

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. SC declines BJP MP's petition to lift firecracker ban in Delhi- the hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the **Supreme Court declined a plea by MP to lift its ban on the production, storage, sale and bursting of firecrackers** in the national capital.
- The court had **dismissed arguments that bursting crackers was a fundamental right and an essential practice** during religious festivals like Diwali.

Prelims Takeaway

- Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)
- Green crackers

Background

- In 2017, **the apex court had banned the use and sale of toxic crackers** on the basis of a petition filed,
- The **sale of green and improved crackers would be only through licensed traders.**
- Manufacturers would face **penal action if the composition of fireworks' do not match the composition** mentioned in the **CSIR-NEERI test report** previously approved by the PESO

Green crackers

- These are dubbed as '**eco-friendly**' crackers and are known to **cause less air and noise pollution** as compared to traditional firecrackers.
- These crackers were first designed by **the National Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)**, under the aegis of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2018.
- These crackers **replace certain hazardous agents** in traditional crackers with less polluting substances.
- Most green crackers **do not contain barium nitrate**, which is the most dangerous ingredient in conventional crackers.
- Green crackers use **alternative chemicals such as potassium nitrate and aluminium** instead of magnesium and barium as well as carbon instead of arsenic and other harmful pollutants.
- Regular crackers also **produce 160-200 decibels of sound**, while that from **green crackers are limited to about 100-130 decibels.**

Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO)

- It is an organization under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of commerce & industry.**
- It administers the **usage of explosives & petrol stations** in India.
- It is **headquartered at Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

2. Transfer of personal data under UN treaty will be under domestic laws: India- The Hindu

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

News:

- Recently, **United Nations member states** negotiate a treaty to **counter cybercrimes**
- India has made suggestions at **the international forum that transfer of "personal data" under the convention will be done in accordance with the country's domestic laws.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Digital Personal Data Protection Act
- U.N. Cyber Crime Convention

Background

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act** enacted by the Parliament in August.

- It says that **personal data can be processed “in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the state”** for “fulfilling any obligation under law”.
- The Act requires **firms to disclose to users the identity of other firms to which their data would be entrusted for processing**
- They are explicitly **exempted from disclosing or sharing of such data** in the case of lawful interception of data.
- The Union Home Ministry recently reviewed the **draft of the U.N. Cyber Crime Convention** to discuss the necessary changes in the existing systems if this convention is signed and ratified by India.
- The sixth session of the **“Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes”** held from August 21-September 1,
- India asked for the **deletion of a clause** encouraging state parties to **“establish bilateral or multilateral arrangements”** to facilitate the transfer of personal data.
- India also **agreed to the clause that state parties may transfer personal data to:**
 - a third country
 - an international organisation
 - only with the prior written authorisation of the original transferring state party, subject to effective and appropriate safeguards.

3. Union Cabinet approves third phase of eCourts project- The Hindu

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

News:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet on approved the **third phase of the eCourts project to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary.**

Prelims Takeaway

- E-court
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Key Points

- The third phase **will see digitisation of entire court records** at an estimated cost of ₹2,038.4 crore.
- A total of **3,108 crore documents will be digitised.**

e-Courts Project

- It was conceptualized on the basis of the **“National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary.**
- It is a Pan-India Project, **monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice,** for the District Courts across the country.
- Integrating advanced technology will make **judicial system more accessible and transparent.**



4. 'Special Session to discuss Parliament's 75-year journey, take up Bills on CEC, the Press' - The Hindu

Relevance: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

News

- The Union **government** of India has **announced** a **special session** of **Parliament** to be **held in the newly constructed building**.
- This **session holds** particular **significance** as it **marks** the **first official use** of the **new parliamentary facility**.

Special Session of Parliament: An Overview:

- A **special session** of Parliament refers to a **unique meeting** convened outside of the **regular parliamentary sessions**.
- The term “**special session**” is **not explicitly mentioned** in the Constitution of India.
- Its convening is carried out as per the provisions of **Article 85(1)** of the Constitution.

Procedure of calling such Session

- **Article 85(1)** of the Indian **Constitution stipulates** the procedure for summoning Parliament.
- This **constitutional provision** grants the President the **authority to call Parliament** into session, including special sessions, as deemed necessary.
- **It says:**
 - “The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he/she thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.”

Historical Context of Special Sessions:

- **Special sessions** of Parliament have **varied** in their **focus and format** over the years:

[A] Special Sessions with Debates:

- **2015:** A special session commemorated Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary.
- **1997:** Parliament convened to mark India's 50th anniversary of independence.
- **1962:** The agenda included a discussion on the India-China war situation.

[B] Midnight Special Sessions (Without Debates):

- **1972:** A session was held to celebrate 25 years of India's independence.
- **1992:** A special session marked the 50th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.
- **2017:** A session was convened to mark the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

GS III

5. For sickle cell patients, an elusive disability certificate- The Hindu

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

News:

- A plan to **get permanent disability certificates** issued for **Sickle-Cell Disease** patients above the age of 5 years has been stuck in a quagmire.
- In a **report tabled during the Monsoon Session of Parliament**, a House panel urged the government to get a move on it.

Key Highlights

- **The Health Ministry** is responsible for determining the criteria and **rules for disability certificates**.
- the **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry** actually **issues the certificates**, which are required for **availing reservations and other scheme benefits**.
- Sickle Cell Disease, a **debilitating genetic blood disorder**, is especially prevalent among **tribal populations across India**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Sickle-Cell Disease
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- The Union government has been publicising its campaign to “eradicate” SCD in India by 2047.
- current patients, who are **only eligible for disability certificates with a three-year validity**, despite the chronic and progressive nature of their disease.
- A project is **currently underway to screen seven crore tribal people** in 17 States and Union Territories for SCD
 - It is under the aegis of the National Health Mission and coordinated by the Tribal Affairs Ministry.
- **SCD as a “lifelong illness”** with a blood and bone marrow transplant being the only cure, “which very few people, **specially amongst the tribal population can undertake”**.
- When **SCD was included in the list of disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, patients could only avail disability certificates with a one-year validity.
- The DEPwD eventually **increased the validity of disability certificates for SCD patients to three years**, requiring a minimum of 25% disability.

What are Sickle Cell Disorders?

- A group of disorders that cause red blood cells to become misshapen and break down.
- The cells die early, leaving a short age of healthy red blood cells and can block blood flow causing pain.



Types:

Sickle Cell Anaemia

Dysfunctional red cells due to abnormal haemoglobin

Sickle Cell Crisis

Blockage of blood vessels causing severe pain or organ damage



6. Govt. will protect industry from EU’s carbon law: Goyal- The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, **Commerce and Industry Minister assured the government will take all necessary steps to protect Indian industry** from any adverse impact of the **European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**
- CBAM which **mandates reporting of carbon emissions** for certain exports to Europe from October 1.

Prelims Takeaway

- European Union’s
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Key highlights:

- the CBAM framework **involves onerous reporting requirements for cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, and electricity imports** in the region
- There will be **additional import levies to be imposed** on such carbon-intensive products from 2026.
- Experts reckon **Indian steel exports to Europe, could take the biggest hit** from the CBAM
 - It is due to more carbon-intensive nature of production processes vis-à-vis rivals like China and South Korea.

European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- It is a **mechanism to be introduced by the European Union (EU)**
- **Objective:**
 - to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU
 - to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
- The EU **plans a gradual introduction of CBAM** from 1st October 2023 and this will translate into a **20-35% tax on selected imports** to the EU nations by 1st January 2026.

- From 1st January 2026, the EU will start levying the carbon tax on multiple products exported to the EU.
- The products included in the CBAM list will be expanded over a period of time and by 2034.

7. IAF chief takes delivery of first C-295 transport aircraft in Spain- The Hindu

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

News

- In a significant **milestone**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) **received** its inaugural **C-295 transport aircraft** during a **ceremony** held in Seville, **Spain**.
- **IAF's fleet** of **C-295s** is set to become the **largest globally**, with an **initial order** for 56 aircraft.

Prelims Takeaway

- C-295
- Bharat Dynamics Limited
- STOL



C-295

- The **C-295MW** is a **transport aircraft** with a **carrying capacity** ranging from 5 to 10 tonnes.
- It can **accommodate** up to **71 troops** or **49 para-troopers**, offering significant flexibility.
- The **aircraft** boasts a **maximum cruise speed** of **260 knots**, ensuring rapid deployment.
- Its exceptional **low-level flight characteristics** enable tactical **missions**, even at **slow speeds** as low as **110 knots**.
- The **C-295** is equipped with a **rear ramp door**, facilitating **swift troop** and cargo **deployments**.
- Each **aircraft** is **outfitted** with an **indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite** developed by **Bharat Electronics Ltd** and **Bharat Dynamics Limited**.
- **Two Pratt & Whitney Canada PW127G turboprop** engines **propel** the aircraft.
- The **C-295** exhibits **short take-off and landing (STOL) capabilities**, enabling the use of **unprepared airstrips**.

Significance of the aircraft

- India's entry into **aircraft production** will place it among a **select group** of **nations** with the capability to **manufacture C-295 aircraft**.
- This **group** includes countries like the **US, UK, Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Brazil, China, and Japan**.
- The project will stimulate **India's aerospace ecosystem**, involving numerous **MSMEs** across the country in the manufacturing of **aircraft components**.
- This **includes areas** of **strategic importance**, such as the **border with China** and the **Andaman and Nicobar archipelago**.

8. Explained: 75th anniversary of Operation Polo and 'Police Action' in Hyderabad- Indian Express

Relevance: Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

News

- On 13 Sep. India celebrated the 75th anniversary of Operation Polo.
- On this day in 1948, Indian Army launched military action to integrate the princely state of Hyderabad.

What was the background against which Operation Polo was launched?

- **Intentions of Nizam of Hyderabad state**
 - The Nizam of Hyderabad state, Mir Osman Ali Shah, had the intention of keeping his state as an independent entity and did not join India or Pakistan after Independence.
 - The Nizam took advantage of the fact that the Indian government got preoccupied with the Kashmir war soon after Independence.
- **Standstill agreement with India**
 - The Nizam signed a standstill agreement with India in November 1947.
 - This essentially meant that a status quo would be maintained between the Indian dominion and the Hyderabad state till a solution was found.
 - The agreement was signed for a period of one year during which the Indian government would not exercise any authority over Hyderabad.

Why was Operation Polo launched?

- **Location of Hyderabad**
 - Situated in the Deccan, Hyderabad was one of the most populous and richest states.
 - It had 17 districts including Aurangabad (now in Maharashtra) and Gulbarga (now in Karnataka).
- **Intention to have fraternal relations with Pakistan**
 - The landlocked state had a majority Hindu population with the state administration almost entirely run by its Muslim rulers.
 - There was no common border with Pakistan but the Nizam had every intention to have fraternal relations with that country.
- **Excesses of the Razakars**
 - During this period, the Nizam's administration had taken advantage of the standstill agreement signed with India.
 - It started to increase the number of its irregular force called Razakars which was led by Maj Gen SA El Edroos, the Arab commander in chief of the Hyderabad state forces.
 - The Razakars were a paramilitary force in the Hyderabad State. It was created to support the Nizam's rule.
 - It also resisted the integration of Hyderabad into the newly independent India.
 - The Razakars primarily consisted of local radical Muslim volunteers who were loyal to the Nizam's regime.
 - The Razakars persecuted Hindus and forced them to become Muslims.
 - They killed many Hindus and Hindu sympathizers, forcing them to flee the state. They also raped women.

Operation Polo on the ground

- The Indian forces were led by Maj Gen Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, the General Officer Commanding of 1 Armoured Division.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad announced a ceasefire on September 17.
- On September 18, Maj Gen Chaudhuri entered Hyderabad city with his forces and Maj Gen El Edroos surrendered to him.
- Maj Gen Chaudhuri was later appointed the Military Governor of Hyderabad.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Protecting floodplains is the need of the hour- The Hindu

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

Context

- Humanity is struggling with a shortage of water as well as an excess.
- As the World Health Organization stated, "Floods are increasing in frequency and intensity, and the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation is expected to continue to increase due to climate change."

Floods in India

- 2013 floods : Uttarakhand,
- 2014 floods : Kashmir Valley,
- 2015 floods : Chennai,
- 2017 floods in Gujarat
- In Year 2023 too saw the devastating effects of rain-induced floods and landslides in several districts of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Yamuna water level crossed the 208.5 metre mark, breaking a 45-year-old record.
- All these disasters point to the severity of the situation and the urgent need to tackle it.

Damage by the floods

- **Geological Survey of India:** Over 40 million hectares, which is nearly 12% of the total land area of India, is prone to floods.
- **Infrastructure:** The severity and frequency of floods has especially affected our cities, where there is little effort made in maintaining natural topography.
- **Increased vulnerability:** Cities expand fast and mostly in a haphazard manner, which makes them vulnerable to disasters.
- **Affects the economy:** Indian cities are projected to contribute to 75% of the GDP by 2030.
- India primarily relies on the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and the rules made in pursuance of the Act, to deal with flood management.
- But this law is meant to deal with multi-hazard risks and is not specifically focused on flood risk management.
- As per the Act, disasters cannot be predicted. This is not entirely correct, especially with respect to the frequency and intensity of floods.

Change in strategy

- Disaster risks across the world are found to be situated within environmental and natural resource governance.
- Protection strategy includes technical measures such as the laying of dikes, temporary flood defence walls, and polders, the key elements of the management strategy are retention of water and restoration of floodplains.
- In India, there are large-scale encroachments on floodplains. These increase the frequency of floods and the damage caused by them.
- Illegal construction work in floodplains reduces the capacity of rivers to contain a high level of water within their banks.
- This is especially the case during heavy rainfall when water flows down from upper catchment areas.
- Thus, the tendency to occupy floodplains results in flooding. Uttarakhand has been neglecting eco-sensitive floodplains by allowing the construction of guest houses and hotels on the river front to promote tourism and boost its economy.
- Floods do not merely show the fury of nature; they are also often brought about by climate change-induced rainfall. This especially impacts mountainous regions such as the Himalayas.
- Laws in India which are meant to protect the environment are not implemented.
- While there are central policy measures to protect floodplains, they are mostly non-binding on States. No State in India has been able to prevent encroachment on floodplains.

2. Analysing the Global Stocktake Report- The Hindu

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

Context

- Ahead of the just **concluded G-20 summit**, the **United Nations climate secretariat** made public a '**synthesis report**' to discuss **progress achieved** by countries in achieving the goals of the **Paris Agreement of 2015**.

Global Stocktake Report

- **Published by:** The UN climate secretariat, ties into a larger exercise called the 'global stocktake,' that is expected to take place once in five years.
- **Paris Agreement:** The countries committed to keep global temperatures from rising beyond 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century and "as far as possible" below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

- They also agreed to periodically review, or **take stock of efforts**, made by individual countries in containing greenhouse gases and transitioning their fossil-fuel dependent energy systems to renewable sources.

Key Findings/Recommendations of the Global Stocktake Report

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for government support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The Paris Agreement has galvanised countries into setting goals and signalling the urgency of the climate crisis. ◦ Governments need to support ways to transition their economies away from fossil fuel businesses and that states and communities must strengthen efforts. ◦ While rapid change could be disruptive, countries should work on ensuring that the economic transition be equitable and inclusive. • Ambitions needed to achieve the net zero target by 20250 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The report stated that much more ambition was needed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030 and further by 60% in 2035 and reach net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 globally. • Achievable actions required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Renewable energy has to be scaled up and all unabated fossil fuels were to be rapidly eliminated. ◦ Deforestation and land-degradation have to be halted and reversed. ◦ Agricultural practices critical to reducing emissions and conserving and enhancing carbon sinks have to be encouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacunae in current effort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The world, as a whole, has committed to scale up steps to help adapt to the unfolding and future impacts of climate change. ◦ However, most efforts were “fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.” ◦ Transparent reporting on adaptation could facilitate and enhance understanding, implementation and international cooperation. • Addressing loss and damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Averting, minimising and addressing ‘loss and damage,’ requires urgent action across climate and development policies to manage risks comprehensively and provide support to impacted communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss and damage <u>is</u> a term used in United Nations climate negotiations to describe the negative consequences of climate change that are beyond what countries can adapt to. ◦ Support for adaptation and funding arrangements for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage, from the impact of climate change, needed to be rapidly scaled up from expanded and innovative sources. • On the issue of funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Financial flows needed to be made consistent with climate-resilient development to meet urgent and increasing needs. ◦ Access to climate finance in developing countries needed to be enhanced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is essential to unlock and redeploy trillions of dollars to meet global investment needs, including by rapidly shifting finance flows globally to support a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development.
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Impact of the Global Stocktake Report on G20’s New Delhi Declaration:

- While the report is expected to set the template for the forthcoming conference, it did resonate in the G20 New Delhi Declaration— said to be among the most significant outcomes of the summit.
- This **document for the first time formally recognises the massive jump in finance necessary for the world to transition to a renewable energy economy.**
- The Declaration noted the **need for USD 5.8-5.9 trillion in the pre-2030 period required for developing countries** as well as USD 4 trillion per year for clean energy technologies by 2030 to reach net zero by 2050.\

Quick Look

1. Northern Sea Route

- It is the shortest shipping route connecting Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.
- Spanning 5,600 km, it passes through four seas of the Arctic Ocean.
- The route starts at the boundary between the Barents and Kara seas (Kara Strait) and concludes at the Bering Strait (Provideniya Bay).
- The NSR offers potential distance savings of up to 50% compared to existing shipping lanes via Suez or Panama.

2. Eastern Maritime Corridor

- The EMC is a proposed sea route between the Indian port of Chennai and the Russian port of Vladivostok.
- The corridor is estimated to bring down transportation time between Indian and Russian ports in the Far East Region by up to 40 percent (24 days from the current 40 days).
- The present trade route between Mumbai, India, and St. Petersburg, Russia, covers a distance of 8,675 nautical miles.
- The EMC will cover a distance of about 5,600 nautical miles, which is significantly shorter than the current route via the Suez Canal.
- Once complete, EMC will take 24 days, down from presently over 40 days, to transport goods from India to Far East Russia.
- For India, it will provide a shorter and more efficient route to access the markets of the Far East, such as China and Japan.

3. Dolly sheep

- Dolly the Sheep, born in 1996, marked a significant scientific breakthrough in the 20th century.
- Wilmut, along with his team, accomplished the unprecedented feat of making an adult cell behave like a cell from a newly fertilized embryo.
- It resulted in the creation of an animal genetically identical to the donor.
- They achieved this by taking a cell from the mammary gland of a deceased adult sheep, stimulating it with electricity and chemicals to transform its
- DNA into an embryo, and then implanting it into an empty sheep's egg, which was later placed into a surrogate sheep.
- Dolly's birth raised ethical debates about cloning research
- it prompted then-U.S. President Bill Clinton to announce a ban on human cloning experiments about a year later.
- Dolly's life was tragically short-lived, as she developed an incurable lung tumour and was euthanized by scientists about six years after her birth.

4. Ayushman Bhav health campaign

- Introduced during the 'Seva Pakhwada' by the Prime Minister of India.
- Launched on: 13-Sep-2023
- Ayushman Bhava is an umbrella campaign comprising:
 - Ayushman Apke Dwar 3.0 which is aimed at creation and distribution of Ayushman cards to all remaining eligible beneficiaries.
 - Ayushman Mela as part of which weekly health melas will be held at the level of AB-HWCs and Community Health Centres (CHCs)
 - Ayushman Sabha, a village/ward level sabha to be held to enhance awareness about various health care schemes and services.
- The campaign will eventually ensure gram/nagar panchayat to attain the status of 'Ayushman Gram Panchayat' or 'Ayushman Ward' with saturation of selected health indicators.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- National Environmental and Engineering Research Institute

1. CSIR-NEERI is a research institute that functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
2. It was established in Nagpur in 1958 with focus on water supply, sewage disposal, communicable diseases

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 Budapest Convention

1. The Council of Europe's (CoE) Cybercrime Convention, also known as the Budapest Convention came into force in 2004.
2. The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime.
3. It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

1. The project is a part of National e-Governance Plan
2. the project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary
3. e-Courts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. The President of India can summon a session of the Parliament at such place as he/she thinks fit.
2. The Constitution of India provides for three sessions of the Parliament in a year, but it is not mandatory to conduct all three sessions.
3. There is no minimum number of days that the Parliament is required to meet in a year.

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

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None of the Above

Q5. Consider the following statements about Sickle-Cell Disease

1. It is a "lifelong illness" with a blood and bone marrow transplant being the only cure.
2. It was included in the list of disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

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 with reference to Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

1. CBAM is part of the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030
2. It requires importers to declare the quantity of goods imported into the EU and their embedded Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis.

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding C295 Transport Aircraft:

1. It is a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment.
2. It was designed and built indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Operation Polo which was seen in news recently, is related to which of the following?

- A. India 2019s Kargil war operation
- B. India 2019s operation to recapture Siachen glacier
- C. India 2019s operation to liberate Bangladesh

- D. India 2019s operation to annex Hyderabad

Q9. With reference to Flood Plain Zoning, consider the following statements:

1. It is an effective non-structural measure for flood management.
2. The objective of zoning is to regulate land use in the flood plains.
3. Zoning can remedy any existing flood management issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Q10. "Global Stocktake Process" sometimes mentioned in news is associated with which of the following?

- A. Paris Agreement
- B. Kigali Agreement
- C. Brazilia declaration
- D. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

- CSIR-NEERI is a research institute functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established in Nagpur in 1958 with focus on water supply, sewage disposal, communicable diseases and to some extent on industrial pollution and occupational diseases found common in post-independent India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CSIR has 38 national laboratories working in various areas of science and technology. CSIR-NEERI is one of those laboratories.

Ans. 2 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Council of Europe's (CoE) Cybercrime Convention is also known as the Budapest Convention. It was open for signature in 2001 and came into force in 2004. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between state parties to this treaty.
- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.
- Significance: Almost all stakeholders agree that the current form of cross-border data sharing for law enforcement through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) is insufficient for the digital age. However, there is an ongoing debate whether to revamp MLAT or form an entirely new system for cybercrimes in the form of this Convention.
- This Convention has eagerly called for Indian participation since its formation in 2001, but India has decided not to be a party to it.

Ans. 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Government of India has launched the e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project in the country for computerization of District and subordinate courts
- Objective: improving access to justice using technology.
- e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project
- As part of the National e-Governance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary. **Hence, statement 1 and 2 is correct.**
- e-Courts project is being implemented in association with e-Committee Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans:4 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- Article 85(1) of the Constitution states that the President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. **Hence Statement 1 is Correct.**
- The session of Lok Sabha is called for at least two times a year.
- Constitution does not state that three sessions of the Parliament should be called in a year. **Hence Statement 2 is Not Correct.**
- There is no provision of the minimum number of days that the Parliament is required to meet in a year. **Hence Statement 3 is Correct.**

Ans. 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

- SCD as a "lifelong illness" with a blood and bone marrow transplant being the only cure, "which very few people, specially amongst the tribal population can undertake". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- When SCD was included in the list of disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, patients could only avail disability certificates with a one-year validity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The DEPwD eventually increased the validity of disability certificates for SCD patients to three years, requiring a minimum of 25% disability.

Ans. 6 Option D is correct

Explanation

- CBAM is part of the “Fit for 55 in 2030 package”, which is the EU’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with the European Climate Law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The CBAM is a policy tool aimed at reducing Carbon Emissions by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon costs as products produced within the EU. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CBAM will be implemented by requiring importers to declare the quantity of goods imported into the EU and their embedded Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis.
- To offset these emissions, importers will need to surrender a corresponding number of CBAM certificates, the price of which will be based on the weekly average auction price of EU Emission Trading System (ETS) allowances in €/tonne of CO₂ emitted.

Ans:7 Option A is Correct

Explanation

- The C295 is indeed a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment.
- The C295 is a twin- turboprop transport aircraft manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space. It is designed for a wide range of military and civil missions, including troop transport, cargo transportation, medical evacuation, and maritime patrol. It has a maximum payload capacity of 9.25 tons and can carry up to 71 personnel. **Therefore, statement 1 is correct.**
- The C295 transport aircraft is manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space, a European aerospace company.
- HAL is a state-owned aerospace and defense company in India, but it is not involved in the design and production of the C295. **Therefore, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans:8 Option D is Correct

Explanation

- The state of Hyderabad was under the Nizam which included the whole of current-day Telangana, the Marathwada region in Maharashtra and several regions of Karnataka.
- The Nizam of Hyderabad hoped to retain his sovereignty and opposed the idea of merging with India after Independence. Osman Ali Khan

Asaf Jah VII, the last Nizam of the princely state of Hyderabad proclaimed Hyderabad as a sovereign state and this added to the tension and led to communal clashes.

- The Indian government did not want Hyderabad to remain free fearing that it would lead to the country’s balkanization.
- The then Home Minister Sardar Patel referred to the concept of an independent Hyderabad as “an ulcer in the heart of India which needed to be removed surgically.”
- Hence, India decided to annex Hyderabad and named the operation “Operation Polo”. On September 13, 1948, Indian forces attacked Hyderabad. In a five-day battle, the Indian Army took Hyderabad and fully integrated it into Indian territory by decisively defeating Nizam.

Ans:9 Option C is Correct

Explanation

- Flood Plain Zoning has been recognized as an effective non-structural measure for flood management. **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- The basic concept of flood plain zoning is to regulate land use in the flood plains to restrict the damage caused by floods. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
- Zoning cannot remedy existing situations, although, it will help in minimising flood damage in new developments. **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect**

Ans:10 Option A is Correct

Explanation

- Article 14 of the Paris Agreement requires the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.
- This process is called the global stocktake. The global stocktake shall be conducted in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.
- The CMA will undertake the first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter, unless otherwise decided by the CMA.

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