# DAILY
# CURRENT AFFAIRS

By

**Mentorship**
India

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# Important News Articles

## GS II

### 1. U.S. aircraft transits Taiwan Strait amid attempts to prevent regional clash, The Hindu

**Relevance:** India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

**News:**

- The U.S. Navy's **Poseidon** Aircraft flew through the Taiwan Strait, a day after U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs held talks in an effort to reduce regional tensions.

**Key highlights**

- The patrol and reconnaissance plane "transited the **Taiwan Strait** in international airspace.
- By operating within the Taiwan Strait in accordance with **international law**, the United States upholds the **navigational rights** and freedoms of all nations.

**Taiwan Strait:**

- The strait is 160 kilometers wide and divides China from the self-governing island democracy Taiwan.
- It is also called **Formosa Strait,** the Strait containing **Pescadores Islands** under the control of Taiwan.
- The chief ports are **Amoy** in mainland China and **Kao-hsiung** in Taiwan.
- Although it lies in international waters, China considers the passage of foreign military aircraft and ships through it a challenge to its sovereignty.
- China claims the island of Taiwan, threatening to defend it by force if necessary despite U.S. military support for the island.

**United States & Taiwan:**

- Taiwan anchors a chain of islands which has friendly relations US-friendly territories
- The US has a lot of **economic Interest** in Taiwan due to its capability in production of **semiconductor devices**.
- The US is also planning to use it as a place of leverage for countering China's expansionist plans.
- The US does not have official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by US law (**Taiwan Relations Act, 1979)** to provide the island with the means to defend itself.
- It is also the largest arms dealer for Taiwan and follows a 'strategic ambiguity.

**India and Taiwan**

- Both the country do not have formal diplomatic relations but since 1995
- both sides have maintained representative offices in each other's capitals that function as de facto embassies.

| Prelims Takeaway |
| --- |
| • Taiwan Strait |
| • South China Sea |

## GS III

### 2. Center tweaks Green Credit Programme norms; to focus on restoration of ecosystem- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Government Policies and Interventions.

**News:**

- Amid concerns that the Green Credit Programme (GCP) may encourage tree planting for financial gains the Union Environment Ministry— has clarified that primacy must be accorded to restoring ecosystems over mere tree planting.

**Key highlights**

| Prelims Takeaway |
| --- |
| • Green Credits |
| • Greenwashing |
| • Mission LiFE |

- Forest departments of 13 States have offered 387 land parcels of degraded forest land worth nearly 10,983 hectares.
- Applications can be submitted by individuals and companies to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) to pay to "restore" these forests.
- The actual afforestation will be carried out by State forest departments.
- Two years after planting and following an evaluation by the ICFRE, each such planted tree could be worth one 'green credit'.
- These credits can later be claimed by the financing organization
- The credit can be used by these organization in two ways:
  o Used for reporting under environmental, social and governance leadership norms to meet corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

**Green Credit:**
- Green Credit is an **unit** of incentive which is provided to individuals and entities engaged in activities that deliver a **positive impact on the environment.**
- Green Credit operates under **Green Credit Rules, 2023** which is independent of the carbon credit under **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme 2023.**

**Green Credit Programme:**
- The Green Credit Initiative was launched by the Prime Minister on the side-lines of **COP 28.**
- It is an initiative under the government's Lifestyle for Environment or Mission LiFE.
- GCP is an **innovative market-based mechanism designed** to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
- This initiative involves creating an inventory of **degraded wastelands**, which can be utilized for planting by individuals and organizations.
- Participants undertaking environmentally positive actions will receive **tradable green credits.**

## 3. How can small-scale farmers benefit from trees on farms, The Hindu

**Relevance**: Major Crops - Cropping Patterns in various parts of the country

News:
- The uptake of agroforestry remains **restricted to farmers with medium or large landholdings**.
- The problem remains relevant and is especially acute for **small land holders**, who need additional funding to secure water and/or who incur additional debt in doing so.

| Prelims Takeaway |
| --- |
| • Agroforestry Policy |
| • Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana |

**Key highlights**
- Agriculture is a diversified land-use practice, integrating crops, trees, and livestock, this technique, broadly called agroforestry
- It can enhance farmer livelihoods and the environment and is slowly gaining in popularity after decades of the modus operandus of monocropping inspired by the Green Revolution.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture** Recognised water availability as a challenge when it drafted the **National Agroforestry Policy in 2014.**
- Moreover, **water availability is critical during the sapling stage** but remains a constant concern if the trees compete with crops for water in a water-constrained environment.
- One way to overcome this constraint is to grow trees that don't compete with the crops for water.
- Farmers, however, are drawn to tree species that are fast-growing and repel herbivores
  o but such species are also generally non-native and threaten soil health and human well-being.

- **The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme 2023**, which certifies agroforestry and wood-based products as sustainable, has an exhaustive list of eligibility criteria for farmers and industries.

**National Agroforestry Policy:**

- It enhances productivity, profitability, diversity and ecosystem sustainability.
- It meets almost half of the country's **fuelwood needs**, 70-80% of the **plywood requirement**
  - 60% of the raw material for the **paper pulp industry**,
  - **9-11%** of the green fodder needs.
- Agroforestry or tree-based farming can aid carbon sequestration, as an additional **carbon sink** of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- **Higher yields** of crops have been observed in forest-influenced soils than in ordinary soils.

**Steps to Improve Agroforestry-**

- Financial support should be provided to all small landholders, Farmer collectives- Cooperatives, FPOs
- Incorporate agroforestry in all policies relating to **land use and natural resource management**,
- Scientific Research on location specific trees to be grown and adopted

## 4. Missing colleges : Poor doctor-population ratio cannot be set right without better Centre-State ties- The Hindu

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

| Prelims Takeaway |
| --- |
| • PMSSY |
| • WHO |

**News:**

- The idea of starting a number of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country certainly comes from a clear need — to bridge the gap between demand and supply in India, and set right the grossly inefficient doctor-patient ratio.
- Poor doctor-population ratio cannot be set right without better Centre-State ties

**Key highlights**

- In 2003, the Centre announced the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) with this precise goal.**
- It was in 2006 that the PMSSY got off the ground and a total of six AIIMS-like medical institutions were created in the country.
- Currently, there are 20 AIIMS institutions with functional medical colleges and three are under development.
- No doubt, these institutions have created plentiful opportunities for students and advanced the goal of taking affordable health-care education beyond metros.
- But the intentions are more robust than implementation.

**Lackluster attitude**

- At AIIMS Madurai, a project that has caused a further embittering of relations between the central and State governments
  - There are persistent complaints of inadequate infrastructure, facilities, and manpower constraints.
- A 'prestige' project for the Centre, Prime Minister said the foundation stone for construction at Thoppur, Madurai, in 2019.
- From 2021, undeterred by the lack of something as basic as a building, the administration invited applications from students.
- The **extraordinary delay in constructing** the AIIMS
- As per official data, the doctor-population ratio in the country stands at 1:834, worse in rural areas.
- It is the role of the Centre and the State to work together to ensure that these medical institutions are able to provide high quality education
  - that students not made victims at the altar of federal relations.

## 5. At WTO, India seeks permanent solution for public stockholding, The Hindu

**Relevance**: Issues related to Direct and Indirect Farm Subsidies and Minimum Support Prices; Public Distribution System

**News**:
- India at the WTO wanted to work on the long-pending permanent solution for **public stockholding subsidies**, for smooth running of programmes such as the MSP.
- The **recent Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi** failed to deliver results.

**Key highlights**
- In **Committee on Agriculture (CoA)** meeting at the WTO, New Delhi insisted that members should revisit the joint proposal made by **G33-African Group**-ACP Group on public stockholding,
- a permanent solution on public stockholding could not be agreed to at MC13.
- The members should urgently honor the mandate on the matter pending since the 2013 **Bali Ministerial Decision**
- **The peace clause** is ridden with difficult conditions and onerous notification requirements.

**Peace Clause-**
- High subsidies are percieved to be distorting global trade.
- The peace clause protects a **developing country's food procurement programmes** against action from WTO members when subsidy ceilings are breached.
- The limit is pegged at 10% of the value of food production (**called de minimis**) in the case of India and other developing countries.

**WTO-Agriculture Agreement:**
- It calls for reduction in domestic subsidies that distorts free trade and fair price in the Agriculture Industry.
- The **Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)** is to be reduced by 20% over a period of 6 years by developed countries and 13% over a period of 10 years by developing countries.

**Subsidies are categorized into:**

**Green Box**: subsidies that do not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.
- They are government-funded and must not involve price support.
- They also include **environmental protection and regional development programmes**.
- Green box subsidies are therefore allowed without limits.

**Amber Box:**
- All domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade fall into the amber box, Example MSP in India is categorized under Amber box.

**Blue Box:**
- This is the "amber box with conditions". Such conditions are designed to reduce distortion, by limiting production and having designated quotas.
- At present, there are no limits on spending on blue box subsidies.

## 6. Musk said likely to unveil $2-$3 bn investment in India, The Hindu

**Relevance**: Investment Models ( FDI, FPI)

**News:**
- Tesla is set to announce an investment in India of $2-$3 billion,

**EV Manufacturing:**
- India's EV market is small but growing and dominated by local carmakers.
- EVs made up just 2% of total car sales in 2023, but the government is targeting 30% of new cars to be EVs starting 2030.
- In a significant development, the Government of India has greenlit a strategic policy aimed at positioning India as a **prime manufacturing hub for electric vehicles (e-vehicles).**

- This initiative is geared towards bolstering the nation's technological prowess and also aligns with the overarching goal of the **'Make in India' campaign**.

**New Electric Vehicle Policy 2024:**

- **Duty Reduction**- The policy slashes customs duty rate to 15%
- While allowing reduced-duty imports, the policy caps the number of imported EVs at **8,000 per year**.
- Manufacturers must invest a minimum of **Rs 4,150 crore (~USD 500 Mn)** to avail duty concessions.
- There's **no ceiling** on the maximum investment, incentivising capital infusion into the sector.

**Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024:**

- The Indian government has introduced the **EMPS 2024** to promote the purchase of electric two-wheelers (e2W) and three-wheelers (e3W).
- With a budget of **Rs 5 billion**, it will replace the FAME-2 scheme and will be effective from April to July 2024.

**EV30@30 campaign:**

- India is among few countries that support the **global EV30@30** campaign, which aims for at least **30%** of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030.

**PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components:**

- India is the world's third-largest automobile market.
- The Automobile Sector resulted in **5.41% of the total FDI inflow** as per the September 2023 DPIIT Report.
- The Electric Vehicle market is expected to grow at a **CAGR of 49%** between 2022-2030 and the EV industry would create **5 Mn direct and indirect jobs** by 2030.

## 7. Indian economy projected to grow 6.5% in 2024: UNCTAD The Hindu

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

**News:**

| Prelims Takeaway |
| --- |
| • UNCTAD |
| • IMF |

- India's economy is projected to grow by 6.5% in 2024, according to a report by the UN

**Key highlights**

- It noted that multinationals extending their manufacturing processes into the country to **diversify their supply chains will have a positive impact on Indian exports.**
- The expansion in 2023 was driven by strong public investment outlays as well as the vitality of the services sector
  - which benefited from robust local demand for consumer services and firm external demand for the country's business services exports," UNCTAD said.

**UNCTAD**

- **The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD) was **established in 1964** to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.
- Some of the reports published by it are:
  - Trade and Development Report
  - World Investment Report
  - The Least Developed Countries Report
  - Information and Economy Report
  - Technology and Innovation Report
  - Commodities and Development Report

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

## 8. What's behind heavy rainfall in Dubai- Indian Express

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
**News:**
- The United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) recorded the **heaviest rain ever after a severe thunderstorm hit the country recently,**
- According to the state-run WAM news agency, the rain was "a historic weather event" that surpassed "anything documented since the start of data collection in 1949" – that was before the UAE was established in 1971.

| Key highlights | IPCC Report |
| --- | --- |
| - Heavy rains are unusual in the UAE, which is an arid, Arabian Peninsula country. However, they occasionally occur in the region during cooler winter months.<br>- Rain is uncommon, although it can happen during the cooler winter.<br>- A storm system moving across the region is the main culprit.<br>- There's also a chance cloud seeding, a technique to make rain clouds release more water, might have played a role.<br>**Could climate change be involved?**<br>- Rising temperatures worldwide can make the atmosphere hold more moisture, leading to more intense storms.<br>- But it's tough to directly link any single weather event to climate change because other things like El Niño and La Niña also affect weather patterns.<br>- While the average global temperature on the Earth has increased by at least 1.1 degree Celsius since 1850, the UAE has witnessed an increase of almost 1.5 degree Celsius in the past 60 years.<br>- The increase in temperatures is mainly caused by the rise of heat-trapping greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since the Industrial Revolution. | - the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Sixth Assessment Report released in 2021<br>   o Said human-caused rise in greenhouse gases has increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.<br>- Given the population growth and urbanisation in many parts of Gulf is also one of factor behind change in climate pattern<br>**CLOUD SEEDING**<br>- Clouds need tiny water or ice droplets called nuclei to make rain.<br>- The weather modification method uses planes and ground-based cannons to shoot particles into clouds making more nucleai<br>   o attracting moisture that falls as snow and rain.<br>- Usually silver iodide is used, but it can also be dry ice and other materials.<br>- The method, first pioneered in the 1940s, became popular in the U.S. West starting in the 1960s, mostly for snow.<br>- It can't create water from a clear sky - particles must be shot into a storm cloud that already holds moisture to get it to fall, or to fall more than it otherwise would naturally. |

## 9. Experts Explain: Last 72 hours most crucial during elections, here's what happens behind the scenes  Indian Express

**Relevance**: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
**Context:**
- The most critical time in the election process includes the last day of the campaign period (72 hours before the poll), the non-campaign period (the last 48 hours), and the poll day.
- Candidates are afforded the opportunity to make a final impression on the electorate, while the period of "election silence" allows voters to take a reflective pause.

| The last 72 hours | The last 48 hours |
|---|---|
| • The monitoring of campaign expenditure includes the last check of candidates' expenditure registers and strengthening the inspection teams. <br> • There are Flying Squads (FSs), Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs), Excise Teams, and a 24X7 District Control Room. <br> • The FSs can seize cash or items intended as bribes, document evidence, and initiate legal proceedings. <br> • SSTs are stationed at critical locations, and focus on intercepting illicit goods such as liquor and large amounts of cash to deter malpractices and prevent undue influence. <br> • The adherence of political parties and candidates to the Model Code of Conduct is strictly monitored to prevent any activity that can disrupt societal harmony or unduly influence voters. <br> • The District Election Officers (DEOs) collaborate with senior police officials to develop strategies to manage any potential disturbances during the critical 72 hours leading up to the close of the voting. <br> • This includes the sealing of borders to keep out anti-social and disruptive elements. | • Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the election campaign halts during the "silent period" that lasts for 48 hours ending with the conclusion of the poll. <br> • Door-to-door campaigning is still permitted. <br> • Political functionaries and party workers who are not voters of the constituency are expected to leave once campaigning ends. <br> • This period also sees "area domination" activities by the Central Armed Police Forces <br>    ○ A restriction on opinion polls, and political advertisements through electronic and social media, and the enforcement of a ban on the sale of liquor. |

**The Polling Day**
- Under Section 135(B) of the RP Act, employees are given a paid holiday on the poll date.
- Only persons entitled under Rule 49D of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, are allowed inside polling stations, including polling officers, public servants on duty in connection with the election, a child in arms accompanying an elector, etc.
- After the polls close, EVMs are sealed and securely transported to the reception centre under security.

## 10. On India's 'heat action plans, The Hindu

**Relevance:** Disaster and Disaster Management.
**News:**
- India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues heat alerts usually in summers but this year these alerts began in February itself.
- Parts of the northeast and western India have already reported appreciably warm temperatures (3.1-5 degrees Celsius above normal) before the start of summer.

| Key highlight | Key Challenges for Administration: |
|---|---|
| **Key highlight** <br> • The IMD will declare a heatwave if the maximum temperature recorded at a station is **40 degrees** Celsius or more in the **plains** <br>  o **37 degrees** Celsius or more in the **coast**, and **30 degrees** Celsius or more in the **hills**. <br> • With the severity and frequency of heatwaves increasing across the country, governments at various levels — State, district, and city — have prepared **heat action plans (HAPs)**. <br> **Heat Action Plans:** <br> • **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has prepared a **Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India** for the thirteen most hazardous meteorological events <br>  o Including Heat Waves that cause loss of life, loss of livelihoods and services. <br> • HAPs are the **primary policy response** to economically damaging and life-threatening heat waves. <br> • The National Disaster Management Authority and IMD are reported to be working with 23 States to develop HAPs. <br> • HAPs typically suggest a combination of measures such as using forecasts and early warning systems to alert the public and relevant authorities about heat waves. <br> • Educating the public through campaigns that provide information on risks associated with heatwaves, building heat shelters and cooling centers and providing clean drinking water to avoid dehydration. <br> • HAPs in India follow a general pattern. They provide a **snapshot of regions' heat profile**, including information on the number of past heatwave events. <br> • The urban **heat island effect**, the type of roofing, and proximity to water or green bodies are important influences on the local temperature in addition to **humidity**. | **Key Challenges for Administration:** <br> • **Increase in Average Heat:** By 2050, as many as 24 urban centers might have average summertime highs of at least 35 degrees Celsius <br> • **HAPs are underfunded**, funding is a major prerequisite for proper implementation of Action Plans. <br> • Also, **hotspot mapping** for prioritising and formulating targeted interventions is needed, which is now possible with easy-to-access geospatial data <br> • **Vulnerable populations:** All HAPs should prioritise the protection of vulnerable populations such as low-income communities, children and elders. |

**Conclusion**

- There is a need for the world to **reduce emissions** in the next two decades to prevent warm temperatures from reaching **1.5° C**.
- India should act on decreasing Emissions causing global warming.

# Quick Look

## 1. KAVACH System

- The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.
- It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards.
- It makes use of high frequency radio communication and operates on the principle of continuous update of movement to prevent collisions
- It works on the principle of continuous update of Movement authority.
- It actively uses the SOS to prevent any kind of mishap and accidents.

## 2. Jhelum river

- It is a tributary of the Indus River that flows in India and Pakistan.
- It is the main waterway of the Kashmir valley.
- It constitutes the westernmost of the five rivers of the Punjab region that merge with the Indus River in eastern Pakistan.
- Mangla Dam has been built on the river.
- It rises from its chief source Verinag at the foothills of Pir Panjal ranges in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It then flows via Dal Lake, Srinagar and Wular Lake prior to entering Pakistan.
- The river makes a deep, narrow gorge on its way to Pakistan.

## 3. Veeranam Lake

- Veeranam Lake serves as a crucial drinking water source for Chennai.
- It is located in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu.
- It was considered one of the longest man-made lakes in the world with a length of 14 km.
- It was built during the period of Greater Cholas between 907-955 AD, by the Chola Prince- Rajaditya Chola who was the son of Parantaka the 1st. He'd named this waterbody after his father's title- Veeranarayanan.
- This lake was used as a reference, in the famous Historical novel Ponniyin Selvan, written by Kalki.
- The source of Veeranam is the river of Kollidam
  o which is the Northern distributary of the Cauvery River, where the Vadavaru River links both the Veeranam and Kollidam.

## 4. Vostro Account

- It is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, in this case, the rupee.
- Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs.
- It is an integral offshoot of correspondent banking that entails a bank (or an intermediary) to facilitate wire transfers, conduct business transactions, accept deposits and gather documents on behalf of the other bank.
- It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets and serve international clients without having to be physically present abroad.

## 5. Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)

- A green bond is a debt security that is issued to raise capital to support climate-related or environmental projects, according to the World Bank.
- SGBs are issued by governments to raise resources for such projects.
- In India, the Union Budget 2022-23 announced the issue of SGrBs.
- The government's framework is based on the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) listed principles for issuing green bonds, which has four components:
  o Use of proceeds, project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the following Pairs:**

**Strait                Seas**

1. Taiwan Strait - South China Sea and East China Sea
2. Bosphorus Strait - Sea of marmara and Aegean Sea
3. Strait of Gibraltar - Mediterranean Sea and Adriatic Sea

**How many of the following pairs is/are Correct:**

A. Only One
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

**Q2. Consider the following Statements regarding Green Credit Programme (GCP):**

1. Green Credit operates under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme 2023.
2. The Green Credit Programme was launched in COP26.
3. GCP is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions.

**Which of the following Statements is/are Correct?**

A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All Three
D. None

**Q3. Consider the following statement about permaculture farming**

1. Permaculture Farming discourages monocultural practices.
2. Permanture increases soil Salinity .
3. Permaculture farming is not so easily possible in such arid regions.
4. Mulching is an important practice in permaculture farming

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

A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. Only three
D. All of the Above

**Q4. Consider the following about Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana**

**Statement I** : it was initiated with an objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services

**Statement II**: Its stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

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

**Q5. Consider the following statements:**

1. India has not ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. Aim of the agreement was to boost global growth

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

A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All three
D. None

**Q6. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Automobile Sector resulted in 15.41% of the total FDI inflow in 2023
2. India does not support the global EV30@30.
3. The Ministry of Heavy Industries is responsible for the Automobile Production Linked Scheme.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only One
B. Only Two
C. All three
D. None

**Q7. Which of the following report is published by UNCTAD**
1. World Investment Report
2. The Least Developed Countries Report
3. Global Financial Stability Report,

How many of the above options are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the context of climate change:**
1. COP is an annual gathering organized by the United Nations to address international climate-related issues and negotiate global agreements.
2. COP28 is currently focused on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST), a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to enhance climate actions.
3. The host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

**Q9. Which among the following is permissible during non-campaign period (the last 48 hours) of election**
1. Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the election campaign halts during the "silent period" that lasts for 48 hours ending with the conclusion of the poll.
2. Door-to-door campaigning is still permitted.
3. a restriction on opinion polls, and political advertisements through electronic and social media,

How many of the above statements are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

**Q10. Consider the following statements about Indian Meteorological Department:**
1. India Meteorological Department (IMD) was formed in 1952
2. It is under Ministry of Science and Technology
3. A chief agency dealing in everything related to meteorology, seismology, and associated subjects.

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 A is Correct**
**Explanation:**
- Bosporus, strait uniting the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara and separating parts of Asian Turkey (Anatolia) from European Turkey. **Hence, Pair 2 is INcorrect.**
- The strait extends from southwest to northeast between the South and East China seas. **Hence, Pair 1 is correct.**
- Strait of Gibraltar, channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean, lying between southernmost Spain and northwesternmost Africa. **Hence, Pair 3 is INcorrect.**

**Answer 2 Option A is correct.**
**Explanation:**
- Green Credit operates under Green Credit Rules, 2023 which is independent of the carbon credit under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme 2023. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Green Credit Programme was launched on the sidelines of COP28 under **Mission LiFE Or Lifestyle for Environment. Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- GCP is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies. **Statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 3 Option B is correct**
**Explanation:**
- POLYCULTURE (OR) PERMACULTURE: Polyculture is agriculture using multiple crops in the same space, in imitation of the diversity of the natural ecosystem and avoiding large stands of single crop or monoculture. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- Permaculture decreases Soil Salinity while Conventional chemical farming increases soil salinity . **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- Permaculture is easily possible in arid regions as well . **Hence statement 3 is Incorrect**

- Mulching Is Important in Permaculture, **Hence Statement 4 is correct.**

**Answer 4 Option D is correct**
**Explanation**
- PMSSY was announced in 2003 with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.**Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
- PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Answer 5 Option B is correct**
**Explanation:**
- The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was negotiated at the 2013 Bali Ministerial Conference. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It entered into force on 22 February 2017 following its ratification by two-thirds of the WTO members. The aim of the agreement was to boost global growth by reducing the cost of the transaction in terms of export and import. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- India **had ratified** TFA in 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect.**

**Answer 6 Option A is correct**
**Explanation:**
- The Automobile Sector resulted in **5.41% of the total FDI inflow** as per the September 2023 DPIIT Report. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect.**
- India is among few countries that support the **global EV30@30** campaign, which aims for at least **30%** of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries has recently extended the tenure of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components by one year, **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 7 Option B is correct**
**Explanation**

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established in 1964 to promote development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy.
- UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body headquartered at Geneva in Switzerland.
- Some of the reports published by it are:
- Trade and Development Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report
- Information and Economy Report
- Technology and Innovation Report
- Commodities and Development Report
- Global Financial Stability Report,
- **World Investment Report is prepared by the IMF**. Hence, **option B is correct.**

**Answer 8 Option C is correct**
**Explanation**

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is indeed an annual gathering organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together countries to discuss and negotiate global agreements on climate change-related issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- COP28 is currently underway, and one of its primary focuses is on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST is a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to assess collective progress and enhance climate actions globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- the host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28. This fund is intended to assist developing countries in recovering from climate disasters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 9 Option C is correct**
**Explanation**

- Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the election campaign halts during the "silent period" that lasts for 48 hours ending with the conclusion of the poll.
- Door-to-door campaigning is permitted.
- Political functionaries and party workers who are not voters of the constituency are expected to leave once campaigning ends.
- This period also sees "area domination" activities by the Central Armed Police Forces
- a restriction on opinion polls, and political advertisements through electronic and social media, and the enforcement of a ban on the sale of liquor.
- **Hence all statements are correct**

**Answer 10 Option A is Correct**
**Explanation:**

- Formed in 1875, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is the national meteorological service of the country and it is the chief government agency dealing in everything related to meteorology, seismology, and associated subjects. **Hence statement 1 is Incorrect and Statement 3 is Correct**.
- The administrative responsibilities of the Department are under the supervision of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Indian Government. The IMD is headquartered in New Delhi. **Hence Statement 2 is Incorrect.**

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