

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Where names indicate the order of birth in a family- The Hindu

Relevance: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question
- Singpho community

News:

- Children of the **Lisu and Singpho communities in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** are named according to the order they are born in the family, incorporating numbers into their names

A Lisu and Singpho Tradition

- In the Lisu and Singpho communities, names hold a special meaning.
- They don't just identify individuals, but also their place in the family based on birth order.
- The Lisu people, numbering around 5,000 in India, primarily reside in the hilly regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
- They can also be **found in China, Myanmar, and Thailand.**
- The Singpho population is more widespread, inhabiting parts of China, and having a **significant presence in India's Arunachal Pradesh** (Changlang and Namsai districts) and Assam (Tinsukia district).

Arunachal Pradesh

- The modern history of Arunachal Pradesh commences with British control initiated **through the Treaty of Yandaboo (after the First Anglo-Burmese War) in 1826**
 - Evolving into the establishment of the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) by 1838.
- In 1914, the Shimla Treaty** established the boundary between Tibet and NEFA, recognized by China, Tibet, and British rulers.
- Before 1962, Arunachal Pradesh was under Assam's constitutional jurisdiction, later transitioning into a Union Territory under separate administration due to its strategic significance.
- Arunachal Pradesh attained full statehood on 20th February 1987 becoming the 24th state of the Indian Union through the 55th constitutional amendment
 - In alignment with the national policy of granting tribal regions distinct state identities.

GS II

2. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) to be Conducted Nationwide Under ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram PIB

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Trade mark
- Patent

News:

- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), **Ministry of Education, Government of India, is set to conduct the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)** as part of the ULLAS
- Approximately 37 lakh learners will appear for this important nationwide assessment from 23 states

FLNAT: Assessing Foundational Skills and Promoting Literacy for All

- The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) is a key part of the **New India Literacy Program (ULLAS)**, a government initiative focused on Education for All.
- FLNAT evaluates basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills** to identify areas where adults can improve.

Testing and Certification

- The test is conducted in all participating districts at government schools and education training centers.
- Importantly, the FLNAT is offered in regional languages, aligning with the National Education Policy's emphasis on multilingualism.
- Adults who successfully pass the assessment receive a certificate from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), recognizing their achievement in foundational literacy and numeracy.

ULLAS: Empowering Adults through Education

- ULLAS, a centrally sponsored scheme running from 2022-2027, aims to empower adults aged 15 and above.
- The program goes beyond basic literacy and numeracy, also fostering critical life skills and a love for lifelong learning.
- ULLAS utilizes volunteers to promote social responsibility and provides access to educational resources in regional languages through the DIKSHA Portal and ULLAS mobile app.

GS III

3. Why Delhi's Dolma Aunty Momos challenged the use of her trade mark, what the law says- Indian express

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

News:

- A recent **Delhi High Court ruling revoked a trademark registration** due to concerns about misleading customers (passing off).

Prelims Takeaway

- Trade mark
- Patent

Protecting Reputation without a Registered Trademark

- "Passing off" is a legal concept that protects the established reputation (goodwill) of a business, even if its trademark isn't officially registered.
- It prevents others from misleading customers by using similar branding or misrepresenting their products or services as belonging to the well-known business.

Registered vs. Unregistered Trademarks

- If a trademark is registered and someone infringes on it, that's a separate legal issue.
- But "passing off" applies when a trademark isn't registered and someone deceives customers into thinking their goods or services are connected to the established business.

Taking Action Against Misrepresentation

- The law recognizes the right of a business to defend its reputation from such misleading practices.
- The business owner can take legal action to stop the deception and protect their customer base.

How Deception Happens

- "Passing off" occurs when someone uses a similar brand name, design, or marketing strategy that creates confusion among customers.
- This can lead them to believe they're buying from the original business, potentially damaging the established brand's reputation.

Beyond Products and Services

- "Passing off" isn't limited to just products and services.
- It can also apply to broader business activities and initiatives, protecting the goodwill associated with a company's overall image.

The Challenge of Proving Deception

- It's important to note that proving "passing off" can be difficult.
- The business owner needs to demonstrate a likelihood of customers being misled about the origin of the products or services in question.

4. FMD disease affects 60 per cent milch cattle in Pilibhit- Times of India

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Foot-and-mouth disease

News:

- The **foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has affected around 60% milch cattle** in Pilibhit district .
- Besides, stray cattle are also at the risk of being infected ..with the highly contagious disease.

Highly Contagious Disease Threatens Livestock

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a serious and contagious viral illness that mainly strikes farm animals like cows, sheep, pigs, and goats.
- It spreads easily and can have a devastating impact on livestock production and international trade of animals and animal products.

Important Points to Remember:

- FMD only affects cloven-hoofed animals, not pets like horses, dogs, or cats.
- There are different strains of the virus, and immunity to one doesn't protect against others.
- The disease causes fever, blisters in the mouth and on hooves, and often leads to weakness and production losses, even in recovered animals.
- Young animals are more likely to die from FMD, while adults usually survive.
- FMD was the first disease recognized with official status by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

5. Startups are now crowding for revenue-based financing- Financial Express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Revenue-based financing
- Equity

News:

- **Revenue-based financing (RBF)**, or non-collateralized debt against a percentage of gross revenue, is **gaining traction amongst startups and digital SMEs**
- Venture capital flow continues to be dry and traditional credit remains out of reach for many.

Funding Your Business Based on Sales, Not Ownership

- Revenue-based financing offers an alternative to traditional loans and investments for growing businesses, especially those with predictable online sales.
- Instead of giving up ownership (equity) or fixed loan repayments with interest, **you get funding in exchange for a share of your future monthly revenue**, plus a one-time fee.

How it Works:

- Perfect for businesses with steady online sales, like cloud kitchens or software firms.
- You receive capital upfront and repay a percentage of your gross revenue each month, typically until you've paid back 3-5 times the original investment amount.
- There are no fixed interest rates or loan repayments, so your payments fluctuate with your sales.
- Unlike loans, you don't need collateral (assets used as security).
- Unlike equity investments, you don't give up ownership of your company.
- Investors get a return based on your success, and you get the capital you need to grow without giving up control.

6. Forex exchange reserves reach over two-year high of \$636.095 billion- Business standard

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

News:

- **Foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 10.470 billion to USD 636.095 billion** in the week that ended on March 8, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Prelims Takeaway

- Forex Reserves
- Foreign Portfolio Investments

Forex Reserves

- Imagine a country's piggy bank for international finances. That's essentially what Forex Reserves are - a stockpile of assets held by a central bank (RBI in India's case) to manage the economy.

These assets include:

- Foreign Currency Assets: Mostly US Dollars, but also Euros, Yen etc.
- Gold: A valuable and stable asset.
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs): An international reserve asset created by the IMF.
- Reserve Tranche Position: The difference between a country's contribution to the IMF and the IMF's holdings of that country's currency.

Why are Forex Reserves Important?

These reserves act as a safety net for India's economy in several ways:

- **Currency Stability:** RBI can sell foreign currency to dampen the Rupee's fall if its value weakens.
- **International Credibility:** A healthy Forex Reserve builds trust with trading partners.
- **Financial Buffer:** Reserves provide backup funds in case of currency issues or economic disruptions.

What Affects Forex Reserves?

Several factors can influence the level of India's Forex Reserves:

- **Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs):** Higher FPI inflows increase reserves.
- **Oil Prices:** Lower oil prices (India imports oil) boost reserves.
- **Imports:** Reduced imports lead to higher reserves.
- **Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs):** More FDI strengthens reserves.
- **Gold Imports:** Lower gold imports contribute to a rise in reserves.

October 2021's Peak and Recent Decline

- India's Forex Reserves reached an all-time high in October 2021 (around \$645 billion).
- However, these reserves have dipped recently as the central bank intervened to defend the Rupee against global economic pressures.

7. Scientists build a camera to 'show' how animals see moving things- The Hindu

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

News:

- **Animal-vision video could help farmers spot fruit pests** invisible to the human eye but readily visible to some animals

Seeing the World in Different Lights: How Animals Use Photoreceptors

- While all creatures with eyes use them to capture light and translate it into vision, the way they "see" the world varies greatly.
- **This difference comes down to specialized cells called photoreceptors**, which are unique to each animal.
- Humans, for example, can only perceive light within a specific range of wavelengths, creating our visible spectrum (380-700 nanometers).
- But some animals, like honeybees and many birds, can also see ultraviolet light, which is invisible to us.

Prelims Takeaway

- Photoreceptors

- Colors play a crucial role in animal survival, from scaring predators and attracting mates to blending in with the environment.
- To navigate this "color game," **animals have evolved photoreceptors** that can detect light beyond the human range, including ultraviolet and infrared wavelengths.
- Some creatures even perceive polarized light, which is part of their unique sensory world – their Umwelt.
- In essence, Umwelt refers to the biological systems that allow each animal to create its own specific way of understanding and interacting with its surroundings, heavily influenced by how they perceive light through their photoreceptors.

8. ETHANOL 100 fuel launched by Petroleum Minister Hardeep S Puri- PIB

Relevance: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

Prelims Takeaway

- Ethanol
- Biofuel

News:

- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs, launched 'ETHANOL 100, a revolutionary automotive fuel at IndianOil Retail Outlet

Introducing ETHANOL 100: A Biofuel for a Greener Future

- ETHANOL 100 is a groundbreaking fuel made entirely from renewable sources like corn or sugarcane.

This biofuel aims to revolutionize the transportation industry by:

- **Reducing Reliance on Fossil Fuels:** ETHANOL 100 offers a sustainable alternative to gasoline, helping us move away from dependence on limited fossil fuel reserves.
- **Promoting Environmental Sustainability:** Compared to gasoline, ETHANOL 100 produces fewer greenhouse gasses, contributing to a cleaner environment.
- **Aligning with National Goals:** This initiative supports India's vision of achieving 20% ethanol blending in gasoline (E20) by 2025-26, reducing reliance on imported oil and strengthening the agricultural sector.

A Fuel for the Future

- **ETHANOL 100 reflects a commitment** to sustainable technologies and reducing carbon emissions (decarbonization).
- Its versatility is another advantage. It can be used in various vehicles, including flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on gasoline, ethanol, or a mix of both.
- This flexibility, coupled with the development of proper infrastructure, **positions ETHANOL 100 as a promising mainstream fuel option for the future.**

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Amid Nepal's continuing political turmoil, confidence vote win for PM Prachanda, the task for India - Indian Express

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

News:

- **Nepal's Prime Minister won a vote of confidence** in the 275-member lower house of Parliament last week, securing the support of 157 of the 268 MPs who were present.

Nepal's Revolving Door of Power: A Political Tug-of-War

- Nepal's government has been a game of musical chairs, with constant change at the top.
- Since becoming a republic in 2008, the country has seen a staggering 13 governments, often led by the same key players: Prachanda, Deuba, and Oli.

Impact of Instability in Nepal

- This constant political churn has hurt Nepal's economy.
- Many young Nepalis are forced to seek work abroad due to lack of opportunities at home.

India's Stance

- India, Nepal's largest trading partner, is watching these developments with a mix of concern and caution.
- While they have a good relationship with Prachanda, his new partner, Oli, has a strained history with India.
- Oli's past actions as Prime Minister strained relations between the two countries.

Nepal Between Two Giants

- Nepal's location between India and China creates a complex geopolitical situation. Nepalese leaders have used China as leverage in their relationship with India.
- China, in turn, has been increasing investments and aid to Nepal, potentially to counter India's influence.

Way Forward for India

- New Delhi needs a nuanced approach.
- They must prioritize the Nepali people, avoid alienating them, and work towards a strong partnership based on equality, not dominance.

10. The problem of equity in IPCC reports - Indian express

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

News:

- UN Climate Report Shows Persistent Inequality in Emissions and Burdens

A new study analyzing UN climate scenarios reveals a troubling trend:

- income, energy use, and emissions disparities between developed and developing countries are projected to widen by 2050, despite considering over 500 future pathways.

Why Equity Matters

- The UN Framework on Climate Change recognizes the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."
- This means wealthier nations, who historically contributed more to emissions, should take on a bigger share of the climate action burden.
- Focusing solely on technical and economic feasibility risks ignoring this principle.
- Ideally, developed regions would achieve "net negative" emissions quickly, freeing up the remaining carbon budget for developing countries to grow sustainably.
- However, the current scenarios don't reflect this.

Inequities in the IPCC Report

The study examined scenarios from the IPCC's latest report (AR6) and found:

- By 2050, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, West Asia, and the rest of Asia (representing 60% of the world's population) are projected to have lower GDP per person than the global average.
- Similar disparities exist in consumption of goods and services, energy use, and fossil fuel consumption, with the Global North consuming more than the Global South.
- The scenarios project a greater reliance on land-based carbon sinks (forests) and carbon capture technologies (CCS) in developing countries compared to developed ones.

Conclusion

- These findings highlight the need for more equitable climate scenarios.
- Developing countries shouldn't be burdened with both reducing emissions and cleaning up the mess created by developed nations.

Quick Look

1. Melanochlamys Droupadi

- Recently, the Zoological Survey of India named a new marine species of head-shield sea slug after the President of India.
- It is a new marine species of head-shield sea slug, belonging to Melanochlamys genus, with a ruby red spot discovered from West Bengal and Odisha coast.
- Features
 - It is a small invertebrate with a maximum length of up to 7 mm.
 - It inhabits wet and soft sandy beaches.
 - This particular species of sea slug is hermaphrodite (having both male and female reproductive parts).
 - It has a shell inside the body. It has a posterior, accounting for 61 percent of its body length.
 - It continuously secretes transparent mucus to form a sheath that prevents sand grains from entering parapodial space.
 - It crawls beneath smooth sand to form a moving capsule where the body is rarely visible, leaving behind a trail like a turtle.

2. Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)

- Recently, the DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- VSHORADS is a fourth-generation Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) specially designed to counter low-altitude aerial threats over short distances.
- These are short-range, lightweight, and portable surface-to-air missiles that can be fired by individuals or small groups.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.
- Key Features
 - It is designed to provide short-range air defence capabilities to protect ground forces and critical assets from aerial threats.
 - It incorporates many novel technologies, including a Dual-band IIR Seeker, a miniaturised Reaction Control System, and integrated avionics.
 - It is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.
 - The missile and its launcher are portable, which enables their quick deployment over difficult terrain.

3. BioTRIG

- A recent study claimed that BioTRIG, a new waste management technology based on the pyrolysis system, could help the rural Indians.
- It works by sealing the waste inside an oxygen-free chamber and heating it above 400 °C; useful chemicals are produced in the process.
- The researchers outlined three products of pyrolysis viz. bio-oil, syngas and biochar fertiliser that could help rural Indians live healthier and greener lives.
- Significance
 - The syngas and bio-oil facilitate heat and power the pyrolysis system in future cycles and surplus electricity is utilized to power local homes and businesses.

- The environmentally friendly bio-oil is utilized as a substitute for traditional cooking fuels in households, and biochar is used for carbon storage, enhancing soil quality and fertility.
- It could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from communities by nearly 350 kg of CO₂-eq per capita per annum.
- It could help rural Indians cut indoor air pollution, improve soil health, and generate clean power.

4. Juice Jacking

- Recently, the RBI has issued a cautionary message to mobile phone users about juice jacking.
- The term “juice jacking” was first coined in 2011 by investigative journalist Brian Krebs.
- It is a form of cyberattack where a public USB charging port is tampered to steal data or install malware on devices connected to it.
- The attack is used by hackers to steal users’ passwords, credit card information, addresses, and other sensitive data stored on the targeted device.

5. Gene Therapy

- Recently, the Union Science and Technology Minister said that India has conducted the first human clinical trial of gene therapy for ‘haemophilia A’.
- Gene Therapy is a technique that modifies a person’s genes to treat or cure disease.
- Gene therapies can work by several mechanisms viz.
 - Replacing a disease-causing gene with a healthy copy of the gene
 - Inactivating a disease-causing gene that is not functioning properly
 - Introducing a new or modified gene into the body to help treat a disease
- Gene therapy products are being studied to treat diseases including cancer, genetic diseases, and infectious diseases.

6. Roen Olmi

- Recently, researchers in Goa synthesised gold nanoparticles from a wild mushroom species eaten as a delicacy widely in the coastal state.
- Roen olmi is a mushroom of the Termitomyces species that grows on termite hills.
 - They have no independent existence; they grow only in association with termites.
- It is an edible wild mushroom popular among Goans and consumed during the monsoons.
- It is endemic to the Western Ghats, where the thick forest cover and high humidity provide an ideal breeding ground.
- It plays a very important role as a powerful biodegrading fungus in forest and grassland ecosystems converting 50% of dead plant material on the ground into rich soil.
- Additionally, Termito-mycetes have been recognized for their ethno-medicinal importance in various indigenous communities throughout Asia and Africa.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following heavy industries :

1. Fertilizer plants
2. Oil refineries
3. Steel plants

Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing how many of the above industries?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements :

Statement-I : India accounts for 3.2% of global export of goods.

Statement-II : Many local companies and some foreign companies operating in India have taken advantage of India's 'Production-linked Incentive' scheme.

Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

Q3. Consider the following statements in the context of interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukh Bharat Strategy:

1. It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
2. It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child-birth.
3. It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.
4. It addresses nonnutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following pairs : Objects in space : Description

1. Cepheids : Giant clouds of dust and gas in space
2. Nebulae : Stars which brighten and dim periodically
3. Pulsars : Neutron stars that are formed when massive stars run out of fuel and collapse

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

1. The scheme seeks to provide 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore households.
2. The scheme provides central subsidies for the installation cost for 10 kW systems.
3. It has provisions for developing a "Model Solar Village" in each district to showcase rooftop solar adoption in rural areas.

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

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

Q6. Consider the following statements with reference to the SWAYAM Plus Platform

1. It offers courses developed collaboratively with the industry leaders focusing on employability and professional development.
2. It features innovative elements such as multilingual content, AI-enabled guidance and credit recognition.

3. It will be operated by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

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

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

Q7. What is the objective of the 75/25 initiative launched by the India government?

- A. A plan to increase agricultural exports by 75% and reduce imports by 25%.
- B. A program aimed at reducing carbon emissions by 75% by 2025
- C. A strategy to prioritize economic development with a 75% focus on infrastructure and 25% on social welfare.
- D. An initiative to screen and provide standard care to 75 million individuals suffering from hypertension and diabetes by 2025.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

- 1. A bill amending the Constitution except article 324, requires a prior recommendation of the President of India.
- 2. Amendment in Article 324A of the Constitution to allow simultaneous elections in panchayats and municipalities would require ratification by the States.
- 3. Election Commission of India is only responsible to prepare a common electoral roll and voter IDcards for simultaneous poll

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 regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- 1. UNCLOS was adopted in 1982 and came into force in 1994.
- 2. UNCLOS defines the rights and responsibilities of nations regarding the use of the world's oceans and establishes guidelines for marine resource management.
- 3. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is one of the dispute settlement mechanisms under UNCLOS.
- 4. All countries are parties to UNCLOS, and non-members do not have access to its benefits.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the National Broadcasting Policy:

- 1. The policy in India outlines guidelines and regulations for the functioning of television and radio broadcasting.
- 2. The formulation of the policy is the exclusive domain of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- 3. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure government control over media content and programming.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer**Answer 1 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Green hydrogen is the hydrogen produced through electrolysis of water using electricity from renewable sources.
- Hydrogen use today is dominated by industry, namely: oil refining, ammonia production, methanol production and steel production.
- Central to a decarbonised India will be a widespread adoption of renewable power and vehicle electrification. Targets and policies such as the 500 GW non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030, scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles Phase II (FAME II) etc represent a concrete policy push towards fulfilling these ambitions.
- To further complement these ongoing efforts, India is prioritising green hydrogen as a potential solution to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors such as refinery, ammonia, methanol, iron and steel and heavy-duty trucking.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Answer 2 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- **Statement I is incorrect:** India's share in global merchandise trade is only 1.8% and 4% in global services. India plans to increase its export share in global trade from 2.1% to 3% by 2027 and 10% by 2047.
- **Statement II is correct:** The PLI scheme is open to both domestic and international manufacturers. Samsung as well as Indian firms such as Dixon Technologies, UTL, Neolyncs, Lava International, Optimus Electronics and Micromax are also expanding their factories to take advantage of the PLI scheme.

Answer 3 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Anaemia Mukht Bharat is a public health scheme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF. This scheme aims to reduce anaemia in vulnerable sections of society, including women and children.

- Anaemia Mukht Bharat was first launched as National Nutritional Anaemia Prophylaxis Programme (NNAPP) in 1970 and relaunched in 2018 as part of the POSHAN Abhiyan through a 6X6X6 strategy including six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms for all stakeholders to implement the strategy.
- It focuses on six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions and six institutional mechanisms to achieve the envisaged target under the POSHAN Abhiyan.
- A key intervention is to give Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation to children, adolescents and women of reproductive age and pregnant women irrespective of anemia, under Anaemia Mukht Bharat.
- **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The various behavior change communication activities of the strategy will address four key behaviors, one of which is promoting practice of delayed cord clamping (by atleast 3 minutes or until cord pulsations cease) in all health facility deliveries followed by early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Bi-annual mass deworming for children in the age groups between 1-19 years is carried out on designated dates - 10th February and 10th August every year under National Deworming Day (NDD) programme. The Anaemia Mukht Bharat, also integrates deworming of women of reproductive age and for pregnant women as part of the NDD strategy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The strategy attempts to intensify awareness and integrate screening and treatment for following non nutritional causes of anemia with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Cepheids, also called Cepheid Variables, are stars which brighten and dim periodically. This behavior allows them to be used as cosmic yardsticks out to distances of a few tens of millions of light-years.

- Nebula is a giant cloud of dust and gas in space. Some nebulae (more than one nebula) come from the gas and dust thrown out by the explosion of a dying star, such as a supernova. Other nebulae are regions where new stars are beginning to form. For this reason, some nebulae are called "star nurseries."
- Pulsars are rotating neutron stars observed to have pulses of radiation at very regular intervals that typically range from milliseconds to seconds. Neutron stars are formed when a massive star runs out of fuel and collapses.

Answer 5 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana with a budget of ₹75,021 crore.
- The free electricity scheme was earlier announced by the Finance Minister in the interim budget speech.
- Objective: To promote rooftop solar installations across India, promising 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore households. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The government guarantees no financial burden on the beneficiaries by providing significant subsidies directly to their bank accounts and by offering highly concessional bank loans.
- It will fund 60% of the installation cost for 2 kW systems and 40% for systems from 2-3 kW capacity. Systems beyond 3 kW won't be eligible for central subsidies. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The remaining installation costs will be covered by households through collateral-free, low-interest loans, currently available at around 7%.
- It has provisions for developing a "Model Solar Village" in each district to showcase rooftop solar adoption in rural areas. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats will be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.

Answer 6 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Recently, the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the 'SWAYAM Plus' platform.
- This platform offers courses developed collaboratively with industry leaders focusing on employability and professional development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It will offer programmes in several sectors like manufacturing, energy, computer science, engineering, management studies, healthcare, hospitality, tourism, and Indian knowledge systems.
- It features innovative elements such as multilingual content (available in 12 major Indian languages of the country), AI-enabled chatbot and credit recognition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) will operate the 'SWAYAM Plus' Platform. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 7 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Union Health Ministry launched the 75/25 initiative, aimed at screening and providing standard of care for 75 million individuals with hypertension and diabetes by 2025. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- By prioritizing hypertension and diabetes, two prevalent NCDs, the aim is to improve the overall well-being of millions of individuals.
- This initiative acknowledges the significance of early detection, treatment, and adherence to Standard Care protocols in combating NCDs.

Answer 8 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The panel recommended suitable amendments to Article 324A of the Constitution to allow simultaneous elections in panchayats and municipalities;
- Article 325 to allow the Election Commission of India (EC), in consultation with State election authorities, to prepare a common electoral roll and voter ID cards.
- Both these constitutional amendments would require ratification by the States, the report said. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- Article 325 to allow the Election Commission of India (EC), in consultation with State election authorities, to prepare a common electoral roll and voter ID cards. **Hence, statement 3 is INCORRECT**
- Presently, the EC is responsible for Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while local body polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by State election commissions.
- A bill amending the Constitution Does not requires a prior recommendation of the President of India. **Hence, statement 1 is INCORRECT**

Answer 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- UNCLOS was adopted in 1982, and it entered into force on November 16, 1994. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- UNCLOS is a comprehensive international treaty that defines the rights and responsibilities of nations concerning the use of the world's oceans. It covers various aspects, including navigational rights, territorial sea limits, and guidelines for the conservation and management of marine resources. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- ITLOS is indeed one of the dispute settlement mechanisms established by UNCLOS to deal with disputes related to the interpretation and application of the convention. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

- While a large majority of countries are parties to UNCLOS, not all countries have ratified it. However, even non-parties can benefit from certain customary international law principles established by UNCLOS. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect**

Answer 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The National Broadcasting Policy provides guidelines, regulations, and principles for the functioning of television and radio broadcasting in India. It addresses various aspects, including content standards, licensing, and industry practices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in India is responsible for formulating the National Broadcasting Policy. It plays a central role in shaping the policy framework that governs broadcasting activities in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While the National Broadcasting Policy does establish regulations to ensure compliance with certain standards, its primary objective is not to exercise government control over media content. The policy aims to balance the interests of various stakeholders, promote diversity, and ensure quality in broadcasting. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

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