

Topics:

1. GS PAPER II — Judiciary: **CJI calls for National Judicial Policy**
2. GS PAPER III — Disaster Management / Environment: **UN ESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2025 (Urban Heat)**
3. MAINS ENRICHMENT — **Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Programme (Biotech)**
4. GS PAPER III — Economy / Industry / Science: **Scheme for Sintered Rare-Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)** (Prelims fact)
5. MISC / SPORTS — **Commonwealth Games 2030 (Ahmedabad)** (Prelims)
6. GS PAPER I — History / Culture: **Sirpur archaeological site (UNESCO nomination)** (Prelims)
7. GS PAPER III — Agriculture / Biotechnology: **Pusa DST-1 & DRR Dhan 100 Kamala (gene-edited rice)**
8. GS PAPER III — S&T / Space: **IAU names Martian landforms after M.S. Krishnan & Kerala places** (Prelims)
9. MAPPING — **Goa tiger reserve (SC CEC recommendation); Aravalli hills — FSI finds vs 100-m definition** (Mapping/Environment)

1. GS PAPER II — Judiciary

Topic: CJI calls for a National Judicial Policy

Source: LL

Core idea (1-line)

A proposed uniform national judicial policy to harmonise practices and reduce conflicting interpretations across 25 High Courts and multiple Supreme Court Benches.

Why it matters for UPSC

- **Governance** — rule of law, judicial capacity, access to justice.
- **Polity** — federal balance, judicial independence, Articles 225/226/32 implications.
- **Administration** — case management, procedure standardisation, infrastructure, technology adoption.

Key points (concise)

- **What:** A common guiding framework for courts to ensure consistent interpretation and predictable outcomes.



- **Need:** Divergent HC rulings, conflicting SC Bench orders, heavy pendency (~5.4 crore cases), barriers to marginalized litigants, uneven infrastructure.
- **Initiatives already:** Promotion of mediation/ADR, e-filing & virtual hearings, arbitration strengthening, international judicial exchanges, infrastructure focus.
- **Challenges:** Federal complexity (language & local laws), judicial independence concerns, infrastructure & vacancy gaps, resistance to change (lawyers/staff), digital divide.
- **Examples/Illustrations:** Madras HC (language issue), Tribunal Reforms Act judicial independence judgment, internet outages in Jharkhand, HC vacancies like Allahabad (2025).

Way forward (policy roadmap)

- Draft **National Judicial Policy** via SC, HCs & Law Ministry — balance uniformity with HC autonomy.
- Harmonise **procedural rules**: listing, timelines, precedent-usage, standard templates for orders.
- Strengthen **lower judiciary**: recruitments, training, infrastructure, mobile courts.
- Make **tech inclusive**: multilingual platforms, last-mile connectivity, assisted e-filing kiosks.
- Scale **ADR/Mediation**: mandatory pre-litigation mediation in suitable categories.
- Institutionalise **coordination**: periodic judicial conferences, central repository of Bench rulings, bench allocation protocols.

UPSC Mains angles & question pointers

- **Polity:** Independence vs accountability; centre-state balance in judicial administration.
- **Governance:** Efficiency, access, digital governance, court management.
- **Ethics:** Fairness, transparency, public trust in institutions.

Secure answer practice — (provided Q)

Q: “The experience of former judges can enrich governance, but it must be weighed against risks to judicial independence”. Critically examine in the context of post-retirement appointments. What safeguards are necessary to uphold constitutional trust? (15)

Suggested answer structure (5–6 paragraphs / 150–200 words):

1. **Intro (15–20 wds):** State the dilemma—value of experience vs risk to independence.
2. **Value of post-retirement roles (2–3 points):** administrative expertise, legal insight in commissions/tribunals, mentoring.
3. **Risks (2–3 points):** perception of bias, “reward” for favourable judgments, executive influence, erosion of separation of powers.
4. **Evidence/Examples (1 paragraph):** cite instances where post-retirement appointments raised controversy (brief) — explain impact on public trust.

5. Safeguards (bulletable actionables):

- Cooling-off period (statutory).
- Transparent eligibility & selection (parliamentary/SEC scrutiny).
- Ban on certain appointments (e.g., office under executive for X years).
- Fixed terms & safeguards for independence if appointed (salary, tenure).
- Judicial appointment process reforms (collegium + statutory checks).

6. Conclusion (1–2 lines): Balanced policy retains expertise while protecting independence and trust.

2. GS PAPER III — Disaster Management / Environment

Topic: UN ESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2025 — Urban Heat & Megacities

Source: DTE

Core idea (1-line)

Urban Heat Island (UHI) and rapid urbanisation will amplify local temperatures in Asian megacities (Delhi, Dhaka, Karachi, Manila, etc.) by **2–7°C**, raising chronic heat exposure and socio-economic risks.

Key findings (bulleted)

- Cities can heat well beyond global average (up to +7°C) due to built environment and waste heat.
- South Asia: 300+ days with heat index >35°C; many regions >41°C for 200+ days under projections.
- 2024 marked record regional heat events; large human impacts (deaths, morbidity, productivity loss).
- Compound risks: heat + pollution → worse health outcomes.
- Economic hit: working-hour losses, potential billions in losses under high-emissions scenarios.

Why South Asia vulnerable

- High humidity + temperature (raising heat index).
- Dense urbanisation & limited green/blue infrastructure.
- Large outdoor workforce (agriculture, construction).
- Weak adaptation capacity & healthcare/energy constraints.
- Poverty & inequality amplify exposure.

Challenges (policy gaps)

- Weak/underfunded Heat Action Plans.
- Poor urban planning and low green cover.
- Inadequate local heat forecasting and last-mile warnings.
- Lack of legal labour protection for heat.
- Electricity/water stress hampering cooling.

Way forward (actionables)

- **National Heat-Health Warning Network** + district-level forecasts and local language alerts.
- **Heat-sensitive urban design:** cool roofs, reflective surfaces, urban forests, shaded corridors.
- **Worker protections:** mandated rest, hydration, shift adjustments during heat.
- **Health systems:** cooling shelters, mobile clinics, hydration kiosks.
- **Social safety nets:** targeted subsidies for vulnerable households for cooling & water.
- **Climate-resilient agriculture** and index insurance.

Secure answer practice — (provided Q)

Q: What are heat waves? Analyze the measures that can be taken to enhance preparedness for extreme heat events in India. (15)

Answer plan (5 parts):

1. **Definition:** Meteorological definition + heat index concept (temp + humidity).
2. **Causes:** Global warming, urbanisation (UHI), land-use change.
3. **Impacts:** Health (heatstroke), mortality, labour productivity, agriculture, power demand.
4. **Preparedness measures:** Early warning systems, heat action plans, urban design, worker protections, healthcare readiness, water & power resilience, public communication.
5. **Conclusion:** Multi-sectoral, localised and equity-focused adaptation is essential.

3. MAINS ENRICHMENT (CME)

Topic: Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Programme — Biotech innovation

What it is (one-liner): Government-backed scheme embedding young researchers inside institutions to translate high-risk biotech research into products/startups.

Key features & relevance:

- Bridges lab-to-market; incubation + mentorship + finance. (GS-III: S&T & Economy)
- Promotes translational research, industry–academic linkages; relevant for ethics (commercialisation vs public good).

Mains angles: Innovation policy, public-private partnerships, skill development, IP & access to medicines, regulatory & biosafety concerns.

4. GS PAPER III — Industry / Prelims Fact

Topic: Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered REPM (₹7,280 crore)

Source: PIB

Prelims snapshot (quick facts):

- **Outlay:** ₹7,280 crore (₹6,450 cr sales-linked incentives; ₹750 cr capex subsidy).
- **Aim:** Build integrated REPM value-chain (oxide → metal → alloy → sintered magnets).
- **Target:** 6,000 MTPA capacity; 5 beneficiaries via global bidding.
- **Duration:** 7 years (2-yr gestation + 5-yr incentives).
- **Why important:** India has major REE reserves (6.9 Mt) but ~1% global production; China ~90% of REPM supply.

Prelims tip: Remember **REPM = NdFeB magnets** used in EVs, wind turbines, aerospace — strategic for green transition.

5. MISC / SPORTS — Prelims

Topic: Commonwealth Games 2030 — Ahmedabad (Amdavad)

Key facts: 2030 centenary Games ratified (Nov 2025); venues include Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave & Narendra Modi Stadium.

6. GS PAPER I — History / Culture (Prelims + Mains value)

Topic: Sirpur archaeological site (Chhattisgarh) — UNESCO nomination preparation

Quick facts: 5th–12th century multi-religious city on Mahanadi; Lakshmana temple (7th c), Surang Tila, Buddhist viharas; capital of Dakshina Kosala.

Mains relevance: Cultural pluralism, heritage conservation, tourism & local development, archaeology.

7. GS PAPER III — Agriculture / Biotechnology

Topic: Pusa DST-1 & DRR Dhan 100 Kamala — gene-edited rice (ICAR rebuttal)

Essentials: Gene-edited lines improving salinity tolerance and yields; validated under AICRPR multi-location blind trials (~100 sites). Shows India's progress in precision breeding & regulatory evaluation.

Mains relevance: Agri-biotech policy, food security, biosafety regulation, public acceptance.

8. GS PAPER III — Science & Space (Prelims)

Topic: IAU names Martian landforms after M.S. Krishnan and Kerala places (Valiamala, Thumba, Bekal, Varkala, Periyar).

Quick fact: IAU is authority for planetary nomenclature; naming recognises Indian contributions to geology & planetary science.

9. MAPPING / ENVIRONMENT (Geography & Ecology)

A. SC Panel recommends phased creation of a Goa Tiger Reserve

- **Why:** Connectivity with Kali Tiger Reserve (Karnataka); phased approach to minimise displacement; Phase-1 areas: Netravali core, Cotigao core, Bhagwan Mahavir buffer.
- **Relevance:** Landscape conservation, human–wildlife coexistence, legal orders from Bombay HC & SC referral to CEC.

B. Aravalli hills — FSI assessment vs 100-metre definition

- **Issue:** Environment Ministry/SC accepted 100-m above local ground definition, excluding >90% of Aravalli landscape per FSI survey.
- **Implications:** Reduced protection, risk of desertification, loss of ecological services (windbreaks, biodiversity, water recharge).