

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 19-20 Nov. 2023

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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Kerala to expand farming of GI-tagged Onattukara sesame - The Hindu

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).

News:

- Efforts are being made to **expand the cultivation of geographical indication (GI)-tagged Onattukara sesame**

Prelims Takeaway

- (GI)-tagged

Key Points

- **Authorities have announced an incentive scheme for growing sesame** on fields and homesteads in the Thekkekara Krishi Bhavan limits.
- **Financial assistance of ₹40 for a cent of land** would be given to farmers for cultivating sesame.
- The seeds would be distributed from Thekkekara Krishi Bhavan and **the sesame produced under the scheme** would be procured by the OVA paying the market price.
- It aims to increase the **area under sesame cultivation**.
- Individuals, farming collectives, Kudumbashree groups, self-help groups, and joint liability groups will be given **incentives for conducting sesame cultivation**
- Onattukara sesame is currently grown on around 600 hectares spread across **43 local bodies in three districts of Alappuzha, Kollam and Pathanamthitta**.
- The OVA, the registered owner of the GI-tagged sesame, **plans to increase the area under sesame cultivation in the region to 2,000 hectares**.
- An analysis by Kerala Agricultural University revealed that the **oilseeds have added medicinal value**.
- Compared to other places, sesame grown in the region contains **high levels of Vitamin E and antioxidants**.
- It also contains **oleic acid, linoleic acid, palmitoleic acid** and so on which help maintain good health.
- Besides the traditional Ayali variety, **farmers in the region are cultivating Kayamkulam-1, Thilak, Thilathara and Thilarani varieties** — all developed by the ORARS.

GS II

2. Kerala files affidavit against Governor- The Hindu

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

News:

- The **Kerala government strengthens its case against the Governor** in the Supreme Court.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 200

Constitutional Violation Allegations

- **The Governor was accused of refusing to act in accordance with Article 200**, outlining Governor's duties on passed Bills.

Strategic Timing

- The recent Supreme Court rebuke to the **Punjab Governor for delaying Bills supports Kerala's stance**.

Power Dynamics Reminder

- The Supreme Court **underscores the authority of elected representatives** in a parliamentary democracy, highlighting the Governor's titular role.

Asserting Independence

- Governor emphasizes **he is not a rubber stamp** and demands thoughtful consideration of Bills, alleging unanswered queries by the government.

Government's Response

- Affidavit rebuts Governor's authority to **seek explanations, emphasizes Bills pending clearance**, previously approved as Ordinances.

3. Odisha government launches sports-based youth outreach; aimed at political gain: Oppn. -The Hindu

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

News:

- The Odisha government Launched the **Integrated Youth Development Programme (IYDP)** in Odisha during ongoing Assembly elections.

Prelims Takeaway

- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

Program Objectives

- Fostering youth engagement in sports, culture, and social endeavors.

Participation Details

- Over 12,000 teams in the **13-35 age group registered for tournaments** in six disciplines, including cricket, hockey, football, kabaddi, kho-kho, and volleyball.

Department Involvement

- **Six departments collaborate to ensure inclusivity**, targeting various youth segments, from students to farmers.

Funding Structure

- **Financial support allocated to educational institutes** based on student population, encouraging spending on sports, culture, branding, and social activities.

The Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP)

- It was **launched by the Government of India during 1978** and implemented in 1980 and continued till 1999.
- After that, IRDP, along with 5 other schemes, **was rebranded as the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana**.
- It is aimed at the **self-employment of the rural poor**.

4. IMA, nurses' association honoured with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize-The Hindu

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

News:

Award Presentation

- Former Vice-President presents the **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development to the Indian Medical Association and Trained Nurses Association**.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

Key Points

Representatives Acknowledged:

- Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal (IMA President) and Prof. (Dr.) Roy K. George (TNAI President) **receive the award on behalf of COVID-19 warriors in India**.

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development

- **It was instituted in the memory of the former prime minister** by a trust (Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust) in her name in 1986.
- It consists of a **monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation**.

- The award is given to **individuals or organizations who work towards ensuring** international peace and development
 - Ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to further the scope of freedom and better humanity, and creating a new international **economic order**.

5. Legal experts divided on self-regulation provisions in draft broadcasting Bill-The Hindu

Relevance: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

News:

- The draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, pertaining to self-regulation by broadcasters and broadcasting network operators **have been presented**.
- The bill has elicited **diverse views** from experts.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Impact of the Regulations

- A **self-regulatory mechanism** in the first instance for Broadcasting is a welcome step.
- It is **very similar to the original proposal** under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- This will accord a greater sense of responsibility, accountability for broadcasters and broadcasting networks

Sensitive Issues in the Bill

- The sensitive **issues** in the bill are :
 - **Intimation** to the government
 - Making public the **personal details** of members of an internal certification body,
 - The **Content Evaluation Committee (CEC)**, particularly against the backdrop of the new Digital Personal Data Protection legislation
- Such mandatory disclosures could also potentially put the individuals involved in the CEC at a personal **risk of harm and injury**.
- Particularly considering the sensitivities of a **very diverse audience** and the fact that audiences do tend to react when certain content is sensationalized (be it with or without valid reasons).

Scope of the Self Regulatory Organization

- The self-regulatory organizations (SRO) stepped up to the task of overseeing regulation and compliance of the proposed Bill.
- It was a **welcome step towards** elimination of bias.
- However, a lot would also turn on the **independence** of the Broadcast Advisory Council in exercising its powers under the Act.
- However, there appear to be a **few gray areas** in the draft Bill with respect to the position of OTT (over-the-top) platforms and satellite services.

6. 77 Indian military personnel in Maldives, pacts reviewed-The Hindu

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

News:

- Senior Maldivian official discloses the **presence of 77 Indian military personnel in the Maldives** and reviews over 100 agreements with India.

Prelims Takeaway

- Maldives

Key Points

Details of Military Personnel:

- **Breakdown of the military personnel**, including roles such as managing helicopters and aircraft.

New Administration's Stance

- President initiates efforts to expel all 77 Indian military personnel, raising concerns about the future of bilateral ties.

Bilateral Relations Background:

- Historical context of India-Maldives relations, characterized by defense and security cooperation under Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's government.

Maldives' Key Position:

- Maldives is considered one of India's crucial maritime neighbors, **benefiting significantly from India's Neighbourhood First policy.**

Official Request for Withdrawal

- During a meeting with the Union Minister, President Muizzu officially requests the withdrawal of Indian military personnel.

Review of Agreements:

- New administration **scrutinizing over 100 agreements**, including defense agreements like the Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) agreement.

Security Concerns and Secrecy:

- Previous administration cited national security concerns for not disclosing the exact number of Indian military personnel stationed in the Maldives.

Strategic Importance:

- Maldives occupies a special place in India's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy.'

GS III**7. Social media platforms to be summoned over deepfake issue-The Hindu**

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

News:

- Recently, the Union IT Minister announced a **meeting with social media platforms to address concerns over 'deepfake' videos.**

Impact of Deepfake Videos

- The recent viral 'deepfake' videos targeting actors sparked public outrage, raising **concerns about the misuse of technology.**
- The Prime Minister warned of a **potential crisis and discontent in society** due to deepfakes created by artificial intelligence.

Advisory to Social Media Companies

- Centre issued advisory to major social media companies to **identify and remove misinformation, deepfakes, and rule-violating content within 36 hours of reporting.**
- **Safe harbour immunity clause** will not apply if platforms fail to take adequate steps to remove deepfakes.

Deepfakes

- It refers to **digitally manipulated and altered media created through AI** to convincingly **misrepresent or impersonate someone.**
- They are created using a technique called **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs).**
- It involves two competing neural networks namely **a generator and a discriminator.**
 - The generator tries to create fake images or videos that look realistic
 - The discriminator tries to distinguish between the real and the fake ones.
- The generator learns from the feedback of the discriminator and **improves its output until it can fool the discriminator.**
- Deepfakes **require a large amount of data**, such as photos or videos, of the source and the target person.
 - These are often collected from the internet or social media without their consent or knowledge.
- Deepfakes are a **part of Deep Synthesis**, which uses technologies, including deep learning and augmented reality, to generate text, images, audio and video to create virtual scenes.

Prelims Takeaway

- Deepfakes
- Safe Harbour Immunity Clause
- Bletchley Park Declaration

8. AI-powered chemist makes oxygen from Martian meteorites-The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, researchers from China developed a **robotic AI-chemist** that can **produce oxygen from materials found in meteorites on Mars**.
- The research provides a **proof-of-concept for generating oxygen** and may have implications for **future manned missions to Mars**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Martian Meteorites
- Artificial Intelligence

Key Points

- **Importance of Oxygen:** Oxygen is essential for human activities on Mars, including **rocket propellants and life-support systems** for potential future manned missions.
- **Cost-Effective Approach:** The research seeks a cost-effective and less complex method for future missions by **using resources present on Mars** instead of transporting materials from Earth.
- **AI-Catalyst Creation:** The robotic AI-chemist employs a **machine-learning model** to rapidly identify the **optimal catalyst formula**.
 - It uses both first-principles data and experimental measurements.
 - Five categories of meteorites from or confirmed to exist on Mars were analyzed by the AI-chemist.
 - It converted the meteorites into chemical compounds and created catalysts for oxygen production.
 - It repeated the process until the best catalyst was found.
- **Efficiency and Feasibility**
 - The AI-chemist demonstrated **efficiency**.
 - It operated at a current density of 10 mA cm^{-2} for over 550,000 seconds under simulated Martian conditions.
 - This showcases the **feasibility** of automated synthesis for Mars exploration.
- **Time-Saving Technology**
 - The researchers estimate that the process was accomplished more rapidly through the use of the robotic AI-chemist.
 - The research could have taken 2,000 years of human labor
- **Implications for Mars Exploration:** This technology could pave the way for **humans to produce oxygen on Mars** in the future, potentially contributing to the **sustainability of manned missions**.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Steering road safety in India back onto the right lane

Relevance: Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Context:

- Each year, **3 lakh people are estimated to be killed on the road in India**, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The number of people **suffering life altering injuries in road crashes** is exponentially higher even than that.

World Day of Remembrance

- immediate, coordinated and evidence based interventions is needed to boost road safety and drastically reduce the daily human tragedies behind the alarming statistics.
- This will require strategic investments in road safety measures, concerted political will at the national, State and local levels, and a change of collective mindset — after all, every one of us is a road user in some way — to understand and tackle the scale and importance of the challenge.
- Wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of death among drivers and front seat occupants by upto 50%, and among rear seat occupants by 25%.
- Similarly, helmet use must be enforced among motorcyclists as well as their pillion passengers.
- Speeding must be reduced and there can be no tolerance for drink driving; a recent report by the Government revealed that speeding led to 70% of India's road crash deaths.
- Road infrastructure should be enhanced — too many roads are not in a safe condition, although government programmes in recent years have led to rapid improvements.
- Large scale public awareness campaigns such as the new UN global campaign for road safety #MakeASafetyStatement, involving international celebrities, must be undertaken to secure behavioural changes.
- The Sustainable Development Goals, created in 2015, include a target (SDG 3.6) to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road crashes and a call (SDG 11.2)
 - o to make public transport safer, more affordable and more accessible to all.
 - o The good news is that we are already seeing steps in the right direction in India.
- The national government's implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and enhanced data collection from road crashes, are impactful measures
 - o It will help experts better understand where and why crashes are occurring, and, therefore, how to reduce them.

The UN helmet

- Police in the major cities, such as the capital, New Delhi, are adopting modern technologies such as intelligent traffic management systems
 - o to effectively regulate traffic flows in a much better way and minimise the potential for collision.
- We also need to look increasingly at international best practices and successes and then adapt them to India's specific needs and circumstances.
- Road safety is a complex and multidimensional challenge, but the benefits that come with addressing it can be equally profound.
- What we need is a comprehensive safe system approach as envisaged in the UN's Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030, and full implementation of the MVA (Amendment) Act 2019.

Conclusion:

- Ending the silent pandemic of road injuries will not only save lives but also strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life for everyone.

2. Shining a light- The Hindu

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

Context:

- Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), has **further lifted the veil on the vexed problem of tax havens**.

What is a tax haven?

- A tax haven is a jurisdiction that offers a low or zero tax rate on foreign income and/or financial transactions.
- Tax havens are often characterized by strict bank secrecy laws and a lack of transparency regarding the ownership of corporations and trusts.
- As a result, they can be used to hide assets and income from tax authorities in other countries.

Key characteristics of tax havens

- Tax havens typically have very low or zero tax rates on foreign income, such as interest, dividends, and capital gains.
- Tax havens often have strict bank secrecy laws that make it difficult for tax authorities to obtain information about the financial affairs of individuals and businesses.
- Tax havens often lack transparency regarding the ownership of corporations and trusts.
- The extent of the challenge of tax avoidance and money laundering
- Over the past decade, a series of investigations — from Offshore Leaks in 2013, HSBC Swiss Leaks in 2015, have exposed the complex maze of transactions
- That show how tax havens help the rich across the world to siphon off wealth and avoid paying taxes in their native countries.
 - The use of tax havens to avoid paying the full quota of taxes is an enormous policy challenge that needs sustained attention.

More about Cyprus Confidential

- The investigation has exposed investments made by prominent Indian businessmen, cashing in on a range of benefits provided by Cyprus:
 - From preferential — and loosely controlled — tax rates to tax exemptions on income and gains of offshore trusts; zero estate duty, no trust registration requirements and the promise of beneficial owner secrecy.
- Takeaways from the report
- how Cyprus, despite being a EU member state, became a hospitable financial hub for Russian oligarchs.
- In essence, the investigation has shown how an EU member state has facilitated the Russian President's autocratic regime and other dictators and anti-democratic actors in evading taxes and money laundering.
- Within the country, the findings of the investigation shine the light in dark corners, all the better for government and regulatory agencies to move forward on, more purposefully.

Conclusion

- Cyprus Confidential is a good way of investigative journalism.
- It reveals that despite being an EU member and having EU regulatory standards, Cyprus kept on attracting money launderers.
- This report must alert the tax agencies and governments across the world.

Quick Look

1. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) often find it difficult to avail loans from banks via traditional borrowing channels
- To solve this, the Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) in 2015.
- PMMY provides loans up to Rs 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
- MUDRA, stands for Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd., is the financial institution set up by the Government to provide these loans.
- MUDRA provides funding to the non-corporate small business sector through various last-mile financial institutions like Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
- Eligible people can avail benefits under PMMY by applying for a loan from any of the above-mentioned institutions.

2. C-130J Super Hercules

- It is a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft.
- It is the latest production version of the C-130 Hercules.
- It replaced, in production, the previous C-130H.
- The C-130J Super Hercules made its first flight in 1996.
- It is the US Air Force's principal tactical cargo and personnel transport aircraft.
- It was developed by Lockheed Martin, a US security and aerospace company.
- It primarily performs the tactical portion of the airlift mission, is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips, and is the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas.
- The largest operators are the US Air Force, US Marine Corps, Australia, Canada, India, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

3. Cosmic Vine

- It is a massive "vine-like structure" that encompasses 20 galaxies and stretches for over 13 light years.
- The researchers pegged it at redshift 3.44, meaning it's situated in the early universe.
 - Redshift refers to the way light stretches as it travels longer distances through time, with higher redshifts indicating an object is older
- A redshift of 3.44 would mean light from the Cosmic Vine has been traveling for between 11 and 12 billion years before reaching JWST.
- To provide context, current methods estimate the universe's age at 13.7 billion years.

4. Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)

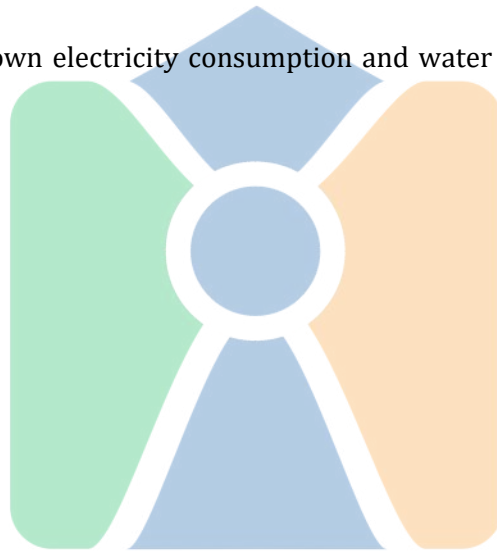
- It is an annual benchmarking report published by the prestigious chain of business schools, INSEAD.
- It measures how countries grow, attract, and retain talent.
- It provides a unique resource for decision-makers to understand the global talent competitiveness picture and develop strategies to boost their economies.
- The index uses two sub-indices namely input and output.
 - The input measures regulatory and business environments, as well as steps being taken to foster talent and retain it.
 - The output side evaluates the quality of talent.

5. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

- It is a developmental initiative aimed at narrowing the infrastructure gap in developing countries as well as helping to accelerate progress on SDGs globally.
- The infrastructure plan was first announced in June 2021 during the G7 Summit in the UK.
- Funding: It aims to build projects through grants and investments.
- Focus areas: Building human infrastructure in the developing world and improving the quality of education and health care facilities.

6. NEST Initiative

- Recently, the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) launched a rating and certification initiative called 'Nest'.
- It is to promote sustainable and eco-friendly construction in the domestic housing sector.
- It would pave the way for individual house owners and the residential sector to adopt green building features.
- This would help bring down electricity consumption and water usage and create a healthy living space.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements on Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

1. It is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
2. It is governed and directed by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
3. It is given to a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) only.

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

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

Q2. Consider the following

1. Appointment of a chief minister when no party has a clear majority in the state legislative assembly
2. No-confidence motions
3. Failure of constitutional machinery in the State (Article 356)

In how many situations mentioned above is the governor able to exercise his discretion?

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

Q3. What is the primary purpose of the Sangathan Se Samridhhi Campaign?

- A. To promote urban development
- B. To promote digital literacy
- C. To mobilize women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- D. To conduct health awareness programs

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

1. It is an award given to individuals or organizations who work towards ensuring international peace and development.
2. It carries only a citation and no monetary reward.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements on Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs)

1. These are non-governmental organisations established by the industries they regulate.
2. They are responsible for setting and enforcing standards of conduct for their members.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q6. With reference to SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), consider the following statements

1. It is a term coined by the World Ocean Council with a focus on the blue economy.
2. It is a maritime initiative which focuses on the oceans of the world for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India.
3. It is in line with the principles of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

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

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

Q7. With reference to Deepfake Technology, consider the following statements

1. It refers to digitally manipulated and altered media created through AI to convincingly misrepresent or impersonate someone.
2. It requires a large database of source images to ensure that the deepfake created is as close to real as possible.

3. India's IT Rules 2021 mandate the removal of reported fake or deepfake content by intermediary platforms within 36 hours.

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

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

Q8. The Bletchley Park Declaration is associated with

- A. Global Cybersecurity
B. Sustainable Development
C. Space Exploration
D. Artificial Intelligence

Q9. With reference to Bharat Stage Emission Standards, consider the following statements

1. These are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.

2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is responsible for deciding the fuel standard in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q10. Which of the following statements best defines a tax haven?

- A. A country that imposes high taxes on its citizens and foreign businesses.
B. A nation that enforces strict tax regulations to prevent tax evasion.
C. A nation that offers favorable tax rates and financial secrecy to attract foreign investors.
D. A country that cooperates fully with international tax authorities to combat tax fraud.

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Geographical Indication (GI) Tag is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods). **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Validity: 10 years following which it can be renewed.

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Article 163 states that there is a council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion.
- Discretionary powers include
 - Appointment of a chief minister when no party has a clear majority in the state legislative assembly
 - In times of no-confidence motions
 - In case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State (Article 356)

Ans. 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Sangathan Se Samridhhi Campaign is a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Samaveshi Vikaas.
- It aims to mobilize 10 crore women from eligible rural households into SHGs. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- It aims to mobilize disadvantaged rural communities who are unaware of the benefits of the DAY-NRLM program.
- The campaign will be organized in all states and form more than 1.1 lakh SHGs through interventions like
 - Organising general Body Meetings of Village Organizations

- Experience sharing by SHG champions to motivate left-out households to join SHGs
- Conducting Community Resource Person drives
- Opening SHG bank accounts, and creation of a common database of SHGs promoted by other stakeholders.

Ans. 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development was instituted in the memory of the former PM by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in 1986.
- It consists of a monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The award is given to individuals or organizations who work towards ensuring international peace and development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Ans. 5 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) are non-governmental organisations that are established by the industries they regulate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are responsible for setting and enforcing standards of conduct for their members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They promote the overall health and stability of the industry.
- The Association of Merchant Bankers of India (AMBI), Registrars Association of India (RAIN) are some SROs recognised by SEBI.

Ans. 6 Option A is correct

Explanation

- SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is a term coined by PM Modi in 2015 during his Mauritius visit with a focus on the blue economy. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is a maritime initiative which gives priority to the Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in the Indian Ocean region. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other's interests; peaceful

resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation.

- It is in line with the principles of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 7 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Deepfakes, present since 2017, refer to manipulated videos, audios or images created using a form of artificial intelligence called deep learning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Initially popularised through a Reddit incident, deepfake technology has evolved, enabling even unskilled individuals to produce fake content.
- The technology involves modifying or creating images and videos using a machine learning technique called generative adversarial network (GAN).
- To ensure that the deepfake created is as close to real as possible, creators use a large database of source images. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's IT Rules 2021 mandate the removal of reported fake or deepfake content by intermediary platforms within 36 hours. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Section 66D of the Information Technology Act of 2000 deems online impersonation illegal.

Ans. 8 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Bletchley Park Declaration is the first global pact on tackling frontier AI risks. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- It reflects a high-level political consensus and commitment among the major AI players in the world.

- It acknowledges the potential of AI to enhance human well-being but also recognizes the risks posed by AI, especially frontier AI.
- It emphasizes the need for international cooperation to address AI-related risks, as they are inherently global, and calls for collaboration among all actors, including companies, civil society, and academia.
- The declaration also announces the establishment of a regular AI Safety Summit, which will provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration on frontier AI safety.

Ans. 9 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Bharat Stage (BS) are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Environment Ministry is responsible for deciding the fuel standard in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Central Pollution Control Board implements these standards.
- These regulations are based on the European emission standards.

Ans. 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- A tax haven is typically a jurisdiction or country that provides favourable tax rates, exemptions, or financial secrecy laws. **Hence, Option C is correct.**
- This is done to attract foreign individuals and businesses seeking to minimize their tax liabilities.

Mentorship India

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