

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. What is CDP-SURAKSHA, govt's new digital platform to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers? Indian express

Relevance: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Prelims Takeaway

- CDP-SURAKSHA
- GVA

News:

- government has come up with a new platform to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP)
- It is the Centre's initiative to promote horticulture crops.
- The platform is known as CDP-SURAKSHA.

Key highlights

- The move seeks to push the growth of India's horticulture sector, which contributes nearly one-third to the agriculture gross value addition (GVA)
 - making a substantial contribution to the Indian economy.
- The total production of horticulture crops has also spiked in recent years.
- While in 2010-11, it stood at 240.53 million tonnes, the number rose to 334.60 million tonnes in 2020-21.
- SURAKSHA (System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance) is essentially a digital platform.
- The platform will allow an instant disbursal of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the e-RUPI voucher from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The CDP-SURAKSHA has features such as database integration with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space from NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory (LGD), content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.

2. SC declines apology by Ramdev, Patanjali 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

News:

- The Supreme Court refused to accept a second round of apologies from self-styled yoga guru Baba Ramdev, Patanjali Ayurved Limited

Key highlights

- The apex court had initiated contempt proceedings against Patanjali Ayurved for violating an undertaking given to it in November 2023 that they would refrain from advertising "cures" in violation of the 1954 Act.
- The hearing saw the court turn its ire on the Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority for choosing to turn a blind eye to the misleading advertisements.

Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

- It is a legislative framework to control the advertisement of drugs and prohibit claims of magical qualities in remedies.
- It encompasses various forms of advertisements, including written, oral, and visual mediums.
- Under the Act, the term "drug" refers to medicines intended for human or animal use, substances for diagnosis or treatment of diseases, and articles affecting the body's functions.

Prelims Takeaway

- Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

- Other than articles meant for consumption, the definition for “magic remedy” under this Act also extends to talismans, mantras, and charms that allegedly possess miraculous powers for healing or influencing bodily functions.
- It imposes strict regulations on the publication of advertisements related to drugs.
- It prohibits advertisements that give false impressions, **make false claims, or are otherwise misleading.**
- Violations of these provisions can result in penalties, including imprisonment or fines, upon conviction.
- The term “advertisement,” under the Act, extends to all notices, labels, wrappers, and oral announcements

3. Why Supreme Court’s curative petition relief for Delhi Metro is significant

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

- Review petition

News:

- The Supreme Court ruled that the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will not have to pay nearly Rs 8,000 crore to the Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL)

Curative Petition

- A curative petition, is the final and last option for the people to acquire justice as mentioned and promised by the Constitution of India.
- A curative petition may be filed after a review plea against the final conviction is dismissed.
- **Objective:** It is meant to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice, and to prevent abuse of process.
- The court ruled that a curative petition can be entertained if the petitioner establishes there was a violation of the principles of natural justice, and that he was not heard by the court before passing an order.
- It will also be admitted where a judge failed to disclose facts that raise the apprehension of bias.
- The SC has held that curative petitions must be rare rather than regular, and be entertained with circumspection.
- A curative petition must be accompanied by certification by a senior advocate, pointing out substantial grounds for entertaining it.

4. India to send new defence attachés to several missions in Africa the hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question
- Red Sea

News:

- In a sign of expanding focus on military diplomacy, India is set to send defence attachés (DA) to a number of its missions in Africa for the first time, sources here have confirmed.

Key highlights

- The move is part of a larger adjustment of the DA in Indian missions scattered across continents and regions and is being implemented as India deals with dynamic situations in **Indo-Pacific, Red Sea-Indian Ocean and Eurasia**
- Apart from the four countries in Africa, the Indian embassy in Poland is scheduled to get a new DA.
- At present the DA in the Indian embassy in the **Czech Republic concurrently serves for the Indian mission in Warsaw.**

- The readjustment in the post of DA in multiple regions is part of India's evolving requirements that stretch from defense production and cooperation to dealing with crisis situations that hinge on urgent mobilization.
- Similar new appointments and changes in the post of DA are also expected **to take place in the Indian missions in the United Kingdom, Russia, Philippines, Armenia.**
- While the Philippines and Armenia will host Indian DA for the first time, in case of Russia, the number of attachés is expected to be reduced.

5. SC stays PMLA trial against 'lottery king' Santiago Martin- the hindu

Relevance: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

News:

- The Supreme Court stayed the trial, in a special court in Kerala, in a money laundering case prosecuted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) against 'lottery king' whose company was a major donor to political parties through the now-defunct electoral bonds scheme.

Prelims Takeaway

- Representation of People Act, 1951
- ED

Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

- The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.**
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947.
- It was headquartered in Delhi, **headed by a Legal Service Officer as the Director of Enforcement.**
- It had two branches – at Bombay and Calcutta.

Electoral Bonds:

- Electoral bonds are money instruments like promissory notes, which can be bought by companies and individuals in India from the State Bank of India (SBI) and donated to a political party, which can then encash these bonds.
- The bonds are only redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.
- A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

Argument in favor of electoral bond

- By protecting the confidentiality of donors, the apprehension of political retribution would also be greatly reduced
- **the right to information under Article 19(1)(a) can only be restricted on the grounds listed in Article 19(2)**, which does not include the purpose of curbing black money,

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.
- The amendment to the section, which exempted political parties from making declarations for donations received through electoral bonds, **was struck down by the court.**

GS III

6. Peter Higgs, Nobelist Who Predicted the 'God Particle,' Dies at 94- new york times

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

News:

- Peter Higgs, who **predicted the existence of a new particle** that came to be named after him (as well as God) and a **Nobel Prize a year later**, died recently

Prelims Takeaway

- God particle
- boson

God particle

- The Higgs boson is the **fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field**, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.
- This field was first proposed in the mid-sixties by Peter Higgs, for whom the particle is named.
- The particle was finally discovered in 2012, by researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
 - the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, located at the European particle physics laboratory CERN, Switzerland.
- The LHC confirmed the existence of the Higgs field and the mechanism that gives rise to mass and thus completed the standard model of particle physics.
- It is one of the 17 elementary particles that make up the Standard Model of particle physics, which is scientists' best theory about the behaviours of the universe's most basic building blocks.
- Higgs boson plays such a fundamental role in subatomic physics that it is sometimes referred to as the "God particle."
- The Higgs boson has a mass of 125 billion electron volts, meaning it is 130 times more massive than a proton.
- It is also chargeless with zero spin, a quantum mechanical equivalent to angular momentum.
- It is the only elementary particle with no spin.

7. An Expert Explains: The evolution and essentials of India's climate policy- INDIAN EXPRESS

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

Prelims Takeaway

- UNFCCC

News:

- **India's climate policy is informed by its vision of inclusive growth for all-round economic and social development, the eradication of poverty, declining carbon budget, firm adherence to the foundational principles of the UNFCCC, and climate-friendly lifestyles.**

Key highlights

- The 1990s were a time of great change in India and the world, which led to the forging of new policies in many areas, including on the environment.
- **The Rio Summit of 1992 saw the emergence of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and the Convention on Biological Diversity and Forest Principles.
- After Rio, the divisions of climate change and biodiversity in India's then Ministry of Environment and Forests came to life slowly and steadily.
- India's long-term low emissions development strategy to the UNFCCC showcases its belief in the multilateral process to achieve net zero by 2070.
- India has been successfully decoupling its economic growth from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, resulting in a reduction of the emission intensity of its GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019.
- This is despite having no binding mitigation obligations under **the UNFCCC in the pre-2020 period.**
- India's solar energy capacity has increased by more than 26 times, and wind energy capacity has more than doubled in the last 10 years.
- It now has the fourth largest installed capacity of wind, and fifth largest solar in the world, achieving a target of 40% installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels in November 2021, nine years ahead of schedule, and then increasing the target to 50%.
- There is also an unprecedented focus to provide basic services such as pucca housing, round-the-clock electricity, clean drinking water, universal health insurance, and clean cooking gas, which will leave an indelible mark in the fight against climate change.
- India recognises that development and environment are two sides of the same coin, and must be taken together for all-round holistic development.
- India's model of sustainable development must act as a rallying cry for developing countries to counter the narratives presented by the developed world, bringing science and evidence to the forefront of policy-making.

8. Baobab reforestation efforts show rapid impact in Madagascar -DTE

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Baobab
- africa

News:

- In a groundbreaking conservation endeavor, the **Global Society for the Preservation of Baobabs and Mangroves (GSPBM)** has initiated a mission to rejuvenate the iconic baobab trees.
- These ancient giants, threatened by deforestation and climate change, are receiving a lifeline through seedling transplantation.

The Mighty Baobab: A Survivor in Dry Lands

- Found in Africa's hot, dry savannas, the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*) is a champion of survival.
- In Madagascar, these giants are crucial to the island's unique environment.
- With massive trunks and deep roots, they act like giant water tanks, storing water during the rainy season to see them and nearby plants through the harsh droughts.
- Like a cactus, the Baobab is a succulent, soaking up water whenever it rains.
- These impressive trees can live for thousands of years, reaching up to 30 meters tall and an incredible 50 meters around!
- The Baobab even produces a fruit packed with nutrients, one of the most nutritious in the world. Interestingly, it's the only fruit that dries on the branch naturally.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. The US-Japan-Philippines trilateral isn't just about development. China is at its core- the print

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

News:

- China's assertive foreign policy has spurred the formation of several minilateral groupings in recent years.
- The resurgence of the Quad, comprising Australia, India, Japan, and the US, in 2017-2018 and the establishment of AUKUS Australia, UK, and the US—in 2021 were largely driven by concerns over Beijing's aggressive and coercive policies.

Minilateral Groupings: A Response to China's Rise

- **China's Actions:** Countries in the Indo-Pacific are worried about China's forceful behavior, especially in the South China Sea. This has led them to team up in smaller groups for protection.
- **Regional Instability:** China's activity is making its neighbors nervous about the overall peace and security of the region.
- **Collective Strength:** Countries see that working together in smaller groups is better than dealing with China one-on-one.
- This way they can build a stronger defense against China's ambitions to control the region

he Impact:

- **Stronger Security:** Groups like the Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India) allow for better cooperation on security issues, sharing information, and training militaries together to counter China.
- **Balancing Power:** By joining forces, these countries aim to keep China in check and prevent it from dominating the Indo-Pacific.
- They want to make sure the region follows international rules, not just China's.
- **Shifting Alliances:** The rise of minilateral groups shows a change in how countries in the Indo-Pacific see each other.
- They are now strategically teaming up to protect their interests.
- **Pressuring China:** These groups put diplomatic pressure on China to change its aggressive ways.
- A united front might convince China to act more peacefully for the sake of regional stability.
- **Economic Benefits:** Minilateral groups can also work together on economic issues like trade, investment, and development projects that benefit all members.

10. FEMA trouble -the hindu

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

News:

- the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent policy reiteration regarding participation criteria for exchange traded currency futures and options contracts has disrupted the functioning of this segment, leading to a significant decline in daily turnover and outstanding contracts.

New Currency Trading Rules Shake Up the Market

- Trading Slumps:** Since the RBI's new rules came into effect, daily trading of currency futures and options has plunged dramatically on the NSE.
- This has caused both domestic brokers and foreign investors to scramble to close out their existing positions.
- Liquidity Dries Up:** The new rules, which limit who can trade currency derivatives, are keeping a big chunk of usual participants out.
- This includes professional traders and foreign investors, who used to make up over two-thirds of the market activity.
- This lack of participation is threatening the overall smoothness (liquidity) of the market, which could lead to wild swings in the rupee's value and make it harder for businesses to protect themselves from currency fluctuations.
- Volatility Spillovers:** Foreign investors who can no longer trade on Indian exchanges might move their business overseas, to markets like the rupee NDF market.
- This shift could cause more volatility in the rupee's exchange rate, impacting everyone involved.
- Background and Concerns:** Up until now, currency derivatives on exchanges have been a popular tool, especially for smaller businesses and individuals, to manage their risk from currency fluctuations.
- These exchange-traded options allowed for smaller transactions compared to traditional methods.
- The market has seen significant growth in recent years.
- The Balancing Act:** The RBI's new policy aims to crack down on speculative trading and ensure that currency derivatives are only used for legitimate hedging purposes, as allowed by existing regulations.

Way Forward

- Finding a solution might involve working together - the RBI and the government could potentially remove foreign currency derivatives from a particular set of regulations to address concerns about speculation, while still allowing legitimate hedging activities to flourish.

Quick Look

1. Invasive Alien Species

- These are the species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threatens biological diversity.
- These include animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms, and can influence all kinds of ecosystems.
- These species need an introduction either through natural or human intervention, survive on native food resources, reproduce at a fast rate and edge out native species in the competition over resources.
- Invasive species act as disruptors in the food chain and disturb the balance of the ecosystem.
- In habitats where there is no competition, invasive species can dominate the entire ecosystem.

2. Fiscal Monitor Report

- It provides an overview of latest public finance developments, updates the medium-term fiscal outlook, and assesses fiscal implications of policies relevant to the global economy. It is prepared twice a year by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department.
- Its projections are based on the same database used for the World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR).
- The fiscal projections for individual countries have been prepared by IMF desk economists, and, in line with the WEO guidelines.

3. Pacific Ring of Fire

- Also called the Pacific rim or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific Ocean that is characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It is home to about 75% of the world's volcanoes and about 90% of the world's earthquakes occur here.
- The Ring of Fire is stretched to approximately 40,000 kilometres tracing boundaries between several tectonic plates including the Pacific, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, American, and Philippine Plates.

4. Subduction

- Subduction happens when tectonic plates shift, and one plate is pushed under another. This movement of the ocean floor produces a "mineral transmutation"
 - which leads to the melting and solidification of magma i.e., the formation of volcanoes.
- In other words, when a "downgoing" oceanic plate is pushed into a hotter mantle plate, it heats up, volatile elements mix, and this produces the magma.
- The magma then rises up through the overlying plate and spurts out at the surface

5. Tsunami

- Tsunami is a Japanese term meaning a harbour wave. It is also commonly known as killer waves.
- A Tsunami is not just a single wave but a series of ocean waves called a wave train caused by an underwater earthquake, by a volcanic eruption, landslide, rapid changes in atmospheric pressure, or a meteorite.
- However, tsunamis caused by volcanic activity are less frequent.
- Most tsunamis—about 80%—happen within the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," a geologically active area where tectonic shifts make volcanoes and earthquakes common.

6. Hepatitis

- Hepatitis is caused by infectious viruses (viral hepatitis), and noninfectious agents, leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal.

- There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus: A, B, C, D, and E, each with different modes of transmission, severity, geographical distribution, and prevention methods.
- Types B and C are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis (a condition in which the liver is scarred and permanently damaged), liver cancer, and viral hepatitis-related deaths.

7. Antimicrobial Resistance

- AMR is a global public health threat that occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines.
- Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and plants are primary drivers of drug-resistant pathogens.
- Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected by AMR due to poverty and inequality.
- AMR jeopardises the efficacy of modern medicine, making infections harder to treat and medical procedures riskier.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. Up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban populations are covered by NFSA through the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme and the priority households.
2. AAY households represent the lowest of the poor or are entitled to 35 kilograms per family per month.
3. The development of a basis for selecting priority households and their actual verification falls under the purview of the central government's duties.

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

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

1. The proposed IMEC will consist of Railroad routes extending across east corridors connecting India to the Arabian Gulf only.
2. India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany are signatory
3. India will join the cooperative working group on carbon markets through the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency will be the nodal body

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

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

Q3. Statements I: As per ILO The report titled "Profits and poverty, Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Central Asia followed by Asia and the Pacific, the Americas.

Statements II: The Constitution of India prohibits forced labour under Article 24

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

1. It is a US-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indian Ocean
2. The IPEF is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and allows members to negotiate the parts they want to
3. India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean are its members,

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. For prevention of money laundering, there is separate provision in constitution
2. stringent bail standard in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), puts the onus on the accused to prove that there is no prima facie case against them while seeking bail.
3. If anyone under the age of sixteen years or is a woman or is sick or infirm, may be released on bail, if the Special Court so directs

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

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

Q6. Consider the following statements

1. The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.
2. This field was first proposed in the mid-sixties by Peter Higgs, for whom the particle is named.
3. the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, located at the European particle physics laboratory CERN, Switzerland

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

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about the World Air Quality Report

1. Most of the world has unhealthy air and Only 7 countries met the WHO's PM2.5 guideline.
2. The top five most polluted countries are in Asia and Africa.
3. India was the third most polluted country, with 42 of its cities in the top 50 most polluted globally.
4. Nine out of the ten most polluted cities are in India.

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the context of climate change:

1. COP is an annual gathering organized by the United Nations to address international climate-related issues and negotiate global agreements.
2. COP28 is currently focused on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST), a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to enhance climate actions.
3. The host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28.

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 pairs

Region in news : Countries

1. Chushul : India
2. Gelephu : United Kingdom
3. Okinawa : USA

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q10. Which of the following is a key indicator used to measure unemployment in a country?

- A. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- B. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- C. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
- D. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban populations are covered by NFSA through the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme and the priority households. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Priority homes are entitled to 5 kilograms of food per person per month.
- While AAY households represent the lowest of the poor or are entitled to 35 kilograms per family per month. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The former Planning Commission (now Niti Aayog) used the NSS household consumption survey data for 2011-2012
- to estimate the state-wise coverage under the NSSA.
- The task of identifying potential households within the scope under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) established for each state is to be completed by states/UTs.
- The development of a basis for selecting priority households and their actual verification falls under the purview of the state government's duties. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The proposed IMEC will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks and Road transport routes extending across two corridors, that is,
 - The East Corridor – connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,
 - The Northern Corridor – connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- The IMEC corridor will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany ARE signatories **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- India has decided to join at least one of the four cooperative work programmes unveiled recently, under the 'clean energy pillar' of the U.S.-led Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)
- It is one of facilitating and promoting carbon-market activities.

- New Delhi is also considering two of the other co-operative work-programme initiatives, one on clean electricity
- the other on the use of sustainable aviation fuel but will take a call on whether to join or not after thorough analysis.
- India will join the cooperative working group on carbon markets through the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency will be the nodal body. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

Answer 3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- As per ILO The report titled "Profits and poverty:
- "Total annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia followed by Asia and the Pacific, the Americas ,Africa and the Arab States ," the report said.
- The Constitution of India prohibits forced labour under Article 23. **Hence both statements are incorrect**

Answer 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- It is a US-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- The IPEF was launched in 2021 with a dozen initial partners who together represent 40% of the world GDP.
- The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but allows members to negotiate the parts they want to. The negotiations will be along four main "pillars". **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- Supply-chain resilience
- Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure
- Taxation & anti-corruption
- Fair & resilient trade.
- Currently, India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean are its members, **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 5 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from money laundering. **Hence statements 1 IS INCORRECT**
- Section 45 provides for bail on money laundering charges.
- This provision in the law, like the stringent bail standard in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), puts the onus on the accused to prove that there is no prima facie case against them while seeking bail.
- However, there is a crucial exception to the bail standard.
- "Provided that a person, who is under the age of sixteen years or is a woman or is sick or infirm, may be released on bail, if the Special Court so directs," the law says.
- This exception is similar to exemptions under the Indian Penal Code for women and minors. **Hence statement 2 & 3 are correct**

Answer 6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

God particle

- The Higgs boson is the fundamental force-carrying particle of the Higgs field, which is responsible for granting fundamental particles their mass.
- This field was first proposed in the mid-sixties by Peter Higgs, for whom the particle is named.
- The particle was finally discovered in 2012, by researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
- the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, located at the European particle physics laboratory CERN, Switzerland.

HENCE ALL STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT

Answer 7 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- This report by IQAir, an air quality tech company, examines air pollution levels globally.
- They rank countries and cities based on how clean or dirty their air is.
- PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) is their main indicator of air quality.
- Data comes from over 30,000 monitoring stations in 134 countries.

- They use info from both government agencies and their own sensors.
- WHO Air Quality Guidelines:
- The World Health Organization (WHO) sees air pollution as a major health threat.
- In 2021, they updated their air quality guidelines, recommending stricter limits for six pollutants.
- Key Findings (2023):
- Most of the world has unhealthy air. Only 7 countries met the WHO's PM2.5 guideline.
- The top five most polluted countries are in Asia and Africa.
- India was the third most polluted country, with 42 of its cities in the top 50 most polluted globally.
- Nine out of the ten most polluted cities are in India.
- Overall, the report paints a concerning picture of global air quality.
- **Hence, ALL statement ARE correct.**

Answer 8 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is indeed an annual gathering organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together countries to discuss and negotiate global agreements on climate change-related issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- COP28 is currently underway, and one of its primary focuses is on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST is a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to assess collective progress and enhance climate actions globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- the host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28. This fund is intended to assist developing countries in recovering from climate disasters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option A is correct.**Explanations**

- the final major clash of World War II, raged for over 80 days in 1945.
- US forces fought to capture Okinawa, a strategically located island close to mainland Japan, from a determined Japanese defense. OKINAWA is in japan

- Chushul is a village in the Leh district of Ladakh, India. It is located in the Durbuk tehsil, in the area known as "Chushul Valley.
- The King of Bhutan paid a visit to India in November 2023 during which he hinted at his plans for a Mindfulness City at Gelephu in southern Bhutan. Gelephu is in Bhutan.
- **Hence only one pair is correct**

Answer 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is a key indicator used to measure unemployment. It represents the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.



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