

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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1. Pursue all legal, political options in Qatar case, say experts - The Hindu/ Delhi explores legal and diplomatic options after Qatar death sentence - Indian Express
2. Panel holds back its report on crime Bills - The Hindu/ Panel likely to seek redraft of provisions on organised crime - Indian Express
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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Pursue all legal, political options in Qatar case, say experts - The Hindu/ Delhi explores legal and diplomatic options after Qatar death sentence - Indian Express

Relevance : India and its neighbourhood- relations.

News :

- India is exploring **legal and diplomatic options in Qatar death row**.
- The charges are of **spying for Israel**.
- The verdict has been given by **Qatar's Court of First Instance**

Prelims Takeaway

- DIMDEX
- India-Qatar Defence Cooperation Agreement
- U212

Backdrop

- All eight naval officers were **employees of Doha-based Dahra Global**.
- They were **working in private capacity**.
- Their job was **to oversee the induction** of Italian small stealth submarines U212.

Challenges for India in Qatar

- **Opacity** of trial.
- **No exact reason** for the arrest of eight men.
- An **appeal** in the higher court.
- A **mercy petition** to the Emir of Qatar.
- It will be a **twin-track** of appeal and mercy petition that is being considered, as of now.

Economic ties between India and Qatar

- The two countries have **strong economic ties** like :
 - LNG imports from Qatar is an important feature of these ties
 - The investments by Qatar Investment Authority is substantial in India's new economy.
 - Major Qatari investments include communications , transmission, green energy , retail ventures, food business , news agency and education. .

Political and Defence Ties between India and Qatar

There are strong political ties between two countries like :

- There have been **high-level visits** in recent years.
- The External Affairs Minister has **visited Doha multiple times**.
- India **offers training slots** in its defence institutions to a number of partner countries, including Qatar.
- India **regularly participates** in the biennial Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (**DIMDEX**) in Qatar.
- The India-Qatar **Defence Cooperation Agreement** in 2008 and extended in 2018.

Workable Factors in Qatar

- Indian diaspora has goodwill in Qatar.
- **Qatar's heft** great heft in international diplomacy like :
 - Taliban's global mission in Doha
 - Securing the release of US hostages from the captivity of Hamas.

Prisoners Transfer Agreement

- In this, one of the options could be the **transfer of prisoners agreement** that was signed in 2015 between India and Qatar.

- For the prisoner **to serve the rest of his/her sentence** in India, there must not be a standing appeal against his committal to prison in the foreign country.
- But for that, it **needs to be converted** from a death sentence into a life imprisonment at least.

Matters of Consideration for Future

- The current West Asia conflict has **made the verdict untimely**.
- There is **very rare use of the death penalty in Qatar**.
- **A former Indian envoy** to Qatar has been deployed for the job.

2. Panel holds back its report on crime Bills - The Hindu/ Panel likely to seek redraft of provisions on organised crime - Indian Express

Relevance:Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

News:

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is **reviewing the three Bills** to replace existing criminal codes.
- It is likely to **recommend redrafting** key provisions that were brought in for the first time to tackle organised crime.
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which **seeks to replace** the Indian Penal Code, 1860, introduced **new provisions to define and penalise** “organised crime”.
- The deliberations by the panel are likely to **lead to a recommendation** to re-draft this provision.

Prelims Takeaway

- Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999.
- The Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling on adultery-2018
- Definition of Organized Crime in India

Features of the Bills

- It is learnt that while the panel feels that the provision is **a very effective addition**, many terms used must be **clearly defined** to avoid uncertainty.
- Section 109 of the proposed law defines an **organised crime syndicate to include** a “gang, mafia or (crime) ring” involved in “gang, criminality, racketeering and syndicated organised crime.”
- It is learnt that experts have pointed out that the **scope of organised crime** in the proposed law is **much wider**, even when compared with the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999.
- The proposed provision **also criminalises** holding “any property, derived, or obtained from the commission of an organised crime or proceeds of any organised crime” .
- It **stipulates the jail term** of **not less** than three years but which can be **extended** to life imprisonment.
- The deliberations of the Parliamentary panel are likely to lead to a recommendation **to safeguard third parties** who may acquire such property unknowingly.
- This means, **supplementing the provision** with the “intent” to hold such property obtained from unlawful means.
- It recommends that handcuffs should not be used on economic offenders.
- It rejects the contention on the **Hindi nomenclature** of the Bills.

Opinions on Bills

- Former CBI Special Director, former Additional Solicitor General of India National Human Rights Commission Chairperson are **among the experts** who appeared before the panel.
- There is a view leaning in favour of **bringing back the provision** criminalising adultery (Section 497 of the IPC) and non-consensual ‘unnatural sex’ (Section 377 of the IPC) which **have been removed** in the new Bills.

- The Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling in 2018, had **decriminalised adultery**. Some have gone to the panel with concerns that there is a **need to keep the provision** in order to safeguard the sanctity of the institution of marriage.

3. Union Government Launches Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) - PIB

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

News:

- Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister **addressed the “National Symposium on Production of Improved and Traditional Seed through Cooperative Sector”**.
- It was organized by **Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)**.
- He unveiled BBSSL's Logo, Website, and Brochure and emphasised the **significance of the cooperative movement** in the agricultural sector.

Prelims Takeaway

- Primary Agricultural Credit Society
- Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited

Key Highlights

- Promoting Self-Reliance**
 - BBSSL will help India become self-reliant **in seed conservation, promotion, and research**
- Traditional Seed Preservation**
 - There is a **need to conserve traditional Indian seeds** to maintain the **quality and nutritional value of crops**.
 - BBSSL** is expected to play a role in this preservation effort.
- Research and Development**
 - BBSSL will engage in **research and development to increase seed production**, focusing on methods developed by Indian agricultural scientists.
 - It aims to **expand India's share in the global seed market**.
- Cooperative Approach**
 - The cooperative society will link with **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** to enable farmers to **produce certified seeds**.
 - The profits from this initiative will **directly benefit seed-producing farmers**.
- Global Seed Market**
 - India's current share in the global seed market is **less than one percent**, and there is a goal to increase it significantly.
 - The government established BBSSL with the **aim of achieving this objective**.
- Collaboration**
 - Key organisations are integral to BBSSL's core, **collaborating to support the farmers' seed production**.
 - These organisations include **IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, NDDB and NCDC**
- Multiple Cooperative Institutions**
 - Various cooperative institutions**, including multi-state, state-level, district-level, and PACS, **will join this cooperative network**.
 - The goal is to ensure the **entire process** from production to marketing is **efficient and scientifically managed**.
- Conservation of Traditional Seeds** by collecting and scientifically analyzing data and creating a database of their positive aspects.
- Monopoly on Millets**
 - Attention is given to **promoting millets in the global market**, such as Ragi, Bajra, and Jowar, where India can **potentially have a monopoly**.

4. Mizoram has highest cancer incidence rate in India, finds study - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News:

- According to a report, **Mizoram exhibits the highest incidence rate of cancer in India.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Cancer
- World Health Organisation

Findings of the Study

- Escalating **cancer incidence and mortality in Mizoram.**
- Stomach cancer:** Primary cause of cancer-related deaths among men
- Lung cancer:** Primary cause of cancer-related deaths among women.
- Possible Causes**
 - Static lifestyle and dietary patterns, potentially contributing to a genetic predisposition.
 - Lack of specialised diagnostic facilities, human resources, and transportation challenges.

Deadly disease

- World Health Organisation**
 - Cancer is a large group of diseases that can **start in almost any organ or tissue of the body** when **abnormal cells grow uncontrollably**, and go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body or spread to other organs.
- It is the **second leading cause of death globally**, accounting for one in six deaths in 2018.
- Most common types of cancer in men:** Lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer
- Most common types of cancer among women:** Breast, colorectal, lung, cervical and thyroid cancer are the

Cancer on the rise

- One in nine people** across India are **likely to develop cancer in their lifetimes.**
- Lung and breast cancers** were the **leading sites of cancer in males and females**, respectively.
- Among childhood cancers, **lymphoid leukaemia** was the leading site.
- The incidence of cancer cases is **estimated to increase by 12.8 percent in 2025** as compared to 2020.

5. 80% of India's urban population has access to high-speed Internet: PM - The Hindu

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

News:

- During the **seventh India Mobile Congress**, the Prime Minister highlighted **India's rapid progress in 5G network coverage.**

Prelims Takeaway

- 5G Technology
- Cyber Security

5G Progress in India

- He mentioned that **over 80% of India's urban population** now has **access to 5G technology**
- Approximately **4 lakh 5G base stations have been deployed** within a year of the 5G launch in the country.
- He also mentioned that improving internet connectivity and speed **enhances the quality of life.**

Key Highlights of Speech

- 5G Expansion**
 - India has seen a **swift expansion of 5G networks in urban centres**, providing high-speed technology access to the majority of the urban population.
- Focus on 6G**
 - India is also **moving towards becoming a leader in 6G telecommunications** by focusing on research efforts to **standardise the next generation** of telecommunications.
- Benefits of Improved Connectivity**
 - Enhanced internet connectivity and speed have **broader positive impacts.**
 - Such as **facilitating online education, telemedicine, and navigation for tourists.**

- **Domestic Electronics Manufacturing**
 - The PM also celebrated the **growth of domestic electronics manufacturing**.
 - He **cited examples** such as
 - Apple and Samsung's smartphone assembly in India
 - Google's plans to assemble its Pixel lineup in India
- **Supply Chain Security**
 - He also made a case for **securing electronics supply chains**, suggesting the need to **make democratic societies safe from potential disruptions**.

GS III

6. Dark pattern sales by airlines, online agents deemed 'cybercrime' - The Hindu

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

News:

- The Consumer Affairs Secretary recently stated that **online malpractices by airlines, travel portals are "cybercrime"** and amounted to "**dark patterns**".

Prelims Takeaway

- Dark Patterns
- e-commerce

Dark Patterns

- Also known as **deceptive patterns**, they refer to **design elements that manipulate users into making unintended purchases**.
- These patterns **often exploit cognitive biases** and employ tactics such as **false urgency, forced actions, hidden costs etc.**
- They can range from **overtly noticeable tricks to more subtle methods** that users may not immediately recognize.

Types of Dark Patterns

- **False urgency:** Creates a sense of urgency or scarcity to pressure consumers into making a purchase or taking an action.
- **Basket sneaking:** inclusion of additional items at the time of checkout without the consent of the user.
- **Confirm shaming:** using a phrase, video, audio or any other means to create a sense of fear or shame or ridicule or guilt in the mind of the user.
- **Forced action:** Pushes consumers into taking an action they may not want to take, such as signing up for a service in order to access content.
- **Subscription traps:** Easy to sign up for a service but difficult to quit or cancel; option is hidden or requires multiple steps.
- **Bait & switch:** Advertising a certain product/ service but delivering another, often of lower quality.
- **Nagging:** Users face an overload of requests, information, options, or interruptions; unrelated to the intended purchase of goods or services, which disrupts the intended transaction.
- **Disguised ads:** Designed to look like content, such as news articles or user-generated content.
- **Interface interference:** The design element that manipulates the user interface
- **Drip pricing:** Practice where elements of prices are not revealed upfront

7. Launch of Reference Fuels fosters vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat: Petroleum Minister Hardeep S Puri - PIB

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

News:

- Recently, the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the '**Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels**' produced by IndianOil for the **first time in India**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Reference Fuels
- AtmaNirbhar Bharat

Reference Fuels

- Reference fuels are **premium, high-value products** that are used for **calibration and testing of vehicles** by automobile manufacturers and testing agencies.
- IndianOil** has successfully commenced the **production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels** for the first time in India.
- These indigenously developed products **will lead to import substitution** at better price and a **shorter lead time** for the vehicle manufacturers.
 - The demand for Reference Fuels in India is **currently met by imports from other countries**.
- Reference Gasoline fuels** will be available in **E0, E5, E10, E20, E85, and E100** from Flagship Paradip Refinery.
- Reference diesel fuel** shall be available in **B7 grade** from Panipat Refinery.

Energy Security Strategy

- He also discussed the **four-pronged energy security strategy**, guided by the Prime Minister's vision.
- It includes
 - diversifying energy supplies
 - increasing exploration and production
 - transitioning to a gas-based economy
 - promoting green hydrogen and electric vehicles

8. Punjab farm fires down by half than last yr - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, Punjab recorded **approximately 50% fewer stubble burning incidents** during 2023 compared to the same timeframe in 2022.

Stubble Burning

- It is a method of **removing paddy crop residues from the field to sow wheat** from the last week of September to November.
- It is a process of **setting on fire the straw stubble**, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc.
- It is usually required in areas that use the **combined harvesting method** which leaves crop residue behind.
- It is a common practice in **October and November across North West India**, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Ex-situ Stubble Management

- The reduction in farm fires this year is attributed to the ex-situ stubble management program, **encouraging industries to use stubble as a fuel**.
- The program aims to **manage around 4.5 million tonnes of paddy stubble** through ex-situ methods.

Prelims Takeaway

- Stubble Burning
- Ex-situ Stubble Management

- This approach involves **clearing stubble from the fields using cutter, rake, and baler machines**, which is then transported to various industries.

In-situ vs Ex-situ Methods

- In-situ stubble management involves **incorporating stubble into the soil** during wheat sowing or **allowing it to decompose gradually**.
- Ex-situ methods involve **removing stubble from the fields** and **using it as a resource**.

Government Initiatives

- The Punjab government has been **distributing stubble management machines under the Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme** since 2018, focusing on both in-situ and ex-situ methods.
- However, there is a **growing emphasis on promoting ex-situ methods**, driven by increased demand for stubble from various industries.



Mentorship
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. A China-India partnership, its vast global potential - The Hindu

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

News:

- India and China relations are growing **in the backdrop** of the Ukraine and West Asia Crisis.
- Common civilization, shared common thoughts and spirit of common good binds both nations.

Prelims Takeaway

- Global Development Initiative
- Global Security Initiative
- Global Civilization Initiative

China and India : Since Independence to Contemporary Scenario

- In the 1950s, China and India **jointly initiated** the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.
- Both countries are **two largest developing countries** and emerging market economies.
- Each country has a **population** of over one billion.
- **A white paper China** was **released by China** titled "A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions", systematically lays out the theoretical base, practice and development of that over the past decade.
- It **advocates**
 - forging **greater synergy** to achieve lasting peace,
 - developing a **conducive environment** for common security,
 - instilling **greater confidence** in common development,
 - providing **sustainable driving forces** for mutual learning among civilisations,
 - taking **more actions** to protect the ecology.

Global Community of Shared Vision

- The vision of a **global community of shared future** has been included in UNGA Resolutions for six consecutive years.
- The same vision **has been incorporated** at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS.

Vision points of India and China

- Keep to the **correct direction** of economic globalisation.
- **Jointly build** an open world economy.
- Unilateralism, protectionism, decoupling, and the zero-sum game of the "**winner-takes-all**" **should be rejected**.
- Follow the right path of **peaceful development**.
- The **old path** of colonialism and hegemonism to be quashed.
- Only **by working together** to pursue and safeguard peace.
- Thucydides Trap **needs to be avoided**.

Chinese Opinion on Multilateralism and New International Order

- Practise **true multilateralism**.
- **Building cliques** in the name of multilateralism is no more than bloc politics.
- **Seeking supremacy** in the name of multilateralism is still unilateral thinking.
- "Selective multilateralism" is practising **double standards**.
- The world should be fair and free from **domineering practices**.
- **Need to respect** the international system with the United Nations at its core.
- There is **only one order** for the world, which is the international order based on international law.
- There is only one **set of rules** for the world, which is the basic norms governing international relations based on the **purposes and principles of the UN Charter**.
- Promote the **common values** of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom of humanity.
- There is **no single model of democracy** that is universally applicable, far less a superior one.

China's Contributions to New World Order

- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- The Global Development Initiative
- Global Security Initiative,
- Global Civilization Initiative.
- AIIB
- NDB

2. INFORM CUSTOMERS WHEN BANKS ASK FOR THEIR CREDIT SCORE: WHAT RBI HAS TOLD CREDIT BUREAUS - Indian Express

Relevance: Economy

News:

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** issued a directive to **credit information companies (CICs)** regarding the **handling of credit information and customer notifications.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Customer Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CICs must alert customers through SMS or email when their Credit Information Report (CIR) is accessed by banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). • Credit institutions are also required to send SMS or email alerts to customers when they submit information to CICs on defaults or Days Past Due (DPD) on existing credit. • These new rules will come into effect within six months. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Access to Credit Scores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers can obtain their credit scores from CICs, typically for a fee. • However, the RBI has instructed CICs to provide a "Free Full Credit Report (FCR)," including the credit score, to individuals once a year. • This report must be easily accessible on the CIC's website.
<p style="text-align: center;">Credit Information Companies (CICs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CICs maintain and analyse the consumer and business credit information of individuals and companies, as provided to them by banks and NBFCs. • Based on this info, a CIC calculates and generates credit scores and credit ranks as per their creditworthiness and past credit history. • Credit scores play a crucial role in determining a customer's eligibility for loans and credit cards. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Data Correction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a customer believes that their credit data is incorrect, there is a process to apply for data correction. • Banks and NBFCs should inform customers of the reasons for rejecting requests for data correction. • This will help the customers understand the issues in their Credit Information Report. <p style="text-align: center;">CIC Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CICs are required to review their data acceptance rules and periodically assess their "search & match" logic algorithms. • They must conduct a root-cause analysis of complaints and present the results to their board for review. • Additionally, they should disclose complaint details on their websites.

Quick Look

1. Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign

- Under this campaign soil collected from different parts of the country will be used to develop a garden along the Kartavya Path in Delhi.
- Events have been planned at the panchayat, village, block, urban local body, and State and national levels, respectively.
- The five-point agenda includes the installation of a shilaphalakam, bearing the “names of those who have made the supreme sacrifice”.
 - It may be executed through the MGNREGA, leveraging local materials and resources.
- ‘Vasudha Vandhan’ envisages every gram panchayat or village renewing “Mother Earth by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species and developing an Amrit Vatika”.
- ‘Veeron Ka Vandan’ will felicitate freedom fighters, and the families of deceased freedom fighters.
- Young volunteers and others will collect soil from every panchayat/village and bring it to the block, from where the ‘Mitti Kalash’ will be transported to Delhi.

2. The PM e-bus Sewa Scheme

- It intends to augment city bus services with 10000 e-buses on a PPP model.
 - An e-bus is any bus whose propulsion and accessory systems are powered exclusively by a zero-emissions electricity source.
- It will support the bus operations for 10 years.
- Two segments of the Scheme
 - Segment A – Augmenting the City bus services (169 cities)
 - The approved bus scheme will augment city bus operations with 10,000 e-buses on a PPP model.
 - Segment B – Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI) (181 cities)
 - It envisages green initiatives like bus priority, infrastructure, multimodal interchange facilities, NCMC-based Automated Fare Collection Systems, Charging infrastructure, etc.
- Coverage
 - The scheme will cover cities of 3 lakh and above population as per the census 2011.
 - Priority will be given to cities having no organised bus service.

3. Agnipath Scheme

- Introduced to take in recruits for the Army, Navy, and Indian Air Force (IAF) on four-year contracts, including six months of training.
- At the end of four years, up to 25% of recruits can apply to join the services on a regular basis, subject to merit and organisational requirements.
- At present, all sailors, airmen, and soldiers, except the technical cadre of the medical branch, are recruited to the services under the scheme.
- The scheme had also opened doors for recruitment of women as Agniveers to the IAF and Navy.
- The scheme aimed to ensure a youthful profile for the armed forces by bringing down the average age of serving soldiers.
- The scheme would help transform the armed forces into a tech-savvy and modern fighting force.

4. Lorrainosaurus

- It is the oldest mega-predatory pliosaur.
- It lived during the ancient Middle Jurassic era in marine environments.
- The regions in which it lived 170 million years ago are now located in northern France.
- This giant reptile probably reached over 6 meters from snout to tail.
- The animal had jaws over 1.3 m long with large conical teeth and a bulky ‘torpedo-shaped’ body propelled by four flipper-like limbs.

- They were ecological equivalents of today's killer whales and would have eaten a range of prey, including squid-like cephalopods, large fish, and other marine reptiles.

5. Betelgeuse Star

- It is a red supergiant star with a distinctive orange-red hue.
- It is roughly 10 million years old and much younger than the Sun.
- It is around 700 light-years away from the Earth and located in the Orion constellation.
- It is particularly easy to spot because of its brightness; it is often the tenth-brightest star in the sky.
- It is also one of the largest stars visible to the unaided eye.
- While it is large and bright, Betelgeuse isn't actually that hot.
- Betelgeuse has been classified as a "semiregular variable star".
 - It is a type of variable star that periodically waxes and wanes in brightness and occasionally undergoes irregular light changes.
- It, typically, has a 400-day cycle as well as a longer cycle that stretches about 5 years.

6. Global Declaration for River Dolphins

- This declaration is designed to guide 14 nations where river dolphins inhabit, with a focus on responsible freshwater dolphin conservation.
- It aims to halt the decline of all river dolphin species and increase the most vulnerable populations.
- It will escalate collaborative endeavours to safeguard the surviving river dolphin species.
- Members: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru and Venezuela.
- They agreed to improve water quality in the dolphins' habitat, create protected areas and tackle overfishing.
- They also agreed to involve Indigenous communities in the affected regions in protecting the animals.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to DIMDEX, consider the following statements

1. It is a kind of annual maritime exercise.
2. India is a participant in the exercise.
3. The exercise is conducted by Saudi Arabia.

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

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

Q2. With reference to Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, consider the following statements

1. The code provides a clear definition of organised crime.
2. The code criminalises holding any property, derived or obtained from the proceeds of any organised crime.
3. The provisions of adultery and non-consensual unnatural sex have been removed from the Code.

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

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

Q3. With reference to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies(PACS) in India which among the following statements is *not* correct ?

- A. It is the last tier in the three-tier cooperative credit structure.
- B. They are headed by the State Cooperative Banks.
- C. They provide short term and medium term loans.
- D. State Cooperative Banks deal directly with farmers.

Q4. Consider the following statements with reference to CAR T-cell Therapy

1. It uses a patient's own cells that are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells and target tumour cells.

2. It has been approved for leukaemias and lymphomas.

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 with reference to 6G Technology

1. It is expected to have high latency when compared to 5G.
2. It will be able to use higher frequencies than 5G networks.
3. It seeks to utilise the terahertz band of frequency which is currently unutilized.

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

1. False urgency
2. Basket sneaking
3. Bait & switch
4. Interface interference

How many of the practices mentioned above are categorised as "Dark Patterns"?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Reference fuels

1. It is a high-value product used for calibration and testing of vehicles.
2. India is the largest producer of reference fuels in the world.

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

Q8. Consider the following statements on Stubble Burning

1. It is a process of setting on fire the straw stubble, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc.
2. It is a common practice during the summer months across North West India.
3. In-situ stubble management involves removing stubble from the fields and using it as a resource.

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

1. Net Zero World Initiative
2. Global Development Initiative
3. Global Security Initiative
4. Global Civilization Initiative

How many of the above initiatives have been taken by China ?

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

Q10. With reference to Credit Information Companies, consider the following statements

1. The Companies are obliged to appoint an Internal Ombudsman.
2. These companies provide a Free Full Credit Report to individuals once a year.
3. This framework for Credit Information Companies is announced by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option A is correct

Explanation

- DIMDEX- Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference is held biennially. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is organised by Qatar. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It provides the opportunity to showcase their latest, state-of-the-art technologies and products
- Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements are announced and signed live at the exhibition floor.
- India regularly participates in it. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

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- Section 109 of the proposed law defines an organised crime syndicate to include a “gang, mafia or (crime) ring” involved in “gang, criminality, racketeering and syndicated organised crime.” **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It also criminalises holding “any property, derived, or obtained from the commission of an organised crime or proceeds of any organised crime” . **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It stipulates the jail term of not less than three years but which can be extended to life imprisonment.
- The provisions related to criminalising adultery and non-consensual ‘unnatural sex’ have been removed in the new Bills. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- PACS are village level cooperative credit societies.
- They serve as the last link in a three-tier cooperative credit structure
- They are headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB) at the state level.
- Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the District Central Cooperative Banks.
- The DCCBs work with PACS, which deal directly with farmers.
- PACSs provide short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans to the farmers.
- The first PACS was formed in 1904.

Ans. 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- CAR T-cell therapies are a major breakthrough in cancer treatment.
- Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy which involve taking drugs, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells.
- They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells and target tumour cells. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CAR T-cell therapy has been approved for leukaemias (cancers arising from the cells that produce white blood cells) and lymphomas (arising from the lymphatic system). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 5 Option B is correct

Explanation

- 6G (sixth-generation wireless) is the successor to 5G cellular technology.
- It will be able to use higher frequencies than 5G networks and provide substantially higher capacity and much lower latency (delay). **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct.**
- One of the goals of 6G internet will be to support one microsecond-latency communication (delay of one-microsecond in communication).
- It seeks to utilise the terahertz band of frequency which is currently unutilized. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The 6G technology market is expected to facilitate large improvements in imaging, presence technology and location awareness.
- 6G's higher frequencies will enable much faster sampling rates, in addition to providing significantly better throughput and higher data rates.

Ans. 6 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Dark Patterns, also known as deceptive patterns, refer to design elements that manipulate users into making unintended purchases.
- These patterns often exploit cognitive biases and employ tactics such as false urgency, forced actions, hidden costs etc.
- Types of Dark Patterns include False urgency, Basket sneaking, Confirm shaming, Forced action, Subscription traps, Bait & switch, Nagging, Disguised ads, Interface

interference, Drip pricing etc. **Hence, Option D is correct.**

Ans. 7 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Reference fuels are premium, high-value products that are used for calibration and testing of vehicles by automobile manufacturers and testing agencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- IndianOil has successfully commenced the production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels for the first time in India.
- These indigenously developed products will lead to import substitution at better price and a shorter lead time for the vehicle manufacturers.
- The demand for Reference Fuels in India is currently met by imports from other countries. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans. 8 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Stubble Burning is a method of removing paddy crop residues from the field to sow wheat from the last week of September to November.
- It is a process of setting on fire the straw stubble, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind.
- It is a common practice in October and November across North West India, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- In-situ stubble management involves incorporating stubble into the soil during wheat sowing or allowing it to decompose gradually. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Ex-situ methods involve removing stubble from the fields and using it as a resource.

Ans. 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) for achievement of development goals and Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- A new Global Security Initiative (GSI) was put forward by China to counter the US Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The Global Civilization Mission by China puts forward four initiatives
 - respect for diversity of civilizations,
 - advocating the common values of humanity,
 - highly valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations,
 - jointly advocating robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**
- Net Zero World Initiative is led by the United States to accelerate the decarbonization of global energy systems. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Ans. 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- CICs maintain and analyse the consumer and business credit information of individuals and companies, as provided to them by banks and NBFCs.
- Based on this info, a CIC calculates and generates credit scores and credit ranks as per their creditworthiness and past credit history.
- Credit Information Companies (CICs) are obliged to appoint an Internal Ombudsman. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- CICs provide a "Free Full Credit Report (FFCR)," including the credit score, to individuals once a year. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This framework for Credit Information Companies (CICs) is announced by the Reserve Bank of India. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

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