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By



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Let's proceed with IMEC despite Gaza war, Greek PM tells India - The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- IMEC Corridor
- Haifa port

News:

- **India and Greece should persevere with the "peace project",** said the Greek Prime Minister in New Delhi.

Key Highlights

- Greek prime minister said that **Despite the Israeli war in Gaza "destabilising" plans for the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)**
- "The war in Gaza and turmoil in the Middle East is undoubtedly destabilising but it does not undermine the powerful logic behind IMEC.
- "Launched during India's G-20 chairmanship, the IMEC corridor will contribute significantly to the development of humanity in the long run.
- the founding members of the initiative, including India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Mauritius, the UAE and Saudi Arabia,
 - have been unable to meet, as stipulated by the MoU for the past six months due to the conflict in Gaza.
- Israel's Haifa port, owned by India's Adani Group, was expected to be a key trading point for the ship-and-rail route proposed under IMEC from India's west coast,
 - through the UAE and Saudi Arabia to Jordan and Israel, before reaching Greece's Piraeus Port and on to the rest of Europe.

IMEC Corridor

- The proposed IMEC will consist of Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks and Road transport routes extending across two corridors, that is,
 - The East Corridor – connecting India to the Arabian Gulf,
 - The Northern Corridor – connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- The IMEC corridor will also include an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- **India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany are signatories.**

Ports to be Connected

- India: Mundra (Gujarat), Kandla (Gujarat), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai).
- Middle East: Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Abu Dhabi in the UAE as well as Dammam and Ras Al Khair ports in Saudi Arabia.
- **Railway line will connect** Fujairah port (UAE) to Haifa port (Israel) via: Saudi Arabia (Ghuwaifat and Haradh) and Jordan.
- Israel: Haifa port.
- Europe: Piraeus port in Greece, Messina in South Italy, and Marseille in France.

2. Tribal Affairs, Ayush Ministries sign pact on health screening - The Hindu

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

News:

- Ministries of Tribal Affairs and AYUSH **jointly launch a National level Project for Screening and Health Management of tribal students** through Ayurvedic Interventions

Prelims Takeaway

- Ekalavya Model Residential Schools
- Poshan Vatikas

Key Highlights

- The Minister suggested the inclusion of medicinal plant gardens on lines of **Poshan Vatikas in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**
 - to raise awareness among future generations about the importance of tradition in ensuring good health.
- The Ministry of AYUSH, in collaboration with its Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)
 - has undertaken this health initiative for tribal students in partnership with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur.
- It aims to cater to the **healthcare requirements** of students residing in EMRS across tribal areas in the country.
- This project aims to benefit students **aged 10-18 years** enrolled in **classes 6th to 12th** in 55 identified EMRS across 14 States of the country.
- The screenings will focus on **identifying issues such as Anaemia, Haemoglobinopathies, Malnutrition, and Tuberculosis.**

Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)

- It play a crucial role in providing **quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) children in remote areas**
- It enables them to **access higher education and employment opportunities** across various sectors.
- These schools emphasize not only academic education but also the **holistic development of students**, including their health.
- Currently, there are 402 functional EMRSs across the country, each offering state-of-the-art facilities for quality education, sports training, and skill development.

3. Centre allocates ₹20 crore to bail out poor prisoners - The Hindu

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

News:

- The Union government has allocated an annual fund of ₹20 crores **to bail out poor prisoners languishing in prisons across the country due to financial constraints.**

Key Highlights

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs has urged Heads of Prisons of all States** and Union Territories to utilise the funds to provide relief to poor prisoners
 - Who are either unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.
- The initiative was part of the Centre's priority in "**reaching the last mile: no one to be left behind**" under which the "Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme" was launched in May last.
- The Union Home Minister had written to Chief Ministers of all States and UTs soon after the scheme was launched and requested them to take full advantage of the initiative.

Poor response from States

- The Ministry said the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was appointed as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for implementing the scheme.**
- The NCRB had opened **an account in a nationalised bank for the "Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme"**
- all States and UTs were advised to open a subsidiary account for further transactions in coordination with the CNA.
- The committees, with the assistance of District Legal Services Authority and prison authorities, should examine cases of eligible prisoners
 - have the power to sanction the amount required for paying fine/bail amount, etc., within the parameters of the guidelines prescribed under the scheme.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Crime Records Bureau
- Prison Reforms

GS III

4. Manipur HC removes portion of its order on ST tag for Meiteis - The Hindu

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

News:

- A Bench of the Manipur High Court modified its own March 27, 2023 order, ordering the removal of Paragraph 17(iii),

Key Highlights

- Paragraph 17(iii), had instructed the Manipur government to consider the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes.
- This direction is said to have triggered the ongoing ethnic conflict between the Meiteis and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities in the State.
- ST status for Meiteis was considered and rejected in 1982 and 2001, government records show

Process of Inclusion in the ST List

- State governments starts recommending for inclusion of the tribes in the list of ST.
- **After the recommendation of the state govt, Tribal Affairs Ministry reviews** and sends them to the Registrar General of India, **Under the Home Ministry for approval.**
- After approval, it is sent to the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and then sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.**
- Once the cabinet finalises it, then it introduces a bill in the parliament to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- After the **amendment bill is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**, the President's office takes the final decision under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution

Prelims Takeaway

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- Meities

5. FM asks financial sector regulators to take more steps to curb unauthorised lending via apps - Indian Express

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

News:

- The Finance Minister **asked financial sector regulators**, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **to take further measures to check spread of unauthorised lending through online apps.**

Key Highlights

- Finance Minister Addressed the 28th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)
- The ongoing inter-regulatory issues were also discussed to support GIFT IFSC in its strategic role to become one of the world's premier international financial centres
- The objective is **to remain proactive, maintain cyber security preparedness with constant vigilance, and take appropriate and timely action to mitigate** any such vulnerabilities in the Indian financial system.
- Fraudulent loan apps **have defrauded many gullible borrowers of their money**, leading to distress in many cases.

First Loan Default Guarantee (FLDG)

- FLDG is a **lending model and a credit-sharing agreement** between digital lending apps and their partner banks and NBFCs.
- As per these agreements, **the digital lending apps will give credit guarantees to compensate their partners up to a certain amount in case of default.**
- Regulated entities such as banks and NBFCs lend from their own book through these fintech or digital lending apps.

Prelims Takeaway

- First Loan Default Guarantee
- GIFT IFSC

6. ISRO key test over, CE20 cryogenic engine is now human-rated for Gaganyaan missions - The Hindu/ Cryogenic engine test for human-space flight mission, Gaganyaan, successful: ISRO - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, ISRO achieved a significant milestone in the **human rating of its CE20 cryogenic engine** with completion of the final round of ground qualification tests.
- The cryogenic engine powers the **cryogenic stage** of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for **Gaganyaan missions**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Gaganyaan Mission
- Cryogenic Engine
- ISRO

Human Rating

- Human-rating refers to rating a system that is **capable of safely transporting humans**.
- **Rigorous testing** including life demonstration tests, endurance tests, and performance assessments under various conditions, were conducted to meet human rating standards.
- The CE20 engine underwent 39 hot firing tests under different conditions, totaling 8,810 seconds.
- This surpassed the minimum requirement of 6,350 seconds for human rating qualification.

Cryogenic Engine

- A cryogenic engine **powers the last stage of space launch vehicles** which makes use of **Cryogenics**.
 - Cryogenics is the study of the production and behaviour of materials at extremely low temperatures (below -150°C) to lift and place the heavier objects in space.
- It uses **Liquid Oxygen (LOx)** and **Liquid Hydrogen (LH2)** as propellants.
- So far only **six countries** have these launch vehicles viz. the US, China, Russia, France, Japan, and India.
- India's heaviest launch vehicles viz. **GSLV** and **GSLV Mk III** use cryogenic fuel in the upper stage of the launch vehicle.

Advantages

- It is more **efficient** and provides **more thrust** for every kilogram of propellant it burns compared to other propellant rocket stages.
- Using a cryogenic upper stage enhances the **payload carrying capacity** of a rocket.
- Both fuels (LOx and LH2) are **environment-friendly** other propellants used in the rocket industry.

Disadvantages

- It is technically a much more **complex system** as against solid/earth-storable liquid propellant stages.
- Due to the **usage of propellants at extremely low temperatures** and the associated **thermal and structural problems**.

7. Union Cabinet approves 100% FDI in space sector - The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved amendments to the existing Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) **policy**, particularly in the **space sector**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

The Amendments

- The amended policy allows **100% FDI in the space sector** to attract potential investors to invest in Indian companies in space.
- The amended policy extends the facility of
 - Up to 74% FDI under automatic route for satellite manufacturing and operation, satellite data products, and ground/user segment.

- Up to 49% FDI under automatic route for launch vehicles and associated systems/subsystems, and creation of spaceports.
- Up to 100% FDI under automatic route permitted for manufacturing of components/systems for satellites, ground segment, and user segment.

Benefits of Increased Private Sector Participation

- It is expected to **generate employment, promote modern technology absorption, and enhance sector self-reliance.**
- It aims to **integrate Indian companies into global value chains**, enabling them to establish manufacturing facilities within the country.

Division of Satellites Sub-sector

- The satellite sub-sector has been **divided into three activities** with defined limits for foreign investment.
- As per the existing FDI policy, foreign investment is allowed in **establishment and operation of satellites** via government-approval route only.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. Ending discrimination - The Hindu

Relevance: Role of women and women's organization

Context:

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India ruled against archaic rules **penalizing women employees for getting married**, deeming such regulations unconstitutional.

The Case

- The case involved Selina John, a former lieutenant and Permanent Commissioner Officer in the Military Nursing Service, who was discharged in 1988 for marrying.
- The Court stated that terminating employment because the woman has got married is a coarse case of gender discrimination and inequality.
- It directed the Union Government to compensate Ms. John with ₹60 lakh within eight weeks.

Gender Parity in the Military

- The Court highlighted the discriminatory nature of rules against marriage, particularly targeting women nursing officers.
- While progress has been made in granting permanent commission to women in the military, actions must align to truly encourage female participation.

Challenges in Civilian Workplace

- Gender discrimination extends beyond the military, with women facing uncomfortable questions about marriage and motherhood in job interviews.
- Barriers in education, employment, and opportunities hinder women's participation in the workforce.
- According to the latest Periodic Labour Force data (October-December 2023), India's female labour force participation is at an alarming 19.9%.

Barriers to Gender Parity

- Many girls, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, are forced to drop out of school due to various factors.
 - These include economic constraints and inadequate facilities (lack of proper toilets).
- The UN's Gender Snapshot 2023 highlights that if course correction measures are not taken, the next generation of women will still spend a disproportionate amount of time on housework and duties compared to men, and stay off leadership roles.

Call for Workplace Transformation

- The Supreme Court's stance against rules discriminating against women employees should serve as a wake-up call for all organizations.
- Workplace policies should prioritize inclusivity and empower women, rather than imposing hurdles based on gender or marital status.

9. On financial devolution among States - The Hindu

Relevance: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Context:

- Recently various Opposition-ruled States have claimed that they have **not been receiving their fair share** as per the present scheme of financial devolution.

<p>Divisible Pool of Taxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 270 of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States. These include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, and Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). However, cess and surcharge levied by the Centre are not part of the divisible pool. These taxes are shared based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission (FC) constituted every five years as per Article 280. Additionally, states are also provided grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the FC. <p>Constitution of the Finance Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FC, constituted every five years exclusively by the Union Government, consists of a chairman and four other members appointed by the President. The Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951, has specified the qualifications for chairman and other members of the commission. Recently, the 16th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya was formed to make recommendations for the period of 2026-31. <p>Basis for Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The share of States from the divisible pool (vertical devolution) stands at 41% as per the 15th FC. The distribution among the States (horizontal devolution) is based on various criterias. These include income distance, population, forest and ecology, demographic performance, and tax effort. 	<p>The Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cess and Surcharge Exclusion: Approximately 23% of the Centre's gross tax receipts for 2024-25 comprise cess and surcharge, not shared with States. Disparity in Returns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount each State gets back for every rupee they contribute to Central taxes shows steep variation. Industrially developed States received much less than a rupee for every rupee they contributed as against States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This discrepancy is attributed to various factors such as differences in GST collection among various States. Reduced Share for Southern States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage share in the divisible pool of taxes has been reducing for southern States over the past six Finance Commissions. This is attributable to the higher weightage being given for equity (income gap) and needs than efficiency (demographic performance and tax effort). Variation in Grants-in-Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Grants-in-aid recommended by FC also vary among States. There are revenue deficits, sector-specific and State-specific grants given to various States as well as grants to local bodies. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The divisible pool should be enlarged by including some portion of cess and surcharge in it. The weightage for efficiency criteria in horizontal devolution should be increased. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relative GST contribution from States can be included as a criterion by providing suitable weightage in future FCs. States should be involved more formally in the constitution and functioning of the FC.
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Conclusion

- The implementation of the reforms necessitates **collaboration between the Centre and States**.
- It also requires ensuring **adequate resource devolution to local bodies** to facilitate holistic development.

10. Fali in court: 9 notable cases - Indian Express

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

Context:

- Recently, eminent jurist and Senior Advocate **Fali S Nariman** passed away at the age of 95.
- His career as a lawyer spanned over 75 years with the last half-century being spent as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India.
- During this time, he left an imprint on the law and the legal profession in a **vast array of landmark cases**.

Notable Cases

1. The Second Judges Case: Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India

- He played a pivotal role in challenging a Supreme Court ruling that granted the central government final authority in matters regarding judicial appointments and transfers.

- He argued that the consultation process between the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the President must be more than mere advice-seeking to ensure judicial independence.
- His efforts led to the establishment of the Supreme Court Collegium in 1993, ensuring binding recommendations for appointment of judges to the apex court and High Courts.

2. The Third Judges Case

- The President of India under Article 143 of the Constitution asked for clarification on the procedure for appointment of judges following the second judges case.
- He clarified that the CJI must consult other judges of the Supreme Court before making any recommendations for judicial appointments.
- This case also expanded the size of the Supreme Court Collegium to five senior most judges from the existing three

3. National Judicial Appointments Commission case: Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India

- He continued his advocacy for judicial independence during the challenge against the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 (NJAC).
 - The NJAC amended the Constitution to insert Article 124A which created a six-person commission for judicial appointments.
 - This commission would comprise
 - the Chief Justice of India
 - two other senior SC Judges
 - the Union Minister of Law and Justice
 - two “eminent persons” who would be nominated by a committee comprising the CJI
 - the Prime Minister
 - the Leader of Opposition.
- He asserted that it would compromise judicial independence by involving the central government and legislature in judicial appointments.
- The Supreme Court agreed with his stance and struck down the NJAC in 2015, reaffirming the collegium system.

4. Parliament cannot curtail fundamental rights: I.C. Golak Nath v. State of Punjab

- He intervened in the I.C. Golak Nath case (1967), arguing against Parliament's power to curtail fundamental rights through constitutional amendments.
- His efforts contributed to the court's ruling that Parliament cannot amend articles related to fundamental rights, safeguarding the core principles of the Constitution.

5. Bhopal gas tragedy: Union Carbide Corporation v. Union of India (1989)

- In 1984, in the Bhopal gas tragedy, 42 tons of toxic chemicals leaked from a pesticide plant owned by Union Carbide India Limited.
- This resulted in thousands of deaths and environmental damage in the following years.
- In the aftermath of the tragedy, he represented Union Carbide and negotiated a settlement with the government, securing compensation for the victims.

6. Rights of minorities to establish and administer education institutions: TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka

- He argued in the landmark TMA Pai case in support of minority rights to establish and administer educational institutions under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.
- The court held that linguistic and religious minorities have to be determined on a state-by-state basis.
- Additionally, the government has the power to frame regulations which will apply to minority-run educational institutions.

- However, these regulations cannot destroy the minority character of the institution.
- 7. Governor to act only upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers, chief minister: Nabam Rebia, and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker**
- He played a crucial role in resolving a political crisis in Arunachal Pradesh following the rebellion of 21 MLAs in 2015.
 - He asserted that the governors must act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers and chief ministers.
 - His legal intervention restored the constitutional order in the state.
- 8. Cauvery Water Dispute: State of Karnataka v State of Tamil Nadu**
- For over three decades, he represented Karnataka in the Cauvery water dispute with Tamil Nadu.
 - Due to the non-compliance, he refused to argue the case on behalf of the Karnataka government any further.



Mentorship
India

Quick Look

1. Free trade Agreement (FTA)

- The proposed India-Oman free trade agreement (FTA) that could boost Indian exports into the West Asia region is likely to be announced soon.
- FTA is an agreement between countries or regional blocks to reduce or eliminate trade barriers, through mutual negotiations with a view to enhancing trade.
- It includes goods, services, investment, intellectual property, competition, government procurement and other areas.
- This concept of free trade is the opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.
- FTAs can be categorised as
 - Preferential Trade Agreement
 - Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
 - Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

2. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- It is a type of cross-border investment in which an investor from one country establishes a lasting interest in an enterprise in another country.
- FDI can take various forms, such as
 - Acquiring shares
 - Establishing a subsidiary or a joint venture
 - Providing loans or technology transfers
- It is considered to be a key driver of economic growth, as it can bring in capital, technology, skills, market access and employment opportunities to the host country.

3. IBSA Fund

- Recently, India contributed USD 1 million to the IBSA fund established by the IBSA countries viz. India, Brazil and South Africa.
- It was established in 2004 and became operational in 2006.
- Purpose: To identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to developing countries on a demand-driven basis.
- Objectives: Promoting food security, addressing HIV/AIDS, and extending access to safe drinking water to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
- IBSA Fund-supported projects help partner countries in the Global South to achieve their national priorities, as well as all other internationally agreed development goals.
- Each of the IBSA countries contribute one million dollars annually to the Fund.
- This is in a spirit of partnership and support for Southern-led, demand-driven, transformational projects in developing countries.

4. Kapilvastu Relics

- Recently, four bone fragments of Lord Buddha, also known as Kapilvastu Relics, kept in the National Museum will be taken to Thailand.
- The relics were excavated from Piprahwa in the Siddharthnagar District of Uttar Pradesh, an erstwhile part of the ancient city of Kapilavastu.

- A British colonial engineer and an estate manager William Claxton Peppé discovered an inscribed casket in 1898 at the stupa site in Piprahwa.
- The inscription on the casket's lid refers to the relics of Buddha and his community, the Sakya.
- History
 - According to Buddhist tradition, at the age of 80, Buddha attained enlightenment in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district.
 - The Mallas of Kushinagar cremated his body with ceremonies befitting a universal king.
 - His relics were collected and divided into eight shares to be distributed among various groups.
 - Stupas were erected over these relics, making them the earliest surviving Buddhist shrines.
 - Ashoka, a devoted follower of Buddhism, opened seven of these stupas and collected a major portion of the relics to enshrine them in the stupas built by him, aiming to promote Buddhism and spread its teachings.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following four statements regarding the India-Middle East Economic Corridor

1. The India-Middle East Economic Corridor is a recent initiative aimed at enhancing economic cooperation between India and Middle Eastern countries.
2. The corridor primarily focuses on the transportation of natural resources, including oil and gas, between India and Middle Eastern nations.
3. The strategic location of the corridor includes key countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman, among others.
4. The India-Middle East Economic Corridor is part of India's broader 'Neighborhood First' policy, emphasizing economic ties with its neighboring regions.

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

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

1. EMRS is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing quality education to tribal children in remote areas.
2. These schools follow the Eklavya Model, emphasizing skill development, entrepreneurship, and traditional tribal arts and culture.
3. EMRS primarily focuses on higher education and does not cater to the primary and secondary education needs of tribal students.

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 regarding prison reform in India

1. The Prisons Act, 1894, is the primary legislation governing prisons in India, and it has undergone recent

amendments to align with modern principles of human rights.

2. The concept of Open Prisons, where inmates have greater freedom of movement and are involved in various productive activities, is an integral part of the prison reform initiatives in India.
3. The Model Prison Manual, developed by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), serves as a comprehensive guide for prison administration and reform across the country.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Meiteis

1. Meiteis are an ethnic group primarily residing in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur.
2. The traditional dance form known as "Ras Lila" is associated with the Meitei community, reflecting their cultural and religious practices.
3. The Meitei script, known as "Meetei Mayek," is an ancient script used for writing the Meitei language.

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 regarding the Fintech Repository:

1. It is a proposed initiative by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to gather information voluntarily provided by FinTech companies.
2. The repository aims to enhance regulatory oversight by collecting relevant data on the operations and partnerships of banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) with FinTechs.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding cryogenic engines used in space launch vehicles

1. They utilize Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Nitrogen as propellants.
2. They provide more thrust for every kilogram of propellant burned compared to other rocket stages.
3. India's heaviest launch vehicles utilise cryogenic fuel in the upper stage.

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

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

Q7. With reference to Foreign direct investment (FDI), consider the following statements

1. In FDI the investor has no control over the management of the firm or business entity whose asset is bought.
2. FDI is much more volatile to adverse shocks than FPI
3. An investor remains active under FDI.
4. In FDI, investments are made for long term

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

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

Q8. With reference to Mission Shakti, consider the following statements

1. The Mission focuses solely on economic empowerment initiatives for women.
2. The Mission has two sub-schemes namely Sambal and Samarthyaa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements with reference to the distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States

1. The divisible pool includes corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, and cess and surcharge.
2. The states are provided grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the NITI Aayog.
3. The taxes are shared between the Centre and the States based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission (FC).

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

Important Cases: Provisions

1. Kesavananda Bharati case: Basic structure of the Constitution
2. S. R. Bommai case: Imposition of President's Rule on states
3. Aruna Shanbaug Case: Euthanasia
4. Puttaswamy Judgement: Right to Privacy

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The India-Middle East Economic Corridor is a proposed trade route that seeks to connect India with the Middle East, fostering economic collaboration and regional connectivity. Such initiatives are common in international relations to promote trade and economic development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The India-Middle East Economic Corridor is expected to cover various sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and technology, to promote comprehensive economic engagement. While the transportation of natural resources might be a component, the initiative aims for a broader economic partnership. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The corridor is envisioned to traverse through multiple countries in the Middle East, including but not limited to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. This strategic routing aims to create a network that encompasses significant economic players in the region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- India's 'Neighborhood First' policy prioritizes strengthening ties with neighboring countries, and initiatives like the India-Middle East Economic Corridor align with this approach by fostering economic cooperation and connectivity with countries in the Middle East. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Answer 2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- EMRS is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Its primary objective is to provide quality education to tribal children in remote areas, with a focus on their overall development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Eklavya Model in EMRS involves a holistic approach that goes beyond academic education. It emphasizes skill development, entrepreneurship, and the preservation of traditional tribal arts and culture. The idea is to provide a well-rounded education to tribal students. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- EMRS caters to the educational needs of tribal students from Class 6 to Class 12. It covers both secondary and higher secondary levels, ensuring a comprehensive educational foundation for tribal children. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect.**

Answer 3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Prisons Act, 1894, is indeed the primary legislation governing prisons in India. There have been recent amendments to the Act, emphasizing human rights, rehabilitation, and modernization of prison facilities to bring them in line with contemporary standards. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Open Prisons are a part of the prison reform initiatives in India. Inmates in Open Prisons are given more freedom of movement and are engaged in productive activities to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Model Prison Manual has been developed by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D). It serves as a comprehensive guide for prison administration, incorporating guidelines for modernization, human rights, and effective management of prisons. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Meiteis are indeed an ethnic group primarily residing in Manipur, a state in northeastern India. They constitute a significant part of the population in the region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ras Lila is a traditional dance form associated with the Meitei community. It is a classical dance that reflects the cultural and religious practices of the Meitei people, often depicting episodes from Hindu mythology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Meitei script, also known as Meitei Mayek, is an ancient script used for writing the Meitei language. It is a unique script with historical significance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 5 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Fintech Repository is indeed a proposed initiative by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to collect relevant information voluntarily provided by FinTech companies. It aims to create a comprehensive database of the fintech sector's activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The primary objective of the Fintech Repository is to enhance regulatory oversight by collecting data on the operations and partnerships of banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) with FinTechs. This would enable the RBI to have better insights into the dynamics of the financial technology sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

Answer 6 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- A cryogenic engine powers the last stage of space launch vehicles which makes use of Cryogenics.
- It uses Liquid Oxygen (LOx) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) as propellants. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- So far only six countries have these launch vehicles viz. the US, China, Russia, France, Japan, and India.
- India's heaviest launch vehicles viz. GSLV and GSLV Mk III use cryogenic fuel in the upper stage of the launch vehicle. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is more efficient and provides more thrust for every kilogram of propellant it burns compared to other propellant rocket stages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Using a cryogenic upper stage enhances the payload carrying capacity of a rocket.
- Both fuels (LOx and LH2) are environment-friendly other propellants used in the rocket industry.
- However, it is technically a much more complex system as against solid/earth-storable liquid propellant stages.

Answer 7 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- FDI pertains to international investment in which the investor obtains a lasting interest in an enterprise in another country
- The investor has control over the management or functioning of the firm or

business entity whose asset is bought.

Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

- An investor is active under FDI. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Direct investments in assets are made.
- Investments made are long term in nature. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- FDI is stable in nature when compared to FPI. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Answer 8 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Mission Shakti is a scheme in mission mode aimed at strengthening interventions for women's safety, security and empowerment. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Ministry for Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the Nodal Ministry for the holistic development of women and children.
- The Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes namely:
 - "Sambal" for safety and security of women
 - "Samarthya" for empowerment of women. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Article 270 of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Union government between the Centre and the States.
- These include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central GST, and Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST).
- However, cess and surcharge levied by the Centre are not part of the divisible pool. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- These taxes are shared based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission (FC) constituted every five years as per Article 280. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Additionally, states are also provided grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the FC. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The FC, constituted every five years exclusively by the Union Government, consists of a chairman and four other members appointed by the President.

Answer 10 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Kesavananda Bharati case (1973): This judgement defined the basic structure of the Constitution.
- S. R. Bommai case (1994): In this judgement, the SC tried to curb the blatant misuse of Article 356 i.e. regarding the imposition of President's Rule on states.
- Aruna Shanbaug Case (2011): The SC ruled that individuals had a right to die with dignity, allowing passive euthanasia with guidelines.
- Puttaswamy Case (2017): This SC judgement protects individual rights against the invasion of one's privacy. **Hence, option D is correct.**

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