

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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1. Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology
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4. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
5. Core Inflation

Important News Articles

GS II

1. UGC notifies framework for private universities to set up off-campus centres- Indian Express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- UGC

News:

- The UGC has notified modalities for state private universities to **set up off campus centers within their respective states**.
- Off-campus centers can be started under the **UGC's (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulation, 2003**.

The Watchdog of Higher Education: The University Grants Commission (UGC)

- **Established by law in 1956**, the UGC acts as the central governing body for universities in India.
- **Setting the bar:** The UGC upholds high standards for teaching, research, and examinations within universities.
- **Granting recognition:** Only universities approved by the UGC are considered legitimate.
- **Financial Support:** The UGC distributes funds to these recognized universities and colleges.
- **Collaborative Hub:** It fosters communication and coordination between the federal government, state governments, and higher education institutions.
- **Quality Advocate:** The UGC advises the government on measures to continuously improve the national university education system.
- In essence, the UGC plays a vital role in ensuring the quality and growth of higher education in India.

2. PM participates in Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat programme- PIB

Relevance: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Prelims Takeaway

- Self-Help Group
- Drone didi

News:

- The Prime Minister, participated in **Sashakt Nari - Viksit Bharat programme and witnessed agricultural drone demonstrations** conducted by Nam0 Drone Didis at Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- It is a nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of Govt. of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
- The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Central Govt. Organizations and Institutions.

Namo Drone Didi scheme

- In a significant move aimed at empowering women in rural areas and making them financially independent
- the central government took an initiative in which 15,000 women-led **Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will receive agricultural drones**
 - To assist in crucial tasks such as crop monitoring, fertiliser spraying, and seed sowing.
- This initiative not only provides women with **employment opportunities but also enhances agricultural productivity** through the integration of modern technology.
- drone gadgets will be **used to deliver items such as milk, groceries, medicines, and medical samples**.

- It aimed to reach out to the vulnerable who are eligible under various schemes but have not availed benefit so far.

3. Liberal democracy has declined significantly in India: report- 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

- Democracy
- Autocracy

News:

- India, which was **downgraded to the status of an “electoral autocracy”** in 2018
- she has **declined even further on multiple metrics** to emerge as “one of the worst autocratisers”, according to the “**Democracy Report 2024**” released by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute.

Key Highlights

- The report categorizes countries into four regime types based on their score in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy.
- India, with 18% of the world’s population, accounts for about half of the population living in autocratising countries,” the report said.
- Noting that almost all components of democracy were getting worse in more countries
 - than they were getting better, the report singled out freedom of expression, clean elections
 - and freedom of association/civil society as the three worst affected components of democracy in autocratising countries.
- South and Central Asia regressed significantly, with the level of “liberal democracy” enjoyed by the average Indian now “down to levels last seen in 1975
 - when Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in India”.
- As per the V-Dem classification, a liberal democracy is one where, in addition to the requirements of electoral democracy such as regular free and fair elections, mechanisms for judicial independence and constraints on executive overreach are robust, alongside rigorous protection of civil liberties and equality before law.
- With regard to India, the report said that a third consecutive term for the BJP and Mr. Modi “could lead to further autocratisation given the already substantial democratic decline under Modi’s leadership and the enduring crackdown on minority rights and civil society”.

GS III

4. Samudrayaan’s key test is complete, says govt- The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Samudrayaan
- National Institute of Ocean Technology

News:

- Samudrayaan is a manned submersible mission that will **allow scientists to observe unexplored deep-sea areas directly**
- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) **has completed a key test** for India’s first manned submersible mission called Samudrayaan

Key Highlights

- Samudrayaan is a **manned submersible mission** that will allow scientists to observe unexplored deep-sea areas directly.
- The Deep Ocean Mission aims to **unlock mysteries in the heart of the deeps**
 - and if successful, will put India in an elite club of nations, including the US, Russia, Japan, France and China in developing technology and vehicles to carry out undersea activities.
- the ministry called it a “self-propelled manned submersible to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean
 - with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration”.

- “Manned submersible facilitates direct observation by the human in deep ocean in **exploring mineral resources rich in nickel, cobalt, rare earths, manganese** etc.
 - and collection of samples, which can be used for analysis,” the ministry said in its mission document.
- The Centre approved the Deep Ocean Mission at a total budget of ₹4,077 crore for five years.
- The estimated cost for the first phase for the three years (2021-24) is ₹2,823.4 crore, government data show.

5. Yaounde Declaration: Health ministers of 11 African countries commit to end malaria deaths- Down to earth

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Yaoundé Declaration
- WHO

News:

- Health leaders from **African nations most affected by malaria joined forces in the Yaoundé Declaration**, vowing to completely eliminate malaria deaths.

Key Highlights

- This agreement, signed during a conference in Yaoundé co-hosted by the WHO and Cameroon, **involves eleven African countries carrying the heaviest burden of malaria globally.**
- These countries pledged stronger leadership, increased national funding **for anti-malaria programs, investment in data technologies, and implementing the latest malaria control methods.**
- Additionally, they committed to boosting healthcare infrastructure, personnel, and program execution at national and local levels.
- Collaboration across different sectors and establishing partnerships for funding, research, and innovation were also emphasized.
- By signing the declaration, these nations solidify their dedication to significantly reducing malaria deaths and holding themselves accountable for achieving the set goals.

6. Ore shortage' hitting steel production, says sponge iron industry, seeks ban on exports- Financial express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Sponge Iron
- Iron and steel industry

News:

- **The domestic sponge iron manufacturers** fear a continuous shortage of iron ore may bring it to the brink of collapse.
- **Sponge iron is used as a raw material to make finished steel** in electric-arc or induction furnaces

Making Sponge Iron: A Viable Steel Source

- Sponge iron, also known as Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), **is an alternative material in steel production.**
- It's created by removing oxygen from iron ore using a special gas mixture rich in hydrogen and carbon monoxide.
- This process creates a porous material with a honeycomb-like structure, resembling a sponge under a microscope - hence the name.

Why is it Important?

- Sponge iron plays a crucial role in the steel industry for several reasons:
- **Scrap Alternative:** Since high-quality scrap metal can be expensive and limited, sponge iron acts as a reliable substitute for electric and induction furnaces.
- **Efficiency Booster:** Sponge iron's consistent composition and lack of impurities improve the efficiency of the steel-making process.
- Overall, sponge iron offers a valuable solution for steel production by addressing scrap limitations and enhancing furnace effectiveness.

7. PARTICIPATION OF INS TRIKAND IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXERCISE/CUTLASS EXPRESS 23- PIB

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- **INS Trikand participated in Sea Phase-I of the International Maritime Exercise/Cutlass Express 2023 (IMX/CE-23)** held in the Gulf from 05 to 09 March 2023.
- During the period, the ship exercised with naval units of Bahrain, Japan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK and USA

Objective:

- aim to enhance maritime security, keeping shipping lanes open and ensuring safety of navigation.
- INS Trikand is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and operates under the Western Naval Command headquartered at Mumbai.
- She is a modern warship with advanced technologies to make her stealthy, fast and formidable.
- With long reach and a state-of-the-art combat suite, the ship is designed to undertake a wide spectrum of naval operations

Prelims Takeaway

- INS Trikand
- Map based question

8. MNRE to discuss specialised cylinders for hydrogen storage with stakeholders- Indian express

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

News:

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) plans to convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders **to discuss the development of specialised cylinders for green hydrogen storage.**

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- To make India the Global Hub for production, **usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.**
- This will contribute to India's **aim to become Aatmanirbhar through clean energy and serve as an inspiration for the global Clean Energy Transition.**
- The Mission will lead to significant **decarbonisation of the economy, reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports,** and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in Green Hydrogen."
- **Exports:** Mission will facilitate export opportunities through supportive policies and strategic partnerships.
- **Domestic Demand:** The Government of India will specify a minimum share of consumption of green hydrogen or its derivative products such as green ammonia, green methanol etc. by designated consumers as energy or feedstock.
- The year wise trajectory of such minimum share of consumption will be decided by the Empowered Group (EG).
- **Competitive Bidding:** Demand aggregation and procurement of green hydrogen and green ammonia through the competitive bidding route will be undertaken.
- **Certification framework:** MNRE will also develop a suitable regulatory framework for certification of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives as having been produced from REsources.

Prelims Takeaway

- Green hydrogen
- National Green Hydrogen Mission

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. A tribe in the Western Ghats in need of a lifeline- The Hindu

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.

Context:

- The story of Makuta village sheds light on the ongoing **challenges faced by indigenous communities in India**.
- While the **Phani Yerava tribe successfully secured ancestral land rights** under the Forest Rights Act, their way of life is dramatically changing.

<p>Shifting Livelihoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land rights granted: The tribe secured legal recognition of their historical claim to the forest land. • Decreased reliance on forests: Market changes and exploitation by middlemen have reduced their dependence on forest resources for income. • Wage labor on the rise: Many individuals now seek daily wage jobs, often migrating to neighboring states due to better pay compared to traditional practices of collecting minor forest products. <p>Emerging Social Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol addiction: A concerning rise in alcohol abuse within the community is impacting overall well-being and hindering children's education. • Limited support: These crucial social issues often lack sufficient awareness and support from governing bodies. 	<p>Forest Rights Act, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act recognizes and vests the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations. • Forest rights can also be claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations (75 years) prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs. • It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD. • The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.
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Call to Action:

- Local leaders and activists urge the government to step up and provide targeted interventions to address these emerging social challenges. This would directly contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the well-being of these marginalized communities.

10. Central transfers and the issue of shares of some States- The Hindu

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

context:

- There are many issues that the **Sixteenth Finance Commission** will have to deal with.
- The issue is that these States have been **facing a decline in their share out of the resources transferred from the Centre to the States**, from Finance Commission to Finance Commission.

Key Highlights

- In the case of the southern States, there has been a steady fall in their share, from 19.785% to 15.800%.
- In a comparison of these two Commissions, the northern and eastern States have also lost.
- The 'gainer States' were the hilly, central, and western States including Maharashtra.

The distance criterion

- The shares of individual States in tax devolution depend on the criteria and the weights used by different Commissions.
- The distance criterion has been accorded the highest weight amongst these criteria.
- Its weight was reduced from 50% to 47.5% by the Thirteenth Finance Commission and further reduced to 45% by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- Earlier, the Eleventh Finance Commission had given this criterion a weight of 62.5%.
- The equalisation principle has always been regarded in India and elsewhere as a key principle governing distribution.
- The main reason for the loss of the southern States is the income distance criterion. Distance criterion means that the farther a State is from the highest income State, the higher its share.
- Although on account of the distance criterion, low-income States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have gained over time, they have lost on account of other criteria.

On population

- One other criterion that has caused some controversy is population. Until the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the data for the population in 1971 was used.
- For the Fifteenth Finance Commission, data for the population in 2011 was used.
- However, in order not to penalise States that showed better performance in reducing fertility rates, the demographic change criterion was introduced.
- The joint impact of these two changes has been marginal for all groups of States. For Tamil Nadu, the joint impact was marginally positive.

Steps to take

- While accepting the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission to raise the share of all States to 42% from 32%, the Centre increased the cesses and surcharges, thereby reducing the size of the divisible pool.
- One option is to limit the share of cesses and surcharges to 10% of the Centre's gross tax revenues.
- The Finance Commission can reduce the weight of income distance criteria criterion by 5% to 10% points.
- Also, cesses and surcharges may be subjected to some upper limit by the Sixteenth Finance Commission.

Quick Look

1. Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

- The MIRV can target multiple targets that can be hundreds of kilometers apart with a single missile.
- As of now, the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom are known to have MIRV-equipped missiles.
- While Pakistan is developing such a missile system, Israel too is suspected to either possess the missile or be developing it.
- These missiles can be launched from land or from sea (or from a submarine).

2. Agni Missiles

- Over the years, India has been able to acquire a credible minimum nuclear deterrence.
- In this, the Agni missile system is integral to India's counter second-strike capability especially against China.
- The Agni category missiles are solid propelled ballistic missiles, ranging from short range missiles to intermediate range missiles (700-5000kms).
- The road and rail mobility of this series provides greater chances of survivability.

3. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) 2019

- It seeks to amend the definition of illegal immigrant for Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist, Jains and Christian (but not Muslim) immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who have lived in India without documentation.
- They will be granted fast track Indian citizenship in 5 years (11 years earlier).
- The Act (which amends the Citizenship Act 1955) also provides for cancellation of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration where the OCI card-holder has violated any provision of the Citizenship Act or any other law in force.

4. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- RRBs are banks formed in collaboration by the Central Government, State Governments, and Sponsoring Commercial Banks to give loans to rural areas.
- Their mission is to fulfill the credit needs of the relatively unserved sections in rural areas: small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and socio-economically weaker sections.
- The RRBs mobilize financial resources from rural/semi-urban areas and grant loans and advances mostly to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans.
- The Narasimham Committee on Rural Credit(1975) recommended the establishment of RRBs.
- The establishment of RRBs finds its route in the ordinance passed on 26th September 1975, and the RRB Act of 1976.

5. Core Inflation

- It is the change in the costs of goods and services excluding the price variations in seasonal elements, such as those related to food and energy.
- Food and energy prices are exempt from this calculation because their prices can be too volatile or fluctuate wildly. Core inflation represents the long-term trend in the price level.
- It is used to determine the impact of rising prices on consumer income.
- To deal with such situations, many central banks use measures of core inflation that are designed to filter transitory price movements.
- If the increase in the price index is due to temporary shocks that could soon reverse themselves, it may not require any monetary policy action.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about The University Grants Commission (UGC)

1. Established by law in 1956, the UGC acts as the central governing body for universities in India.
2. The UGC upholds high standards for teaching, research, and examinations within universities.
3. Only universities approved by the UGC are considered legitimate.

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 about Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

1. It is a nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of Govt. of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
2. The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Central Govt. Organizations and Institutions.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements

1. India, which was downgraded to the status of an “electoral autocracy” in 2018
2. Rank improved on multiple metrics to emerge as “one of the worst autocratisers”, according to the “Democracy Report 2024” released by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute.

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 about Samudrayaan

1. Samudrayaan is a manned submersible mission
2. The Deep Ocean Mission aims to unlock mysteries in the heart of the deep of ocean
3. it will put India in an elite club of nations, including the US, Russia, Japan, France and China in developing technology and vehicles to carry out undersea activities.

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

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

Q5. Yaounde Declaration is related with which of the following

- A. To end malaria death
- B. To reduce HIV death
- C. To eliminate dengue
- D. To eliminate malnutrition

Q6. Consider the following statements about sponge iron

1. Sponge iron, also known as Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), is an alternative material in steel production.
2. It's created by adding oxygen into iron ore using a special gas mixture rich in hydrogen and carbon monoxide.
3. This process creates a porous material with a honeycomb-like structure, resembling a sponge under a microscope

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 INS Trikand

1. INS Trikand is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and operates under the Western Naval Command headquartered at Mumbai.
2. It aims to enhance maritime security, keeping shipping lanes open and ensuring safety of navigation.
3. With long reach and a state-of-the-art combat suite, the ship is designed to undertake a wide spectrum of naval operations

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about National Green Hydrogen Mission

1. The objective of the mission is to make India the Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
2. This will contribute to India's aim to become Aatmanirbhar through clean energy and serve as an inspiration for the global Clean Energy Transition.
3. The Mission will lead to significant decarbonisation of the economy, reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports, and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in Green Hydrogen.

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 about Forest Rights Act, 2006

1. The Act recognizes and vests the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations.
2. State government is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD.
3. Forest rights can also be claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December, 2005

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about recommendation of sixteen finance commission

1. The main reason for the loss of the southern States is the income distance criterion. Distance criterion means that the farther a State is from the highest income State, the higher its share
2. The 'gainer States' were the hilly, central, and western States including Maharashtra.

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

Answer 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Established by law in 1956, the UGC acts as the central governing body for universities in India.
- Setting the bar: The UGC upholds high standards for teaching, research, and examinations within universities.
- Granting recognition: Only universities approved by the UGC are considered legitimate.
- Financial Support: The UGC distributes funds to these recognized universities and colleges.
- Collaborative Hub: It fosters communication and coordination between the federal government, state governments, and higher education institutions. **Hence, all statements are correct.**

Answer 2 Option D is correct

Explanation

- It is a nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of Govt. of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
- The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Central Govt. Organizations and Institutions. **Hence, both statements are correct.**

Answer 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- India, which was downgraded to the status of an “electoral autocracy” in 2018. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- she has declined even further on multiple metrics to emerge as “one of the worst autocratisers”, according to the “Democracy Report 2024” released by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**

Answer 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Samudrayaan is a manned submersible mission that will allow scientists to observe unexplored deep-sea areas directly.
- The Deep Ocean Mission aims to unlock mysteries in the heart of the deeps and if successful, will put India in an elite club of nations, including the US, Russia, Japan, France and China in developing technology and vehicles to carry out undersea activities.
- the ministry called it a “self-propelled manned submersible to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration”.
- “Manned submersible facilitates direct observation by the human in deep ocean in exploring mineral resources rich in nickel, cobalt, rare earths, manganese etc. **Hence all the statements are correct**

Answer 5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Health leaders from African nations most affected by malaria joined forces in the Yaoundé Declaration, vowing to completely eliminate malaria deaths.
- This agreement, signed during a conference in Yaoundé co-hosted by the WHO and Cameroon, involves eleven African countries carrying the heaviest burden of malaria globally.
- These countries pledged stronger leadership, increased national funding for anti-malaria programs, investment in data technologies, and implementing the latest malaria control methods. **Hence option A is correct**

Answer 6 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Sponge iron, also known as Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), is an alternative material in steel production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- It's created by removing oxygen from iron ore using a special gas mixture rich in hydrogen and carbon monoxide. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- This process creates a porous material with a honeycomb-like structure, resembling a sponge under a microscope - hence the name. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- aim to enhance maritime security, keeping shipping lanes open and ensuring safety of navigation.
- INS Trikanth is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and operates under the Western Naval Command headquartered at Mumbai.
- She is a modern warship with advanced technologies to make her stealthy, fast and formidable.
- With long reach and a state-of-the-art combat suite, the ship is designed to undertake a wide spectrum of naval operations. **HENCE ALL STATEMENTS ARE CORRECT**

Answer 8 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- To make India the Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- This will contribute to India's aim to become Aatmanirbhar through clean energy and serve as an inspiration for the global Clean Energy Transition.
- The Mission will lead to significant decarbonisation of the economy, reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports, and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in Green Hydrogen." **Hence all the statements are correct**

Answer 9 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Act recognizes and vests the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Forest rights can also be claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations (75 years) prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs.
- It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD.
- The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**

Answer 10 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The 'gainer States' were the hilly, central, and western States including Maharashtra. **The distance criterion**
- The shares of individual States in tax devolution depend on the criteria and the weights used by different Commissions.
- The distance criterion has been accorded the highest weight amongst these criteria.
- Earlier, the Eleventh Finance Commission had given this criterion a weight of 62.5%.
- The equalisation principle has always been regarded in India and elsewhere as a key principle governing distribution.
- The main reason for the loss of the southern States is the income distance criterion Distance criterion means that the farther a State is from the highest income State, the higher its share. **Hence both the statements are correct**

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