VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

3rd November 2026



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6th November 2026

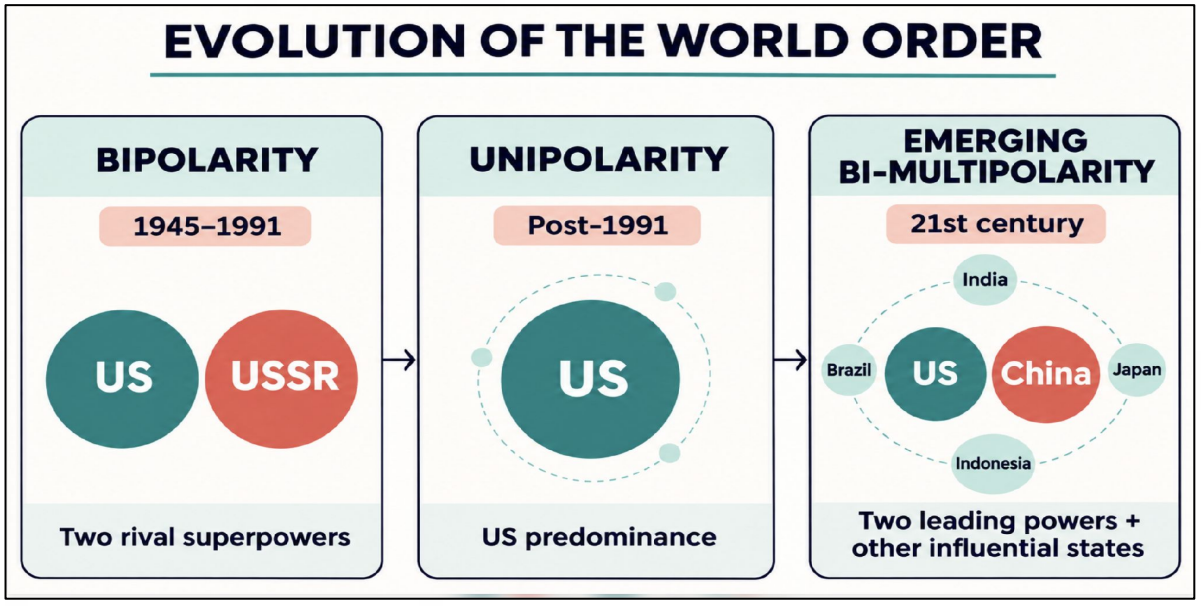
India in an Emerging World Order

CONTEXT: Amid intensifying great-power rivalry, weakening multilateral institutions and a fragmenting global order, middle powers like India have emerging opportunities to shape global governance

Emerging World Order and Middle powers

Key Characteristics

- **Regional influence:** Capacity to shape political and economic developments in its neighbourhood.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Ability to pursue independent foreign policy choices.
- **Diplomatic credibility:** Relationships with different geopolitical groupings.
- **Coalition-building:** Capacity to bring countries together around shared interests.
- **Multilateral engagement:** Active participation in international institutions and negotiations.
- **Agenda-setting:** Ability to influence discussions on global challenges



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Emerging World Order – Challenges

- Intensifying great-power rivalry
- Weakening multilateralism
- Changing economic geography
- Fragmentation of global governance
- Growing demand for representation

- Building coalitions around common interests.
- Mediating between competing geopolitical blocs.
- Advocating reforms in international institutions.
- Providing solutions to shared global challenges.
- Shaping international norms and rules.

Emerging World Order – Opportunities for India

- Strategic Space Amid US–China Rivalry
- Emerging Leadership of the Global South
- Reforming Global Governance Institutions
- Building Issue-Based International Coalitions



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India - Strength and Challenges

Strength

- Growing Economic and Demographic Weight
- Strategic Geographical Location
- Diplomatic Reach and Strategic Autonomy
- Soft Power and Development Experience

Challenges

- Economic Capabilities Remain Below Great-Power Ambitions
- Security Challenges and Regional Constraints
- Limitations of Multi-Alignment
- Resistance from Established Global Powers

Way Forward - Converting India's Potential into Global Influence

Strategy	*Key Measures*
Strengthening Domestic Capabilities	Boost manufacturing competitiveness, R&D, critical technologies, infrastructure and skills; reduce strategic import dependence.
Pragmatic Multi-Alignment	Maintain flexible partnerships with competing powers; strengthen technological cooperation while preserving strategic autonomy.
Middle-Power Coalitions	Collaborate with Brazil, Japan, South Africa and Indonesia on UNSC reforms, climate finance, trade governance and technology.
Strengthening Regional Leadership	Enhance neighbourhood connectivity, economic integration, Indian Ocean maritime cooperation and disaster-response partnerships.
Inclusive Multilateralism	Champion equitable representation of the Global South, reforms in global institutions and cooperation on emerging global challenges.



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India in an Emerging World Order

CONTEXT: Amid intensifying great-power rivalry, weakening multilateral institutions and a fragmenting global order, middle powers like India have emerging opportunities to shape global governance

Mains Practice Question

Q. "The emergence of a fragmented global order presents both opportunities and constraints for India's rise as an influential middle power." Discuss. (250 word / 15 Marks)



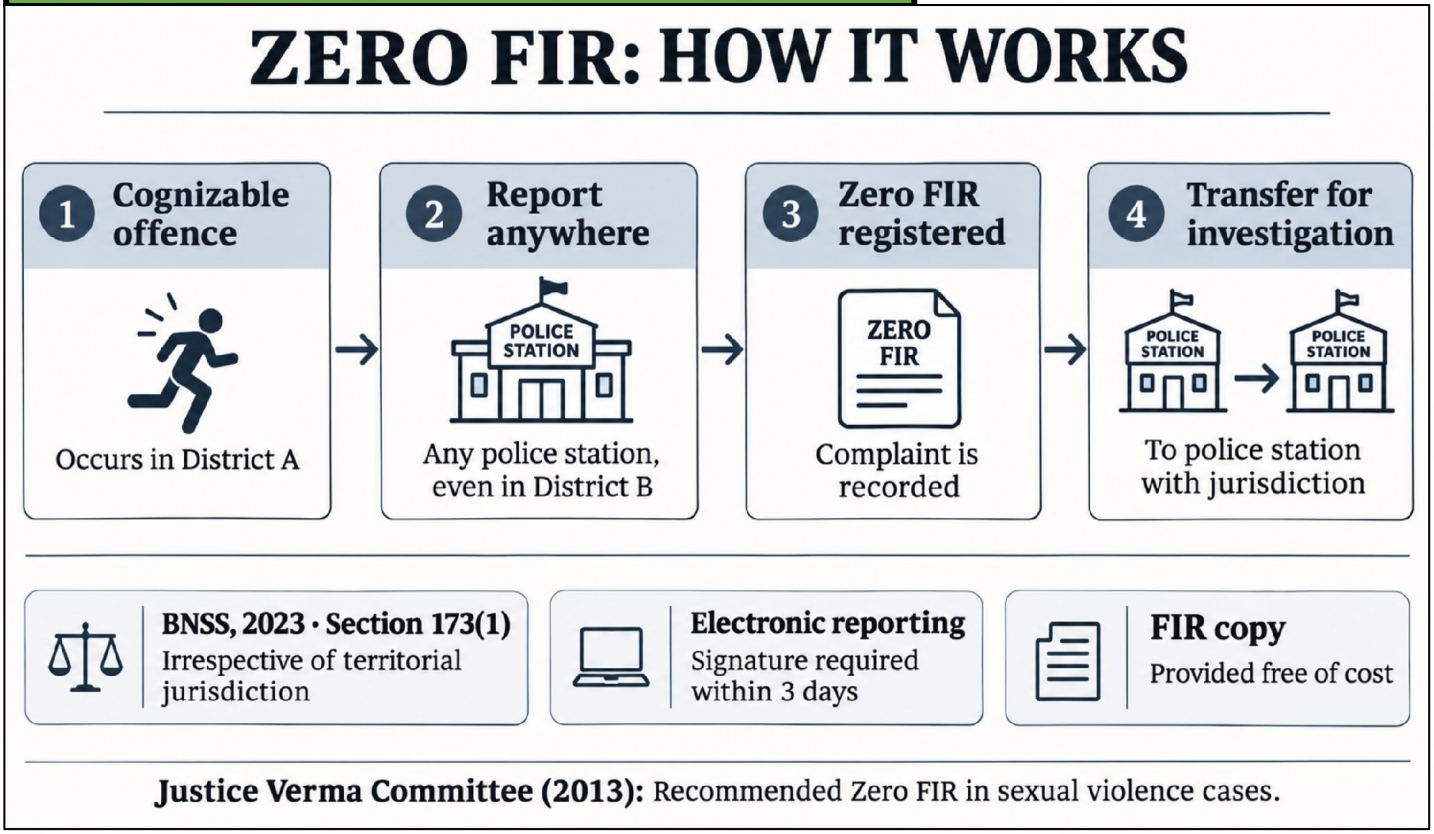
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Zero FIR and Access to Justice

CONTEXT: A recent incidence in Mumbai reveals that, despite Zero FIR registration, jurisdictional transfers and repeated travel continue to obstruct justice.

Zero FIR – Progressive Legal Reform



Zero FIR – Significance and Insufficiency

Significance

- **Eliminating Jurisdictional Barriers**
- **Improving Access for Vulnerable Sections**
- **Facilitating Prompt Reporting and Investigation**
- **Promoting Victim-Centric Criminal Justice**

Insufficiency

- **Jurisdictional Barriers Persist Beyond Registration**
- **Financial and Social Barriers**
- **Secondary Victimisation**
- **Weak Institutional Coordination**

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Zero FIR and Access to Justice

CONTEXT: A recent incidence in Mumbai reveals that, despite Zero FIR registration, jurisdictional transfers and repeated travel continue to obstruct justice.

Zero FIR – Way Forward

Strengthening Inter-District Coordination
- Dedicated coordination mechanisms for transferred Zero FIR cases.
- Designate nodal officers to coordinate investigative procedures across jurisdictions.
- Reduce unnecessary repeated appearances by victims.

Making Criminal Justice Procedures More Accessible
- Facilitate recording of statements near the victim's residence wherever legally permissible.
- Arrange timely medical examinations and other essential support.

Strengthening Institutional Support
One Stop Centres (OSCs):
- Provide integrated medical, police, legal, shelter and psychological support to women affected by violence.

- **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs):** Facilitate free legal assistance and help eligible victims access compensation.
- **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs):** Coordinate protection and rehabilitation support for children requiring care and protection.

Reducing Financial Hardships
- Provide transport assistance when physical attendance is necessary.
- Facilitate timely access to eligible interim compensation.

Police Sensitisation and Accountability
- Provide regular training in trauma-informed and child-friendly policing.
- Ensure accountability for unjustified refusal to register complaints.
- Monitor delays in FIR transfers and subsequent procedures.
- Assess police performance through victim-support outcomes, not merely FIR registration figures.

Mains Practice Question

Q. "Zero FIR is a progressive legal reform, but its effectiveness remains constrained by procedural and institutional barriers." Examine. (250 word / 15 Marks)



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Mains Value Addition

Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 12**

When the forest guard's wisdom meets the algorithm

1. Preserving Institutional Knowledge: AI can capture forest guards' field experience, including wildlife movement patterns, conflict hotspots and effective conservation strategies, ensuring continuity despite staff transfers.

2. Predictive Wildlife Protection: AI can analyse historical data to predict animal movement, poaching hotspots and human–wildlife conflict zones, enabling preventive action.

3. Real-Time Monitoring: Integration of AI-powered drones, camera traps, satellite imagery and GPS patrolling can strengthen wildlife surveillance and crime detection.

4. Early Warning Systems: AI can predict forest fires, disease outbreaks and climate-related threats, facilitating timely conservation interventions.

5. Data-Driven Decision-Making: AI dashboards can integrate scattered information to help forest officials prioritise patrolling, habitat restoration and resource allocation.

6. Community-Based Conservation: AI can identify livelihood opportunities, local resources and market access, reducing communities' dependence on forest resources.

7. Sustainable Land-Use Planning: AI can analyse crop patterns, water availability and wildlife corridors to identify suitable areas for agriculture and renewable energy projects while minimising ecological disruption.



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Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : ***Government Intervention: Health***
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 1**

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

- **Autonomous institution** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Functions

- **Regularly update the standards of drugs** commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in region.
- It **publishes official documents for improving Quality of Medicines**
- It further **promotes rational use of generic medicines** by publishing National Formulary of India.
- It **prescribes standards for identity, purity and strength of drugs** essentially required from the health care perspective of human beings and animals.
- It also provides **IP Reference Substances (IPRS) which act as a fingerprint for identification of an article** under test and its purity as prescribed in IP

- Recognised as the **World Health Organization South-East Asia Regulatory Network (WHO-SEARN) Regional Centre of Excellence** in Pharmacovigilance and the Technical Centre in Quality

World Health Organization South-East Asia Regulatory Network (WHO-SEARN) - 2016

- Collaborative platform established by the **World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)** to strengthen regulatory systems across Member States

- ***Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) -*** *National Regulatory Authority for drugs and medical devices*
- *Indian Pharmacopoeia* ***standards are legally enforceable***



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Bandipur Tiger Reserve

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Conservation ; Protected Areas*
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 6**

Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- **Mysore and Chamarajanagar districts** of southern Karnataka.
- It is located at the **tri-junction area** of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.
- Geographically, it is an **"ecological confluence" of the Western and Eastern Ghats.**
- It is part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**

BTR is surrounded by:
- Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (KA) in the Northwest Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) in the South. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the Southwest.

Rivers:
- River Kabini in north and River Moyar in south.
- The Nugu River runs through the reserve.

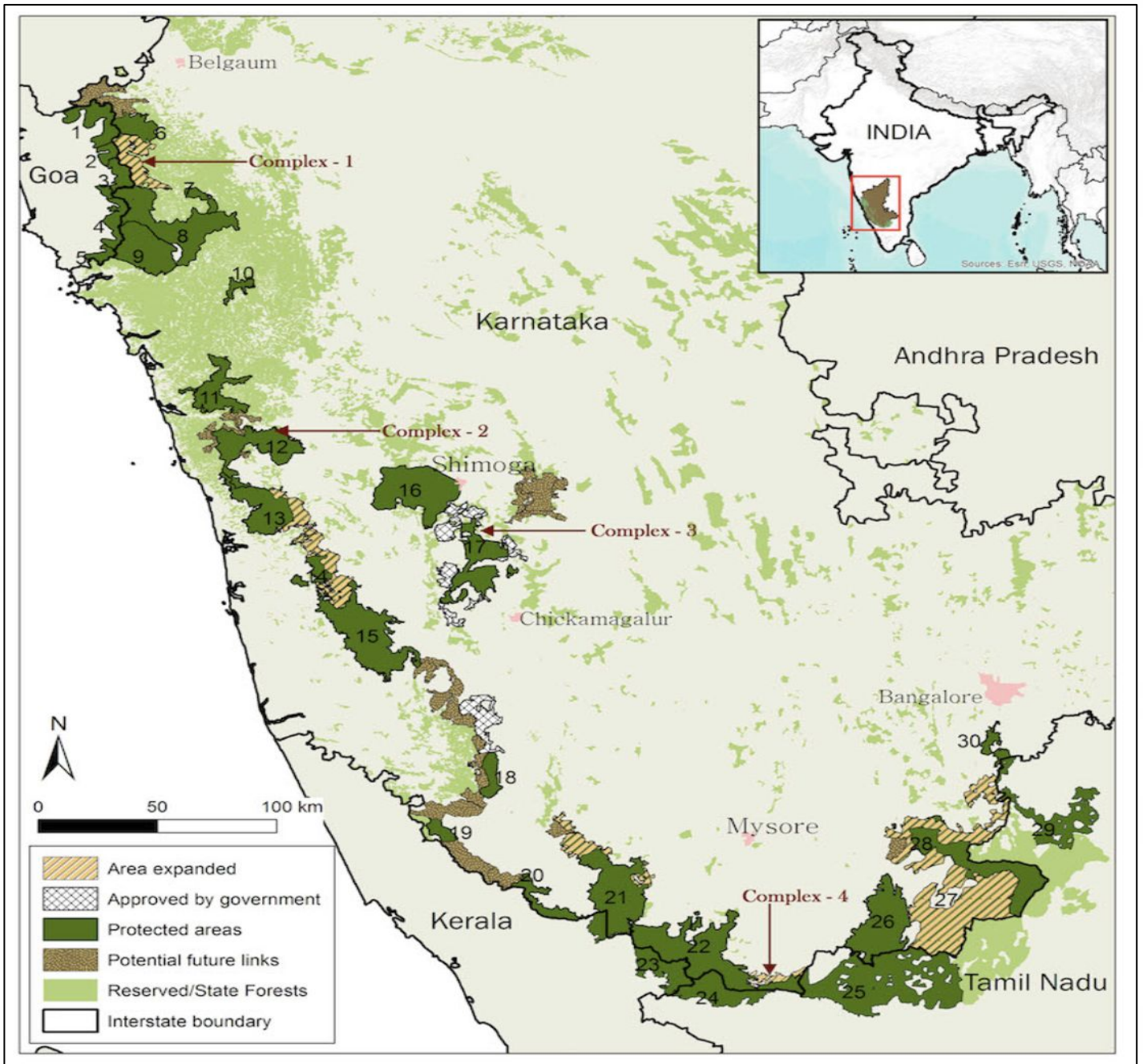
- **Climate:** Tropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons.
- **Flora:** It supports a wide range of timber trees, including **teak wood, rosewood, sandalwood, and a variety of bamboo.**
- **Fauna:**
- Bengal tiger, gaur, sloth bear, golden jackal, dhole, four-horned antelope, etc.
- It is a shelter for the largest population of wild Asian elephants in South Asia.
- It is home to over 200 species of birds in which peafowl is the most spotted here.
- Other species of birds include honey buzzards, redheaded vultures, Indian vultures , etc



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Bandipur Tiger Reserve

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Conservation ; Protected Areas*
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1. Madei WS
2. Bhagvan Mahaveer WS
3. Mollem NP
4. Netravali WS
5. Cotigao WS
6. Bhimghad WS
7. Hornbill CR
8. Dandeli WS
9. Anshi NP
10. Bedthi CR
11. Aghanashini CR
12. Sharavathi WS
13. Mookambika WS
14. Someshwara WS
15. Kudremukh NP
16. Shettihalli WS
17. Bhadra WS
18. Pushpagiri WS
19. Talacauvery WS
20. Bramhagiri WS
21. Nagarahole NP
22. Bandipur NP
23. Wayanad WS
24. Mudumalai WS
25. Sathyamangalam WS
26. Biligirirangaswamy Temple WS
27. Malai Mahadeshwara WS
28. Cauvery WS
29. North Cauvery WS
30. Bannerghatta WS

NP– National Park WS – Wildlife Santuary CR – Conservation Reserve

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Pralay missile

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Defence Technology*
Newspaper : The Hindu **Page Number : 14**



- Indigenously developed **short-range, surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile**
- Challenging for enemy radar and missile defence systems to track and intercept
- It has been developed by the **Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad**, in collaboration with **several DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.**
- It is powered by **a solid-propellant rocket motor**
- It can be **launched from mobile platforms**, offering greater operational flexibility.
- It can carry **multiple warheads** against various targets.
- It has a **payload capacity of 500–1,000 kg.**
- It has an **operational range of up to 500 kilometres.**
- It reaches **terminal speeds of Mach 6.1.**

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National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

SYLLABUS : PRELIMS : *Government Policies and Interventions Inclusive Development*
Newspaper : Indian Express **Page Number : 17**

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Establishment:** Incorporated in 2008 - umbrella organisation for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India.
- Joint initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- **Legal Framework:** The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

- **Promoter Banks:** Initially promoted by 10 banks:
- **6 Public Sector Banks:** SBI, PNB, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Bank of India.
- **2 Private Sector Banks:** ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.
- **2 Foreign Banks:** Citibank and HSBC.

- **Key Objectives:** To develop **secure, efficient, interoperable and cost-effective retail payment infrastructure, promote digital payments and enhance financial inclusion.**

Initiative	Key Features
Unified Payments Interface (UPI)	Launched in 2016; enables instant, real-time interbank transfers through smartphones; supports P2P and P2M transactions.
RuPay	Launched in 2012; India's domestic card payment network; offers debit, credit and prepaid cards.
Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)	Facilitates 24×7 real-time interbank fund transfers, including on holidays.
Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)	Integrated, one-stop platform for bill payments (electricity, water, gas, telecom, etc.).
Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)	Enables basic banking services (cash withdrawal, deposit, fund transfer) using Aadhaar-based biometric authentication.
National Financial Switch (NFS)	India's interoperable ATM network; facilitates interbank ATM transactions, including cash withdrawals and balance enquiries.
National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC)	Enables automatic toll payments through FASTag, which uses RFID technology, at toll plazas.



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Daily Quiz

Q1. With reference to the Pralay missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed, short-range, surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile.
2. It has been developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.
3. It is powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor.
4. It can be launched only from fixed underground silos.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 4 only
b) 1,2 and 3 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is Not correct?

a) NPCI was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organisation for retail payment and settlement systems in India.
b) It was established as a joint initiative of the RBI and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
c) NPCI derives its legal authority from the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
d) Initially, NPCI was promoted by 10 banks, including public, private and foreign banks.

Answer: c

Q3.With reference to Bandipur Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Mysore and Chamarajanagar districts of Karnataka.
2. It forms part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. The Kabini River flows through its southern boundary, while the Moyar River flows through its northern boundary.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) Only One
b) Only Two
c) All Three
d) None

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It prescribes standards for the identity, purity and strength of drugs.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) All of the above

Answer: a

Q5. With reference to Zero FIR under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. A Zero FIR can be registered at any police station, irrespective of territorial jurisdiction.
2. A police station registering a Zero FIR must transfer it to the police station having territorial jurisdiction for investigation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c





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