. D 3 only

- Brigadier's equivalent in Navy is Commodore, not Commander. This statement is incorrect. Vice Admiral is equal to Lieutenant General / Air Marshal. This statement is incorrect. Major = Squadron Leader = Lieutenant Commander. This statement is correct. Captain (Navy) is equivalent to Colonel (Army), not Lt. Colonel. Only Statement 3 accurately represents equivalent ranks across the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The other options either mismatch Navy ranks or overstate the Air Force equivalence. Rank structures differ slightly in naming conventions, especially in the Navy, which uses maritime terms.

13. C Both 1 and 2

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill was passed by Pakistan's National Assembly with a two-thirds majority (234 votes in favor).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The bill introduces the position of **Chief of Defence Forces (CDF)**, which will be held by the Army Chief, and it abolishes the **Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee** position starting November 27, 2025. Therefore, the correct answer is **C. Both 1 and 2**.

14. C Both 1 and 2

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the amendment, the **President** appoints the **Army Chief** and **Chief of Defence Forces (CDF)** on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **CDF** is also authorized to appoint the **Head of the National Strategic Command** in consultation with the Prime Minister, and the position must be held by a Pakistan Army officer. Therefore, the correct answer is **C. Both 1 and 2**.

15. C Both 1 and 2

- The Indus Waters Treaty (1960) between India and Pakistan divides the waters of the Indus River system, granting India unrestricted use of the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas) and Pakistan primary use of the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab), with limited non-consumptive uses for India on the western rivers.

16. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The protests erupted following the assassination of Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodríguez, the mayor of Uruapan, who had been fighting against drug cartels.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The “Generation Z Mexico” group organized the protests, claiming to represent youth frustrated by violence, corruption, and power abuse.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The group claimed to be non-partisan, representing youth rather than specific political factions. Therefore, the correct answer is **A. 1 and 2 only**.

17. D All of the above countries

- The protests in Bangladesh in 2024 are widely cited as the first successful Gen Z revolution in the world, inspiring similar Gen Z-led protests in other Asian countries including Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Morocco, Madagascar, Timor-Leste, and the Maldives, as well as in other parts of the world.

18. A East China Sea

- The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute is a territorial conflict between Japan, China, and Taiwan over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Japan administers the islands and claims historical ownership, while China and Taiwan assert that the islands are part of their territory.

19. B China and Japan engage in maritime disputes over these islands in the East China Sea.

- The Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu Islands in China, are a group of uninhabited islands located in the East China Sea. The issue surrounding the Senkaku Islands primarily involves territorial disputes between China and Japan. Both countries claim sovereignty over the islands, which are strategically important and surrounded by potentially rich fishing grounds and possible undersea oil and gas reserves. The islands have been a source of tension for decades, especially since Japan administered them after the Sino-Japanese War in the late 19th century and later after World War II, when they were placed under U.S. administration before being returned to Japan in 1972.

20. D All four

- From north to south, the main disputed islands in the South China Sea are the Pratas Islands (north), the Paracel Islands (north/central), and the Spratly Islands (central/south). Another key disputed feature, the Scarborough Shoal, is located to the east of the Spratly and Paracel Islands. Key claimants include China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Disputes are driven by claims to sovereignty, but also by strategic control over important shipping lanes and potential natural resources like oil and gas.

21. C Russia and Japan

- The Kuril Islands are disputed between Russia and Japan, who have conflicting claims over the four southernmost islands. The Soviet Union seized these islands at the end of World War II, and Russia currently administers them, though Japan claims them as its “Northern Territories”. The dispute has prevented the two nations from signing a formal peace treaty to officially end the war.

22. D Mauritius

- The United Kingdom (U.K.) has officially transferred sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, marking a significant geopolitical development. Mauritius has long claimed sovereignty, a claim supported by various international bodies like the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The UK finally agreed in 2024-2025 to transfer sovereignty to Mauritius, with a 99-year lease agreement allowing continued UK-US military use of Diego Garcia.

23. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IBCA was indeed launched by India in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** IBCA covers seven species of big cats, not just the Tiger and Lion. These species include the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Secretariat of IBCA is headquartered in India, not the United States.

24. C To curb illegal wildlife trade, conserve natural habitats, and mitigate climate change impacts on big cats.

- The primary objective of IBCA is to curb illegal wildlife trade, conserve the natural habitats of big cats, and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their populations. It aims to bring together countries, scientific organizations, NGOs, and private partners for coordinated conservation action for seven big cat species.

25. C Puma and Jaguar

- India hosts 5 of the 7 big cat species covered under IBCA: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah. However, Puma and Jaguar are not found in India. These species are covered in the global initiative but not in India’s specific conservation efforts.

26. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Asiatic lion (also known as the Indian lion) is found only in the Gir Forest of Gujarat, India. While there were once larger populations across the Middle East and Asia, today, India is the only natural habitat for these lions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **double-humped camel** (Bactrian camel) is naturally found in Central Asia, especially in regions like Mongolia and parts of China, not just India. While India has a population of Bactrian camels, they are not native to India alone.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **one-horned rhinoceros** (also known as the Indian rhinoceros) is primarily found in the grasslands of India and Nepal, but it is not exclusively found in India. It also occurs in parts of Nepal, making it not confined to India alone. Thus, only **Statement 1** is correct, making the answer **(a) 1 only**.

27. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lions do not have a specific breeding season. Unlike some other big cats, lions can mate year-round, and their mating behavior is not confined to a particular season.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Cheetahs are unique among big cats in that they do not roar. Unlike most big cats, cheetahs communicate using different vocalizations, such as purrs, chirps, and growls, but they do not have the ability to roar like lions, tigers, and leopards.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Male leopards, like male lions, do mark their territory using scent marking. They typically do so by rubbing their face against trees, marking with urine, or scraping their claws on surfaces. This behavior helps them establish their dominance and territory. Therefore, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.

28. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dugongs are found in the **Gulf of Kutch** (Gujarat), **Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay** (Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka region), and the **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dugongs are herbivores and primarily feed on **seagrass meadows**, not algae and plankton. They need 30–40 kg of seagrass per day.

29. B 2 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Dugongs are classified as **Vulnerable**, not Endangered, under the **IUCN Red List**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dugongs are indeed **protected under Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which provides them with the highest level of legal protection in India.

30. A 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the IUCN report, the **Gulf of Kutch** has a “highly uncertain” outlook for the long-term survival of dugongs due to ongoing threats to their habitat.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay** has a **much lower** dugong population than before, indicating a decline rather than an increase.

31. C 1 and 3

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The dugong is a **herbivorous marine animal** that primarily feeds on seagrass meadows. It is an important species in the marine ecosystem, playing a role in maintaining the health of seagrass beds.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The dugong is not found along the **entire coast of India**. It is primarily found in specific regions, including the **Gulf of Kutch** (Gujarat), **Gulf of Mannar–Palk Bay** (Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka region), and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands**. Its population is restricted to these areas due to specific habitat conditions.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The dugong is **protected under Schedule I** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which provides it with the highest legal protection in India, ensuring its conservation and protection from hunting or disturbance. Thus, the correct answer is **(c) 1 and 3**.

32. B 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **YUVA AI for ALL** course is a free, 4.5-hour self-paced national course aimed at helping Indians understand AI.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The course is available on multiple platforms, including **FutureSkills Prime**, **iGOT Karmayogi**, and other popular ed-tech portals, not just on FutureSkills Prime.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The course is part of the **IndiaAI Mission**, aiming to empower one crore citizens with AI skills and promoting responsible AI adoption.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The **IndiaAI Mission** focuses on **reducing reliance on foreign AI infrastructure** by building its own AI compute capacity, models, and data platforms through public-private partnerships.

33. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** iGOT Karmayogi is indeed a comprehensive online platform designed to build competencies for all government employees, from central to local bodies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is part of **Mission Karmayogi**, which aims to modernize civil services training and shift towards role-based and competency-driven governance.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** iGOT Karmayogi targets **government employees**, not private sector employees. It focuses on enhancing their competencies for better public administration.

34. B 1, 3 and 4 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** AI technologies can help optimize energy usage in industrial units by monitoring processes, identifying inefficiencies, and adjusting systems for optimal power usage, thereby helping to **bring down electricity consumption**.
- **Statement 2 is partially correct:** AI is capable of generating content like short stories and songs through machine learning models like GPT and other natural language processing (NLP) techniques. However, while AI can create these outputs, the content may not always carry the same depth or emotional resonance as human-created content. This is an emerging application but still limited in creativity and quality.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** AI is extensively used in the field of **disease diagnosis**, especially in areas like medical imaging, pathology, and predicting patient outcomes. AI-powered systems can analyze medical data and assist doctors in diagnosing diseases more accurately and quickly.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** AI is also applied in **text-to-speech conversion** technologies. Tools like Google Text-to-Speech or Apple's Siri convert written text into audible speech using AI-based algorithms that simulate natural human voices.
- **Statement 5 is incorrect:** **Wireless transmission of electrical energy** is a concept that is still in the research and development stage, and AI has not yet effectively achieved the **wireless transmission of electrical energy** as a widely applicable solution. This technology, while being studied, is not something AI is currently capable of achieving on its own. Thus, the correct answer is **(b) 1, 3 and 4 only**.

35. B 1, 2 and 3

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **Alan Turing** proposed the "**Turing Test**" in 1950 to evaluate machine intelligence, which became a foundational concept in AI.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **John McCarthy** coined the term "**Artificial Intelligence**" in 1956, during the **Dartmouth Conference**, which marked the formal birth of the AI field.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Early AI systems, like **MYCIN** (medical diagnosis) and **DENDRAL** (chemical analysis), were **expert systems** based on **symbolic AI** and hard-coded rules to perform specific tasks. Thus, the correct answer is **(d) 1, 2 and 3**.

36. A 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **ChatGPT** by OpenAI and **Copilot** by Microsoft Bing are **chatbots** powered by advanced AI models that generate human-like text responses and assist with various queries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Siri**, **Alexa**, and **Cortana** are **smart assistants** that leverage AI for speech recognition, natural language understanding, and task automation, making daily activities more efficient.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **MYCIN**, an early expert system for medical diagnosis, is **not** used for real-time customer service or voice-based interactions. Modern customer service chatbots like ChatGPT are used for that purpose, but MYCIN was a rule-based system for diagnosing bacterial infections, not a real-time customer service tool. Thus, the correct answer is **(a) 1 and 2 only**.