

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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2. During talks with U.S., India bats for two-state solution to end Israel-Palestinian crisis The Hindu
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Important News Articles

GSI

1. Governors cannot sit on Bills passed by House: SC- 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 expresses concern over a "**constitutional deadlock**" in Tamil Nadu caused by **Governor delay or failure to consider 12 crucial Bills** passed by the Legislature.

Prelims Takeaway

- Governor

Legal Notice to Union of India

- The Court issues a **formal notice to the Union of India to respond to Tamil Nadu's claim** that the Governor's actions are impinging on the welfare legislations and rights of the people.

Article 200 Violation

- The Court highlights the **violation of Article 200**, emphasizing that the Governor must act "as soon as possible" when Bills are presented, and sitting on them indefinitely is not permissible.

Pending Bills and Administrative Impacts

- Bills, including those related to public health and higher education, **have been pending since January 2020**.
- The delay affects day-to-day governance, with files **for prosecution sanction, appointments, and Bills awaiting action**.

Call for Time Limit

- The State **requests the Supreme Court to set an "outer time limit" for the Governor** to consider pending Bills and government orders, highlighting the need for timely actions on appointments and prosecution sanctions.

Accusations of Politically Motivated Conduct

- The Governor is accused of politically motivated conduct**, denying sanction for corruption investigations despite prima facie evidence. The State seeks intervention from the Court to ensure adherence to constitutional norms.

2. During talks with U.S., India bats for two-state solution to end Israel-Palestinian crisis The Hindu

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

News:

- India reiterated **the need for a two-state solution to end the current Israel-Palestinian crisis**, during a ministerial meeting between India and the United States on November 10.

Prelims Takeaway

- Indo-Pacific region.

Key Highlights of meeting

India's Proposal

- Foreign Secretary highlights India's proposal for a "**two-state solution and early resumption of dialogue**" as a constructive approach to address the crisis.

'2+2' Meeting Highlights

- Led by respective Foreign and Defence Ministers, the '**2+2' meeting covers various issues, including the India-Canada spat**, the upcoming Bangladesh election, and the Indo-Pacific situation.

Indo-Pacific Stability

- India stresses the **critical partnership with the U.S. for a stable Indo-Pacific region**.
- Both nations express **commitment to collaboration, technological sharing**, and strengthening interoperability in the Indo-Pacific domain.

3. I&B Ministry releases draft Broadcasting Services Bill The Hindu

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

News:

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has introduced the **draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill to replace the existing Cable and TV Act.**
- **The proposed bill aims to modernize the regulatory framework** for the broadcasting sector in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- Broadcast Advisory Council

Scope of the Bill

- The new bill will have a broader scope, **extending its governance to Direct-to-Home (DTH), Over-the-Top (OTT), Digital Media, and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV).**
- This expansion reflects the **changing dynamics of the media and entertainment landscape.**

Modernization Goals

- Information and Broadcasting Minister emphasized that the bill is **designed to modernize the regulatory framework**, replacing outdated laws and guidelines.
- The objective is to adopt a unified and forward-looking approach **to govern the evolving broadcasting technologies.**

Key Innovations

- **Content Evaluation Committees:** The bill introduces these committees to facilitate robust self-regulation within the industry.
- **Broadcast Advisory Council:** The existing Inter-Departmental Committee will be transformed into a broader council to encourage inclusive decision-making.

Accessibility Guidelines

- The draft bill incorporates "comprehensive accessibility guidelines" **to address the needs of differently-abled users, ensuring inclusivity in the broadcasting ecosystem.**

4. Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID vaccine faces legal challenge in UK: Report-The Indian Express

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

News:

- The Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is **facing a legal challenge** in the High Court in London.
- The **vaccine is**
 - known as Vaxzevria in Europe
 - licensed as Covishield in India

Prelims Takeaway

- Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis
- Vaxzevria
- Covishield

What is the issue ?

- According to 'The Daily Telegraph', UK-based **pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca** could face a number of further claims based on the outcome of test cases
- Various **adverse conditions** were identified by specialists as Vaccine Induced Immune Thrombocytopenia and Thrombosis (VITT)
- This is believed to be related to **the side effects** of the COVID jab.
- In the petition, the vaccine is claimed to have **caused blood clotting** and brain injuries.

Questions of Law in the Issue

- The fact of this legal battle poses **fundamental questions.**
- In circumstances where individuals are **seriously injured or die** because of a vaccination recommended by the government
 - should the state provide access to adequate **compensation**, or
 - should the bereaved and injured be required to **fight for compensation** in the courts against the vaccine producer

Claim of Oxford-AstraZeneca

- The firm also pointed out that it supplied **3 billion doses** of the vaccine to more than 180 countries.
- It claims that an independent study had found it had been responsible for **saving 6 million lives**.

GS III**5. Overnight rain in Delhi brings relief from hazardous air quality- The Hindu**

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

News:

- Rain led to a **visible improvement** in Delhi's air quality.
- Before this the **capital suffered** from more than a week with pollution.

Status of AQI in Delhi

- Air Quality Index (AQI) **showed improvement** at 7 a.m., dropping from 437 to 408.
- IMD predicts further improvement due to **favourable meteorological conditions** and light rain.
- **Stubble burning** from neighbouring states accounted for a significant portion of pollution.
- As per **Decision Support System**
 - **Transport** also contributes, comprising 12-14% of Delhi's air pollution.
 - Stubble burning in the neighbouring states, particularly Punjab and Haryana, accounted for 38% of the air pollution in Delhi
- Delhi's air quality ranks among the **worst globally**, shortening lives by almost 12 years, according to an **EPIC report**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Graded Response Action Plan
- Air Quality Index

Efforts of Government in this regard

- Delhi government **plans artificial rain** through cloud seeding on November 20-21, 2023.
- Proposal to be submitted to the Supreme Court, currently hearing **petitions on air pollution**.
- 9,200 **challans** issued for breaching pollution norms in the last four days.
- **Rescheduling** of school **winter break** from November 9 to November 18.
- **Ban on app-based taxis** in compliance with Supreme Court orders.
- **Odd-even car-rationing scheme** under review by the court; to be implemented if deemed effective.
- The entry of **app-based taxis** into the national capital has been banned in accordance with the Supreme Court's orders.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage IV **restrictions enforced**, including a ban on construction and entry of polluting trucks.
- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** stages range from Poor to Severe Plus based on AQI.
- The GRAP categorises **actions into four stages**:
 - Stage I — Poor (AQI 201-300);
 - Stage II — Very Poor (AQI 301-400);
 - Stage III — Severe (AQI 401-450)
 - Stage IV — Severe Plus (AQI above 450).

Medical Opinion on AQI in Delhi

- Doctors equate breathing in Delhi's polluted air to **smoking 10 cigarettes** a day.
- Prolonged exposure increases the risk of **respiratory** and **cardiovascular** diseases.
- This can **exacerbate**
 - Respiratory as asthma, bronchitis and chronic **obstructive pulmonary disease**
 - Dramatically raise the risk of **cardiovascular disease**.

IMD Prediction

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier predicted a **marginal improvement** in air quality just ahead of Diwali owing to favorable meteorological conditions.
- IMD officials had opined a **change in the wind direction** from northwest to southeast due to a fresh western disturbance
 - Affecting northwest India will help reduce the contribution of smoke from stubble burning.

6. Mumbai ranks 4th in global housing price rise-Indian Express

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

News:

- Mumbai recorded the **fourth highest year-on-year growth** in prime residential prices among global cities for the quarter ended September 2023.
- This fact has been presented in the **Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Prime Global Cities Index

Position of Indian Cities in the Index

- The **6.5 per cent** increase in prime residential prices has moved the city up by 18 places from 22nd rank in September 2022.
- **New Delhi** and **Bengaluru** too recorded an upward movement in their index rankings.
- NCR **moved from** 36th rank a year ago to 10th in September 2023 with a growth of 4.1 per cent year on year basis.
- Bengaluru's rank **increased** from 27 in 2022 to 17 in 2023 with a growth of 2.2 per cent.

Features of the Prime Global Cities Index

- The Prime Global Cities Index is a tracking of the movement of prime residential prices across 46 cities **valuation-based index** worldwide.
- The index **tracks nominal prices** in local currency.
- The **average rise** in annual prime residential prices was recorded at 2.1 per cent across the 46 markets in the 12-month period ending September 2023.
- This is the **strongest growth rate** recorded since Q3 2022.
- It reflects **67 per cent** of cities seeing growth on an annual basis.

Important Facts of Prime Global Cities Index

- Manila claimed **the top spot** with a 21.2 per cent rise in prices.
- This is attributed to strong domestic and foreign **investments**.
- Dubai has been **displaced from** the top position for the first time in eight quarters
- Due to a **sharp decline** in quarterly growth from 11.6 per cent in June quarter to 0.7 per cent in September quarter.
- San Francisco was **the weakest market** with a decline of 9.7 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

Factors that promote growth in the Home Prices as per Index

- The homebuyers' increasing **need to upgrade** their lifestyle
- **Stable economic prospects** of the country
- Improving **market sentiments**

7. BRO says Amarnath road project will help pilgrims' movement The Hindu

Relevance: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

News:

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) clarified that the ongoing road project to the **Amarnath cave shrine was to widen the tracks for pedestrian traffic** and keeping in view the environmental concerns.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Border Roads Organisation

Border Road Organisation

- **BRO was conceived and raised in 1960** for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.
- It works under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Defence**.
- It has diversified into a large spectrum of **construction and development works comprising airfields**, building projects, defence works and tunneling and has endeared itself to the people.

Achievements so far

- The BRO, in more than six decades, has constructed over 61,000 kms of roads, over 900 Bridges, four Tunnels and 19 airfields under challenging conditions along India's borders
- It also completed projects in friendly foreign countries, including **Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan**.
- These include construction of **Shyok Bridge in Eastern Ladakh and Steel Arch Siyom Bridge** of Load Class 70 in Arunachal Pradesh on Along-Yinkiong Road.

8. Net direct tax collections at ₹10.6 lakh crore; nears 60% of target **The Hindu**

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

News:

- **India's net direct tax collections have witnessed substantial growth**, reaching ₹10.6 lakh crore by November 9.
- This surge is attributed to **significant increases in personal income tax revenues and corporate taxes**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Central Board of Direct Taxes

Growth Metrics

- **Overall Growth:** Net direct tax collections recorded a robust growth of 21.8%.
- **Personal Income Tax:** Revenues from personal income tax surged by 31.8%.
- **Corporate Taxes:** Corporate tax collections saw a notable increase of 12.5%.

Tax Refunds

- Approximately ₹27,000 crore in tax refunds were disbursed in the past month.
- Total refunds for the year reached ₹1.77 lakh crore.

Consistent Momentum

- The growth rate of the net direct tax kitty was 21.8% a month ago, **indicating sustained momentum**.
- Net income tax collection stands at 58.15% of the **total Budget Estimates for Direct Taxes in 2023-24**.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Statement

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) **reported that provisional figures indicate consistent and robust growth in direct tax collections**,
 - with net collections representing a significant portion of the total Budget Estimates for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Revamping the criminal justice system to fit the bill *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.

Context:

- The Government has **introduced three Bills to replace the core laws**, i.e., the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA), 1872,
- These Bills are being examined by **the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs**.
 - The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill will replace the IPC
 - The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill will be in place of the CrPC,
 - The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will replace the IEA

Criminal Justice System

- The criminal justice system is comprised of multiple interrelated pillars, consisting of academia, law enforcement, forensic services, the judiciary, and corrections.

Questions raised by the Bills

- As these Bills replace the entire Acts — and are not merely Amendment Bills to fix some gaps
- they provide an opportunity for an overhaul of the laws underlying the criminal justice system.
- This raises the following questions —
 - Do they update the law to reflect the concepts of modern jurisprudence?
 - How do these Bills relate to various special laws?
 - Do they help unclog the criminal justice system?
- Are various definitions and provisions drafted well without ambiguity?

Issues related to modernising jurisprudence

- First, whether these Bills exclude civil law.
- Usually, criminal law deals with issues that are seen as an offence against the broader society or state while civil law deals with loss to a person.
- However, the CrPC includes provisions for maintenance of wife and children after divorce. It also allows compounding of some offences by the affected person, which means the accused person is acquitted.
- Second, whether these Bills create a reformatory system rather than a punitive system.
- Third, whether maintenance of public order and the process of criminal prosecution should be in the same law.
- The CrPC has provisions charting out the process of arrest and trial as well as items such as Section 144 that empower the district magistrate to impose various restrictions. The new Bill retains this structure.
- Fourth, whether various directions of the Supreme Court of India have been codified in these proposed laws.
 - The Bill codifies the procedure for mercy petitions.
 - However, there is no codification of various directions related to arrests and bail.
- Fifth, whether the Bills try to ensure consistency of implementation.
- Typically, penalties for offences specify a range, with the judge expected to specify the sentence within the range based on the circumstances of each case.
- Sixth, whether the age provisions have been updated for modern norms.
- The IPC specifies that a child below the age of seven years cannot be accused of an offence. It provides such exemption until 12 years of age, if the child is found not to have attained the ability to understand the nature and consequences of his conduct.

Duplication as well as inconsistency across the laws

- The IPC was enacted in 1860 as the principal law specifying offences and penalties.
- Since then, several laws have been enacted to deal with specific offences.
- In some cases, this has been addressed. For example, the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 states that provisions of the IPC related to weights and measures will not apply; the Bill removes these provisions.
- However, the Bill (like the IPC) overlaps with several other Acts such as those related to food adulteration, sale of adulterated drugs, bonded labour, and rash driving.

Definitions and Drafting

- The Bill replacing the IPC provides a person suffering from mental illness as a general exception from being an offender (this was called unsound mind earlier).
- The definition of mental illness is the same as in the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.
- That Act aims to provide medical treatment to persons suffering from mental illness, and, therefore, excludes mental retardation or incomplete development;
- Consequently, the new Bill will provide full exemption to someone who is addicted to alcohol or drugs but not to a person who is unable to understand the consequences of their actions due to mental retardation.

Conclusion

- These Bills will become the basis of the criminal justice system.
- Parliament should examine them with great care so that they create a fair, just and efficient criminal justice system.

2. A distress call- Indian Express

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

Context:

- According to a report of newspaper from Lucknow, hundreds of women — who otherwise play the **role of saviours as communication officers for Uttar Pradesh's Dial 112 emergency helpline** — are protesting in distress.

What are their grievances?

- They assert that Rs 11,400 for a month's work (that's Rs 380 per day) where a regular day involves handling at least 600 emergency calls (ranging from road accidents to crimes against women to harassment) is not adequate remuneration.
- Their salaries have not increased while the cost of living has increased around them.
- The second complaint of the communication workers is about the lack of job security since they are employed by a private firm, and not by the government.

What does the official employment data reveal?

- Most of the headline indices continued to improve.
- These included improving the labour force participation rate (implying more people were demanding jobs), falling unemployment rate (implying the ratio of those who looked for a job and failed to get one is falling) and rising workforce-population ratio (implying that overall, the ratio of employed people and the total population was rising).
- Most of these positive changes were happening due to women entering the workforce.
- Most of the new jobs were of very poor quality — self-employment — where monthly incomes are much lower than regular wages.
- All types of incomes — be it for regular wages, casual labour or self-employment — had remained largely stagnant over the past six years. Simply put, women were entering the job market driven by economic woes.

Reasons for low female labour force participation in India

- Social norms and cultural expectations
- Lack of access to education and skills training
- Limited employment opportunities for women
- Discrimination in the workplace
- Lack of support for working mothers
- Lack of safety and security
- Early marriage and pregnancy
- Lack of access to financial services
- Women entering the labour force late due to the rise in higher education among them

Steps need to be taken to improve female labour force participation in India

- Need to Integrate Policy of Work, Livelihoods, Earnings and Poverty, Re-think and Integrate Macroeconomic Policy with Social Policy.
- Improve women's access to Credit, skills, and marketing.
- Pay regular wages to Asha workers, Anganwadi teachers and helpers and cooks for mid-day meals and regularise their employment.
- Improve working conditions for women, Investments in childcare facilities and toilets for women at all workplaces.
- Sensitisation on issues such as sexual division of labour within the home through large-scale media advertisement.
- Implementation of minimum wage laws, Creation of employment opportunities.
- Enable universal access to high-quality public health care facilities and support for women's care.
- All women workers should have identity cards and be covered under the Unorganised Sector Social Security Act, of 2008.
- Secure and uphold women's ownership rights over basic productive resources like land, and create equal rights to property.

Conclusion:

- The distress call from the women workers in Lucknow provides a real-life example of the macro data.
- What is required is broad-based economic growth: An economy that creates so many new and well-paying jobs that young women enter the workforce out of choice, not distress.

Quick Look

1. Kali Tiger Reserve

- Kali Tiger Reserve, earlier known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve is located in the central portion of the Uttara Kannada (North Canara) district of Karnataka state.
- It comprises two important protected areas of the region, viz., Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park. They are contiguous to each other and form a single tract of protected area located in the biologically sensitive Western Ghats.
- The Kali River flows through the tiger reserve, and hence the name.
- Forests are primarily moist deciduous and semi-evergreen, with excellent patches of evergreen forests in the westernmost parts.
- The complex floral tapestry comprises hardwood trees like teak, silver oak, Malabar tamrind, jamba, lantana, bamboo, shrubbery.
- Prominent species are the Asiatic elephant, tiger, leopard, gaur, chevrotain, spotted deer, barking deer, sloth bear, dhole, Malabar civet, and giant civet.

2. Kadaknath Chicken

- Kadaknath, a native of Madhya Pradesh (MP), is prominently found in the Jabua district of the state.
- It has black flesh and this chicken is also called black chicken or Kali Masi.
- It's not just the meat, but even the organs and bones of this chicken are black.
- The eggs of this chicken are black as well.
- It received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2018.
- It is known for its high iron content and much lower cholesterol than other breeds. It has a high protein content and is considered ideal for muscle repair and building.
- Kadaknath chicken is often claimed to be beneficial for individuals with certain health conditions, such as asthma and respiratory issues.

3. Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- GI Tag ensures that no one other than those registered as authorized users is allowed to use the popular product name.
- Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- At the international level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- This GI tag is valid for 10 years, following which it can be renewed.

4. Crustacean parasites

- This is also the first discovery and description of a new crustacean family from India.
- This parasitic copepod was found to depend upon the Dollfus' Stargazer (*Uranoscopus guttatus*), a fish dwelling in depths ranging from 300-550 m off the southwest Indian coast.
- The discovery of the new family has also led to the creation of a new genus and species, *Hirodai ohstukai* under it.
- These parasitic copepods are known to infest a wide range of hosts, from sponges to marine mammals.
- New isopod species which has been named *Glyptochoa sagara*; 'Glypto' as the fish parasite was found in the deep sea fish *Glyptothidium macropus*, and 'sagara' for ocean.
- Another new isopod crustacean parasite species named *Elthusa aquabio* was collected from an unknown fish.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Which of the following statements regarding the role of a Governor in India is correct?

1. The Governor has the discretionary power to withhold assent to a Bill passed by the State Legislature.
2. The Governor is not involved in the appointment of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.
3. The Governor's term is fixed at five years, and reappointment is not permissible.

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

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

Q2. Which of the following statements about Israel is correct?

1. Jerusalem is recognized as the capital of Israel by the international community.
2. Israel shares its longest border with Iraq.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. With reference to the Prasar Bharati in India, consider the following statements

1. It is a statutory organization.
2. It was established in 1987.
3. It was established with the aim to provide autonomy to Doordarshan and Akashvani.

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

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

Q4. With reference to the Covishield Vaccine, consider the following statements

1. The Serum Institute of India is the manufacturing partner in India.
2. It is based on a weakened version of Epstein-Barr Virus.

3. It is based on a spike protein.

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

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

Q5. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan, consider the following statements

1. The plan is aimed at assessing the defence preparedness of India.
2. The plan is categorized into six categories.

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

Q6. With reference to the Prime Global Cities Index, consider the following statements

1. The index tracks real prices in local currency.
2. Manila has claimed top spot in the index.
3. Dubai is the weakest market in the index.

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 Border Road Organisation

1. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.
2. It also completed projects in friendly foreign countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

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

Q8. With reference to various initiatives taken by the Government of India to

improve the direct tax collections, consider the following statements

1. The Finance Act, 2020 has created opportunity for individuals and co-operatives to pay income tax at concessional rates if they do not have avail of specified exemption and incentive.
2. Under Vivad se Vishwas, declarations for settling pending tax disputes are currently being filed.
3. 'Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest' platform is aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers.

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

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

Q9. With reference to the proposed changes in the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita Bill, 2023 , consider the following statements

1. The bill repeals the offense of sedition.
2. It prescribes life imprisonment as the maximum sentence for mob lynching

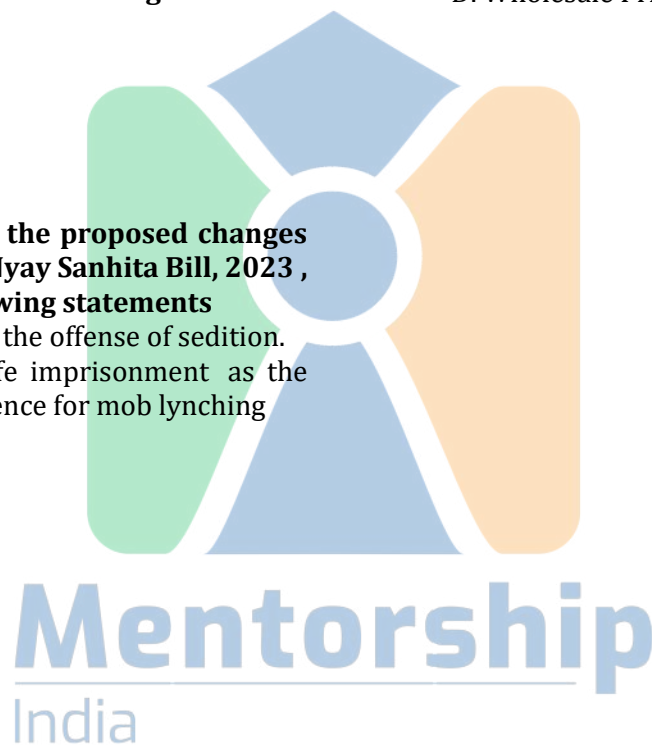
3. The bill fixes a maximum limit of 120 days to file a charge sheet.

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

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

Ans. 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Governor does have discretionary powers, including the power to withhold assent to a Bill.
- However, the Governor is involved in the appointment of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.
- The Governor's term is not fixed, and reappointment is permissible. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans. 2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Jerusalem is recognized as the capital of Israel, but its status is a subject of international dispute. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Israel shares its longest border with Egypt, not Iraq. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 3 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country.
- It was established under the Prasar Bharati Act in 1997. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Prasar Bharati Corporation's main objective is to provide autonomy to Doordarshan and Akashvani in order to "educate and entertain the public. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 4 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Serum Institute of India (SII) is the manufacturing partner in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is based on a weakened version of the adenovirus that is found in chimpanzees. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- This viral vector contains the genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (protrusions). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The body's immune system is supposed to recognise this protein as a threat, and work on building antibodies against it.

Ans. 5 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stages range from Poor to Severe Plus based on AQI. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**

- The GRAP categorizes actions into four stages:
 - Stage I — Poor (AQI 201-300);
 - Stage II — Very Poor (AQI 301-400);
 - Stage III — Severe (AQI 401-450)
 - Stage IV — Severe Plus (AQI above 450). **Hence, Statement is incorrect.**

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Prime Global Cities Index is a tracking of the movement of prime residential prices across 46 cities valuation-based index worldwide.
- The index tracks nominal prices in local currency. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Manila claimed the top spot with a 21.2 per cent rise in prices. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This is attributed to strong domestic and foreign investments.
- Dubai has been displaced from the top position for the first time in eight quarters
- Due to a sharp decline in quarterly growth from 11.6 per cent in June quarter to 0.7 per cent in September quarter.
- San Francisco was the weakest market with a decline of 9.7 percent on a year-on-year basis. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans. 7 Option D is correct

Explanation

- It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works comprising airfields, building projects, defence works and tunneling and has endeared itself to the people.
- Achievements so far
- The BRO, in more than six decades, has constructed over 61,000 kms of roads, over 900 Bridges, four Tunnels and 19 airfields under challenging conditions along India's borders
- It also completed projects in friendly foreign countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

Efforts of Government of India to improve Direct Tax Collection

- The Finance Act, 2020 has provided an option to individuals and co-operatives to pay income tax at concessional rates if they do not have avail of specified exemption and incentive. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Vivad se Vishwas Scheme: Under Vivad se Vishwas, declarations for settling pending tax disputes are currently being filed. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 'Transparent Taxation - Honoring The Honest' platform: It is aimed at bringing transparency in income tax systems and empowering taxpayers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

Proposed Changes in the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita Bill, 2023:

- The bill repeals the offense of sedition, which was widely criticized as a colonial relic that curbed free speech and dissent. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- It prescribes capital punishment as the maximum sentence for mob lynching, which has been a menace in recent years. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It proposes 10 years imprisonment for sexual intercourse with women on false promise of marriage, which is a common form of deception and exploitation.
- The bill introduces community service as a form of punishment for specific crimes, which can help in reforming offenders and reducing overcrowding in prisons.
- The bill fixes a maximum limit of 180 days to file a charge sheet, which can speed up the trial process and prevent indefinite delays. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans. 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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