

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. SC asks States to appoint officers under POSH Act-The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the Supreme Court realised that **women found protection under a law against sexual harassment** at the workplace beyond their reach
- The simple reason that **there was no one to go to with their complaints.**

Prelims Takeaway

- The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act
- Civil courts

Key Points

- The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, or POSH Act, of 2013 mandates the **States to appoint an officer in every district.**
- The court ordered the Principal Secretaries of the Women and Child Ministries in the States **to ensure appointment of a district officer in each district**

The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act

- The act **defines sexual harassment** at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
- It also provides **safeguards against false or malicious charges.**
- Every employer is required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee** at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- The **District Officer** is required to constitute a **Local Complaints Committee** at each district, and if required at the block level.
- The **Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts** for gathering evidence.
- Penalties **have been prescribed for employers.**
- Non-compliance with the provisions of the **Act shall be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 50,000.**

Key Issues and Analysis

- The Internal Complaints Committee has been given **the powers of a civil court.**
 - However, it does not require members with a legal background nor are there any provisions for legal training.
- The Act provides for **action against** the complainant in case of a **false or malicious complaint.**
 - This could deter victims from filing complaints.
- Two **different bodies are called 'Local Complaints Committee'.**
 - The **act does not clearly demarcate the jurisdiction,** composition and functions of Committees.
- Cases of sexual harassment of **domestic workers have been specifically excluded** from the purview of the act.
- Unlike sexual harassment legislation in many other countries, this **act does not provide protection to men.**

2. Modi reiterates support for Palestinian statehood- The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the Prime Minister **expressed his condolences to the President of the Palestinian Authority,** for the loss of Palestinian lives in the ongoing conflict with Israel.
- The Prime Minister had earlier spoken with the Israeli **Prime Minister** and expressed **India's support to efforts to defeat terrorism.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question

Evolving relationship between India and Palestine

- India's support for the Palestinian cause is an integral **part of the nation's foreign policy**.
- In 1974, **India became the first Non-Arab State** to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- **India became the first non-Arab state to recognize** Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974
- India is one of the **first countries to recognize the State of Palestine**.
- Unlike in Israel, **India does not have an embassy in Palestine**.
- India voted in favour of Palestine for its **acceptance as a full member of UNESCO**.
- India co-sponsored the resolution that made **Palestine a 'non-member state' of United Nations General Assembly**.
- India supported **the installation of the Palestine flag at UN premises**.

3. Major regional disparity in overcoming cancer though survival rates are up: study-The Hindu

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

News

- A **recent study** published in **The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia** assessed **cervical cancer survival rates** in various regions of India, **highlighting significant disparities**.
- The **study provides insights** into **factors affecting survival rates** for cervical cancer patients in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cervical Cancer

Study Findings

- The study **examined cervical cancer survival rates** in India **based** on data from **Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs)**.
- Roughly **52%** of **cervical cancer cases** diagnosed **between 2012 and 2015** in these **PBCRs survived**, indicating an **improvement** compared to previous data.
- The **survival rates varied significantly** across different urban PBCRs in India.

Regional Variations

- **Ahmedabad's** urban PBCR demonstrated the **highest survival rate** at 61.5%, followed by **Thiruvananthapuram** (58.8%) and **Kollam** (56.1%).
- In contrast, **Tripura reported the lowest survival rate** at 1.6%.
- Survival rates were **notably lower** in India's **northeastern region**, particularly in PBCRs in Tripura, Pasighat, and Kamrup urban.
- **Factors contributing** to these disparities **included**
 - Access to diagnostic services
 - Effective treatment
 - Distance from clinical care facilities
 - Travel costs, co-morbidities, and poverty.

Conclusion:

- The study on cervical cancer survival rates in India **reveals significant regional disparities**, emphasizing the **impact of various factors** on survival rates.
- **Understanding these disparities is essential** for **improving healthcare** access and outcomes for cervical cancer patients in **different regions** of the country.

GS III

4. Why reforms have been proposed for World Bank, other Multilateral Development Banks; what they say-Indian Express

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

News:

- A **G20 expert panel on strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)**, wants the institutions to shift from financing individual projects to prioritising programmes

Prelims Takeaway

- World Bank

- **Reforms focus on long-term transformation plans**, as identified by national governments.

What are Multilateral Development Banks?

- Multilateral Development Banks are institutions whose **members include multiple developed and developing countries**
 - It have to fulfil certain lending obligations to facilitate developmental objectives.
- They provide **financing and technical assistance to countries** and organisations undertaking projects
 - across sectors including transport, energy, urban infrastructure, and waste management.

Why are experts advocating for reforms within MDBs?

- A reformed **MDB ecosystem can equip stakeholders to better deal** with global challenges in effective ways.
- These recommended reforms are to **“help address multiple coordination failures** among domestic and international stakeholders, public and private.
- Given that **MDBs need to ramp up financing to \$390 billion by 2030**
- The private sector can play a pivotal role in making that happen by **reversing the current trend of “disappointingly low” private financial flows to EMDEs.**

How have Multilateral Development Banks traditionally lent in countries such as India?

- MDBs have played a crucial role in India’s development journey by **financing key infrastructure projects with longer gestation periods.**
- **The World Bank, established in 1944**, has committed to **lending worth \$97.6 billion in India**, including all active and closed projects.
- Of the total **commitments, \$18.7 billion** (19 per cent) have been committed
 - to **projects in the public administration sector**
 - \$14.8 billion (15 per cent) to the agriculture, fishing and forestry sector
 - \$10.6 billion (11 per cent) to the transport sector.
- The **Manila-based Asian Development Bank**, formed in 1969, has cumulatively committed to **assistance worth \$59.7 billion in India** for project and technical assistance.
- The Beijing-headquartered Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (**AIIB**), which was formed in 2016, **has approved financing worth \$9.9 billion in India.**
- Of the total 42 projects for which AIIB has approved financing, **29 are sovereign projects and 13 are non-sovereign projects.**

5. Centre says measures in place to check price rise-The Hindu

Relevance: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

News:

- **The Centre decided to additionally sell 50 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat and 25 LMT of rice through the Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) from the Food Corporation of India stocks.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Open Market Sale Scheme
- Food Corporation of India

- The Centre hopes that the **measure will ensure adequate domestic availability** and check the prices of rice, wheat and atta.

Food Corporation of India

- The Food Corporation of India was **set up under the Food Corporations Act 1964**, in order to fulfil following objectives of the Food Policy.

Objective:

- Effective price support operations for **safeguarding the interests of the farmers**.
- Distribution of foodgrains throughout the country for a **public distribution system**.
- Maintaining satisfactory level of **operational and buffer stocks of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security**
- FCI also **conducts e-auction** as one of the methods to dispose of its surplus food grains.

Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)

- **FCI sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice at predetermined prices** through e-auction in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of food grains.
- The purpose of **OMSS is to dispose of surplus stocks of wheat and rice held by FCI**, and to regulate the prices of wheat in the open market.
- FCI conducts **weekly auctions for the OMSS** for wheat on the platform of the **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX)**.
- NCDEX is a commodity exchange platform in India that provides a platform for trading in various agricultural and other commodities.

6. India's first regional rapid train to be named 'Namo Bharat', to be inaugurated by PM Modi - Indian Express / Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor: PM Modi inaugurates India's first Regional Rapid Transit System - The Mint

Relevance: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

News

- **India** is set to **inaugurate** its **first regional rapid train** connecting Delhi and Meerut, named "Namo Bharat." The train service, **part of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor**, marks a significant development in urban transportation.

Prelims Takeaway

- RRTS
- RapidX
- NamoBharat

Inauguration and Launch

- **Prime Minister** Narendra Modi is scheduled to **inaugurate** the priority section of the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor**.
- The inauguration will also **include** the flagging off of the "**RapidX train**" connecting Sahibabad and Duhai Depot.

"Namo Bharat" Train

- Originally announced as "**RapidX**," the train is set to be **renamed "Namo Bharat"** on the eve of its inauguration.
- The **train** is a **part of the country's first Regional Rapid Train network**.

Key Features of "Namo Bharat"

- The "Namo Bharat" train is **manufactured indigenously and designed** for a speed **potential of 180 kmph**, with an **operational speed potential of 160 kmph**.

Commencement of Operations

- The **17-km priority section** of the 82-km-long first RRTS corridor will **begin passenger operations from 21 Oct**.
- The corridor will have **five stations**: Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, and Duhai Depot.
- The **train service will operate from 6 am to 11 pm**, with a starting frequency of 15 minutes, which can be increased to every 5 minutes.

Delhi-Meerut Connectivity

- The **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor**, developed at a cost of over Rs 30,000 crore, will connect Delhi to Meerut in **less than an hour of travel time**.
- The corridor will **pass through urban centers** like Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, and Modinagar.

Conclusion:

- The **inauguration** of "Namo Bharat" and the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor represents a **significant step** in enhancing **urban transportation infrastructure** and **connectivity in India**.
- This **development** is expected to **provide state-of-the-art, rapid transportation** for commuters in the region.

7. Microalgae are adapting to warming climate, declining nutrient levels in seas with novel strategy- Down to earth

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

News:

- **Microalgae** appear to rely on a unique strategy **to cope with global warming**, according to a new study.

Prelims Takeaway

- Microalgae

Key Points

- Microalgae, which form the **base of the food chain** in the ocean and capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
- As climate change reduces the availability of **nutrients in the sea**, **marine microalgae or eukaryotic phytoplankton fire up a protein called rhodopsin**.
- It is related to the **protein in the human eye** responsible for vision in dim light.
- This **light-responsive protein** is helping the microalgae flourish with the help of sunlight in place of traditional chlorophyll.
- **Microbial rhodopsins**, per the study, are proposed to be major light capturers in the ocean.
- Estimates suggested they **may absorb as much light as chlorophyll-based photosynthesis in the sea**, which also captures light to generate energy and food.
- However, their biological role in these organisms was unclear before the study.
- The **warmer the surface water gets**, the **lower are the nutrients** in these surface water layers
- There is **less mixing between the surface waters and nutrient-rich deeper** waters as the oceans warm.
- So **nutrients become scarce at the surface**, impacting the primary producers such as microalgae that are present in the top layer.
- **Algae starve and, therefore, produce less food** and capture less carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- In these areas, **the capacity of algae to make food and take up carbon dioxide** should be much more reduced, the researchers said.
- This is akin to **reduced crop yield** on land if iron- and nitrogen-rich fertilisers are scarce.

8. Conduct digital crop survey from July 2024: Centre to states- Indian Express

Relevance: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

News

- The **Indian government** plans to **digitize the crop survey** process to **enhance the accuracy and timeliness** of **agricultural production** estimates.
- The move **addresses the current manual system**, which often **results in delays and errors**.

Introduction of the Digital Crop Survey System

- The **Centre** is urging states and Union Territories to **adopt the Digital Crop Survey system**, commencing in **July** of the **next year**.
- The Economics, Statistics and Evaluation Division (**ESED**) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has **formulated guidelines** for agricultural production estimates and **shared** them with states and UTs.

Guidelines for States and UTs

- The guidelines **require states and UTs** to **automate and digitize** the process of **crop area enumeration** at the **field level** using a **GPS-enabled mobile application**.
- **Data collected** on crop sown will be **aggregated** at the **village level** and **shared** with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (**DA&FW**) **through APIs**.

Transition from Manual System

- The **current collection and compilation of crop statistics** in most states is **entirely manual**, resulting in **delays and manual errors**.
- A **few states**, such as Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, have **adopted digital data collection systems** for crop area and data collection directly from the field.

Need for Technological Intervention

- The move to **digitize the system** was **prompted** by the need to **reform the existing production estimation system** through technological intervention.
- **Concerns** have been raised about the **reliability of agricultural production data** under the current manual system.

Timeline Changes for Estimate Releases

- The **Ministry** has **revised the timeline** for estimate **releases**, eliminating the fourth phase that used to be released in August.
- **Final estimates** covering all states and seasons (kharif, rabi, summer) will **now be released in September-October**, a **shift** from the **previous release in February** of the following year.

Conclusion

- India's move to **digitize** the crop **survey process** aims to **improve the accuracy, efficiency, and timeliness** of agricultural **production estimates**, **addressing** the existing **challenges** in the manual system.

**Mentorship**
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. The Shape of climate justice in a warming India - The Hindu

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

Context

- The G20 summit in Delhi for 2023 outlined ambitious targets, including tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.

Fossil Fuel Debate

- However, the summit did not reach a consensus on the divisive issue of phasing out fossil fuels.
- Climate change contributors differ from those who bear the impacts. It raises the need to address carbon injustice, making wealthier countries pay for the energy transition.

India's Perspective

- India's foreign policy approach to climate action prioritizes economic growth due to historically lower emissions, raising concerns about climate justice and inequality within the country.

Inequality and Climate Change

- **Impact on the Poor:** Climate change and energy transition disproportionately affect the poor, impacting agricultural productivity, farmers' income, and fishing communities.
- **Addressing Environmental and Socioeconomic Inequalities:** Societal responses to climate change are hindered in more unequal settings. Addressing both environmental and socioeconomic inequalities is essential for sustainable development.

India's Energy Transition

- **Ambitious Goals:** India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) aim for 40% clean energy and net-zero emissions by 2070, necessitating a detailed examination.
- **Just Transition:** Transitioning to renewables should not exacerbate disparities; strategies must focus on protecting livelihoods, offering alternative job opportunities, and reducing inequality.

Regional Inequalities

- **Coal vs. Renewable Energy Regions:** India's economic inequality correlates with its energy source distribution. Coal-reliant regions face potential loss of revenue and livelihoods.
- **Need for State-Specific Programs:** India's energy transition strategy should address regional inequalities, allocate funds to coal-dependent states, and support reskilling and rehabilitation.

Governance and Climate

- **Role of Subnational Governments:** India's federal governance structure highlights the significance of subnational governments in addressing climate inequality mitigation.
- **Policy Alignment and Cooperation:** Aligning policies and cooperation across government levels is crucial to addressing climate change and inequality.

Conclusion: Fiscal Federalism and Climate Mitigation

- The intricate interplay between fiscal federalism and climate mitigation must be explored to achieve effective policy alignment and cooperation across all levels of government.

2. An opportunity to recast India's food system - The Hindu

Relevance: Food processing and related industries in India- scope' and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

Context

- **World Food Day** was recently **celebrated on October 16** but **food as a system** was **not looked upon**.
- **No country can better understand the challenges** of a food system **than India**, which feeds the largest population in the world.

The Interconnectedness of Nutrition Security:

- Primary goal of a food system: Ensure nutrition security
- Sustainability linked to reasonable economic returns for food producers
- Connection between resilience of natural ecosystem and food system

Nutrition, Livelihoods, Environment Security:

- India's double burden of malnutrition
- Nutrient deficiencies, stunting, anaemia, and obesity
- Efforts to reduce malnutrition
- Farm incomes insufficient for marginal and small farmers
- Depleting natural resources and changing climate's impact on food production

Way Forward: Adopt a Three-Sided Approach**1. Shifting Consumer Demand:**

- Promoting healthy and sustainable diets
- Role of the private sector and social media influencers
- Public sector's involvement through touch points

2. Supporting Farmers' Transition:

- Promoting remunerative and regenerative agricultural practices
- National Mission on Natural Farming
- Broadening and scaling up sustainable agriculture initiatives
- Transition from input subsidies to direct cash support
- Emphasizing sustainable agricultural practices in research and extension services

3. Shifting Farm-to-Fork Value Chains:

- Enhancing rural incomes through value addition in rural areas
- Encouraging direct procurement from farmers
- Middlemen's role in incentivizing procurement of sustainably harvested produce
- Examples of agritech enterprises and farmer producer organizations (FPOs)

Conclusion:

- The challenge of shifting the entire food system
- India's unique opportunity to lead by example in achieving a sustainable food system

**Mentorship**
India

Quick Look

1. Orionid meteor shower

- It is an annual phenomenon that lights up the night sky every October.
- It is produced when Earth passes through the debris left behind by Halley's Comet, officially known as 1P/Halley.
- This comet, which orbits the sun approximately every 76 years, expels dust particles from its nucleus, creating a trail of debris in its path.
- Each year, our planet intercepts this path in late October, resulting in the Orionid meteor shower.
- Halley's Comet, measuring about five by nine miles in size, loses between three to ten feet of material on each passage through the inner solar system.
- The Orionids are viewable in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres during the hours after midnight.

2. Ethics Committee in Parliament

- The genesis of formation of the Ethics Committee in Parliament can be traced to a resolution adopted at the Presiding Officers Conference held in New Delhi in October, 1996.
- Each house of the parliament has its own ethics committee.

Ethics committee in Lok Sabha

- It was first constituted in 2000.
- Composition: It consists of not more than fifteen members and nominated by the Speaker.
- Term: They shall hold office for a term not exceeding one year.

Ethics committee in Rajya Sabha

- It was constituted in 1997.
- Composition: It consists of 10 members nominated by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- Term: They shall hold office for a term not exceeding one year.
- Functions
 - To oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the Members;
 - To examine the cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of the Members.
 - Any person or member may make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member to the committee.
 - In the case of the Ethics Committee only an MP can be examined for misconduct.

3. Kati Bihu

- It is celebrated in the state of Assam.
- Kati means to cut and this day marks the time of relocation of rice saplings.
- It is also known as Kongali Bihu. (Kongali means poor)
- There are another two Bihu festivals celebrated in Assam - Bhogali or Magh Bihu is observed in January and Rongali or Bohag Bihu is observed in the month of April.

Significance

- During this month, there are not so many things to eat.
- They celebrate this festival by lighting the earthen lamps or candles and lit their house with lighting.
- Lighting diya near Tulsi plant is one of the main part of the festival. They worship Tulsi plant on this auspicious day.
- People also light a special lamp called "Akash Banti" (Sky candle) in their paddy fields.
- These lamps are fueled by mustard oil and are kept high on the tip of bamboo poles.
- People believe that these lighted lamps will guide their ancestors towards heaven.

4. TV-D1 Mission

- Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will evaluate the crew module's readiness for the Gaganyaan mission.

- It is a single-stage liquid rocket developed specifically for this abort mission.
- The payloads consist of the Crew Module (CM) and Crew Escape Systems (CES) with their fast-acting solid motors, along with CM fairing (CMF) and Interface Adapters.
- This flight will simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory corresponding to a Mach number of 1.2 encountered in the Gaganyaan mission.

5. Niemann-Pick Disease

- It is a rare genetic disorder in which sphingomyelin accumulate in lysosomes inside cells.
- This disease involves dysfunctional metabolism of sphingolipids.
- The three most commonly recognized forms are Niemann-Pick Types A and B and Type C.
- This disease can affect the brain, nerves, liver, spleen, bone marrow and, in severe cases, lungs.
- People with this condition experience symptoms related to progressive loss of function of nerves, the brain and other organs.
- It can occur at any age but mainly affects children.

Causes:

- It is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene, must be defective to cause the disease.
- Most often, the parents of a child with an autosomal recessive disorder are carriers: they have one copy of the altered gene, but are not affected because the other copy produces the enzyme.
- If both parents are carriers, each pregnancy has a 25% chance of producing an affected child.

6. Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)

- APAAR, dubbed 'One Nation, One Student ID', is an Education Ecosystem Registry, or an 'EduLocker'.
- The APAAR will give each student enrolled from pre-primary to higher education, a unique identification number.
- This will be in addition to the already existing Aadhaar ID that every individual has.
- Upon enrolling in APAAR, each student's identity will be authenticated through their Aadhaar ID or other officially recognised documents, and a distinct identification number will be generated for them.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. The Sexual Harassment of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act

1. The act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints.
2. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
3. The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district, and if required at the block level.

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 statements:

1. India became the first non-Arab state to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974
2. India does not have an embassy in Palestine.
3. India voted in favour of Palestine for its acceptance as a full member of UNESCO.

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 statements about cancer

1. Cancer remains as one of the leading causes of adult illness and death due to chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) world-over including in India.
2. A neoplasm and malignant tumor are other common names for cancer.

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

Q4. Consider the following statement(s) regarding cervical cancer

1. Almost all cervical cancer cases are linked to certain strains of human papilloma virus (HPV).
2. Despite being largely preventable, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally.\
3. It is caused by Epstein-Barr virus.

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

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None of the Above

Q.5 Consider the following statements about Asian Development Bank

1. ADB has grown to encompass 68 members, all of which are from Asia.
2. It assists members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

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

Q6. Consider the following statements about Food Corporation of India

1. The Food Corporation of India was set up under the Food Corporations Act 1964, in order to fulfil objectives of the Food Policy.
2. FCI conducts e-auction as one of the methods to dispose of its surplus food grains.

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. Consider the following statements

1. The train is a part of the country's first Regional Rapid Train network.
2. The "Namo Bharat" train is manufactured indigenously and designed for a speed potential of 180 kmph,

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

Q8. Which initiative is India planning to implement to improve the accuracy and timeliness of agricultural production estimates, aiming to digitize the existing manual system?

- A. Digital Crop Survey System
- B. Crop Area Enumeration Reform
- C. Agricultural Data Enhancement Program
- D. Crop Production Automation Project

Q9. In the context of India's preparation for climate-smart agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Climate-Smart village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the climate change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), an international research programme.
2. The project of CCAFS is carried out under consultative group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.
3. The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

(ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1,2 and 3

Q10. In the context of food and nutritional security of India, enhancing the 'Seed Replacement Rates' of various crops helps in achieving the food production targets of the future. But what is/are the constraint/constraints in its wider/greater implementation?

1. There is no National Seeds Policy in place.
2. There is no participation of private sector seed companies in the supply of quality seeds of vegetables and planting materials of horticultural crops.
3. There is a demand-supply gap regarding quality seeds in case of low value and high volume crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 3 only
- C. 2 and 3
- D. None

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

- The act defines sexual harassment at the work place and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges.
- Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The District Officer is required to constitute a Local Complaints Committee at each district, and if required at the block level. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.
- Penalties have been prescribed for employers.

Ans.2 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- India became the first non-Arab state to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- India is one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine.
- Unlike in Israel, India does not have an embassy in Palestine. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- India voted in favour of Palestine for its acceptance as a full member of UNESCO. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 3 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- A neoplasm and malignant tumor are other common names for cancer. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer are the most common types of cancer in men, while breast, colorectal, lung, cervical and thyroid cancer are the most common among women.
- Cancer Burden:
- Cancer remains as one of the leading causes of adult illness and death due to chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) world-over including in India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Ans:4 Option B is Correct**Explanation**

- Cervavac, India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer has been developed
- Human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection, play a role in causing most cervical cancer..
- Despite being largely preventable, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, according to the WHO.
- India accounts for about a fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer.
- Almost all cervical cancer cases are linked to certain strains of human papillomavirus (HPV), a common virus that is transmitted through sexual contact.
- While the body's immune system usually gets rid of the HPV infection naturally within two years, in a small percentage of people the virus can linger over time and turn some normal cells into abnormal cells and then cancer.

Ans. 5 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- it assists members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Food Corporation of India was set up under the Food Corporations Act 1964, in order to fulfil following objectives of the Food Policy. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Objective:
- Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers.
- Distribution of foodgrains throughout the country for a public distribution system.
- Maintaining satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security

- FCI also conducts e-auction as one of the methods to dispose of its surplus food grains. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Ans.7 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Originally announced as "RapidX," the train is set to be renamed "Namoo Bharat" on the eve of its inauguration.
- The train is a part of the country's first Regional Rapid Train network. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The "Namoo Bharat" train is manufactured indigenously and designed for a speed potential of 180 kmph, with an operational speed potential of 160 kmph. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

Digital Crop Survey System

- This initiative involves the use of GPS-enabled mobile applications for collecting crop sown data and sharing aggregated data at the village level through APIs. It aims to improve data accuracy and efficiency in crop estimation, aligning with India's agricultural needs.

Ans:9 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Climate-Smart Village project in India is a program of CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). The CCAFS started piloting the Climate-Smart Village in 2012 in Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India, and Nepal). **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCFAS) is carried out under CGIAR

(formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research). Headquarter of CGIAR is in Montpellier, France. CGIAR is a global partnership that unites international organizations engaged in research about food security. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a CGIAR Research Center. ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political public international research organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

Ans:10 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- There is a National Seed Policy 2002. **Hence 1 is incorrect.**
- The private sector seed companies supply quality seeds of vegetables but in a small volume.
- The private sector is the majority supplier of hybrid vegetable seeds. **Hence statement 2 is also incorrect**
- There is a demand-supply gap recording quality of seeds in case of low value and high volume crops such as wheat and rice.
- Farmers prefer to use their own preserve seeds due to the high demand and supply gap. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The seed replacement rate is a measure of how much of the total cropped area was sown with certified seeds in comparison to farm-saved seeds.
- Seed replacement rate denotes better utilization of certified quality seeds which results in better productivity.

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