

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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1. Bhutan and China make progress in border talks- The Hindu
2. Centre to introduce DNA, face matching systems at police stations across country -The Hindu
3. NCERT material on Chandrayaan draws ire for 'mixing science with mythology' The Hindu
4. Food labels to have QR code to help the visually disabled -The Hindu
5. 'AI to help construction industry face challenges' -The Hindu
6. Apparel and textile production witness steep declines as export orders diminish -The Hindu
7. India to outpace Japan as second-largest economy in Asia by 2030: S&P Global Market Intelligence- Indian Express
8. Losses from extreme events over 31 years were \$3.8 trillion- The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

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Quick Look

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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Bhutan and China make progress in border talks- The Hindu

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

News:

- **Bhutan and China** hold the 25th round of discussions which has been held up since the previous round in 2016, **showing signs of progress in bilateral relations;**

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based questions

Key Highlights

Resumption of Long-Stalled Border Talks

- Both sides expressed a mutual desire **to reach an agreement on demarcating their boundaries in the near future**, signaling a willingness to resolve this long-standing issue.

Agreement on Joint Technical Team

- "Cooperation Agreement outlines the establishment and functioning of a Joint Technical Team (JTT) responsible for the **"Delimitation and Demarcation of the Bhutan-China Boundary.**

Hope for Diplomatic Relations

- **Bhutan had previously refrained from such ties**, primarily due to its policy of not having relations with any UN Security Council Permanent Member (P-5) country.
- Bhutan and China have made substantial progress in their long-pending border talks, **with high-level meetings and agreements that signal a willingness to resolve boundary issues.**

2. Centre to introduce DNA, face matching systems at police stations across country -The Hindu

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

News:

- India to Implement **"DNA and Face-Matching" Systems** at 1,300 Police Stations

Prelims Takeaway

- National Crime Records Bureau

Key Highlights

Introduction of the Criminal Procedure Identification Act

- More than a year after the passage of the Criminal Procedure Identification Act in Parliament, **India is preparing to roll out "DNA and face-matching" systems in 1,300 police stations nationwide.**
- However, the **Act's provisions have not been fully implemented** on the ground, with logistical and connectivity issues hindering progress.

Empowering Law Enforcement with New Capabilities

- The Act **empowers police and Central investigative agencies** to:
 - collect, store,
 - analyze physical and biological samples, including retina and iris scans, of arrested individuals.

National Crime Records Bureau's Role

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, responsible for overseeing the Act, is tasked with finalizing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for police officials.
- While the **Act and rules do not explicitly mention DNA samples** and face-matching,
- The NCRB has informed state police officials that these measures will be **implemented in approximately 1,300 locations across police districts** and special investigation units.

Establishment of Domain Committee and Technical Sub-Committee

- To ensure the successful implementation of the Act, **the Union Home Ministry has formed a Domain Committee**,
 - comprising representatives from state police, Central law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders.

- A technical sub-committee has also been **established to develop SOPs for capturing DNA as a measurement.**
- States are tasked with identifying **locations for measurement collection units (MCUs)**, with the NCRB serving as the national-level database repository.

Transition from Old Practices

- Some **police stations are still using older methods**, such as:
 - Recording thumb and finger impressions and photographs
 - The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS).
- **NAFIS, managed by the NCRB**, has been set up at around 1,300 police stations and contains fingerprint details of over one crore people, including accused and convicts.
- This database is being integrated with the Criminal Procedure Identification Act.

Safeguarding Against Misuse

- The NCRB emphasizes the **importance of safeguarding against the misuse of databases**, allowing access only to designated officials in real time.

Challenges and Funding

- Challenges faced during implementation **include training and resource allocation, with some police departments lacking funds.**
- While the Home Ministry covers the cost of hardware, **states are responsible for the cost of secure internet lines and other operational expenses.**

Controversial Beginnings

- The Act faced opposition when introduced in Parliament in March 2022, **with critics labeling it "unconstitutional" and a violation of privacy.**
- However, **the government has moved forward with its implementation.**

GS III

3. NCERT material on Chandrayaan draws ire for 'mixing science with mythology' The Hindu

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

News:

- Reading material suggested by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Chandrayaan-3** for schoolchildren has drawn the ire of rationalists
- The material **mixed science with mythology.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Chandrayaan-3

Key Highlights

The Issue at Hand

- Reading material recommended by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Chandrayaan-3**, aimed at schoolchildren, has sparked controversy
 - for allegedly "mixing science with mythology."

Criticism from Educationists and Student Organizations

- Critics have **questioned the use of ancient knowledge and mythology** in today's scientific achievements
- They have suggested that such references **hinder progress.**
- They emphasize the **need to encourage rational and scientific thinking** among students.

Demands for Withdrawal

- Critics argue that this approach is detrimental to scientific thinking and progress, and they call for the withdrawal of the reading module **to promote rational and scientific temper among students.**

4. Food labels to have QR code to help the visually disabled -The Hindu

Relevance: Food processing and related industries in India- scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.

News:

- **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recommended the use of **quick response (QR) codes** on food products

Prelims Takeaway

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

Key Highlights

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has **recommended the use of quick accessibility by persons with visual disabilities**
- stating that this would **ensure access to safe food for all**, including those with special needs.
- The FSSAI under its Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 has **comprehensively outlined the information to be included on the labels of food products**.
- This **includes product name, shelf life, nutrition facts, vegetarian/non-vegetarian logos**, ingredient lists, allergen warnings, and other product-specific labelling requirements.
- The information is aimed **at empowering consumers** to make informed choices when selecting food products.
- The FSSAI said that to enhance accessibility, **food business operators were encouraged to incorporate provisions that facilitate easy access to nutritional information** for visually impaired individuals.
- These QR codes should encompass comprehensive **details about the product**, including, but not limited to, ingredients, nutritional information, allergens, manufacturing date,

5. 'AI to help construction industry face challenges' -The Hindu

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

News:

- **Transforming the Construction Industry with New Technologies**
Introduction to Technological Transformation

Prelims Takeaway

- Artificial Intelligence

- A white paper from an advisory firm discusses the potential for emerging technologies like :

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- 3D printing
- robotics to revolutionize the construction industry, which is among the world's oldest and largest sectors.

Growth Prospects for the Construction Industry

- The construction industry, contributing 13% of global GDP, is **set to experience significant growth**, with an estimated Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11%.
- It is expected to expand from \$8.2 trillion to \$17 trillion by 2029, driven by factors like : government initiatives
 - lower interest rates
 - renewable energy demand
 - public-private partnerships
 - new-age technology
 - higher disposable income.

AI's Pivotal Role in Industry Transformation

- emphasizes the **critical role of AI** in reshaping the construction sector.
- **AI has the potential to address** various industry challenges and provide significant advantages:
- Throughout all project stages, from **design and financing to construction, operations**, and changes in business models.

Productivity Boost Through AI

- AI is estimated to enhance industry productivity **by an annual increase of 1% to 1.5%**.
- This boost in productivity is **crucial for addressing persistent challenges** in the construction industry, including labor shortages, an aging workforce

- In summary, the construction industry, a **significant contributor to global GDP**, is on the brink of transformation through the integration of new technologies such as AI, 3D printing, and robotics.
- These innovations hold the potential to alleviate industry challenges and substantially boost productivity, **making the construction sector more efficient and competitive**.
- The industry's growth prospects are also highlighted, further **underscoring the importance of technological adoption in this sector**.

6. Apparel and textile production witness steep declines as export orders diminish -The Hindu

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

News:

Prelims Takeaway

- **India's Garment Manufacturing Faces Sharp Contraction Amid Export Decline**

- Bureau of Indian Standards

Shrinking Output in the Garment Manufacturing Sector

- **India's garment manufacturing output declined** by 22.6% year-on-year in the April-August period.
- **This drastic reduction is primarily due to a steep decline in exports** and a slump in both domestic and global demand.
- The textile industry also experienced a **decline of nearly 2%** during the same period compared to the previous year.

New Sourcing Standards and Their Impact

- One key reason was the **Quality Control Order**, recently introduced by the government,
 - which mandated a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for man-made fibers, including imports.
- This made it **challenging for textile manufacturers** to source raw materials internationally while complying with the government's specifications.

Adaptation in the Garment Industry

- Most garment exporters reduced worker shifts and **limited overtime production but emphasized that there were no job losses**.
- The recent duty drawback announcement **is expected to help revive exports**.

Slow Domestic Market

- In summary, India's garment manufacturing sector is **grappling with a significant reduction in output** due to declining exports and subdued domestic and global demand.
- **Challenges in sourcing materials and a sluggish domestic market** are contributing to this contraction, while industry leaders hope for a revival in exports.

7. India to outpace Japan as second-largest economy in Asia by 2030: S&P Global Market Intelligence- Indian Express

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

News:

Prelims Takeaway

- India's gross domestic product (GDP) is **expected to rise to USD 7.3 trillion by 2030**

- FDI

- **it will surpass Japan to become the second largest economy** in the Asia-Pacific region, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in a recent article.

Key Highlights

India's Ascension in the Asia-Pacific Region

- The projection **positions India to become the second-largest economy** in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing Japan and Germany.
- As of the end of 2022, **India's GDP had already outgrown that of the UK and France**, making it the third-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific and the fifth-largest globally.

India's Continued Rapid Economic Expansion

- The article highlights India's impressive economic growth, **particularly in 2021 and 2022, which has continued into 2023.**

Attractiveness for Multinational Investments

- India is positioned as one of the **world's fastest-growing economies** in the coming decade, attracting multinational investments across various industries.
- The country's strong economic outlook, **favorable demographics, and rising urban household incomes** have accelerated foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows over the past decade.

Key Drivers of India's Economic Growth

- Several key factors are driving India's economic growth.
- A large and fast-growing middle class is significantly **contributing to increased consumer spending.**
- **India's domestic consumer market, combined with its substantial industrial sector,** makes it an attractive investment destination for various multinational companies, spanning manufacturing, infrastructure, and services.

Digital Transformation and E-Commerce Growth

- The ongoing **digital transformation in India is poised to bolster the growth** of e-commerce, reshaping the retail consumer market in the coming decade.
- This transformation is **luring global technology and e-commerce giants to India's domestic market.**
- By 2030, over 1.1 billion Indians are projected to have internet access, **more than doubling from the estimated 500 million internet users in 2020.**

Strong Momentum in FDI Inflows

- India has maintained strong momentum in **FDI inflows over the past five years, even during the pandemic years of 2020-2022.**

8. Losses from extreme events over 31 years were \$3.8 trillion- The Hindu

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

News:

- **The year 2023 marked the conclusion of the warmest decade** on record, characterized by an increasing frequency of severe disaster events.
- The world **witnessed unprecedented extreme weather events** and large-scale disasters, further exacerbated by ongoing conflicts and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cyclones

Vulnerability of Agricultural Sector

- **Agricultural activities and livelihoods are highly dependent on environmental conditions,** natural resources, and ecosystems.
- The **agricultural sector faces mounting threats,** including flooding, water scarcity, drought, and environmental degradation.
- Examples include the **\$4 billion in agricultural sector damages** caused by exceptional monsoon rains in Pakistan in 2022
- over \$21.4 billion in crop and **rangeland losses in the U.S. in the same year.**

Impact of Disasters on Agriculture

- Data from 88 **Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs)** conducted from 2007 to 2022 in 60 countries indicate that
 - Agricultural losses constitute an average of 23% of the overall impact of disasters across all sectors.

Key Insights on Losses

- PDNAs reveal that more than **65% of losses attributed to droughts** affect the agricultural sector,
 - Floods, storms, cyclones, and volcanic activities each contribute roughly 20%.

Regional Distribution of Losses

- From 1991 to 2021, **Asia bore the largest share of economic losses (45%),** followed by Africa, Europe, and the Americas with comparable orders of magnitude.

- When assessing losses relative to agricultural value added, low-income countries experienced losses more than double those of upper-middle-income countries

Cost of extreme events

The charts were sourced from a report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization titled "The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023"



Chart 1: The chart shows the number of disasters by EM-DAT^A grouping and total economic losses in \$ billion

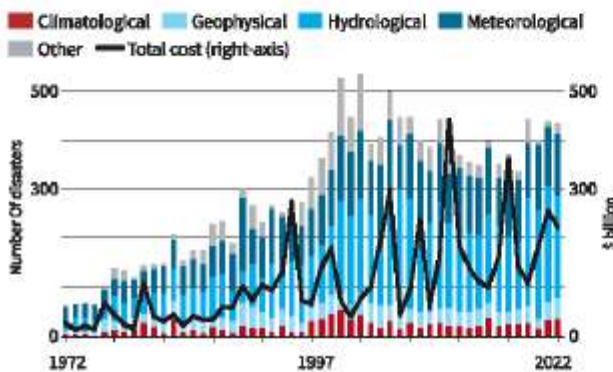


Chart 2: The chart shows the share of loss in agriculture by hazard type. About 65% of losses were caused by droughts

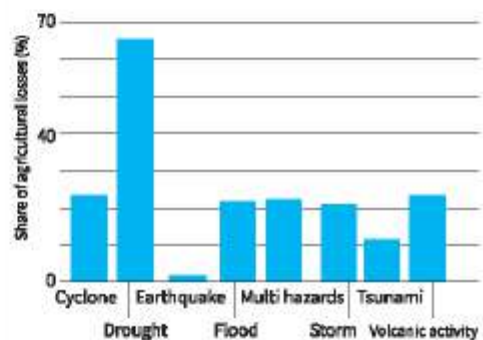


Chart 3: The chart shows the estimated loss in various product groups (in million tonnes) between 1991 and 2021

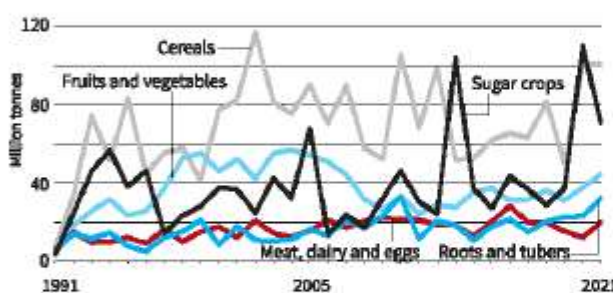


Chart 5: The chart shows total agricultural losses as a share of agricultural GDP by country groups (1991-2021)

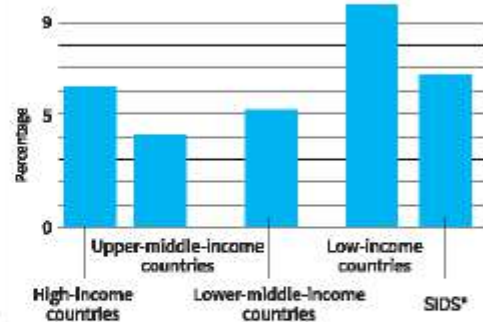
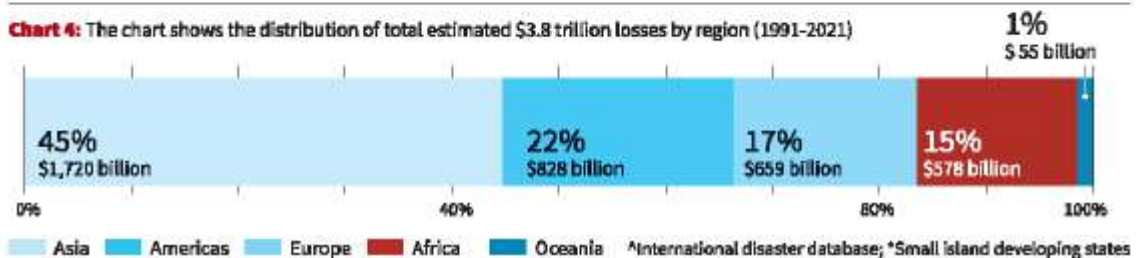


Chart 4: The chart shows the distribution of total estimated \$3.8 trillion losses by region (1991-2021)



Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Have earnings grown post-pandemic?- The Hindu

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

Context:

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of 2022-23 revealed a strengthening of the labour market, with unemployment rates falling and labour force participation rates (LFPRs) rising.**

Key Findings

- Rural women's LFPRs — for those aged 15 and above — rose from 19.7% in 2018-19 to 41.5% in 2022-23
- A significant jump for a cohort that had long been on the margins of the labour market.
- These results were taken as examples of a robust post pandemic recovery for the Indian economy. Yet there are notes of caution.
- Much of the new employment generated for women has been in self employment.
- There has been a rise in the proportion of women working as unpaid family helpers, with the share of rural working women in this form of employment rising from 37.9% to 43% between 2018-19 and 2022-23.
- The share of women in regular wage work fell from 22% to 16%.
- Greater employment seemed to be coming at the cost of suitable working conditions, especially for women.

The status of earnings

- The PLFS collects information on the earnings of regular wage workers, casual workers and the self employed (regular wage workers have fixed work hours and are paid on a regular basis
 - casual workers are employed on a daily basis on the availability of work and receive daily wages).
- The average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) across the months of April to June of 2019 and 2023 are taken to convert nominal figures into real terms.
- The earnings for urban and rural workers were deflated by the urban and rural CPI for those periods separately.
- Between 2019 and 2023, only casual workers — both men and women, across both rural and urban sectors — saw a net increase in their average real monthly earnings.
- Women casual workers experienced a 13% increase across the entire period, while male casual workers enjoyed a 10.33% increase.
- The only other cohorts which saw an increase in real earnings in 2023 as compared to 2019 were women in regular wage work — a 4.27% increase — and male self employed workers (6.9%).

Significant inflation

- There are significant differences between urban and rural sectors. Urban male self employed workers saw a reduction in real earnings
 - while rural male self employed workers saw real earnings increase by roughly 14.67% in 2023 compared to 2019.
- In the case of regular wage workers, urban women saw a reduction in earnings, with real incomes in 2023, 2.34% lesser than that in 2019.
- Rural women in regular wage employment earned the highest gains of all cohorts
- Yet this cohort makes up only 8% of the rural female workforce, and hence a smaller proportion of the aggregate workforce.

The impact of inflation

- On the other hand, the biggest declines were seen in the one cohort that showed a significant rise in employment: rural women in self employment.
- The share of the rural female workforce in paid forms of self employment rose from 22% to 28% between 2018-19 and 2022-23,
- Large numbers of rural women have entered low paying, low productive jobs, perhaps to supplement household incomes in the wake of the pandemic — this does not indicate robustness of recovery.
- Wage workers — both casual and regular — did not see extensive gains, with only rural women in regular wage employment experiencing a 35.5% growth in real earnings.

Conclusion

- Wage workers as a whole have seen **real earnings grow slower than output**, indicating a **reduction in the share of wages** even though growth remains healthy.
- This serves as further evidence of the **possibility of India experiencing a K shaped recovery** in the wake of the pandemic.

2. Mitigating tragedies in the Himalayan region- The Hindu

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

Context:

- The recent **GLOF in Sikkim has highlighted the increasing risk of climate change-induced GLOFs** across the Indian Himalayan Region

Key Highlights

- A study in Nature reveals that **90 million people in 30 countries live in 1,089 basins containing glacial lakes.**
- One-sixth of them live near these lakes and potential GLOF runoff channels.

Cascading Hazards in Mountain Regions

- Hazards in mountainous regions often occur in a cascading manner, with heavy rainfall triggering landslides, which can lead to GLOFs and downstream landslides, creating conditions for flash floods.
- Predicting this chain of events is challenging, and while institutional awareness of these risks is increasing
- there is a need to evolve a system for risk mitigation and early warnings.

Early Warning Systems and Recent Sikkim Tragedy

- In September, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) led a mission to install monitoring equipment near high-altitude glacial lakes in Sikkim, which are at risk of GLOFs.
- While one set of equipment ceased transmission, the expedition successfully identified locations for sensors and possible mitigation measures.
- The exact causes of the South Lhonak GLOF are still under investigation, but the monitoring equipment recorded unusually warm temperatures in the days preceding the event.

Multi-Hazard Environment in the Himalayas

- The Himalayan Region faces a multitude of hazards, including hydro-meteorological, tectonic, climate-related, and human-induced mountain hazards.
- Each type of hazard requires extensive monitoring, mitigation, and early warning strategies.
- The complexity of glacial melting risks is amplified by the multitude of glaciers and temporal variations in glacial recession.

Enormity of the Challenge

- The National Remote Sensing Centre's Glacial Lake Atlas of 2023 reveals that the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra river basins host over 28,000 glacial lakes, with 27% located in India across six States and Union Territories.
- This region has witnessed catastrophic GLOF events in recent decades.

Arduous Mitigation Measures

- Various geo-technical solutions for GLOF mitigation have been tried globally, but conditions at high altitudes pose formidable challenges, including inaccessibility, lack of equipment transport, harsh weather, and connectivity issues.
- Implementation of these measures remains labor-intensive.

Risks to Downstream Communities

- The most significant risk of GLOFs is to downstream hill communities and authorities who have limited time to respond.
- These events can cause damage to life, property, and livelihood, leading to permanent changes in the landscape.

The Need for Disaster and Climate Resilience

- Hill communities face rising risks from various hazards, including glacier melting, landslides, and extreme weather events.
- Disaster and climate resilience principles must be integrated into government policies and practices and private investments to address these challenges.

Multi-Disciplinary Effort

- Addressing GLOF risks requires a multi-disciplinary approach involving various institutions.
- Remote sensing, hydro-dynamic assessments, and national guidelines play crucial roles in monitoring and risk reduction
- A comprehensive GLOF risk mitigation plan is in the final stages of approval, focusing on installing monitoring and early warning systems at high-risk glacial lakes.

Collaboration for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Governments and scientific institutions must collaborate to integrate resources and capacities for disaster risk reduction, with a focus on prevention and mitigation to reduce loss and damage and enhance the resilience of hill communities.

India

Quick Look

1. UMEED Scheme

- The UMEED scheme under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) is a centrally sponsored scheme to encourage women to be self-dependent and self-sufficient.
- Objective: To help the rural poor across Jammu and Kashmir.
- It also encourages women to make small savings so that their Self-Help Groups (SHGs) eventually become bankable at a reduced rate of interest.
- It helps women entrepreneurs exhibit and market their products.
- It is implemented by the Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Society.

2. Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- IB is an internal intelligence agency of India that is used to gather intelligence from within India and also execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks.
- It is also tasked with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmatsinhji Committee.
- It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The IB activities are highly confidential, and no publications other than the internal ones reveal their arcane workings.
- Another major activity of the IB is passing on intelligence information to other Indian intelligence agencies as well as the police.
- It is responsible for granting basic safety clearances to Indian diplomats and judges before their national oath.
- It is also authorized to carry out wiretapping without a warrant.

3. Small Savings Instruments (SSIs)

- These are a set of savings instruments managed by the central government with the aim of encouraging citizens to save regularly, irrespective of their age.
- They provide returns that are generally higher than bank fixed deposits.
- It also gives a sovereign guarantee and tax benefits.
- All deposits received under various small savings schemes are pooled in the National Small Savings Fund.
- These instruments can be classified into
 - Postal deposits (comprising savings account, recurring deposits, time deposits of varying maturities, and monthly income scheme (MIS).
 - Savings certificates (National Small Savings Certificate VIII (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP).
 - Social security schemes (public provident fund (PPF) and Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme (SCSS).
- The money in the fund is used by the central government to finance its fiscal deficit.

4. Aadi Mahotsav

- It is being organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).
- It serves as a unique, symbiotic bridge to embark on a journey through the tapestry of India's indigenous heritage.

- In this event, a total of over 100 stalls would showcase the kaleidoscope of India's tribal culture, craftsmanship, culinary artistry, and economic endeavours.
- This Aadi Mahotsav, besides other attractions of handicrafts, handloom, pottery, jewellery, will be showcasing 'Millets grown by Tribals'.

5. Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023

- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- Aim: To enhance military capability for conducting Multi Domain Operations in a sub conventional scenario.
- During the exercise, both contingents will establish a Joint Command Post & establish an integrated surveillance grid along with a Joint Surveillance Centre.
- Both sides will rehearse employment of joint forces in jungle/ semi urban / urban environment.
- In addition, intelligence collection, collation and dissemination drills will also be rehearsed.
- The Exercise will also witness employment of Drones/UAVs & Helicopters.
- Two sides will also practice casualty management and evacuation drills.
- Both the contingents will discuss logistics management and practice survival training at the Battalion level.
- The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, conduct of drills at tactical level and sharing of best practices with each other.



Prelims Track Question

Q1. Bhutan's eastern border is adjacent to which Indian state?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Assam
- C. Sikkim
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Q2. With reference to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), consider the following statements

- 1. It functions as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- 2. It was set up based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee.
- 3. It is entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).
- 4. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements on Chandrayaan 3

- 1. It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- 2. It was launched by India's most successful launch vehicle "PSLV".

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

Q4. Consider the following statements on Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- 1. It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

- 2. It functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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

Q5. Consider the following statements on AI

- 1. Machine Learning (ML) is a subset of AI that uses artificial neural networks to learn from data in a way that is similar to how the human brain learns.
- 2. Deep Learning (DL) involves the development of algorithms that allow computers to learn from data without being explicitly programmed.
- 3. The "Turing Test" used in the context of artificial intelligence is a test to determine if a computer is capable of human-like emotions.

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 with reference to The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- 1. The BIS operates a Product Certification scheme for ensuring compliance to Indian Standards.
- 2. The BIS certification scheme is mandatory for all the products, complying with the Indian standards.

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

Q7. Which of the following statements best define the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?

- A. The total monetary value of all the final goods and services produced within a country's borders in a given time period.

- B. The total monetary value of all the final goods and services produced by a country's residents, regardless of where they are located, in a given time period.
- C. The total monetary value of all the final goods and services produced within a country's borders minus the value of imports in a given time period.
- D. The total value of investments made by domestic and foreign investors in a given time period.

Q8. With reference to Tropical Cyclones, consider the following statements

1. Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area.
2. It requires a large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C for its formation.
3. Coriolis Force is not required in the formation of Tropical Cyclones.
4. Cyclonic wind movements are anti-clockwise in the Southern hemisphere and clockwise in the Northern hemisphere.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. The unemployment ratio is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

2. The Periodic Labour force Survey is conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSO), working under the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI).

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

Statement 1: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) operates as an independent body without any coordination with other government agencies.

Statement 2: NDMA primarily focuses on post-disaster relief and recovery efforts.

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Indian states of West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Assam share their boundaries with Bhutan.
- The Kingdom of Bhutan and the Republic of India are separated by a 699 km long, regional border.
- The boundary between Bhutan and India is the only access to land that reaches Bhutan since the boundary with China is fully closed.

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- NCRB was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators. **Hence, statements 1 and 4 are correct.**
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985). **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Bureau has been entrusted to maintain the National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) and share it with the States/UTs on a regular basis.
- NCRB has also been designated as the Central Nodal Agency to manage technical and operational functions of the 'Online Cyber-Crime Reporting Portal'.
- The responsibility of implementation of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) has also been given to the NCRB. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Chandrayaan-3 is a lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is the third mission in the Chandrayaan series, following Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2. Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The mission took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) in Sriharikota on July 14, 2023.

- The Chandrayaan-3 Mission consists: The propulsion module (PM) and the Lander module (LM) and a Rover
- The lander (Vikram) and rover payloads (Pragyan) of Chandrayaan-3 remain the same as the Chandrayaan-2 mission.
- Launch Vehicle: The LVM3 M4 launcher has been successfully utilized to launch Chandrayaan-3. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans. 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The FSS Act of 2006 consolidated various acts & orders that had earlier handled food-related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- Nodal ministry: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 5 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The term AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence by machines.
- ML or Machine Learning is a subset of AI that involves the development of algorithms that allow computers to learn from data without being explicitly programmed. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- DL or Deep Learning is a subset of ML that uses artificial neural networks to learn from data in a way that is similar to how the human brain learns. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Turing test is a test to determine whether machines can impersonate human beings. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Turing test, named after British mathematician Alan Turing, was a concept proposed to test if a machine could deceive a person into thinking it was human.

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- BIS operates a Product Certification scheme for ensuring compliance to Indian Standards. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Before granting license to any manufacturer, BIS ascertains the availability of required infrastructure and capability of the manufacturer to produce and test the

product conforming to the relevant Indian Standard on a continuous basis.

- The BIS certification scheme is voluntary in nature. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- However, for a number of products, compliance to Indian Standards made mandatory by the Central Government under various statutes in public interest.

Ans. 7 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the monetary value of all the final goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period, generally one year. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- It is a broad measurement of a nation's overall economic activity.

Ans. 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**
- The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
 - Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Presence of the Coriolis force. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
 - Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
 - A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
 - Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Ans. 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines unemployment as being out of a job; being available to take a job; and actively engaged in searching for work.
- The unemployment rate is measured as the ratio of the unemployed to the labour force. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, the National Statistical Office (NSO) launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey in April 2017.
- Objective of PLFS: To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.
- It is conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSO), working under the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 10 Option D is correct

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** NDMA operates in coordination with various government agencies at the national and state levels to ensure effective disaster management.
- **Statement 2 is also incorrect.** NDMA's primary focus is on disaster preparedness, mitigation, capacity-building, and prevention rather than post-disaster relief efforts.

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