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1. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- Prelims - UPSC
- Mains - GS 2 - Polity

Why in the news?

- October 1, 2025, marks 100 years since the establishment of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Union Public Service Commission(UPSC)

- **What is it?**: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India.
- **Historical Background:**
 - Origin traced to Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms) → recommended a Public Service Commission.
 - First Public Service Commission set up on October 1, 1926 under the chairmanship of Sir Ross Barker.
 - Government of India Act, 1935 → provided for a Federal Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commissions.
 - After Independence, the UPSC was given constitutional status under Part XIV of the Constitution.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** UPSC is a constitutional body and its provisions are dealt under Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution.
- **Functions of UPSC**
 - **Recruitment:**
 - ★ Conducts exams for All India Services (IAS, IPS, IFS) and Central Services (Group A & B).
 - ★ Direct recruitment through Civil Services Examination, Engineering Services, Combined Defence Services, NDA, CAPF, etc.
 - **Advisory Role:**
 - ★ On recruitment methods, promotions, transfers, disciplinary matters.
 - ★ On framing/amending recruitment rules.
 - ★ On matters referred by the President.



→ Other Functions:

- ★ Joint recruitment with State PSCs if required.
- ★ Present annual report to the President.
- **Power to Extend Functions:** The Legislature of a State may provide for the exercise of additional functions by the UPSC or the SPSC as respects the services of the Union or the State and also as respects the services of any local authority or other body corporate constituted by law or of any public institution.
- **Compositions of Members:**
 - Chairman and Members (number decided by President).
 - At least half of the members must have held a government office for 10 years.
- **Appointment of Members:** The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.
- **Term of Office:** Six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- **Reappointment:** Any person who has once held the office as a member of a Public Service Commission is ineligible for reappointment to that office.
- **Resignation:** A member of the Union Public Service Commission may resign from his/her office by submitting the written resignation to the President of India.
- **Removal:**
 - Removed by President
 - Condition for Removal
 - ★ Is judged an insolvent.
 - ★ Engages during his/her term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his/her office.
 - ★ Is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.
- **Regulating the Conditions of Service:** Regulated by the President.
- **Restriction of Power:** The conditions of service of a member of UPSC shall not be amended after his/her appointment that may lead to his/her disadvantage.
- **Expenses of UPSC:** Charged on Consolidated Fund of India
- **Report:** Submits a report to the President.



2. Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

- **Prelims** - Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- NASA has launched the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP).

Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

- **What is it?:**
 - The mission is launched with an aim to map the heliosphere's boundary, trace energetic particles, and improve space weather forecasting.
- **Orbit:** Will be positioned at the **Sun–Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1)**, about 1.5 million km from Earth.
- **Mission Duration:** 2 years (with possible extensions).
- **Objectives:**
 - **Study the heliosphere:** The vast protective bubble created by the solar wind around our solar system.
 - **Investigate the boundary** between the heliosphere and interstellar medium (ISM).
 - **Understand cosmic rays:** Origin, acceleration, and how they penetrate the heliosphere.
 - **Improve space weather forecasting** by examining how solar particles interact with Earth's magnetosphere.
- **Payloads:** It carries 10 advanced instruments-
 - ENA (Energetic Neutral Atom) detectors for imaging the heliospheric boundary.
 - Solar wind analyzers to measure plasma composition.
 - Cosmic ray detectors to study high-energy particles.
 - Dust instruments to measure interstellar dust entering the solar system.
- **Potential Benefits:**
 - **Mapping Interstellar Boundary:** To build 3D maps of the heliosphere and its boundary.



- **Cosmic Ray Filtering:** To understand how the heliosphere shields Earth from harmful galactic cosmic rays.
- **Solar–Interstellar Interaction:** To probe how solar wind plasma interacts with the local interstellar medium.
- **Space Weather:** Enhances understanding of solar storms and their effects on Earth’s satellites, power grids, and communication.
- **Foundation for Interstellar Missions:** Lays groundwork for future deep-space probes like *Voyager successors* or *interstellar travel*.



3. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- **Prelims** - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- India has been re-elected to Part II of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the 2025-2028 term.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- **What is it?:** ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN).
- **Formations:** It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) known as the Chicago Convention.
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada
- **Motto:** "Safe, Secure and Sustainable Development of Civil Aviation."
- **Members:**
 - India is a founding member of ICAO.
 - 193 member states (as of 2025).
- **Functions:**
 - ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines.
 - It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security and facilitation, efficiency, and economic development of air transport as well as to improve the environmental performance of aviation.
 - It also serves as a clearinghouse for cooperation and discussion on civil aviation issues among its 193 member states.
 - It also promotes regional and international agreements aimed at liberalizing aviation markets.
 - It helps to establish legal standards to ensure that the growth of aviation does not compromise safety, and encourages the development of other aspects of international aviation law.



4. Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative

- Prelims - Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative
- Mains - GS 2 - Governance

Why in the news?

- Centre is launching the Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative in schools from October in line with the concept of Model United Nations.

Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative

- What is it?:
 - It is a **school-based programme** that brings the Gram Sabha's democratic process into classrooms.
 - It draws inspiration from the **Model United Nations (MUN)** format.
 - It is the **first structured attempt** in India to directly connect students with grassroots governance.
- Nodal Agency:
 - Launched by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
 - The curriculum and session modules are being co-designed with the **Ministries of Education and Tribal Affairs**.
- Aims & Objectives:
 - Raise awareness among schoolchildren about village-level democracy from an early stage.
 - Help students grasp the role and importance of Gram Sabhas in local governance.
 - Foster a mindset that views local government as a platform for public service.
 - Cultivate leadership potential and ethics beyond mere textbook learning.
 - Rekindle youth interest in Gram Sabhas, whose real-world participation is often low.
- Key Features:
 - The programme will begin in **1,100–1,200 schools**, covering Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Eklavya Model Residential Schools in tribal areas, and rural government schools in states like Maharashtra and Karnataka.
 - Students of **classes 9 to 12** will assume roles such as **sarpanch, ward members, village secretary, Anganwadi worker, ANM, junior engineers** etc.
 - They will conduct **mock Gram Sabha sessions**,



- ★ Deliberate on local governance issues
- ★ Draft village budgets and development plans
- ★ Pass model resolutions on issues affecting rural life
- These exercises simulate actual Gram Sabha procedures, which include participation of all adults in the village.
- **Teachers** will be trained via **National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs)** to facilitate these sessions.
- Post-exercise: regional & national competitions will be held for JNVs and EMRSs.
- **Awards & Support:**
 - ★ Prize money for top-performing schools
 - ★ All participating schools receive certificates
 - ★ Each school gets **₹20,000** from the Ministry to conduct the mock sessions
- **Significance:**
 - Deepens democratic culture by familiarising youth with **local-level participation**.
 - Encourages **active citizenship and civic skills** in students rather than passive learning.
 - Bridges theory and practice- students learn governance by doing.
 - May strengthen appreciation and legitimacy of **Panchayati Raj institutions** among younger generations.
- **Challenges:**
 - Ensuring the model isn't just **symbolic**, but genuinely meaningful.
 - Variation in **school capacity, infrastructure, and teacher preparedness**.
 - Guaranteeing **inclusive and gender-equitable** participation.
 - Sustaining the initiative beyond pilot phases- institutionalising in school systems.



5. Crime Against Children

- Prelims - Crime Against Children
- Mains - GS 2 - Social Justice

Why in the news?

- A total of 1,77,335 cases of crime against children were registered in 2023, showing an increase of 9.2% over the 2022 figure, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report

Crime Against Children in India

- **Magnitude of the Problem (NCRB 2023 Data):**
 - **Crime rate:** 39.9 per 1,00,000 child population in 2023 (up from 36.6 in 2022).
 - **Major crime heads:**
 - ★ Kidnapping & Abduction – 79,884 cases (45% of total).
 - ★ POCSO Act offences – 67,694 cases (38.2%).
 - **State-wise burden:**
 - ★ Madhya Pradesh – 22,393 cases (highest).
 - ★ Maharashtra – 22,390 cases.
 - ★ Uttar Pradesh – 18,852 cases.
- **Forms of Crimes Against Children:**
 - **Physical Exploitation:**
 - ★ Kidnapping, abduction, corporal punishment.
 - ★ Trafficking for labour, servitude, or organ trade.
 - **Sexual Exploitation:**
 - ★ Child sexual abuse under POCSO Act, 2012.
 - ★ Child pornography/CSAM, online grooming, sextortion.
 - ★ Commercial sexual exploitation via trafficking.
 - **Economic Exploitation:**
 - ★ Child labour (though banned, persists in informal sector).
 - ★ Bonded labour (brick kilns, carpet weaving).
 - ★ Forced beggary.
 - **Social Exploitation:**



>> Kozhikode

>> Ernakulam

>> Thiruvananthapuram

- ★ Child marriage (despite PCMA, 2006).
- ★ Caste/gender-based discrimination, neglect, abandonment.

→ **Cybercrimes:**

- ★ Online bullying, grooming.
- ★ Circulation of CSAM on dark web.
- ★ Identity theft and cyber fraud.

● **Legal & Institutional Framework:**

→ **Constitutional Provisions:** Art. 21A (education), Art. 24 (no child labour), Art. 39 & 45 (protection and care).

→ **Key Laws:**

- ★ POCSO Act, 2012
- ★ Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- ★ Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016
- ★ Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- ★ IT Act, 2000

→ **Institutional Mechanism:**

- ★ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- ★ State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights
- ★ Child Welfare Committee
- ★ Juvenile Justice Board

● **Government Scheme:**

- **Mission Vatsalya (2022):** Umbrella scheme for child protection.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Gender equality.
- **PM CARES for Children:** Support for COVID orphans.
- **TrackChild Portal:** Digital monitoring of missing children.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra** – Monitoring online threats.

● **Challenges:**

- Under-reporting due to stigma and fear.
- Judicial delays: large number of pending POCSO cases.
- Cultural acceptance of child marriage & child labour.
- Weak enforcement in the informal economy.
- Limited counsellors, shelter homes, and child protection units.



→ Rising cyber threats with low cyber awareness.

- **Way Forward**

→ **Legal enforcement:** Expand Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO.

→ **Technology:** Use AI & ML for online monitoring of CSAM.

→ **Awareness campaigns:** To challenge child marriage, child labour norms.

→ **Institutional strengthening:** More CWCs, child psychologists, crisis centres.

→ **Community engagement:** Panchayati Raj institutions, NGOs in child monitoring.

→ **International cooperation:** With INTERPOL, UNICEF, ILO on trafficking & online abuse.



6. Wassenaar Arrangement

- Prelims - Wassenaar Arrangement
- Mains - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- The Wassenaar Arrangement is struggling to keep pace with advancements in cloud technology, necessitating revisions in its control lists as well as stronger enforcement mechanisms.

Wassenaar Arrangement

- What is it?:
 - The Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies is a multilateral export control regime (MECR).
 - Established in 1996 at Wassenaar, Netherlands, it succeeded the earlier Cold War-era Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM).
- Objectives:
 - Promote **transparency and responsibility** in international transfers of conventional arms and dual-use technologies.
 - Prevent **destabilizing accumulations of weapons** and sensitive technologies by rogue actors or states.
 - Complement other non-proliferation regimes (like NSG, MTCR, Australia Group).
- Key Features:
 - **Membership:** 42 participating states (as of 2025) including the US, Russia, Japan, most EU nations.
 - **India joined in December 2017**, strengthening its case for membership in other global regimes.
 - **Control Lists:**
 - ★ *Munitions List* (conventional arms).
 - ★ *Dual-Use Goods & Technologies List* (items with civilian and military applications).
 - Decisions are taken by **consensus**; not legally binding but politically significant.



- Participating states maintain **national export control policies** consistent with WA guidelines.
- **Relevance for India:**
 - Membership has given India access to **advanced technologies**, crucial for defence, space, and nuclear programs.
 - Strengthens India's profile as a **responsible nuclear power** and helps in its pursuit of **NSG membership**.
 - Allows India to align domestic export control lists (e.g., **SCOMET list**) with global standards.
- **Challenges:**
 - Difficulty in adapting controls to **emerging technologies** (AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity tools, drones).
 - **Enforcement issues** due to non-binding nature.
 - Growing geopolitical tensions (US–China, Russia–West) reduce consensus.