

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 21 Mar. 2024**

### **Important News Articles**

1. Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement on releasing last tranche of \$3 billion bailout- The Hindu
2. Centre notifies fact check unit to screen online content - The Hindu
3. CCI rejects pleas against Google Play Store's billing policy - The Hindu
4. BEML conducts test-firing of indigenous 1,500 HP engine for main battle tanks- The Hindu
5. FSSAI sets up lab network to test food for pathogens- Indian Express
6. Consumption unequal, not as weak' - The Hindu
7. What is Nvidia's Project GR00T, designed to create AI-powered humanoid robots-The Hindu
8. At WTO, India tries to lower cost of cross border remittances The Hindu

### **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

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4. Basmati Crop Improvement Program:

## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement on releasing last tranche of \$3 billion bailout- The Hindu

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

##### Prelims Takeaway

- IMF
- Bailout

**News:**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it has reached a staff-level agreement with the new government in **cash-strapped Pakistan on the final review of a \$3 billion bailout**
- It will pave the way for the release of the last \$1.1 billion tranche from the global lender.

**IMF Bailouts**

- **Bailout:** Bailout is a general term for extending financial support to a company/country facing a potential bankruptcy threat.
- It can take the form of loans, cash, bonds, or stock purchases.
- A bailout may (not) require reimbursement but is often accompanied by greater oversight and regulations.
- Countries seek help from the IMF usually when their economies face a major macroeconomic risk, mostly currency crisis .
- Countries seek such assistance from the IMF to meet their external debt and other obligations
  - To purchase essential imports, and to prop up the exchange value of their currencies.

**The IMF**

- It is an international organization that **promotes global economic growth and financial stability, encourages international trade, and reduces poverty.**
- It was set up in 1945 out of **the Bretton Woods conference.**
- Originally, the primary goal of the IMF was to bring about international economic coordination to prevent competing currency devaluation by countries trying to promote their own exports.
- Eventually, it evolved to be a lender of last resort to governments of countries that had to deal with severe currency crises.
- India has sought financial assistance from the IMF seven times **but never since 1993**

#### 2. Centre notifies fact check unit to screen online content - The Hindu

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

##### Prelims Takeaway

- PIB
- IT ACT

**News:**

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the **Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit as the designated body**
- The bureau flags misinformation about Central government departments to social media platforms.

**Key Highlights**

- **Under the IT Rules, 2021**, social media platforms could lose the legal liability protections they enjoy for content posted by users
  - If they choose to keep notified misinformation available online.
- Given the contentiousness of the idea, the Union government had held off on formally notifying the Fact Check Unit as litigation was under way at the Bombay High Court challenging the provision.
- This month, however, the court declined to extend an interim stay that had prohibited the government from enforcing the rules.
- The PIB Fact Check Unit has come under close scrutiny in the past, as it has sometimes disputed journalists' work by relying on denials from the Ministries they have written about.

**Threat to free press'**

- “The provision could seriously threaten the independence of the free press on the Indian internet,” the Internet Freedom Foundation said
  - The IT Rules amendment that empowered the Fact Check Unit to be the arbiter of what information on the Union government was incorrect.
- The PIB Fact Check Unit declared that an Al Jazeera article calling the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 “anti-Muslim,” was “fake”.

## GS III

### 3. CCI rejects pleas against Google Play Store’s billing policy - The Hindu

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Quasi-judicial body
- CCI

#### News:

- **Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) dismissed four petitions of Indian app companies** filed against Google’s new Play Store billing policy to levy an 11% to 26% charge on in-app payments.

#### Key Highlights

- Indian-origin app firms alleged that Google’s Play Store payment policies are anti-competitive.
- The order came after the CCI, ordered a **probe against Google for alleged discriminatory practices with respect to its Play Store pricing policy** after finding a prima facie violation of the competition law.

#### Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- CCI, a **statutory body** of the Government of India, was established in March 2009 under the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- The goal of CCI is to create and sustain fair competition in the economy that will provide a ‘level playing field’ to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of consumers.
- The priority of the Commission is to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition
  - Promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- It has the **composition of a quasi-judicial body**, with one chairperson and six additional members.
- All members of the CCI are appointed by the Central Government.

### 4. BEML conducts test-firing of indigenous 1,500 HP engine for main battle tanks- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Main Battle Tank
- Wall of Fame

#### News:

- The maiden test-firing of **India’s first indigenously-made 1,500 horsepower (HP) engine** for Main Battle Tanks was successfully conducted at Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) engine division in Mysuru complex

#### Advanced technology

- “The 1,500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in military propulsion systems,
- possessing cutting-edge features such as high power-to-weight ratio, operability in extreme conditions including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures, and desert environments
- The Defence Secretary also inaugurated the **‘Wall of Fame’** to recognise the extraordinary efforts of the BEML team.
- It symbolizes their contribution towards advancing the defence capabilities of the country and achieving milestones in indigenous technological innovation

#### Main Battle Tank

- An MBT is a tank that plays the role of direct fire and manoeuvre in today’s modern armies.

- The Cold-War era saw the development of powerful engines, enhanced suspension systems and light composite armour.
- This led to the development of a tank that had the following qualities:
  - Firepower of a super-heavy tank
  - Armour protection of a heavy tank
  - Nimble mobility of a light tank
  - Weight of a medium tank
- In the 1960s the Main Battle Tank replaced all other types of tanks, and now they are the mainstay of armoured regiments around the world.
- They are organized into armoured units composed of infantry supported by surveillance and ground-attack aircraft.

## 5. FSSAI sets up lab network to test food for pathogens- Indian Express

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

### Prelims Takeaway

- FASSAI
- E coli

**News:**

- With food poisoning and diarrhoea becoming a common occurrence, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country
- It will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens, including E coli, salmonella and listeria.

**The FSSAI**

- It is an **autonomous body** established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
- It has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.

**Function:**

- It set globally benchmarked standards for food
- encourage and ensure that food businesses adhere to these standards
- adopt good manufacturing and hygiene practices, and ultimately enable citizens to access safe and right food.
- It is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- It lays down standards and guidelines in relation to articles of food and provides for licensing, registration, and accreditation for food business operators.
- Anyone selling or importing food in India needs a food license issued by FSSAI.

## 6. Consumption unequal, not as weak'- The Hindu

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

### Prelims Takeaway

- Capital Expenditure
- Revenue expenditure

**News:**

- HSBC Global Research says **public investments still below pre-COVID levels as PSUs pull back outlays**
- It is premature to say India at cusp of a new private investment cycle as outlays mainly in real estate; consumption led by wealthy households

**Key Highlights**

- India's investment upturn is being led by private real estate outlays rather than public capex,
  - while consumption growth, which has been weak, may be revised upwards in the forthcoming official GDP numbers,
- While conceding that consumption growth is not equitable, **with "top-of-the-pyramid" household spends rising faster than for those at the bottom of the pyramid,**
- Consumer goods imports, personal services, and non-housing personal loans have been rising quickly.

- However, even consumer staples were weak and a broad revival in private investments remained elusive
- Despite the government ramping up capex, public sector firms were cutting back investments, leaving overall public investment ratio below pre-pandemic levels

### Capital Expenditure (Capex)

- The government's expenditure is categorized into two:
- The one which results in **asset development or acquisition known as CAPEX**,
- Another is utilized to cover operating costs and obligations but does not result in asset creation known as Revenue expenditure.
- Capex is defined as money spent on the acquisition of assets such as land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, as well as stock investments.

## 7. What is Nvidia's Project GR00T, designed to create AI-powered humanoid robots-The Hindu

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

### Prelims Takeaway

- Project GR00T
- AI

### News:

- AI chip leader Nvidia announced **Project GR00T or Generalist Robot 00 Technology, which promises to revolutionise the evolution of humanoid robots.**
- The project aims to empower humanoid robots with human-like understanding and movement using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

### Project GR00T (Generalist Robot 00 Technology)

- It is an AI system designed to be the brain of humanoid robots.
- It uses a combination of techniques, including understanding natural language and imitating human actions, to help these robots learn and interact with the real world.
- The goal is to give them human-like abilities through artificial intelligence.
- GR00T robots learn in two ways: by watching and mimicking human actions (like a student copying a teacher)
  - by using a special program called NVIDIA Isaac Lab to figure out the best way to do things on their own.

## 8. At WTO, India tries to lower cost of cross border remittances The Hindu

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

### Prelims Takeaway

- WTO
- MC 13

### News:

- India is strongly pursuing its proposal **for lowering the cost of cross-border remittances**, which it made last month at the largely inconclusive **WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi**
- It has now asked the multilateral body's general council (GC) to initiate a work programme to make recommendations for the same

### Key Highlights

- "The National Payments Corporation of India is working on a presentation for a session on 'cost of remittances' being held by the WTO's committee
  - on trade in financial services' in Geneva, drawing from its experience of putting in place a robust physical as well as electronic payment and settlements systems in the country,"
- Lowering the costs of remittances would mostly benefit low and middle-income countries that accounted for 78% of remittances flow in 2023, as per estimates.
- India, in its draft proposal at MC13 in Abu Dhabi last month, pointed out the global average cost for sending remittances remained high at 6.18% — more than twice the SDG target.

### Promoting interlinkage

- The global average cost for digital remittances at 4.84% is significantly lower than the cost for non-digital remittances,

### Remittances

- Remittances are money transfers that migrants send to their families and friends in their home countries.
- **India is the largest recipient of remittances in the world** receiving US\$ 100 bn in 2022.
- Remittances are the second largest major source of external financing after service export

### top sources of remittances for India

- **Almost 36% of India's remittances are from the high-skilled** and largely high-tech Indian migrants in three high-income destinations
  - **The US, United Kingdom, and Singapore.**
- The post-pandemic recovery led to a tight labour market in these regions, and wage hikes boosted remittances.

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Data marketplaces: the next frontier- The Hindu

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

#### Context:

- The role of digitisation in realising **India's vision of becoming a \$5 trillion economy cannot be overstated.**
- As per a NASSCOM report, data and artificial intelligence (AI) can add approximately \$450-500 billion to India's GDP by 2025.

#### Key Highlights

- citizen data is typically of two kinds — Personal Data i.e., data containing identifiers through which an individual can be mapped
  - and Non-Personal Data (NPD) i.e., data excluding personal data.
- NPD constitutes the primary kind of citizen data obtained by the government, which possesses the potential of serving as a 'public good'.
- Application of high value advanced analytics and AI to NPD across key sectors of the economy can help predict socially and economically sound outcomes.
- Junctures where such data-driven insights can better inform governance and public functions are meteorological and disaster forecasts, infrastructure capacity and citizen use-patterns, mobility and housing patterns, and employment trends, to name a few.

#### Absence of regulation for NPD.

- Unfortunately, unlike Personal Data, there is a stark absence of regulation for NPD.
- The expert committee chaired by Kris Gopalakrishnan in its reports dealt with this at length.
- Subsequently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) released the National Data Governance Framework Policy (NPD Framework)
  - which was touted as the first building block of the digital architecture being conceived to maximise data-driven governance.

#### several gaps in the framework

- Stakeholder rights and obligations across sectors, mechanisms for pricing of data and appropriate legal structures for data exchange are not addressed.

#### Global examples

- In Australia, data exchange frameworks and data exchange protocols have been adopted.
- Similarly, the U.K. and Estonia have also constructed data exchanges specifically to tackle the issue of unemployment.

#### Formulating a blueprint

- In India, the State of Telangana has designed an agriculture data exchange,
  - while India Urban Data Exchange has been established by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science.
- Similarly, the Department of Science & Technology has announced its intention to set up data exchanges to implement aspects of the National Geospatial Policy.

**Conclusion**

- Given the budding interest in data exchange structures, it is crucial to formulate a blueprint for governing them in India. Such examination will be at pace with the global discourse on the regulation of data exchanges and supplement the efforts of MeITY

## 10. India to generate 600 kilotonnes of solar waste by 2030: What a new study says- Indian Express

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

**Context:**

- India generated about 100 kilotonnes (kt) of solar waste** in the financial year (FY) 2022-2023, according to a new study published
- The amount of solar waste produced by the country is expected to reach 600 kt by 2030, the study said.

**Key Highlights**

- The analysis, was done by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a climate think tank.
- The current solar capacity of India stands at 66.7 GW as of March 2023
  - It has increased by 23 times in the past 10 years — and is slated to jump to 292 GW of installed solar capacity by 2030.

**what is solar waste?**

- Solar waste refers to the waste generated during the manufacturing of solar modules and waste from the field (project lifetime), according to the study.

**What are the findings of the study?**

- By 2030, India's current installed solar capacity will generate about 340 kt — three times more than the present.
- Around 67 per cent of this waste is expected to be produced by five states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- As the discarded modules contain minerals such as silicon, copper, tellurium, and cadmium which have been classified as critical minerals
  - for the country's economic development and national security by the Indian government — the study focused on them also.

**How to deal with solar waste?**

- It urged the policymakers to maintain a comprehensive database of the installed solar capacity, which would help in estimating solar waste in the following years.
- The report also said the policymakers should incentivise recyclers, and push stakeholders to effectively manage the growing solar waste.
- India needs to focus on creating a market for solar recycling.
- The general understanding is that solar waste occurs only when modules reach their end-of-life, which is around 25 years.
- However, report points out that there are other ways also through which solar waste is generated.
- In conventional recycling more valuable materials like silver and silicon cannot be recovered through this method.
- as high-value recycling- this method can recover silver and silicon also with the help of chemical processes.



## Quick Look

### 1. Asbestos

- Asbestos is a generic term for a group of six silicate minerals with similar but distinct properties. These are generally divided into two sub-groups; serpentine and amphiboles. Serpentine asbestos (chrysotile or white asbestos) was the most commonly used type of asbestos.

#### Properties:

- These are resistant to heat and corrosion.
- It is non-flammable even at very high temperatures.
- It is extremely flexible and durable.
- It has good tensile strength.
- It has low heat conductivity and high resistance to electricity.

### 2. Liquefied natural gas (LNG)

- It is natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid state for storage and shipping.
- LNG is odorless, colorless, non-toxic, and non-corrosive. It is made up of almost entirely methane, which has less carbon than other fossil fuels.
- LNG is typically 85–95% methane, and it produces 40% less carbon dioxide than coal and 30% less than oil. It also does not emit soot, dust, or particulates.

### 3. Small-Scale Liquefied Natural Gas (SSLNG)

- There is no standard definition of this still globally nascent industry.
- But basically, SSLNG involves turning natural gas into liquid and moving it using different methods on a smaller scale compared to the usual big operations.
- This includes liquefying and transporting natural gas in smaller quantities without the usual big infrastructure and processes.
- Simply put, LNG is supplied in specialised trucks and small vessels to industrial and commercial consumers in regions that are not connected by pipelines

### 4. Basmati Crop Improvement Program

- Basmati rice is known for its unique grain and cooking quality characters and pleasing aroma.
- However, the traditional Basmati rice varieties were long duration, and IARI has been instrumental in genetic improvement of Basmati rice.
- This led to the release of the first semi-dwarf, photo-insensitive high yielding Basmati rice variety, Pusa Basmati 1 in 1989.
- Consequently, IARI has released a number of high yielding Basmati/aromatic rice varieties and hybrids (Pusa Basmati 1121, Improved Pusa Basmati 1, etc.).
- This reduced the duration of traditional Basmati rice varieties from 160 days to 120 days with enhancement of productivity from 2.5 tons/ha to 6-8 tons/ha.

**Prelims Track Question**

**Q1. Statement I:** world bank set up out of the Bretton Woods conference, is an international organization that promotes global economic growth and financial stability, encourages international trade, and reduces poverty.

**Statement II:** International Monetary Fund is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

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

**Q2. Consider the following statements**

- 1. Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000, absolves social media firms of liability for third party content
- 2. Under the IT Rules, 2021, social media platforms could lose the legal liability protections they enjoy for content posted by users if they choose to keep notified misinformation available online.
- 3. the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit as the designated body to flag misinformation about Central government departments to social media platforms.

**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**

- 1. Under article 329, Competition Commission of India provide a 'level playing field' to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of consumers.
- 2. The priority of the Commission is to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.
- 3. It has the composition of a quasi-judicial body, with one chairperson and six additional members appointed by president of India

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

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

**Q4. consider the following statements with reference to Home Guards,**

- 1. Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards act and Rules of the Central Government.
- 2. The role of the Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary force to the police in maintenance of internal security.
- 3. To prevent infiltration on the international border /coastal areas, the Border Wing Home Guards Battalions have been raised in some States.

**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 statements about the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):**

- 1. FSSAI is a department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- 2. It is responsible for framing and enforcing food safety regulations across the country.

3. FSSAI licenses all food businesses in India, regardless of size.

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

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

**Q6. Consider the following statements**

1. Capital Expenditure is money spent on the acquisition of assets such as land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, as well as stock investments.
2. Revenue expenditure is utilized to cover operating costs and obligations but does not result in asset creation
3. The Capital Expenditure of the central government, which increased by 63.4 per cent in the first eight months of FY23,

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

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

**Q7. Consider the following statements about Nvidia's Project GR00T:**

1. It is a software program designed for self-driving cars.
2. It uses artificial intelligence to allow humanoid robots to learn new skills.
3. It equips robots with superhuman strength and agility.

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

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

**Q8. Consider the following statements about Remittances**

1. India is the largest recipient of remittances in the world receiving US\$ 100 bn in 2022.
2. Remittances are the largest major source of external financing

3. Almost 36% of India's remittances are from the high-skilled and largely high-tech Indian migrants from USA alone

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

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

**Q.9 Consider the following statements about the National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP):**

1. The NDGFP allows the government to sell anonymized datasets of citizens to private companies.
2. It establishes the India Datasets programme, which provides access to non-personal government data for startups and researchers.
3. The policy is issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

**Q10. Consider the following statements about solar waste:**

1. Solar panels are completely recyclable, eliminating any waste concerns.
2. The largest component of solar waste comes from the glass used in the panels.
3. Improper disposal of solar panels can leach harmful chemicals into the environment.

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

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

**Prelims Track Answer****Answer 1 Option D is correct****Explanation**

- The International Monetary Fund is an international organization that promotes global economic growth and financial stability, encourages international trade, and reduces poverty.
- It was set up in 1945 out of the Bretton Woods conference.
- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. **Hence, BOTH statements are correct.**

**Answer 2 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000, absolves social media firms of liability for third party content
- the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology notified the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit as the designated body
- The bureau flags misinformation about Central government departments to social media platforms.

**Key Highlights**

- Under the IT Rules, 2021, social media platforms could lose the legal liability protections they enjoy for content posted by users
- if they choose to keep notified misinformation available online.
- Given the contentiousness of the idea, the Union government had held off on formally notifying the Fact Check Unit as litigation was under way at the Bombay High Court challenging the provision. **Hence, all statements are correct.**

**Answer 3 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) CCI, a statutory body of the Government of India, was established in March 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

- The goal of CCI is to create and sustain fair competition in the economy that will provide a 'level playing field' to the producers and make the markets work for the welfare of consumers.
- The priority of the Commission is to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition
- promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It has the composition of a quasi-judicial body, with one chairperson and six additional members.
- All members of the CCI are appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 3 incorrect.**

**Answer 4 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Home Guards' is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbance and communal riots.
- Subsequently, the concept of the voluntary citizen's force was adopted by several States.
- In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the States and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary organisation into one uniform voluntary force known as Home Guards. T
- hus the Central Government does not directly raise Home Guards. They are raised by the state governments under state acts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The role of Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary Force to the Police in maintenance of internal security situations, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic etc., help in maintenance of essential services, promote communal harmony and assist the administration in protecting weaker sections, participate in socio-economic and welfare activities and perform Civil Defence duties.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Fifteen Border Wing Home Guards (BWHG) Battalions (Bns.) have been raised in the border States viz. Punjab (6 Bns.), Rajasthan (4 Bns.), Gujarat (2 Bns.) and one each Battalion for Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal to serve as an auxiliary to Border Security Force for preventing infiltration on the international border/coastal areas, guarding of VA/VPs and lines of communication in vulnerable area at the time of external aggression.

**Answer 5 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- FSSAI is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. It functions independently and is not a department under any ministry. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- FSSAI plays a crucial role in ensuring food safety in India. It establishes regulations for food manufacturing, processing, storage, distribution, sale, and import. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- FSSAI licensing requirements depend on the size and type of food business. Smaller businesses may only require basic registration, while larger ones need full licenses. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 6 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- The government's expenditure is categorized into two:
- The one which results in asset development or acquisition known as CAPEX,
- Another is utilized to cover operating costs and obligations but does not result in asset creation known as Revenue expenditure.
- Capex is defined as money spent on the acquisition of assets such as land, buildings, machinery, and equipment, as well as stock investments.

- The Capital Expenditure (Capex) of the central government, which increased by 63.4 per cent in the first eight months of FY23, was another growth driver of the Indian economy in the current year, crowding in the private Capex since the January-March quarter of 2022. **Hence all statements are correct**

**Answer 7 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- Project GR00T is not specifically designed for self-driving cars. Nvidia has other projects focused on autonomous vehicles. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**
- Project GR00T aims to equip humanoid robots with human-like understanding and movement through AI. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- Project GR00T focuses on enabling robots to learn and interact with the real world, not granting them superhuman abilities. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

**Answer 8 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

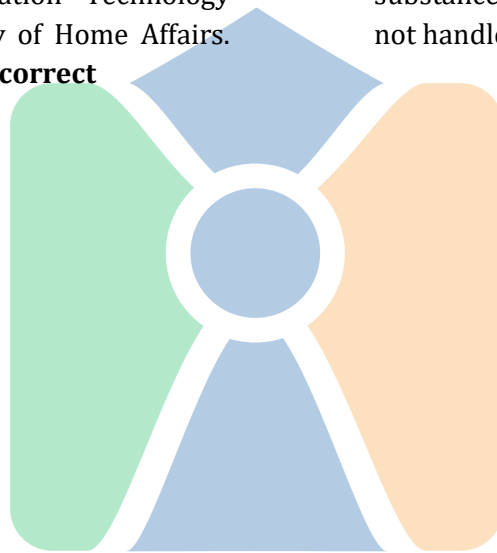
- Remittances are money transfers that migrants send to their families and friends in their home countries.
- India is the largest recipient of remittances in the world receiving US\$ 100 bn in 2022. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- Remittances are the second largest major source of external financing after service export **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**
- top sources of remittances for India
- Almost 36% of India's remittances are from the high-skilled and largely high-tech Indian migrants in three high-income destinations
- the US, United Kingdom, and Singapore. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**
- The post-pandemic recovery led to a tight labour market in these regions, and wage hikes boosted remittances

**Answer 9 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- This was a proposal in the earlier draft of a data accessibility policy, which faced criticism and was replaced by the NDGFP. The NDGFP does not allow selling data.  
**Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- The NDGFP establishes the India Datasets programme to share anonymized and non-personal datasets from the government with startups and researchers for innovation.  
**Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The NDGFP is issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), not the Ministry of Home Affairs.  
**Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

**Answer 10 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- **This statement is incorrect.** While some components of solar panels can be recycled, the process is complex and not yet widely available. Additionally, some materials degrade over time, creating waste.
- **This statement is correct.** Glass is the heaviest and most voluminous component of a solar panel, making it a significant part of the waste stream.
- **This statement is correct.** Improper disposal of solar panels can release harmful substances like lead and cadmium if they are not handled properly.

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A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar  
Delhi - 110064

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