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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Proposed Broadcasting Bill may result in greater government control of broadcast, digital media: NWMI-The Hindu

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

News:

- The proposed **Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023** has raised the concerns of over-control and over-regulation.
- The **Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI)** made a submission to the Information & Broadcasting Ministry in this regard.
- The bill at present is **open to receiving feedback** from the public and stakeholders.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995.
- Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023
- Broadcast Advisory Council

Key Highlights

- The Broadcasting Bill seeks to replace the **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995**.
- It aims at providing a **comprehensive regulatory regime** for all forms of broadcasting content from television to streaming platforms.
- The government bestows **inordinate powers** on itself through this Bill.

List of Concerns Raised by NWMI

- The bill needs wider and exhaustive **consultations**.
- The media landscape need **not be over-controlled**.
- This intent to control and over-regulate is not in the interests of a **healthy, independent media**.
- **Free press, free speech** and **creative freedom** in India need to be protected.
- The bill contains vaguely worded provisions, including its definition of **'news and current affairs programmes**.
- The bill will unduly cover individual **YouTubers, the social media accounts of professional journalists** and even **citizen journalists**.
- The Bill places **extra-requirements** and **burdens** on news organisations.
- The bill is injurious to **small news operators**.

Centre Government Sway Over the Media and OTT Platforms

- The outline of the **Programme Code and Advertising Code** as a part of the bill has not been thoroughly consulted.
- The bill subject the work of newspersons to **Content Evaluation Committees (CECs)**.
- The Bill gives the Central government an overriding role in the formation of Content Evaluation Committees (CECs).
- In the context of **OTT platforms**, CECs look set to mimic the functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) which itself is subject to criticism.
- The Committee of Experts on OTT chaired by **Shyam Benegal** suggested the liberal control of these platforms.
- The formation of a **Broadcast Advisory Council** under the bill will be in the hands of the Centre Government.

2. Women steal the show at Republic Day Parade-The Hindu

Relevance: Indigenisation of technology and developing new technology.

News:

- The women led the **75th Republic Day Parade** on **Kartavya Path** on January 26.

Prelims Takeaway

- Nari Shakti Vandan Act
- Kartva Path

Key Highlights

- Major Saumya Shukla of the **Army Service Corps** unfurled the National Flag.
- Lieutenant Priyanka Sevda of the **262 Field Regiment** led the **Pinaka Rocket System**.

Pointers of Nari Shakti

- An **all-woman tri-services contingent** marched down Kartavya Path for the first time.
- Women personnel of the **CRPF**, the **BSF**, and the **SSB** performed daredevil stunts on motorcycles.
- The Republic Day parade comes just a few months after the **women's reservation Bill** was passed by Parliament.
- The law seeks to reserve one-third of seats for women in the **Lok Sabha** and the **State Legislative Assemblies**.
- India has a **woman President**, that too from the tribal community.

3. Day after judge accuses fellow judge, SC stays all proceedings before Calcutta HC over matter-The Indian Express

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

News:

- In the Calcutta High Court, a judge accused a fellow judge of acting clearly for some political party in this State.

Prelims Takeaway

- Division Bench
- Interim Stay

Key Highlights

- The Supreme Court **issued a notice** to the West Bengal government and the Calcutta HC .
- The Hon'ble Court also **stayed directions** for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the admission of MBBS candidates in the state.

The Judicial Dissensions and Aftermath

- A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court had directed that a **CBI investigation** be ordered into alleged irregularities in MBBS admissions in the state.
- An **interim stay** on the single-bench order was issued by the division bench of the Calcutta High Court.
- This investigation was ordered to be continued , despite an **order of a division bench to the contrary**.
- The Supreme Court has set up a **five-judge bench** in this regard.
- It will **consist of** the CJI D Y Chandrachud and four most senior judges of the Supreme Court i.e. Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose
- The top court further **stayed all related proceedings** before the Calcutta High Court in the matter.

4. Netanyahu slams genocide case as 'outrageous', says Israel will continue to defend itself-The Indian Express

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies, their structure and mandates

News:

- Israeli Prime Minister claimed that Israel will “continue to do what is necessary” to defend itself

Key Highlights

- The statement came in the backdrop of a ruling from the top UN i.e. **The International Court of Justice. (ICJ)**
- The ICJ criticised **Israel's war against Hamas** in the Gaza Strip.
- The International Court of Justice stopped short of **ordering a cease-fire** in Gaza in a genocide case filed by South Africa.
- The court demanded that **Israel try to contain death and damage** in its military offensive in the tiny coastal enclave.
- The Isarael PM **rejected the genocide claims** as “outrageous”
- Israel **vowed to press ahead** with the war to protect its country and people.

What is Genocide ?

- According to the United Nations, genocide refers to the **deliberate and systematic destruction** of a specific ethnic, racial, religious, or national group.
- This destruction may manifest through **various methods** such as :
 - mass killings,
 - forced relocation
 - the imposition of harsh living conditions
 - widespread death.
- The UN outlines **two primary components** constituting the crime of genocide:
 - **Mental Element:** Involves the intent to annihilate, either wholly or partially, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
 - **Physical Element:** Encompasses specific acts exhaustively listed, including:
 - Killing members of the group.
 - Inflicting serious bodily or mental harm upon members of the group.
 - Deliberately imposing conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction, either wholly or partially.

Prelims Takeaway

- Genocide
- The International Court of Justice. (ICJ)

India

GS III

5. Jet engine deal with France will give 100% access to technology, says Indian envoy-The Hindu

Relevance: Indigenisation of technology and developing new technology.

News:

- India is collaborating with France on manufacturing an engine for **India's fifth-generation fighter jet**.
- The new engine is meant to power the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cabinet Committee on Security
- Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- F-414 Engine
- Kaveri Project

Key Highlights

- Discussions are in progress between **Safran** and the **Defence Research and Development Organisation's Aeronautical Development Agency** and **Gas Turbine Research Establishment**.

- They are **arriving at a set of specifications** that complies with the country's future fighter jet requirements.
- India is looking for transfer of **manufacturing technology** and to work in the actual **design** phase, **metallurgical** aspects, etc.
- Safran, French multinational firm that works in the aerospace and defence sectors, is willing to do so.

F-414 Engine deal between India and USA

- The deal with General Electric (GE) for the manufacturing licence of F-414 engine has been **approved by the USA**.
- With this deal the F-414 engine is set to be manufactured in India by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**.
- The deal will give India access to several technologies and industrial processes involved in the **manufacture of jet engines**.
- The F-414 engines are meant to power the indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MK2**.
- The development of the AMCA is planned in two phases: **Mk1 with the F-414 engine**.
- **Mk2** with a more powerful engine in collaboration with France.

Project Kaveri-1989

- India earlier tried to have a proprietary right to jet engine technology under **Kaveri Project** but failed.
- The project was sanctioned by the **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in 1989**.

6. U.S. approves F-16 sale to Turkiye, F-35 to Greece after Turkiye ratifies Sweden's entry to NATO-The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting the Indian interests

News:

- The USA has approved the sale of **F-16 fighter jets** to Turkiye.
- The approval followed the Turkish government's ratification this week of **Sweden's membership in NATO**.
- The move is a significant development in the expansion of the **NATO Alliance**,

Key Highlights

- The US Congress has approved a \$23 billion **F-16 sale to Turkiye**.
- The Congress also approved the \$8.6 billion sale of advanced **F-35 fighter jets to Greece**.
- The move came just hours after Turkiye deposited its "**instrument of ratification**" for Sweden's accession to NATO with Washington.
- The sale to Turkiye includes **40 new F-16s** and equipment to modernise 79 of its existing F-16 fleet.
- The sale to Greece includes **40 F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters** and related equipment.

Other International Developments on the Multilateral Horizon

- Turkiye had delayed its approval of **Sweden's NATO membership** for more than a year.
- Sweden did not take Turkiye's national security concerns seriously enough, including its fight against **Kurdish militants**.
- Turkiye had made its ratification of Sweden's membership **contingent on the approval of the sale** of the new planes.
- Many Senators in the USA expressed objections due to **human rights concerns by Turkiye**.

NATO Expansion in the light of Russia Ukraine War

- NATO has approved **Sweden** and **Finland** into the alliance
- after the Nordic states dropped their long standing military neutrality following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.
- Sweden's formal accession to NATO now depends on **Hungary**, which is the last remaining NATO ally not to have approved its membership.

Prelims Takeaway

- F-16
- F-35
- Kurdish Militants of Turkiye

- The USA is also collecting its global allies in standing up to ongoing **Russian aggression with this deal.**

7. Red Sea woes: Exporters seek increased credit as freight rates jump 300%-The Indian Express

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

News:

- Indian exporters have asked the Central Government to help facilitate more **credit as freight rates** due to disruptions in **the Red Sea.**

Key Highlights

- Increasing attacks on ships sailing in the Red Sea Region has forced exporters to go for longer route past the **Cape of Good Hope**
- This has stretched delivery time by **15 to 20 days.**
- The freight rates have jumped nearly **300 per cent** due to the disruption in the Red Sea route.
- This has also increased the transit cost substantially because of incremental **freight rates** and **insurance premium.**
- Federation of Indian Export Organisations (**FIEO**) is keeping close look over the observations.

Impact on Indian Export Goods

- Indian companies use the Red Sea route through the Suez Canal to trade with **Europe, North America, North Africa, and parts of the west Asia.**
- As per CRISIL estimates, these regions accounted for 50 per cent of India's exports worth **Rs 18 lakh crore** and **30 per cent** of imports worth Rs 17 lakh crore in 2022-23.
- **Marine foods** –predominantly shrimp and prawn could also see a significant impact
 - as 80-90 per cent of the production is exported, more than half of it through the Red Sea.
- Their perishable nature and lean margins make exporters vulnerable to rising freight cost and competitive pressure from **Latin American suppliers.**
- This is forcing global shipping lines to take longer trade routes, which is ultimately affecting **exports of low value** items such as Basmati rice.
- **30-35% of production of Basmati Rice** is shipped through the Red Sea.
- There is another challenge to ensure **smooth trade payments.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Cape of Good Hope
- Red Sea

8. OMCs to get half of budget provision for green energy, net zero initiatives-The Hindu Businessline

Relevance: Environmental Impact Assessment.

News:

- The government has **halved the amount of capital support** given to state-owned oil marketing companies.

Key Highlights

- The support was officially aimed **at beefing up investments** in energy transition projects.
- The provision had been made to compensate three fuel retailers who had **suffered huge losses** in 2022.
- The losses occurred when they held **retail petrol and diesel prices**
 - despite a spike in crude oil prices following **Russia's invasion of Ukraine.**

Budgetary Provisions for Capital Support

- The Union Budget for FY24 made a provision of **₹30,000 crore of capital support**
 - to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL).
- The Finance Minister had proposed ₹5,000 crore for **buying crude oil to fill strategic underground storages**
 - at Mangaluru in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- Expenditure Finance Committee

- The equity support by the Finance Ministry has been halved to ₹15,000 crore and the plan for **filling strategic reserves** has been deferred.
- The decision is the background of the meeting of the **Expenditure Finance Committee in November, 2023.**
- Based on the recommendations of the EFC, approval of the **CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs)** is being sought.

Equity Infusion to Green Energy

- The Equity Infusion to OMC's in 2022-23 will be utilised for **green energy initiatives.**
- The green energy initiatives have targets to achieve **energy transition, net zero, and energy security objectives.**
- There will be the revised capital infusion plan by **March 31, 2024.**

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. What to look out for in Budget 2024 ?-The Indian Express

Relevance: Government Budgeting.

Context:

- The Union budget 2023-24 is crucial for India's economic trajectory, given the stable economic landscape.

<p>The Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns like weak consumption demand and global uncertainties. • The budget gains significance as an interim one preceding national elections. <p>Issues in Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiscal Consolidation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India's general government debt to GDP is at 82%, limiting productive spending. ○ Emphasis on fiscal consolidation crucial for sustainable debt trajectory. ○ Anticipation of achieving the fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 and moving towards 4.5% for 2025-26. ○ Expected compensations through robust direct tax collections, higher dividends, and healthy tax buoyancy. • Capital Expenditure Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-pandemic, the government has used capital expenditure to drive growth. ○ Budgeted government capex to GDP ratio set to increase to 3.4% in 2023-24. ○ Continued focus on infrastructure, anticipating a 10% growth in capex to around Rs 11 trillion. • Consumption Boost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weak revival in consumption, especially in the lower-income categories. ○ GDP growth estimated at 7.3%, but consumption growth lags at 4.4%. ○ Advocacy for measures like a small cut in excise duty on petrol/diesel to stimulate consumption and curb inflation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Capital Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India's demographic advantage requires increased spending on health, education, and skilling. ○ General government spending on social services expected to rise to 8.3% of GDP in 2022-23. ○ Urgent need to enhance spending in comparison to global peers for meaningful employment of the working-age population. • Rural Sector Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural India, housing 65% of the population, demands attention for agriculture sector development. ○ Agriculture productivity is significantly lower than global standards. technology adoption and rural infrastructure crucial. ○ Skilling programs to shift rural workforce to manufacturing and services sectors for sustainable rural development. ▪ Other Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ creating a favorable business environment, ▪ addressing environmental concerns ▪ uplifting marginalized sections of society. ○ The budget sets the stage for India's economic direction, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ focusing on fiscal discipline ▪ capital expenditure ▪ consumption stimulation ▪ human capital investment ▪ rural sector development.
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10. Reflecting on Bilkis Bano's resilient pursuit of justice-The Hindu

Relevance: Structure, organisation and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.

Context:

- On January 8, 2024 the Supreme Court of India made a **landmark ruling in the case of Bilkis Bano Case**
- The court **quashed the remission** granted by the Gujarat government to 11 individuals convicted in the **2002 Gujarat riots..**

The Background:

- The convicts were part of a communal mob involved in the gangrape of Bilkis Bano.
- The case symbolises the struggle for justice for survivors of sexual and communal violence.

Matters in Question in the Case

- **Justice System's Integrity and Societal Reflection:**

- The Supreme Court's decision emphasizes the **need for a consistent, impartial application of the law**, irrespective of socio-political contexts.
- The verdict is applauded for **upholding the legal process** and resisting impunity

- **Inadequacy of Prisons:**

- Justice B.V. Nagarathna, authoring the judgment, cites Plato's theory of punishment as a means of **prevention and reformation**.
- However, the jubilant behaviour of the released convicts exposes the flaws in the **prison system's ability to deliver genuine rehabilitation**
- This also raised questions about the effectiveness of the **"curative theory of punishment."**

- **Systemic Failure and Implications for Survivors:**

- Ms. Bano's case highlights the **systemic failure** to provide permanent justice or relief for survivors,
 - indicating a need for **comprehensive re-evaluation** of penal institutions and societal norms.

- **Perils of Carceral Feminism:**

- The article introduces the **concept of "carceral feminism,"**
 - analyzing the complexities of advocating feminist goals within an increasingly carceral state.
- It emphasizes **the distrust in the criminal justice system** due to patriarchal biases and questions the exclusive reliance on legal reforms.

- **Challenges in the Criminal Justice System:**

- The criminal justice system, including the police force and medical examination process, is criticized for
 - perpetuating a culture of victim-blaming
 - traumatizing survivors.

- **Nuanced Approach and Victim-Centred Justice:**

- There is need for a more nuanced, victim-centred approach.
- We need to
 - go beyond legal avenues
 - recognizing the limitations of carceral feminism
 - Understanding the prison's ability to reform perpetrators.

Quick Look

1. European Ports Alliance

- The EU has launched the "European Ports Alliance" to streamline methods for combating drug smuggling and criminal group infiltration at ports.
- The initiative was inaugurated at Belgium's Antwerp port, which serves as the primary gateway for cocaine entering Europe.
- It brought together EU interior ministers and representatives from 16 EU ports and sea transport organizations.
- The main goal is to enhance collaboration and coordination in addressing security challenges related to port activities..

2. All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)

- The Ministry of Education has recently disclosed the findings of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for the academic year 2021-22.
- This annual survey, initiated in 2011, comprehensively encompasses all higher education institutions across India.
- The report include a substantial increase in overall enrollment and a noteworthy uptick in enrollment across various categories.
- The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) has experienced a significant jump, indicating an encouraging trend in educational participation.
- Ph.D. enrollment has seen a notable increase, showcasing a positive trajectory in advanced academic pursuits.
- The prevalence of undergraduate degrees remains prominent, reflecting the educational landscape's foundation.
- Social sciences emerge as dominant in postgraduate programs, as indicated by the survey's findings.
- The report sheds light on enrollment trends in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), providing insights into the educational landscape's evolving dynamics.
- Additional aspects covered in the survey include the availability of infrastructure, the total number of institutions surveyed, and detailed information about the faculty.

3. Padma Awards-2024

- The Padma Awards, India's highest civilian honors, are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- Announced annually ahead of Republic Day, the awards recognize exceptional contributions across diverse fields.
- For 2024, a total of 132 Padma Awards are announced, including 2 duo cases where the award is counted as one.
- The list includes 5 recipients of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, 17 eminent personalities receiving the Padma Bhushan, and 110 inspiring individuals conferred the Padma Shri.
- Among the awardees, 30 are women, and 8 non-resident or foreign awardees with roots in India are also recognized.
- Nine of the selected awardees will be honored posthumously.

4. Black Tiger Safari in Odisha

- Odisha has recently unveiled the world's first exclusive melanistic tiger safari, located next to the Similipal Tiger Reserve.
- The primary objective is to enhance tourism and provide improved research opportunities, along with enhanced public viewing access to the rare melanistic tigers, which are challenging to spot in forested areas.
- Black tigers, also referred to as pseudo-melanistic tigers, are essentially regular Bengal tigers characterised by heightened melanin production.
- These tigers exhibit dark stripes rather than the conventional orange and black pattern typically associated with Bengal tigers.
- Notably, the unique black tigers are currently found exclusively in Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

5. Bhutan Election : Victory of People's Democratic Party

- On January 10th, the Election Commission announced the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as the winner in the Bhutan National Assembly elections, securing 30 out of 47 seats.
- The Bhutan Tendrel Party emerged as the opposition with 17 seats in this fourth National Assembly election since the country's democratization.
- Notably, there was a decline in voter turnout, reaching 63% and 65.6% for the two rounds, compared to 66.36% and 71.46% recorded in 2018.
- Bhutan underwent a transition from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy in 2008.
- The bicameral parliament consists of the National Council (upper house) and the National Assembly (lower house).
- The National Assembly elections employ a two-round voting system, involving a primary round with all parties and a general election between the top two contenders



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023

1. The bill will replace the Telecom and Regulatory Authority of India Act.
2. The bill will cover the OTT Platforms as well.
3. The bill has done away with the requirement of Internal Oversight Mechanism.

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 features regarding the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill) or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam :

1. Reservation for Women in Lower House of Parliament
2. Reservation for Women in State Legislative Assemblies:
3. Reservation for Women in NCT of Delhi
4. Rotation of Seats.

How many of the above are the features of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam ??

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to the Collegium System for Judicial Appointments in India:

1. Judges of the higher judiciary i.e. High Courts and Supreme Court are appointed through the collegium system.
2. The collegium of the Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of India and the two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
3. The collegium decides on appointments, elevations, and transfers of Judges.
4. The term "collegium" is mentioned in the Indian Constitution

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

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

Q4. With reference to the definition of Genocide of the United Nations examine the statements carefully and answer the questions according to the instructions given below:

Statement 1 : Genocide covers deliberate and systematic destruction of a specific ethnic, racial, religious, or national group.

Statement 2: Genocide covers physical aspects not mental aspects.

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 correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to the F-414 Engine

1. The engine has been developed by Airbus.
2. The engine belongs to the United Kingdom.
3. The engine is primarily used in submarines..

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 respect to the NATO

1. It was established as a part of the New York Treaty.
2. It consists of 30 member states.
3. Its headquarters are in Washington D.C

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 with respect to the Physical - Geographic features of Red Sea

1. It is one of the most saline bodies of water in the world.
2. Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti have borders with it.
3. It is connected to the Indian ocean in the south through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden.
4. It occupies a part of Great Rift Valley.

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Oil Bonds in India

1. They are issued in addition to the cash subsidy.
2. They are short term bonds.
3. The interest payments and repayment of these bonds become a part of the fiscal deficit calculations in future years

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements with respect to Capital Account Convertibility

1. It deals mainly with the import and export of goods and services..

2. It covers the investment transactions.
3. It enables the Indian resident to acquire any foreign asset

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements with respect to Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013

1. It was an outcome of the recommendations of the Verma Committee.
2. It led to the amendment in the IPC and the Indian Evidence Act.
3. It provided a mandatory death penalty for gang rape.
4. New offences such as stalking, acid attacks, and voyeurism were added into the definition of sexual offences

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

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

Prelims Track Answer**Answer 1 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- The Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill 2023 replaces the outdated Cable Television Networks Act of 1995. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- The Bill expands regulatory oversight to encompass over-the-top (OTT) content, digital news, and current affairs, which are currently regulated under the IT Act, of 2000. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Bill mandates an internal body to self-certify news programming (Internal Oversight Mechanism.), raising questions about feasibility, costs, and desirability. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has following features :
 - Reservation for Women in Lower House of Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Reservation for Women in State Legislative Assemblies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Reservation for Women in NCT of Delhi. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Rotation of Seats. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
 - The reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published.
 - Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women.
 - The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years. However, it shall continue till such date as determined by a law made by Parliament.

Answer 3 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Judges of the higher judiciary i.e. High Courts and Supreme Court are appointed through the collegium system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The collegium of the Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

- The collegium decides on appointments, elevations, and transfers of Judges. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The term "collegium" is not mentioned in the Indian Constitution but has been established through judicial pronouncements. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

Answer 4 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- According to the United Nations, genocide refers to the deliberate and systematic destruction of a specific ethnic, racial, religious, or national group. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The UN outlines two primary components constituting the crime of genocide:
 - Mental Element: Involves the intent to annihilate, either wholly or partially, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
 - Physical Element: Encompasses specific acts exhaustively listed, including:
 - Killing members of the group.
 - Inflicting serious bodily or mental harm upon members of the group.
 - Deliberately imposing conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction, either wholly or partially. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Answer 5 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- GE's F414 engine is a turbofan engine. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is used by the US Navy for over 30 years. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- It is equipped with a dual-channel full authority digital engine control (FADEC), a six-stage high-pressure compressor, an advanced high-pressure turbine, and a "fuel-draulic" system for nozzle area control.
- The F414 engine has powered military aircraft in eight nations, making it a trusted choice for modern fighter jets. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 6 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance
- It established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and

several Western European nations. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

- The primary aim was to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- There are currently 31 member states. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Finland is the last member to join the organisation.
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organisation, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.

Answer 7 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Red Sea is
 - An inlet of the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia. One of the most saline bodies of water in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Bordering Countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Connected to the Indian ocean in south through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - In the north are the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).
 - Occupies a part of Great Rift Valley (Afro-Arabian Rift Valley). **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Answer 8 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Oil bonds are special securities issued by the government to oil marketing companies instead of cash subsidy. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- These bonds are typically of a long-term tenure like 15-20 years and oil companies are paid interest. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Governments resort to such instruments when they are in danger of breaching the fiscal deficit target.
- These types of bonds are considered to be 'below the line' expenditure in the Union budget and do not have a bearing on that

year's fiscal deficit, but they do increase the government's overall debt.

- The interest payments and repayment of these bonds become a part of the fiscal deficit calculations in future years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

Capital Account Convertibility

- The balance of payments account, which a statement of all transactions made between a country and the outside world, consists of two accounts
 - Current account
 - Capital account
- While the current account deals mainly with import and export of goods and services, the capital account is made up of cross-border movement of capital by way of investments and loans. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Capital account convertibility- It means the freedom to conduct investment transactions without any constraints. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- There is no restrictions on the amount of rupees an Indian resident can convert into foreign currency to enable to acquire any foreign asset. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Similarly, there should be no restraints on the NRI relative bringing in any amount of foreign currency to acquire an asset in India.

Answer 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Verma Committee was constituted to come up with recommendations for the amendment to the law relating to sexual offences.
- 90% of its recommendations were accepted and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 was enacted. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 2013 Amendment Act amended Section 375 of IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act, to make the laws against rape and sexual assaults against women more stringent. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Certain amendments included broadening the definition of rape, capital punishment for rape cases that have led to death or rendered the victim in a 'persistent vegetative state' and a minimum of 20 years imprisonment

- for gang rape. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**
- New offences such as stalking, acid attacks, and voyeurism were added into the definition of sexual offences. **.Hence, statement 4 is correct**
 - The minimum sentence was changed from seven years to 10 years. This was the first time the vegetative state was included since the landmark 'Aruna Shanbaug case'.



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