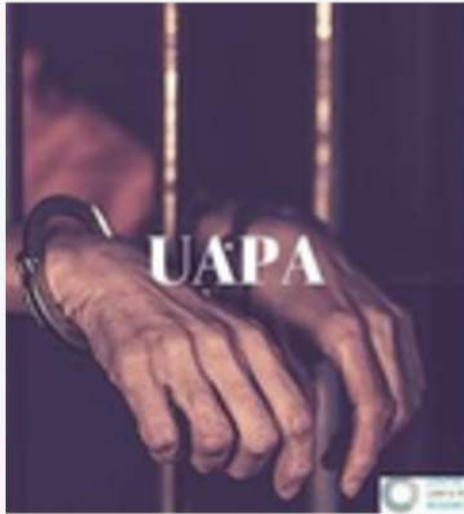




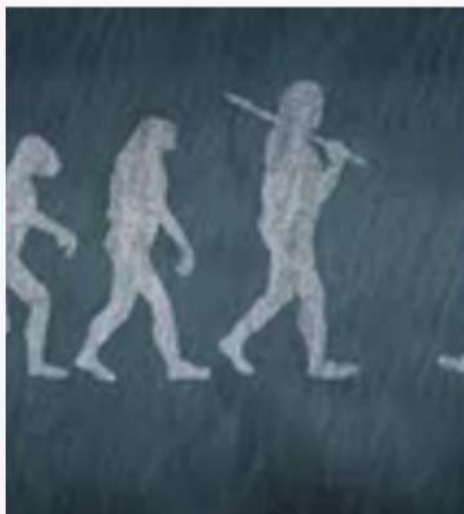
NATIONAL Page 2



Delhi Police ask SC to review UAPA bail terms

THE HINDU : 20-05-2026

SCIENCE Page 3



Revealed: how humans evolved in the past 10,000 years alone

THE HINDU : 20-05-2026

INTERNATIONAL Page 7



China's new worldview and the future of global politics

THE HINDU : 20-05-2026

Practice questions

A dedicated section featuring UPSC-style Prelims and Mains practice questions based on the major issues, concepts, and debates discussed in today's newspaper.

EDITORIALS DECODED FOR UPSC



First and foremost
Shared use of disputed religious sites should be allowed to continue



World isn't prepared for next pandemic



Coal comfort
Coal gasification opens new energy pathways

New Inclusion



PYQ COMPASS
UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS



Full coverage of mains and prelims dimensions with every topic

**PRELIMS 2026
COUNTDOWN
4 DAYS TO GO**



On bail, Court must heed rule it laid down

The Supreme Court of India is examining whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the stringent bail restrictions under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)**. The issue emerged during hearings related to the 2020 Delhi riots accused, where the Delhi Police argued that recent Supreme Court rulings on bail under UAPA may conflict with earlier interpretations of Section 43D(5). The debate reflects the broader constitutional tension between *national security concerns* and *protection of personal liberty under Article 21*.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Article 21 : Guarantees life and personal liberty, including speedy trial.

Article 14 : Ensures equality before law and non-arbitrariness.

Article 22 : Protection against arbitrary arrest and detention.

Section 43D(5), UAPA : Restricts bail if accusations appear prima facie true.

UAPA, 1967 : India's principal anti-terror legislation.

NIA Act, 2008 : Establishes special courts for speedy investigation and trial of terror cases.

Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb : Prolonged incarceration and delayed trial can override UAPA bail restrictions.

NIA v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali : Courts should adopt limited scrutiny while considering bail under UAPA.

Shaheen Welfare Association v. Union of India : Excessive delay in trial violates personal liberty.

Hussain v. Union of India : Reinforced speedy trial as a constitutional mandate.



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations.

(GS III – Internal Security 2019)

Practice questions

Q.) Which Article of the Constitution is most directly associated with concerns regarding prolonged incarceration and personal liberty under UAPA?

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 32

RELEVANCE

GS II : Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

GS III : Challenges to internal security

Revealed: how humans evolved in the past 10,000 years alone

A large-scale study published in Nature analysed over 15,000 ancient DNA samples from Western Eurasia and compared them with modern genomes to trace how natural selection shaped human traits over the last 10,000 years. The study identified evolutionary changes linked to blood groups, skin pigmentation, immunity, and disease susceptibility. The findings highlight how genetics, environment, diet, pathogens, and migration together influenced human evolution and provide insights into population history and adaptation.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Gene : Functional unit of heredity made of DNA that determines traits.

DNA : Deoxyribonucleic acid carrying genetic information in living organisms.

Genome Sequencing : Process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism.

Natural Selection : Evolutionary process where beneficial traits become more common over generations.

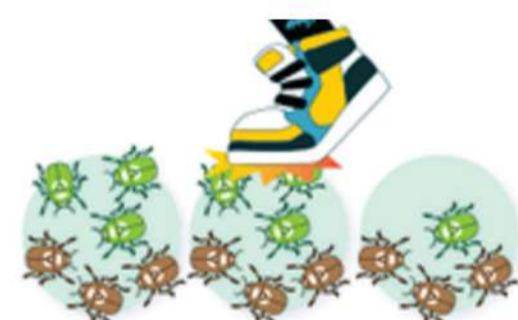
Genetic Drift : Random change in gene frequencies within a population.

Mutation : Permanent change in DNA sequence creating genetic variation.

Ancient DNA (aDNA) : Genetic material extracted from archaeological or fossil remains.

Carbon Dating : Technique used to estimate age of organic remains using carbon-14 decay.

Archaeogenetics, Genome sequencing, Computational biology : tools used in studying human evolution.



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) 'Aerial metagenomics' best refers to which one of the following situations? (2023)

- Collecting DNA samples from air in a habitat at one go
- Understanding the genetic makeup of avian species of a habitat
- Using air-bomb devices to collect blood samples from moving animals
- Sending drones to inaccessible areas to collect plant and animal samples from land surfaces and water bodies

RELEVANCE

GS III : Awareness in the field of bio-technology

Key Developments

- The study showed that the rise of agriculture and dietary changes influenced human genetic adaptation.
- It also found that pathogens and environmental pressures increased protective mutations.
- The study further demonstrated that human traits evolved through interaction between genes, climate, diet, disease, and migration.

Coal comfort

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹37,500-crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects to accelerate India's target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. The scheme aims to reduce dependence on imports of LNG, ammonia, methanol, urea, and related industrial feedstocks while promoting cleaner utilisation of India's vast coal reserves. The development is significant because it links energy security, industrial self-reliance, clean coal technology, hydrogen production, and import substitution within India's broader energy transition strategy.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Coal Gasification : Process of converting coal/lignite into synthesis gas (syngas) using limited oxygen and steam under high temperature and pressure.

Syngas : Mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen used for producing fuels, fertilizers, methanol, hydrogen, and chemicals.

Surface Gasification : Above-ground gasification of mined coal/lignite in industrial reactors.

Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) : In-situ conversion of deep underground coal seams into gas through controlled combustion.

Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) : Technology for capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes.

Lignite : Low-grade brown coal with higher moisture and lower ash content, better suited for gasification than anthracite coal.

National Coal Gasification Mission (2021) : Targeted gasification of 100 MT coal by 2030.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) : Major coal supplier and gasification project participant.

Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL) : Joint venture of CIL and BHEL for coal-to-chemical projects.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) In the context of which one of the following are the terms 'pyrolysis and plasma gasification' mentioned? (2019)

- Extraction of rare earth elements
- Natural gas extraction technologies
- Hydrogen fuel-based automobiles
- Waste-to-energy technologies

Q.) With reference to 'Direct Air Capture', an emerging technology, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2025)

I. It can be used as a way of carbon sequestration. II. It can be a valuable approach for plastic production and in food processing.

III. In aviation, it can be a source of carbon for combining with hydrogen to create synthetic low-carbon fuel.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- I and II only
- III only
- I, II and III
- None of the above statements is correct

Significance

Energy Security: Reduces dependence on imported LNG.

Import Substitution: Enables domestic production of methanol, ammonia, urea, hydrogen, and synthetic fuels.

Industrial Diversification: Expands coal use beyond power generation into chemicals, fertilizers, and clean fuels.

Resource Utilisation: Productively uses India's abundant low-grade coal and lignite reserves.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

First and foremost

The Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Complex dispute gained renewed significance after the Madhya Pradesh High Court held in May 2026 that the religious character of the disputed site was that of Bhojshala, associated with a Saraswati temple and Sanskrit learning centre linked to **Raja Bhoj of the Paramara dynasty**. The judgment relied on historical literature, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey findings, and architectural evidence, while clarifying that it was not deciding “**property title**”. The ruling has revived debate on the interpretation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, archaeological evidence in religious disputes, minority rights, and judicial management of historically contested sites.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Paramara Dynasty : Medieval dynasty of Malwa region; Raja Bhoj was its most prominent ruler. He was associated with Sanskrit learning and temple patronage in Dhar.

Kamal al-Din Chishti : Sufi saint whose tomb exists adjacent to the disputed structure.

Waqf : Permanent dedication of property for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law. (**Waqf Act, 1995** : Governs management of waqf properties.)

Preponderance of Probability : Civil law principle where conclusions are based on greater likelihood rather than proof beyond doubt.

Shared Worship Arrangement : Administrative mechanism permitting different communities to use the same religious site at designated times.

Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 : Freezes religious character of places of worship as on August 15, 1947.

Section 4(3), Places of Worship Act : Exempts ancient and historical monuments governed under the 1958 Act.

Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 : Early colonial framework for monument protection.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 : Governs protected monuments and ASI control.

Article 49 : State obligation to protect monuments of national importance.

Article 51A(f) : Fundamental duty to preserve composite culture and heritage.



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) Consider the following pairs : (2022)

King.	Dynasty
1. Nannuka.	Chandela
2. Jayashakti.	Paramara
3. Nagabhata II.	Gurjara Pratihara
4. Bhoja.	Rashtrakuta

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Practice questions

Q.) Which among the following is the most appropriate significance of archaeological evidence in heritage disputes?

A. It completely settles all religious claims
 B. It replaces judicial interpretation
 C. It helps establish historical layers and structural evolution of sites
 D. It invalidates oral traditions entirely

RELEVANCE

GS I : Salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

World isn't prepared for next pandemic

The World Health Organization declared the Ebola outbreak in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the rapid spread of the Bundibugyo strain, which currently lacks approved vaccines or therapeutics. The outbreak has exposed weaknesses in global health preparedness caused by funding cuts, unequal access to medical resources, and fragile disease surveillance systems. The crisis has also revived debate on the effectiveness of the Global Pandemic Treaty and international cooperation in managing future pandemics.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Ebola Disease (EBOD) : Severe viral haemorrhagic fever with high fatality rate in humans

Virus Family : Filoviridae

Genus : Orthoebolavirus

Zoonotic Disease : Disease transmitted from animals to humans

PHEIC : Public Health Emergency of International Concern declared under International Health Regulations

Key facts

- Ebola is a rare but highly fatal viral disease affecting humans.
- Average fatality rate (Proportion of infected persons who die from a disease) is around 50%, though past outbreaks ranged from 25–90%.
- Transmission occurs through contact with infected bodily fluids or contaminated materials.
- Early supportive care, rehydration, and symptom management improve survival rates.
- Outbreak management depends on surveillance, isolation, contact tracing, laboratory testing, infection control, vaccination (where available), and safe burials.
- First Recorded Outbreak : 1976
- First Outbreak Locations : Nzara (present-day South Sudan) and Yambuku (DRC)
- Origin of Name : Named after the Ebola River in DRC
- Current Outbreak Region : Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo



PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines?

(GS III - Science and technology - 2022)

Q.) COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management of the pandemic.

(GS III - Science and technology - 2020)

Practice questions

Q.) Which among the following regions has historically experienced the majority of Ebola outbreaks?

- Southeast Asia
- Central and West Africa
- South America
- Eastern Europe

RELEVANCE

GS III : Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

China's new worldview and the future of global politics

The 2026 visit of Donald Trump to China ended without major breakthroughs, reflecting deepening strategic rivalry between the two powers. China under Xi Jinping continues to project its rise as part of a long-term global power transition and is promoting alternative international frameworks such as the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI). The evolving rivalry has major implications for global trade, multilateralism, supply chains, technology governance, and India's strategic balancing.

STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Multipolarity : International system where power is distributed among multiple major states.

Strategic Competition : Long-term rivalry involving economic, military, technological, and geopolitical dimensions.

Managed Rivalry : Competitive relationship where both sides avoid direct confrontation through institutional mechanisms.

Global Development Initiative (GDI) : Proposed by China in 2021 to expand its leadership in global development governance through cooperation in SDGs, connectivity, poverty reduction, digital economy, and South-South partnerships.

Global Security Initiative (GSI) : Introduced by China in 2022 as a Chinese-led alternative security framework emphasising "common and cooperative security" in contrast to Western alliance-based security models.

Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) : Advanced by China to promote civilisational diversity, non-interference, and alternative political-cultural models against the perceived dominance of Western liberal values.

Global Data Security Initiative (GDSI) : China's proposal for shaping global digital governance, cybersecurity standards, and data sovereignty norms in response to U.S.-dominated technology frameworks.



PYQ Compass



Q.) Which one of the following statements best reflects the issue with Senkaku Islands, sometimes mentioned in the news? (2022)

- It is generally believed that they are artificial islands made by a country around the South China Sea.
- China and Japan engage in maritime disputes over these islands in the East China Sea.
- A permanent American military base has been set up there to help Taiwan to increase its defense capabilities.
- Though the International Court of Justice declared them as no man's land, some South-East Asian countries claim them.

RELEVANCE

GS I : Salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Practice questions

Q.) China's recent global initiatives indicate an attempt to reshape the existing international order rather than merely participate in it. Discuss.

Q. With reference to China's Global Development Initiative (GDI), consider the following statements:

- It was proposed by President Xi Jinping at the United Nations General Assembly in 2021.
 - It seeks to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - It is formally administered by the World Bank.
- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3