

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. El Nino, other factors to cause warm winter - Indian Express

Relevance: Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone. etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

News:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) **anticipates an unusually warm winter season across the country**, attributing it to global warming trends.
- **November 2023** marked the **third warmest** November in India since 1901, contributing to the possibility of 2023 becoming the warmest year ever recorded globally.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cyclone
Michaung

Factors Influencing Warm Winter

- **El Nino Impact**
- The ongoing El Nino condition, characterised by **warmer-than-usual sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean**, is reaching its peak.
- **The Nino 3.4 region is recorded at 2.4 degrees** Celsius above the threshold, contributing to the warming trend.

Large-Scale Features

- The Director General of IMD attributes the **warm winter to large-scale features** like El Nino, along with regional factors such as western disturbances.

Cloudy Conditions and Western Disturbances:

- Cloudy conditions **caused by western disturbances** are identified as a contributing factor, pushing up minimum temperatures.

Upcoming Cyclone Impact

- The IMD predicts the **development of a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal**, causing cloudiness and maintaining above-normal minimum temperatures in southern and eastern coastal India.

Winter Outlook

- **Fewer and less intense cold waves** are expected during the December to February period, further contributing to the warmth.
- December is likely to **see no significant drop in temperatures**, except in east and northeast India.

Cyclone "Michaung"

- the impending **cyclone "Michaung"** in the southwest Bay of Bengal, moving towards southern coastal Andhra Pradesh and northern Tamil Nadu.
- **A "red" alert has been issued by the IMD**, warning of extremely heavy rainfall (over 200 mm) on December 3 and 4 in coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- **Telangana and southern Odisha** are also expected to be affected by the cyclone.

GS II

2. As US sanctions on Venezuela ease, India set to import oil after 3 years - Indian Express

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

News:

- The United States lifts sanctions on Venezuela, **prompting India to resume crude oil** imports from the Latin American nation.

Prelims Takeaway

- OPEC

Impact of US Sanctions

- **RIL and Nayara Energy (NEL) previously imported Venezuelan crude** until US sanctions in 2019 led to a halt in oil imports from Venezuela.
- **Venezuela was India's fifth-largest oil supplier in 2019**, providing nearly 16 million tonnes of crude.

Easing of US Sanctions

- In October, **the US eases sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector**, allowing oil exports without limitations for six months.
- **Venezuela, an OPEC member** with the world's largest proven oil reserves, offers discounts to Chinese refiners

Global Oil Market Dynamics

- **India, as the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil**, depends on imports for over 85% of its requirements.
- Amid oil market volatility, India diversifies its oil sources, including **increased imports of Russian crude after the Ukraine invasion** in February 2022.

Industry Impact and Projections

- Industry watchers anticipate that **Indian imports from Venezuela may impact Chinese refiners**, as Reliance's entry weakens China's influence over Venezuelan oil flows.

3. Navy Chief: Centre to decide on scaling down military presence in Maldives - Indian Express

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

News:

- Navy Chief Admiral emphasises **India's close cooperation with Maldives** amid discussions on the potential scaling down of Indian military personnel in the key island nation.

Prelims Takeaway

- Atma nirbhar

India-Maldives Relations

- **India has significant assets deployed in Maldives**, providing assistance over the last five years, including medical evacuations and maritime surveillance.
- Any decision to scale down personnel in Maldives is **contingent on instructions from the Central Government**.

Maldives' Request for Withdrawal

- **Maldives formally requested the withdrawal** of Indian military personnel earlier this month.
- Admiral stresses the government's decision-making role, underlining India's close ties with **Maldives in training and participation in naval events**.

Chinese Presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

- **China's presence in the IOR** for economic activities and highlights India's vigilance in monitoring regional activities.
- **The Navy maintains surveillance of extra-regional forces** and their intentions in the Indo-Pacific.

Naval Operations and Challenges

- Indian Navy sustains a high operational tempo with missions **encompassing military, diplomatic, constabulary, and benign roles**.
- **Challenges in the Indo-Pacific region** include disputes with conflict potential and issues like IUU fishing, drug trafficking, piracy, illegal migration, and robbery.

India-US Naval Partnership

- **India and the US have a longstanding naval partnership**, participating in exercises like Malabar and signing defense agreements.
- **High interoperability achieved in joint exercises** involving ships, submarines, aircraft, and aircraft carriers.

Future Navy Plans and Commitments

- **The Navy commits to being fully "atma nirbhar"** (self-reliant) by 2047 in capabilities, capacities, and concepts.

4. T.N. Governor cannot refer re-enacted Bills to President, says SC - The Hindu/ Governor can't send re-adopted Bill to President after withholding assent: SC - Indian Express

Relevance: Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

News:

- The Tamil Nadu government recently **criticised the TN Governor** in the Supreme Court **for referring 10 Bills to the President after initially withholding assent.**
- The Supreme Court had earlier issued notice regarding the **delay in consent to the Bills.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 200
- Governor
- Supreme Court

Governor's Actions and Criticism

- The Governor, having initially withheld assent, **referred re-passed Bills to the President.**
- The Tamil Nadu government accused the Governor of "**constitutional obstinacy**" and **criticised the delay in Bills' approval.**

Legal Arguments

- The Chief Justice of India states that **once the Governor withholds assent, he must send the Bills back** to the Assembly for reconsideration.
- The Chief Justice cited an earlier judgement, emphasising that **the Governor cannot stultify the Bills once re-passed by the Assembly.**

Article 200 of Indian Constitution

- It outlines the **process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent.**
- The Governor may **either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President.**
- He may also **return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration** by the House or Houses.

Governor's Defense

- The Attorney General argues that the Governor had **only withheld assent and had not technically sent the Bills back** for reconsideration.
- Suggests that the Governor exercised the option under **Article 200 to refer to the President.**

5. Guidelines out against 'dark patterns' that mislead buyers - Indian Express

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

News:

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently **issued guidelines to prevent and regulate dark patterns.**
- Dark patterns are **deceptive tactics** used by online platforms **to mislead customers and influence their choices.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Dark Patterns
- Central Consumer Protection Authority

Definition of Dark Patterns

- The guidelines **define dark patterns as**
 - any practices or deceptive design pattern using user interface or user experience interactions on any platform that is designed to mislead or trick users to do something they originally did not intend or want to do
 - Includes subverting or impairing the consumer autonomy, decision making or choice, amounting to misleading advertisement or unfair trade practice or violation of consumer rights.

- List 13 specified dark patterns.

Specified Dark Patterns

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False Urgency: Falsely implying urgency or scarcity to mislead users into immediate actions. • Basket Sneaking: Inclusion of additional items at checkout without user consent, increasing the total payable amount. (Exception: Free samples, complimentary services etc.) • Confirm Shaming: Creating fear, shame, or guilt to nudge users into specific actions, leading to purchases or continued subscriptions for commercial gains. • Forced Action: Compelling users to take actions requiring additional purchases, subscriptions, sign-ups, or sharing personal information beyond their original intent. • Subscription Trap: Making cancellation of paid subscriptions complex or impossible; hiding cancellation options; forcing payment details for free subscriptions; providing ambiguous cancellation instructions. • Interface Interference: Design elements manipulating the user interface to highlight specific information and obscure relevant details, misdirecting user actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bait and Switch: Advertising a particular outcome based on user actions but deceptively serving an alternate outcome. • Drip Pricing: Revealing price elements surreptitiously; charging a higher amount post-confirmation; advertising a free product or service without disclosing in-app purchase requirements. • Disguised Advertisement: Posing advertisements as other content (user-generated, news articles, false ads) to blend with the interface and trick users into clicking. • Nagging: Repeated and persistent interactions disrupting and annoying users to effectuate transactions and make commercial gains, unless explicitly permitted. • Trick Question: Deliberate use of confusing or vague language to misguide users, leading to desired actions or specific responses. • SaaS Billing: Generating and collecting payments from consumers on a recurring basis in a SaaS business model, exploiting positive acquisition loops surreptitiously. • Rogue Malwares: Using ransomware to mislead users into believing a virus exists, convincing them to pay for a fake malware removal tool that installs malware on their computer.
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Applicability and Prohibition

- Guidelines will apply to **all platforms offering goods or services in India, advertisers, and sellers.**
- **Prohibits engaging in dark pattern practices,** as outlined in the guidelines.

Changes in the Final Guidelines

- The final guidelines **expanded the list of specified dark patterns from 10 to 13.**
- Reflects **concerns about practices** such as false urgency, subscription traps, and disguised advertisements.

GS III

6. SC to hear Punjab's plea on extension of BSF jurisdiction - The Hindu/ Extending BSF Jurisdiction doesn't take away powers of Punjab Police, says SC - Indian Express

Relevance: Defence

News:

- The Supreme Court addresses the Punjab government's 2021 lawsuit challenging **the Centre's decision to expand the BSF's jurisdiction** to a 50-km stretch from the International Border

Prelims Takeaway

- Schedule 7

Key Points

BSF Jurisdiction Expansion Details

- The Union home ministry's notification in October 2021 **increased the BSF's jurisdiction in Punjab, West Bengal, and Assam** from 15 km to 50 km
 - In Gujarat, the limit was reduced from 80 km to 50 km, and in Rajasthan, it remained unchanged at 50 km.

Punjab Government's Lawsuit

- Filed in January 2021, Punjab's lawsuit contends that the **BSF's extended jurisdiction encroaches** upon the state's constitutional jurisdiction.
- The suit argues that the **Centre's unilateral decision without consultation** violates the Constitution and infringes on the state's legislative authority.

Concerns Raised by Punjab Government

- Punjab asserts that the October 11, 2021 notification "amounts to encroachment" on the state's powers, **affecting over 80% of the border districts and major towns within a 50-km area from the Indo-Pakistan border.**
- The state argues that the notification is ultra vires the Constitution, **violating List-II of Schedule 7**

7. India offers to host 2028 climate meet - The Hindu/ PM pitches India as host for 2028, calls on countries to rise above self-interest - Indian Express

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

News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi refrains from new climate commitments but offers to **host COP-33 in India in 2028 during his address at COP-28.**
- PM emphasises the need for developed countries to vacate carbon space before 2050 and **invites global cooperation on India's "Green Credit Initiative."**

Prelims Takeaway

- COP-26

Key Points**Green Credit Initiative**

- PM introduces the "**Green Credit Initiative**" as a non-commercial effort to create a carbon sink.
- **The initiative aims to generate credits for plantations** on waste or degraded lands, contributing to the rejuvenation of natural ecosystems.

India's Commitments and COP-28 Developments

- **PM reiterates India's commitments made at COP-26**, including cutting emissions intensity by 45% and increasing non-fossil fuel share to 50% by 2030, aiming for net-zero by 2070.

Financial Targets and Climate Finance

- PM stresses **the importance of new financial targets** without neglecting commitments to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund.
- He **Calls on developed countries to eliminate their carbon footprint** before 2050 and urges Multilateral Development Banks to ensure affordable finance for developing countries.
- COP-33 is proposed to be host in India in 2028 is seen as a diplomatic masterstroke, providing an opportunity to focus on global south issues and climate justice.

8. Manufacturing PMI rebounds in Nov. - The Hindu/ Factory production rises in November as prices ease, demand strengthens: PMI - Indian Express

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

News:

- The **manufacturing sector activity rebounded slightly in November** from October's eight-month low pace, as per the **S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).**

Prelims Takeaway

- Purchasing Managers Index
- Sovereign Credit Ratings
- S & P Global

- However, **positive sentiment** among firms dropped to the **lowest level** in seven months **due to rising inflation expectations**.

Purchasing Managers Index

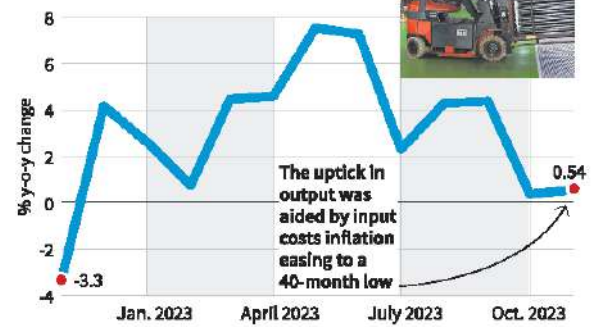
- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about **changes in their perception** about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- **Purpose:** To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is **calculated separately** for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a **composite index** is also constructed.
- It does not capture **informal sector activity**.
- The PMI is a number from **0 to 100**.
 - A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
 - A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Significance of PMI

- It is considered a **good leading indicator** of economic activity.
 - It is usually released at the start of every month.
- Central banks of many countries also use the index to **help make decisions on interest rates**.
- It also gives an **indication of corporate earnings** and is closely watched by investors as well as the bond markets.
- A good reading of index **enhances the attractiveness of an economy** vis-a-vis another competing economy.

Above the fold

The manufacturing PMI has remained above 50 for the 29th consecutive month



Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. STANDING FIRM - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- In the initial days of COP28 in Dubai, India **reaffirmed its commitment to mitigate global warming.**
- It emphasised the **principles of equity and justice in its climate diplomacy.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Prime Minister’s Speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Prime Minister articulated India’s stance at the UNFCCC meet. • He highlighted the importance of protecting everyone’s rights and ensuring equal participation for the global good. • India claims to have achieved its emission intensity-related target 11 years ago. • And it is on track to fulfill its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. • The Prime Minister also reiterated India’s commitment to renewable energy. <p style="text-align: center;">Coal’s Role in India’s Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India acknowledges coal’s significant role in its energy mix and emphasises its importance to India’s economy. • The Foreign Secretary also stated that coal is and will remain an essential part of India’s energy portfolio. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Controversial Issue of Coal Elimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of coal is expected to be a contentious issue at COP28 in Dubai. • Two years ago at COP26 in Glasgow, India, China, and other emerging economies influenced the change from “phase out” to “phase down” of coal in the final declaration. • Developing countries like India, China, Indonesia, and South Africa face challenges in reducing emissions while meeting the energy needs of growing populations. • The reliance on coal is high, and alternatives like natural gas may not be readily available. <p style="text-align: center;">Thaw in Climate Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India’s diplomats must consider the recent cooperation between the US and China in accelerating the substitution for coal, oil, and gas generation. • The thaw in relations may exert more pressure on India and similar countries, necessitating a principled stand in climate negotiations.
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2. Loss and damage fund approved at COP28: why this is a major step forward - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- The **COP28** climate conference in Dubai inaugurated the **loss and damage fund.**
- The **initial funding is estimated to be \$475 million**, with contributions from the UAE, EU, US, and Japan.

Background

- The loss and damage fund was **first announced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.**
- **Objective:** To aid vulnerable nations facing climate change impacts, addressing differences between rich and poor countries.

<p style="text-align: center;">The Loss and Damage Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a global financial package to ensure the rescue and rehabilitation of countries facing the cascading effects of climate change. • The term refers to the Compensation from industrialized nations for the consequences of global warming on low-carbon footprint countries. • There is no agreed upon definition within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). • Loss and damage is often categorised as either economic or non-economic. • Economic loss and damage are negative impacts that we can assign a monetary value to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For e.g. costs of rebuilding infrastructure damaged due to a flood, loss of revenue from agricultural crops destroyed due to drought etc. • Non-economic loss and damage are negative impacts where it is difficult or infeasible to assign a monetary value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For e.g. trauma from a tropical cyclone, loss of community due to displacement of people etc. <p style="text-align: center;">Industrialization and Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Industrial Era started in 1850 has disrupted Earth’s natural mechanism for the production and absorption of greenhouse gases. • The US, the UK and the EU are considered to be responsible for 50% of all emissions; with Russia, Canada, Japan, and Australia, it’s 65%. • India is responsible for only 4% of historical emissions. • China, is the world’s biggest emitter in the last 15 years, responsible for 30% of global emissions every year. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Loss and Damage Scenario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research indicates 55 vulnerable countries faced \$525 billion in climate crisis losses in the last 20 years. • The number is estimated to reach \$ 580 billion per year by 2030. • According to the IPCC, losses and damages will increase in future as global warming continues to rise. • It will be unequally distributed and impact developing nations the most and, in them, the socially and financially weaker sections. <p style="text-align: center;">Fund Administration and Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Bank will oversee the loss and damage fund initially, sourced from rich and some developing nations. • The scale or the replenishment cycle of the fund remains unclear, with the urgent need for trillions of dollars.
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Quick Look

1. Cyclone Michaung

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a cyclonic storm, Cyclone Michaung, over the southwest Bay of Bengal.
- It is likely to make landfall in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- The government agency has issued an 'orange' alert over Tamil Nadu, as well as coastal and interior Andhra Pradesh.
- Cyclone Michaung is the fourth tropical cyclone of the year over the Bay of Bengal.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) classifies cyclones broadly into two categories viz. extratropical cyclones and tropical cyclones.

2. Green Credits Initiative

- At the COP28, the Indian PM launched the 'Green Credit Initiative,' a program aimed at reshaping global environmental policies.
- He also launched the official portal of the Green Credit Initiative at COP28.
- This initiative involves creating an inventory of degraded wastelands, which can be utilised for planting by individuals and organisations.
- The entire process, from registration to plantation, verification, and issuance of green credits, will be digitised.
- Participants undertaking environmentally positive actions will receive tradable green credits.
- The portal will collect ideas, knowledge, and experiences related to tree planting and environmental conservation.
- This platform aims to influence global policies, practices, and the demand for green credits.
- The Green Credits Initiative mirrors the Green Credit Programme launched by the Union government in October, 2023.

3. World AIDS Day

- It is observed every year on December 1 to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- The day is an opportunity to end stigmas associated with this disease.
- This day also honours people who lost their precious lives and engage in lives that support HIV/AIDS research and advanced treatment.
- It was first observed in 1988, when the World Health Organisation (WHO) recognised the day.
- The theme of World AIDS Day 2023 is "Let Communities Lead".

4. Santjordia PAGESI

- Santjordia pagesi, also called St. George's Cross medusa jellyfish, is a newly discovered species of jellyfish.
- It is considered "rare" and has been found only in the Sumisu Caldera near the Ogasawara Islands, southeast of Tokyo, Japan.
- Its body looks almost like a see-through cushion.
- It has a thick white ring running along its lower edge.
- Smaller vein-like structures stretch from its prominent central stomach to the outer ring.
- Its most distinctive feature is a bright red, cross-shaped stomach.
 - "Santjordia" refers to Saint George in Catalan, representing its cross-shaped stomach.
- The jellyfish's distinct features suggest it may possess a novel cnidarian venom.

5. Press Mud

- It is the agricultural waste obtained when cane juice is repeatedly filtered before being sent for sugar extraction.
- The filters are cleaned periodically, and the waste is deposited in the yard of the mill.
- Nearly 3 to 4 percent of press mud is obtained when one tonne of cane is crushed.
- At present, mills recycle this agricultural waste as manure by composting it and supplying it to the farmers in the area.
- It can be utilised as a feedstock for biogas production through anaerobic digestion and subsequent purification to create compressed biogas (CBG).
- It is very useful for crops and horticulture because of its richness in various micronutrients.
- It has been acknowledged as a valuable resource for green energy production.
- Sugarcane byproduct press mud can help generate 460,000 tonnes of compressed biogas (CBG) valued at Rs 2,484 crore.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Which of the following statements regarding El Niño

1. It is a climatic phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. During El Niño, there is a weakening of the trade winds, leading to a decrease in upwelling of cold nutrient-rich water along the western coast of South America.
3. Its events typically occur at irregular intervals of 5 to 7 years.

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

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

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

1. It is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries.
2. Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.
3. Its primary goal is to regulate oil production to stabilize oil markets and ensure a steady income for its member countries.

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

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

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

1. It is a regional forum comprising coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean
2. The Malacca Strait is a critical chokepoint for maritime trade, connecting the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Governor

1. He is appointed by the President of India and holds office at the pleasure of the Prime Minister.
2. He has the authority to dissolve the state legislative assembly in exceptional circumstances.
3. When a Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to the Governor for assent, the Governor can't send the Bill for reconsideration.

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

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

Q5. Consider the following terms

1. False Urgency
2. Bait and Switch
3. Nagging
4. Trick Question

How many of the terms mentioned above are specified as "Dark Patterns"?

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

Q6. Which of the following statements regarding the Border Security Force (BSF) jurisdiction

1. The BSF's jurisdiction was expanded to undertake search, seizure, and arrest within a 50-km stretch from the International Border in Punjab, West Bengal, and Assam,
2. The BSF has the authority to operate uniformly across all border states, and its jurisdiction remains the same in terms of distance limits.

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. Which of the following statements regarding the Green Credit Initiative

1. The Initiative is a commercial mechanism designed to incentivize environmental actions across various sectors.
2. It aims to generate credits by promoting industrial activities that contribute to carbon emissions reduction.
3. The Initiative is a non-commercial effort focusing on creating a carbon sink through actions like plantations on waste or degraded lands.

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

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

Q8. With reference to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements

1. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors.
2. It also captures the informal sector activity.

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the Paris Agreement

1. It aims to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
2. Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to submit and update their NDCs every 5 years.

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

Q10. With reference to the 'Loss and Damage Fund', consider the following statements

1. It aims to compensate countries already experiencing the impacts of climate change.
2. It includes only the economic loss of property.
3. It will receive funding from the developed countries only.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- El Niño is indeed a climatic phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. This warming of the Pacific Ocean affects weather patterns globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- During El Niño, there is a weakening of the trade winds. The trade winds normally blow from east to west along the equator, but during El Niño, this wind pattern weakens, affecting the ocean currents and leading to a decrease in upwelling of cold nutrient-rich water along the western coast of South America. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- El Niño events do not occur at fixed intervals. They are irregular and can happen every 2 to 7 years. The time gap between two El Niño events is variable. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its member countries. It was established in 1960 and currently consists of 13 member countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The headquarters of OPEC is indeed located in Vienna, Austria. This is where the organization conducts its regular meetings and discussions on oil-related policies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The primary goal of OPEC is to regulate oil production to stabilize oil markets and ensure a steady income for its member countries. OPEC aims to maintain a balance between the supply and demand for oil to

avoid extreme price fluctuations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Ans. 3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is a regional forum comprising coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean. Its aim is to promote economic cooperation and regional security among its member states. IORA plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration in various areas, including trade, investment, and maritime safety. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Malacca Strait, located in the Indian Ocean Region, is a critical chokepoint for maritime trade. It connects the Pacific and Indian Oceans, serving as a major shipping route. The strategic importance of the Malacca Strait lies in its role as one of the busiest and most vital sea lanes in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

Ans. 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Article 153 says that there shall be a Governor for each State.
- The governor acts in 'Dual Capacity' as the Constitutional head of the state and as the representative.
- He is part of the federal system of Indian polity and acts as a bridge between union and state governments.
- He is appointed by the President of India and holds office at the pleasure of the President. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Article 200 of Indian Constitution outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent.

- The Governor may either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President.
- He may also return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration by the House or Houses. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Governor has the authority to dissolve the state legislative assembly, but it is generally exercised in exceptional circumstances, such as when no party can form a government or when the existing government has lost a vote of confidence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 5 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently issued guidelines to prevent and regulate dark patterns.
- Dark patterns are deceptive tactics used by online platforms to mislead customers and influence their choices.
- The guidelines list 13 specified dark patterns, including False Urgency, Basket Sneaking, Confirm Shaming, Forced Action, Subscription Trap, Interface Interference, Bait and Switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisement, Nagging, Trick Question, Saas Billing, and Rogue Malwares. **Hence, option D is correct.**

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The BSF's jurisdiction was indeed expanded to undertake search, seizure, and arrest within a 50-km stretch from the International Border in Punjab, West Bengal, and Assam. This change replaced the earlier 15-km limit, as outlined in the Union home ministry's notification in October 2021. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The BSF's jurisdiction is not uniform across all border states. The distance limits can

vary based on the specific circumstances and requirements. The expansion in Punjab, West Bengal, and Assam does not apply uniformly to all border states. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans. 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Green Credit Initiative is not a commercial mechanism but rather a non-commercial effort. It is designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, including individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Green Credit Initiative does not promote industrial activities contributing to carbon emissions reduction. Instead, it focuses on generating credits through actions that enhance environmental sustainability, such as plantations on waste or degraded lands. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The Green Credit Initiative is indeed a non-commercial effort. It aims to generate credits by promoting environmentally friendly actions, particularly activities that create a carbon sink. This includes initiatives like plantations on waste or degraded lands and river-catchment areas to rejuvenate and revive natural ecosystems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Purchasing Managers Index is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- Purpose: To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It does not capture informal sector activity. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
- A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Ans. 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Paris Agreement is a legally binding global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was adopted in 2015.
- It aims to combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It replaced the Kyoto Protocol which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change.
- It sets out a framework for countries to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and provide support to developing countries in their efforts to address climate change.
- Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to submit and update their NDCs every 5 years, outlining their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- On the first day of COP-28, member countries unanimously agreed to operationalize a Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund.
- Objective: To compensate countries already experiencing the impacts of climate change. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The World Bank will be the interim host of the Fund for four years.
- All developing countries are eligible to apply, and every country is invited to contribute voluntarily. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- A percentage is set aside for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- The Fund was announced at COP-27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, last year.
- There is no agreed upon definition within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Loss and damage is often categorised as either economic or non-economic. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

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