

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Dogra architecture gets a revival at J&K's Maharaj Gunj -The Hindu

Relevance: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

News:

- Reviving the Heritage of Srinagar's Maharaj Gunj Market

Restoring the Past Glory

- Srinagar Smart City Limited and the Kashmir chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) are collaborating on a project **to revive the historic Maharaj Gunj market in Srinagar**
- It has been **obscured by encroachments and deviations for decades**
- The project aims **to conserve vernacular elements of Kashmiri architecture** and bring back the market's rich historical character.

Rich Architectural Legacy

- The Maharaj Gunj market **boasts a blend of vernacular and colonial architecture.**
- **Many buildings have a mixed-use design**, featuring shops on the ground floor and living quarters on the upper floors.
- These structures are **constructed in the taq or dhajji dewari styles.**
- The project seeks to **restore the market's highly ornate exteriors and interiors.**

Transformation in Progress

- Approach roads from the Budshah Tomb have already undergone transformations with a traditional color palette and uniform fenestration styles, altering the area's character.

Challenges in Restoration

- The restoration **efforts are challenging due to the extent of deviations** and encroachments.
- Inappropriate interventions are being **reversed to restore the historical character** of the site.

Historical Significance

- The Maharaj Gunj market, located in Srinagar's old city, **was established by Maharaja Ranbir Singh to boost trade and commerce in Kashmir.**
- Before 1947, the **market attracted traders from cities like Amritsar, Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, and even Central Asia.**
- It played a **pivotal role in the trade of various commodities**, including saffron, shawls, paper, and fruits.

The Market's Former Glory

- **In 1932, a trade directory praised Maharaj Gunj** as one of the finest markets in India.
- It **facilitated the export of prized Kashmiri items** and introduced a diverse lifestyle to the city.

Preservation and Conservation

- **The Srinagar Smart City Mission's revival program** will spotlight the city's rich cultural heritage, encompassing old shrines, tombs, mosques, temples, and a gurdwara.
- INTACH has been working on digitized mapping of Srinagar with an emphasis on the **heritage area of the old town.**
- **The project aims to offer new urban experiences** for tourists exploring Srinagar and revive the historic essence of the Maharaj Gunj market.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Srinagar Smart City Mission

GS II

2. Canada's actions are in violation of Vienna Convention, says Jaishankar-The Hindu

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

News:

- **Canada's inability to provide safety and security to Indian diplomats** challenges the "most fundamental aspect" of the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations**, External Affairs said recently

Prelims Takeaway

- Vienna Convention

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

- The **Convention was adopted** on 14th April 1961 by the **United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities** held in Vienna, Austria.
- **India has ratified** the convention.
- **Ratification:** It entered into force on April 24, 1964, and is nearly universally ratified, with Palau and South Sudan being the exceptions.
- It sets out the special rules – privileges and immunities – which **enable diplomatic missions to act without fear of coercion** or harassment through enforcement of local laws and to communicate securely with their sending Governments.
- **Objective:**
- It makes provision for withdrawal of a mission:
 - Which may take place on grounds of economic or physical security
 - For breach of diplomatic relations which may occur in response to abuse of immunity
 - Severe deterioration in relations between sending and receiving States.
- **It affirms the concept of "inviolability"** of a diplomatic mission
- The security of **any High Commission or Embassy is the responsibility** of the host nation.
- While diplomatic missions can also employ their own security, ultimately, **the host nation is accountable for security.**
- The difference between **high commission and embassy is basically where they are situated.**
- The Commission applies to **Commonwealth member states**
- The **Embassy** applies to the **rest of the world.**

GS III

3. Tej now extremely severe cyclone over the Arabian Sea; yellow alert issued for eight districts in Kerala -The Hindu

Relevance: Disaster and disaster management.

News:

- **Cyclone Tej Intensifies** into Extremely Severe Cyclone, **Weather Alerts Issued**

Prelims Takeaway

- Cyclone

Cyclone Tej Strengthens in the Arabian Sea

- Cyclone Tej, initially a very severe cyclone, intensified into an **extremely severe cyclone over the Arabian Sea.**
- The cyclone is currently moving northwest and is expected to make landfall on the Yemen coast near Al Ghaidah as a very severe cyclonic storm
- wind speeds of 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph.

Weather Alerts for Kerala

- **Kerala** is likely to experience **isolated heavy rainfall due to the influence of weather** systems in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

- A **yellow alert** has been issued for eight districts from Kollam to Palakkad, warning of isolated heavy rains
- The **usual northeast monsoon rain in the state will be absent** for the next few days due to the prevailing weather conditions in the Bay of Bengal.

Cyclonic Activity in the Bay of Bengal

- A **depression forming over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify** into a deep depression within 24 hours and subsequently develop into a cyclonic storm
- The cyclonic system is **projected to move towards the Andhra coast** within the next 12 hours
- It was followed by a **re-curve towards the northeast, heading for Bangladesh** and the West Bengal coast over the next three days.

Safety Measures for Fishermen

- Fishermen have been **advised not to venture into the southwest and west-central Arabian Sea** due to the forecast of gale wind speeds reaching up to 150-160 kmph

4. Gaganyaan test flight successful -The Hindu

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

News:

- **ISRO Successfully Launches Gaganyaan Test Vehicle After Initial Delay**

Prelims Takeaway

- TV-D1 Mission

Initial Delays and Nerve-Wracking Moments

- On October 21, ISRO scientists **launched Gaganyaan's first Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)** from Sriharikota.
- The launch faced a two-hour delay and nervous moments as **the TV-D1's engine initially failed to ignite.**

Successful Accomplishment of TV-D1 Mission

- ISRO Chief announced that the **TV-D1 mission was successfully accomplished.**
- The mission aimed to **demonstrate the performance of the Crew Escape System (CES)** for the Gaganyaan program.

Safety of the Launch Vehicle

- It was assured that the **launch vehicle remained safe** and that ISRO would analyze the anomalies.
- A new **launch date would be scheduled** once the analysis was completed.

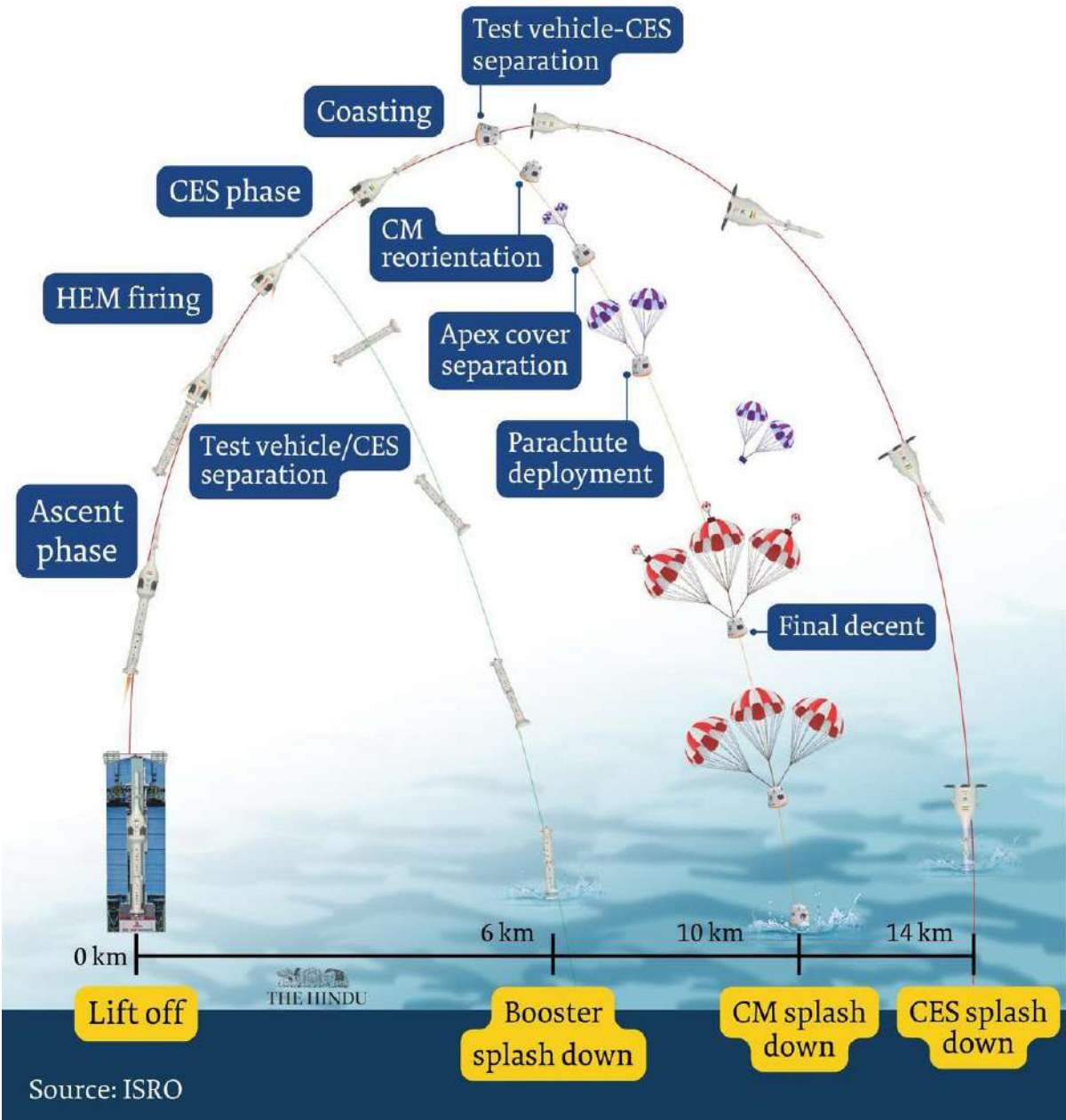
Successful Launch and Payload Splashdown

- Finally, the vehicle successfully took off and the payloads later splashed into the sea as planned.

Objective of the Mission

- The mission aimed to demonstrate **the safety and capabilities of the Crew Escape System (CES)** for the Gaganyaan program.
- It included **evaluating test vehicle sub-systems, CES, separation systems, Crew Module (CM) characteristics,** and deceleration systems at higher altitudes.
- The mission ensured the **CES's ability to take the CM to safety in case of an emergency** that would require an abort.

Maiden test flight of Gaganyaan mission



Gaganyaan's Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)

Crew Escape
System (CES)
15.5 m



Crew Module

Test Vehicle
19.5 m


THE HINDU

Source: ISRO

5. NGT pulls up Punjab, Delhi over bad air, violation of GRAP norms -The Hindu

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

- NGT Takes Cognizance of Rising Air Pollution in Delhi and Punjab

Prelims Takeaway

- Smog Tower

NGT's Reaction to Newspaper Reports

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has taken suo moto cognizance of newspaper reports on **increasing air pollution in Delhi and Punjab**.
- The tribunal has **directed the concerned authorities to provide an action taken report** and a plan of action to address this issue.

Stubble Burning Contributes to Air Pollution

- NGT noted that stubble burning during autumn is a significant factor contributing to air **pollution in the northern region, especially in Delhi** and its surrounding areas.
- **The report highlighted that Punjab had witnessed 656 farm fire incidents**, representing a 63% increase from the previous year.

Directive for Identifying Violators and Imposing Penalties

- The **NGT emphasized the need for authorities to be vigilant** in identifying violators and taking remedial measures, including imposing penalties.

Specific Directives to Punjab Pollution Control Board

- The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has been instructed to **prepare and submit an area-wise Crop Residue Management Plan** to reduce stubble burning incidents.
- Additionally, the authorities have been asked to submit an **action taken report for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (NCR)** and adjoining areas.

Citing Deteriorating Air Quality

- The Air Quality Index (AQI) had increased from 177 to 212, falling into the "poor" category, which can cause breathing discomfort with prolonged exposure.

issues with Smog Tower in Connaught Place

- The NGT **noted reports of the ₹22.9 crore smog tower at Connaught Place** remaining non-functional for the past seven months.
- Expert opinions indicated that the **tower's installation was a waste of money** and did not improve air quality.

Violations in Construction Activities

- violations of environmental norms in construction activities in Delhi was noted.

Next Steps

- Respondents are expected to file their action taken reports to maintain acceptable air quality and safeguard public health, especially as the winter season approaches.

6. Army's Project Udbhav to tap indigenous military knowledge -The Hindu

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- Indian Defence Minister Launches 'Project UDBHAV'

Key points

- Hon'ble Raksha Mantri **inaugurated 'Project UDBHAV'** during the Indian Military Heritage Festival.
- The project is a collaborative effort between the **Indian Army and the United Services Institution of India (USI) to explore ancient Indian military wisdom.**

Project UDBHAV's Objective

- The project aims to **address contemporary security challenges** with a holistic approach, synthesizing age-old wisdom and contemporary military pedagogy.

Incorporating Ancient Wisdom

- The project acknowledges **India's rich heritage of intellectual texts, spanning centuries,**
- It aims to **comprehend their enduring relevance and applicability** in modern times.
- It will explore ancient texts like **Chanakya's Arthashastra, Thirukkural, and others, emphasizing principles** of strategic partnerships, ethics in warfare, and statecraft.

Interdisciplinary Research and Knowledge Enrichment

- 'Project UDBHAV' will integrate ancient wisdom with modern **military pedagogy through interdisciplinary research, workshops, and leadership seminars.**
- It aims to foster a **deeper understanding of strategic thinking, statecraft,** and warfare, enriching military training curricula.

Publication and Institutionalization

- This initiative marks a new era for the Indian Army, aligning **historical military wisdom with contemporary warfare and diplomacy.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Project UDBHAV

7. Will the Sikkim flood impact hydel projects? -The Hindu

Relevance: Disaster and disaster management.

News:

- The **recent floods in the Teesta River** in Sikkim and West Bengal were triggered by a **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)**
- It was **caused by the sudden release of water from a glacier-fed lake** formed on, within, or beneath a glacier.

Key Highlights

- satellite images indicate that **a large chunk of ice may have fallen from a glacier into the lake**

Prelims Takeaway

- Teesta river

- It is creating waves that **breached the moraine dam and resulted in GLOF**, causing flash floods downstream.

Lingering Risks in Sikkim

- The **risk from GLOFs in Sikkim has not been entirely eliminated.**
- Satellite images of South Lhonak lake suggest the **lake has not substantially drained or dewatered.**
- The **presence of water under the ice remains a concern**, indicating a continuing risk.

Hydel Power Dam Collapse and Impact

- The collapse of the **hydel power dam at Chungthang** exacerbated the destruction caused by the floods.
- The **Chungthang dam was part of the 1,200 MW Teesta Stage III** hydro power project.
- While it was approved as a concrete gravity dam, **it was constructed as a rock-filled dam**, making it vulnerable to major floods.
- As a result of the floods, all operational hydel power projects on the Teesta River in Sikkim have practically ceased functioning
 - Including the Teesta-V Power Station (510 MW) and the Dikchu Hydroelectric Project (96 MW).
 - This has halted the generation of approximately 1,806 MW of electricity. The total financial damage is yet to be quantified.

Calls for Rethinking Hydel Power Projects

- scientists are urging a **reconsideration of proposed hydel power projects.**
- While Union Minister for Power and Renewable Energy maintains that these **floods will not slow India's reliance on hydropower**, there is growing concern about the safety of such projects.
- There are **87 operational hydroelectricity projects (HEP)** across the Himalayan belt with an installed capacity of 22,982 MW.
- **Sikkim alone has a hydro power potential** of 4,248 MW, with 53.7% already developed and 24.4% under construction.
- **Activists are calling for the cancellation of the proposed Teesta IV** project and a review of the upcoming Teesta VI project.
- **The Sikkim government has initiated an inquiry** into potential criminal irregularities in the construction of the Teesta III dam project.

Growing Concern for Himalayan Infrastructure

- Glaciologist **highlights recent floods in the Himalayas**, including Kedarnath in 2013, Rishi Ganga in 2022, and the Sikkim floods in 2023.
- These incidents, triggered by various climatic factors, **raise concerns about infrastructure development in the Himalayas.**
- **considering climate assessment reports** and designating mountain regulation zones to limit construction in vulnerable areas was suggested.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Does India need to relook the Dam Safety Act? - The Hindu

Relevance: Disaster and Disaster Management

Context:

- A **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** in North Sikkim recently **washed away the Teesta III dam**, one of the biggest hydropower projects in India.
- This highlights the **lack of safety measures** mandated by the **Dam Safety Act**.
- India has nearly 6,000 large dams, with **80% of them being over 25 years old and posing safety risks**.

Key Provisions of the Act	Challenges to Dam Safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dam Safety Act was passed in late 2021 to address dam safety concerns. • It established key responsibilities and national and state-level bodies for implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS): Oversee dam safety policies and regulations. ◦ National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA): Implementation and resolving State-level disputes ◦ Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC): Will head dam safety protocols at the national level ◦ State Committee on Dam Safety (SCDS) ◦ State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) • It also mandated the classification of dams based on hazard risk, regular inspections, emergency action plans, and reporting of dam failures. • Non-compliance with the Act can result in imprisonment and fines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act lacks a risk-based decision-making approach and transparency incentives. • Lack of transparency hinders public access to crucial information about dam safety. • National and state bodies often comprise government employees and engineers involved in dam projects, compromising objective decision-making.
	<h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Dam Safety Measures</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam safety involves design, construction, maintenance, data recording, hazard forecasting, and emergency planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Poor compliance was observed in the design and spillway capacity of the Teesta III dam. • Periodic reviews and hazard assessments are required but often neglected. • Comprehensive dam safety evaluations are mandated, but standardization is lacking, making analysis and reporting inconsistent.

Conclusion

- There is a need for **improved implementation of the Dam Safety Act** in India to **mitigate the risks associated with aging dams** and ensure the **safety of downstream areas**.

2. Why did the Supreme Court not allow same-sex marriage? - The Hindu

Relevance: Polity

Context:

- Recently, a five-judge **Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court **ruled against legalizing same-sex marriage in India**.
- It left the **decision to Parliament**, stating that the court cannot intervene.

Petitioners' Demands	Refusal to Read Down the SMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The petitioners sought to interpret the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, as gender-neutral, allowing same-sex couples to marry under it. • They argued that the SMA violated Articles 14, 15, 19, 21 and 25 by not allowing marriage between same-sex, gender non-conforming, LBGQTQIA+ couples. • They wanted gender-specific terms like "husband" and "wife" replaced with "party" or "spouse." • They also sought joint adoption rights, nominee rights, safety measures, and directions for protection of LBGQTQIA+ couples. <h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Supreme Court's Ruling</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court refused to issue a mandamus to Parliament, asserting that marriage is not a fundamental right explicitly recognized by the Constitution. • A majority of three judges held that legal recognition for same-sex couples could only be achieved through enacted law. • A minority opinion argued that the LBGQTQIA+ community had a fundamental right to form relationships. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The state should recognize and grant legal status to such unions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court declined to read down or amend provisions of the SMA. • It asserts that such changes should be made by Parliament, not the judiciary. • The government had expressed opposition to same-sex marriage throughout the hearings, highlighting concerns about interfering with personal laws. <h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Legislative Prospects</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activists and lawyers are skeptical whether the legislature will enact laws to address same-sex marriage, given the government's stance. • The Court suggested gender-neutral marriage laws, a separate statute, civil unions, or domestic partnership legislation as potential options for the legislature. <h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Response to the Verdict</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead petitioner expressed disappointment, feeling that the LBGQTQIA+ community had been left without any substantive change. • The Court acknowledged transgender rights but emphasized the need for a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and ensuring civil and social rights for LBGQTQ individuals. • Queer rights activists remain hopeful for the future.

Quick Look

1. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

- It was registered as a society on September 12, 2008, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is an institution established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) of the Government of India.
- It is an autonomous body that acts as a think-tank and a Centre of Excellence to support the growth of the corporate sector in India through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.
- It offers its capacity-building and advisory solutions through various Schools and Centres.
- The School of Business Environment at IICA works in the areas of Environmental-Social Governance (ESG), Corporate Social responsibility (CSR), and Business & Human Rights (BHR).

2. Paintbrush Swift Butterfly

- Recently, the paintbrush swift butterfly has been photographed and documented for the first time in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district.
- It is a butterfly species of the Hesperidae family.
- It is identified based on two separated spots in the upper forewing cell.
- The species' larvae feed on bamboo and some other grass species.
- Its habitat is distributed in northeast, central and south India, and rare in Uttarakhand.
- Threats: Habitat loss and scarcity of larval host plants, an increase in pesticide use, deforestation, and climate change.
- Conservation status: Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3. Edakkal Caves

- These caves are located 3,900 feet above sea level in the majestic Ambukuthi Hills.
- The unique, intricate stone carvings date back to the Neolithic and Mesolithic ages.
- The caves are two natural formations that are believed to have been formed by a large split in a huge rock.
- These feature Neolithic-era pictorial writings believed to date to at least 6,000 BCE.
- Human figures, animals, tools, vehicles, day-to-day occurrences, and scripts in different languages have been discovered here.
- The diversity of the engravings suggests that the Edakkal caves were inhabited several times at different points in history.
- The Muniyaras, or ancient burial sites that have been discovered in these hills have yielded a rich collection of ancient earthenware and pottery.

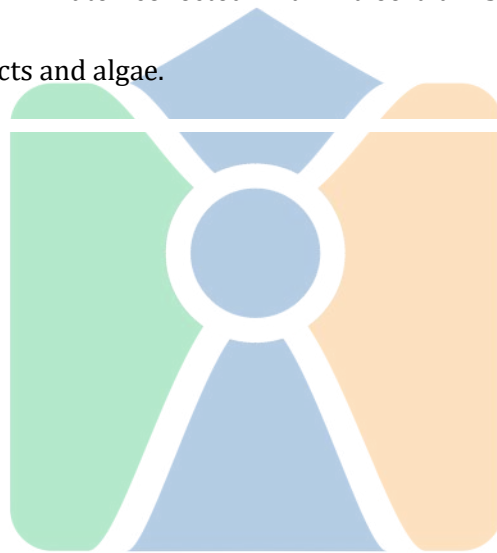
4. Senior Advocate

- Under Section 16 of the Advocates Act 1961, two classes of advocates are classified viz. Senior Advocate and Junior or those who are not designated as seniors.
- The senior advocates play the role of legal experts in India who have significant knowledge in the field of law.
- They are associated with many prominent cases as they are good contributors to the principle of the Rule of Law.
- A senior advocate shall not appear without an advocate on record in the SC or without an advocate in any other court.

- A senior advocate shall not accept instructions to draft pleadings or affidavits, advice on evidence, or to do any drafting work of an analogous kind in any Court or Tribunal or before any person or other authority.
- A senior advocate shall not accept directly from a client any brief or instructions to appear in any Court or Tribunal or before any person or other authority in India.

5. Ghatiana sanguinolenta

- It is a newly discovered species of freshwater crab.
- The crab gets its name from the Latin word 'sanguinolenta', meaning 'red' or 'blood-coloured'.
- The crab's blood-red colour and the outwardly curved article of the first part of the male 'gonopod' (genitalia) distinguish it from other species in the Ghatiana subgenus.
- It is currently known only from the type locality, which is situated in the Central Western Ghats of India.
- It predominantly resides in water collected within tree trunks and exhibits heightened activity during the rainy season.
- Their diet consists of insects and algae.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to protected monuments/sites under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), consider the following statements

1. Both the conservation and maintenance of the site will be done by ASI.
2. In India, to be declared as ancient monument the site has to exist for at least 100 years.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

1. The Convention was adopted in 1961 by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held in Austria.
2. India has ratified the convention.
3. The convention is nearly universally ratified, with Palau and South Sudan being the exceptions.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements

1. The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments
2. This recommendation is then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
3. After the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' approval the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.

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 about Anticyclones

1. It has an outward-spiralling air circulation around a high-pressure centre.
2. An anticyclone's winds rotate anti-clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere around a center of high pressure.
3. In anticyclones, air comes in from above and sinks to the ground.
4. High pressure centers generally have fair weather.

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

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

Q5. Consider the following statements about Gaganyaan System Module

1. It is also called the Orbital Module and will have three Indian astronauts, including a woman.
2. The most successful PSLV will be used to launch Gaganyaan
3. Russian government-owned Glavkosmos will support in the selection, medical examination, and space training.

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

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

Q6. Consider the following statements with reference to National Green Tribunal National Green Tribunal (NGT)

1. It is a specialised body for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
2. India is the first country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal.
3. NGT is guided by the principles of 'natural justice'.

4. An appeal against order/decision/award of the NGT lies to the High Court.

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

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

Q7. Which of the following depicts the Indian Army's recent initiative to promote indigenous military knowledge by merging ancient strategic insights with modern military practices?

- A. Project Udbhav
- B. Project Milan
- C. Project Chanakya
- D. Project Shastra

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

- 1. It is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the dam containing a glacial lake fails, releasing a large volume of water.
- 2. Glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalayas has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements on Dam Safety Act, 2021

- 1. The Act provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country.
- 2. It has no provisions for the institutional mechanism needed to ensure the safety of such dams.

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding Special Marriage Act 1954

- 1. It provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes.
- 2. The minimum age to get married under the SMA is 21 years for both males and females.

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

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

- According to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, an "Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years." **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Once declared as a protected monuments/site, both the conservation and maintenance of the site will be done by ASI. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Uttar Pradesh (745 monuments/sites), Karnataka (506) and Tamil Nadu (413) have the highest number of ASI-maintained sites.

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

- The Convention was adopted on 14th April 1961 by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held in Vienna, Austria. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has ratified the convention. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It entered into force on April 24, 1964, and is nearly universally ratified, with Palau and South Sudan being the exceptions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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

- The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This is followed by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes' approval before the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 4 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- An anticyclone is the opposite of a cyclone i.e. it has an outward-spiralling air circulation around a high pressure centre. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- An anticyclone's winds rotate clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere around a center of high pressure. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- In anticyclones, air comes in from above and sinks to the ground. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- High pressure centers generally have fair weather. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

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

- The Gaganyaan system module, called the Orbital Module will have three Indian astronauts, including a woman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- GSLV Mk III, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3,) the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle, will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has the necessary payload capability. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- In June 2019, the Human Space Flight Centre of the ISRO and the Russian government-owned Glavkosmos signed a contract for the training, which includes Russian support in the selection of candidates, their medical examination, and space training. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- NGT is guided by the principles of 'natural justice'. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- An order/decision/award of Tribunal is executable as a decree of a civil court.
- An appeal against order/decision/ award of the NGT lies to the Supreme Court, generally within ninety days from the date of

communication. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

Ans. 7 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Hon'ble Raksha Mantri inaugurated 'Project UDBHAV' during the Indian Military Heritage Festival.
- The project is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the United Services Institution of India (USI) to explore ancient Indian military wisdom.
- The project aims to address contemporary security challenges with a holistic approach, synthesizing age-old wisdom and contemporary military pedagogy. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option D is correct

Explanation

- A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the dam containing a glacial lake fails, releasing a large volume of water. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This type of flood is typically caused by rapid melting of glaciers or the buildup of water in the lake due to heavy precipitation or the inflow of meltwater.
- These floods can be triggered by a number of factors, including changes in the volume of the glacier, changes in the water level of the lake, and earthquakes.
- According to NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalayas has given rise to

the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Dam Safety Act, 2021 provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of all specified dams across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These are dams with height more than 15 metres, or height between 10 m -15 m with certain design and structural conditions.
- It also provides for the institutional mechanism to ensure the safety of such dams. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954 is an Indian law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion.
- The minimum age to get married under the SMA is 21 years for males and 18 years for females. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It provides for the registration of marriages, which gives legal recognition to the marriage and provides a number of legal benefits and protections to the couple, such as inheritance rights, succession rights, and social security benefits.

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