

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 22 Mar. 2024

Important News Articles

1. World Happiness Report 2024: Here are the happiest countries of the world, where does India rank?- Economic times
2. Fourth edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum held in New Delhi- The Print
3. SC stays govt. notification on establishing fact check unit -The hindu
4. ED arrested Arvind Kejriwal : claims Kejriwal 'kingpin, demanded ₹100 crore from South group'
5. Panel to study scope of altering power lines in bustard habitat
6. Ministry of Environment tightens rules on bioplastics
7. Discoms urge people to observe Earth Hour -Business Standard
8. NIXI and MeitY to unveil BhashaNet portal at UA Day tomorrow for Digital Inclusion across the nation- PIB

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. New capabilities: The choice of MIRV on Agni-V gives it range and ability to defeat defences
10. Navigating the global waterscape, its challenges- The Hindu

Quick Look

1. "State of the Judiciary" Report
2. Exercise Desert Cyclone
3. Sarna Religion
4. National Judicial Data Grid
5. MGNREGA

Important News Articles

GS II

1. World Happiness Report 2024: Here are the happiest countries of the world, where does India rank?- Economic times

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

Prelims Takeaway

- World Happiness Report

News:

- **Finland for the seventh time straight became the world's happiest country**, according to the annual UN World Happiness Report

Key highlights

- The World Happiness Report is a yearly ranking of how happy people are in different countries.
- The World Happiness Report is a partnership of Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the WHR's Editorial Board
- It's based on surveys asking people how happy they feel, along with considering things like money, health, and social connections.
- This year, Finland came in first place for the seventh year in a row, followed by other Nordic countries like Denmark and Iceland.
- Worldwide, women were less happy than men in every region, with the gender gap widening as they aged, said the report.
- The bottom of the list has Afghanistan, and for the first time in a long time, the US and Germany aren't even in the top 20 happiest places.

interesting facts about India.

- They rank 126th again this year, and older people, especially married educated men, tend to be happier than younger people or women.
- The biggest things affecting happiness in India are where you live, if you feel discriminated against, and your health.

2. Fourth edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum held in New Delhi- The Print

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

Prelims Takeaway

- SCO

News:

- The fourth edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum was organized here in New Delhi.
- The initiative focused on broadening startup interactions among the SCO Member States, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, promoting job creation, and inspiring young talent to develop innovative solutions.

SCO Startup Forum: Building a Bridge for Innovation in Eurasia

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Startup Forum (SCO Startup Forum) is a platform designed to connect and empower startups across all SCO member states.
- It fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing between entrepreneurs, corporations, investors, and governments.

Key Goals:

- **Boost Innovation and Collaboration:** The forum aims to create a space where startups can learn from each other's best practices and work together to develop groundbreaking ideas.
- **Bridge the Gap:** By bringing corporations and investors together with startups, the forum provides much-needed support and market access for young companies.
- **Scaling Up:** The forum looks to identify and promote social innovation solutions, while also offering mentorship and programs to help startups reach international markets.

- **Cross-Border Collaboration:** The forum encourages collaboration between incubators and accelerators across SCO member states, facilitating knowledge exchange and market expansion for startups.

India Taking the Lead:

- India is taking a proactive role in fostering this SCO startup ecosystem.
- They will be hosting the upcoming SCO Startup Forum 5.0 in January 2025, along with a meeting of the Special Working Group on Startups and Innovation (SWG) in November 2024.
- This leadership role builds on the success of previous forums, which have seen the launch of the SCO Startup Hub (a central point of contact) and the first-ever physical forum in 2023.
- The SCO Startup Forum is a promising initiative that aims to create a thriving and interconnected network of innovation across Eurasia.

3. SC stays govt. notification on establishing fact check unit -The hindu

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

News:

- The Supreme Court recently, stayed a government notification establishing the Press Information Bureau's Fact Checking Unit (PIB FCU)
- PIB was to act as a "deterrent" against the creation and dissemination of fake news or misinformation regarding the "business" of the Centre.

Key Highlights

- The Bombay High Court took a final call on the validity of provisions of Rule 3(1)(b)(v) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- The Supreme Court did not comment on the merits or legality of Rule 3(1)(b)(v), saying the impact of the provision on the fundamental rights to free speech and expression would be analysed by the High Court.

Press Information Bureau

- PIB, is a nodal agency of the Government of India under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Based in National Media Centre, New Delhi, Press Information Bureau disseminates information to print, electronic and web media on government plans, policies, programme initiatives and achievements.
- It is available in 14 Indian official languages, which are Dogri, Punjabi, Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati, Marathi, Meitei (Manipuri)
 - Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Konkani and Urdu, in addition to Hindi and English, out of the 22 official languages of the Indian Republic.
- The head of PIB is also the Official Spokesperson of the Government of India and holds the rank of Principal Director General (Special Secretary equivalent).

Prelims Takeaway

- PIB
- The Information Technology Rules, 2021.

4. ED arrested Arvind Kejriwal : claims Kejriwal 'kingpin, demanded ₹100 crore from South group'

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

News:

- Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in excise policy-linked money laundering case

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- The Enforcement Directorate was established in 1956 as an 'Enforcement Unit' under the Department of Economic Affairs.

Prelims Takeaway

- Enforcement Directorate

- Later, in 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.

Administrative control

- Presently, it is under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance) for operational purposes.

Functions

- ED is responsible for enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), and certain provisions under the PMLA.
- ED has the power to attach the asset of the culprits found guilty of the violation of FEMA.
- It has also been empowered to undertake, search, seizure, arrest, prosecution action, and survey, etc. against the offences committed under PMLA.

Appointment of Director of ED

- The ED Director is appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a committee:
- chaired by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and members of Vigilance Commissioners, Home Secretary, Secretary DOPT and Revenue Secretary.

GS III**5. Panel to study scope of altering power lines in bustard habitat**

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

News:

- The Supreme Court constituted an expert committee **to balance the conservation and protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard bird population** with the country's international commitments to promote renewable sources of energy.

Key Highlights

- The large-winged birds are on the brink of extinction, and one of the causes is the **frequent collision with high-powered power cables running**
 - adjacent to its core habitats in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- The committee would explore alternatives to **balance sustainable development goals and conservation of the birds.**

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), the State bird of Rajasthan, is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- The bird is under constant threats due to:
 - collision/electrocution with power transmission lines
 - hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan)
 - habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List (IUCN): **Critically Endangered**

Prelims Takeaway

- Great Indian Bustard
- IUCN

6. Ministry of Environment tightens rules on bioplastics

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

News:

- The Environment Ministry has introduced rules that make it **harder for makers of disposable plastic ware to label such products as 'biodegradable'**
- Introducing a stipulation that they must not leave any microplastics behind.

Key Highlights

- Biodegradable plastic and compostable plastic are projected as the two broad kinds of technological fixes to India's burgeoning problem of plastic waste pollution.

Prelims Takeaway

- CPCB
- Microplastics

- Biodegradable plastic involves plastic goods being treated before they are sold.
- Compostable plastics, on the other hand, do degrade but require industrial or large municipal waste management facilities to do so.
- A new set of amendments to **India's Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024**, made public recently, defines biodegradable plastics as not only capable of "... degradation by biological processes in specific environments such as soil, landfill.
 - but also as materials that do not leave "any microplastics..."
- The caveat about **microplastics in the updated rules does not specify which chemical tests can be used** to establish the absence of microplastics
 - or to what extent microplastics must be reduced in a sample in order to consider them eliminated
- **Microplastics have been reported as a major source of pollution** affecting rivers and oceans.
- Several firms were left in the lurch as the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) refused to provide them with a 'provisional certificate' to license their products as biodegradable.
 - This is because the CPCB only considers biodegradable a plastic sample that has 90% degraded, and such a process takes at least two years.

7. Discoms urge people to observe Earth Hour -Business Standard

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

News:

- Power discoms in the capital are gearing up to make 'Earth Hour' a success by encouraging consumer switch off non-essential lights

Key Highlights

- **Earth Hour is a worldwide movement started by WWF** to raise awareness about environmental issues.
- It began in Sydney in 2007 as a symbolic event where people turn off lights for an hour.
- It's a chance to show commitment to protecting the planet and highlight the effects of energy use.
- Even governments and businesses get involved by turning off lights in buildings and landmarks.

WWF

- Founded in 1961, **WWF is an international NGO** that works to conserve wildlife and habitats, aiming for a future where humans and nature coexist peacefully.
- They collaborate with governments, businesses, and local communities to find solutions to environmental challenges.

Prelims Takeaway

- WWF
- Earth Hour

8. NIXI and MeitY to unveil BhashaNet portal at UA Day tomorrow for Digital Inclusion across the nation- PIB

Relevance: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News:

- **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** is proud to announce the launch of the BhashaNet portal for the **upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day**

NIXI: Keeping Your Indian Internet Speedy and Affordable

- Founded in 2003, NIXI is a non-profit organization that plays a key role in India's internet infrastructure.
- They help keep Indian internet traffic flowing smoothly within the country, instead of taking detours overseas.
- This translates to faster internet (lower latency) and cheaper costs for internet service providers (ISPs) since they don't have to pay for as much international bandwidth.
- NIXI also plays a part in making the internet more accessible in India.
- Additionally, they operate the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN), which helps connect different internet networks within the country.

Universal Acceptance Day: Making the Internet Inclusive

Prelims Takeaway

- National Internet Exchange of India

- This section talks about a separate initiative, Universal Acceptance (UA) Day.
- Held annually, it's a global effort to raise awareness about ensuring all languages and scripts can be used seamlessly on the internet.
- This means everyone can have email addresses and website domain names that reflect their language and identity, promoting a more inclusive online experience.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. New capabilities: The choice of MIRV on Agni-V gives it range and ability to defeat defences

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

context:

- On March 11, the Prime Minister used social media to announce **India's entry into a small club of countries capable of delivering multiple nuclear warheads** on a single missile.

Key Highlights

- This was accomplished with the maiden flight test of Agni-V, India's longest range ballistic missile with a range of over 5,000 kilometres
 - with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology under 'Mission Divyastra' by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Since its first test in April 2012, Agni-V has undergone several tests and developments including canisterisation to improve its ease of handling and operation.
- The MIRV system's indigenous avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages ensure that the re-entry vehicles reach the target points accurately.
- The DRDO said the mission accomplished the designed parameters.
- The test also comes five years after India's maiden anti-satellite (ASAT) test under Mission Shakti.
- On March 27, 2019, a live satellite in the low earth orbit of around 300 km was shot down using a modified interceptor of the Ballistic Missile Defence system.

No-first-use policy

- This is a significant technological breakthrough that furthers India's nuclear weapons programme and strengthens second strike capability.
- This is particularly important given India's nuclear doctrine based on a no-first-use policy, credible minimum deterrence and massive retaliation in case of a first strike, which was espoused in 2003, after the nuclear tests of 1998.
- The choice of the MIRV on Agni-V, a three-stage solid fuelled engine, is significant as it is focused towards China given its range and multiple warheads give it the ability to defeat missile defences.

India's nuclear triad

- India completed the nuclear triad in November 2018 when the country's first nuclear powered ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant had finished its first deterrence patrol.
- The MIRV is the next technological threshold in this direction and it is now only logical and a matter of time before the MIRV is deployed on submarine-launched ballistic missiles.
- China, which is fast expanding its nuclear arsenal, has already deployed MIRV technology — first deployed by the U.S. in 1970.
- Pakistan claims to have tested it as well.

Conclusion

- The other side of this development is the factor of escalation dynamics that is going to accelerate in the region with China and Pakistan. This spiral race of one-upmanship is only going to deepen, get more technology-intensive and turn out to be an expensive endeavour

10. Navigating the global waterscape, its challenges- The Hindu

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

context:

- **United Nations World Water Development Report** recently, published by UNESCO
- The report reminds us that a "large proportion of the world's freshwater resources are in transboundary waters" including in India.

Key Highlights

- in the South Asian region, the extent of water pollution has worsened considerably in recent years, especially the Meghna, Brahmaputra, Ganga and Indus, warns the 2024 report.
- According to the World Resources Institute, 17 countries face 'extremely high' levels of water stress which is threatening to result in conflict, unrest and peace among people.
- India is not an exception to these problems. In India, water availability is already low enough to be categorised as water
- In almost every State and in the main cities of India, there is groundwater table depletion.
- The example of Bengaluru is one prominent example.
 - But, due to a lack of or inappropriate catchment treatment measures, bad design and poor maintenance of water bodies
 - most of the reservoirs/ waterbodies/ wetlands have silted up, resulting in reduced storage capacity and lower efficacy.
- There is a lack of proper surface and groundwater management.
- Rainfed regions in India which comprise over 48% of land area produces nearly 45% of the gross agricultural product.

Solution

- This can only be possible by adopting different resource conservation measures in general and rainwater harvesting (in-situ and ex-situ)
 - ensuring roof top rainwater harvesting in particular.
- Rain water harvesting (RWH) enables resilience against water scarcity and drought by augmenting recharge and aiding irrigation.

Government schemes to promote water conservation

- 'per drop more crop
- 'Gaon ka pani gaon mein
- 'Khet ka pani khet mein
- 'Har Medh per ped' under various programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
 - watershed management
 - Mission Amrit Sarovar
 - the Jal Shakti Abhiyan programmes.
- But there is the need for a protocol of the revival of ponds/waterbodies (it is unavailable right now).
- To tackle all these problems there is a great need to study the condition of every waterbody, its water availability, water quality and the state of ecosystem services it There is a need also to create more waterbodies and their revival in every village by looking into the catchment-storage-command area of each waterbody.

Additional steps

- ensuring efficient irrigation techniques such as integrating water resources with micro-irrigations systems and IOT based automation; having integrated water resource management
- installing water meters to reduce water use for domestic purposes
- no free electricity, having a convergence and linkages of line departments; fostering community awareness and peoples' participation, awareness campaigns about water conservation; ensuring groundwater use neutrality;

Quick Look

1. "State of the Judiciary" Report

- Recently, a report titled 'State of the Judiciary' was published by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.
- Key Findings
 - Nearly one-fifth (19.7%) of district court complexes in India do not have separate toilets for women.
 - Existing women's toilets often suffer from broken doors and irregular water supply, compromising the hygiene and dignity of users.
 - Some court complexes have shared washrooms for male and female judges.
 - Only 6.7% of women's toilets in district court complexes are equipped with sanitary napkin vending machines.
 - Most district courts lack toilets specifically designated for transgender persons.
 - Judges in some instances personally engage sweepers and cleaners to ensure the cleanliness of the toilets.

2. Exercise Desert Cyclone

- It is the inaugural edition of joint military exercise "Desert Cyclone 2024" between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- It will be held from January 2 to January 15 in Rajasthan.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in Urban Operations.
- This exercise is marking a significant milestone in the strategic partnership.

3. Sarna Religion

- A recent study at IIT Indore on tribal culture, forest conservation, and wildfire in central India sheds light on the Sarna religion's tenets.
- Indigenous religious faith predominantly followed in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region.
- Concentrated mainly in the tribal belt states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- Followers of the Sarna faith are nature worshippers.
- The holy grail of the Sarna faith is "Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land)."
- Its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- Believers of the Sarna faith do not practise idol worship, nor do they adhere to the concept of the Varna system, heaven-hell, etc.
- Important Festivals: Sarhul, Karam, Faggu

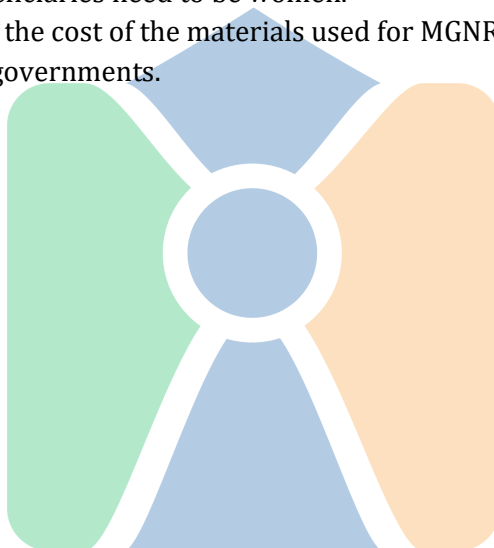
4. National Judicial Data Grid

- NJDG is a database of orders, judgments and case details of Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.
- It has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in coordination with the Computer Cell Registry.
- Data is updated on a near real-time basis by the connected District and Taluka courts.
- Aligned with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), NJDG provides an Open Application Programming Interface (API) to Central and State Governments.

- Through this one may access case related information, statistics such as institution, pendency and disposal of cases, case-types, year-wise break-up of the Supreme Court of India.

5. MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.
- It aims to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- The act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- If any rural adult fails to get work within 15 days of demanding it, an 'unemployment allowance' is given.
- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries need to be women.
- The Centre bears 60% of the cost of the materials used for MGNREGS work and the remaining 40% is provided by the State governments.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to India, Consider the following pairs :

Action : The Act under Which it is covered

1. Unauthorized wearing of police or military uniforms : The Official Secrets Act, 1923
2. Knowingly misleading or otherwise interfering with a police officer or military officer when engaged in their duties : The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
3. Celebratory gunfire which can endanger the personal safety of others : The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019

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 :

Statement-I : Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.

Statement-II : The 'Arab Peace Initiative' Mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and Arab League.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements :

1. According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
2. The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to a person being held for preventive detention.
3. According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.

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:

Statement-I : A Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) or Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) who is accused of a crime and given a minimum of two years' imprisonment, loses membership of the House with immediate effect.

Statement-II: Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, which allowed elected representatives three months to appeal their conviction,[2] was declared unconstitutional by the bench

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the context of climate change:

1. COP is an annual gathering organized by the United Nations to address international climate-related issues and negotiate global agreements.
2. COP28 is currently focused on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST), a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to enhance climate actions.
3. The host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28.

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 about Project Seabird

1. India's biggest naval base project is taking shape on the west coast at Karwar, Karnataka.
2. Following the 1971 war with Pakistan, India recognized the need for another naval base to ease congestion in Mumbai harbor and bolster Western Fleet security.
3. Officially approved in 1985, Project Seabird saw its foundation laid in 1986.

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 regarding the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

1. It aims to provide electricity to all rural households across the country.
2. The scheme focuses on harnessing solar power for rural electrification.
3. The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is the responsibility of the Ministry of Power.
4. The scheme offers 100% financial assistance to households for the installation of solar-powered equipment.

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 deepfake technology, consider the following statements

1. Deep Fakes are digital media, video, audio, and images, edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
2. The deep fakes are generated by highly skilled individuals and they require a large amount of data of the source and the target person.

3. India lacks specific laws addressing deep fakes and AI-related crimes, relying on existing legislation like the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements About Vikramaditya

1. It is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.
2. It has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.
3. The carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy before being decommissioned in 1996.

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 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23

1. Rural consumption spending fallen more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23
2. There is a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households.
3. Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased

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 B is correct

Explanation

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Section 6 of the Official Secrets Act 1923 clearly states that if any person is found to be unauthorisedly using the police or military uniforms, they will be held guilty of an offence under this section.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Section 7 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 clearly states that no person in the vicinity of any prohibited place shall obstruct, knowingly mislead or otherwise interfere with or impede, any police officer, or any member of (the Armed Forces of the Union) engaged on guard, sentry, patrol, or other similar duty in relation to the prohibited place.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019 says that whoever uses firearm in a rash or negligent manner or in celebratory gunfire so as to endanger human life or personal safety of others shall be punishable with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to rupees one lakh, or with both.

Answer 2 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Till 2000s, the only two Arab countries Israel had signed peace treaties with are Egypt and Jordan, in 1979 and 1994 respectively. In 2020, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain were the latest countries in the Arab region to formally establish diplomatic ties with Israel which is often referred to as Abraham accords. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Arab Peace Initiative was presented at an Arab League summit in Beirut in March of 2002 and was revived at an Arab League summit in Riyadh in March 2007. The plan offers Israel full peace and normalization in return for full withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel, on the other hand, was in no position to seriously engage

in a comprehensive peace settlement at the time, and found many points of contention with the Initiative and thus did not signed it. In 2022, The Saudi leadership has made clear that it continues to adhere to the API as the mainstay of its approach to formalizing relations with Israel. **Hence statement 2 is not correct**

Answer 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- **Hence Statement 1 is correct:** According to Article 355 of the Indian Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 22 (5) of the Indian Constitution does provide for the following when any person is detained in pursuance of an order made under any law providing for preventive detention. The authority making the order shall, as soon as may be, communicate to such person the grounds on which the order has been made and shall afford him the earliest opportunity of making a representation against the order, which means, legal options to question the detention have been provided in the constitution.
- **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 was an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2002, with the objective of strengthening antiterrorism operations. In 2004, the Act was repealed. As per the act, a confession made by a person before a police officer (not lower in rank than a Superintendent of Police) and recorded by that police officer either in writing or on any mechanical or electronic device shall be admissible in the trial of such person for an offence under this Act.

Answer 4 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- A Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) or Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) who is convicted and not accused of a crime and given a minimum of two years' imprisonment, loses membership of the House with immediate effect. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**
- Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, which allowed elected representatives three months to appeal their conviction,[2] was declared unconstitutional by the bench . . **Hence statement 2 is correct**

Answer 5 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is indeed an annual gathering organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together countries to discuss and negotiate global agreements on climate change-related issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- COP28 is currently underway, and one of its primary focuses is on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST is a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to assess collective progress and enhance climate actions globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- the host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28. This fund is intended to assist developing countries in recovering from climate disasters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- India's biggest naval base project is taking shape on the west coast at Karwar, Karnataka.
- Born from necessity: Following the 1971 war with Pakistan, India recognized the need for another naval base to ease congestion in Mumbai harbor and bolster Western Fleet security.

- A project unfolds: Officially approved in 1985, Project Seabird saw its foundation laid in 1986. **Hence all the statements are correct**

Answer 7 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana aims to provide round-the-clock electricity supply to rural households, thereby ensuring access to electricity for all. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The primary focus of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is to harness solar power for providing electricity to rural areas. It involves the installation of solar power plants and standalone solar systems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana falls under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), not the Ministry of Power. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**
- While the scheme provides financial assistance, it may not cover the entire cost. The level of financial assistance varies, and beneficiaries may be required to contribute a certain amount. **Hence, statement 4 is INcorrect**

Answer 8 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Deep Fakes are digital media, video, audio, and images, edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are created using a technique called generative adversarial networks (GANs), which involve two competing neural networks: a generator and a discriminator.
- They require a large amount of data of the source and the target person, which are often collected from the internet or social media without their consent.
- Despite applications in education, criminal forensics and film production, they raise concerns about exploitation, sabotage elections and misinformation.

- Now, deepfakes can easily be generated by semi-skilled and unskilled individuals by morphing audio-visual clips and images. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- India lacks specific laws addressing deep fakes and AI-related crimes, relying on existing legislation like the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- It is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.
- It has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.
- History:
- The carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy (as Admiral Gorshkov) before being decommissioned in 1996. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 10 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The survey has covered 2.62 lakh households, out of which 1.55 lakh were in rural areas and 1.07 lakh were in urban areas.
- The HCES 2022-23 results showed that rural consumption spending rose more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- with a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased to Rs 3,773 per month in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 per person in 2011-12, a jump of 164 per cent. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**



Mentorship
India

Mentorship India

Our mission is crystal clear – to provide the finest UPSC mentorship and guidance available in India. We recognize that the path to success in the UPSC examination is both demanding and multifaceted. This is precisely why we have developed a comprehensive approach that goes beyond conventional coaching. Our commitment lies in fostering excellence by equipping aspirants with the necessary tools, knowledge, and unwavering support to not only excel in the examination but also in life itself.

Mentorship India represents more than just an organization; it is a community of ambitious individuals bound together by the shared objective of conquering the UPSC examination. We warmly invite you to embark on this transformative journey alongside us. Whether you are a novice taking your initial steps or a seasoned aspirant aiming for the pinnacle, Mentorship India is your dependable companion in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

+91 9999 057869
www.mentorshipindia.com

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

 @mentorship.india