

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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## **IMPORTANT NEWS ARTICLES**

1. NMC to launch 'one nation, one registration platform' for unified info on doctors - The Hindu/ Doctors to get unique ID in national medical register by the end of 2024 - Indian Express
2. International Solar Alliance's Global Solar Facility set to receive a capital contribution of \$35 million dollars - PIB
3. Strive to make India a developed nation by 2047, PM tells citizens - The Hindu
4. Fiscal deficit touches 39.3% of full-year target in first half - The Hindu/ Fiscal deficit widens to 39% of full-year target in Apr-Sept - Indian Express
5. Sept. core sector growth slips to 8.1% - The Hindu
6. Every Drop Counts - Indian Express
7. Akhaura-Agartala rail link to be inaugurated virtually by PM Modi, Sheikh Hasina today - The Hindu

## **EDITORIALS, GISTS AND EXPLAINERS**

1. Stocktaking climate finance — a case of circles in red ink - The Hindu
2. The stance of the Maldives President-elect on India - The Hindu
3. A Gaganyaan for the seas: inside India's 'Deep Ocean Mission' - The Hindu

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6. Aarambh

## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. NMC to launch 'one nation, one registration platform' for unified info on doctors - The Hindu/ Doctors to get unique ID in national medical register by the end of 2024 - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

**News:**

- All doctors in the country **will receive** a unique identification number on the National Medical Register.
- The number is **likely to be rolled out** by the end of next year.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- National Medical Register
- National Medical Commission

**How will the Register Work?**

- The register will be a **dynamic one**.
- Doctors can **keep updating details** of their qualifications, fellowships, and other courses.
- This centralised repository will **allow people to check** the credentials of their doctor.
- The new register will **allow doctors to seek licences** to practise in multiple states.
- The data from state medical councils was **used to create** the current Indian Medical Register that will be replaced by this new register.

**Assessment and Stakeholders**

- A pilot for the assessment system has **already been conducted** in eight colleges across the country – four private and four government.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) is now in **the process of consulting assessors** and other stakeholders to finalise the process.

**Features of Unique ID**

- The unique ID will be like a bank account where all information about doctors **will be stored**.
- Different **stakeholders**
  - boards under NMC
  - institutions employing the doctors
  - medical colleges where they go for further education
  - people will have different levels of access to the data as per the need.
- An IT platform **with verified information** will make it easy for colleges and employers to check credentials of doctors.
- It will **contain details such as** the registration number, date of registration, place of work, medical qualifications, speciality, university where the qualifications were obtained, and the year of passing.
- The registration **has to be updated** every five years.

### GS III

#### 2. International Solar Alliance's Global Solar Facility set to receive a capital contribution of \$35 million dollars - PIB

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**News:**

- International Solar Alliance has infused \$35 Million for Global Solar Facility (GSF).

**Allocation to GLObal Solar Facility**

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is **allocating** \$35 million to its Global Solar Facility (GSF)
  - to promote solar investments in underserved regions
  - has a particular focus on Africa.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Global Solar Facility (GSF)



**Contributions from Stakeholders**

- The Government of India is **considering**
  - a \$25 million contribution to the GSF
  - an additional \$10 million from the ISA itself.
- Support for the GSF is **also coming from**
  - Bloomberg Philanthropies
  - the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

**Primary Objective of GSF**

- The primary objective of GSF is **to attract investments** to expedite the transition to solar energy.
- GSF **aims to raise** a total of \$100 million
  - to harness Africa's solar energy potential
  - to mitigate investment risks in the region.

**Expanding Solar Access in Africa**

- **GSF's mission** is
  - to facilitate \$10 billion in investments
  - offering clean energy access
  - Covering 35-40 million African households by 2030
  - benefiting about 200 million people in the region
  - addressing the energy gap in the region.

**Global Reach and Future Initiatives**

- GSF's **vision extends beyond** Africa and includes plans to target regions like Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.
- Future **initiatives involve**
  - funding innovative technologies
  - supporting startups,
  - exploring emerging solar energy sectors.

**3. Strive to make India a developed nation by 2047, PM tells citizens - The Hindu**

**Relevance :** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilisation, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**News :**

- The Prime Minister **urged citizens to strive** to make India a developed nation by 2047 when the country completes 100 years of independence.
- The statement **was the part of** 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a celebration of 75 years of India's independence.

**Platform for youth**

- A **special platform** for the youth called 'MY Bharat', was launched.
- The platform will **contain various programs** that are being run for youth.

**Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign**

- 8500 urns **containing soil from** their respective villages and cities were collected as part of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign.
- The Prime Minister **inaugurated a memorial garden** called 'Amrit Vatika' which will be built using this soil which was poured into a giant pitcher.
- The soil from this pitcher would be **used to create the garden** which is being built next to India Gate and
- An area of 12,000 sqm **has been earmarked** for the site.
- The site will be **ready for visitors** in the next four to six months.
- It will be **situated adjacent to** the Netaji Bose statue under the Grand Canopy and the National War Memorial.

**Reigniting the flame**

- The current Prime Minister of India is India's **first prime minister** who was born after independence.
- India achieved **many a things** recently
  - one of the top 5 economies in the world,
  - successfully landing Chandrayaan 3,
  - organising the G20 Summit

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign
- My Bharat Platform

- bagging more than 100 medals at the Asian Games.
- combating the Covid-19 pandemic
- a new Parliament building
- passage of the women's reservation bill.
- Subhas Chandra Bose's statue at Kartavya Path

#### 4. Fiscal deficit touches 39.3% of full-year target in first half - The Hindu/ Fiscal deficit widens to 39% of full-year target in Apr-Sept - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**News:**

- The central government's fiscal deficit reached **39.3% of the full-year target** in the first half of the current financial year.
- This is a **slight increase from the 37.3%** recorded during the same period in the previous year.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Fiscal Deficit
- Primary Deficit

**Union Budget Projections**

- In the Union Budget, the government **aimed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** in the current 2023-24 financial year.
- In the **fiscal year 2022-23, the fiscal deficit was 6.4% of the GDP**, which was slightly lower than the earlier estimate of 6.71%.

**Fiscal Deficit**

- It is the **difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue (excluding borrowings)**.
- It is an indicator of the **extent to which the government must borrow** in order to finance its operations.
- It is expressed as a **percentage of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- A **high fiscal deficit** can lead to **inflation, devaluation of the currency** and an **increase in the debt burden**.
- While a **lower fiscal deficit** is seen as a **positive sign of fiscal discipline and a healthy economy**.

**Positive Aspects of Fiscal Deficit**

- It enables the government to **increase spending** on public services, infrastructure and other **important areas that can stimulate economic growth**.
- The government can **finance long-term investments**, such as infrastructure projects
- Increased government spending can **lead to job creation**, which can help **reduce unemployment and increase the standard of living**.

**Negative Aspects of Fiscal Deficit**

- A persistent high fiscal deficit leads to **an increase in government debt**, which puts pressure on future generations to repay the debt.
- Large fiscal deficits can lead to **an increase in money supply and higher inflation**, which reduces the purchasing power of the general public.
- **Crowding out of Private Investment**
- **Balance of Payments Problems**

#### 5. Sept. core sector growth slips to 8.1% - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**News:**

- India's **eight core sectors** experienced a **slowdown in output growth**, reaching a four-month low of 8.1% in September, down from 12.5% in August.
- This decline caused the **Index of Core Industries (ICI) to dip** to a seven-month low.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Index of Industrial Production
- Eight core sectors

## Core softens

The Index of Core Industries (ICI) comprising the eight infrastructure sectors slipped to a seven-month low in September



- Crude oil output slid back into contraction mode, snapping a two-month streak when all sectors logged growth

- Growth in cement production hit a six-month low of 4.7%

- Coal production grew 16.1%, the second highest pace in at least 13 months

### Index of Industrial Production

- IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the **volume of production of industrial products** during a given period.
- It is a **composite indicator** that measures the **growth rate of industry groups**.
  - The industry groups that it measures are **classified** as
    - Broad sectors like manufacturing, mining, and electricity.
    - Use-based sectors like capital goods, basic goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables.
- It is used by **government agencies** including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc, **for policy-making purposes**.
- It is compiled and published **monthly** by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Base Year for IIP is **2011-2012**.

### Eight Core Sectors

- These comprise **40.27%** of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core sector industries in **decreasing** order of their weightage: **Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilisers**.

## 6. Every Drop Counts - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation,

**News:**

- A recent report by the **United Nations University** has highlighted a **severe groundwater depletion crisis in India**.
- According to it, **27 out of 31 aquifers are depleting faster than they can be replenished**.

**Previous Reports**

- The **Mihir Shah Committee**
  - It argued that there is little “understanding of river systems or their interconnections with the health of catchment areas or groundwater”.
- **Niti Aayog and the Central Water Commission:** They underlined the poor state of the country’s aquifers.

**Atal Bhujal Yojana**

- The Government initiated the **Atal Bhujal Yojana** in **78 water-stressed districts in 2020**.
- **Objective:** To bring about **behavioural changes at the community level** in seven states.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Atal Bhujal Yojana
- Central Water Commission



- While there have been some positive results, **more comprehensive efforts are required** from both the central and state governments.

**Important Findings**

- India extracts **more groundwater than China and the United States combined**.
- Approximately **70% of the country's water usage comes from groundwater sources**, often accessed through tube wells and borewells.
- The use of tube wells and borewells has **contributed to food security**.
- However, as the **Shah Committee** pointed out, there has been little emphasis on **institutional innovations in the water sector**.

**Link Between Power Subsidies and Falling Water Tables**

- The **relationship between power subsidies and declining water tables**, particularly in states like Punjab, has been evident.
- However, **addressing demand-side management** remains a complex challenge.
- The UN report indicates that **78% of wells in Punjab are overexploited**.

**Climate Crisis and Groundwater Depletion**

- Researchers have connected groundwater extraction **to the climate crisis**.
- The situation may **worsen in the southwest**, where **hard rock aquifers limit recharge capacity**.
- **Higher temperatures** could reduce moisture available to replenish groundwater.
- The government is **promoting less water-intensive crops** like millets and **efficient watering techniques**.
- However, the **concealed nature of borewells and tubewells** has hindered public awareness of the crisis.
- Technologies that **allow individuals to monitor the water levels** in their borewells may **encourage responsible aquifer management and behavioural changes**.

**7. Akhaura-Agartala rail link to be inaugurated virtually by PM Modi, Sheikh Hasina today - The Hindu**

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

**News :**

- Bangladesh and northeast India will **re-establish** rail connectivity through Tripura
- The development has occurred **after a gap of** nearly seven and half decades.
- The **much awaited** Akhaura-Agartala rail connection will establish such connectivity .

Prelims Takeaway
• Akhaura Agartala Rail Link
• Khulna-Mongla Port
• Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant

**About the Rail Link Project**

- The Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link project was supported by a **grant assistance** that was extended to Bangladesh by the Indian government,
- The rail link is **12.24 km long**, with a 6.78 km dual gauge rail line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura.
- A goods train from Bangladesh **carried out a trial run** between the two stations.
- The Akhaura junction, located in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria district is **part of the Chittagong division**.
- The **need** of the tea industry of Assam to connect with Chittagong Port was the initial reason for the development of Akhura junction **in the 19th century**.
- The Akhaura-Agartala project was **revived** in 2010.

**Significance of the Rail Link**

- Akhaura **is connected by** rail, river, and road links with multiple industrial areas in Bangladesh, including Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet.
- the Akhaura-Agartala rail link **would once again open the links** between India's northeast and Chittagong,
- There is the Ashuganj **river port** which is very near Akhaura that will be used to ferry goods to and from Chittagong.
- This rail link is **being seen as** a first step to connect Tripura to Kolkata through Bangladesh.
- At present, trains to Agartala **must run through a longer route** via Guwahati and Jalpaiguri stations.
- The Akhaura link can **vastly reduce the time and distance** needed to reach Tripura, southern Assam, and Mizoram from Kolkata, and the rest of India.
- The **first trains are expected to run between** Nishchintapur and Gangasagar station.

- Nischintapur is a **designated Land** Customs Station (LCS) station under Agartala
- Gangasagar station is **located close to** Akhaura junction in Bangladesh.

**Trade gains**

- The link will **boost** India-Bangladesh **trade in** agriculture products, tea, sugar, construction items, iron and steel, and consumer items,
- The link **will also enhance** people-to-people relationships.
- It will also help in India's **connectivity** with the **Southeast Asian region**.

**Other Links with Bangladesh**

- Apart from the rail link, the two leaders will also inaugurate the Khulna-Mongla **Port rail line** and the second unit of the Maitree super **thermal power plant**.
- The Khulna-Mongla Port line is supported by a **line of credit from India**.
- Mongla is the second largest port of Bangladesh.
- The new line will increase the port's connectivity by **linking it to the existing** rail network of Khulna.



**Mentorship**  
India



## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 1. Stocktaking climate finance — a case of circles in red ink - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

**Context:**

- Climate finance has a crucial role in **retaining the trust of the developing countries** in future climate change negotiations.
- The **issues relating to climate finance** are likely to be prominent in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 28) meeting (2023), in Dubai (UAE).

#### Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report

- The report highlights that the current temperature increase at 1.1° Celsius is responsible for frequent hazardous weather.
- Thus, the developed countries and climate vulnerable countries are likely to demand a ramping up of mitigation action by the developing countries.
- However, the developed countries have not been able to meet the mark of a mobilisation of \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020 as committed at the Copenhagen summit of UNFCCC.
- The sum is inadequate in terms of the challenges faced by the developing countries in switching over to a low carbon development pathway and climate resilient development. Providing finance to developing countries is based on the principle of the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

#### Estimating Adequate Climate Finance

- The developed countries are required to provide financial resources to developing country parties.
- It is also mandatory for the developed countries to provide in their Biennial Update Reports (BUR), information relating to the financial resources which they have provided.
- Further, the developed countries are required, to collectively mobilise \$100 billion through 2025, before a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) 'from a floor of \$100 billion per year is to be set at the end of 2024'.
- At the 26th UNFCCC in Glasgow in 2021, the developed countries noted, with deep regret, of being able to mobilise only a total of \$79.6 billion.
- The Paris Agreement is based on the self determined efforts of all the parties inscribed in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which contain the mitigation efforts to be made by a party for the next 5 years.
- Entire NDCs put together a picture of overshooting the 1.5° C temperature goal.
- Going by the needs of countries in the Global South, the amount quantified for the first time touches close to \$6 trillion until 2030.
- India's 3rd BUR says that its financial needs derived from its NDCs for adaptation and mitigation purposes for 2015-30 are \$206 billion and \$834 billion, respectively.

#### Unclear Burden Sharing Formula

- The developed countries are mandatorily required to provide financial resources to developing country parties.
- However, there is no agreed approach among developed countries to share the burden of this goal.
- One analysis suggests that the United States provided just 5% of its fair share in 2020.
- Without any mandatory formula for collecting money, it is difficult to predict how the said money or the NCQG for climate finance will be mobilised.
- Neither the UNFCCC nor the Paris Agreement mention the criterion for mobilisation.
- Instead, the mobilisation is done with the help of a replenishment process.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF), a UNFCCC-designated funding agency providing grant and concessional loan to developing countries, is replenished every four years.
- A similar approach has been borrowed into the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by the developed countries to mobilise part of the \$100 bn finance.
- GCF had its second replenishment recently in 2023, in which only 25 countries out of 37 developed countries met in Bonn, pledging to contribute \$9.3 billion.

**Replicate this action**

- Fostering a **sense of urgency** and **global cooperation** is imperative.
- A **collective and urgent response**, similar to past financial crises, is needed to **address the critical climate finance needs** and fulfil international commitments effectively.

### 2. The stance of the Maldives President-elect on India - The Hindu

**Relevance :** India and its neighbourhood- relations.

**Context :**

- Maldives President-elect has **emphasised his desire** to send Indian troops out of the country.
- He **pledged to safeguard** the Maldives' independence and sovereignty.
- He **came to power with** his 'Indian Out' campaign against outgoing President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, for his foreign policy of 'India first'.

**Is there Indian military presence?**

- According to the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)**, **75 Indian military personnel stay** in the Maldives to maintain and operate the Dornier aircraft and two helicopters.
- India **gifted these helicopters** to the Maldives.
- The Dornier aircraft **was presented** to the Maldives by India in 2020, following a request from Male.

**Why is the President Elect of Maldives opposed to India ?**

- He carries a **pro-China legacy**.
- He maintains that he is **“pro-Maldives” first**, and that he will not allow Indian, Chinese, or any other country’s military presence in the Indian Ocean archipelago.
- He highlights the **benefits of Chinese assistance** to the Maldives.
- He ignores on Male’s debt obligations, including to China.
- These developments show his **anti-India stance**.

**Reasons for the Contemporary Developments**

- There are **two reasons** for development in the current context.
  - One, media framed the Maldives elections as a referendum on India and China.
  - Two, in repeating his position on the removal of Indian boots from Maldivian soil, Mr. Muizzu is able to demonstrate consistency with his own pre-poll pledge to supporters.

**Economic troubles of Maldives**

- The Maldives is facing a **major economic challenge**, as it prepares to pay about \$570 million annually in 2024 and 2025 to service external debt.
- In 2026, Mr. Muizzu’s government will **have to service a record \$1.07 billion** in external debt, according to the World Bank.
- Mitigating the looming debt crisis may **prove rather challenging** without the cooperation of India and China, the Maldives’s main lenders and development partners.

**India’s Interests in the Maldives**

- India has become the Maldives’ **primary security and economic partner** by investing \$1.4 billion in the socio-economic development of the Maldives.
- India considers the Maldives **crucial to its security interests** due to growing Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean region.
- Maldives is **a member** of the ‘Colombo Security Conclave,’
  - initially a trilateral initiative involving India, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius aimed at maritime cooperation in the region.
- Indian emphasised **the deep connection between** national and collective security in the region during the fifth NSA-level talks of the Conclave held in the Maldives in March 2022.

**3. A Gaganyaan for the seas: inside India’s ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ - The Hindu**

**Relevance:** Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

**Context:**

- The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is India’s ambitious initiative **to explore and harness the depths of the ocean**.
- Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** primarily implements this program.
- The mission aligns with the **United Nations’ designation of 2021-2030** as the ‘Decade of Ocean Science’ and India’s commitment to a blue economy.

**Six Pillars of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**

- Developing technologies for deep-sea mining and a crewed submersible
- Ocean climate change advisory services
- Deep-sea biodiversity conservation
- Deep-ocean survey and exploration for minerals
- Harnessing energy and freshwater from the ocean
- Establishing a Marine Station for Ocean Biology

**Progress on the DOM Pillars**

- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is responsible for developing indigenous technologies for DOM.
- A crewed expedition, ‘Samudrayaan,’ aims to reach a depth of 6,000 metres in the central Indian Ocean using the submersible Matsya 6000.
  - The Matsya 6000 has completed its design phase and will undergo testing at a depth of 500 metres within the next year.
- NIOT is also working on an integrated system for mining polymetallic nodules from the central Indian Ocean bed.

**Why has a depth of 6,000 m been chosen?**

- The chosen depth of 6,000 metres is strategic
- It allows India to explore polymetallic nodules and polymetallic sulphides found at depths between 3,000 and 5,500 metres in the central Indian Ocean.
- India can cater to both the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone and the central Indian Ocean.

**Challenges of Deep-Ocean Exploration**

- Exploring the deep oceans is challenging due to high pressure, soft and muddy ocean bed surfaces and the need to extract materials.
- Materials need to be pumped to the surface, visibility is limited, and the operation must contend with temperature variations, corrosion and salinity.
- The high pressure of the deep oceans requires specially designed equipment as poor design can lead to the collapse of objects in the water.

**India’s Role**

- India is working on developing technologies indigenously to join the ranks of countries with successful deep-ocean missions.
  - It includes countries like the USA, Russia, China, France, and Japan.
- The Matsya 6000 is a deep-ocean submersible with human-rated operations at up to 500 metres depth.
- India’s deep-ocean mining system, ‘Varaha,’ conducted successful trials at a depth of 5,270 metres, marking the world’s deepest dive for an underwater mining machine.
- The system is designed to extract precious polymetallic nodules and submit an environmental impact assessment.
- Stage 2 involves the extraction of valuable minerals from the ocean bed, which requires overcoming technical challenges related to power supply and transportation of the minerals.
- The progress has been promising, and India is committed to advancing the DOM, with confidence in achieving its goals by 2025.

## Quick Look

### 1. Aerogel

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Tel Aviv University have developed an aerogel adsorbent that can remove trace pollutants from wastewater.
- Aerogels are composed mostly of air and can be used to remove contaminants.
- They, also known as ‘solid air’ or ‘frozen smoke’, are excellent adsorbents and are incredibly lightweight solids composed mostly of air.
- In addition, they offer advantages like adjustable surface chemistry, low density, and a highly porous structure.
- The research team developed a silica aerogel modified with graphene.
- The Graphene-doped modified silica aerogels (GO-SA) were found to exhibit efficiency in purifying water, attracting and removing contaminants due to graphene's unique molecular structure.

### 2. Mera Yuva Bharat

- It is an autonomous body that will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of ‘Youth’ in the National Youth Policy.
- It will help in Setting the focus of the Government on Youth Led development and to make the Youth “active drivers” of development and not merely “passive recipients”.
- Objectives
  - To make it a whole of Government platform for youth development.
  - Under the new arrangement, with access to resources & connection to opportunities, youth would become community change agents and nation builders allowing them to act as the Yuva Setu between the Government and the citizens.
  - It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for nation building.
- Mera Yuva Bharat supported by a technology platform would help to increase the Youth outreach efforts of the Department of Youth Affairs.

### 3. Crab-plover

- It is a long-legged, black and white bird of Indian Ocean coasts, related to plovers and allied species of shorebirds.
- This is the only shorebird that lays white eggs, and chicks remain inside the burrows until the fledgling stage.
- They are residents of the coasts and islands of the Indian Ocean.
- They breed around the Arabian Sea of Pakistan, the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Somalia, the Andaman Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Madagascar.
- These birds inhabit sandy coastlines, mudflats, estuaries, lagoons, exposed coral reefs, and rocky shorelines.
- During the breeding season, they can also be found in sand dunes.
- IUCN: Least Concern

### 4. Phishing

- Phishing is a technique in which scammers send malware links to victims through mail or messages.
- Once the link is opened, the malware steals all of the victim's personal information.

## 5. Unlawful (Activities) Prevention Act (UAPA)

- It is an anti-terrorism law in India that was first introduced in 1967.
- Purpose: To prevent unlawful activities that threaten the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- UAPA has undergone several revisions since its introduction, with each revision making the law more stringent.
- Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
- Following the 2004 amendment, terrorist act was added to the list of offences.
- UAPA provides for the designation of individuals and organizations as “terrorists” and allows for their arrest and detention without trial for up to 180 days.
- UAPA has been criticized for being used to stifle dissent and suppress political opposition.
- Critics argue that the law is vague and overbroad, allowing for its misuse and abuse.

## 6. Aarambh

- Aarambh is a common foundation course, introduced by the Indian Prime Minister, for India’s civil servants.
- The idea behind this is to ensure that the civil servants in India can work with ease across different fields and departments.
- Under the Aarambh, it is suggested that the candidates selected by the UPSC would be allotted services not based on their rankings in the UPSC exam but based on a unified foundation course.
- Objective: To make the civil servants in India capable of leading and working smoothly across all the departments and fields.



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**Prelims Track Question**

**Q1. With reference to National Medical Register, consider the following statements**

1. The register will be a dynamic one.
2. This centralised repository will allow people to check the credentials of their doctor.
3. The new register will allow doctors to seek licences to practise in multiple states.

**How many of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Global Solar Facility**

1. It is the project of China to counter the International Solar Alliance.
2. It covers Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and West Asia.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q3. Consider the following statements regarding “Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign”**

1. The primary aim of the campaign is to promote agriculture and biodiversity.
2. The campaign covers the sowing of the saplings of indigenous trees.

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q4. Consider the following statements**

1. Effective Revenue Deficit refers to the excess of government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.
2. Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue (excluding borrowings).
3. Revenue Deficit equals fiscal deficit minus interest payments.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q5. Consider the following statements**

1. The core sector industries comprise three-fourth of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
2. Steel, Cement, Electricity are some of the industries that constitute the core sector.
3. Refinery Products are accorded the most weightage in the core sectors.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q6. Mihir Shah Committee, recently seen in the news, is associated with**

- A. Economic Reforms
- B. Education Policy
- C. OBC Sub-categorisation
- D. Water Governance

**Q7. Consider the following projects**

1. Seti Hydro Power Plant
2. Khulna-Mongla Port
3. Nischintapur to Gangasagar Rail Station Connectivity
4. Phukot Karnali Hydro Electric Project

**How many of the projects given above has/have been developed by India and Bangladesh jointly?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Common But Differentiated Responsibilities**

1. It is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. The principle evolved from the notion of 'White Man's Burden'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Colombo Security Conclave**

- 1. The initiative is led by China.
- 2. The initiative covers Cyber Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Q10. Consider the following statements on India's Deep Ocean Mission**

- 1. It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.
- 2. India is the country with the technology and expertise needed in such missions after the USA and Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2



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## Prelims Track Answer

### Ans. 1 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- All doctors in the country will receive a unique identification number on the National Medical Register.
- The register will be a dynamic one. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Doctors can keep updating details of their qualifications, fellowships, and other courses.
- This centralised repository will allow people to check the credentials of their doctor. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The new register will allow doctors to seek licences to practise in multiple states. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The data from state medical councils was used to create the current Indian Medical Register that will be replaced by this new register.

### Ans. 2 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- Global Solar Facility was launched by the International Solar Alliance. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- GSF will expand solar installations in Africa and then expand it to West Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It will have three funds
  - Payment guarantee fund
  - Insurance fund to mitigate project risks
  - Investment fund for technical assistance.
- It aims at reducing the remaining constraints related to contracts and financing for solar energy projects.

### Ans. 3 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

- Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign was launched on 9th August 2023
- It is to pay tribute to the 'Veers' who laid down their lives for the country. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- This campaign is the concluding event of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The campaign will include various programs across the country to remember the bravehearts (Veers).
- The Campaign will include
  - Dedication of Shilaphalakam-installation of nameplate of Veers.
  - Taking the Panch Pran Pledge.

- Vasudha Vandan - creation of Amrit Vatika with 75 saplings of indigenous trees. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Veeron Ka Vandan - honouring freedom fighters/braves who protect the nation and families of braves.
- Hoisting of the National Flag and singing of the National Anthem.

### Ans. 4 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

- Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue (excluding borrowings). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Revenue Deficit refers to the excess of government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Primary deficit equals fiscal deficit minus interest payments.
- It indicates the gap between the government's expenditure requirements and its receipts, not taking into account the expenditure incurred on interest payments on loans taken during the previous years.
- Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

### Ans. 5 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- The core sectors comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilisers. **Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

### Ans. 6 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- The Mihir Shah Committee aims at reducing inter-state water disputes, bringing greater efficiency, better planning and increased emphasis on conservation of water. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- It also ensures that all water resources in the country are managed in a holistic manner and not separately as surface water, groundwater or river water.

**Ans. 7 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Seti Hydro Power is between India and Nepal. It is located on the Seti River in the Western Nepal. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Khulna-Mongla Railway Link Project is between India and Bangladesh. The Khulna-Mongla Port line is supported by a line of credit from India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nischintapur to Gangasagar Rail Station Connectivity is between India and Bangladesh. It is better known as Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Phukot-Karnali Hydro Electric Project is located on the Karnali River in Nepal. It is a project between India and Nepal. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**

**Ans. 8 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The principle of CBDR is enshrined in Earth Summit 1992, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- CBDR is based on two elements of responsibilities-
  - one is the common responsibility of all the states to cater to the concerns of environmental protection and sustainable development
  - the other is of differentiated responsibility enabling the states to act, for environment protection, in their national capacity and as per their national priority.
- This principle evolved from the notion of the 'common heritage of mankind'. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The principle recognizes historical differences in the contributions of developed and developing States to global environmental

problems and differences in their respective economic and technical capacity to tackle these problems.

**Ans. 9 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- The CSC, was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It welcomed Mauritius as a fourth member at the fifth meeting of national security advisers.
- Bangladesh and Seychelles attended as observers and have been invited to join the group.
- The fifth meeting of national security advisers of the CSC identified key areas of cooperation to enhance and strengthen regional security in the following five pillars:
  - Maritime Safety and Security
  - Countering Terrorism and Radicalization
  - Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime
  - Cyber Security, Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology
  - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**Ans. 10 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is India's ambitious initiative to explore and harness the depths of the ocean.
- Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) primarily implements this program.
- It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The technology and expertise needed in such missions is now available with only five countries - US, Russia, France, Japan and China.
- India will now be the sixth country to have it. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**



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