

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

1. Considered last word in India's miniature painting, art historian B N Goswamy dies - Indian Express
2. HC quashes Haryana's 75% local quota in private sector - The Hindu/ HC quashes Haryana law on 75% quota in pvt jobs to residents: Discriminatory - Indian Express
3. Japan PM raises 'serious concerns' about military activity in talks with Xi - The Hindu
4. Odisha backtracks on transfer of tribal land to non-tribals amid uproar - The Hindu/ Odisha withholds decision on sale of tribal land to non-tribals - Indian Express
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6. 11L children in India missed 1st measles shot in '22: Report - Indian Express
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8. RBI tightening of unsecured loans: Banks may need Rs.84,000 crore excess capital - Indian Express

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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Considered last word in India's miniature painting, art historian B N Goswamy dies - Indian Express

Relevance: Salient aspects of Art Forms

News:

- BN Goswamy, a **natural artist** of miniature painting, has died recently.

Prelims Takeaway

- Miniature Paintings

Uniqueness of BN Goswamy

- He was **an expert** of the Pahari School of painting.
- He first **introduced the idea** in his essay “Pahari Painting: The Family as Basis of Style” published in the journal Marg in 1968.
- The mobility between **different centres of patronage** meant that the existing system of categorising miniatures according to the courts that commissioned them — Kangra, Guler, Basohli, Chamba and so on — was not appropriate.
- He **recognized** that the painting families had recognisable techniques and stylistic idiosyncrasies instead of courts.
- He **carefully studied** the difference between paintings produced in the family workshops of the Rajput and Pahari courts and the Mughal ateliers.

Works of B.N. Goswamy

- He is the **author of over 25 books** on art and culture including the recently released Indian Cat: Stories, Paintings, Poetry and Proverbs.
- The book is one of **his prominent contributions** to art history has been his ability to highlight the role of family and lineage in the development of miniature painting in India.
- In his 2011 book Nainsukh of Guler: A Great Indian Painter from a Small Hill-State (Niyogi Books) **rescued master** miniaturist Nainsukh from oblivion
- In the Spirit of Indian Painting (2014, Penguin Random House India), he **celebrated**
 - **dynasties** of forgotten artists through his encounters
 - **readings** of 101 great works of art painted between **1100** and **1900**,
 - **ranging** from **Jain** manuscripts to **Rajasthani, Mughal, Pahari** and **Deccani** miniatures, to **Company** School of paintings.
- He was a **Co-curator** of the landmark 2011 exhibition “The Way of the Masters: The Great Artists of India, 1100-1900”, held at Museum Rietberg in Zurich and New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Achievements of B.N. Goswamy

- He would recite poetry in **Persian, Urdu** and **Hindi**, and was a wonderful orator who kept his audience spellbound
- He was the **Padma Shri** and the **Padma Bhushan** awardee.
- Like **Ananda Coomaraswamy**, his writings involved thorough research and expressed complex thought processes in a simple manner.
- Goswamy has also taught generations how to read the works of **miniature paintings**.

GS II

2. HC quashes Haryana's 75% local quota in private sector - The Hindu/ HC quashes Haryana law on 75% quota in pvt jobs to residents: Discriminatory - Indian Express

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

News:

- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has declared the **Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 unconstitutional**
- It struck down the provision** that mandated 75% reservation in private jobs for residents of the state.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 19

Key Points:

- The court ruled that the law became **ineffective from the date it came into force**, emphasizing its violation of constitutional principles.
- The court asserted that the **state cannot restrict private employers from recruiting from the open market** for specific employee categories earning less than Rs 30,000 per month.
- It emphasized that the state **cannot enforce discrimination** based on the **individual's non-residence** in a particular state.
- The court highlighted that private **employers should have the freedom to hire individuals** based on their skills and expertise, regardless of their state of origin.
- It used **examples of different skills in construction work** from various parts of the country.

3. Japan PM raises 'serious concerns' about military activity in talks with Xi - The Hindu

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

News:

- Japan's Prime Minister Fumio told the President of China he has "serious concerns" about Chinese **military activity**
 - including China's **collaboration** with Russia, during their first direct talks in a year
- The Japanese PM slammed Beijing's **ban on its seafood**.

Japan Stand on its Strategic Interest

- The PM of Japan and China's President **met on the sidelines** of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.
- Japan re-emphasized **Taiwan Strait's** peace and stability.
- Japan urged the immediate removal of (Chinese) buoys set up in Japan's **EEZ in the East China Sea**.

Seafood ban spat between Japan and China

- Japan demanded a calm response based on **scientific evidence** to ban its seafood in China.
- China banned all Japanese seafood imports after Japan began releasing treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean from the stricken **Fukushima nuclear plant**
- Japan insists the discharge is safe, a view backed by the UN atomic watchdog, the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.

Demand of Release of Japanese Citizens

- Japan demanded the early release of Japanese citizens detained in China since China's amended **anti-espionage law** went into effect in 2015.
- An employee of the Japanese pharmaceutical company **Astellas** under the said law.

Chinese Activities near Japanese Shore

- Military tensions have soared in the **Pacific** over China's actions in the disputed **South China Sea**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.
- International Atomic Energy Agency.
- Fukushima Nuclear Plant

- China also drills around the self-ruled **island of Taiwan**, which Beijing regards as its own territory.
- Chinese vessels have also increasingly ventured further out into the Pacific.
- Japan had **detected** six ships of China including frigates, destroyers, one fast combat support ship and the Shandong aircraft carrier
 - Sailing around 650 km south of Miyakojima island, east of Taiwan.
- It confirmed that **jets and helicopters** had been detected taking off and landing from the **Shandong**.

4. Odisha backtracks on transfer of tribal land to non-tribals amid uproar - The Hindu/ Odisha withholds decision on sale of tribal land to non-tribals - Indian Express

Relevance: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

News:

- The Odisha government **has paused its plans** to amend a 67-year-old regulation, stirring controversy **over the sale of tribal lands to non-tribals**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question

Key points

Tribal Demographics and Political Impact

- **Tribals constitute over 22%** of Odisha's population.
- The state has **32 reserved Assembly seats and 5 Lok Sabha seats** for Scheduled Tribes.

Details of Proposed Amendment

- The amendment **aimed to permit Scheduled Tribes to transfer their immovable properties to non-tribals** with a written order from a sub-collector.
- It also **allowed tribal land to be mortgaged** to public financial institutions for non-agricultural purposes.

Past Protests and Sensitivity

- Odisha has a **history of protests against tribal land acquisition**, industrialization, and mining.
- **Withdrawal may be a precautionary measure to avoid triggering protests** among tribal communities, considering the state's history of tribal movements.

5. Need for World Bank's governance indicators to be transparent: CEA - Indian Express

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

News:

- Chief Economic Adviser expresses **concerns over the use of the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators** in credit ratings assessment, particularly for emerging economies.
- He calls for **increased transparency in the World Governance Index** to enhance objectivity in credit rating assessments.

Prelims Takeaway

- World Governance Index

Transparency in World Governance Index

- A **more transparent, less subjective**, and contextually relevant **World Governance Index** was advocated.
- the World Bank should **ensure the involvement of developing countries** in the index's formulation, making it more suited to diverse contexts.
- Improved credit ratings could lead to **significant cost savings in global capital markets** for these economies.

Worldwide Governance Indicators Overview

- The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators assess 215 countries based on six governance dimensions.
- **Dimensions :**
 - Voice and Accountability
 - Political Stability and Absence of Violence
 - Government Effectiveness
 - Regulatory Quality
 - Rule of Law
 - Control of Corruption.'
- Addressing transparency issues in the World Governance Index **can potentially revolutionize credit rating assessments for emerging economies**
- It will lead to **substantial financial benefits** and better allocation of resources for development.

6. 11L children in India missed 1st measles shot in '22: Report - Indian Express

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

News:

- According to a report by the World Health Organization and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **11 lakh children in India missed their crucial first dose of the measles vaccine in 2022.**
- India ranks among the top 10 countries with the **highest number of children not receiving the initial measles shot.**
- India is one of 37 countries experiencing **large or disruptive measles outbreaks**, reporting 40,967 cases in 2022.

Prelims Takeaway

- Measles
- Mission Indradhanush
- World Health Organisation

Pandemic Impact on Immunization

- Worldwide, measles immunization **dropped to its lowest levels since 2008 during the pandemic.**
- This led to an **18% rise in cases and a 43% increase in deaths in 2022.**
- **Gaps in immunization**, particularly in peri-urban areas and clusters, left **vulnerable populations susceptible to measles outbreaks.**

Measles Vaccine Efficacy

- Two doses of the measles vaccine offer **97% protection for life.**
- **Single-dose protection is weaker**, making vaccinated individuals susceptible to infection.
- Globally, **33 million children missed** either both doses or the second dose of the **measles vaccine.**

Measles Elimination Goal

- India, along with other WHO South-East Asia Region countries, aimed for **measles elimination by 2023.**
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush**, launched to cover vaccination gaps, expanded coverage to **children up to five years old** to achieve the elimination goal.
- The report evaluates **measles surveillance sensitivity**, with India performing well.

Challenges Faced by India

- With the health machinery primarily focused on COVID-19, there was a **decline in immunization coverage.**
- Measles cases surged in five states, prompting an **outbreak response immunization drive**, vaccinating 13 lakh children between November 2022 and May 2023.

GS III

7. India invites countries to join biofuel alliance - Indian Express/ India invites Global South to join biofuel alliance - The Economic Times

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, India extended an **invitation to Global South countries to join the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, emphasising the willingness to share biofuel expertise.

Global Biofuels Alliance

- The GBA, launched at the **G20 leaders meeting**, aims to **reduce emissions in transportation and industrial sectors**.
- The GBA, inclusive of top producers Brazil and the US, seeks to **establish a global market for biofuel trade** derived from biomass.

Biofuel Achievements in India

- India achieved its target of **blending 10% ethanol in petrol by May 2022**, five months ahead of the deadline.
- India has advanced its goal for **20% ethanol blending in petrol to 2025**, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable energy practices.

Impact of Biofuel

- Biomass conversion into fuel provides an **additional income source for farmers in India**.
- Achieving **10% ethanol blending resulted in**
 - a payment of USD 8.7 billion to farmers
 - a reduction of over 40 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in the last nine years.

India's Renewable Energy Leadership

- India has become the **world's largest producer of renewable energy**, with 40% of its installed electricity capacity sourced from non-fossil fuel.
- Solar tariffs have significantly decreased, making **renewable energy more accessible**.
- India launched the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** with a goal of **producing 5 million tonnes by 2030**.
 - Positioning India as a global hub for green hydrogen production, usage, and export.
- India's Goals**
 - Achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
 - Non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW
 - Meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030.

Energy Transition Strategy

- India adopts a **pragmatic approach to energy policy diversification**, focusing on non-conventional sources.
 - Such as biofuels, compressed biogas, green hydrogen, solar, and wind.
- The government emphasizes **policy reforms to enhance energy security** while mitigating climate change.

Collaborative Solutions

- Achieving energy transition is **contingent on global partnerships**.
- A collaborative approach will result in **optimal resource distribution, technological partnerships and best practice sharing**.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Green Hydrogen Mission
- Global Biofuel Alliance
- Renewable Energy

8. RBI tightening of unsecured loans: Banks may need Rs.84,000 crore excess capital - Indian Express

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

News:

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) has decided to increase the **risk weight on the exposure of banks** to
 - consumer credit,
 - credit card receivables
 - non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

Prelims Takeaway

- Non-banking Finance Companies
- CRAR

Why tightening of Unsecured Loans by the RBI ?

- These measures are **in continuity with**
 - the tilt towards an **Expected Loss (EL)** driven stress recognition system for regulated entities
 - RBI's recent move to subject **15 Upper Layer NBFCs** to greater regulatory scrutiny.
- The move has been apparently taken to counter financial stability risks.

Impact of the RBI Directive on Banks and Consumers

- The banking industry will **likely require** Rs 84,000 crore of **excess capital** —
 - or a five per cent increase over the Rs 15.2 lakh crore capital requirement to follow the directive.
- This will **increase** the cost of **borrowing** for consumers.
- There is an **expectation** of a 55-60 basis point increase in **CRAR** (capital to risk-weighted assets ratio).
- These unsecured loans affected by the RBI move (Rs 14.8 lakh crore) make up only around **9.8 per cent of total outstanding loans** (Rs 151.5 lakh crore) as of September 2023.
- The move might **favourably** affect the **non-bank credit**.
- The impact of the move will also be felt on the **Corporate Bonds**.
- Higher capital requirements are expected to **moderate the growth of loans**.

Other Incidental Impacts of the Move

- A material increase in the rates charged on unsecured loans by banks and NBFCs **Higher cost of borrowings** for large and small NBFCs (including fintechs)
- A **high proportion** of unsecured retail loans in their assets under management.
- **Higher mobilisation** of capital by NBFCs into unsecured lending to cater to the additional capital requirements.
- **Sudden withdrawal** of banks and NBFCs from the consumer loan market

Exclusions from the RBI Directives

The RBI circular **affects consumer loans** in general but excludes

- housing loans
- education loans
- vehicle loans
- loans secured by gold and gold jewellery.

Countercyclical Measures of RBI

- The current **regulatory steps** taken by the RBI may be called countercyclical measures.
- These types of actions refer to the measures both **monetary and fiscal**.
- These measures **stabilise the business cycle** by reining in economic activity during booms and bolstering it during downturns.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. A stake in stability - Indian Express

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Context:

- West Asia holds vital significance for India, serving as a **crucial source of crude oil and natural gas** and as a **key trade and strategic partner**.
- With the prolonged Israel-Hamas conflict, concerns are growing on its **potential to destabilise the entire West Asia region**.

India-US 2+2 Dialogue Highlights

- During the annual 2+2 dialogue in Delhi, the joint statement emphasised the concern of both India and the US regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict.
 - Support for Israel's fight against Hamas terror
 - A call for adherence to international humanitarian law
 - Preventing the conflict from spreading, preserving stability in the Middle East
 - Working towards a "political solution" and "durable peace"

Historical Ties with West Asia

- India's diplomatic relations with West Asian countries trace back to the post-Independence era.
- Despite historical ties, proactive politics by Pakistan hindered India's efforts in building relations, particularly with suspicions of aiding terrorism.
- However, India's focused efforts led to a significant transformation in India's relations with West Asian countries, in the last decade.

India's Stand in West Asian Conflicts

- India's de-hyphenation approach, engaging with all nations, proved successful, fostering stronger ties with leaders of UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- Its engagement in the region is guided by the principle of "Bharat ki baat, sabke saath" (India's engagement will be with everybody).
- India's standalone visits to Israel and Palestine showcased a diplomatic shift and strategic autonomy in India's foreign policy.

Trade Partnerships and Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

- West Asia is now India's largest trade partner, with substantial trade volumes with countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- Cooperation in strategic and counter-terrorism efforts, including the handover of wanted terrorists, exemplifies the strengthening ties.

India's Diplomatic Success at OIC

- India's biggest success in West Asia was at the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).
- The UAE invited the Indian foreign minister as the Guest of Honour in 2019.
- The issuance of the Abu Dhabi Document without mentioning the Kashmir issue underscored India's importance.

India's View on Israel-Palestine Conflict

- India views the Israel-Palestine conflict as part of its larger goal of establishing peace and stability in West Asia.
- Support for a two-state solution aligns with the perspectives of the US and several other countries.
 - India advocates for a sovereign and independent Palestinian state coexisting peacefully with Israel.

Historical Attempts at the Two-State Solution

- The Oslo Accords of 1993, brought Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation close to agreeing on a two-state solution.
- Despite challenges, diplomatic efforts continued, including agreements like the Hebron Protocol in 1997.
- By 2000, negotiations had progressed, envisioning an independent Palestine covering 98% of the West Bank and the entire Gaza Strip.
- However, the accord collapsed, largely due to Arafat's deceptive moves and Hamas' terror across Gaza and in Israel.
- Amid the ongoing conflict and Israel's actions against Hamas, India remains committed to the two-state solution as a foundation for lasting peace in West Asia.

2. COP28 in Dubai: What to expect from climate meeting - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- The ongoing collective efforts to address climate change are **considered inadequate**.
- This raises expectations for **substantial results at the upcoming COP28 in Dubai**.

Context of the Conference

- Devastating impacts of climate change are evident, with 2023 poised to become the warmest year on record.
- Existing climate action plans project only a 2% reduction in emissions by 2030 from 2019 levels, according to the new synthesis report.
 - This falls short of the essential 43% reduction for the 1.5 degree Celsius goal.

Financial Challenges for Developing Countries

- Despite rising climate risks, funds available for adaptation measures in developing countries are declining.
- The Adaptation Gap report highlights the substantial shortfall, with developing countries requiring \$215 billion annually but receiving only \$21 billion.

COP28 Expectations

- COP28 aims to avoid a worsening climate situation, acknowledging that significant results will take time.
- Anticipated outcomes include a tripled capacity of renewable energy by 2030, with the goal of generating 70% of electricity from renewable sources.
- The International Energy Agency estimates this measure could avoid 7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2030.

Delivery of \$100 Billion

- Rich countries have promised to mobilise \$100 billion in climate finance every year from 2020; a promise they have not met.
- Developed countries are expected to claim they have delivered on the promised \$100 billion in climate finance per year from 2020.
- However, the challenge lies in progressing toward a new amount, surpassing \$100 billion, to be raised annually.

Money for Loss and Damage Fund

- The conference may witness funds flowing into the loss and damage fund, addressing the concerns of countries impacted by climate change.
- This initiative is crucial for small island nations facing significant climate-related damages.

Global Stocktake

- As mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement, COP28 will present findings from the first global stocktake exercise.
- Countries will assess their progress in combating climate change and discuss strategies for the next five-year period.

Phase-Down of Fossil Fuels

- The contentious issue of scheduling a phase-down or phase-out of fossil fuels, especially coal, is likely to be a recurring topic.
- Deep divisions among countries may hinder a resolution on this matter during the Dubai meeting.

Quick Look

1. Coconut Development Board

- It is a statutory body established by the Government of India.
- Established for the integrated development of coconut production and utilisation in the country, with a focus on productivity increases and product diversification.
- Functions
 - Adopting measures for the development of the coconut industry.
 - Imparting technical advice to those engaged in coconut cultivation and industry.
 - Providing financial and other assistance for the expansion of the area under coconut.
 - Encouraging adoption of modern technologies for processing of coconut and its products.
 - Adopting measures to get incentive prices for coconut and its products.
 - Recommending measures for improving the marketing of coconut and its products.
 - Recommending measures for regulating imports and exports of coconut and its products.
 - Fixing grades, specifications and standards for coconut and its products.
- Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2. Exercise Mitra Shakti, 2023

- It is a joint military exercise between India and the Sri Lankan army.
- Objective: To jointly rehearse the conduct of sub-conventional operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- The scope of the exercise includes synergizing joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
- In addition, Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting, and Yoga will also form part of the exercise curriculum.
- It will also involve the employment of Drones and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems besides helicopters.
- Drills to secure helipads and undertake casualty evacuation during counter-terrorist operations will also be rehearsed jointly by both sides.
- Collective efforts will focus on
 - achieving an enhanced level of interoperability amongst the troops
 - reducing the risk of life and property while keeping the interests and agenda of the UN at the forefront during peacekeeping operations.
- The Indian contingent, of 120 personnel, is being represented mainly by troops from the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment.
- Personnel from the Indian Air Force and the Sri Lankan Air Force are also participating in the exercise.
- This makes the ninth 'Mitra Shakti' the first bilateral and bi-service exercise between the two countries.

3. Leonid Meteor Shower

- It is brought about by the dust and debris abandoned by the comet Tempel-Tuttle.
- The shower is called after the Leo constellation, from which the meteors appear to radiate.
- This Tempel-Tuttle comet circles the sun at regular intervals of 33 years.
- When the comet passes near the sun, it warms up and delivers a tonne of material, shaping a dense cloud of dust and gas around it.
- This cloud follows the comet's circle and fans out over the long run.
- As the Earth crosses the comet's orbit in mid-November each year, it may encounter this dust cloud.
- This leads to bright streaks of light in the sky known as the Leonid meteor shower.
- The Leonids are noted for sometimes causing meteor storms, as described by a higher influx of meteors.

4. Wasp-107b

- It is a newly discovered exoplanet situated 200 light-years away in the Virgo constellation.
- The mass of WASP-107b is 30.5 Earths, and it takes only six days to orbit its home star, which is slightly cooler and less massive than our sun.
- It shares Jupiter's size but possesses the mass of Neptune, making it less dense than other gas giants.
- The planet's low density allowed astronomers to look 50 times deeper into the atmosphere of the planet compared to observations achieved for more dense planets, like Jupiter.
- The exoplanet is scorching hot (with an outer atmosphere that's more than 900 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Wasp-107b exhibits a water cycle akin to Earth's, but with one peculiar difference: instead of water droplets, the planet experiences 'sand rain'.
- The falling grains are, in fact, silicate vapours rising from lower atmospheric levels.
- Scientists have also identified water vapour and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere of WASP-107b.

5. The new flare-up in Myanmar - Indian Express

- The Ministry of External Affairs of India has expressed concern over ongoing fighting in the Rikhawdar area in Myanmar's Chin State,
- This dispute is close to the border with India opposite Zowkhathar in Mizoram.
- The dispute has led to Myanmar nationals crossing to the Indian side.
- Myanmar has been in flames ever since the military seized power on February 1, 2021.
- The resistance forces have captured two towns close to the India-Myanmar border after fierce fighting.
- The fall of the latter, Rikhawdar, has resulted in the influx of some 5,000 refugees into Mizoram.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to Miniature Paintings, consider the following statements :

1. These paintings use hand mix colours.
2. The painting should be no more than 25 square inches in size.
3. The painting's subject should be portrayed at a scale of no more than 1/3rd of its actual size.
4. Bulging eyes, a sharp nose, and a thin waist are common features.

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

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

Q2. Which of the following statements is true regarding the right to form associations or unions under Article 19?

1. Article 19 guarantees this right but it is only applicable to citizens and not to non-citizens.
2. This right is subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India.
3. Article 19 does not include the right to form associations or unions as one of the freedoms

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

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

Q3. Consider the following

1. JIMEX
2. Malabar Exercise
3. Veer Guardian
4. SHINYU Maitri
5. Dharma Guardian
6. Mitra Shakti
7. Exercise Cyclone-I

How many of the defence exercises are conducted jointly between India and Japan ?

- A. Only four
- B. Only five
- C. Only six
- D. All seven

Q4. Match the following the pair

Gold field : State

1. Kolar Gold Field : Karnataka
2. Ramgiri Gold Field : Jharkhand
3. Hutti Gold Field : Andhra Pradesh

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

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

Q5. Which of the following statements about the World Bank is correct?

1. The World Bank is a specialized agency of the United Nations focused on promoting international trade.
2. Its focus is on long-term economic development and poverty reduction rather than short-term emergency loans.
3. Its primary purpose is to provide short-term emergency loans to developing countries.

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 with reference to Universal Immunisation Programme

1. It prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
2. Project Health Shield was launched to address the slowdown in immunisation coverage and accelerate it to 90%.

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

Q7. With reference to Global Biofuels Alliance, consider the following statements

1. India, Brazil and the UK are the founding members of the alliance.
2. It was launched during COP 27 of UNFCCC held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.
3. It aims to reduce emissions in transportation and industrial sectors.

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

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

Q8. With reference to Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio, consider the following statements :

1. The ratio is the part of BASEL-III norms.
2. In India, scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9%.
3. It is arrived at by dividing the capital of the bank with aggregated risk-weighted assets for credit risk, market risk, and operational risk.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following countries

1. Jordan
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

How many of the countries mentioned above border Israel?

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

Q10. With reference to Global Stocktake, consider the following statements

1. It is a periodic review mechanism established under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2015.
2. The stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at the end of 2023.
3. It aims to assess individual countries' efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and transition to renewable energy sources.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

Miniature Paintings in India

- Miniatures are painted using hand-mixed colours. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Pure gold, silver, minerals, plants, valuable stones, indigo, and conch shells are the most common sources.
- The painting should be no more than 25 square inches in size. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- The painting's subject should be portrayed at a scale of no more than 1/6th of its actual size. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The human figurine is depicted with a side profile in the majority of Indian miniature paintings.
- Bulging eyes, a sharp nose, and a thin waist are common features. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct**
- The skin colour of the characters in Rajasthani miniatures is dark, but they are often paler in Mughal paintings.
- Furthermore, celestial entities such as Lord Krishna are blue in colour.
- The female figurines have long hair, and their eyes and hair are almost always black.
- Men typically dress in traditional attire and wear a turban on their heads.

Ans. 2 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Article 19 guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression, the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, and the right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- Sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, and friendly relations with foreign states.
- Article 19 guarantees the right to form associations or unions, but this right is subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

Ans. 3 Option B is correct

Explanation

- India and Japan's defence forces also organise a series of bilateral exercises such as:
 - JIMEX (naval). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Malabar exercise (Naval Exercise). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

- 'Veer Guardian'. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force). **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**
- Dharma Guardian (Army). **Hence, Statement 5 is correct.**
- Mitra Shakti is the joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka. **Hence, Statement 6 is incorrect.**
- Exercise Cyclone-I is the joint military exercise between India and Egypt. **Hence, Statement 7 is incorrect.**

Ans. 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Karnataka is the largest producer of gold in India.
- Gold mines are located in Kolar : Kolar Gold Field, Dharwad, Hassan and Raichur Hutti Gold Field districts.
- Andhra Pradesh :
- Second largest producer of gold in India.
- Ramagiri in Anantapur district is the most important gold field in AP. . **Hence option 1 is correct**

Ans. 5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- The President of the World Bank has traditionally been nominated by the United States, which is the largest shareholder in the institution. The World Bank's main focus is on long-term economic development and poverty reduction rather than short-term emergency loans. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

Ans. 6 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In 1985, the Programme was modified as 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)'.
- UIP prevents mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- However, the increase in immunization coverage had slowed down and it increased at the rate of 1% per year between 2009 and 2013.
- To accelerate the coverage, Mission Indradhanush was envisaged and implemented since 2015 to rapidly increase the full immunization coverage to 90%. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans. 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was launched by world leaders to expedite the global uptake of biofuels, under India's G20 presidency. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- A total of 19 countries and 12 international organisations have so far agreed to join the alliance, including both G20 members and non-member countries.
- India, Brazil and the US are the founding members of the alliance. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The GBA aims to strengthen global biofuels trade for a greener sustainable future.
- It aims to reduce emissions in transportation and industrial sectors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It seeks to establish a global market for biofuel trade derived from biomass.

Ans. 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

- CRAR also known as Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk.
- CRAR is decided by central banks and bank regulators to prevent commercial banks from taking excess leverage and becoming insolvent in the process.

- The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk-weighted assets of 8%. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9% while Indian public sector banks are emphasised to maintain a CAR of 12% as per RBI norms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is arrived at by dividing the capital of the bank with aggregated risk-weighted assets for credit risk, market risk, and operational risk. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Israel is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to its west, Egypt to the south, Jordan and Syria to its east and Lebanon to the north. **Hence, option C is correct.**

Ans. 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Global Stocktake is a periodic review mechanism established under the Paris Agreement in 2015. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The stocktake takes place every five years, with the first-ever stocktake scheduled to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) at the end of 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Its primary objectives are to assess individual countries' efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and transition to renewable energy sources. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The stocktake is designed to keep countries accountable and encourage them to increase their climate ambitions over time.

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