

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 11 Jan. 2024**

### **Important News Articles**

1. SC report exposes severe gaps in accessibility for disabled persons across courts in India - The Hindu
2. After a record 1,111 NGOs got FCRA nod in 2023, 30 get clearance in Jan. - The Hindu
3. U.K. to send advanced naval groups for training with Indian forces - The Hindu/ UK to send navy ships to Indian Ocean this year: Defence Secy - Indian Express
4. Launch of the Traditional Medicine Morbidity codes of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Chapter in International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11 as Module 2 - PIB
5. 'AI-powered misinformation biggest short-term threat to global economy' - The Hindu
6. ILO warns of rise in unemployment, decline in real wages - The Hindu

### **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

1. The laws around remission policy - The Hindu
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3. ORGAN TRANSPLANTS: WHY DELHI HC HAS PRESCRIBED 6-8-WEEK TIMELINE - Indian Express
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## Important News Articles

### GS I

#### 1. SC report exposes severe gaps in accessibility for disabled persons across courts in India - 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

- Supreme court
- District Court

**News:**

- A recent report by the **Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court** exposes significant **deficiencies in the infrastructure of District Courts across India**,
  - emphasising the challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing justice.

**Key Findings**

**1. Concern of disable**

- Over half of the District Court complexes lack ramps.
- Only 25.2% provide wheelchairs for accessibility.

**2. Tactile Paving for Visual Impairments**

- Only 5.1% of District Courts have tactile paving to assist those with visual impairments.
- Emphasises the importance of tactile or auditory instructions for inclusivity.

**3. Accessible Toilets**

- **Only 30.4% of District Court complexes have separate disabled-friendly toilets.**
- Underscores the fundamental importance of accessible facilities.

**4. Hearing Impairment**

- Positive instances of virtual arguments with sign language interpreters in higher courts.
- However, **only 2.8% of districts in India have access to sign language interpreters** for court proceedings.

**5. Infrastructure Gap**

- Out of 25,081 sanctioned judges, there is an **infrastructure gap of 4,250 courtrooms.**
- 73.5% of court premises are owned by the judiciary, with 2.6% being rented.
- Alterations in old buildings or those in temporary accommodations face challenges due to structural limitations and space constraints.
- Few High Courts cite difficulties in modifying existing structures.

**Recommendations**

- The report calls for **regular inspections by agencies** like the Public Works Department, in coordination with District Judges, to explore modifications in existing court buildings for enhanced accessibility.
- It emphasises the **urgent need for attention and action** to address this critical shortcoming in judicial infrastructure.

### GS II

#### 2. After a record 1,111 NGOs got FCRA nod in 2023, 30 get clearance in Jan. - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- NGOs
- FCRA

**News:**



- A Taiwan-headquartered **Buddhist monastic order in Delhi** has been granted **clearance under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010**, enabling the organisation to receive foreign funds.

#### Background

- The Fo Guang Shan Cultural and Educational Centre **has received FCRA registration for its “religious, cultural, economic, educational and social” programme.**
- The Fo Guang Shan monastic order originated in Taiwan in the 1960s and the Delhi centre was established in 2008.
- “It is a **Buddhist religious trust.**
- In all, 30 Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and associations have been granted FCRA registration in the first month of the year.

#### NGO with FCRA registration

- Last year, **a record number of 1,111 NGOs were granted permission** to receive foreign donations, the highest since 2014.
- MHA data shows nearly **half of fresh FCRA registrations** under the religious category are **for Christian NGOs**
- Registration under FCRA is mandatory to receive foreign donations.
- The NGO must have a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme to get registered.
- According to data available with the Ministry, as many as 3,294 associations were granted fresh registration from 2014 to 2023.
- The Ministry also informed the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2023 that out of the total 1,615 applications received for registration under FCRA in the years 2021 and 2022,
  - as many as 722 were granted clearance while 225 applications were rejected.
  - The refusal of these applications was due to not fulfilling the eligibility criteria in accordance with the provisions of the FCRA, 2010 and rules made thereunder,” the Ministry said.
- It added that a total of 13,520 associations received foreign contributions worth ₹55,741.51 crore across the financial years 2019-2020, 2020-21, and 2021-22.
- As on January 10, **there were 16,987 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country.**
- The FCRA registrations of nearly 6,000 NGOs had become inoperative from January 1, 2022 as the **Ministry refused to renew their application or the NGOs did not apply for one.**
- The registration is valid for five years.

### 3. U.K. to send advanced naval groups for training with Indian forces - The Hindu/ UK to send navy ships to Indian Ocean this year: Defence Secy - Indian Express

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

#### News:

- The U.K. Navy will send its **Littoral Response Group to the Indian Ocean region** later this year, with plans for its Carrier Strike Group to visit India in 2025.
- Both will operate and **train with Indian forces**

#### Key Highlights

- The two nations also discussed future cooperation in defence from joint exercises to knowledge sharing and instructor exchanges.
- These steps build on the comprehensive strategic partnership envisaged in the 2030 India-U.K. roadmap, announced in 2021

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Indian Ocean region
- Atlantic ocean

### Common challenges

- In the coming years, the **U.K. and India will also embark on more complex exercises between their respective militaries**
  - building up to a landmark joint exercise to be conducted before the end of 2030
  - supporting shared goals of “protecting critical trade routes and upholding the international rules-based system,” the statement said.
- **Collaboration with industry** is also key in the strategic defence partnership between the U.K. and India
- The two nations working together on electric propulsion systems that will power our future fleets, and cooperating on the development of complex weapons
- The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for bilateral international cadet exchange programme and also a Letter of Arrangement (LoA) on defence collaboration in research and development.

## 4. Launch of the Traditional Medicine Morbidity codes of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Chapter in International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11 as Module 2 - PIB

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

### News:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush are **set to launch the ICD 11 TM Module 2**, Morbidity Codes, event in New Delhi
- This initiative aims to integrate data and terminology **related to diseases based on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems** into the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) series.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Traditional diseases
- WHO

### Key Developments

#### Global Uniformity in ASU Medicine

- **Inclusion of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani data** in ICD11 for global uniformity.
- Establishing a universal code of vocabulary to define diseases in ASU medicine.

#### CBHI's Role and Ayush Code Development

- Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), under the Ministry of Health, is **WHO Collaboration Centre for ICD activities**.
- Ministry of Ayush developed Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani Medicine codes through NAMSTE portal.

#### Donor Agreement and Strengthening Public Healthcare:

- The Ministry of Ayush signed a Donor Agreement with WHO.
- This collaboration **aims to enhance India's public healthcare delivery**, research, Ayush insurance coverage, and policy-making systems.

#### Inclusion of Traditional Medical Diseases

- Codes to be used in controlling diseases and formulating future strategies.
- Other WHO member countries express willingness to adopt a similar approach.

#### Disease Classification Examples

- **Traditional diseases** like infectious diseases (e.g., Malaria) and lifestyle diseases (e.g., chronic insomnia) included.
- Specific examples from Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani for disorders like Vertigo Guidance Disorder.

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**GS III**


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**5. 'AI-powered misinformation biggest short-term threat to global economy' - The Hindu**

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

**Prelims Takeaway**

- AI
- ChatGPT

**News:**

- **The World Economic Forum's latest Global Risks Report** highlights the **immediate threat posed by false and misleading information**, driven by cutting-edge artificial intelligence.
- The report outlines the risks associated with misinformation, environmental challenges, and the impact of AI on global society.

**Key Findings**
**AI-Driven Misinformation at the Forefront**

- The report **identifies false and misleading information** fueled by advanced AI as the most pressing short-term risk to the global economy.
- Rapid technological advancements are exacerbating existing problems and creating new challenges.

**Generative AI Chatbots Raise Concerns**

- The rise of generative AI chatbots, exemplified by technologies like ChatGPT, is noted as a potential tool for creating sophisticated synthetic content.
- **Concerns arise as this technology becomes more accessible**, allowing manipulation of large groups beyond those with specialized skills.

**AI's Impact on Democratic Processes**

- **AI-powered misinformation coincides with upcoming elections** in various countries, raising concerns about its potential impact on democratic processes.
- The ease of leveraging AI for deepfakes can lead to societal polarization and challenges in verifying facts.

**AI's Broader Risks:**

- **AI is recognized as a tool that can empower malicious actors**, making cyberattacks more accessible, automated, and potent.

**Climate Change as a Global Concern**

- After AI-driven misinformation, extreme weather is **identified as the second-most-pressing short-term risk**.
- In the long term, climate change-related risks, including critical changes to Earth systems, biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and natural resource shortages, take precedence.

**6. ILO warns of rise in unemployment, decline in real wages - The Hindu**

**Relevance:** Economy

**News:**

- **The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024** report in Vienna
- It emphasises an anticipated increase in the global unemployment rate in 2024.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- ILO
- World Employment and Social Outlook

**Key Findings****1. Macroeconomic Deterioration in 2023**

- Despite joblessness falling below pre-pandemic levels, the **report raises concerns about persisting social inequalities and stagnant productivity.**
- The report notes a significant deterioration in the macroeconomic environment in 2023.
- **Geopolitical tensions and inflation** led to aggressive moves by central banks, impacting global industrial activity, investment, and trade.

**2. Global Growth and Labour Market Resilience**

- Despite economic challenges, global growth in 2023 exceeded expectations, with labour markets showing resilience.
- Strong job growth led to improvements in both the unemployment rate and the jobs gap, although the latter remained elevated at nearly 435 million.

**3. Concerns about Structural Labour Market Imbalances**

- The report warns that labor market imbalances may be structural rather than cyclical, even as imbalances eased in 2023.

**4. Real Wage Decline and Increase in Extreme Poverty**

- Real wages declined in most G20 countries due to wage increases lagging behind inflation.
- Workers in extreme poverty (earning less than \$2.15 per day in PPP terms) increased by about one million globally in 2023.

**5. Positive Real Wages in India and Other Countries**

- Real wages in India are reported as "positive" compared to other G20 nations, with positive growth also observed in China, Russia, and Mexico.
- China and Russia experienced the strongest wage gains due to high labor productivity growth.

**Editorials, Gists and Explainers****7. The laws around remission policy - The Hindu****Relevance:** Polity**Context:**

- The Supreme Court recently **overturned the remission of life sentences** for 11 convicts involved in the gang rape of Bilkis Bano and her family's murder during the 2002 Gujarat communal riots.
- The remission was granted by the **Gujarat government** in August 2022.



### Clemency Powers

- Article 72 and 161 of the Constitution empower the President and Governor to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite, or reprieve to a convict.
- State governments, under Section 432 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) may also remit sentences.
- In case of life imprisonment convicts, this remission can be done only after a period of 14 years in jail as per Section 433A of the CrPC.

### Background of the Case

- The crimes for which the 11 persons were convicted occurred in Gujarat in 2002.
- However, considering the need for fair trial, these cases were shifted to Maharashtra by the Supreme Court in 2004.
- In 2022, one convict sought remission under Gujarat's 1992 policy, leading to their release in August 2022.

### The Issues

#### 1. Jurisdiction and Procedure

- The CrPC specifies Maharashtra, where sentencing occurred, as the appropriate State for considering remission.
- Failure to seek the opinion of the presiding judge of the convicting court before considering the remission petition, as required by law.

#### 2. Supreme Court Precedents

- The Supreme Court in Laxman Naskar versus Union of India (2000) case outlined five grounds for remission, emphasizing societal impact.
- In Sangeet versus State of Haryana (2012), it established that life imprisonment convicts don't have an automatic right to premature release, and remission should be case-specific.
  - The Union Home Ministry had issued an advisory in February 2013 prescribing that remission should not be granted in a 'wholesale manner'.

#### 3. Policy Discrepancy

- The Gujarat government's 2014 remission policy explicitly barred remission for those convicted of rape and murder.
- However, the instant remission was granted based on the policy of 1992 (that had no such exclusions).

#### Supreme Court's Ruling

- The Supreme Court declared the Gujarat government inappropriate for considering the remission petition.
- The May 2022 order directing Gujarat to consider remission was deemed null and obtained through fraud and suppression of facts before the court.
- The 11 convicts were ordered to surrender before jail authorities within two weeks.
- Maharashtra was identified as the appropriate government for considering remission petitions, following established guidelines.

### Conclusion

- The Supreme Court's ruling reinstates **faith in the judicial system**, emphasising adherence to the rule of law.
- The decision sets aside a controversial remission order, signalling the importance of **considering the societal impact of heinous crimes in determining clemency**.

## 8. Missing a maritime doctrine - Indian Express/ Maldives row: 3 key issues - Indian Express

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

**Context:**

- The **recent tensions between India and Maldives**, fueled by derogatory remarks against the India Prime Minister, reveal underlying **strategic, diplomatic, and geopolitical dimensions**.



**Strategic Dimension**

- The Maldives archipelago is vital for India's maritime security matrix.
- However, Indian decision-makers often exhibit a "continental fixation," hindering coherent maritime initiatives.
- Due to the absence of a national security strategy, our maritime initiatives have remained random and sporadic.
- Historical insights underscore the importance of securing Indian interests in the Indian Ocean.

**Diplomatic Approach**

- Diplomatic scrutiny is needed for India's relations with Maldives, considering the influence of hyper-nationalism and religious fervour, alongside the India-China rivalry.
- Early signs of deteriorating relations, such as the cancellation of a GMR contract to develop Male's international airport in 2011, should have prompted proactive measures.

**Geopolitical Competition**

- India needs to shift focus from border disputes to the larger geopolitical competition, especially in the Indo-Pacific, as India and China vie for influence in the Indo-Pacific.
- China's geographic disadvantage in the Indian Ocean, compared to India's proximity, presents strategic advantages.

**Why Does India Need Maldives?**

- India needs Maldives on its side to secure its maritime periphery, keep an eye on the Indian Ocean and check the influence of China in its neighbourhood.

**1. Strategic Location**

- Proximity to India's west coast.
- Located at the hub of commercial sea-lanes running through the Indian Ocean.
- Maldives is one of the key elements in India's maritime security calculus.

**2. Defence Cooperation**

- India trains nearly 70% of Maldives' defence forces.
  - Almost 70 percent of Maldives' defence training is done by India - either on the islands or in India's elite military academies.
- Collaborations in aerial surveillance and coastal radar systems to keep an eye on the activities in the Indian Ocean.

**3. China Factor**

- Concerns over China's increasing influence in Maldives.
- Previous leaders, including President Yameen, strengthened ties with China.

**Why Does Maldives Need India?**

- 1. Daily Needs:** India supplies essential items like rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, medicines etc. and basic items to build infrastructure in Maldives.

**2. Education**

- Indian educational institutions are vital for Maldivian students.
- Every year, Maldivian students flock to Indian higher educational institutions.
- The government gives out scholarships for Maldivian students to study in India.

**3. Economic Dependence**

- India is a major trading partner, contributing significantly to Maldives' imports.
- India emerged as Maldives' second largest trade partner in 2022.

- 4. Disaster Assistance:** India has been a primary source of aid during crises, including tsunamis and the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 5. Security Provider:** History of military assistance, joint exercises, and naval cooperation during coup attempts.

### Maritime Diplomacy

- It is imperative to enhance utilization of maritime diplomacy.
- It should be seen as a crucial component of conventional diplomacy, unlocking its potential to a greater extent.
- The overarching objective of Maritime Doctrine is to positively influence the maritime environment.
  - To advance national interests, aligning with foreign policy and national security objectives.
- India's maritime neighbours could benefit from a more flexible and proactive approach to training, naval presence, advisers, and hardware.

### Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) Vision

- The acronym "SAGAR" was coined by the current Prime Minister in 2015, representing broad regional maritime cooperation.
- However, there is no document amplifying the vision underpinning SAGAR.
- It should be fleshed out into a new and comprehensive maritime doctrine, providing direction and purpose to regional diplomacy.

## 9. ORGAN TRANSPLANTS: WHY DELHI HC HAS PRESCRIBED 6-8-WEEK TIMELINE - Indian Express

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

### Context:

- The Delhi High Court has recently set an ideal **timeline of 6-8 weeks** for completing the process of **organ transplants from living donors**.

### The Judgement

- The court emphasized the need to **avoid prolonged delays**, which can **cause mental and physical anguish** for donors, recipients, and their families.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been directed to **ensure adherence to timelines** specified in **The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 and Rules, 2014**.

### The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994

- The law governs the transplantation of human organs and tissues in India, including the donation of organs after death.
- It also lays down regulations governing healthcare providers and hospitals, and stipulates penalties for violations.
- It allows transplants from deceased persons' organs or living donors who are known to the recipient.
  - Living donations from close relatives such as parents, siblings, children, spouses, grandparents, and grandchildren are generally allowed.
  - Altruistic donations from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange.
- Prohibits illegal practices related to organ transactions, with penalties up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.

### The Authorisation Committee

- The Authorisation Committee plays a critical role in the transplantation process.
- It oversees and approves transplant procedures involving donors and recipients who are not near relatives.
- Ensures ethical compliance and prevents illegal practices by conducting thorough inquiries, verifying donor-recipient authenticity and preventing commercial motives.

### Section 9(4)

- The composition of the Authorisation Committee shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time
- The state government and Union Territories shall constitute one or more Authorisation Committee consisting of such members as may be nominated by the State Government and the Union Territories

### The 2014 Rules

- Rule 7 outlines the constitution of the Authorisation Committee and its evaluation process, emphasizing the prevention of commercial transactions.
- Rule 10 describes the application process for living donor transplantations, requiring joint applications by the donor and recipient.
- Rule 21 mandates personal interviews by the Committee to determine eligibility for donation.

### Delhi High Court Case

- The court ruled on a case involving a retired Indian Air Force officer seeking approval for a renal (kidney) transplant.
- The petitioner's application was rejected due to non-availability of a "near relative" donor.
  - Without the Committee's prior approval, no human organ or tissue can be removed from a donor's body before death and transplanted into a recipient unless the donor is a "near relative".
- Despite the petitioner's passing, the court proceeded with the case, addressing delays in the Authorisation Committee's decision-making process.

### Court Decision

- Emphasizes the need for fixed timelines in conducting interviews, processing forms, and decision-making by the Authorisation Committee.
- Recommends scheduling interviews within 2 weeks after 4-6 weeks of receiving the application.
- Advocates the entire process, from submission to decision, not exceeding 6 to 8 weeks.

## 10. Income vs price support: price deficiency payment option for MSP - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices

**Context:**

- The challenges faced by farmers in a buyer's market, emphasize the need for **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** or alternative mechanisms like **Price Deficiency Payments (PDP)**.

### Challenges in Agriculture Market

- Farmers operate in a buyer's market, leading to sudden supply increases relative to demand, affecting prices.
- Such market conditions, favouring buyers over sellers, also mean farmers are price takers.
- They lack market power to influence prices and sell at prevailing supply and demand determined rates.
- Therefore, farmers from time to time demand legal guarantees for minimum support prices (MSP) for their crops.

### Price Support versus Income Support

- Economists favour income support over government-fixed MSPs based on cost-plus pricing, as it aligns with market demand.
  - Cost-plus MSPs that are oblivious to demand conditions will distort farmers' production decisions.
  - This may result in the oversupply of some crops and an undersupply of others.
- Direct income support schemes, like PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi and Rythu Bandhu, are considered non-market-distorting.
- Moreover, price support can be a useful tool for promoting crop diversification.

### How can MSP be guaranteed

#### 1. Force buyers to pay MSP

- Sugar mills are required, by law, to pay cane growers a "fair and remunerative" or "state advised" price within 14 days of purchase.
- However, this strategy faces potential obstacles in implementation, or, in a more severe scenario, private traders may opt not to make any purchases at all.

#### 2. Buy the Entire Marketable Produce

- Government agencies buy the entire marketable produce of farmers offered at MSP.
- However, it is unsustainable, both physically and fiscally.

#### Case for Price Deficiency Payments (PDP)

- PDP involves paying farmers the difference between the market price and MSP, avoiding physical government purchases or stocking of crops.
- It has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh's Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana and Haryana's Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana.
- PDP provides price assurance to farmers without distorting market dynamics and promotes crop diversification.

#### Implementation of PDP (Haryana)

- Haryana's BBY operates through 'Meri Fasal, Mera Byaura' portal where farmers register with details of their land and crops.
- A mix of both physical procurement and PDP is employed based on the gap between MSP and market price.
- The PDP payment rates tend to be on a fixed rate derived from average quotes at the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange.

#### Feasibility of Nationwide PDP

- Madhya Pradesh and Haryana's success in delivering MSP through PDP demonstrates feasibility.
- Nationwide implementation could incentivize other states to build market infrastructure and systems for effective MSP delivery.

### Conclusion

- PDP can be a viable **alternative to traditional MSP** mechanisms, offering **price assurance to farmers** without market distortions.
- They have been able to do this because of the already-created **APMC mandi infrastructure and systems for farmer registration**.
- This success indicates PDP's **potential for nationwide implementation**, fostering a system where farmers across the country can benefit from MSP.



## Quick Look

### 1. Caucus System

- The state of Iowa will play a pivotal role in shaping the 2024 US presidential race as Republicans gather for caucuses, marking the first step in selecting their party's nominee. The caucus is a unique process where voters express their preferences for the party's presidential nomination.
- Unlike primaries, caucuses are overseen by the state party, not the government, and do not involve traditional polling places.
- Republicans in Iowa will convene in small groups at local venues, where representatives advocate for their preferred candidates through speeches.
- Votes are cast through secret ballots, and the results determine the selection of delegates to the county convention.
- The final results are reported to the state party, and the outcome is typically announced within a few hours.

### 2. Fog

- Fog is a common weather phenomenon characterised by small water droplets formed when evaporated water cools down and condenses.
- It occurs when there is a temperature disparity between the ground and the air, common during Indian winters.
- The formation of fog is influenced by factors such as low temperatures, high humidity and the presence of abundant moisture near the surface.
- Two primary mechanisms contributing to fog formation are infrared cooling and radiation fog.
- The entire Indo-Gangetic plains, including northern India, are prone to fog formation during the winter season due to specific conditions.
- Low temperatures, low wind speed, moisture availability, and a high concentration of aerosols contribute to the formation of fog in the region.
- Moisture incursion can occur from Western Disturbances or the Arabian Sea, further enhancing fog formation.

### 3. Prasadam

- Recently, the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare inaugurated 'Prasadam', at Neelkanth Van, Mahakal Lok, in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Prasadam is the country's first "Healthy and Hygienic Food Street".
- It will connect people in every corner of the country with pure and safe local and traditional food.
- It offers convenient and culturally rich dining options for the 1-1.5 lakh devotees who visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple daily.
- The food street is designed to provide various facilities including a kids' play area, drinking water facility, CCTV surveillance, parking, public conveniences and seating spaces.

### 4. Sky Dew

- Recently, Israel deployed Sky Dew along the Lebanese border as tensions with Hezbollah escalated.
- Sky Dew is a massive balloon-like structure in the shape of a puffed aircraft.
- The high-altitude observation balloon acts as a detection radar blip for small unmanned aircraft and cruise missiles.
- It is one of the largest aerial threat warning systems in the world.
- The project was entirely funded by the US Department of Defence.

- The radar on the balloon is capable of observing at 250 km and tracking multiple targets, including low-altitude ones and those in valleys.
- It offers a significant advantage in its ability to remain in surveillance for extended periods without needing fuel or crew replacement.

## 5. Ugram

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation recently launched an indigenous assault rifle named 'Ugram'.
- It has been developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a unit of DRDO, in collaboration with a private industry partner.
- It was developed in less than 100 days as per the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) of the army into consideration.

## 6. Drishti 10 'Starliner'

- The Chief of Naval Staff recently flagged off the first indigenously manufactured Drishti 10 'Starliner' Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Navy.
- It is an advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance and a 450 kg payload capacity.
- It is an all-weather military platform which has clearance to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.
- The UAV's autonomous nature, coupled with its mission effectiveness and payload configuration options, makes it an invaluable asset for strategic operations.
- Its minimal maintenance requirements makes it cost-effective and operationally efficient.
  - This ensures increased operational readiness, reducing downtime, and maximising deployment opportunities.
- It is equipped with advanced communication systems, including satellite communication and Line-of-Sight (LOS) data links, ensuring reliable and secure data transmission.

## 7. Republic Day Tableaux

- Recently, the Defence Ministry has proposed a rollover plan where every State and UT will get an opportunity within three years for Republic Day parade tableaux.
- According to a Ministry of Defence (MoD) circular, a select number of "State govts/UTs/Central ministries or departments" send their tableaux each year to the Republic Day parade.
- The selection process happens in a phased manner.
  1. STAGE 1
    - It involves the assessment of the initial proposals and the design sketch/blueprint sent to the MoD.
    - The Committee suggests modifications (if necessary) and a number of proposals may be rejected in this stage itself.
  2. STAGE 2
    - It involves assessment of 3-D models of the proposals.
    - If the Committee is satisfied with the model, then the tableau is selected and further sent for fabrication.
- The Committee has the final say on which tableaux are chosen (approx. 15 every year) and can order any modifications they feel are required.

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding District Courts in India:**

1. District Court complexes across the country lack ramps for accessibility.
2. Only 25.2% of District Court complexes have the availability of wheelchairs.
3. Tactile paving for persons with visual impairments is present in 15% of District Courts.

**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 statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) in India:**

1. FCRA regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions or donations by individuals and associations in India.
2. FCRA prohibits political parties and election candidates from receiving foreign contributions.
3. FCRA mandates that all NGOs receiving foreign funds must register under the Act to ensure transparency and accountability.

**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 regarding the Indian Ocean region:**

1. The Indian Ocean is the third-largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering approximately 20% of the Earth's water surface.
2. The Indian Ocean is surrounded by three continents: Asia, Africa, and North America.
3. The Indian Ocean is home to significant ocean currents, including the Agulhas Current and the North Equatorial Current.

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

- A. Only one

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

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the ICD 11 TM Module 2:**

1. ICD 11 TM Module 2 primarily focuses on infectious diseases and their classifications.
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently launched the ICD 11 TM Module 2 in New Delhi.
3. ICD 11 TM Module 2 incorporates data and terminology related to diseases based on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems.
4. The Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) is the primary agency responsible for the implementation of ICD 11 TM Module 2.

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

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

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the World Economic Forum's latest Global Risks Report:**

1. The report identifies AI-generated misinformation as the top immediate risk to the global economy.
2. Extreme weather is ranked as the second-most-pressing short-term risk in the report.
3. The Global Risks Report is released annually during the Davos gathering, a meeting of CEOs and world leaders.
4. The report highlights positive developments in global economic and environmental conditions.

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

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

**Q6. Which of the following organisations publishes the "World Employment and Social Outlook Report" seen in the news recently?**

- A. International Labour Organization (ILO)
- B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D. World Bank

**Q7. Consider the following statements with reference to remission**

1. The Constitution empowers the state governments to remit sentences of convicts.
2. The Supreme Court in Laxman Naskar versus Union of India (2000) case outlined the grounds for remission.

**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

**Q8. With reference to India-Maldives, consider the following statements**

1. Maldives is located to the south of India, in the Indian Ocean.
2. India and Maldives conduct joint exercises including Exercise Ekuverin meaning 'Friends'.
3. Under Operation Sanjeevani the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the neutralisation of the coup attempt.

**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 with reference to organ transplants**

1. The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 governs the

transplantation of human organs and tissues in India.

2. The Authorisation Committee oversees and approves transplant procedures involving donors and recipients who are not near relatives.
3. Altruistic donations from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange.

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

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

**Q10. With reference to Price Deficiency Payments (PDP), consider the following statements**

1. It involves paying farmers the difference between the market price and MSP, avoiding physical government purchases.
2. It provides price assurance to farmers without distorting market dynamics.

**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



## Prelims Track Answer

### Answer 1 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- The article mentions that more than half of the District Court complexes in the country lack ramps, indicating a deficiency in accessibility. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The article states that only 25.2% of District Court complexes have the availability of wheelchairs, highlighting a limited provision for persons with mobility challenges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The article specifies that only 5.1% of District Courts have tactile paving to assist persons with visual impairments, not 15%. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**

### Answer 2 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- FCRA regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions or donations by individuals, associations, and NGOs in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- FCRA prohibits political parties and election candidates from receiving foreign contributions to maintain the integrity of the political process. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- FCRA mandates that NGOs receiving foreign funds must register under the Act to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper utilization of foreign contributions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

### Answer 3 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

- The Indian Ocean is the third-largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering approximately 20% of the Earth's water surface. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Indian Ocean is surrounded by three continents: Asia, Africa, and Australia, but not North America. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- The Indian Ocean is home to significant ocean currents, including the Agulhas Current near Africa and the North Equatorial

Current in the northern part of the ocean.

**Hence, statement 3 is correct**

### Answer 4 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- ICD 11 TM Module 2 does not primarily focus on infectious diseases. Instead, it includes data and terminology related to diseases based on various traditional medical systems, including Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect**
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recently launched the ICD 11 TM Module 2 in New Delhi. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- ICD 11 TM Module 2 incorporates data and terminology related to diseases based on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems, promoting inclusivity in global disease classification. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) is not the primary agency responsible for the implementation of ICD 11 TM Module 2, rather the Ministry of Ayush's role in collaboration with the World Health Organization. **Hence, statement 4 is INcorrect**

### Answer 5 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

AI-Generated Misinformation:

- the World Economic Forum's latest Global Risks Report identifies AI-generated misinformation as the top immediate risk to the global economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The report ranks extreme weather as the second-most-pressing short-term risk. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- the Global Risks Report is released annually ahead of the Davos gathering, an elite meeting of CEOs and world leaders. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- Report does not mention any positive developments; rather, it focuses on risks and challenges identified in the report. **Hence, statement 4 is INcorrect**

**Answer 6 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) releases the World Employment and Social Outlook Report. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- According to the recent report, the global unemployment rate is set to increase in 2024 with growing social inequalities.

**Answer 7 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Article 72 and 161 of the Constitution empower the President and Governor to grant pardon, commutation, remission, respite, or reprieve to a convict.
- State governments, under Section 432 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) may also remit sentences. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- In case of life imprisonment convicts, this remission can be done only after a period of 14 years in jail as per Section 433A of the CrPC.
- The Supreme Court in Laxman Naskar versus Union of India (2000) case outlined five grounds for remission, emphasizing societal impact. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - These include the nature of the offence, likelihood of reoffending, the convict's potential for criminal activity, the purpose of continued confinement, and the socio-economic conditions of the convict's family.
- In Sangeet versus State of Haryana (2012), SC established that life imprisonment convicts don't have an automatic right to premature release, and remission should be case-specific.

**Answer 8 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Maldives is located to the south of India, in the Indian Ocean. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It comprises over 1,200 islands scattered across 90,000 square kilometers, with nearly 99.6% of its territory submerged in the sea.

- Its electoral system is similar to France, where the winner has to secure more than 50% of votes.
- India provides the largest number of training opportunities for Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), meeting around 70% of their defense training requirements.
- Defense cooperation extends to the areas of Joint Exercises - "Ekuverin", "Dosti", "Ekatha" and "Operation Shield". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under Operation Cactus the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the neutralization of the coup attempt. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines to Maldives, under Operation Sanjeevani as assistance in the fight against COVID 19.

**Answer 9 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 governs the transplantation of human organs and tissues in India, including the donation of organs after death. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also lays down regulations governing healthcare providers and hospitals, and stipulates penalties for violations.
- It allows transplants from deceased persons' organs or living donors who are known to the recipient.
- Altruistic donations from distant relatives, in-laws, or long-time friends are allowed after additional scrutiny to ensure there is no financial exchange. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Prohibits illegal practices related to organ transactions, with penalties up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore.
- The Authorisation Committee plays a critical role in the transplantation process.
- It oversees and approves transplant procedures involving donors and recipients who are not near relatives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Ensures ethical compliance and prevents illegal practices by conducting thorough inquiries, verifying donor-recipient authenticity and preventing commercial motives.

**Answer 10 Option D is correct**

**Explanation**

- Price Deficiency Payments (PDP) involves paying farmers the difference between the

market price and MSP, avoiding physical government purchases or stocking of crops. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh's Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana and Haryana's Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana.
- PDP provides price assurance to farmers without distorting market dynamics and promotes crop diversification. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



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