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The Hindu Analysis

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Compiled by

Sapna Chauhan

01 The Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission

MMX — Japan's Phobos Sample-Return

GS-3

Science & Tech · Space

WHY IN NEWS

Japan's space agency **JAXA** launched the **Martian Moons eXploration (MMX)** probe aboard its flagship **H3 rocket** from the **Tanegashima Space Center** at 4:41 a.m. local time on **20 October 2026**. It aims to be the **first mission ever to bring back samples from a moon of Mars** — Phobos — and the first round trip to the Martian system.

- **Mission profile:** Launch (Oct 2026) → arrival in the Mars vicinity around **August 2027** → orbit and survey **Phobos** (with flybys of Deimos) → land and collect **at least 10 g** of surface material → return to Earth after about **three years** near the Red Planet.
- **IDEFIX rover:** A French–German rover built by **CNES and DLR**, named after the comic-hero Asterix's dog. It will be the **first vehicle to travel across Phobos**, studying the regolith and terrain to ensure a safe landing for the main spacecraft.
- **The core scientific question:** Are Phobos and Deimos **captured asteroids** or **debris from a giant impact on Mars**? Laboratory analysis of returned samples can settle this and reveal how water and organic material were delivered to the inner Solar System — clues to the **origin of life on Earth**.

Japan successfully launches probe in historic Mars moon mission

The flagship H3 rocket carrying the unmanned Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) probe blasted off into a pitch black sky from the Tanegashima Space Center at 4:41 a.m. (1941 GMT Monday), according to a live stream broadcast by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

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AFP

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Source: The Hindu

- **"Natural space station":** JAXA will also assess Phobos as a staging post for future missions by establishing the technical requirements for a round trip — a capability described as **essential for crewed Mars exploration**.
- **International partners:** A collaboration with **NASA, ESA**, the French and German space agencies, universities and technology firms.
- **The sample-return race:** NASA's **Perseverance** rover has been caching Martian rock samples since 2021, but the NASA–ESA **Mars Sample Return** mission was effectively cancelled after a vote in the US Congress in January. China's **Tianwen-3** (launch ~2028) hopes to return samples from the Martian surface by **2031** — possibly before MMX's return.
- **Japan's pedigree:** MMX builds on JAXA's asteroid sample-return successes — **Hayabusa** (asteroid Itokawa, returned 2010) and **Hayabusa2** (asteroid Ryugu, capsule returned December 2020).

Phobos — target of MMX

Value Addition · Moons of Mars at a Glance

	Phobos	Deimos
Size	Larger (~22 km mean diameter); irregular, heavily cratered	Smaller (~12 km); smoother surface
Orbit	Closest — about 6,000 km above the Martian surface	Farther — about 23,000 km from Mars' centre
Period	~7 h 39 min — faster than Mars rotates, so it **rises in the west and sets in the east**	~30 h — slightly longer than a Martian day
Fate	Spiralling inward; expected to crash or form a ring in tens of millions of years	Slowly drifting outward
Feature	Giant **Stickney crater**; surface grooves	Thick regolith blanket

Both were discovered by **Asaph Hall (1877)** and are named after the sons of Ares (Mars): *Phobos* = Fear, *Deimos* = Dread.

PRELIMS POINTERS

▸ **H3:** Japan's new flagship liquid-fuel launch vehicle (successor to H-IIA), developed by JAXA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

▸ **Tanegashima Space Center:** Japan's largest launch site, on Tanegashima island, Kagoshima Prefecture (south of Kyushu).

▸ **India at Mars:** Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) — launched Nov 2013 on PSLV-C25, entered Mars orbit Sept 2014; India became the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit and the first to do so in its maiden attempt.

▸ **Other Mars missions:** UAE's Hope orbiter (2021); China's Tianwen-1 with the Zhurong rover (2021); NASA's Perseverance with the Ingenuity helicopter (2021).

SYLLABUS LINK · GS-3: Awareness in the fields of space; achievements of Indians in S&T. **Prelims:** Space missions, Solar System.

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02 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

MEA rejects OIC's 'anti-India' references

GS-2 · International Relations

WHY IN NEWS

The **Ministry of External Affairs** on 19 October 2026 rejected references to India in resolutions adopted at the **OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Baghdad** (17–18 October), calling them **"malicious, biased and false"** and stating that they were **orchestrated by Pakistan**.

Source: The Hindu

- **India's position:** The OIC has **no locus standi** to comment on matters strictly internal to India. The Union Territories of **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** are integral and inalienable parts of India, and "politically motivated propaganda" cannot alter that reality.
- **Pattern of misuse:** The MEA said the OIC had "once again allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan for its bigoted agenda" — a reference to the OIC's **Contact Group on J&K** and repeated Pakistan-sponsored resolutions.
- **The diplomatic paradox:** India enjoys strong **bilateral** ties with leading OIC members — **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia** — spanning energy, trade, diaspora and connectivity (e.g., IMEC). The OIC's collective statements therefore often diverge from the actual policies of its key members.
- **2019 milestone:** India was invited as the **"Guest of Honour"** at the CFM in **Abu Dhabi (2019)** — External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the plenary while Pakistan boycotted the session.
- **Way forward for India:** Continue firm rebuttals on sovereignty, deepen bilateral engagement with Gulf and South-East Asian members, and highlight India's pluralism — home to one of the world's largest Muslim populations.

Value Addition · OIC Fact File

Founded	**25 September 1969**, Rabat summit (Morocco), after the arson at **Al-Aqsa Mosque**, Jerusalem
Secretariat	**Jeddah**, Saudi Arabia — set up after the first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (1970), headed by a Secretary-General
Membership	**57 states** across **four continents** — the second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN; includes non-Arab members such as Guyana, Suriname, Mozambique, Gabon and Albania
Name	"Organisation of the Islamic *Conference*" until 2011, renamed Organisation of Islamic *Cooperation*
Languages	Arabic, English and French
Bodies	Islamic Summit; Council of Foreign Ministers; **Islamic Development Bank** (Jeddah); Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission
Aims	Solidarity among members; support restoration of sovereignty of members under occupation; combat defamation of Islam; united stand at the UNGA, Human Rights Council and other fora

India	Neither a member nor an observer; 2019 Abu Dhabi CFM — "Guest of Honour"

PRELIMS POINTERS

▸ **Baghdad** (Iraq) lies on the **Tigris**; **Rabat** is Morocco's Atlantic-coast capital; **Jeddah** is a Red Sea port.

▸ **Al-Aqsa Mosque** stands in the Old City of Jerusalem — its 1969 arson triggered the OIC's founding.

▸ Not to be confused with the **Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition** (Riyadh, 2015) or the **Arab League** (Cairo, 1945).

SYLLABUS LINK · GS-2: Important international institutions and fora; effect of policies of other countries on India's interests. **Prelims:** International organisations.

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03 Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026

India–Australia Joint Military Exercise

GS-2 · GS-3 · IR & Defence

WHY IN NEWS

The **5th edition** of the India–Australia Joint Military Exercise **AUSTRAHIND 2026** commenced at the **Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)**. It runs from **19 October to 1 November 2026**.

- **Participation:** About **120 personnel each** from the Indian Army and the Australian Army. The Indian contingent is drawn from the **Garhwal Rifles** along with other arms and services; the Australian side from **13 Brigade**.
- **Previous edition:** The 4th edition was held at **Irwin Barracks, Perth** (Western Australia) from 13 to 26 October 2025 — the exercise alternates between the two countries.

Source: The Hindu

- **Objective:** Strengthen military-to-military cooperation, **interoperability** and mutual trust, reinforcing a shared commitment to **peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific**. The opening display —

drones, inflatable craft and light tactical vehicles — reflects the emphasis on modern niche technologies.

- **Strategic context:** India and Australia are **Comprehensive Strategic Partners (2020)**, signed the **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (2020)**, hold a **2+2 ministerial dialogue**, and are partners in the **Quad** and the **Malabar** naval exercise. The **ECTA (in force Dec 2022)** anchors the economic pillar.

Value Addition · India's Defence Exercises — Ready Reckoner

Exercise	Partner	Type	Exercise	Partner	Type
AUSTRAHIND	Australia	Army	**AUSINDEX**	Australia	Navy
Pitch Black	Australia-hosted (Darwin)	Air, multilateral	**Malabar**	US, Japan, Australia	Navy (Quad)
Yudh Abhyas	USA	Army	**Dharma Guardian**	Japan	Army
Shakti	France	Army	**Nomadic Elephant**	Mongolia	Army
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka	Army	**Surya Kiran**	Nepal	Army
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia	Special Forces	**Ajeya Warrior**	United Kingdom	Army
Ekuverin	Maldives	Army	**Khanjar**	Kyrgyzstan	Special Forces

PRELIMS POINTERS

▸ **Garhwal Rifles:** Infantry regiment with its Regimental Centre at **Lansdowne, Uttarakhand** — a hill regiment of note for HP/Uttarakhand-focused papers.

▸ **Perth** is the capital of Western Australia, on the **Swan River**; **Thiruvananthapuram** is Kerala's capital.

▸ **Australia rejoined Malabar in 2020**, completing the Quad line-up in the exercise.

SYLLABUS LINK · GS-2: Bilateral relations, groupings affecting India's interests. **GS-3:** Security challenges and their management. **Prelims:** Defence exercises.

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04 POSH Compliance & the CIC

CIC remands RTI appeal on POSH in PSBs

GS-2 · GS-1 · Governance & Women

WHY IN NEWS

The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has **remanded an RTI appeal** to the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for fresh adjudication, directing its **First Appellate Authority** to give a **"fair hearing"** to an applicant seeking information on implementation of the **POSH Act, 2013** in **public sector banks**.

- **The claim:** The applicant cited the Supreme Court's decision in **Aureliano Fernandes vs State of Goa (2023)** and alleged that banks had **failed to constitute Internal Committees (ICs)** as required under the Act.

- **Information sought:** Banks registered on the **SHe-Box portal**, **annual returns** filed under the law, **penalties** imposed for non-compliance, and court cases involving aggrieved women.
- **Why "fair hearing" matters:** Remand restores the principle of natural justice (*audi alteram partem*) at the first-appeal stage — the CIC did not decide the merits but required the appellate authority to hear the applicant before deciding afresh.
- **Aureliano Fernandes (2023):** The SC described the lapses in constituting ICs as a **"sorry state of affairs"** and directed the Union, States and UTs to verify that ICs/LCs are constituted in all ministries, departments and public bodies, and to publish their composition online.

HOME / NEWS / INDIA

POSH compliance in public sector banks: CIC remands RTI appeal for 'fair hearing'

The applicant, Chayan Ghosh Chowdhury, cited the Supreme Court's decision in Aureliano Fernandes vs State of Goa case and claimed that banks had failed to constitute Internal Committees as required under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

Published - October 19, 2026 05:28 pm IST - NEW DELHI

PTI

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Source: The Hindu

- **SHe-Box:** The **Sexual Harassment electronic Box** is the Central Government's (MWCD) online platform for registering and tracking complaints of workplace sexual harassment; it was relaunched in 2024 as a centralised portal with a repository of ICs and LCs.
- **Genesis of the law:** In **Vishaka & Ors v State of Rajasthan (1997)** the SC framed the **Vishaka guidelines**, drawing on **Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g) and 21** and on **CEDAW** (ratified by India in 1993). These guidelines formed the basis of the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**.
- **What counts as harassment:** Unwelcome physical contact and advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

Value Addition · POSH Act, 2013 — Key Provisions	
Coverage	All workplaces — public and private, organised and unorganised — including domestic workers
Internal Committee	Mandatory at every workplace with **10 or more employees**; Presiding Officer a senior woman employee, at least two employee members, one external member from an NGO; **at least half women**
Local Committee	Constituted by the **District Officer** for establishments with fewer than 10 employees or where the complaint is against the employer
Timelines	Complaint within **3 months** (extendable by 3 more); inquiry within **90 days**; employer acts within **60 days** of the report

Powers	Committees have the **powers of a civil court** — summoning, enforcing attendance, production of documents
Conciliation	Only at the woman's request; **no monetary settlement** can be the basis
Penalty	Up to **₹50,000** for non-compliance; repeat violation — double penalty and possible cancellation of licence/registration
Reporting	IC files an annual report to the employer and District Officer; employer discloses cases in its annual report

Value Addition · Central Information Commission	
Status	**Statutory** body under the **RTI Act, 2005** (not constitutional)
Composition	Chief Information Commissioner + up to **10 Information Commissioners**
Appointment	By the President on the recommendation of a committee: **PM (chair), Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the PM
Tenure	After the **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019**, term and salary are prescribed by the Central Government (rules fix 3 years)
Appeals	Reply within 30 days (48 hours if life or liberty is involved); first appeal to the First Appellate Authority within 30 days; **second appeal to the CIC within 90 days**

PRELIMS POINTERS

▸ **Vishaka case (1997)** arose from the gang-rape of Bhanwari Devi, a social worker in Rajasthan, while trying to prevent a child marriage.

▸ **ILO Convention 190 (2019)** on violence and harassment in the world of work — India has **not** ratified it.

▸ **CEDAW** was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979; India signed in 1980 and ratified in 1993.

SYLLABUS LINK · GS-1: Role of women, social empowerment. **GS-2:** Statutory bodies; transparency & accountability; mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable sections.

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05 NAMASTE Scheme

National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem

GS-2 · Social Justice · Schemes

WHY IN NEWS

The **NAMASTE** scheme — the Centre's flagship, **human-centric and rights-based** initiative to end **hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks** — is in focus. Launched in **2023** as a **Central Sector Scheme**, its first cycle spanned **FY 2023–24 to 2025–26**.

- **Institutional design:** Jointly launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** and the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**; implemented by the **National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)**. It replaced the **Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)** and covers **4,800+ Urban Local Bodies**.

- **Target groups: Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)**, with **Waste Pickers** added later — to formalise, rehabilitate and empower them through mechanised sanitation, so that no worker comes into direct contact with human waste.
- **Goal — zero fatalities:** Trained and certified personnel, stronger **Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)**, PPE and safety devices, health cover, and **"Sanipreneurship"** and **SHG** formation among sanitation workers.
- **SDG alignment: SDG 6** (Clean Water & Sanitation), **SDG 8** (Decent Work) and **SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities).
- **Why the problem persists:** Caste-based occupational stigma, contractualisation that dilutes employer accountability, shortage of machines in small towns, and weak enforcement of the 2013 Act.

NAMASTE scheme logo

Previous Year Question · UPSC Prelims 2016

Q. 'Rashtriya Garima Abhiyaan' is a national campaign to

(a) rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood
(b) release the sex workers from their practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood
(c) eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers
(d) release the bonded labourers from their bondage and rehabilitate them

Answer: (c) — a civil-society-led national campaign (since 2001) for the eradication of manual scavenging and rehabilitation of those engaged in it.

Value Addition · Legal & Judicial Framework on Manual Scavenging

Constitution	**Article 17** (abolition of untouchability), **Article 21** (life with dignity), **Article 23** (prohibition of forced labour)
1993 Act	Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act — first law against the practice
PEMSR Act, 2013	Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act — bans hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks; offences are **cognisable and non-bailable**; mandates survey and rehabilitation
SKA v UoI (2014)	Safai Karamchari Andolan case — **₹10 lakh** compensation for every sewer death since 1993
Balram Singh v UoI (2023)	Compensation raised to **₹30 lakh** for sewer deaths and up to **₹20 lakh** for permanent disability
NCSK	National Commission for Safai Karamcharis — set up in 1994 under the NCSK Act, 1993; continues as a **non-statutory body** through periodic extensions after the Act lapsed in 2004

Manual scavenging means the removal of human excreta from dry latrines, open drains, septic tanks, sewers and gutters, often under unsafe and inhumane conditions.

PRELIMS POINTERS

▸ **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge** (MoHUA, 2020) pushes cities to mechanise sewer and septic-tank cleaning.

▸ **Central Sector Scheme** = 100% Central funding, implemented by Central agencies — unlike a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with State cost-sharing.

▸ **NSKFDC** is a not-for-profit company under MoSJE (set up 1997) providing concessional credit to safai karamcharis and their dependants.

SYLLABUS LINK · **GS-2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; mechanisms and bodies for their protection. **GS-1:** Social empowerment, caste.

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Practice Zone

Mains answer-writing · Prelims MCQs · Rapid revision — based on today's edition

MAINS ANSWER WRITING

MAINS Q1 · GS-1 / GS-2 — 15 Marks · 250 Words

Despite progressive legislation and growing awareness, sexual harassment of women remains a pervasive challenge in India. Examine the socio-cultural factors responsible for its persistence and suggest measures to ensure women's safety and dignity.

प्रगतिशील कानूनों एवं बढ़ती जागरूकता के बावजूद भारत में महिलाओं का यौन उत्पीड़न एक व्यापक चुनौती बना हुआ है। इसके बने रहने के लिए उत्तरदायी सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक कारकों का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा महिलाओं की सुरक्षा एवं गरिमा सुनिश्चित करने के उपाय सुझाइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

APPROACH

Introduction: Trace the arc from the Vishaka guidelines (1997) to the POSH Act, 2013; cite the CIC's remand on POSH compliance in public sector banks as a reminder that the law on paper is not the law in practice.

Socio-cultural factors: Patriarchal norms and gendered power hierarchies at work; victim-blaming and stigma that silence complaints; fear of career reprisal; the vast informal sector beyond the reach of ICs; normalisation of "eve-teasing"; online harassment; and institutional apathy — ICs not constituted, as flagged in *Aureliano Fernandes* (2023).

Measures: Strict audit of IC/LC constitution and public disclosure; universal use of SHe-Box; gender sensitisation from school curricula to boardrooms; more women in leadership, police and judiciary; One Stop Centres and fast-track courts; safe public transport and digital-safety laws; Local Committees active in the informal sector.

Conclusion: Safety and dignity flow from Article 21 and SDG 5 — legal reform must be matched by social reform so that workplaces become spaces of equal citizenship.

MAINS Q2 · GS-3 — 10 Marks · 150 Words

Sample-return missions such as Japan's Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mark a new phase in planetary exploration. Discuss their scientific and strategic significance, and suggest how India can position its space programme in this domain.

जापान के मार्शियन मून्स एक्सप्लोरेशन (MMX) जैसे नमूना-वापसी (सैंपल-रिटर्न) मिशन ग्रहीय अन्वेषण के एक नए चरण का संकेत देते हैं। इनके वैज्ञानिक एवं सामरिक महत्त्व की विवेचना कीजिए तथा सुझाव दीजिए कि भारत इस क्षेत्र में अपने अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम को किस प्रकार स्थापित कर सकता है। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

APPROACH

Introduction: MMX (launched 20 Oct 2026 on H3) aims to bring back ≥10 g from Phobos — the first round trip to the Martian system.

Scientific significance: Settles the origin of Mars' moons (captured asteroid vs impact debris); ground-truths remote-sensing data; lab instruments far exceed on-board ones; clues to delivery of water and organics to early Earth.

Strategic significance: Mastery of autonomous landing, ascent, rendezvous and re-entry; Phobos as a "natural space station" for crewed Mars missions; prestige amid the NASA MSR cancellation and China's Tianwen-3 race.

India's positioning: Chandrayaan-4 (lunar sample return), a Mars lander follow-on to Mangalyaan, the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, partnerships such as the JAXA–ISRO lunar polar mission, and private-sector capacity via IN-SPACe.

Conclusion: Sample return is the new benchmark of a mature space power — India should invest early.

PRELIMS MCQs

1 With reference to the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) mission, consider the following statements:
1. It aims to collect samples from the surface of Deimos.
2. The IDEFIX rover on board has been developed jointly by France and Germany.
3. It was launched on Japan's H3 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

2 Consider the following statements about Phobos:
1. It orbits Mars faster than Mars rotates on its axis.
2. It is the larger of the two Martian moons.
3. It is gradually moving away from Mars.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

3 Consider the following pairs (Mission : Target body):
1. Hayabusa2 : Ryugu
2. OSIRIS-REx : Bennu
3. Hayabusa : Itokawa
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

4 With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:
1. Its permanent secretariat is located in Jeddah.
2. It was founded after the arson at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969.
3. India has been granted observer status in the OIC.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

5 Consider the following pairs (Exercise : Partner country):
1. AUSTRAHIND : Australia
2. Dharma Guardian : Japan
3. Nomadic Elephant : Mongolia
4. Mitra Shakti : Maldives
How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one (b) Only three
(c) Only two (d) All four

6 Under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, consider the following statements:
1. An Internal Committee must be constituted at every workplace with 10 or more employees.
2. The Local Committee is constituted by the District Officer.
3. The Internal Committee may arrive at a monetary settlement through conciliation.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1 and 2 only

7 Consider the following statements about the Central Information Commission:
1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Chief Justice of India is a member of the committee that recommends its members.
3. A second appeal lies with the Commission within 90 days of the first appellate decision.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1 only

8 The Supreme Court's Vishaka guidelines (1997) on workplace sexual harassment drew upon which of the following international instruments?

(a) CEDAW
(b) Optional Protocol to the ICCPR
(c) ILO Convention 190
(d) Beijing Declaration on Women

9 With reference to the NAMASTE scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It is implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.
3. It has been launched jointly by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10 In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court raise the compensation for sewer deaths to ₹30 lakh?

(a) Safai Karamchari Andolan v Union of India
(b) Balram Singh v Union of India
(c) Vishaka v State of Rajasthan
(d) Aureliano Fernandes v State of Goa

ANSWER KEY & RATIONALE

Q1	b	MMX targets **Phobos**, not Deimos. IDEFIX is a CNES–DLR rover; the launch was on the H3 from Tanegashima.
Q2	a	Phobos completes an orbit in ~7 h 39 min and is the larger moon; it is spiralling **inward**, while Deimos drifts outward.
Q3	d	All three are correctly matched — Hayabusa (Itokawa, 2010), Hayabusa2 (Ryugu, 2020) and NASA's OSIRIS-REx (Bennu, 2023).
Q4	c	India is neither a member nor an observer; it was invited as "Guest of Honour" at the 2019 Abu Dhabi CFM.
Q5	b	Mitra Shakti is with **Sri Lanka**; the India–Maldives army exercise is Ekuverin.

Q6 d	Conciliation is allowed only at the woman's request, and **no monetary settlement** can be its basis.
Q7 b	The CIC is **statutory** (RTI Act, 2005); the selection committee is the PM, the LoP in Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister.
Q8 a	The Court relied on CEDAW (ratified by India in 1993). ILO C190 dates from 2019 and India has not ratified it.
Q9 c	The second ministry is **Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, not Jal Shakti.
Q10 b	*Balram Singh* (2023) raised it from the ₹10 lakh fixed in the *Safai Karamchari Andolan* case (2014).

QUICK REVISION RECAP

MMX — JAXA · H3 rocket · Tanegashima · 20 Oct 2026 · Phobos · ≥10 g sample · IDEFIX rover (CNES–DLR) · Mars vicinity ~Aug 2027 · first Martian-moon sample return.

OIC — Baghdad CFM (17–18 Oct) · MEA: "malicious, biased and false" · no locus standi · 57 members · Rabat 1969 · Jeddah · India neither member nor observer.

AUSTRAHIND — 5th edition · Thiruvananthapuram · 19 Oct–1 Nov 2026 · ~120 each · Garhwal Rifles & 13 Brigade · 4th edition Perth 2025.

POSH — CIC remand to MWCD · fair hearing · PSBs · Aureliano Fernandes (2023) · SHe-Box · IC at 10+ employees · LC by District Officer · Vishaka 1997.

NAMASTE — Central Sector · 2023–24 to 2025–26 · MoSJE + MoHUA · NSKFDC · replaced SRMS · 4,800+ ULBs · SSWs + waste pickers · PEMSR Act 2013.

PRELIMS TRAP-SETTERS

⚠ MMX lands on **Phobos**, not Deimos — and IDEFIX is named after Asterix's **dog**, not Asterix.

⚠ Phobos moves **inward** (towards Mars); our Moon and Deimos move **outward**.

⚠ OIC is the **second**-largest intergovernmental body after the UN; India is **not an observer**.

⚠ The POSH threshold is **10 employees** in total — not 10 *women* employees.

⚠ SHe-Box belongs to the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, not the Home Ministry.

⚠ The CIC is **statutory**; after the 2019 amendment its tenure is set by the Centre, not by the Act.

⚠ NAMASTE is a **Central Sector** scheme (100% Centre), not Centrally Sponsored.

⚠ Mitra Shakti = **Sri Lanka**; Ekuverin = **Maldives**; AUSINDEX is naval, AUSTRAHIND is army.

PLACES & PERSONS IN NEWS

Tanegashima	Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, south of Kyushu — home of Japan's largest launch site.
Phobos	Inner, larger moon of Mars; target of MMX.
Baghdad	Capital of Iraq on the Tigris; host of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, 17–18 Oct 2026.
Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala's capital; Foreign Training Node hosting AUSTRAHIND 2026.
Perth	Capital of Western Australia on the Swan River; Irwin Barracks hosted AUSTRAHIND 2025.

Jeddah	Red Sea port in Saudi Arabia; OIC secretariat and Islamic Development Bank HQ.
Asaph Hall	American astronomer who discovered Phobos and Deimos in 1877.
Chayan Ghosh Chowdhury	RTI applicant whose appeal on POSH compliance in public sector banks was remanded by the CIC.

STATIC LINKAGE · CONNECT THE DOTS

Today's News	Static Anchor	Why It Matters
MMX	Solar System — natural satellites	Mars has two moons; Mercury and Venus have none. Sample return gives "ground truth" for planetary science.
OIC	Article 51 (DPSP) — international peace and security	India's rebuttal rests on sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.
AUSTRAHIND	Indo-Pacific & the Quad	Interoperability among like-minded democracies for a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific.
POSH	Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g), 21 and 42	Equality, non-discrimination, right to practise any profession, dignity, and just & humane conditions of work.
NAMASTE	Articles 17, 23 and 46	Abolition of untouchability, ban on forced labour, and promotion of the interests of weaker sections, especially SCs and STs.

PRELIMS BYTES

- Mercury and Venus are the only planets in the Solar System without a natural satellite.
- The **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** (originally the Untouchability (Offences) Act) gives statutory effect to Article 17.
- **Article 42** directs the State to secure just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- The **Quad** (India, US, Japan, Australia) held its first leaders' summit (virtual) in March 2021.
- **Chandrayaan-4**, approved in 2024, is India's planned lunar sample-return mission.
- India's **Mangalyaan** carried five scientific payloads, including a Methane Sensor for Mars.
- NASA's **Perseverance** rover landed in **Jezero Crater** on Mars in February 2021.
- **Olympus Mons** on Mars is the tallest known volcano in the Solar System.
- The **RTI Act, 2005** replaced the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- The **National Commission for Women** was set up in 1992 under the NCW Act, 1990.

"Consistency, not intensity, clears the exam." — Keep revising daily.