

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 3-4 Mar. 2024**

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## Important News Articles

### GS I

#### 1. Pakistan National Day to be celebrated in Delhi: What was the Lahore Resolution, which it marks- Indian Express

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Lahore Resolution
- Pakistan

**News:**

- **Pakistan has decided to hold its National Day celebrations in New Delhi** again this year, which is observed on March 23, the day the Lahore Resolution was adopted in 1940 by the Muslim League.

**Lahore Resolution:**

- It was **adopted by the All-India Muslim League during its general session** in Lahore from March 22 to March 24, 1940, formally called for an independent state for India's Muslims.
- The resolution **does not include the word 'Pakistan' anywhere**.
- The Lahore Resolution was criticised by many Indian Muslims, like Abul Kalam Azad and the Deoband ulema led by Husain Ahmad Madani, who advocated for a united India.
- Geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary
  - That the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as in the North-Western and Eastern Zones of India
  - Should be grouped to constitute "Independent States" in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign."
- In other parts of India where the **Mussalmans are in a minority**, adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards shall be specially provided in the constitution for them
  - And other minorities for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them.

### GS II

#### 2. Amit Shah inaugurates National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation- The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Cooperation Minister **Inaugurated the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Urban Cooperative Bank
- Reserve Bank of India

It is, the apex body of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs),

**National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation:**

- It is the **umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks**.

**Objective:**

- It aims to ensure specialized functions and services to cooperative banks, **facilitate communication between banks and regulators and address challenges faced by Urban Cooperative Banks**.
- Also to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, which will benefit both the banks and their customers.
- It has received a **Certificate of Registration from the Reserve Bank of India** to operate as a Non-Banking Finance Company
- It will also operate as a Self-Regulatory Organisation for the sector.

**Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**



- UCBs are registered as **cooperative societies under the provisions of either the State Cooperative Societies Act** of the State concerned or the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- They are regulated and supervised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of State concerned or by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS), as the case may be.
- They primarily operate in **urban and semi-urban regions of India**.

### 3. Several OPEC+ nations extend oil cuts to boost prices- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

**News:**

- Moscow, Riyadh and several other **OPEC+ members announced extensions to oil production cuts first announced in 2023** as part of an agreement among oil producers to boost prices following economic uncertainty.

**OPEC+:**

- It is a **group of oil-exporting countries** which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
- These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 **"to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC** producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis."
- These nations **aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market**.
- OPEC+ controls about 40% of global oil supplies and more than 80% of proven oil reserves.
- At the core of this group are the members of OPEC (the Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries), which are mainly Middle Eastern and African countries.
- **Members:** It comprises OPEC countries plus Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Oman

#### Prelims Takeaway

- OPEC
- Crude oil

### 4. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to inaugurate DefConnect 2024 to encourage indigenous defence innovation- PIB

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

**News:**

- Innovations for **Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) under Ministry of Defence**, is organising DefConnect 2024 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

**Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation:**

- It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Defence, Govt of India launched in 2018.

**Objective:**

- The objective of the scheme is to cultivate an innovation ecosystem in the Defence and Aerospace sector by collaborating with startups, innovators, MSMEs, incubators, and academia.
- **Funding:** It will be funded and managed by a 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)' which has been formed as a 'not for profit' company as per the Companies Act 2013 for this purpose, by the two founder memberse. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) - HAL & BEL.
- It **functions as the executive arm of DIO**, carrying out all the required activities while DIO will provide high level policy guidance to iDEX.
- It offers grants and support for R&D with significant potential for future adoption in Indian defence and aerospace.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Defence Innovation Organisation
- Public Sector Undertakings

## 5. The turbulent tenure of Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay: Calcutta HC judge who took on Trinamool govt- Indian Express

**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

- High court
- Supreme court

### News:

- **Justice of the Calcutta High Court announced his resignation** from the judiciary after he had run-ins with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government for almost two years now.

### Procedure to appoint judges of High Courts

- **Article 217** of Indian Constitution covers the appointment and conditions of a High Court Judge.
- It says that every **Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State.
- In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court shall also be consulted.
- The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside.
- **The collegium system** takes a call on the issue of elevation of Judges.
- For the promotion to Chief Justices, the seniority of judges below the Chief Justice will be based on their rank within their own High Courts.
- They will be eligible for consideration as Chief Justices in other High Courts when it would have been their turn for consideration in their own High Courts.

### Eligibility

- A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court unless he is a citizen of India and—
- has for at least ten years held a judicial office in the territory of India; or
- has for at least ten years been an advocate of a High Court in any State specified in the First Schedule or of two or more such Courts in succession.
- A High Court judge holds office until they are 62 years old.

### Procedure

- A Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges recommends the names for the appointment for Judges of HCs.
- The CJI is required to consult with two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- However, this process is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned.
- The Chief Justice of the High Court is also required to consult his two senior-most puisne Judges before recommending a name for appointment to the High Court.
- The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.

## GS III

## 6. What is grey zone warfare, mentioned by India's Chief of Defence Staff recently- Indian Express

**Relevance:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

### News:

- On the last day of the 2024 Raisina Dialogue, India's Chief of Defence Staff said that "**grey zone warfare**" is the latest in informal warfare.

### gray zone warfare

- Grey zone warfare generally means a **middle, unclear space that exists between direct conflict and peace in international relations.**

### Prelims Takeaway

- Cold war
- WW II

- Multitude of activities fall into this zone — from nefarious economic activities, influence operations, and cyberattacks to mercenary operations, assassinations, and disinformation campaigns.
- Activities in the grey zone have **always been a feature of great-power competition**.
- Proxy wars, destabilizing insurgencies, legal warfare (lawfare), and information warfare—by adversaries and allies alike—have been a feature of this conflict.
- Experts claim that such methods are often employed by parties who have not had **access to massive resources or power, traditionally**.
- Therefore, such tactics can help gain an advantage over a more technically well-equipped adversary that is more used to conventional warfare.

#### The beginning

- Experts believe the Cold War era, which began after the end of the Second World War in 1945, **led to conditions that favoured grey zone warfare**.
- Amid the US-USSR rivalry for ideological and economic dominance, the knowledge that both parties were armed with nuclear weapons meant direct conflicts had to be restrained.
- In today's nuclear age, **the price of traditional wars has become too high, and the danger of things getting worse is very serious**.
- Because of this, **countries are trying to achieve their goals by being aggressive in secret or by hiding**.

#### What grey zone warfare looks like?

- Experts from the US and Europe have characterized certain Russian and Chinese actions of late as examples of gray zone warfare.
- It includes the Chinese military's presence in the South China Sea.
- **The Philippines is one of the countries** which has challenged China's claims, extending over around 80 per cent of the region.
- In December 2023, it termed the presence of more than 135 Chinese maritime militia vessels near a disputed reef as illegal.
- **It accused China of firing water cannons** at its boats and ramming into others, while the Chinese coast guard blamed the Philippines for hitting Chinese boats.
- A recent Reuters report mentioned that Taiwan has been expressing concerns for the past four years about increased military actions by China.
- This includes Chinese fighter jets flying over the strait regularly.
- It is part of China's strategy to pressure Taiwan with activities that fall just short of starting a full-scale conflict.
- Analysts claim that the **US has also engaged in similar tactics**.
- These include its economic sanctions against China and imposition of duties on Chinese imports to the US, along with maritime reconnaissance.

## 7. Obesity on the rise, high levels of undernutrition persist in India: What a new study says- Indian Express

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

#### News:

- **India has seen a steady increase in obesity levels**, not only in adults but children too over the last 32 years.
- At the same time, the prevalence of undernutrition has also remained high in the country.
- As a result, India has become one of the countries with a high "**double burden**," according to a new **Lancet study**

#### Key Highlights of the Study Published by the Lancet:

##### Obesity in India:

- Obesity in women has spiked in the past three decades — **it increased from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2022**, according to the study.
- There were 44 million women living with obesity in 2022.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Obesity
- Malnutrition

- Meanwhile, obesity in men increased by 4.9 percentage points during the same period, with 26 million men living with obesity in 2022.
- Notably, there has also been a significant increase in childhood obesity.
- There has been a spike of 3 percentage points in girls and 3.7 percentage points in boys over the 32 years that the study examined.
- **In 2022, 3.1% of girls and 3.9% of boys were obese.**

#### **Underweight in India:**

- Despite a significant decline, the prevalence of underweight and thinness continues to be high across genders and age groups.
- The study found that 13.7% of women and 12.5% of men were underweight.
- Thinness — a measure of being underweight in children — in Indian girls was found to be the highest in the world, with a prevalence of 20.3%.
- And, it was the second highest in Indian boys, with a prevalence of 21.7%.

#### **Why are Women more Obese than Men?**

- Women are more prone to putting on weight because most of them do not have access to or time for physical activities such as walks or gyms.
- They are also likely to put the nutrition of the family above theirs.
- If central obesity were to be considered, **obesity in women would be as high as 40% to 50% in many parts of the country.**
- A better predictor of future risk of diseases like diabetes and hypertension, central obesity is an excess accumulation of fat in the abdominal area.

## **8. INDIAN NAVY TO ENHANCE ITS OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY WITH COMMISSIONING OF INS JATAYU AT MINICOY ISLAND (LAKSHADWEEP)-PIB**

**Relevance:** Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

#### **News:**

- Indian Navy will **commission Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu**
- The event marks an important milestone in the Navy's resolve to incrementally augment security infrastructure at the **strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.**

#### **INS Jatayu:**

- It is the **second Naval base in Lakshadweep** after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.
- With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.
- It will usher in a new era of capacity building and comprehensive development of the island territories.
- The event marks an important milestone in the Navy's resolve to incrementally augment security infrastructure at the strategically important Lakshadweep Islands.

#### **Lakshadweep**

- It is a **tropical archipelago comprising 36 atolls** and coral reefs situated in the Laccadive Sea, positioned 280 km to 480 km off the Kerala coast.
- Among these, 11 are inhabited, but the current count is 35 islands due to the submersion of Parali 1 because of sea erosion.
- The name Lakshadweep, meaning "one lakh islands" in Malayalam, the official and widely spoken native language in the territory, reflects its origin.
- **Fishing stands as the predominant industry.**
- As the **smallest union territory of India**, the islands collectively cover a surface area of merely 32 square kilometers.
- **Kavaratti functions as the capital** of this uni-district Union Territory, falling under the jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court.

#### **Prelims Takeaway**

- Lakshadweep
- Kavaratti



## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Mountains of plastics are choking the Himalayan States- The Hindu

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

**Context:**

- The **pristine beauty of the Indian Himalayas** is under siege by plastic pollution, fueled by a surge in urbanization, new industrial practices, and a growing tourist influx.
- This **plastic plague threatens the region's delicate** ecosystems and vital freshwater sources for millions downstream.

**The Plastic Web:**

- Plastic waste is everywhere, from the mountain peaks to the depths of the ocean, even finding its way inside us! Improper disposal pollutes the soil and water, jeopardizing the region's unique biodiversity and the freshwater sources that sustain downstream communities.
- **Tourists Leave Their Mark:** The growing popularity of the Himalayas comes at a cost. Popular destinations are drowning in plastic waste, with fragile ecosystems like Ramsar sites bearing the brunt.

**Regulation:**

- **A Patchy Solution:** While laws like the SWM and PWM Rules exist, they often fail to address the specific needs of mountainous regions. State-level initiatives like bans on plastic use are commendable but face challenges in enforcement and infrastructure creation.
- **A Waste Management Gap:** Despite regulations, waste segregation and proper disposal remain inadequate. Overflowing landfills contribute further to the pollution, jeopardizing the entire ecosystem.

**Finding Solutions: To tackle this crisis, we need:**

- **Investment and Empowerment:** Allocate resources, build infrastructure, and empower local governments to manage waste effectively considering the region's delicate ecosystem.
- **Education and Participation:** Engage the public through continuous education campaigns and waste segregation initiatives.
- **Pooling Resources:** Combine existing initiatives like Swachh Bharat Mission, grants, and corporate social responsibility funds to strengthen waste management infrastructure and operations.

**Conclusion**

- By working together, we can ensure that the majestic Himalayas remain a symbol of pristine beauty, not plastic pollution.

### 10. A women's urban employment guarantee act- The hindu

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

**Context:**

- As the world strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, **promoting gender equality and closing the gender gap in employment, especially in urban areas**, has become a critical focus.



**Urban Women Face Obstacles:**

- Despite higher education levels and a strong work ethic, urban women face numerous hurdles.
- Societal expectations, safety concerns, and limited access to transportation contribute to a low national employment rate of only 22.9%, according to official surveys.
- This highlights a significant gap between potential and reality, underlining the urgent need for tailored employment initiatives.
- **Current Programs Fall Short:** While some states have implemented urban employment programs, these efforts lack the national reach and scope required to address the diverse challenges faced by urban women in their entirety.
- The proposed Women's Urban Employment Guarantee Act (WUEGA) aims to fill this void by offering a comprehensive solution.
- **WUEGA: Towards Gender Parity in Employment:** This proposed act seeks to ensure equal opportunity by mandating female representation in program management and providing crucial support systems such as childcare facilities at workplaces.

- **Empowering Women for Success:** WUEGA envisions a more inclusive approach, offering diverse work opportunities within a reasonable commuting distance, free public transportation for women, and automatic inclusion in social welfare programs.
- These measures aim to empower and support women in their professional journeys.
- **Bridging the Skill Gap:** Recognizing the importance of skill development in facilitating the transition from education to employment, WUEGA proposes targeted programs for women
  - including apprenticeships, information centers, and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Success is Possible:** Initiatives like women-led waste management programs in Karnataka have proven the feasibility and effectiveness of women-centric programs,
  - offering valuable insights into the potential of WUEGA's proposed strategies.
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** While concerns about financial implications exist, WUEGA's estimated cost of 2% of GDP is considered manageable compared to the vast potential benefits
  - it offers in empowering women, fostering economic growth, and achieving greater social inclusion.

**Conclusion**

- **Phased Approach for Sustainable Impact:** A phased implementation of WUEGA, accompanied by regular evaluations and adjustments, can pave the way for broader urban employment programs that create lasting positive change. This comprehensive approach can lead to a future where income security and empowerment are realities for all women, not just a privilege for a few.

## Quick Look

### 1. Trichoglossum

- Recently, the researchers discovered a new fungus species in Kerala named *Trichoglossum syamviswanathii*.
- *Trichoglossum* is a genus of fungus classified within the family Geoglossaceae (Ascomycota), commonly known as “hairy earth tongues” fungus due to their numerous filaments resembling mushrooms.
- They are black, dark, or brown in colour.
- They exhibit saprotrophic behaviour but can also be found as endophytes in plant roots.
- They are globally distributed in tropical and temperate forests at least five out of seven continents of the world.
- They play a critical role in the decomposition of organic matter.

### 2. Grammy Awards

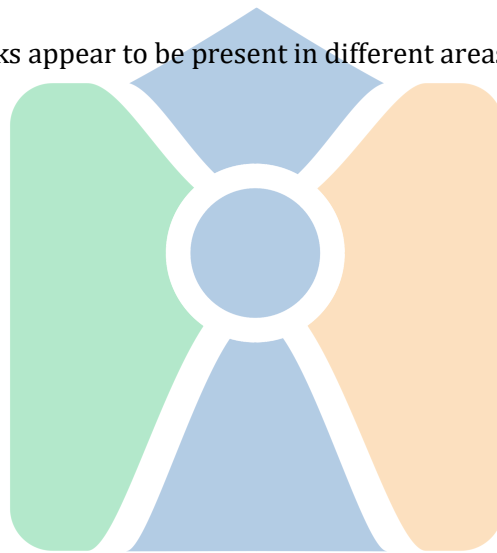
- Grammy Award, originally named Gramophone Award, is presented annually in the United States by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences to honour artistes in the music industry for their exceptional work in a year.
- It was started in 1959 to respect the performers for the year 1958. Once it was made, the committee decided to call it Grammy as a tribute to Emile Berliner’s gramophone.
- The “General Field” are four awards that are not restricted by genre viz. Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Best New Artiste
- The honorees receive a golden statuette of a gramophone.
- Shakti, the Indo-jazz supergroup consisting of Ustad Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin, V Selvaganesh, Ganesh Rajagopalan, and Shankar Mahadevan, wins the Grammy for Best Global Music Album for “This Moment.”
- The album, created during Covid, showcases a fusion of Eastern and Western sounds and North Indian classical with Carnatic classical music.

### 3. Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies phase-3 (GRAPES-3) Experiment

- GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.
- Located in Ooty, India, it is operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- It aims to probe the acceleration of cosmic rays in different astrophysical settings.
- Objectives: To study
  - the origin, acceleration and propagation of  $>10^{14}$  eV cosmic rays in the galaxy and beyond.
  - the existence of “Knee” in the energy spectrum of cosmic rays.
  - the production and/or acceleration of the highest energy ( $\sim 10^{20}$  eV) cosmic rays in the universe.
  - the astronomy of multi-TeV  $\gamma$ -rays from neutron stars and other compact objects.
- The GRAPES-3 experiment recently discovered a new feature in the cosmic-ray proton spectrum at about 166 tera-electron-volt (TeV) energy while measuring the spectrum spanning from 50 TeV to a little over 1 peta-electron-volt (PeV).

## 4. Obelisks

- Obelisks is a newly discovered class of virus-like entities present in the human body.
- It comprises a class of diverse RNAs that have colonized and gone unnoticed in human and global microbiomes.
- Named after the highly symmetrical, rod-like structures formed by their twisted lengths of RNA, the Obelisks' genetic sequences are only around 1,000 characters (nucleotides) in size.
- These mysterious bits of genetic material have no detectable sequences or even structural similarities known to any other biological agents.
- They're also significantly larger than other genetic molecules that coexist inside cells, from plants to bacteria, called plasmids, which are more commonly composed of DNA.
- Obelisks represent their own class of organism. They lie somewhere between viruses and viroids.
- Although the hosts of other obelisks remain unknown, there is a possibility that some of them may be found in bacteria.
- Different types of Obelisks appear to be present in different areas of our bodies.



**Mentorship**  
India

**Prelims Track Question**

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Lahore Resolution of 1940:**

1. The resolution was adopted by the All-India Muslim League and demanded a separate Muslim homeland within British India.
2. The resolution was based on the concept of "Two-Nation Theory," which argued that Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations.
3. The resolution called for the creation of a single, united Muslim state encompassing all Muslim-majority areas in British India.

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

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

**Q.2 Consider the following statements National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation:**

1. It is the umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks.
2. It aims to ensure specialized functions and services to cooperative banks, facilitate communication between banks and regulators and address challenges faced by Urban Cooperative Banks.

**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

**Q.3 Consider the following statements about OPEC+:**

1. It is a group of oil-exporting countries which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
2. These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 "to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis."

3. These nations aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market.

**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 regarding the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) in India:**

1. It is an independent agency under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
2. Its primary function is to foster innovation and technological advancements in the Indian defence sector.
3. The DIO has the authority to directly award contracts to private companies for defence procurement.

**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 the removal of High Court judges in India:**

1. A removal motion can be initiated by either House of Parliament on the grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity.
2. A judge facing removal proceedings has the right to be heard by a Supreme Court judge appointed by the Chief Justice of India.
3. The President has the final authority to remove a High Court judge based on the address presented by Parliament.

**How many of the statements given above is/are INcorrect?**

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



**Q.6 Consider the following statements regarding Grey Zone Warfare:**

1. It is a type of open warfare fought between two nations.
2. It involves employing unconventional tactics below the threshold of traditional warfare.
3. Cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and economic pressure are examples of Grey Zone Warfare tactics.

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

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

**Q.7. Consider the following statements about OBESITY IN INDIA**

1. Despite a significant decline, the prevalence of underweight and thinness continues to be high across genders and age groups.
2. Obesity in women has spiked in the past three decades it increased from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2022,
3. Women are more prone to putting on weight because most of them do not have access to or time for physical activities such as walks or gyms.

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

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

**Q.8 Consider the following statements INS Jatayu:**

1. It is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweep prakshak in Kavaratti.
2. With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.

**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

**Q9. Consider the following statements about plastic management in India**

1. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, mandate the generators of plastic waste to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste
2. While laws like the SWM and PWM Rules exist, they often fail to address the specific needs of mountainous regions
3. Despite regulations, waste segregation and proper disposal remain inadequate.

**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 Gender gap in India:**

1. India ranks high on the Global Gender Gap Index.
2. The participation of women in the Indian workforce is low compared to men.
3. There is a significant disparity in literacy rates between men and women in India.

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

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

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

- The Lahore Resolution, also known as the Pakistan Resolution, was passed by the All-India Muslim League at its annual session in Lahore in 1940. This resolution marked a significant turning point in the Indian independence movement as it formally articulated the demand for a separate Muslim state within British India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The resolution was heavily influenced by the "Two-Nation Theory" propounded by Muslim leaders like Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This theory argued that Hindus and Muslims constituted two distinct nations with different religions, cultures, and social practices, making it impossible for them to coexist peacefully in a united India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Lahore Resolution did not call for a single, united Muslim state encompassing all Muslim-majority areas in British India. Instead, it envisaged the creation of "independent states" in areas where Muslims were in a majority, leaving the exact nature and number of these states ambiguous. This ambiguity later allowed for the partition of India into two separate states: India and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 2 Option D is correct****Explanation**

- National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation:
- It is the umbrella organization for the Urban Cooperative Banks.
- Objective:
- It aims to ensure specialized functions and services to cooperative banks, facilitate communication between banks and regulators and address challenges faced by Urban Cooperative Banks.

- Also to modernize and strengthen the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector, which will benefit both the banks and their customers. **Both the statements are correct**

**Answer 3 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- It is a group of oil-exporting countries which meets regularly to decide how much crude oil to sell on the world market.
- These nations came to an accord towards the end of 2016 "to institutionalize a framework for cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producing countries on a regular and sustainable basis."
- These nations aim to work together on adjusting crude oil production to bring stability to the oil market. **All the statements are correct**

**Answer 4 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- The Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) is an agency established under the Department of Defence Production within the Ministry of Defence (MoD). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- : The DIO's primary role is to promote innovation and technological self-reliance in the Indian defence sector. It achieves this by fostering research and development, facilitating collaboration between academia, industry, and the defence establishment, and supporting startups and entrepreneurs in the defence and aerospace domains. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- : The DIO does not have the direct authority to award contracts for defence procurement. The acquisition of defence equipment and systems in India is primarily handled by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) through various established procedures that involve diverse stakeholders, including the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 5 Option A is correct****Explanation**

- The removal process for a High Court judge mirrors that of a Supreme Court judge as per Article 124 of the Constitution. A removal motion can be initiated by either House of Parliament on the grounds of "proven misbehaviour or incapacity." **the statement 1 is correct**
- A judge facing removal proceedings does not have the right to be heard by a Supreme Court judge. There's no formal hearing involved. **the statement 2 is incorrect**
- The President has the final authority to remove a High Court judge. However, this can only be done after an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a special majority, is presented to the President. **the statement 3 is correct**
- The process for removing a High Court judge is a complex and challenging one, intended to safeguard judicial independence.
- The Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, lays down the procedures for investigating allegations of misbehavior or incapacity against a High Court judge.

**Answer 6 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Grey Zone Warfare is not a type of open warfare. It specifically operates below the threshold of a full-blown war, making it difficult to attribute actions to a particular nation. **the statement 1 is incorrect**
- Grey Zone Warfare utilizes unconventional tactics that fall short of traditional military confrontation. These tactics aim to achieve strategic objectives without triggering a formal declaration of war. **the statement 2 is correct**
- Cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and economic pressure are all examples of commonly used tactics in Grey Zone Warfare. These tactics can disrupt a nation's economy, social fabric, and political stability. **the statement 3 is correct**

- Grey Zone Warfare often involves using proxies, non-state actors, and anonymous operations to further obfuscate the source of aggression.
- This type of warfare is becoming increasingly relevant in the current geopolitical landscape, posing challenges to traditional military responses.
- Remember: Understanding the nuances of modern warfare strategies is crucial for UPSC aspirants. This question tests your knowledge of the characteristics and tactics employed in Grey Zone Warfare.

**Answer 7 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Despite a significant decline, the prevalence of underweight and thinness continues to be high across genders and age groups.
- Obesity in women has spiked in the past three decades — it increased from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2022,
- Women are more prone to putting on weight because most of them do not have access to or time for physical activities such as walks or gyms. **All the statements are correct**

**Answer 8 Option D is correct****Explanation**

- It is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.
- With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.
- It will usher in a new era of capacity building and comprehensive development of the island territories. **Both the statements are correct**

**Answer 9 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, mandate the generators of plastic waste to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source & hand over segregated waste in accordance with rules.

- **A Patchy Solution:** While laws like the SWM and PWM Rules exist, they often fail to address the specific needs of mountainous regions. State-level initiatives like bans on plastic use are commendable but face challenges in enforcement and infrastructure creation.
- **A Waste Management Gap:** Despite regulations, waste segregation and proper disposal remain inadequate. Overflowing landfills contribute further to the pollution, jeopardizing the entire ecosystem.
- **Finding Solutions:** To tackle this crisis, we need:
- **Investment and Empowerment:** Allocate resources, build infrastructure, and empower local governments to manage waste effectively considering the region's delicate ecosystem. **All the statements are correct**

**Answer 10 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- India's ranking on the Global Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum has historically been low. As of 2023, India's rank is around 100th out of 146 countries, indicating a significant gender gap. **statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The labor force participation rate for women in India is significantly lower than for men. This is due to various factors like social norms, lack of childcare options, and limited access to education and training opportunities. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- While the literacy rate in India has improved for both genders, there remains a gap. Women in India still have a lower literacy rate compared to men. **statement 3 is correct.**



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