

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

1. Kalamandalam opens doors for boys to learn Mohiniyattam - The Hindu
2. India's falling fertility rate: A wake-up call- Indian Express
3. Govt. extends AFSPA in parts of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh -The Hindu
4. Child accused of POCSO offence to be tried as per the JJ Act' -The Hindu
5. Money laundering cases: Courts can order release of accused under police custody: HC- Hindu
6. PMLA can't be applied if conspiracy charge not related to scheduled offence, says SC dismissing review plea -Economic times
7. Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fires stage-2 of Vikram-1 launch vehicle in A.P. -The Hindu
8. Pre-poll splurge lifts fiscal deficit -The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Measuring internet freedom in India in the last 10 years -The Hindu
10. Understanding India's coal imports -The Hindu

Quick Look

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:
2. Food Waste Index Report 2024:
3. CoViNet
4. United Nations Environment Programme:
5. Bird Flu

Important News Articles

GSI

1. Kalamandalam opens doors for boys to learn Mohiniyattam - The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Mohiniyattam
- Classical dance

News:

- Mohiniyattam, a captivating **classical dance from Kerala, boasts an ancient heritage.**
- Rooted in the Sanskrit text "Natya Shastra," this dance form likely originated between the 9th and 12th centuries CE, **traditionally performed by temple dancers known as Devadasis during the Chera dynasty.**

Mohiniyattam

- It is a solo dance characterized by its graceful femininity.
- It belongs to the Lasya style, emphasizing gentle movements and expressions of love and devotion to gods, particularly Lord Vishnu or his incarnation, Krishna.
- The performance combines dance, song, and storytelling.
- Songs are usually sung in Manipravalam, a blend of Sanskrit and Malayalam, while the music follows the Carnatic style. The dancer or a vocalist may perform the recitation.

Features

- Unlike many dances, Mohiniyattam focuses on elegant body sways rather than intricate footwork.
- Instead, it prioritizes expressive hand gestures (derived from the text "Hastha Lakshana Deepika") and subtle facial expressions to convey emotions.
- The dancers adorn themselves in traditional white or ivory cream saris, often embroidered with gold.
- The rhythmic accompaniment comes from instruments like the mridangam, madhalam, flute, veena, and cymbals.

2. India's falling fertility rate: A wake-up call- Indian Express

Relevance: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Prelims Takeaway

- TFR
- Mortality rate

News:

- **India will turn into an aging society in the next three decades,** according to a report in the Lancet.
- The medical journal has flagged that India's TFR, **the average number of children born to a woman will fall to 1.29 in 2050.**

Key Highlights

- One in five persons in India will be above the age of 60 in 2050.
- Last year, the UN Population Fund's (UNPF) India Ageing Report projected that the number of elderly in India will more than double from 149 million in 2022 to 347 million by mid-century.
- The challenges of a growing ageing population may well be decades away.
- However, the young country would do well to prepare for them in advance.

Demographic dividend challenge

- The Lancet report is a message that India's demographic dividend is not for perpetuity.
- Global experiences could be illustrative for the country's policymakers.
- **In China, for instance, the proportion of the working age population crossed 50 per cent in 1987 and peaked around the middle of the last decade.**
- This was also the period when the country registered impressive economic growth.
- By last year, China's TFR had dropped to a record low and its working-age population had contracted by more than 40 million.
- The Chinese government's pro-population-growth measures do not seem to be working.

- In fact, the last 60 years' history of developed nations suggests that once fertility rates fall below the replacement rate, it's almost impossible to set them back.
- At 1.9, India's TFR is currently just below the replacement rate, and according to UNPF calculations, the share of the country's working-age population will peak in the late 2030s, early 2040s.
- **Policymakers must, therefore, utilise this window to maximise India's demographic dividend**, as China did from the late 1980s till the early years of the last decade.
- No time must be lost in putting in place measures to overcome skill deficits and plug gaps in the knowledge economy.
- The challenge will also be to generate jobs outside of agriculture — they must not be in the low-paid informal sector.
- Going ahead, policymakers will also have to ensure adequate social security and healthcare provisions for the growing elderly population and create opportunities to harness their skills effectively.

Way forward

- The varying TFR rates across states in India could present the country's planners with a somewhat unique challenge — in fact, there are already signs that parts of south India and west India are graying faster than those in the north.
- Policymakers must be ready to understand the demographic shift in all its dimensions, and prepare for the change.

GS II

3. Govt. extends AFSPA in parts of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh -The Hindu

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

News:

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) **extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for another six months.

Key Highlights

- As per the notification, the AFSPA has been extended in the whole of eight districts and 21 police stations in five other districts of Nagaland.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, it has been extended in three districts and areas falling under the jurisdiction of three police stations in Namsai district.

Origin of AFSPA

- In the wake of the partition riots, four **ordinances were promulgated in 1947**.
- These were replaced by a common legislation, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1948.
- This was meant to be in force for one year, but was repealed only in 1957.
- But subsequently extended by an act of parliament -**the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958**

Which parts of the country come under AFSPA?

- Under this law, an area can be declared a '**disturbed area**', bringing into play the protection it offers to the armed forces for use of force in the notified area.
- The notification is extended periodically, mostly for six months at a time.
- As of today, the **whole of Assam and Nagaland, Manipur, with the exception of the Imphal municipal area, few districts of Arunachal Pradesh** are notified as 'disturbed areas'.
- The AFSPA was revoked in Tripura and Meghalaya

What does the Act say?

- The Act empowers the Governor of any State, or the Administrator of a Union Territory, or the Central Government to notify parts of or the whole of a State or a Union Territory as a 'disturbed area'
 - If they consider that the condition in such areas is so dangerous or disturbed that the use of the armed forces is necessary in aid of civil power.

Prelims Takeaway

- AFSPA
- Map based questions

- In such a notified area, any officer of the armed forces may fire upon or use force, even to the point of causing death, against any person for the maintenance of public order.
- The Act allows arrest and search of any premises without a warrant in a notified area, and the recovery of any confined person, or any arms and ammunition stored unlawfully.
- No person can be prosecuted or subjected to any legal proceedings for action taken under the Act, without the Central Government's previous sanction.
- The exercise of these extraordinary powers by armed forces has often led to allegations of fake encounters and other human rights violations by security forces in disturbed areas

Naga People's Movement of Human Rights v. Union of India

- In this judgment Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the act but also held that
 - declaration should be for limited duration and must be a periodic reviewed after 6 months
 - While exercising the powers conferred upon him by AFSPA, the authorized officer should use minimal force necessary for effective action

Jeevan Reddy committee

- In 2005, a Government-appointed five-member committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge, B. P. Jeevan Reddy, recommended that **AFSPA be repealed**.
- It suggested that the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act could be suitably amended to deal with terrorism**.

Way forward

- To minimize disruption and protect human rights, **AFSPA should only be used in specific districts with proven unrest, not entire states**.
- Additionally, the government and security forces must follow the regulations established by the Supreme Court, the Jeevan Reddy Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission.

4. Child accused of POCSO offence to be tried as per the JJ Act' -The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- JJ act 2015
- POCSO

News:

- The Kerala High Court has held that a child charged with the **offenses under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**
 - Is to be prosecuted as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) (JJ) Act.

Key Highlights

- The court observed that **'Child' was not defined in the POCSO Act whereas it is defined in the JJ Act, 2015**.
- Section 2(12) of the JJ Act, defined a child to be a person who has not completed 18 years of age.
- The court added that "aforementioned definitions would ensure an inference that a child can be an offender of sexual offences as defined in the POCSO Act.
- Needless to say, when a child is the offender, he cannot be tried in the ordinary criminal court, but can be dealt with only as provided under the provisions of the JJ Act".

Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

- Parliament introduced and passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.
- The Act offered provisions to allow **trials of juveniles in the age group of 16-18 years** as an adult who were found to be in conflict with the law, especially heinous crimes.
- **The Act replaced the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956)** and Guardians of the ward Act (1890) with more universally accessible adoption law.
- The Act enabled smooth functioning of adoption procedures for orphans, surrendered, and abandoned children

- while making the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) the statutory body for adoption-related matters.

Child Care Institutions (CCI)

- All Child Care Institutions, whether run by the State Government or by voluntary or
 - non-governmental organisations are to be mandatorily registered under the Act within 6 months from the date of commencement of the Act.

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Amendment Act 2021

- Crimes against children which are mentioned in the chapter "Other Offences Against Children" of the JJ Act, 2015 that allow an imprisonment between three and seven years will be deemed "non-cognisable".

Adoption:

- Amendment provides that the district magistrate has the authority to issue such adoption orders.

5. Money laundering cases: Courts can order release of accused under police custody: HC- Hindu

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

News:

- The Punjab and Haryana high court has made it clear that courts can order release of an **accused of money laundering under police custody without fulfilling twin conditions as mandated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.**

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

- It tackles the issue of "dirty money." It defines money laundering as the act of disguising illegally obtained funds ("black money") as legitimate income ("white money").

The PMLA aims to:

- Stop money laundering in its tracks.
- Prevent criminals from using money for illegal activities.
- Take away property gained through money laundering.
- Punish those who launder money.
- Set up a system to handle money laundering cases.
- Government agencies play a key role:
 - The Enforcement Directorate investigates money laundering offenses.
 - The Financial Intelligence Unit analyzes suspicious financial transactions.
 - Other agencies like police and customs investigate the underlying crimes that generate the "dirty money."

Consequences:

- Their assets can be seized or frozen.
- They can be imprisoned for several years and fined heavily.
- The PMLA also requires banks and other financial institutions to be vigilant by verifying customer identities and reporting suspicious activity.

6. PMLA can't be applied if conspiracy charge not related to scheduled offence, says SC dismissing review plea -Economic times

Relevance: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

News:**Prelims Takeaway**

- PMLA
- Black money

Prelims Takeaway

- Criminal conspiracy
- Section 120 IPC

- The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition seeking review of its verdict which held that a person cannot be booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by invoking Section 120B of the IPC
- If the alleged criminal conspiracy was not related to a scheduled offence under PMLA.

Section 120A of the IPC

- **Criminal conspiracy is a crime in India** where two or more people plan to commit a crime together.
- Agreeing to do something illegal directly.
- Agreeing to do something legal, but through illegal means.
- For a criminal conspiracy to be proven, there are three key requirements:
- **Agreement:** There must be a meeting of minds between the conspirators, which can be implied from their actions even if not explicitly spoken or written.
- **Common Intention:** All conspirators must share the goal of committing a specific crime.
- **Overt Act:** At least one conspirator must take a concrete step towards carrying out the planned crime.
- The law treats co-conspirators like partners in crime.
- This means that if one member of the conspiracy commits the crime, all members can be held legally responsible, as per the doctrine of agency.
- The punishment for criminal conspiracy varies depending on the severity of the planned crime:
- **Serious Offenses:** If the conspiracy is to commit a major crime punishable by death, life imprisonment, or rigorous imprisonment for at least two years, the punishment for conspiracy is the same as the planned crime itself.
- **Lesser Offenses:** For all other conspiracies to commit illegal acts, the punishment is a maximum of six months imprisonment, a fine, or both.
- This highlights the importance of Section 120B of the IPC, which outlines the penalties for criminal conspiracy.

GS III

7. Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fires stage-2 of Vikram-1 launch vehicle in A.P. -The Hindu

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

News:

- Leading space-tech company Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fired the stage-2 of its Vikram-1 launch vehicle at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- Launch vehicles comprise multiple stages.
- Stage-2, called Kalam-250, is critical during the ascent of the launch vehicle since it will propel the rocket through the earth's atmosphere and into the vacuum of space.
- Vikram-1 launch will be a landmark event for the Indian space sector as it will be the country's first private orbital rocket launch.
- It follows the suborbital launch of India's first private rocket — the Vikram-S by Skyroot in November 2022, said an official release.
- The test, which lasted 85 seconds, recorded a peak sea-level thrust of 186 kilonewtons (kN), which will translate to a fully expanded vacuum thrust of around 235kN in flight.
- The Kalam-250 is a high-strength carbon composite rocket motor, which uses solid fuel and a high-performance Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) Thermal Protection System (TPS).

Prelims Takeaway

- Vikram-1 launch vehicle
- ISRO

- The stage-2 houses a carbon ablative flex nozzle along with high-precision electro-mechanical actuators for thrust vector control of the vehicle, which helps the rocket achieve the desired trajectory.
- The solid propellant in Kalam-250 was processed by Solar Industries at their Nagpur facility.

8. Pre-poll splurge lifts fiscal deficit - The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Fiscal deficit
- Budget deficit

News:

- Signalling a sharp rise in spending ahead of the fiscal year-end, the Centre's fiscal deficit soared from 64% of the revised estimates in January to 86.5% by the end of February, with capex recording a sequential bounce to ₹84,400 crore last month.

Key highlights

- In absolute value, the deficit hit ₹15 lakh crore in the first eleven months of 2023-24, from just ₹11 lakh crore at the end of January,
 - And was almost 3.5% over the ₹14.5 lakh crore over the same period in the earlier financial year.

Fiscal Deficit

- Fiscal deficit refers to the shortfall in a government's revenue when compared to its expenditure.
- When a government's expenditure exceeds its revenues, the government will have to borrow money or sell assets to fund the deficit.
- Taxes are the most important source of revenue for any government.
- In 2024-25, the government's tax receipts are expected to be Rs 26.02 lakh crore while its total revenue is estimated to be Rs 30.8 lakh crore.
- When a government runs a fiscal surplus, on the other hand, its revenues exceed expenditure.
- It is, however, quite rare for governments to run a surplus.
- Most governments today focus on keeping the fiscal deficit under control rather than on generating a fiscal surplus or on balancing the budget.

Poll-ready

Centre's fiscal deficit soared from 64% of the revised estimates in January to 86.5% by the end of February



■ Centre still has headroom left for ₹6 lakh crore of revenue spending in March

■ On the capex front, Centre still needs to spend ₹1.4 lakh crore in March to meet target

■ Capex goal likely to be missed due to kicking in of Model Code of Conduct

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Measuring internet freedom in India in the last 10 years -The Hindu

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

Context:

- For five straight years, India has topped the global list of countries imposing internet bans, with about 60% of all blackouts recorded in the world, between 2016 and 2022 having been in India.
- State imposed shutdowns in the last decade have cited national security and threats to public order.

Internet shutdowns

- The Indian government imposed a total of 780 shutdowns between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2023, according to data collected by the Software Freedom Law Centre (SFLC).
- Shutdowns flared up during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019, the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, and the introduction of Farm Bills in 2020.
- Internet disruptions in India accounted for more than 70% of the total loss to the global economy in 2020.
- Indian States and Union Territories can impose an internet shutdown only in case of a “public emergency” or in the interest of “public safety”, according to the Indian Telegraph Act.
- However, the law does not define what qualifies as an emergency or safety issue.

Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India case

- The Supreme Court, in the landmark Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India case, reiterated that internet shutdowns violate fundamental rights to freedom of expression
 - and shutdowns lasting indefinitely are unconstitutional.
- Moreover, Courts have asked governments to make shutdown orders public, a provision poorly complied with, experts have noted.

Reason for ban

- Between 2015 and 2022, more than 55,000 websites were blocked, according to SFLC data.
- The biggest share of content censored was done under section 69A of the IT Act, by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- URLs were blocked due to links to organisations banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
- A commonly cited reason for blocking websites is the escalating threat of cybercrime.

India and global trends

- Global Internet freedom has declined for the 13th consecutive year, and the environment for human rights online has deteriorated in 29 countries, according to the latest Freedom House report.
- India’s ranking has hovered around the same benchmark in the last three years.
- This is a dip from 2016 and 2017, when India scored 59 points, to 50 points in 2023.

10. Understanding India’s coal imports -The Hindu

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

Context:

- In recent years, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and a fast-growing economy have led to **big increases in electricity demand, the meeting of which in a reliable way becomes a challenge.**
- But some of the discourse in this context deserves greater scrutiny.

More about logistics

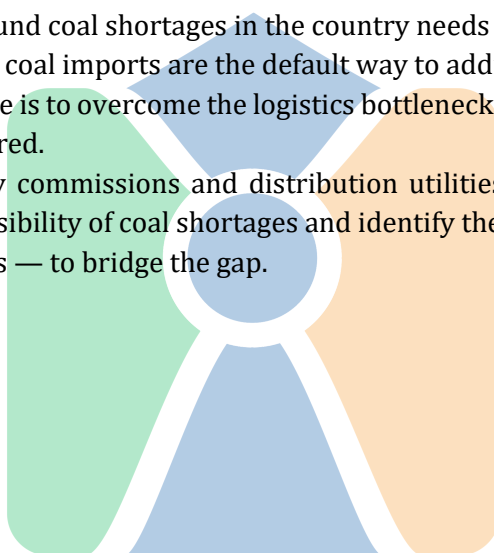
- First, a shortage of domestic thermal coal, the kind used in electricity generation, is primarily blamed for the electricity shortage.
- A recent Ministry of Power advisory corroborates this, saying “supplies of domestic coal will remain constrained due to various logistical issues associated with railway network”.

Generation and location

- Not all power plants are the same. Typically, the plants that generate the most (the so-called pit-head plants) are situated close to mines, far away from ports and do not face coal shortage.
- Shortages in periods of high demand are more likely in plants far away from mines which typically do not generate as much.
- Thus, there is no justification to interpret the advisory as a mandate to import 6% coal by weight for all plants in the country.

Conclusion

- Clearly, the discourse around coal shortages in the country needs course correction.
- It cannot be assumed that coal imports are the default way to address shortages.
- The fundamental challenge is to overcome the logistics bottlenecks that are preventing coal reaching the locations where required.
- In the interim, regulatory commissions and distribution utilities must ensure that all coal-based plants are alert to the possibility of coal shortages and identify the cheapest alternative sources
- Which may not be imports — to bridge the gap.



Mentorship
India

Quick Look

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- It protects refugees worldwide and facilitates their return home or resettlement. Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- It was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes.
- It is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- It was awarded Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and 1981. It started Nansen Refugee Award in 1954 for recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people.

2. Food Waste Index Report 2024

- It is a study jointly authored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a U.K.-based non-profit.
- It tracks the global and national generation of food and inedible parts wasted at the retail and consumer (household and food service) levels.
- The report defines “food waste” as “food and the associated inedible parts removed from the human food supply chain”.
- “Food loss” is defined as “all the crop and livestock human-edible commodity quantities that, directly or indirectly, completely exit the post-harvest/slaughter production/supply chain up to, and excluding, the retail level”.
- It noted that in 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated (including inedible parts), amounting to 132 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.
- Many low- and middle-income countries continue to lack adequate systems for tracking progress to meet Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030.

3. CoViNet

- It is a network of global laboratories with expertise in human, animal and environmental coronavirus surveillance.
- It will identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly.
- The network will now have animal health and environmental surveillance and timely risk assessment to feed WHO policies and protective measures.
- In low- and middle-income countries, CoViNet will support the building of more laboratories to monitor MERS-CoV and novel coronaviruses of public health importance.
- Data generated through CoViNet's efforts will guide the work of WHO's Technical Advisory Groups on Viral Evolution (TAG-VE) and Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC).
- It currently comprises 36 laboratories from 21 countries in all six WHO regions.

4. United Nations Environment Programme

- The UNEP was established in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, popularly known as the Stockholm Conference, as it was held in Stockholm, Sweden.

Objective:

- To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

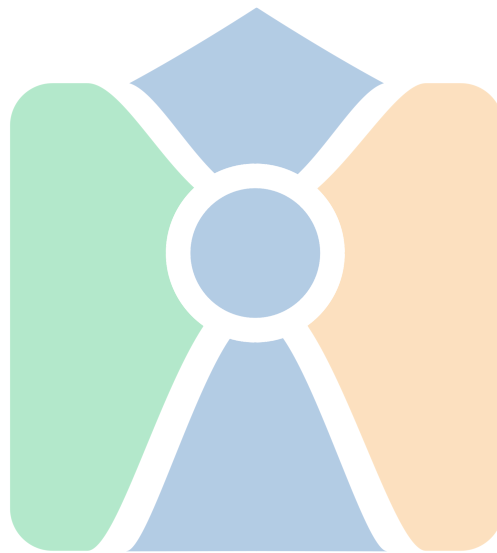
- It uses its expertise to strengthen environmental standards and practices while helping implement environmental obligations at the country, regional and global levels.

5. Bird Flu

- Bird flu, also known as avian flu, refers to an infectious viral illness that mainly infects and spreads among poultry and some wild birds.
- There are different strains of bird flu virus, which have been circulating for a very long time among at least 100 bird species without much harming them.

Cause of concern

- From time to time, a form of the flu virus jumps from wild birds to poultry farms, and replicates in cramped warehouses of farmed birds.
- It then quickly evolves into a highly pathogenic flu virus that causes a larger wave of illness and death than usual among birds.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to Indian history, consider the following dance:

1. Mohiniyattam
2. Kathakali
3. Bharatanatyam

Which of the following is classical dance of kerala

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

Q2. Consider the following pair

Report : Organization

1. World Happiness Report : UNSustainable Development Solutions Network India
2. Ageing Report : NITI aayog
3. Gender Parity Index : UNESCO

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)

1. The law has been declared as unconstitutional by supreme court and been currently in force in all northeast state except manipur and tripura
2. Central government is only authority to notify parts of or the whole of a State or a Union Territory as a 'disturbed area
3. Jeevan Reddy, recommended that AFSPA be repealed To minimize disruption and protect human rights,

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

1. The definition of the term 'Child' was not defined in the POCSO Act whereas it is defined in the JJ Act, 2015.
2. The Act offered provisions to allow trials of juveniles in the age group of 16-18 years as an adult who were found to be in conflict with the law, especially heinous crimes.
3. The act mandates the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) as the statutory body for adoption-related matters.

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

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding PMLA:

1. The Act defines money laundering solely as the act of converting black money into white money.
2. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is the primary agency responsible for investigating offences under PMLA.
3. The PMLA places the burden of proof on the prosecution to establish that the accused is guilty of money laundering.

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 regarding Section 120A:

1. It only applies to agreements to commit serious crimes punishable by death or life imprisonment.
2. Proof of a formal written or verbal agreement is required to establish criminal conspiracy.
3. If one member of a conspiracy commits the crime, all members can be held punishable for the offence.

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

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Vikram-S:

1. It is the first private rocket launched from India.
2. It was developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
3. It is designed to carry heavier payloads compared to the PSLV launch vehicle.

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal deficit in India:

1. It is calculated by subtracting the total revenue of the government from its total expenditure.
2. A high fiscal deficit can lead to inflation and decrease foreign investment.
3. Reducing revenue expenditure has a larger impact on lowering the fiscal deficit compared to reducing capital expenditure.

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 regarding internet shutdowns:

1. Internet shutdowns are primarily imposed due to law and order concerns during protests or riots.
2. There are no legal guidelines in India for imposing internet shutdowns.
3. Internet shutdowns have no impact on the functioning of essential services.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding coal in India:

1. India is the world's largest producer of coal.
2. All coal-fired thermal power plants in India use imported coal to meet energy demands.
3. The government is actively promoting alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on coal.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Kathakali and Mohiniattam are the classical dance forms of the Kerala state. Kathakali is basically a dance drama and is famous for its huge elaborate costumes, amazing make-up style, face masks, and ornaments. Mohiniattam is a dance form with soft, calm and gentle movements and is usually done by women.
- Sadiraattam, which was renamed Bharatanatyam in 1932, is the oldest classical dance tradition in India. Bharatanatyam is the state dance form of Tamil Nadu. **Hence, options C IS INcorrect**

Answer 2 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The UN Population Fund's (UNPF) India Ageing Report projected that the number of elderly in India will more than double from 149 million in 2022 to 347 million by mid-century.
- The challenges of a growing ageing population may well be decades away.
- However, the young country would do well to prepare for them in advance. **Hence only C option is correct**

Answer 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- As of today, the whole of Assam and Nagaland, Manipur, with the exception of the Imphal municipal area, few districts of Arunachal Pradesh are notified as 'disturbed areas'.
- The AFSPA was revoked in Tripura and Meghalaya
- The Act empowers the Governor of any State, or the Administrator of a Union Territory, or the Central Government to notify parts of or the whole of a State or a Union Territory as a 'disturbed area
- Jeevan Reddy committee
- In 2005, a Government-appointed five-member committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge, B. P. Jeevan Reddy, recommended that AFSPA be repealed.

- It suggested that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act could be suitably amended to deal with terrorism. **Hence only statement 3 is correct**

Answer 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The court observed that 'Child' was not defined in the POCSO Act whereas it is defined in the JJ Act, 2015. Parliament introduced and passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act in 2015 to replace the Juvenile Delinquency Law and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children Act) 2000.
- The Act offered provisions to allow trials of juveniles in the age group of 16-18 years as an adult who were found to be in conflict with the law, especially heinous crimes.
- The Act replaced the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956) and Guardians of the ward Act (1890) with more universally accessible adoption law.
- The Act enabled smooth functioning of adoption procedures for orphans, surrendered, and abandoned children . **Hence all statements are correct**

- while making the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) the statutory body for adoption-related matters. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- PMLA defines money laundering as a broader range of activities related to disguising the origins of illegally obtained funds. It includes placement, layering, and integration stages. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- The Enforcement Directorate is the primary investigative agency for PMLA offences. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Under PMLA, the burden of proof can shift to the accused in certain situations to explain the source of suspicious assets. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

Answer 6 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Section 120A applies to agreements to commit any illegal act, not just serious offences. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The agreement can be inferred from the conduct of the parties, not necessarily written or spoken. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Section 120A establishes the principle of criminal conspiracy, and the doctrine of agency holds all conspirators liable if one member commits the crime planned in the conspiracy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 7 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Vikram-S is the first indigenously developed rocket by a private company (Skyroot Aerospace) to be launched from India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Vikram-S was developed by Skyroot Aerospace, not ISRO. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Vikram-S is designed for carrying relatively smaller payloads compared to the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle). **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 8 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Fiscal deficit is the difference between government revenue and expenditure. High deficit can trigger inflation and deter foreign investment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Reducing capital expenditure, which is for creating assets, might limit future growth. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

- Revenue expenditure (day-to-day expenses) has a more immediate impact on the deficit compared to capital expenditure (investments). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Law and order situations are a common reason for internet shutdowns. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court has laid down guidelines for imposing internet shutdowns, requiring proportionality and due process. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Internet shutdowns can disrupt essential services like healthcare communication and online banking. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 10 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- India is the world's second or third largest coal producer, not the largest. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- While India imports some coal, most coal used in power plants is domestic. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- India has significant coal reserves but is promoting renewables and cleaner sources to reduce dependence and address environmental concerns. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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