

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 11 Oct. 2023

Important News Articles

1. SC sets Oct. 31 for hearing electoral bonds case- The Hindu
2. Baiga tribal group gets habitat rights in Chhattisgarh: What this means, significance
3. Trade and security ties with India gathering pace: Australian Speaker
4. Mental health centers are time-worn, says NHRC- The Hindu
5. State-owned NBFCs put under PCA norms- The Hindu
6. 'India's spacetechnology industry has 'downstream' potential'- The Hindu
7. Net direct tax collections up 21.8% to ₹9.57 lakh crore- The Hindu
8. Centre launches protocol to manage malnutrition in children at Anganwadi- The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Women want change, society needs change
2. We need evidence based traditional medicine

Quick Look

1. Indian Ocean Rim Association
2. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
3. Oslo Accords
4. Gaza Strip and Golan Heights
5. Al Aqsa Mosque and Sheikh Jarrah

Important News Articles**GS II****1. SC sets Oct. 31 for hearing electoral bonds case- 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:

- Recently, the **Supreme Court posted a batch of pleas** challenging the controversial **electoral bond scheme** for a final hearing on October 31.

Prelims Takeaway

- Representation of the People Act, 1951

Electoral bond

- They serve as a means for **individuals and entities to make donations** to registered political parties while maintaining donor anonymity.
- **State Bank of India (SBI) issues the bonds in** denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore.
- It is **payable to the bearer** on demand and interest-free.
- It is **purchased by Indian citizens or entities** established in India.
- It can be **bought individually or jointly** with other individuals.
- It is **valid for 15 calendar days** from the date of issue.
- **Eligibility of political parties**
 - political parties registered under **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**
 - have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People
 - have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to the Legislative Assembly, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- Electoral Bonds **can be purchased digitally or through cheques.**
- Encashment only **through an authorized bank account of the political party.**
- **As per Companies Act 2013**, a company can make a political contribution only if its net average profit of three preceding financial years is at 7.5%.
- **The removal of this clause** has raised concerns of **black money** in political funding through shell companies.

2. Baiga tribal group gets habitat rights in Chhattisgarh: What this means, significance

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.

News:

- Recently, the **Baiga Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) became the second** to get **habitat rights** in the state, after the Kamar PVTG.

Prelims Takeaway

- PVTGs

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)

- PVTGs are **more vulnerable** among the tribal groups.
- Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which **PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.**
- In this context, in 1975, **the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs** on the recommendation of Dhebar commission.
- Currently, **there are 75 PVTGs** out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- The PVTGs are spread **over 18 states and one UT**, in the country (2011 census).
- **Odisha has the highest number** (more than 2.5 lakh) of PVTGs.

Characteristics of PVTGs

- Their Population is declining day by day – stagnant/declining
- Literacy Level among them is extremely low

3. Trade and security ties with India gathering pace: Australian Speaker

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

News:

- **Security and trade cooperation between India and Australia are gathering pace**, and relations between the two are getting stronger, the Speaker of Australia's House of Representatives said.

Prelims Takeaway

- Malabar exercises

Australia and India bilateral relation

- the first time established diplomatic relations in the pre-Independence period, when **the Consulate General of India was first opened as a Trade Office in Sydney in 1941**.
- In 2014, **Australia signed a Uranium supply deal with India**, the first of its kind with a country that is a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty,
- India is one of the top sources of **skilled immigrants to Australia**.
 - As per the 2021 Census, around 9.76 lakh people in Australia reported their ancestry as Indian origin,
- Australia and India are **cooperating in several regional and multilateral forums** that provide economic and strategic dialogue for the region.
 - "It's not just the Quad, but be it the G-20, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN regional forum, the Indian Ocean Rim Association
- The **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)** was signed during the Virtual Summit in June 2020 to enhance defence cooperation.
- **Australia hosted the "Malabar" exercises in August 2023**, with participation from India, Japan, and the US.

GS III**4. Mental health centers are time-worn, says NHRC- The Hindu**

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

News:

- it is necessary that **mental health establishments be restructured** as per the contemporary **requirements of technology, amenities and services**, said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on October 10,
- **The NHRC has recommended** that all States must prioritise constituting **mental health authority**.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Tele Mental Health Programme

Mental health in India

- The WHO calls **Mental health a basic human right**.
- it is **crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development**.
- According to the WHO, **mental illness makes about 15% of the total disease conditions around the world**.
- In 2019, **India's suicide rate was at 12.9 per 1,00,000 persons**
- According to the National Mental Health Survey conducted by **NIMHANS in 12 States**, the **prevalence of mental morbidity is high in urban metropolitan areas**

Reason for poor mental health condition in India

- Lack of Awareness and Sensitivity
- Lack of Mental Healthcare Personnel
- Changed Lifestyle
- Income Inequalities

Measures taken

- The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017
 - The Act acknowledges mental illness as a disability
- National Tele Mental Health Programme

5. State-owned NBFCs put under PCA norms- The Hindu

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

News:

- The Reserve Bank of India said the **strict supervisory norms under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework will apply to state-owned non-banking financial companies** from October 2024.

Prelims Takeaway

- PCA framework

Key Points

- PCA is a framework under which **banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.**
- The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002 as a **structured early-intervention mechanism for banks**
- The RBI has **specified certain regulatory trigger points**, as a part of PCA Framework, in terms of three parameters
 - Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)
 - net Non-Performing Assets (NPA)
 - Return on Assets (RoA)
- **Being put under the PCA framework means :**
 - restrictions on dividend distribution/remittance of profit
 - Restriction on promoters/ shareholders to infuse equity and reduction in leverage
 - restrictions on taking on other contingent liabilities on behalf of group companies.
- **The objective** is to enable supervisory intervention at the appropriate time.

6. 'India's spacetechnology industry has 'downstream' potential' - The Hindu

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

News:

- Much of the **demand for satellite technology applications will be decided by demand on earth**, Deloitte India said in a report published with the Indian Space Association and NASSCOM on Tuesday.
- The report analyses **the 'downstream' opportunities in space technology** (spacetechnology).

Prelims Takeaway

- satellite technology

Key Points

- 'Downstream' is a **reference to services like communications, earth imaging and navigation** that satellites enable.
- It's no **longer just technical challenges that will decide the trajectory of satellite-enabled services** by the private sector
- potential opportunities **do not show tremendous headroom in India**, owing to its small share in the global spacetechnology market.
- **Satellite internet** for remote areas represents a **market value of \$263 million** in the next five years, as per the report.
- Other applications like **ecological monitoring, surveying and logistics tracking rarely exceed \$1 billion in market promise.**

7. Net direct tax collections up 21.8% to ₹9.57 lakh crore- The Hindu

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

News:

- India's **net direct tax collections** grew **21.8%** to ₹9.57 lakh crore by October 9, surpassing over half of the Budget estimates for this year,
- **Personal income tax revenues** rising **32.5%** and corporate taxes increasing 12.4%.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Key Points

- The **taxation system in India** is such that the taxes are levied by the Central Government and the State Governments.
- **Some minor taxes are also levied by the local authorities** such as the Municipality and the Local Governments.
- **Broadly taxes are divided into two categories:**
 - Direct Taxes
 - Indirect Taxes
- A **direct tax can be defined as a tax** that is paid directly by an individual or organization to the imposing entity (generally government).
- A taxpayer **pays a direct tax to a government** for different purposes, including real property tax, personal property tax, income tax or taxes on assets, FBT, Gift Tax, Capital Gains Tax, etc.
- In the colloquial sense, **an indirect tax is a tax collected by an intermediary from the person** who bears the ultimate economic burden of the tax.
 - such as sales tax, a specific tax, value-added tax (VAT), or goods and services tax (GST)

The Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- It is a **value-added tax levied** on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.
- **The GST is paid by consumers**, but it is remitted to the government by the businesses selling the goods and services.
- **GST is applicable on 'supply' of goods or services** as against the old concept on the manufacture of goods or on sale of goods or on provision of services.
- **GST is based on the principle of destination-based consumption** taxation as against the present principle of origin-based taxation.
- **It is a dual GST** with the Centre and the States simultaneously levying tax on a common base.
- **GST to be levied by the Centre is called Central GST (CGST)** and that to be levied by the States is called State GST (SGST).
- **Import of goods or services would be treated as inter-state** supplies and would be subject to Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) in addition to the applicable customs duties.

8. Centre launches protocol to manage malnutrition in children at Anganwadi- The Hindu

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

News:

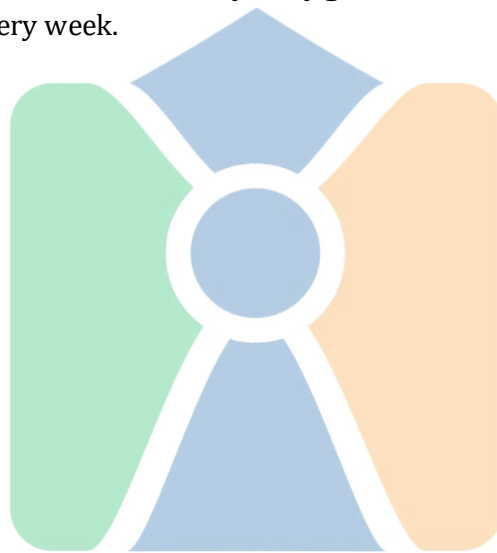
- Recently, the Centre **launched a standardised national protocol** to identify and **provide extensive care to malnourished children** in the country
- It includes **fresh initiatives like appetite testing and "buddy mother"** concept.

Prelims Takeaway

- Buddy mother

The protocol provides detailed 10-step guidelines for -

- **The identification and management of children suffering** from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at the Anganwadi level,
 - including decision-making for referral, nutritional management and follow-up care.
- The processes that **needed to for a healthy weight**
- The **comprehensive norms on dietary requirements** for various levels of malnutrition among children.
- After the **identification of children through growth monitoring data**, appetite tests will be done on all SAM children for medical complications.
- **SAM children** who fail the appetite test **will be referred to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres**, which will also be linked to medical centres.
- The protocol also includes **unique initiatives like the “Buddy mother”** concept which was first used in the state of Assam.
- Under this scheme, **the mother of a healthy baby guides the mother of a malnourished** child at an Angandwadi centre every week.



Mentorship
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Women want change, society needs change

Relevance: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Context:

- **17th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report (G3R) of the World Economic Forum (2023)**, has concluded that at the current rate of progress, it will take **131 years to close the global gender gap**.
- It has been **149 years in populous South Asian countries including India**.

Global Gender Gap

- It "assesses countries on how well they are dividing their resources and opportunities among their male and female populations,
- Gender Gap Index measures gender equality based on the relative gaps between women and men across 4 key areas:
 - o Economic Participation and Opportunity
 - o Educational Attainment
 - o Health and Survival
 - o Political Empowerment
- The value ranges between 0 (complete inequality) and 1 (complete equality)
- India has progressed from 135th rank in 2022 to 127th out of 146 countries in the report's 2023 edition. India has closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap.

Closing the gender gap

- What women want is a level playing field where the factor of gender which is completely irrelevant but looms large, is removed from the equation.
- Reservation is the most effective form of affirmative action and equity is the first step to equality. That it leads to inefficiency or incompetency is simply making excuses for not rendering tightly guarded spaces to ousted classes.

A fresh start

- The Women's Reservation Bill or (128th Constitutional Amendment) Bill, 2023, became a rare piece of legislation in independent India to be cleared overwhelmingly by both Houses.
- While India's founding fathers ensured that India was early to adopt universal adult suffrage, the role of women in shaping the country's political future still remains minimal.
- This will also apply to the seats reserved for SCs (Scheduled Castes) and STs (Scheduled Tribes) in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.
- However, the reservation will not be effective immediately, but only after the next census. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women.
- The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years.
- However, it shall continue till such date as determined by Parliamentary enactment.

In leadership roles

- In the Indian political arena women leaders were, most often, convenient choices.
- Historical evidence also shows that most women who make it to leadership positions have a mix of privileges — of higher education, the support of influential mentors or families, or belong to upper classes or castes.
- They reel under the misconception that they have become leaders by virtue of their own efforts and sacrifices, ignoring the personal advantages they possess.
- Thus, the biggest block is the regressive views on gender equality held by men and women.

Way forward

- The present Bill is the first step towards actualising gender parity.
- One only wishes that its implementation would be based on a readjustment of seats on the basis of the 1991 Census,

Conclusion

- It is time to quickly set right historical wrongs.
- Women, society want change and there is no reason why it should be late.

2. We need evidence based traditional medicine

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

Context:

- Recently, the case filed by a manufacturer of indigenous drugs against a medical practitioner on the grounds that his social media thread affected their business

Modern medicine

- several systems which lay claim to healing, and which all fall under the broad category of alternative medicine, exist.
- Certain systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha have their own pharmacopeia in India.
- Modern medicine really became science based when advances in technology made not only the study of the functioning of the human body in health and disease more accurate
- Later, this process led to marvels such as dialysis for kidney failure and the heartlung machine which made surgery on the heart a daily affair.
- The development of scientific thought in the 20th century, including the Popperian idea of falsifiability, led to advances in evaluating medical therapies.
- Subjected to the methods of modern science, which are continually being refined, many therapies were found to be ineffective and abandoned.
- This is the strength of the modern method, the recognition that science continually advances and self corrects.
- The Nobel Winning antimalarial artemisinin was synthesised thanks to investigators who were open minded enough to take cues from a 1,600 yearold text of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The case of Ayurveda

- Like many traditional medical systems everywhere, Ayurveda was constrained in its understanding of how the human body works by the lack of available technology.
- A reason based world view is what differentiates Ayurveda epistemologically from the erstwhile faith based forms of the Atharva Veda.
- Proponents of Ayurveda who claim that everything was already known to the ancient people do it a great disservice and stultify its growth and development.
- One of the greatest triumphs of modern epistemology is its ability to synthesise ideas from across the world to build a coherent system of how the world functions.
- Thus, most modern medicines are single ingredient and only a few are combinations.
- Ayurvedic medicines are commonly combinations, and it is uncertain how these combinations interact with each other.
- It would increase the acceptability of Ayurvedic medicines in the scientific community if they were evaluated by the methods of modern science
- in a way that does not compromise with the wholeness of Ayurvedic formulations.

Way forward

- New investigational methods and trial designs which can evaluate Ayurvedic therapies without undermining the classical bases of administering them must be worked out.
- The Ministry of AYUSH must facilitate this.
- The health of the people should not be hostage to false ideas of nationalism.
- The aim should be to carry out an evidence based appraisal of all traditional medical systems, retain and develop what is useful, and integrate them into one cogent system of medicine available to all.

Conclusion

- A few individuals do a disservice to the cause of evidence based medicine by denouncing traditional medical systems wholesale.
- Denouncing traditional systems in toto would result in a hasty dismissal of valuable medical experience that has undergone repeated, albeit informal, verifications at the hands of generations of practitioners.



Quick Look

1. Indian Ocean Rim Association

- It was established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation of States on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- It has members from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe and Oceania.
- The Association's membership has expanded to 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.
- Asia.
- Its apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.
- IORA has identified six priority areas namely: Trade and Investment, Maritime Safety and Security, Fisheries Management, Disaster Risk Management and Blue Economy.
- The secretariat is based in Ebène Mauritius and is overseen by a secretary-general who is appointed for a three-year period.

2. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

- It is the first comprehensive law (enacted in 2012) in the country dealing specifically with sexual abuse of children, and is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It was intended to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornographic violations, as well as to establish Special Courts for such trials.
- In 2019, the Act was amended to strengthen the penalties for specified offences in order to deter abusers and promote a dignified upbringing.

3. Oslo Accords

- In the early 1990s, the Oslo Accords led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and partial Israeli withdrawal from certain areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- However, the peace process stalled, leading to frustration and violence, culminating in the Second Intifada (2000-2005).
- During this period, Hamas intensified its suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israeli civilians.

4. Gaza Strip and Golan Heights

- The Gaza Strip is located between Israel and Egypt. Israel occupied the strip after 1967, but relinquished control of Gaza City and day-to-day administration in most of the territory during the Oslo peace process.
- In 2005, Israel unilaterally removed Jewish settlements from the territory, though it continues to control international access to it.
- The Golan Heights is a strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 war. Israel effectively annexed the territory in 1981.
- In 2017, the USA officially recognized Jerusalem and Golan Heights as a part of Israel.

5. Al Aqsa Mosque and Sheikh Jarrah

- It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith known by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount.
- The site is part of the Old City of Jerusalem, sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.
- Sheikh Jarrah is a neighborhood located north of the Old City in East Jerusalem.
- Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes when the State of Israel was created in historical Palestine in 1948.
- Twenty-eight of those Palestinian families moved to Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem to settle there.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System

1. ICJS is a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country.
2. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC).
3. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.

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 with reference to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

1. Currently, there are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
2. The PVTGs are spread over 18 states and one UT, in the country
3. Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs.

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 about the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology
2. India, Israel, and Pakistan and North Korea have never accepted the treaty

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

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to Cellular Senescence

1. It refers to a state of stable cell cycle arrest in which proliferating cells become resistant to growth-promoting stimuli, typically in response to DNA damage.
2. During this phase, the cell undergoes numerous phenotypic and metabolic changes.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to New Development Bank:

1. India, Russia, and China are the founding members of the New Development Bank.
2. The members of BRICS are eligible only on the condition that the voting power should not be less than 55%.

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. Consider the following statements about International Space Station (ISS)

1. The space station flies at an average altitude of 400 kilometers above Earth.
2. It circles the globe every 90 min. at a speed of about 28,000 kph.
3. In one day, the station travels about the distance it would take to go from Earth to the moon and back.

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 National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

1. NIIF currently manages three funds Master fund, Fund Of Funds and Strategic Fund.
2. The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

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. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

1. It is formulated under the Ministry of Finance.
2. The scheme is mandatory for the loanee farmers.
3. It aims to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q9. Global Gender Gap Report (G3R) is published by which of the following organisation?

- A. The World Economic Forum
- B. UN women
- C. World Bank
- D. International Monetary Fund

Q10. Consider the following statements about mRNA Vaccines

1. These vaccines make use of the messenger RNA molecules that tell the body's cells what proteins to build.
2. The mRNA is coded to tell the cells to recreate the spike protein of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19.

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

- ICJS is a national platform for enabling integration of the main IT system used for delivery of Criminal Justice in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ICJS system would be made available through a dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high speed connectivity.
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.
- Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In this context, in 1975, the Government of India declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs on the recommendation of Dhebar commission.
- Currently, there are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- The PVTGs are spread over 18 states and one UT, in the country (2011 census).
- Odisha has the highest number (more than 2.5 lakh) of PVTGs.

Ans. 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- It is commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Objective: to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament
- Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT

- Three of which possess or are thought to possess nuclear weapons: India, Israel, and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- In addition, South Sudan, founded in 2011, has not joined.

Ans. 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- It refers to a state of stable cell cycle arrest in which proliferating cells become resistant to growth-promoting stimuli, typically in response to DNA damage. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- During this phase, the cell undergoes numerous phenotypic and metabolic changes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Cellular senescence can compromise tissue repair and regeneration, thereby contributing towards ageing.
- Removal of senescent cells can attenuate age-related tissue dysfunction and extend the health span.
- Senescence can also act as a potent anti-tumour mechanism by preventing the proliferation of potentially cancerous cells.

Ans. 5 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Brazil, India, Russia, South Africa, and China are the founding members of the New Development Bank. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- This new development bank came into existence in July 2015.
- The New Development Bank has an agreement that says that every member of the United Nations is eligible to join the membership of the New Development Bank, but the members of BRICS are eligible only on the condition that the voting power should not be less than 55%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 6 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The ISS is the most complex international scientific and engineering project in history and the largest structure humans have ever put into space.
- As a permanently occupied outpost in outer space, it serves as a stepping stone for further space exploration.

- The space station flies at an average altitude of 400 kilometers above Earth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It circles the globe every 90 min. at a speed of about 28,000 kph. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In one day, the station travels about the distance it would take to go from Earth to the moon and back. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The space station can rival the brilliant planet Venus in brightness and appears as a bright moving light across the night sky.

Ans. 7 Option C is correct

Explanation

- NIIF is an investor-owned fund manager, anchored by the Government of India (GoI) in collaboration with leading global and domestic institutional investors.
- The Indian government has a 49 % stake in NIIF with the rest held by marquee foreign and domestic investors.
- NIIF was set up as an alternative investment fund (AIF) in 2015 with a planned corpus of ₹40,000 crore.
- NIIF currently manages three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate namely Master fund, Fund Of Funds and Strategic Fund. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, launched in 2016, is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
- Farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.
- It aims to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The scheme was once mandatory for loanee farmers, but in 2020, the Centre changed it

to make it optional for all farmers. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

- The Centre decided in February 2020 to limit its premium subsidy to 30% for unirrigated areas and 25% for irrigated ones.
- Previously, the central subsidy had no upper limit.

Ans. 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

- India is now placed 127 out of 146 nations in terms of gender parity, up from 135 last year, according to the annual Global Gender Gap Report, 2023.
- Report is released by the World Economic Forum

Ans. 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- These vaccines make use of the messenger RNA molecules that tell the body's cells what proteins to build. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Here, the mRNA is coded to tell the cells to recreate the spike protein of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is the spike protein which appears as spikes on the surface of the coronavirus.
- It initiates the process of infection and allows the virus to penetrate cells after which it goes on to replicate.

Mentorship India

Our mission is crystal clear – to provide the finest UPSC mentorship and guidance available in India. We recognize that the path to success in the UPSC examination is both demanding and multifaceted. This is precisely why we have developed a comprehensive approach that goes beyond conventional coaching. Our commitment lies in fostering excellence by equipping aspirants with the necessary tools, knowledge, and unwavering support to not only excel in the examination but also in life itself.

Mentorship India represents more than just an organization; it is a community of ambitious individuals bound together by the shared objective of conquering the UPSC examination. We warmly invite you to embark on this transformative journey alongside us. Whether you are a novice taking your initial steps or a seasoned aspirant aiming for the pinnacle, Mentorship India is your dependable companion in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

+91 9999 057869
www.mentorshipindia.com

A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar
Delhi - 110064

 @mentorship.india