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THE HINDU COMPLETE ANALYSIS

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International Edition | Prelims MCQs & Mains Pointers Included

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A curated digest of the most important news, editorials and exam-ready pointers from The Hindu, with prelims MCQs and mains practice questions.

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NATIONAL | POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1 Over 20 lakh take NEET-UG re-test; spotlight on NTA accountability

KEY POINTS

- NEET-UG re-test conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) at 5,440 centres in India and 14 abroad.
- Held after the May exam was cancelled following a paper leak; ~7 lakh officials deployed.
- CAPFs, Department of Posts, NIC and the IAF assisted the exercise.
- Security: Aadhaar biometric + face authentication, 1,38,560 CCTV cameras, signal jammers, two-layer frisking.
- Concern: the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 punishes leak networks but offers no candidate compensation, no automatic re-exam right and no examiner liability.
- The shift to Computer-Based Testing (CBT) does not fix the single-point-of-failure problem.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- NTA is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (2017) — not an Act of Parliament.
- 2024 Act: up to 10 yrs jail and Rs 1 cr fine for organised cheating.
- NMC sets the MBBS seat matrix; CAPFs are under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MAINS LINKAGE

- Institutional accountability, examination integrity and right to equal opportunity (Articles 14, 16) — GS-II.

2 Police begin collecting DNA records; NCRB database crosses 1 lakh profiles

KEY POINTS

- Police across several States are collecting DNA, fingerprints, photographs and iris scans of arrested persons and convicts.
- Done under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022.
- Over one lakh profiles generated, stored in a central NCRB database under the Union Home Ministry.
- Records can be retained for up to 75 years.
- NAFIS (launched 2022) enables nationwide matching of records.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- The 2022 Act replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.
- NAFIS = National Automated Fingerprint Identification System; NCRB is under the MHA.

MAINS LINKAGE

- Investigative efficiency vs the right to privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy, 2017) and data protection — GS-II.

3 'Voting should be recognised as a fundamental right' — Jairam Ramesh

KEY POINTS

- Jairam Ramesh argued the right to vote should be elevated from a statutory right to a fundamental right.
- Aim: stronger judicial review and protection against voter suppression, especially during the SIR.
- Cited Article 326 (universal adult suffrage).
- Cited Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissent in Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India (2023), which called the right to vote a fundamental right.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Article 326 provides universal adult suffrage in Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.
- The right to vote is presently a statutory/constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right.
- SIR is a door-to-door revision of electoral rolls by the Election Commission of India.

ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

4 India-U.S. interim trade deal needs 'final touches'

KEY POINTS

- USTR Jamieson Greer to visit India to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal; both sides seek an interim deal.
- Sticking points: U.S. forced-labour investigations and a proposed 18% tariff on Indian goods.
- A March Section 301 probe and a 12.5% tariff proposed on 54 countries loom.
- U.S. Supreme Court invalidated President Trump's reciprocal tariffs; Section 301 hearing set for July 7.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, 1974 lets the USTR act against unfair foreign trade practices.
- USTR = Office of the United States Trade Representative.

5 India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to be signed by December: Goyal

KEY POINTS

- India and the 27-nation European Union will sign the FTA by December; likely effective Feb-March 2026.
- About 93% of Indian shipments to get duty-free access to the EU.
- EU luxury cars and wines to become cheaper in India.
- India + EU together account for ~25% of global GDP and ~one-third (~\$33 trillion) of world trade.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- The EU is a bloc of 27 member states; FTA negotiations were concluded on January 27, 2026.

MAINS LINKAGE

- India's trade diversification strategy amid U.S. tariff uncertainty — GS-II/III.

6 Maritime sector 'a major engine of growth': three naval ships commissioned

KEY POINTS

- PM Modi commissioned three indigenously-built warships at Kolkata.
- INS Dunagiri – advanced stealth frigate.
- INS Sanshodhak – survey vessel.
- INS Agray – anti-submarine warfare (ASW) shallow water craft.
- Over 40 indigenous warships/submarines added recently, advancing 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' stresses indigenous, self-reliant defence manufacturing.
- Ships built indigenously — part of India's growing maritime capability.



PM Modi with the Chief of the Naval Staff at the commissioning of INS Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray, Kolkata. (PTI)

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

7 Ammonia leak kills two at Tamil Nadu seafood unit

KEY POINTS

- Ammonia gas leak at Peter & Paul Seafood Exports, a shrimp unit in Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu.
- Two migrant workers from Odisha killed; 60+ hospitalised.
- CM C. Joseph Vijay set up a 3-member panel (interim report in 24 hrs, final in 3 days); Rs 2 lakh ex-gratia.
- Violations found: no proper alarm system, fire hydrant, Form 12 register or ESI cover.
- Proprietor and manager arrested under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
- Ammonia is the most common refrigerant used in the seafood industry.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Ammonia (NH₃) is a widely used industrial refrigerant — toxic and a strong irritant.
- Section 105 BNS = culpable homicide not amounting to murder; NDRF is under the NDMA/MHA.
- ESI = Employees' State Insurance scheme.

MAINS LINKAGE

- Industrial safety regulation, migrant-worker welfare and disaster preparedness — GS-III.



NDRF personnel at the seafood unit in Tiruvallur after the gas leak. (PTI)

8 Kerala's battle with water-borne diseases (Opinion)

KEY POINTS

- Recurring outbreaks: shigellosis, Hepatitis A, norovirus, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases and amoebic meningoencephalitis.
- Root cause: under-investment in sewerage — less than 6% proper sewerage coverage.
- 62% of people depend on groundwater; faecal contamination of wells persists.
- Gaps remain despite the AMRUT Mission.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- AMRUT = Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (urban water/sewerage).
- Amoebic meningoencephalitis is caused by free-living amoebae (e.g., *Naegleria fowleri*).

NATIONAL EVENTS

9 International Day of Yoga observed (June 21)

KEY POINTS

- The International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21.
- Army personnel held a striking yoga session in Ladakh.
- Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu announced permanent yoga centres.

- Nagaland deferred official events to June 22 after objections from Christian-majority groups (Sunday a day of worship).

PRELIMS POINTERS

- The International Day of Yoga (June 21) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014.
- Ladakh is a Union Territory created in 2019.



Army personnel take part in a yoga session in Ladakh on the International Day of Yoga. (PTI)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

10 'Chance to turn over a new leaf with Iran', says U.S. VP Vance

KEY POINTS

- U.S. VP J.D. Vance said there is a chance to 'turn over a new leaf' with Iran.
- Talks held at a Swiss resort (the 'Lake Lucerne Summit') to build on the interim deal that ended the recent war.
- Iran represented by Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.
- Pakistan and Qatar acted as mediators.
- Threats to the Strait of Hormuz remained a key concern.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman — a vital oil/LPG chokepoint.
- Abbas Araghchi is Iran's Foreign Minister.

MAINS LINKAGE

- India's energy security and the case to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz — GS-II/III.

EDITORIAL PAGE — ORIGINAL CLIPPINGS & ANALYSIS

EDITORIAL 1

End the free rein of junk food advertising in India

Despite the Government of India's plans to amend advertising laws to curb the promotion of HFSS (high in fat, sugar and sodium) foods, such products continue to be advertised rampantly. As evidence of the health harms associated with industrially processed foods engineered to be highly palatable and potentially addictive continues to grow, restricting their advertising – particularly exposure to children and young people – may no longer be avoidable.

Try opening a YouTube video on politics, scrolling through Instagram reels, or scanning a newspaper, and you are likely to encounter advertisements for noodles, chips, biscuits, breakfast cereals, chocolates, sweetened beverages, or other ultra-processed food (UPF) products. Recently, there was a YouTube advertisement for a newly launched baked chips brand in India. The advertisement emphasised the product's cheese and tomato flavours and the "crunchiness" to appeal to consumers. What it did not disclose was that the product is a UPF with ingredients such as maltodextrin, nature-identical flavourings, flavouring substances, salt substitute (KCl/potassium chloride), acidity regulators (E27, E31) and emulsifier (E32). While prominently promoting selective attributes such as "baked", the advertisement omitted material health information, including the product's high salt and fat content and the presence of refined carbohydrates. Such marketing practices can create a misleading impression of healthfulness while obscuring the nutritional risks associated with these products.

While readers can recall their own experiences, there are a few other examples in the media. A female film celebrity is seen recommending a multigrain, "no maida choco cereal" for her son, despite it being a high sugar product. An entire family of actors promotes a "12-grain" breakfast cereal, while a popular film actor endorses a biscuit as a "good choice". Most of these products, however, are high in sugar, fat and/or salt, raising questions about the messages conveyed through such endorsements. Such selective disclosures create a false perception of healthfulness and deprives consumers, particularly children and adolescents, of the right to make an informed choice.

Review frameworks

The focus of this article is also to draw the attention of policymakers to the need for reviewing whether existing legal frameworks sufficiently serve the public interest. Clearer legal provisions may be required to effectively regulate the advertising of unhealthy food products.

Advertising is directly linked to increased consumption of UPFs, which is strongly associated with rising rates of obesity and diabetes. These advertisements often feature



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Restricting the advertising of ultra-processed food (UPF) products and foods high in fat, sugar and sodium (HFSS) is a public health imperative

child actors and use emotionally appealing messages aimed at both children and parents, creating a desire for such products. The fact that in 2024, three major transnational corporations spent \$13.2 billion on advertising underscores the volumes and the power of food product advertisements. Advertising does not merely reflect demand; it helps create it. In India alone, more than two lakh junk food advertisements in a month were backed by advertising expenditure of about \$170 crore.

Evidence suggests that UPFs can encourage overconsumption through mechanisms that resemble those identified in addiction science. The health harms associated with UPFs appear closely linked to their industrial design and marketing strategies. But the food industry fails to disclose this fact to people. Recently, the City of San Francisco filed a lawsuit against 10 major UPF manufacturers, alleging child-targeted marketing, the development of highly compelling product formulations, and inadequate disclosure of health risks such as obesity and diabetes. Among other remedies, the lawsuit sought to prevent further deceptive marketing practices and pushed for corrective measures to address the effects of past false advertising.

A policy gap

The Government of India's National Multisectoral Action Plan (NMAP) for Prevention and Control of Common Non-Communicable Diseases (2017-2022) envisaged the prohibition/restrictions on the advertising of HFSS foods. Many pre-packaged foods are highly processed, containing additives such as colours, flavours, emulsifiers and sweeteners, and are often HFSS. The issue has gained policy attention. In February 2026, the Supreme Court of India, in response to a PIL on warning labels for packaged foods, observed that front-of-pack labelling is necessary to protect the right to health. The Economic Survey 2025-26 also highlighted concerns around unhealthy diets. Several Members of Parliament have called for stronger measures, including front-of-pack warning labels, advertising restrictions and taxation of UPFs. In 2024, the Court had noted that misleading advertisements can encourage the consumption of unhealthy foods by children, pregnant women and the elderly, with potentially serious health consequences. These developments point to a growing recognition that existing safeguards may be inadequate.

The Lancet Series on UPFs and Human Health, published three papers in November 2025 which presented scientific evidence linking UPF consumption to poorer diet quality, displacement of real foods, and a higher risk of obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. Global and Indian data show that rising UPF consumption has coincided with increasing

obesity rates. The Lancet made a strong case for policies in the food environments to reduce UPF consumption, with many experts arguing that policymaking should not wait for further evidence.

The food environment needs a fix

Children and adolescents in India are exposed daily to advertisements for UPFs and HFSS foods on television, digital platforms, social media, sports broadcasts and through influencers. This sustained and sophisticated marketing is designed to build brand loyalty and shape lifelong consumption patterns. The aim of the UPF industry is clear: to encourage the displacement of real culinary or cultural foods for profits. What children or youth eat cannot be separated from what they are persuaded to desire at schools, work places, cinema halls, other public places or even at home.

Experts in The Lancet Series contend that nutrition education and behaviour-change programmes alone cannot succeed in an environment that is saturated with aggressive marketing of unhealthy food products.

This situation underscores an important constitutional principle: when harm is foreseeable and populations are vulnerable, the state has a duty to protect public health and regulate the marketing of unhealthy food products. India committed in 2017 to restrict such advertising, but that objective remains unfulfilled. Given the scale of the problem, neither market forces nor self-regulation are likely to be sufficient. Therefore, there is a strong case for the Government of India to introduce stricter controls on the advertising and promotion of UPFs and HFSS foods such as planned in 2017 by amending advertisement laws.

If schools are to be protected spaces free from UPFs, HFSS foods and misleading nutrition messages, it is inconsistent to ignore the commercial environment that shapes children's choices outside school. The school environment itself requires clear policy direction, not merely advisories (as Brazil did recently). The Economic Survey has called for stronger regulation of UPF advertising and marketing. International experience, from Chile to Mexico, suggests that voluntary self-regulation is often ineffective, whereas enforceable legal measures can be more effective. Given its influence on children's food choices, advertising warrants stronger regulation as part of the broader right to health.

Restricting the advertising of unhealthy food products need not be viewed as anti-industry or anti-profit. In fact it could reduce company expenditure on advertising and encourage companies to redirect resources towards minimally processed foods and healthier local markets. Such a shift could help shape more sustainable and health-oriented food systems in the future.

Original editorial clipping — The Hindu, June 22, 2026 (Arun Gupta).

ANALYSIS & POINTERS — Junk Food / UPF Advertising

- UPF = Ultra-Processed Food; HFSS = High in Fat, Sugar and Sodium.
- NMAP (National Multisectoral Action Plan for NCDs, 2017-2022) envisaged HFSS advertising restrictions — still unfulfilled.
- Supreme Court (Feb 2026) observed front-of-pack labelling is necessary to protect the right to health (Article 21).
- The Lancet Series (Nov 2025) links UPF consumption to obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- Around Rs 170 crore is spent monthly on junk-food advertising in India; the City of San Francisco sued 10 UPF makers.
- Mains (GS-II): the state's duty to regulate marketing of unhealthy food when children are vulnerable.

EDITORIAL 2

Britain after Brexit, divided, uncertain and stagnant

Some anniversaries are merely observed. Ten years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU), on June 23, 2016, and as it prepares for yet another change of Prime Minister, it is clear that whatever the benefits or drawbacks of Britain's divorce from the EU, Brexit has left it bitterly divided. "Take Back Control" the Leave campaign had urged. Instead, Britain is floundering in a morass of indecision, low economic growth and a crisis of politics and governability that will likely produce a seventh Prime Minister in the decade since it voted by the narrowest of margins (52 to 48%) to separate itself from its continent and largest trading partner.

An imperial illusion

Brexit was always a trade-off in a quest by some to acquire more control over trade, regulation and immigration, tinged undoubtedly by nostalgia for Britain's imperial past. The idea that Britain could successfully swap access to the €18 trillion European economy for trade deals based on the ties of Empire – and thrive – was always for the birds, but nostalgia is powerful and illogical. Brexit began as a civil war within the Conservative Party amongst those resisting the EU's project of 'ever closer union' and railing against a perceived overbearing and over-reaching Commission that set rules for others to follow. The rules, however, were the conditions under which Britain gained access to the trading partner that, even after Brexit, accounts for 41% of its exports and 50% of its imports.

When David Cameron offered the U.K. an 'in/out referendum' to settle the war within his party, Brexit morphed into a protest vote. It stopped being about Britain's relationship with Europe and transformed into Westminster's relationship with the rest of the country, especially those parts that felt left behind. Brexit unearthed a raft of problems that had little to do with the EU's rules (which London helped shape



Priyanjali Malik

Writes on security and politics

as a member state), or the free movement of people (a precondition of the single market), even if the 2004 expansion brought a surge of Eastern Europeans settling in Britain for work. Britain's problems were structural. After the 2008 financial crisis, the standard of living for the vast majority stagnated or declined, hit by the years of austerity subsequently imposed on the country to balance its books. While the bankers and banks who precipitated the crisis came through unscathed, life became tougher for ordinary people left to contend with the increasingly underfunded public services they relied on – health care, education and local government.

The resentment this bred provided fertile ground for populism to thrive, and Brexit's focus on immigration provided just that. Immigrants, the siren song went, were taking their jobs, occupying their schools, clogging up their National Health Service (NHS) and pushing them to the margins in their own country: once Britain controlled its borders, life would improve.

Economic reality bites

Things have not improved. While estimates of Brexit's economic costs vary, most economists agree that the loss of unfettered access to Britain's largest trading partner and the end of free movement have acted as a drag on trade and investment, curtailed productivity, and significantly diminished the market for financial and other services. The beneficiaries of Brexit are largely those who facilitate the now voluminous customs paperwork and the additional civil service hires managing Brexit's complexity. And, ironically, those immigrating to Britain are from outside the EU.

For all the rhetoric about controlling immigration, this decade has seen a sharp rise in immigration, largely from outside the EU. Though the number of EU nationals residing in Britain declined gradually from 2016, the number of non-EU immigrants rose sharply from just under 100,000 to peak in 2022-23 at over a million

before falling to about 400,000 now. After COVID 19, the NHS, unable to find qualified workers at home, recruited aggressively from abroad. With Europeans feeling unwelcome, doctors and nurses from India, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan and the Philippines came instead. Before Brexit, there were 10,000 nurses from India. Today, there are 40,000. Ironically, visibly non-white people were flocking to Britain and the immigration statistics continued to rise while the cost of living was battered by Brexit, COVID-19 and geopolitics.

An uneasy nation

The topic of immigration has become toxic. Hijacked by the far Right, it now represents all the broken promises of the social contract. Because Brexit split the country down the middle into solidifying tribal loyalties of Leavers and Remainers, no matter the unfulfilled promises of leaving, politicians across the spectrum remain afraid of honestly evaluating Brexit. Worse, electorally threatened by the populists (not known for their honesty) mainstream politicians across the political spectrum have focused on the bogeyman of immigration in search of populist votes. A former Home Secretary (of Indian extraction) spoke of the 'invasion of our southern shores' while in office. Out of office, her colleague publicly counted white faces in a Birmingham neighbourhood. And the current Prime Minister voiced concern about Britain becoming an 'island of strangers'. These are not words to unite a multicultural country, forge a middle ground and seek honest answers for Britain's economic problems. Ten years on, Britain is deeply divided about who it is and what it stands for. The centre ground lies vacant as politicians chase populist extremes, making politics a game of survival. The statistics speak for themselves: since Brexit, the U.K. has seen 10 Home Secretaries, nine Foreign Secretaries, eight Chancellors of the Exchequer and six Prime Ministers, with a seventh likely incoming. This is not a country at ease with itself or its place in the world.

Ten years after Brexit, Britain still searches for direction

Original editorial clipping — The Hindu, June 22, 2026 (Priyanjali Malik).

ANALYSIS & POINTERS — Ten Years of Brexit

- The U.K. voted to leave the European Union (EU) on June 23, 2016 ('Take Back Control' / Leave campaign).
- Brexit ended free movement of people and single-market access; economic costs include reduced trade & investment.
- Immigration stayed central: non-EU immigration rose sharply even as EU nationals declined.
- Political instability: multiple PMs, Home Secretaries and Chancellors since 2016.
- Mains (GS-II/IR): lessons for regional economic integration and the sovereignty-vs-interdependence debate.

LEAD EDITORIAL — IN BRIEF

◆ 'Changed reality' — India must reduce its dependence on the Strait of Hormuz

KEY POINTS

- The recent Iran conflict exposed India's strategic vulnerability over the Strait of Hormuz.
- India's LPG strategy and a tightly scheduled supply chain rely heavily on Hormuz imports.
- The editorial urges diversifying supply chains and building alternative maritime/land corridors (e.g., Chabahar).
- Reducing Hormuz dependence is framed as a strategic necessity, not just an economic goal.

PRELIMS POINTERS

- Chabahar Port (Iran), developed with Indian assistance, bypasses the Strait of Hormuz.
- The UAE pursues a 'zero Hormuz dependency' strategy via alternative pipeline/port routes.

PRELIMS PRACTICE — 10 MCQs

Q1. With reference to the National Testing Agency (NTA), consider the following statements:

1. It was established through an Act of Parliament.
2. It conducts NEET-UG for undergraduate medical admissions.

Which is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation: The NTA is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (2017), not created by an Act of Parliament; it does conduct NEET-UG.

Q2. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 primarily aims to:

- (a) Grant automatic re-examination rights
- (b) Penalise organised cheating and paper-leak networks
- (c) Compensate candidates for cancelled exams
- (d) Make the NTA liable for failures

Answer: (b) Penalise organised cheating and paper-leak networks

Explanation: The Act prescribes up to 10 years' jail and fines up to Rs 1 crore for organised unfair means; it has no compensation or examiner-liability mechanism.

Q3. The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 and NAFIS are associated with:

- (a) Forensic/biometric records of accused persons
- (b) Aadhaar-based subsidy delivery
- (c) GST e-invoicing
- (d) Census enumeration

Answer: (a) Forensic/biometric records of accused persons

Explanation: The 2022 Act allows collection of DNA, fingerprints and iris scans; NAFIS enables nationwide matching. Records, held by the NCRB, can be retained up to 75 years.

Q4. Match the recently commissioned naval ships with roles:

1. INS Dunagiri 2. INS Sanshodhak 3. INS Agray

- (a) 1-Survey, 2-Frigate, 3-ASW
- (b) 1-Stealth frigate, 2-Survey vessel, 3-ASW shallow water craft
- (c) 1-Submarine, 2-Frigate, 3-Survey
- (d) 1-ASW, 2-Submarine, 3-Frigate

Answer: (b) 1-Stealth frigate, 2-Survey vessel, 3-ASW shallow water craft

Explanation: PM Modi commissioned INS Dunagiri (stealth frigate), INS Sanshodhak (survey vessel) and INS Agray (ASW shallow water craft).

Q5. The Strait of Hormuz connects the:

- (a) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- (b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- (c) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea
- (d) Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal

Answer: (b) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

Explanation: It is a strategic chokepoint linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, vital for global oil/LPG trade.

Q6. Regarding the proposed India-EU FTA, consider:

1. The EU is a bloc of 27 member states.
2. India and the EU together account for nearly one-third of international trade.

Which is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation: The EU has 27 members; per the report, India and the EU together account for ~25% of global GDP and about one-third (~\$33 trillion) of international trade.

Q7. The right to vote in India is currently best described as a:

- (a) Fundamental Right under Article 19
- (b) Statutory/constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right
- (c) Directive Principle
- (d) Fundamental Duty

Answer: (b) Statutory/constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right

Explanation: Article 326 provides universal adult suffrage, but the right to vote is treated as statutory/constitutional; Jairam Ramesh sought to elevate it to a fundamental right.

Q8. The AMRUT Mission primarily focuses on:

- (a) Rural electrification
- (b) Urban water supply, sewerage and infrastructure
- (c) Crop insurance
- (d) Digital literacy

Answer: (b) Urban water supply, sewerage and infrastructure

Explanation: AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) targets urban water supply, sewerage/septage and related infrastructure.

Q9. Regarding ammonia, the gas in the Tamil Nadu seafood tragedy:

1. It is a common refrigerant in the seafood industry.
2. It is chemically inert and non-toxic.

Which is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Ammonia (NH₃) is a widely used industrial refrigerant but is toxic and a strong irritant; it is not inert.

Q10. The 'Special Intensive Revision (SIR)' recently in the news is associated with:

- (a) Revision of GST slabs
- (b) Revision of electoral rolls by the Election Commission
- (c) Revision of crop MSP
- (d) Revision of the NEET syllabus

Answer: (b) Revision of electoral rolls by the Election Commission

Explanation: SIR is a door-to-door Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls; the Karnataka exercise raised questions about acceptable residence/domicile documents.

ANSWER KEY									
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	B	A	B	B	C	B	B	A	B

MAINS PRACTICE — 2 QUESTIONS WITH POINTERS**Mains Question 1 — GS Paper II (Governance)**

“The repeated cancellation of high-stakes national entrance examinations exposes structural weaknesses in the design and accountability of India's examination bodies.” Critically examine with reference to the NTA and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. (250 words)

ANSWER POINTERS

- **Intro:** the 2026 NEET-UG cancellation and re-test affected 20+ lakh aspirants.
- **Design flaws:** NTA is a registered society (Societies Registration Act, 1860) with no codified liability; single-sitting exams are a single point of failure.
- **Legal gap:** the 2024 Act punishes leak networks but lacks candidate compensation, automatic re-exam rights and examiner liability.
- **Costs:** financial, psychological and equity costs that hit poorer aspirants hardest.
- **Way forward:** statutory accountability for the NTA; a compensation fund from exam fees; distributed/multiple CBT windows; independent oversight and grievance redress.
- **Conclusion:** reliability and fairness, not just punishment, must anchor reform; link to Articles 14 and 16.

Mains Question 2 — GS Paper III (Economy & Security)

India's dependence on the Strait of Hormuz constitutes a strategic vulnerability for its energy and trade security. Discuss the risks and suggest measures to diversify India's supply chains. (250 words)

ANSWER POINTERS

- **Intro:** the Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman — a chokepoint for much of India's oil/LPG imports.
- **Risks:** Iran-Israel-U.S. conflict disrupts flows and raises freight/insurance costs; over-reliance on one route; limited contingency storage.
- **Implications:** energy-price shocks, current-account/inflation pressure and supply-chain fragility.
- **Diversification:** alternative routes (Chabahar, INSTC), strategic petroleum reserves, diversified sources (U.S., Russia, Africa), and renewables/green hydrogen.
- **Maritime strategy:** Indian-flagged carriers, maritime domain awareness and partnerships (UAE's 'zero-Hormuz' model).
- **Conclusion:** reducing Hormuz dependence is a strategic necessity tied to energy security and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Compiled for daily current-affairs revision — only the most important news. Source: The Hindu (International Edition), Monday, June 22, 2026. Editorial clippings reproduced for educational discussion.