

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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3. Notice to W.B. over bid to include 87 castes in OBC list-The Hindu
4. As part of 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh', Railways plans special trains - The Hindu
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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Govt. delay disturbs judicial seniority: SC - The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the **Supreme Court** mentioned it was both “troublesome” and “very disturbing” that the government **delayed some judicial appointments and transfers in High Courts.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Transfer of Judges
- Supreme Court
- High Court

Transfer of the HC Judges

- **Article 222** of the Constitution makes provision for the **transfer of a Judge** (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.
- The **proposal** for transferring a HC judge (including a Chief Justice) should be **initiated by the CJI**
- The **consent of the judge is not required.**
- All transfers are to be made in the **public interest.**
- For transferring a judge other than the Chief Justice, the **CJI should take the views of**
 - The **Chief Justice of the court concerned**, as well as the **Chief Justice of the court** to which the **transfer** is taking place.
 - **One or more SC judges**
 - The views, expressed in **writing**, should be considered by a **collegium of the CJI and the four senior most Judges of the Supreme Court.**
- The **recommendation** is sent to the **Union Law Minister → the Prime Minister → the President.**
- After the President **approves** the transfer, the **notification will be gazetted** and the judge remains transferred.

2. Eradicate manual scavenging, SC tells Centre, States-The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the Supreme Court in a judgement, said claims of fraternity, equality among citizens **remain a mere illusion if a sizeable section of society is forced to do manual scavenging**

Prelims Takeaway

- Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Key Points

- A Bench headed by Justice S.R. Bhat held the **Union and States duty-bound** to the pledge to completely eradicate manual scavenging
 - through the stringent implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as **Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.**
- The court **enhanced the compensation payable for sewer deaths** to ₹30 lakh from the earlier ₹10 lakh.

Safai Karamchari Andolan and others vs. Union of India

- The apex court itself had **reinforced the prohibition and directed the rehabilitation** of people, traditionally and otherwise, **engaged in the practice**
- The judgement had called for their **rehabilitation based on the principles of justice and transformation.**
- The court had, during the hearing of the case, **collected data from the government on the various steps taken for the rehabilitation** of the people falling within the definition of ‘manual scavengers’
 - State-wise set up of municipal corporations
 - the nature of equipment deployed by such bodies to mechanise sewage cleaning
 - online tracking of sewage deaths

- action taken by their authorities, including payment of compensation and rehabilitation of families.

3. Notice to W.B. over bid to include 87 castes in OBC list-The Hindu

Relevance: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News:

- The **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** has issued a notice to the West Bengal government
- it seek the **required documentation** for its proposal to **include 87 castes in the State to the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 338B
- Other Backward Classes (OBCs)
- National Commission for Backward Classes

Key Points

- The NCBC is in the middle of an investigation into what its Chairperson, called an “**unusual abundance**” of **Muslim castes in West Bengal’s OBC list**.
- As per the notice, the **State had so far been unable to show documents on genealogy of Hindu caste groups that had converted their religion**.
- The NCBC is also in the middle of **looking into proposals from other States** on the inclusion of castes in the Central OBC List.

National Commission for Backward Classes

- It is an Indian constitutional body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- It was established through **Constitution Act, 2018 (also called, 102nd Amendment Act, 2018)**
- This amendment act in the constitution to make it a **constitutional body under Article 338B of the Indian Constitution**.
- It was constituted pursuant to the provisions of the **National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993**.

Function

- To advise actively on **the socio-economic development of the socially backward classes (OBCs)** along with evaluating the progress of their development.
- It has all the **powers of a civil court while trying a suit**.

4. As part of ‘Meri Maati, Mera Desh’, Railways plans special trains -The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

News:

- The Indian Railways **will operate special trains** to transport volunteers carrying mitti (soil) from **State capitals and other major stations across the country** to reach New Delhi on October 29.

Key Points

- The initiative is **part of the ‘Meri Maati Mera Desh’** campaign being organised **by the Ministry of Culture**
 - as “a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas [bravehearts] who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country”.
- Volunteers would **collect the soil from every household as a mark of respect** to the people who had sacrificed their lives for the nation.

- In cases where the soil was not available, **people can contribute a grain of rice.**
- The soil that gets collected would be **used in the 'Amrit Vatika'**, a special garden being created in Delhi along with an **'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' memorial.**
- To facilitate the movement of the **volunteers, the Ministry of Railways would operate special 'Amrit Kalash Yatri' trains,**

No representation from some States

- There was **no representation from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Telangana, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh.**
- The **maximum participation** was from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

GS III

5. From Nov. 1, only electric, CNG, BS-VI diesel buses to run in NCR-The Hindu

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

News

- The **Commission for Air Quality Management** has introduced a significant **initiative to promote cleaner** and more **sustainable public transport** in the **Delhi-NCR region.**
- Starting from **November 1, 2023**, only electric vehicles (**EVs**), Compressed Natural Gas (**CNG**) buses, and **BS-VI diesel-compliant buses** will be allowed to operate between Delhi and NCR states.
- This move **aims to reduce emissions** and **enhance air quality.**

Directives to NCR States

- The central **air quality panel** has issued **directives** to Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh to **implement a comprehensive plan** for **more eco-friendly inter-city** and **inter-state bus services** serving Delhi and other cities/towns in NCR.

Haryana

- All **bus services** between **Haryana** and **Delhi** must be **operated exclusively** using **EVs, CNG, or BS-VI diesel buses** from November 1, 2023.

Rajasthan

- **Bus services** between any **NCR city/town** in Rajasthan and Delhi, as well as to any **other city/town** in NCR, must use **only EVs, CNG, or BS-VI Diesel buses** from November 1, 2023.
- **Bus services** from non-NCR areas of **Rajasthan to Delhi** will exclusively **use EVs, CNG, or BS-VI Diesel buses** from January 1, 2024.

Uttar Pradesh

- All bus services between **NCR city/town in Uttar Pradesh** and **Delhi** must exclusively **operate EVs, CNG, or BS-VI Diesel buses** from November 1, 2023.
- **Bus services** within **eight NCR districts** of UP will use **BS-VI diesel-compliant buses** from April 1, 2024.
- **Buses** operating between **non-NCR areas of UP to Delhi** and NCR areas of **other states** will **use BS-VI diesel-compliant buses** from July 1, 2024.

Transition Phases

- These **directives apply** to both **state public sector units** and **private entities.**
- The **transition to cleaner buses** throughout NCR is expected to be **completed by July 1, 2024.**
- **Strict compliance** will be ensured **through monitoring** by the **transport department and traffic police** of Delhi and NCR states.

Three-Tier Approach

- The plan **outlines a three-tier approach**, aiming to **convert** the entire **NCR's bus fleet** to **electric vehicles** in the long term and focusing on EVs and CNG buses in the medium term.

Conclusion:

- The move to **transition to cleaner** and **more sustainable bus services** in the Delhi-NCR region **represents** a significant **step towards reducing emissions** and improving air quality.

- The directive will contribute to more eco-friendly and efficient public transportation.

6. ASTRONOMERS DETECT 8 BN-YR-OLD 'FAST RADIO BURST': WHAT IS IT? - Indian Express

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

News:

- Astronomers detected an **intense flash of radio waves** coming from what looks like a **merger of galaxies** dating to about **8 billion years ago**.
- This represents the **earliest documented occurrence** of a phenomenon known as a **fast radio burst**, which remains a perplexing mystery.
- It was detected using the **Australian SKA Pathfinder**, a radio telescope in the state of Western Australia.

Prelims Takeaway

- Fast Radio Bursts
- Electromagnetic Spectrum

Fast Radio Bursts

- A **bright and brief burst of electromagnetic radiation** (light) seen in **radio-wave frequencies**.
- They usually last for a **very short period of time**.
- They **reach earth from faraway galaxies**, emitting as much energy in a millisecond as the sun does over weeks.
- **Some FRBs repeat**, but the vast majority happen once and disappear forever.

Source of FRBs

- Scientists don't know for sure **what causes fast radio bursts**.
- However, the current prevailing theory is that **at least some FRBs are emitted by neutron stars**.
 - These stars form when a **supergiant star collapses**, going from eight times the mass of our sun (on average) to a superdense core only 20–40 kilometers across.
- **Magnetars are neutron stars with extremely strong magnetic fields** and these have been observed to emit FRBs.

Significance of studying FRBs

- Can help to **detect and measure the immense amount of matter** believed to populate the expanses of space between galaxies.
- As these radio waves zip through the cosmos, they can **flag the presence of intergalactic plasma**.

7. Rate cuts not on agenda, RBI remains 'extra vigilant' on inflation, says Das - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, the **Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mentioned that interest rate cuts are not on their agenda.
- He also stated that the **central bank is “extra vigilant” about inflation**.
- There is a **need for a sustained decrease in inflation** and the RBI wants to reduce it to **4 percent**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Monetary Policy Committee
- Inflation Targeting
- Inflation

Inflation

- A **long-term increase** in the **general price level** of goods and services in a given economy.
- It considers the **pricing of most everyday or standard products and services**, such as food, clothes, housing, recreation, transportation, consumer staples, etc.
- It is **positive** when it helps **improve consumer demand and consumption**, and **operate economic growth**.
- Even inflation is meant to keep **deflation** in check and is a **drag** on the economy.

Inflation Targeting

- It is a **central banking policy** that focuses on **altering monetary policy to attain a set annual inflation rate**.

- It assumes that **preserving price stability**, achieved by managing inflation, is the greatest way to **generate long-term economic growth**.
- Under the RBI Act, 1934, the **Central Government, in consultation with the RBI**, determines the **inflation target**.
 - This is decided in terms of the **Consumer Price Index (CPI), once in five years**.
- It provides for the constitution of a **six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** to determine the **policy rate required to achieve the inflation target**.
- Currently, the RBI aims to **keep inflation at 4%** but will tolerate inflation between the **range of 2% to 6%**.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- Under **Section 45ZB of RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a **six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**.
- **Objective:** To determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target
- The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be **binding on the Bank**.
- **Composition:** The MPC shall consist of 6 members viz.
 - RBI Governor as its ex-officio chairperson
 - Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy
 - An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board
 - Three persons to be appointed by the Central Government
 - They must be persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy.

8. Gaganyaan Mission: ISRO is set for first test flight today - The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** conducted the **Gaganyaan's first Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)**.
- It will demonstrate the performance of the **Crew Escape System**.

Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)

- It 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.

Key Features

- **Cost-Effective Testing:** The TV-D1 mission employs a **low-cost Test Vehicle**, optimized for system testing, instead of the **more expensive GSLV Mk III rocket** used in previous tests.
- **Innovations:** It uses **existing liquid propulsion technology** but includes innovations such as the **throttleable and restartable L110 Vikas engine**.

Stages of TV-D1 Mission

- The mission involves key stages, including the **separation of the Crew Escape System from the Test Vehicle** and the **subsequent separation of the crew module**.
- **Parachutes will be deployed for a safe descent** over approximately seven minutes.
- The **Indian Navy** will play a crucial role in **recovering the crew module from the Bay of Bengal**.
- The TV-D1 mission serves as a significant milestone, marking the **integration of a near-complete system for flight testing**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Gaganyaan Mission
- Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. How MPs ask questions in Lok Sabha - Indian Express

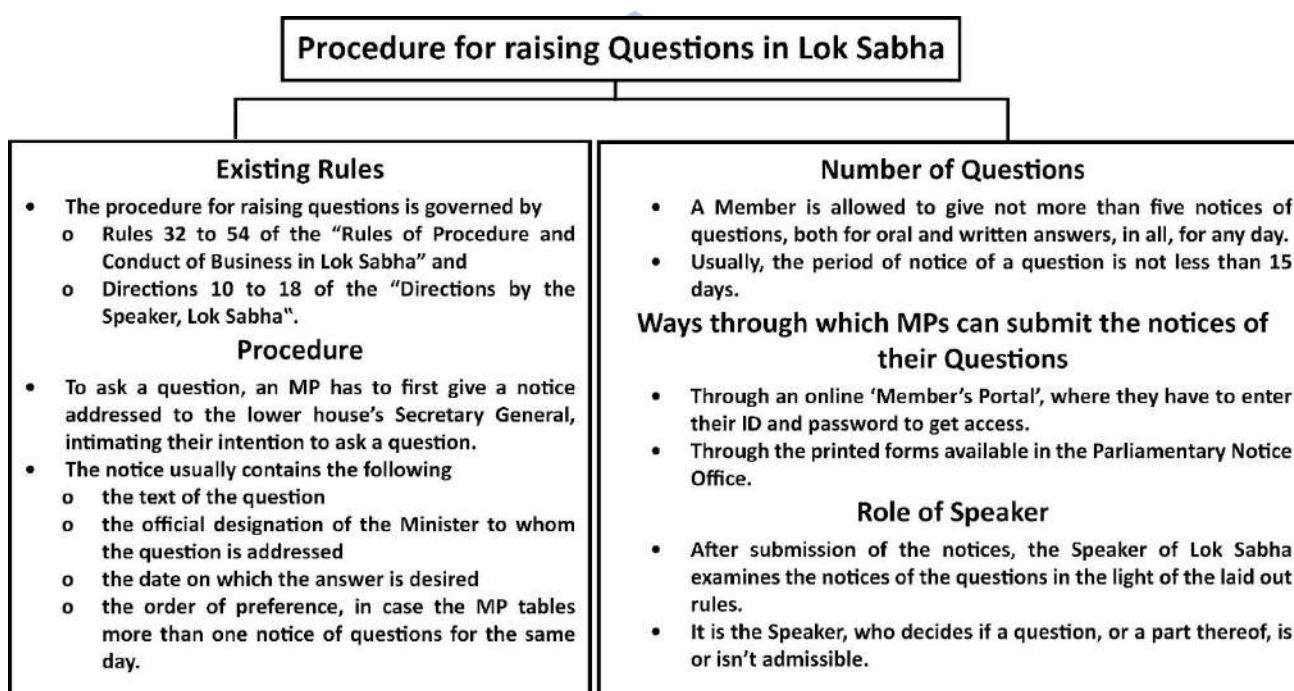
Relevance: Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Context:

- Recently, the **Lok Sabha Speaker** had referred the bribe-for-query complaint against MP Mahua Moitra **to the Ethics Committee of the Lower House**.
- The BJP MP had accused Mahua Moitra of **accepting money from a businessman to ask questions in Parliament**.

The Question Hour

- When in session, the Lok Sabha generally **starts with Question Hour**.
- It is a **one hour time period provided to MPs to ask questions** and hold ministers accountable for the functioning of their ministries.



Conditions for the Admissibility of Questions

- Questions shall not ordinarily contain **more than 150 words**.
- They shouldn’t **contain arguments, defamatory statements, refer to the character or conduct of any person** except in their official or public capacity.
- Queries **raising larger issues of policy** are not allowed.
 - Because it is not possible to enunciate policies within the limited compass of an answer to a question.
- A question isn’t admissible if its **subject matter is pending judgement** before any court of law or any other tribunal or body set up under law or is under consideration before a Parliamentary Committee.
- A query also **can’t seek information on matters which may weaken the unity and integrity of the country**.

Different Types of Questions

1. Starred Questions

- A starred question is asked by an MP and answered orally by the Minister-in-charge.
- Each MP is allowed to ask one starred question per day.
- It has to be submitted at least 15 days in advance (so that the Minister-in-charge has the time to prepare the answers).
- Only 20 questions can be listed for oral answers on a day.
- When a question is answered orally, supplementary questions can be asked thereon.
- They are better suited to inquire about the government's views on issues and its policy inclination.

2. Unstarred Questions

- An unstarred question receives a written reply from the Ministry.
- These also need to be submitted at least 15 days in advance.
- Only 230 questions can be listed for written answers in a day.
- Unlike starred questions, unstarred questions don't permit any follow-up questions.
- They are more conducive for getting answers to queries related to data or information.

3. Short-notice Questions

- Short notice questions are ones pertaining to a matter of urgent public importance.
- They can be asked with less than 10 days notice, with reasons for the short notice.
- Like a starred question, they are answered orally, followed by supplementary questions.

4. Questions addressed to Private Members

- The question to a private Member is addressed to the MP themselves.
- It is asked when the subject matter pertains to any Bill, Resolution or any matter relating to the Business of the House for which that MP is responsible.

Importance of raising Questions

- Asking questions is an inherent and unfettered parliamentary right of an MP.
- The exercise is meant to act as a parliamentary device to practise legislative control over executive actions.
- It can be used to
 - o get information on aspects of administration and government activity
 - o criticise government policies and schemes
 - o throw light on government lapses
 - o push ministers to take substantive steps for the common good
- The government can use these questions to gauge public reaction to their policies and administration.
- At times, questions lead to the formation of a parliamentary commission, a court of enquiry or even the enactment of a legislature.

2. The politics of a caste census, its impact on secularism - The Hindu

Relevance: Polity

Context:

- The article discusses the ongoing debate surrounding the **issue of conducting a caste census in India**.
- Opposition party leaders have championed the cause, **setting the agenda** on this contentious matter.
- However, the Prime Minister has opposed the idea, emphasising his **focus on poverty as the primary concern**.

Caste and Poverty

- According to scholars, there are two kinds of poverty, i.e. economic and institutional.
- Caste plays a significant role in perpetuating institutional poverty in India because, historically, it determines occupation and skills.
- Historical caste-based determinations of occupation and skills still affect modern economic networks which is why a caste census is vital.
- Therefore, there is a need to recognize the link between caste and poverty, a fact often overlooked in Indian policy.

Hindutva's Reluctance

- The Hindutva ideology is hesitant to support a caste census, fearing it may lead to divisive politics and power struggles.
- A caste census could disrupt the Hindu majoritarian unity that Hindutva has been striving to achieve through religious polarization.

Secular Concerns

- Secular political groups are also wary of a caste census due to its divisive potential.
- They see it as a powerful tool to counteract the rise of Hindu majoritarian forces.
- However, the prospects of secular politics reviving through a caste census is limited.

Historical Context

- The last caste census in India was conducted in 1931, when right-wing groups had limited influence.
- After Independence, there was a possibility for a caste census to be resumed in 1951.
- However, caste census was not resumed in 1951, possibly due to the right's presence within secular political formations.
- The current resistance to a caste census mirrors historical concerns but is more prominent and organised.

Quick Look

1. Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR)

- Location: Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra.
- The reserve spreads over Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, forming the northern portion, and Chandoli National Park, forming the southern part of the reserve.
- Includes the area around the Koyna Dam, the Warna River, and many other small rivers and streams.
- The most distinct feature of the Tiger Reserve is the presence of numerous barren rocky and lateritic plateaus, locally called "Sadas".
- Vegetation: Moist evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist and dry deciduous vegetation.
- There are many medicinal and fruit-bearing trees along with the commercial hardwood trees in the reserve.
- The main carnivores are the tiger, leopard, and some lesser cats along with the wolf, jackal, and wild dog.

2. Operation Nanhe Faristey

- Launched on Indian Railways
- Under this drive, children in need of care & protection who came into contact with Indian Railways were rescued and handed over to concerned authorities before being restored to their families.

3. Yuva Sangam

- Objective: To strengthen people-to-people connections between youth belonging to different States/UTs of India.
- Interested youth in the age group of 18-30 years, mainly students, NSS (National Service Scheme)/NYKS (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan) volunteers, employed/self-employed persons, etc. may register through the YUVA SANGAM portal.
- It focuses on experiential learning and imbibing knowledge of the rich diversity of India on a first-hand basis.
- It is an on-going cultural exchange with the celebration of diversity at its core wherein participants gain an immersive experience of diverse facets of life, natural landforms, development landmarks, recent achievements, and youth connect in the host state.

4. Siena Galaxy Atlas

- It is a digital atlas that was created to get to know our universe better through several of the known galaxies.
- It was created using data from three astronomical surveys collected between 2014 and 2017 at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) and Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO).
- Together, these surveys are known as the DESI Legacy Surveys.
- It is dependent on state-of-the-art digital images captured by advanced technology, unlike previous atlases, which relied on antiquated equipment and photographic plates.
- As it is built on the images captured with highly sensitive instruments, it boasts the most accurate data.
- It is also the first cosmic atlas to feature the light profiles of galaxies- a curve that describes how the brightness of the galaxy changes from its brightest point to its dimmest.

5. Someshwara Inscription

- This inscription is very significant in the study of Tuluva history and culture.
- It has two panels on the top, and in between the two panels, the first line is engraved.
- The rest of the inscription written below the panels is in Kannada script and the language of 12th century characters announcing the death of Alupendra I.
- The human figures shown in the inscription represent Kulashekara Alupendra himself.

6. Chanakya Defence Dialogue

- It will serve as a regular forum, bringing together top minds from the global defence and strategic sectors to facilitate the exchange of insights and ideas.
- It aims to integrate intelligence, strategy, and expertise, fostering discussions on topics such as Neighbourhood Forces, the evolving impact of emerging technologies on defense and security etc.
- The Indian Army is collaborating with the renowned think tank, Centre for Land and Warfare Studies (CLAWS), to organise the event.
- This gathering will draw participants from a diverse range of nations, including Australia, France, Japan and the United States.
- Discussions will revolve around a broad spectrum of security challenges and strategies, focusing particularly in the pivotal regions of South Asia and the Indo-Pacific.
- Additionally, cooperation in defence technology, military exercises, and nuclear proliferation concerns will be discussed.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to transfer of HC Judges

1. The proposal for transferring a HC judge should be initiated by the Chief justice of the concerned High Court.
2. The consent of the judge being transferred is required.
3. Article 222 of the Constitution makes provision for the transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.

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 regarding the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

1. It provides for every State to have a monitoring committee consisting of the Chief Minister.
2. Every state government or union territory administration must send periodic reports to the central government about its progress on implementing this Act.
3. It prohibits any person or agency from engaging or employing any person for manual scavenging.

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 the National Air Quality Index

1. The National AQI uses colour codes for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.
2. There are four AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Poor and Severe.

Which of the above given statement is/are incorrect?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements on National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act of 1993.
2. It recommends inclusions and exclusions from the list of communities notified as backward for the purpose of job reservations.
3. The Commission has the same powers as a Civil Court.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q5. With reference to “Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign”, consider the following statements.

1. Under this campaign soil collected from different parts of the country will be used to develop a garden along the Kartavya Path in Delhi.
2. The five-point agenda includes the installation of a shilaphalakam bearing the “names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice”.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements on Fast Radio Bursts

1. It is a bright and brief burst of electromagnetic radiation seen in radio-wave frequencies.
2. They emit as much energy in a year as the sun does over weeks.
3. All the FRBs happen once and disappear forever.
4. It can help to detect and measure the immense amount of matter believed to populate the expanses of space between galaxies.

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

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

Q7. Consider the following statements on Inflation

1. Inflation is the long-term increase in the general price level of goods and services in a given economy.
2. Under the RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, determines the inflation target decided in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), once in five years.
3. Currently, the RBI aims to keep inflation at 4% but will tolerate inflation between the range of 2% to 6%.

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

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

Q8. The Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1), seen in the news recently, is associated with which of the following missions?

- A. Chandrayaan - 4 Mission
- B. Aditya L1 Mission
- C. Shukrayaan Mission
- D. Gaganyaan Mission

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. When in session, the Lok Sabha generally starts with the Zero Hour.
2. A starred question is asked by an MP and answered in written form by the Minister-in-charge.
3. Short notice questions are ones pertaining to a matter of urgent public importance.
4. To ask a question, an MP has to first give a notice addressed to the Speaker of Lok Sabha, intimating their intention to ask a question.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about Socio-Economic and Caste Census.

1. It was conducted for the first time in 1947.
2. The information collected during this Census is kept confidential.

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Article 222 of the Constitution makes provision for the transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The proposal for transferring a HC judge (including a Chief Justice) should be initiated by the CJI. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The consent of the judge is not required. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- For transferring a judge other than the Chief Justice, the CJI should take the views of
 - The Chief Justice of the court concerned, as well as the Chief Justice of the court to which the transfer is taking place.
 - One or more SC judges
- The recommendation is sent to the Union Law Minister → the Prime Minister → the President.
- After the President approves the transfer, the notification will be gazetted and the judge remains transferred.

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 aims to provide for the prohibition of employment as manual scavengers and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their families.
- No person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Any violation of the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 is punishable with imprisonment up to 2 years, a fine up to Rs. One Lakh, or both.
- It outlines the provisions for the rehabilitation of sanitation workers and their families.
- Every state must have a monitoring committee consisting of the chief minister, the minister representing Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the director-

general of police, among other officials.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Every state government or union territory administration must send periodic reports to the central government about its progress on implementing this Act. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The government has to ensure that local authorities and district magistrates implement the law.
- For this, a vigilance committee has to be set up at the sub-division, district, state, and central levels.

Ans. 3 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Air Quality Index is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand.
- It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb) for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

Ans. 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was established through the National Commission for Backward Classes Act of 1993 under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- But in 2018, through the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, it was made a Constitutional body under article 338B. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Objective: To advise actively on the socio-economic development of the socially

backward classes (OBCs) along with evaluating the progress of their development.

- It recommends inclusions and exclusions from the list of communities notified as backward for the purpose of job reservations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission has the same powers as a Civil Court trying a suit related to safeguards provided for socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans. 5 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Under the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign, soil collected from different parts of the country will be used to develop a garden along the Kartavya Path in Delhi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Events have been planned at the panchayat, village, block, urban local body, and State and national levels, respectively.
- The five-point agenda includes the installation of a shilaphalakam (memorial plaque), as per specifications, bearing the “names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ‘Vasudha Vandhan’ envisages every gram panchayat or village renewing “Mother Earth by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species and developing an Amrit Vatika”.
- ‘Veeron Ka Vandan’ will felicitate freedom fighters, and the families of deceased freedom fighters.

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Fast Radio Bursts refer to bright and brief bursts of electromagnetic radiation (light) seen in radio-wave frequencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- They usually last for a very short period of time.
- They reach earth from faraway galaxies, emitting as much energy in a millisecond as the sun does over weeks. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Some FRBs repeat, but the vast majority happen once and disappear forever. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Scientists don't know for sure what causes fast radio bursts.
- However, the current prevailing theory is that at least some FRBs are emitted by neutron stars.
- They can help to detect and measure the immense amount of matter believed to populate the expanses of space between galaxies. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Ans. 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Inflation refers to long-term increase in the general price level of goods and services in a given economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It considers the pricing of most everyday or standard products and services, such as food, clothes, housing, recreation, transportation, consumer staples, etc.
- Inflation Targeting is a central banking policy that focuses on altering monetary policy to attain a set annual inflation rate.
- Under the RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, determines the inflation target.
- This is decided in terms of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), once in five years. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It provides for the constitution of a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to determine the policy rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- Currently, the RBI aims to keep inflation at 4% but will tolerate inflation between the range of 2% to 6%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will evaluate the crew module's readiness for the Gaganyaan mission. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- 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.

Ans.9 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- When in session, the Lok Sabha generally starts with Question Hour. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The procedure for raising questions is governed by Rules 32 to 54 of the "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha" and Directions 10 to 18 of the "Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha".
- To ask a question, an MP has to first give a notice addressed to the lower house's Secretary General, intimating their intention to ask a question. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

- A Member is allowed to give not more than five notices of questions, both for oral and written answers, in all, for any day.
- A starred question is asked by an MP and answered orally by the Minister-in-charge. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- An unstarred question receives a written reply from the Ministry.
- Short notice questions are ones pertaining to a matter of urgent public importance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The question to a private Member is addressed to the MP themselves.

Ans. 10 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Socio-Economic and Caste Census was conducted for the first time in 1931. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is meant to canvas every Indian family, both in rural and urban India, and ask about their economic status and specific caste name.
- It has the potential to allow for a mapping of inequalities at a broader level.
- It is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
- All the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

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