
Prelims Exam Topics

GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON CANCER 2026

Context

The **Global Status Report on Cancer 2026** has been released, providing a comprehensive assessment of the global health, social and economic burden of cancer.

About Global Status Report on Cancer

- Released by: The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)**.
- It is the **first global survey capturing the experiences of people living with cancer**
- Around **20.6 million** new cancer cases and **10 million** cancer-related deaths occur every year.
- Cancer is the **second leading cause of death worldwide**, after cardiovascular diseases.
- **Lung cancer** continues to be the **leading cause of cancer deaths globally**.
- **Asia** carries the largest share of the global cancer burden, while **Europe** records a disproportionately high incidence of cancer relative to its population size.

NEONATAL SEPSIS

Context

The international **NeoSep-1 Trial**, which evaluates effective antibiotic combinations for treating **neonatal sepsis** amid rising antimicrobial resistance, has expanded to **India**, with the first infant enrolled at **JIPMER, Puducherry**.

About Neonatal Sepsis

- A **life-threatening bloodstream infection** affecting **newborns up to 90 days of age**.
- More common in **premature** and **low-birth-weight infants**.
- One of the leading causes of **neonatal mortality** worldwide.
- Causes
 - Primarily caused by **bacterial infections**, including *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).
 - Can also result from **Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)** infection, particularly if the mother acquires the infection during pregnancy.

ULLAS (UNDERSTANDING LIFELONG LEARNING FOR ALL IN SOCIETY)

Context

Uttarakhand has been declared the **sixth fully literate state** under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** through the implementation of the **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** scheme. It joins **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim**.

About ULLAS Scheme

- A **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- **Objective:** To provide literacy opportunities for **non-literate persons aged 15 years and above** across all States and Union Territories.
- **Vision:** To build a "**Jan Jan Saakshar**" (**Literate India**) through a **volunteer-driven approach** based on the spirit of **Kartavya Bodh (sense of duty)**.
- **Target:** To impart **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)** to **5 crore learners** through a **hybrid mode** of learning.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE

Context

The **Egyptian Vulture** has become **locally extinct in the Nilgiris** and is witnessing a significant decline particularly in **Tamil Nadu**.

About Egyptian Vulture

- **Smallest vulture species** in the world.
- **World's only** tool-using vulture that uses stones to crack eggs.
- Serves as an important **scavenger**, helping maintain ecosystem health by disposing of animal carcasses.
- Found across **Southern Europe, Northern and Central Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent**.
- **Major Threats**
 - Poisoning from the veterinary drug **diclofenac**.
 - **Electrocution and collisions** with power transmission lines.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered

- WPA, 1972: Schedule I

TRIBEX DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORM

Context

The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched **Tribex**, India's first dedicated digital learning platform for preserving, promoting, and disseminating tribal arts, culture, traditional knowledge, languages, and livelihood skills.

About Tribex

- A **centralized digital learning platform and knowledge repository** showcasing India's rich tribal heritage.
- Provides **open access** to learners, researchers, and enthusiasts to learn directly from **tribal artisans and indigenous knowledge holders**.
- Developed by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India**.
- **Notable Language Covered: Santali** using the **Ol Chiki** script.
- **Academic Programmes**
 - **Free Certificate Courses** covering tribal paintings, handicrafts, handloom traditions, musical instruments, and other indigenous art forms.
 - **UGC-recognised one-year Postgraduate Diploma programmes** offered in hybrid mode through collaboration with **Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (Varanasi)**.

PARROT BORNAVIRUS 4 (PABV-4)

Context

For the **first time in India**, scientists have detected and genetically characterised **Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4)** circulating among captive parrots, marking the first confirmed presence of the virus in the country.

About Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4)

- **PaBV-4** is a **highly contagious, single-stranded RNA virus**.
- It is the principal cause of **Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD)**, a severe neurological and gastrointestinal disease affecting **psittacine birds** such as parrots, macaws, parakeets, cockatiels and lovebirds.

- **Transmission** occurs through contaminated food, water, saliva and faeces, and may also occur from infected parents to eggs.
- **RT-PCR** is the preferred diagnostic method for detecting the virus in infected birds.

DRISHTI-10 STARLINER

Context

The **Indian Navy** has ordered a **Board of Inquiry (BoI)** after a **Drishti-10 Starliner** unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) crashed during a routine training mission near **Porbandar, Gujarat**.

About Drishti-10 Starliner

- An **indigenously manufactured Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)**.
- Developed by **Adani Defence & Aerospace** under a **technology transfer agreement** with **Israel's Elbit Systems**, based on the **Hermes 900** platform.
- Primarily designed for **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)** missions, enhancing India's maritime surveillance and border security capabilities.
- **MALE UAV**: Capable of operating at **medium altitudes** with an **endurance of up to 36 hours**, enabling long-duration surveillance missions.
- **High Payload Capacity**: Can carry **up to 450 kg** of mission equipment, including electro-optical sensors, communication systems and radar payloads.
- **Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS)**: Equipped with **Satellite Communication (SATCOM)** for long-range command, control and real-time data transmission.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

Context

The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has ruled that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** is **not a "public authority"** under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**.

About Public Authority under the RTI Act

- Defined under **Section 2(h)** of the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.
- Includes any authority, body or institution established or constituted:
 - By or under the **Constitution**.

- By a **law enacted by Parliament.**
- By a **law enacted by a State Legislature.**
- By a **government notification or order.**
- Also includes bodies that are:
 - **Owned** by the government.
 - **Controlled** by the government.
 - **Substantially financed**, directly or indirectly, by government funds.
- **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)** receiving substantial government funding are also covered under the Act.

Supreme Court's judgment in Thalappalam Service Cooperative Bank Ltd. v. State of Kerala (2013):

- **Performance of public functions alone does not make an institution a public authority.**
- Courts have held that **substantial government control** and **substantial government financing** are the primary tests under **Section 2(h)** of the **Right to Information Act, 2005.**
- Mere **regulation, supervision, or public importance** is insufficient to bring an institution within the ambit of the RTI Act.

Places in News

KYRGYZSTAN

Context

India and Kyrgyzstan have strengthened their cultural ties with the establishment of the **International Centre for Civilizational Studies "Manas and Mahabharata"** in Bishkek. The occasion also witnessed the release of the **first Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz epic *Manas***.

About Kyrgyzstan

- A **landlocked country**, often called the "**Switzerland of Central Asia**" due to its rugged mountains and scenic landscapes.
- **Neighbouring Countries:** Bordered by **Kazakhstan (north)**, **Uzbekistan (west)**, **Tajikistan (south)**, and **China (east)**.
- **Climate:** Predominantly **continental**, characterised by **cold winters and warm summers**.
- **Highest Peak:** **Jengish Chokusu (Victory Peak)** is the tallest peak of the **Tian Shan Range**.
- **Major Rivers:** **Naryn, Syr Darya, and Chu**.
- **Major Lake:** **Lake Issyk-Kul**, the **second-largest saline lake** in the world.
- **Natural Resources:** Rich in **gold, rare earth elements, coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium**, making mining an important sector of the economy.



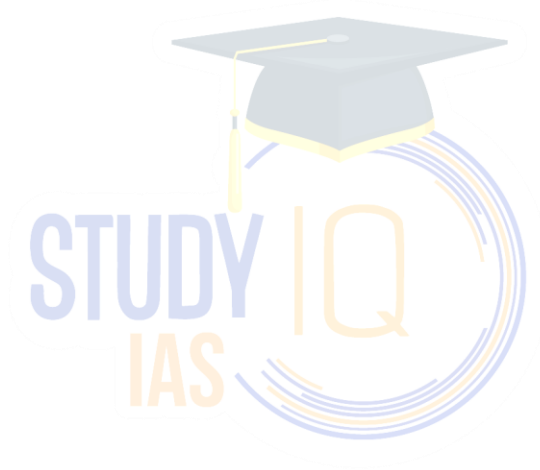
SABANG PORT

Context

India and Indonesia have agreed to jointly develop **Sabang Port**, reflecting their efforts to strengthen connectivity in the Indo-Pacific.

About Sabang Port

- Situated on **Weh Island** in **Aceh Province**, Indonesia, at the **northern tip of Sumatra**.
- **Located near the Strait of Malacca**, one of the world's busiest and most strategically important maritime chokepoints..
- **Connects:** Indian Ocean (via the Andaman Sea) and the Pacific Ocean (via the South China Sea).



Mains Exam Topics

GLOBAL CAPABILITIES CENTRE

Context:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged enterprises to move beyond hosting Global Capability Centres towards driving innovation, intellectual property creation, and product development.

How Do GCCs Affect India's IT Services Industry?

Positive Affects	Negative Affects
Services-led Growth: GCCs are driving a new phase of India's services exports by expanding into high-value functions such as data analytics, engineering design, AI and R&D. E.g., India hosts nearly 1,600 GCCs across sectors including finance, automobiles, semiconductors and retail.	Competitive Pressure on IT Services: Multinational companies increasingly internalise technology functions through GCCs, reducing outsourcing opportunities for Indian IT firms. E.g., JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo have established large Indian GCCs. Instead of outsourcing to local IT firms, they now handle proprietary financial algorithms, risk management, and cybersecurity internally.
Knowledge and Technology Spillovers: Collaboration between GCCs, startups and academia promotes innovation, specialised skills and diffusion of advanced technologies. E.g., Bosch Global Software Technologies collaborates with IISc, Bengaluru facilitating technology transfer and strengthening India's innovation ecosystem.	Limited Value Addition: Many GCCs remain focused on cost arbitrage rather than core innovation, with limited ownership of intellectual property or strategic decision-making in India.
Talent Retention: GCCs provide global career opportunities within India, reducing the need for skilled professionals to migrate abroad. E.g., GCCs now employ over 19 lakh people across the country.	Job Quality Concerns: Some GCCs prioritise lower-cost hiring over advanced technical capabilities, raising concerns about skill intensity and wage quality.

Business Model Transformation: The rise of GCCs is encouraging Indian IT firms to shift from labour-intensive outsourcing towards consulting, AI, cloud services and engineering solutions. E.g., Several IT companies such as TCS and Infosys are incubating and managing GCCs through Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) models.	AI-led Disruption: Rapid advances in AI threaten routine software development, testing and support services that form the backbone of both GCCs and IT companies.
Global Technology Hub: The concentration of GCCs strengthens India's position as a preferred destination for global digital operations and innovation. E.g., India is emerging as the global hub for multinational capability centres, comparable to China's role in electronics manufacturing.	Zero-sum Growth Risk: Expansion of GCCs without a corresponding shift towards product innovation may merely redistribute work from IT services firms rather than create new economic value. E.g., Microsoft earlier outsourced software development to TCS. Now Microsoft establishes its own Microsoft GCC in Hyderabad and performs the same work internally.

How Can India Unlock the Full Potential of Global Capability Centres (GCCs)?

- **Promote Intellectual Property Ownership in India:** Policy incentives should encourage Global Capability Centres to undertake research, design, and innovation activities that generate and retain intellectual property within India.
 - E.g. The proposed **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme 2.0** is considering measures to encourage greater ownership of semiconductor intellectual property by Indian entities.
- **Relocate Strategic Leadership Functions:** Global Capability Centres should evolve from execution hubs into innovation centres by hosting senior technology leadership, product strategy, and research decision-making functions.
 - E.g. The presence of global **Chief Technology Officers (CTOs)** and product leadership teams in India would reflect deeper integration into multinational innovation networks.
- **Focus on High-Value and Frontier Technologies:** India should promote Global Capability Centres in sectors undertaking advanced research and engineering, where activities are less susceptible to routine outsourcing and automation.

- **E.g. Semiconductor design, automotive engineering, and Artificial Intelligence** research centres are increasingly undertaking complex product development in India.
- **Upgrade Capabilities for the Artificial Intelligence Era:** Global Capability Centres should transition from routine service delivery to innovation-led functions by investing in Artificial Intelligence, advanced engineering, and product development.
- **Build an Integrated Innovation Ecosystem:** Policy should strengthen collaboration between **Global Capability Centres**, information technology services, startups, academia, and research institutions to accelerate technology transfer and indigenous innovation.
 - **E.g.** Expand Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) partnerships, university-industry research collaborations, and innovation clusters through **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)-style** collaborative models and regional Global Capability Centre innovation hubs.

