



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

30th May 2026



The Breakdown Of 'Rules-Based Order'



CONTEXT: The rules-based order remains humanity's strongest defence against chaos.

What is International Law? - 'RULES-BASED ORDER'

rules, principles, treaties, conventions & customs -

Evolution of the Rules-Based Order

Westphalia (1648) → Hague (1899/1907) → UN Charter (1945) → Geneva Conventions (1949) → UNCLOS (1982) → Rome Statute (1998) → Paris Agreement (2015).

Why International Law Matters?

- ✓ Predictability in state behaviour
- ✓ Protection of sovereignty
- ✓ Regulation of warfare
- ✓ Protection of human rights
- ✓ Freedom of navigation
- ✓ Climate and environmental governance

Status of International Law: Signs of Erosion

A. Violation of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity -

Article 2(4) of the UN Charter

- Iraq War (2003)
- Russia-Ukraine War (2022)
- U.S.-Israel Military Action against Iran (2026)

B. Humanitarian Law Under Stress - What Is IHL?

- Syria
- Yemen
- Tigray Conflict (Ethiopia)
- Gaza Conflict
- Mariupol (Ukraine)

C. Human Rights Regime Under Strain

- Xinjiang (China)
- Rohingya Crisis (Myanmar)
- Iran - Mahsa Amini's Death
- **Democratic States Too!**

D. Maritime Law Crises - UNCLOS

- South China Sea - Claims
- Strait of Hormuz -

E. Weakening Arms Control Architecture

- INF Treaty Collapse
- Open Skies Treaty Erosion
- New START Uncertainty
- North Korea
- Iran

B. Environmental Governance Failures

- Paris Agreement Challenges
- Amazon Deforestation
- Deep Sea Mining

Why Is International Law Weakening?

- Security Council Paralysis - P5 & Veto
- Lack of Enforcement Mechanisms -
- Limitations of ICC -
- Rise of Geopolitical Rivalries - US, China & Russia
- Return of Realpolitik - 'America First'

Consequences of Declining International Law

- **Political** - Unilateralism, Multilateral Institutions?
- **Security** - Interstate conflicts, Arms races
- **Economic** - Trade disruptions, Energy supply shocks
- **Humanitarian** - Civilian suffering, Refugee crises
- **Environmental** - Climate Action Delays

Implications for India

Challenges -

- Security Concerns - Energy, Maritime
- Trade Vulnerability -
- Rules-Based Order - UNCLOS, FOIP



The Breakdown Of 'Rules-Based Order'



CONTEXT: The rules-based order remains humanity's strongest defence against chaos.

Opportunities-

- Voice of the Global South
- Defender of Multilateralism
- Champion of Reform in Global Institutions

Way Forward

Strengthen Multilateral Institutions

- UNSC
- Representation - Developing Countries

Enhance Accountability

- Strengthen ICC
- Improve Compliance

Revitalise Arms Control

- Nuclear Restraint Agreements
- Promote CBMs

Defend UNCLOS and Maritime Rules

- Ensure FoN
- Peaceful Dispute Resolution

Strengthen Human Rights Mechanisms

- Independent Investigations
- Greater Transparency

Promote Rule-Based Global Governance

"Reformed Multilateralism"

Mains Practise Question

The contemporary international order is increasingly witnessing a return of Realpolitik, wherein power often overrides principles and legal norms. Discuss this statement in the light of recent violations of international law. Analyse the reasons behind this trend, its implications for the rules-based international order, and suggest measures to strengthen the rules-based international order.

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Intense Heat Waves & Urban Heat Islands



CONTEXT: India must mandate green cover and reflective materials for its cities.

Context: Climate Change, Urbanisation and the Need for Heat Resilience

- Sri Ganganagar ~ **48°C**
- The SWM - Delayed - pre-monsoon heat conditions.
- Heatwaves - Governance, Urban Planning and Public Health Challenge

What is a Heatwave?

According to the IMD, a heatwave is declared when temperatures exceed specified thresholds relative to normal temperatures.

India's Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ)

The Core Heatwave Zone covers:

- Central India
- North-Western India
- Eastern Coastal Regions

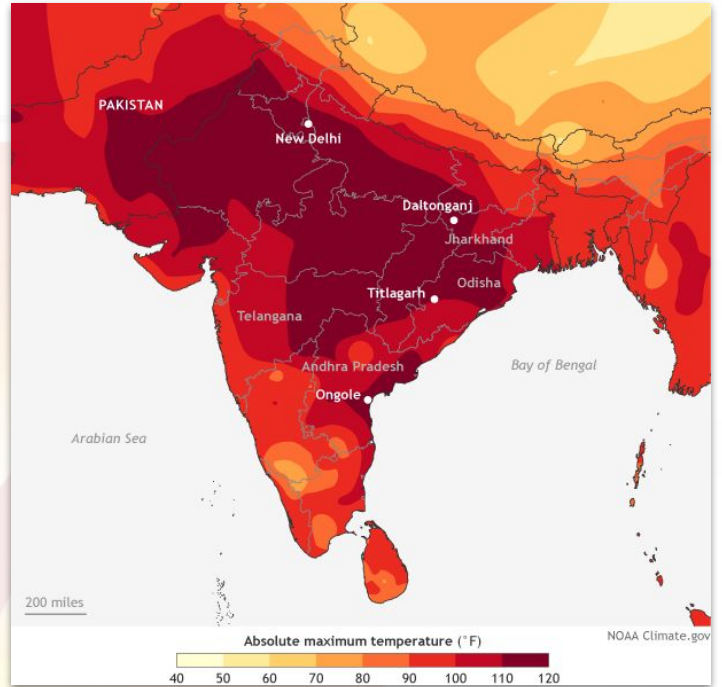
*This accounts for nearly **30% of India's geographical area** and is most vulnerable to extreme heat events.*

Urban Heat Islands: The Real Multiplier

What is an UHI ?

A phenomenon where urban areas become significantly hotter than nearby rural areas due to human activities and built infrastructure.

Status: Heatwaves Becoming More Frequent & Intense



Scientific Evidence? - WMO

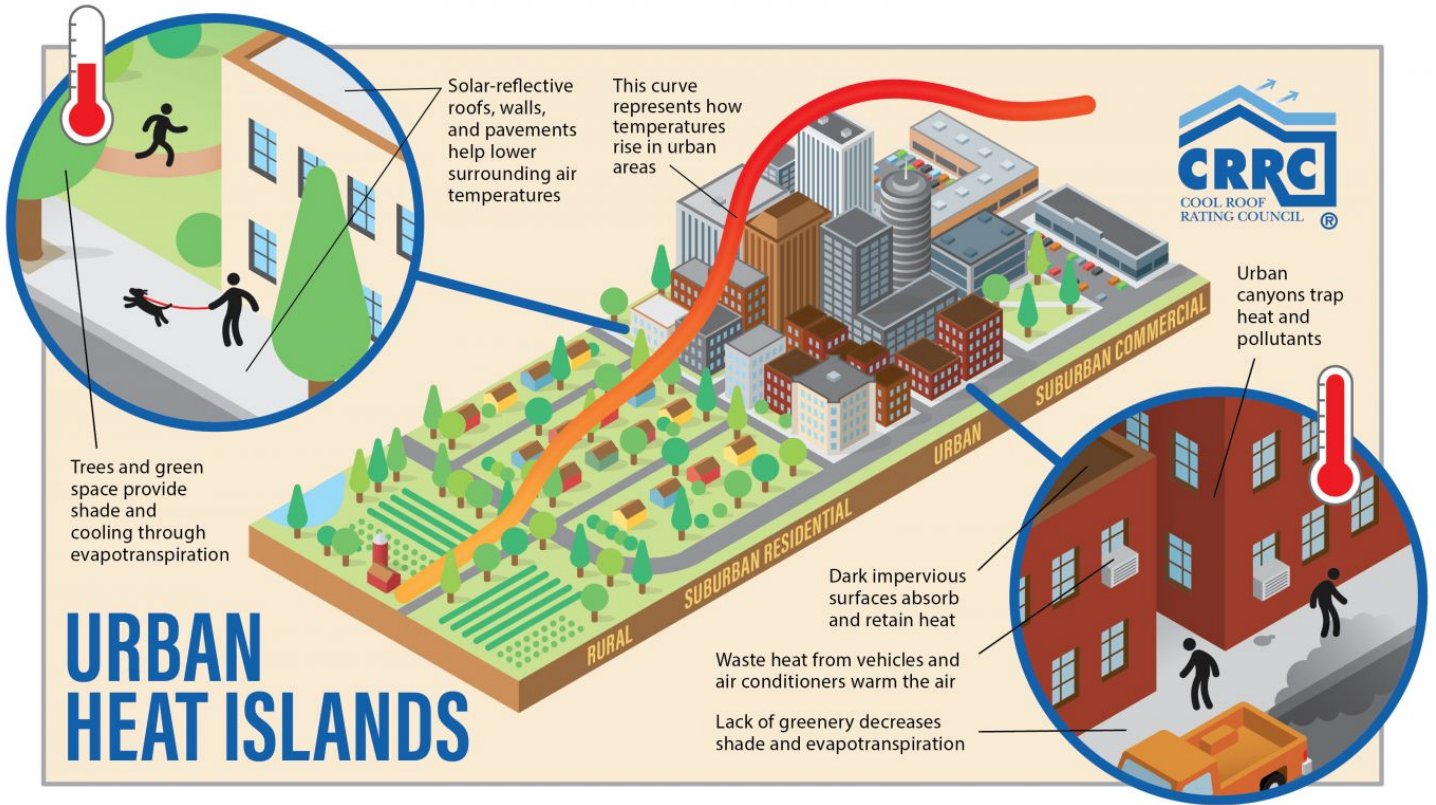
Indicator	Trend
Frequency of heatwaves	Increased by 0.1 day per decade since 1961
Duration of heatwaves	Increased by 0.55 days per decade
2015-2025	Warmest 11-year period on record
Urban Heat Islands	2°C–10°C hotter than surrounding rural areas



Intense Heat Waves & Urban Heat Islands



CONTEXT: India must mandate green cover and reflective materials for its cities.



Why Indian Cities are Heating Up?

Excessive Concrete and Asphalt

- Roads, Flyovers and Buildings
- Reduced Natural Cooling

Loss of Green Cover

- Decline in Tree Cover
- Reduced **Evapotranspiration.**

Sealed Surfaces

- Less Groundwater Recharge.
- Increased Heat Retention.

Waste Heat from Air Conditioners

- ACs - Release Heat Outdoors.
- Vicious Cycle - Rising Temperatures.

Why Heatwaves are a Social Justice Issue?

- Construction workers
- Street vendors
- Delivery workers
- Sanitation workers
- Agricultural labourers
- Migrant workers

Wealthier Population

Air-conditioned homes

Access to healthcare

Ability to avoid heat

Vulnerable Population

Outdoor work

Limited healthcare access

Income depends on working outdoors



Intense Heat Waves & Urban Heat Islands



CONTEXT: India must mandate green cover and reflective materials for its cities.

IMPACTS: Heat Waves

Public Health Impacts

- Direct Impacts
- Indirect Impacts

Economic Consequences

- Labour Productivity Loss
- ILO Estimate -

The Air Conditioner Paradox: Why More ACs Are Not the Solution?

Short-Term Benefit vs Long-Term Problem

Key Issues in India's Heatwave Response

- **Urban Planning Deficit** - Green spaces?, Heat-trapping Infra, Poor ventilation
- **Weak Labour Protection**- Enforcement remains weak, Informal workers
- **Lack of Dedicated Heat Budgeting** - Dedicated heat adaptation funds, Heat-resilient urban infrastructure financing.
- **Public Awareness Gap** - Heatwave risks - often underestimated. Limited heat-health advisories.

Government Initiatives

- National Mission for Sustainable Habitat
- Heat Action Plans (HAPs)
- NDMA Guidelines on Heatwaves

Way Forward

Climate-Responsive Urban Planning

- Cool roofs
- Reflective building materials
- Urban forests

Strengthen Labour Protection

- Mandatory work-hour adjustments
- Mid-day work bans
- Employer accountability.

Expand Heat Action Plans

- District-level HAPs
- Integration with DM frameworks

Dedicated Heat Resilience Funding

- Urban Heat Mitigation Fund.
- Climate adaptation Financing - ULBs

Mains Practise Question

Extreme heat events have emerged as one of the most serious climate-related risks facing India. Analyse the factors contributing to the increasing intensity and frequency of heatwaves in India. Suggest measures to build heat-resilient cities and communities.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Institutions/Health
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 10



National Family Health Survey



स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
Department of Health & Family Welfare

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. Five rounds of the survey have been conducted since the first survey in 1992-93. The survey provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.

Each successive round of the NFHS has had two specific goals:

- to provide essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes, and
- to provide information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Government of India, designated the [International Institute for Population Sciences \(IIPS\)](#) Mumbai, as the nodal agency, responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. IIPS collaborated with a number of Field Organizations (FO) for survey implementation. Each FO was responsible for conducting survey activities in one or more states covered by the NFHS.

The funding for the sixth round of NFHS has been provided by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.



The **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** is a training and research organization based in [Govandi, Mumbai](#).^[1] It focuses on population studies for the [ESCAP](#) region and operates under the [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India](#).^{[2][3]} IIPS is responsible to conduct key studies including the [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\)](#), the evaluation of the [National Rural Health Mission](#), and the [Global Adult Tobacco Survey](#).^[4]

Abbreviation	IIPS
Formation	1956; 70 years ago
Type	Government
Legal status	Active
Purpose	Conduct population research and share data
Location	Govandi, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Region served	India
Director	Dr. Dewaram A. Nagdeve (additional charge)
Parent organization	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
Website	www.iipsindia.ac.in



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Institutions/Health
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 10

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
 NEW DELHI

India made significant progress in maternal and child health, with improvements in vaccination and hospital births, and a drop in stunting and severe wasting among young children, according to the National Family Health Survey-6, for which field work was conducted in 2023 and 2024.

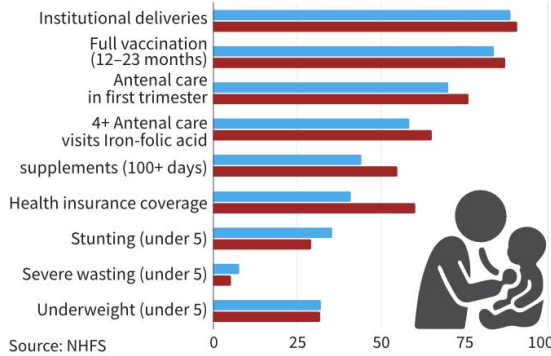
The Health Ministry released data from the survey on Friday. It showed that institutional deliveries rose from 88.6% in the previous round of the NFHS conducted between 2019 and 2021, to 90.6% this time, while 95.6% of infants under six months were being breastfed during the survey period.

The survey, which is the first to be conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic, recorded improvements in child health indicators.

Stunting among children under five years declined from 35.5% to 29.3%, severe wasting dropped from 7.7% to 5.2%, and the percentage of underweight children in this age group slipped marginally from 32.1% to 31.8%. Symptoms of acute respiratory infection among chil-

Progress tracker

India recorded improvements in maternal and child health indicators, with higher vaccination coverage and lower malnutrition levels in NFHS-6



dren fell from 2.8% to 1.9%, while the prevalence of severe diarrhoea also dropped to 0.5%.

The survey flagged the increase in non-communicable diseases, lifestyle-related risks, and the dual burden of undernutrition and increasing obesity among adults as persistent health challenges.

India's total fertility rate held steady at 2.0 in 2023-24, just under the replacement threshold of 2.1, while the contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 66.7% to 69.1%.

The survey highlights progress in maternal health services across the

country, with 95.9% of pregnant women receiving antenatal care, including 76.2% in the first trimester, an increase from 70% in the previous survey period.

Mothers receiving at least four antenatal care visits also increased from 58.5% to 65.2%. Maternal nutrition indicators also showed improvement, with mothers consuming iron-folic acid supplements for 100 days or more during pregnancy rising from 44.1% to 54.9%, while those consuming supplements for 180 days or more rose from 26% to 37.8%.

However, it found that

caesarean section deliveries had increased sharply from 21.5% to 27.2%, with substantially higher rates in several States and in private healthcare facilities. In urban areas, the rate of caesarean sections stood at 40%, far exceeding the World Health Organization optimal threshold of 10%-15%.

Conducted by the Health Ministry along with the International Institute for Population Sciences, the survey documented progress towards universal immunisation coverage.

Improved vaccination

Based on vaccination cards, full vaccination coverage among children aged 12-23 months rose from 83.8% to 87.1%, with 95.6% of children getting most of their vaccinations through public health facilities. Among major vaccines, rotavirus vaccination coverage rose substantially, from 36.4% to 85.4%. The coverage of the second dose of measles-containing vaccines also increased significantly from 58.6% to 71.8%.

The survey found that the use of hygienic methods of menstrual protection among women aged 15-24 years has increased from 77.6% to 79.2%.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Health

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 1

What are the Key Findings of 16th Asiatic Lion Census 2025?

- **Total Population:** 891 Asiatic lions recorded in Gujarat, a 32.2% increase from 674 lions in 2020 (15th census).
- **Population Distribution:** 384 lions live inside protected forest and sanctuary areas. **Lions in non-forested areas have risen from 340 in 2020 to 507 in 2025.**
 - 44.22% of the lion population now resides outside traditional protected habitats.
 - **Gir National Park** and adjoining sanctuaries (**Gir Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pania Wildlife Sanctuary**) house 394 lions, forming the core population.
 - **Amreli district has the highest count with 257 lions**, while Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary doubled its population to 32 lions.
 - **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** near Porbandar has become a newly established lion population area, with 17 lions recorded, the first since 1879.
 - The 2025 census also **identified new satellite populations** around Jetpur and Babra-Jasdan.
- **Adult Females:** 330 adult females recorded, a 27% rise since 2020, indicating strong potential for further growth.
- **Reasons of Population Boom:** **Project Lion** has helped in restoring habitats, **strengthening the prey base**, and mitigating conflicts to support Asiatic lion conservation.
- **Census methodology:** Conducted using **direct beat verification** (the area was divided into regions, zones, and sub-zones with designated officials, enumerators, supervisors, and volunteers), **a more scientific and statistically robust method** compared to **pugmark-based tiger surveys**.
 - **Completed in just three days**, unlike the tiger census which takes two years.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Health

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 1

Eight lion cubs die from suspected Babesia infection in Gujarat

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

A total of eight lion cubs have died this week from suspected Babesia infection in Gir Somnath and Amreli districts, Gujarat Forest Minister Arjun Modhwadia said on Friday.

He added that the Forest Department has intensified disease-control measures in and around the wildlife sanctuary and launched large-scale tick-removal operations, even as lions within a 10-km radius of the affected areas are being isolated.

"In the suspected Babesia-related cases, eight cub deaths have come to light,"



A pride of lions resting in Gujarat's Amreli district. ABHINAY DESHPANDE

Mr. Modhwadia said.

Babesia is a parasitic disease transmitted through ticks and can cause weakness, fever, coughing and nasal discharge in the infected animals.

Officials said the infection is being treated as a "potential threat" because of the possibility of rapid

transmission among lions in the open forest and adjoining areas.

According to the last census in 2025, Gujarat has a population of 891 Asiatic lions spread across Gir and adjoining districts.

The deaths triggered a series of containment measures, including emergen-

cy rescue preparedness at Sasan Lion Hospital.

Containment zone

"Currently, doctors from Junagadh Veterinary College, working in collaboration with frontline staff, have isolated the lions within the 10-kilometre zone to prevent the potential spread of any virus," said the Minister.

Veterinary teams have collected samples from the dead cubs and sent them to the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre for examination. The reports are expected within the next three to four days and are likely to confirm whether the deaths were caused by

Babesia infection, he said.

Officials said no fresh deaths linked to the suspected infection had been reported over the last two days. The issue was reviewed at a meeting convened by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar on Wednesday.

Mr. Modhwadia said guidance is also being received from the Prime Minister's Office.

In a release, the department stated that none of the lions currently at the Sasan hospital has shown signs of infection. However, if any lion is found affected by Babesia, a fleet is ready to rescue it on an immediate basis, it added.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Environment

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 4

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a response from the Centre, several States and others regarding scorching maximum temperatures and intense extreme heat across the country.

The statutory body was hearing a matter in which it had taken suo motu cognisance of a newspaper report about rising temperatures that are affecting people's health, learning, and productivity, besides impacting the economy.

In an order dated May 25, a Bench of NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad said according to the report, heat rarely leaves any dramatic visuals yet affects a vast part



A man cools himself on a hot summer day in Amritsar. PTI

of the country, and is among the most unrecognised disasters.

Weather bulletin

"The latest IMD bulletin shows scorching maximum temperatures across north-west, west, central and adjoining eastern and north-peninsular India, with the highest temperature re-

corded at 48 degrees in U.P.'s Banda. Delhi remains under heatwave conditions through May," the Bench said, citing the report.

It added that after distinguishing between urban and rural heatwave conditions, a policy with region-specific strategies and adaptation planning is required.

The tribunal impleaded as respondents the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Central Pollution Control Board, the Delhi government and the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

What is National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established on October 18, 2010, under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, to expedite environmental justice in India. As a specialized body, the NGT is dedicated to handling cases related to environmental protection, forest conservation, and the enforcement of legal rights associated with the environment, including compensation for damages to individuals and property from environmental violations. The tribunal also covers issues related to accidental health impacts from environmental causes.

National Green Tribunal Features

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ensures efficient environmental dispute resolution with expert input, aims to resolve cases within six months, operates independently of the Civil Procedure Code, and has regional benches in New Delhi, Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai.

- **Expertise and Speed:** NGT's framework includes multidisciplinary experts to ensure efficient and informed handling of environmental disputes.
- **Independence from Civil Procedure:** Guided by natural justice principles rather than the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, the NGT aims for faster resolutions.
- **Six-Month Disposal Aim:** The tribunal endeavours to resolve cases within six months from the filing date.
- **Jurisdiction and Accessibility:** Initially proposed at five locations, NGT began functioning on July 4, 2011, with the main seat in New Delhi, with regional benches in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai, and it follows a circuit procedure for accessibility.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Environment
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 4

National Green Tribunal Composition

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) composition is defined by the National Green Tribunal Act of 2010, which outlines as follows:

- **Chairperson:** A retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court, appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, serving for five years or until age 70.
- **Judicial Members:** Between 10 to 20 former Supreme Court or High Court judges appointed by the Central Government based on merit, serving for five years or until age 67 (for High Court judges) or 70 (for Supreme Court judges).
- **Expert Members:** Includes 10 to 20 members with a Master's degree in Science, Engineering, or Technology and relevant environmental experience, appointed by the Central Government, serving for five years or until age 65.

National Green Tribunal Powers And Jurisdiction

The NGT adjudicates environmental cases, imposes penalties, acts as a Civil Court follows natural justice, handles multi-disciplinary disputes, ensures timely case disposal, and provides relief or compensation for environmental damage.

- **Adjudication:** The NGT handles civil cases and provides relief in disputes related to seven laws related to the environment. It has also implemented a provision where it can impose strict penalties for non-compliance with its orders.
 - The Tribunal conducts proceedings under the sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 now **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**. It has the power to act as a Civil Court when settling cases.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Environment
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 4

- The NGT operates under the **principles of natural justice** and has the authority to create its procedures, rather than following those outlined in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 now **Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita**.
- **Environmental laws:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) addresses violations of key environmental laws and decisions made by government authorities under these statutes can be contested before the NGT, including
 - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
 - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
 - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
 - Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and
 - Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991.
- **Expertise:** The National Green Tribunal is equipped to handle environment-related disputes and issues of a multi-disciplinary nature.
- **Suo Motu Powers:** The NGT is endowed with suo motu powers, allowing it to take up environmental issues on its initiative without requiring a formal complaint.
- **Enforcement:** The Tribunal is bound to make every effort to dispose of any appeals or applications within 6 months from the date of filing.
- **Other functions:** It can reimburse damaged property or monetary compensation and reimbursement of areas of the environment as deemed necessary by the tribunal.
- The National Green Tribunal can provide relief and compensation to environmental and pollution injury victims, including accidents involving hazardous substances.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Security & Defence
Newspaper : The Hindu; Page No : 9

Securing the country's borders against interests hostile to the country and putting in place systems that are able to interdict such elements while facilitating legitimate trade and commerce are among the principal objectives of border management. As part of the strategy to secure the borders as also to create infrastructure in the border areas of the country, several initiatives have been undertaken by the Border Management-I Division. These include construction of fence, floodlighting, roads, Border Out Posts (BOPs), Company Operating Bases (COBs) and deployment of technological solutions along the India-Pakistan, India-Bangladesh, India-China, India-Nepal, India-Bhutan and India-Myanmar borders. India shares borders with the countries as below:-

- (i) **Bangladesh** - 4096.70 kms running along West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- (ii) **Pakistan** - 3323 kms running along Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.
- (iii) **China** - 3488 kms running along Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh.
- (iv) **Nepal** - 1751 kms running along Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim.
- (v) **Bhutan** - 699 kms running along Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- (vi) **Myanmar** - 1643 kms running along Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
- (vii) **Afghanistan** - 106 kms running along Union Territory of Ladakh

Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme: Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme comprising of projects aimed at infrastructure development of India's international borders, which is being implemented by BM-I Division. The approved cost of the scheme during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 is Rs. 13,020 crore. The scheme aims to enhance the security along the borders of the country and involve implementing a number of projects for the development of border infrastructure such as Border Fence, Border Roads, Border Floodlights, Border Out Posts (BOPs), Helipads and foot tracks along the international borders of the country. It also involves deployment of technological solutions in such patches of the borders, which are not feasible for physical fence.

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System: To improve situational awareness at different levels of hierarchy to facilitate prompt and quick response to emerging situations along the India-Pakistan Border (IPB) and India-Bangladesh Border (IBB), a Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) has been conceptualized which is the integration of manpower, sensors, networks, intelligence and command control solutions.



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Security & Defence

Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 9

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The government has decided to completely transform the country's border security arrangements, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

In the days to come, a quadrangular security grid will be established, under which the public, the civil administration, the local police, and the military will work alongside the Border Security Force to strengthen the borders, he said at the inauguration of two border outposts at Bhuj in Gujarat. A new concept of 'territorial security' will replace the traditional approach of mere border security, he said.

Under the Smart Border Security Project, efforts



Home Minister Amit Shah interacts with BSF personnel during high tea at a new border outpost in Bhuj on Friday. ANI

are under way to fortify the security grids along the borders. This endeavour involves an investment running into thousands of crores of rupees, he said. The Minister expressed the confidence that the deployment of drones, radars, watchtowers, state-

of-the-art technology, and security personnel will result in the creation of a robust security grid. Once it is established, no one will dare breach the borders, he said.

He said the government is planning to assign additional areas of responsibili-

ty to the BSF. He noted that the most significant gap in the security grid lay in the incomplete fencing along the West Bengal boundary. Once the fencing is completed, the government will succeed in curbing infiltration, he said. Work on installing technological fencing is being expedited in forested regions and along riverine channels to prevent infiltration through these routes. In the days to come, the entire border will be secured.

After inaugurating the border outposts, Mr. Shah interacted with the BSF personnel. Praising the personnel, he said they live in harsh climatic and difficult conditions, enduring temperatures ranging from -45 degrees Celsius to 45 degrees Celsius.



South China Sea Border Dispute



SYLLABUS: PRELIMS: Places In News
Newspaper : The Hindu; **Page No :** 12

Agence France-Presse
 BEIJING

China expressed strong opposition on Friday to a decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks “illegal” and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned.

The two island nations announced on Thursday they would start formal talks “to delimit the maritime boundary” of an economic zone and continental shelf between them, as Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos met Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on a visit to Tokyo.

But Beijing again assert-



Mao Ning

ed on Friday that it has an “exclusive economic zone and continental shelf” in the waters to the east of Taiwan.

“China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to this,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular news conference .



Disputed claims in the South China Sea

Claims

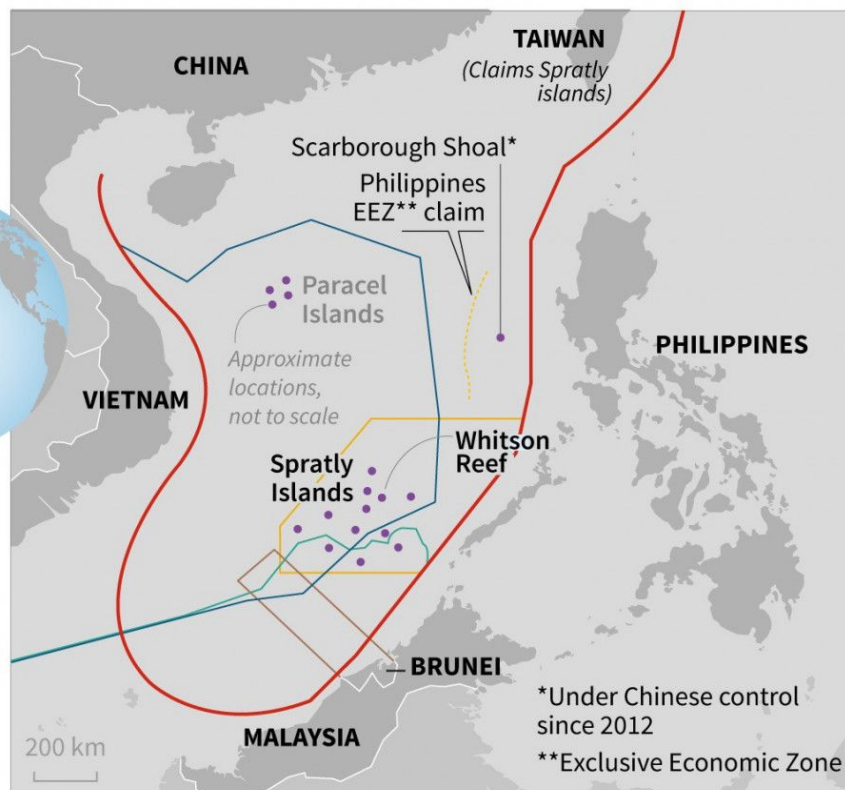
- China
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Brunei
- Vietnam



Area:
 South China Sea covers more than 3 million sq km

Trade:
 Over \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes through the sea annually

Oil and gas:
 Major unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under the seabed



*Under Chinese control since 2012
 **Exclusive Economic Zone

Sources: CSIS/AMTI/D.Rosenberg/MiddleburyCollege/HarvardAsiaQuarterly/Phil govt/ChinaMaritimeSafetyAdministration



Q1. Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan frequently records some of the highest pre-monsoon temperatures in India, often touching 48°C. Which of the following geographic and meteorological factors primarily contribute to this extreme heat?

- Its location in the rain shadow of the Western Ghats and the influence of maritime tropical air masses.
- Advection of dry, hot winds from the Balochistan and Thar desert regions, combined with clear skies, allowing maximum solar insolation.
- High levels of humidity from the Arabian Sea that trap long-wave terrestrial radiation in the lower atmosphere.
- The continuous subsidence of cold air from the Himalayas that undergoes adiabatic heating as it descends into the plains.

Answer: b

Q2. With reference to maternal health and delivery practices in India, consider the following statements:

- The rate of institutional deliveries in India has crossed the 90% mark for the first time.
- The rate of Caesarean section deliveries in urban areas of India currently stands at exactly the optimal threshold recommended by the World Health Organisation.
- The share of pregnant women receiving first-trimester antenatal care and those consuming iron-folic acid supplements for over 100+ days both declined due to post-pandemic disruptions.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

Answer: a

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding the population distribution of Asiatic lions in the 2025 census is/are NOT correct?

- Amreli district recorded the highest count of lions among all districts.
- The population of lions inside protected forest and sanctuary areas is higher than the population of lions in non-forested areas.
- The Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary doubled its lion population to reach 32 lions in 2025.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Q4. Consider the following assertion:

The National Green Tribunal is structured to operate as a fast-track, highly accessible, and specialised environmental dispute mechanism in India.

Which of the following statements support/supports the above assertion?

- Its operational design incorporates multidisciplinary experts to ensure efficient and informed dispute resolutions.
- It completely bypasses fixed geographical barriers by adopting a circuit procedure to maintain accessibility.
- It derives its speed by operating under the strict procedural mandates of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a



Q5. With reference to India's international land boundaries, consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Border Stretch	Primary Geographical Characteristic	Bordering States / UTs
1	India- Bangladesh	Longest land border of India	West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
2	India- Myanmar	Natural watershed boundary	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
3	India- Nepal	Open border regime	Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim
4	India- Bhutan	Shortest international land border of India	Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh

In how many of the above row/s are all the details correctly matched?

- a) One row only
- b) Two rows only
- c) Three rows only
- d) All four rows

Answer: c





VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi - 110060 • Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai - 600040 • Ph.: 044-4330-2121

Visit us at : www.vajiramandravi.com