

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Why VVPAT was brought in, why Opposition wants all slips verified the hindu

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Prelims Takeaway

- VVPAT
- ECI

News:

- With the first phase of voting set to take place on April 19, the Supreme Court (SC) last week said that petitions seeking 100% verification of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips would be taken up soon.
- In March 2023, the Association for Democratic Reforms had filed a petition before the apex court
- It says that to ensure free and fair elections, the tally from Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) should be cross-verified with the VVPATs.

How VVPATs Work

- VVPAT machines are like receipt printers for electronic voting.
- When you vote on an EVM, a slip showing your chosen candidate pops out for seven seconds behind a glass window.
- This lets you verify your vote before it disappears into a secure box.
- You can't take the slip home, but it's saved to check against electronic results in a few randomly chosen polling stations.

Why VVPATs?

- Introduced in 2013, VVPATs came about after the Election Commission (EC) sought ways to make electronic voting more transparent.
- After trials and feedback, they were rolled out nationwide by 2017.

Legal Battles over VVPATs

- The use of VVPATs has been challenged in court.
- In 2013, a Supreme Court case ruled paper trails were necessary and ordered funding for VVPATs.
- The court ultimately sided with a five-station recount to verify VVPAT.

2. Candidates have a right to privacy from voters, rules SC THE HINDU

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

News:

- The Supreme Court recently, held that an election candidate has a right to privacy from voters
- It held that there is no need to lay out every scrap of his or her personal life and possessions, past and present, for the electorate to examine with a magnifying glass.

Prelims Takeaway

- RPA 1950
- RPA 1951

Key highlights

- a candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- Such non-disclosure would not amount to a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.
- "It is not necessary that a candidate declare every item of movable property that he or his dependent family members own

- unless these items are of such value as to constitute a sizeable asset in itself or reflect upon his candidature, in terms of his lifestyle, and require to be disclosed
- The court said voters have a right to the disclosure of information which was essential for choosing the candidate for whom a vote should be cast.

Section 123 of the RPA 1951

- It defines 'corrupt practices' to include bribery, undue influence, false information, and promotion or attempted promotion of "feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of India
 - on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, or language" by a candidate for the furtherance of his prospects in the election.
- Section 123 (2) deals with 'undue influence' which it defines as "any direct or indirect interference or attempt to interfere on the part of the candidate or his agent, or of any other person
 - with the consent of the candidate or his election agent, with the free exercise of any electoral right."
- This could also include threats of injury, social ostracism and expulsion from any caste or community.
- Section 123 (4) extends the ambit of "corrupt practices" to the intentional publication of false statements which can prejudice the outcome of the candidate's election.

3. SC questions Centre's rigid position on exclusive control over industrial alcohol

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Prelims Takeaway

- Union list
- State list

News:

- A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court questioned the Centre's rigid position **to have exclusive control over industrial alcohol**
- It also questioned the centre about without giving States even the opportunity to regulate its inflow and clandestine conversion to potable liquor for human consumption, posing a grave threat to public health.

Key highlights

- "There is a strong possibility of denatured spirit or industrial alcohol being misused for the purpose of human consumption.
- The State is the guardian of public health. States are concerned about liquor tragedies happening within their jurisdictions.
- Centre on the other hand, are a disconnected entity.
- The Centre claimed that industrial alcohol was an "industry" controlled by the Union government in public interest under a parliamentary law.
- **Such an industry was covered by Entry 52 of the Union List** in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Though trade and commerce, supply, distribution, and production of the products of such industries were included as Entry 33(a) of the Concurrent List,

Limit of power

- However, States like Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and even a petition from Uttar Pradesh raised alarm about industrial alcohol being used to make intoxicating liquor.

Industrial alcohol framework in constitution

- **State List (Entry 8):** Entry 8 in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution pertains to the power of state governments to legislate on the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale of intoxicating liquors.
- **Union List (Entry 52):** Confers upon Parliament the authority to legislate on industries deemed expedient in the public interest.
- **Concurrent List (Entry 33):** Allows both states and the Centre to legislate on industries, with the caveat that state laws cannot contradict central laws.
- **Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 :** Industrial alcohol falls under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDRA), which lists it as a subject of regulation.
- This act of Parliament provides the central government with the power to regulate industrial alcohol.

GS III

4. ISRO's 'zero orbital debris' milestone & the space debris crisis the hindu

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights

Prelims Takeaway

- NASA
- PSLV

news:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said its PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has practically left zero debris in earth's orbit.

Key highlights

- The space agency explained that the last stage of the Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV) used in the mission was transformed into a kind of orbital station — called the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3)
 - before it was left to re-enter the earth's atmosphere instead of floating in orbit once its mission was completed.

Making Space Experiments Affordable

- ISRO's clever idea turned a rocket stage into a science lab!
- The last part of the PSLV rocket became the **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)**, a low-cost platform for space research.
- Launched in 2022, POEM lets scientists conduct experiments in orbit without needing a whole new satellite.

POEM-3: A Clean Mission

- In 2024, **ISRO's PSLV C-58 mission deployed a satellite and then transformed** the 4th stage into POEM-3.
- After completing its experiments, **POEM-3 safely re-entered Earth's atmosphere**, reducing space debris.
- This is important because there's a growing problem with space junk, which can crash into satellites and create a chain reaction of collisions.

Cleaning Up Space

- There are no international laws for cleaning up low-Earth orbit debris, but many space agencies have guidelines.
- For example, NASA has an Orbital Debris Program, and the European Space Agency **aims for zero debris by 2030**.
- Even private companies like Manastu Space in India are developing ways to remove old satellites and extend their lifespans.

5. Gross mismanagement : India is falling behind in efforts to control tuberculosis

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

News:

- With less than two years left to achieve the ambitious goal set by **the Prime Minister in 2018 to “eliminate” TB in India**, the pharmacy of the Global South is once again struggling to treat patients with drug-sensitive TB.

Prelims Takeaway

- TB
- National TB Elimination Programme

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Shockingly, India is experiencing a TB drug shortage, with increasing frequency.
- Just seven months ago, there was an acute shortage of critical MDR-TB drugs;
 - disruptions in drug supply, which began with drug-sensitive medicines in 2022 and snowballed to include MDR-TB drugs, lasted for nearly a year.
- Similarly, in September 2021, **India faced a stockout of MDR-TB drug Delamanid.**
- Delay in diagnosis and treatment initiation are already a huge concern in the TB care cascade.
- Patients who start therapy but fail to achieve treatment success is another gap.
- However, addressing this gap, which takes drug availability for granted, will become harder if drug stock outs become a recurring issue.
- A 2010 study found that non-availability of drugs was **responsible for 8% of non-adherent patients missing treatment.**
- Making sure that medicines for different categories of TB patients are always available across India is a no-brainer.
- **Renaming the National TB Control Programme as the National TB Elimination Programme** in line with PM goal without addressing the fundamentals such as drug availability reeks of incompetence and a lack of seriousness in the war against TB.
- While States have been asked to procure drugs locally for a period of three months, the circular also gives an option for States to reimburse the cost of medicines procured by patients in case the district health facilities fail to provide them free drugs.
- Far from reaching the 2025 goal, India does not seem to have a handle on the most basic elements of TB control.

6. Slowdown ahead; political risks could rattle social stability'- the hindu

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

News:

- **India's economy is likely not doing as well** as recent GDP numbers indicate
- a growth slowdown is likely in the coming quarters as consumption demand gets cramped by household savings at near all-time lows, global country risk research company BMI said.

Key highlights

- While government officials have attributed the large statistical discrepancies to the reduction in government subsidies paid out for fertilisers
- **BMI said it is inclined to go by GVA or production data instead**, which show a marked slowdown at 6.5% growth between October and December from 7.7% in the previous quarter.
- **Household net savings are near all-time lows**, which suggests that they will be tightening their belts soon
- If consumers remained stretched because net savings stayed much lower than in the run-up to the pandemic
- This would limit the scope for private consumption growth, BMI reckoned.

Prelims Takeaway

- GDP
- GVA

'Political risks'

- If the government continues to stir up religious feeling, there's a risk that sectarian tensions could be pushed beyond a certain point.
- That then threatens the social stability in India, which could undo a lot of the good work that has so far been achieved in terms of improving its attractiveness to foreign investors,

7. Surge in steel imports a warning for Atmanirbhar mission the hindu

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

News:

- The Indian steel industry has expressed concern over India becoming a net importer of steel in 2023-24, saying it is a "warning signal" for India which strives to become Atmanirbhar.

Key highlights

- **The surge in predatory imports from China is a big threat** to the Atma Nirbharta in steel.
- India becoming net importer is a warning signal to our march towards Atma Nirbharta (self-reliance)

Predatory imports

- Looking at the situation, it is very important to arrest predatory imports
 - and demanded for a trade remedial action on an urgent basis to arrest the inbound shipments.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

- Self-reliant India campaign is the vision of a new India envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister
- In 2020, He raised a clarion call to the nation giving a kick-start to the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (Self-reliant India campaign).
- The aim is to make the country and its citizens independent and self-reliant.

Anti-dumping duties

- These are levied on goods that are imported at a substantially low price

countervailing duties

- These are levied on subsidized products in the originating or exporting country.

Prelims Takeaway

- Anti-dumping duties
- Import & export

8. How and why US wants to establish a time standard for the Moon indian express

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights

News:

- Last week, the US White House officially directed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to create a time standard for the Moon, which different international bodies and private companies can use to coordinate their activities on the lunar surface.

how does Earth's time standard work?

- Most of the clocks and time zones — a geographical region which uses the same standard time — of the world are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
 - which is **set by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, France.**
- **It is tracked by a** weighted average of more than 400 atomic clocks placed in different parts of the globe.
- Atomic clocks measure time in terms of the resonant frequencies — the natural frequency of an object where it tends to vibrate at a higher amplitude — of atoms such as cesium-133.
- In atomic time, a second is defined as the period in which a caesium atom vibrates 9,192,631,770 times.
- As the vibration rates at which atoms absorb energy are highly stable and ultra-accurate, atomic clocks make for an excellent device for gauging the passage of time.

Prelims Takeaway

- GMT
- NASA

- To obtain their local time, countries need to subtract or add a certain number of hours from UTC depending on how many time zones they are away from 0 degree longitude meridian, also known as the Greenwich meridian.
- If a country lies on the **west of the Greenwich meridian**, it has to subtract from the UTC, and if a country is located on the **east of the meridian**

Why do we need a time standard for the Moon?

- **UTC, however, cannot be used to determine time on the Moon.**
- That is because time on the Moon flows differently than it does on the Earth.
- In other words, for someone on the Moon, an Earth-based clock will appear to lose on average 58.7 microseconds per Earth day with “additional periodic variations”, according to the OSTP memo.
- Several countries, including India, are looking to populate the Moon in the following years.
- While NASA’s Artemis program aims to send astronauts back to the lunar surface no earlier than September 2026
- China has announced plans to land its astronauts by 2030, and India intends to arrive by 2040.
- There are also proposals to build a long-term human outpost on the Moon. Therefore, there is a need for a unified lunar time standard.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. The climate crisis is not gender neutral- the hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
News:

- The climate crisis is already here and does not impact everyone equally.
- Women and girls experience disproportionately high health risks, especially in situations of poverty, and due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms.

<p>Key highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster. • The Supreme Court of India has just ruled that people have a right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the right to a clean environment is already recognised as a fundamental right within the ambit of the right to life. <p>Climate affect women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-driven crop yield reductions increase food insecurity, adversely impacting poor households that already suffer higher nutritional deficiencies. • Within small and marginal landholding households, while men face social stigma due to unpaid loans (leading to migration, emotional distress, and sometimes even suicide), • women experience higher domestic work burdens, worse health, and greater intimate partner violence. • National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and 5 data showed that women living in drought-prone districts were more underweight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ experienced more intimate partner violence and had a higher prevalence of girl marriages. ◦ but also impact their mental health and emotional well-being. <p>Extreme events and gender-based violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) in 2021 found that 75% of Indian districts are vulnerable to hydromet disasters (floods, droughts and cyclones). • NFHS 5 data showed that over half of women and children living in these districts were at risk. 	<p>Why does climate action need women?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when provided with the same access to resources as men, women increased their agricultural yields by 20% to 30%. • Tribal and rural women, in particular, have been at the forefront of environmental conservation. • Giving women and women collectives (Self-help Groups and Farmer Producer Organisations) the knowledge, tools and access to resources would encourage local solutions to emerge. <p>What need to be done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban local bodies, municipal corporations and district authorities in all vulnerable districts need to have a plan and provide training and resources to key implementers. • urban planning to improve tree cover, minimising concrete, increasing green-blue spaces and designing housing that is better able to withstand heat are longer-term actions. • Devolution of powers and finances and investing in building the capacity of panchayat <p>Case study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mahila Housing Trust in Udaipur showed that painting the roofs of low-income houses with reflective white paint reduced indoor temperatures by 3° C to 4° C and improved quality of life.
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Conclusion

- The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) highlight the impacts on women,
- Recommendations for the ongoing revision of SAPCCs lay stress on the need to move beyond stereotypes, recognise the vulnerabilities of all genders
- implement gender-transformative strategies, ensuring a comprehensive and equitable approach to climate adaptation.
- Instead of being labelled as victims, women can lead the way in climate action.

10. The 'import restrictions' on solar PV cells the hindu

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

News:

- Recent government orders on attempts to increase local sourcing of solar modules to support India's renewables manufacturing ecosystem has been widely reported as 'import restrictions'.
- Government order to re-implement its 2021 notification of an 'Approved List of Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic [PV] Modules', also called the ALMM list.

What is the ALMM list? Why is it being re-implemented?

- This list consists of manufacturers who "are eligible for use in Government Projects/Government assisted projects/ projects under Government schemes & programmes.... including projects set up for sale of electricity to the Central and State Governments."
- However, this notification was "kept in abeyance" two years after it was issued, for the past financial year.
- While the government did not give an explicit reason for this, it stems from concerns that solar modules and cells were overwhelmingly imported from China at highly competitive rates.
- This is an import substitution effort, and not an attempt to restrict imports.

Does India rely on solar PV imports?

- India is overwhelmingly import dependent to meet its demand for solar cells and modules — with China and Vietnam being the country's major suppliers.
- "In comparison, the manufacturing capacity in India is relatively low and is largely restricted to the last manufacturing stage
 - ICRA stated in its November 2023 report, adding that the PLI scheme is expected to change this, with integrated module units expected to come up in India over the next 2-3 years.
- The government also introduced a steep 40% customs duty on PV modules and 25% on PV cells.

What is the scope for solar in India?

- The government's ambitious target of 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030 is the main driver to scale solar power in India.
- India also accounts for the fastest rate of growth for demand of electricity through 2026 among major economies, according to the IEA.
- The country has an estimated solar power potential of 748.99 GW. Hence, the potential of solar energy is not fully tapped, so far.
- The government is making efforts to harness the available potential through various schemes & programs



Mentorship
India

Quick Look

1. International Narcotics Control Board:

- It was established in 1968 and is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions.
- It was established by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 by merging two bodies:
 - the Permanent Central Narcotics Board, created by the 1925 International Opium Convention;
 - the Drug Supervisory Body, created by the 1931 Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs

2. Jenu Kuruba community:

- Jenu in Kannada means honey and kuruba is the caste. As the name suggest Jenu Kurubas are honey gatherers.
- They are traditional honey gathering tribe and are among the original inhabitants of the forests of the Western Ghats that stretch over three States – Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- They live in small settlements called Hadi.
- Occupation: The main occupation used to be food gathering in the forests, collection of minor forest produce in the forests, collection of minor forest produce including honey
- They practice shifting cultivation, leading to a nomadic lifestyle.

3. Rhamphicarpa fistulosa:

- It is a facultative, parasitic weed that grows on rice which is also known as rice vampireweed.
- It also affects sorghum and maize and, potentially, other cereal crops.
- The weed can germinate and grow independently but significantly increases its reproductive output when parasitizing a suitable host.
- It is not controlled by fertilisers.
- It is found in at least 35 countries in Africa, with 28 of them home to rainfed lowland rice areas.
- Countries with the highest estimated infestation rates were Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo and, to a lesser extent, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Malawi and Tanzania.

4. Hepatitis:

- Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver.
- It can be an acute (short-term) infection or a chronic (long-term) infection.
- There are different types of hepatitis, with different causes:
 - Viral hepatitis: It is the most common type and is caused by one of several hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D and E.
- Alcoholic hepatitis is caused by heavy alcohol use.
- Toxic hepatitis can be caused by certain poisons, chemicals, medicines, or supplements.
- Autoimmune hepatitis is a chronic type in which your body's immune system attacks your liver.
- The cause is not known, but genetics and one's environment may play a role.

5. Section 451 of CrPC:

- The title of the section states, "order for custody and disposal of property pending trial in certain cases".
- It deals with the interim disposal of property before finally concluding the case.
- The provision provides that when any property is produced before any criminal court
 - the court may order for proper custody of the property pending the conclusion of the inquiry and trial, and seeing the nature of the property, e., speedy or natural decay, the court may order its sale or disposal.
- For the purpose of this section, property includes:
 - Property of any kind or document which is produced before the Court or which is in its custody.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. Election Commission has authority to transfer senior officials in various States to assure free and fair elections
2. During "election silence" period holding public meetings by political parties to influence voters are also prohibited.
3. The model code of conduct was enacted by parliament after LPG reform 1991 to ensure free and fair elections

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

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

Q2. Consider the following with respect to Representation of People Act, 1950

1. Section 29C of the Act Required all political parties to declare any contributions higher than Rs. 20,000.
2. The act lays down procedures for delimitation of constituencies.
3. It lays procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls and the manner of filling seats and the qualification of voters.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements

1. Entry 8 in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution pertains to the power of state governments to legislate on the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale of intoxicating liquors.
2. Union List (Entry 52 Confers upon Parliament the authority to legislate on industries deemed expedient in the public interest.
3. Concurrent List (Entry 33) Allows both states and the Centre to legislate on industries, with the caveat that state laws cannot contradict central laws.

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

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

Q4. POEM-3 is related to which of the following

- A. Scheme by International Narcotics Control Board to control drugs
- B. Scheme by ministry of health to control Hepatitis
- C. Innovative schemes to enhance awareness for education among vulnerable section
- D. Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV) used in the mission was transformed into a kind of orbital station

Q5. Consider the following statements about The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme

1. The programme aims to strategically eliminate TB in India by 2025.
2. Under the programme Ni-kshay aims to meet nutritional requirement of All notified TB patients
3. Patient Provider Support Agencies (PPSA) is a model to engage private-sector doctors treating persons affected by TB to provide end-to-end services

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

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

Q6. Consider the following statements

Statement I: GDP is equal to GVA plus taxes earned by the government subtracted by Subsidies provided by the government

Statement II: if the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GVA will be higher than GDP.

Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

Q7. Consider the following statements about Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957.

1. The Act allows the only State agencies in the exploration of the atomic minerals such as lithium, beryllium, niobium, titanium, tantalum and zirconium
2. The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended in 2015 to introduce auction-based mineral concession allocation for transparency,
3. District Mineral Foundation (DMF) was created for the welfare of affected communities

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements

1. Most of the clocks and time zones, a geographical region which uses the same standard time of the world are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
2. it is set by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, France.
3. It is tracked by a weighted average of more than 400 atomic clocks placed in different parts of the globe.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides data on Infant and Child Mortality (ICM) rates in India.
2. NFHS data is the sole source of information on family planning practices in India.
3. The latest NFHS survey is conducted every 3 years.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding photovoltaic cells:

1. Photovoltaic cells directly convert light energy into electrical energy using the photovoltaic effect.
2. Photovoltaic cells are made of a single layer of semiconductor material.
3. Photovoltaic cells generate only Alternating Current (AC) electricity.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer**Answer 1 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- Within 48 hours of announcing the election schedule, the Election Commission instructed the state government to transfer a host of senior officials in various States. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.** EC does not have authority to transfer.
- The Model Code of Conduct was agreed to by all the political parties in 1968.
- The Election Commission first effectively put to use the Model Code of
- Conduct in the year 1991 to ensure fair elections and a level playing field.
- Holding public meetings during the 48-hour period before the hour fixed for the closing of the poll is also prohibited. The 48-hour period is known as “election silence”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The MCC evolved as part of the ECI’s drive to ensure free and fair elections and was the result of a consensus among major political parties.
- It has no statutory backing. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- AS per Section 29C of the Representation of People Act, 1951, before it was amended by the Finance Act, 2017, required all political parties to declare any contributions higher than Rs. 20,000. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Electoral Bonds Scheme violates the right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution
- Key Provisions of Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950
 - Lays down procedures for delimitation of constituencies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Provides for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
 - Lays procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls and the manner of filling seats.
 - Lays down the qualification of voters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 3 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- State List (Entry 8): Entry 8 in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution pertains to the power of state governments to legislate on the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale of intoxicating liquors.
- Union List (Entry 52): Confers upon Parliament the authority to legislate on industries deemed expedient in the public interest.
- Concurrent List (Entry 33): Allows both states and the Centre to legislate on industries, with the caveat that state laws cannot contradict central laws.
- Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 : Industrial alcohol falls under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDRA), which lists it as a subject of regulation. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 4 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The space agency explained that the last stage of the Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV) used in the mission was transformed into a kind of orbital station — called the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3). **Hence option D is correct**

Answer 5 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- It helps to meet the nutritional requirements of TB patients, especially the underserved
- The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme(NTEP) - Aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025.
- Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana(NPY)(Nutritional Support to TB) - It helps to meet the nutritional requirements of TB patients, especially the underserved
- Patient Provider Support Agencies (PPSA) is a model under which a third-party agency/non-governmental organization is selected by a state NTEP unit to engage private-sector doctors treating persons affected by TB to provide end-to-end services, **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 6 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The GDP and GVA are related by the following equation: $GDP = (GVA) + (\text{Taxe s earned by the government}) - (\text{Subsidies provided by the government})$ **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As such, if the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GDP will be higher than GVA. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended in 2015 to introduce auction-based mineral concession allocation for transparency, create District Mineral Foundation (DMF) for the welfare of affected communities, establish National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) to promote exploration, and impose stricter penalties for illegal mining.
- The Act allows the only State agencies in the exploration of the atomic minerals such as lithium, beryllium, niobium, titanium, tantalum and zirconium. **Hence, all statements are correct**

Answer 8 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Most of the clocks and time zones — a geographical region which uses the same standard time — of the world are based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
- which is set by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, France.
- It is tracked by a weighted average of more than 400 atomic clocks placed in different parts of the globe. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 9 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- NFHS collects data on various aspects of population health, including infant and child mortality rates. This data helps policymakers understand trends in child health and develop targeted interventions to reduce these rates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While NFHS is a valuable source of data on family planning practices, other sources also contribute to this information. These include government health surveys, family planning program reports, and data from research institutions. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The NFHS is typically conducted every 5 years. The most recent survey, NFHS-5, was conducted in 2019-20. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 10 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Photovoltaic cells indeed utilize the photovoltaic effect to directly convert light energy (photons) into electrical energy (current). This is the core principle behind solar panels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Photovoltaic cells typically consist of two or more layers of doped semiconductor materials, creating a p-n junction which facilitates the flow of electrons. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- Photovoltaic cells initially generate Direct Current (DC) electricity. Inverters are often used to convert this DC output to AC for grid connection or specific applications. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

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