

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

1. MHA seeks to pacify truckers protesting new hit-and-run law - The Hindu/ Protesting new hit-and-run law, truckers dial down after talks with Home Secretary - Indian Express
2. 'CAA rules may be notified before Lok Sabha election' - The Hindu/ Govt ready with rules for CAA, set to be notified before LS polls announcement - Indian Express
3. Pleas in SC challenge new law on appointment process for CEC, ECs - The Hindu/ Plea challenges new law on appointment of CEC, ECS - Indian Express
4. SC's translation projects raced ahead in 2023 as ret'd. HC judges, law clerks help AI - The Hindu
5. Free Movement Regime at Myanmar border to end soon, entry into India will need visa - The Hindu/ Govt plans to end Free Movement Regime along international border with Myanmar - Indian Express
6. Inoperative accounts: How will RBI's revised guidelines benefit customers? - Indian Express

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Important News Articles

GS II

1. MHA seeks to pacify truckers protesting new hit-and-run law - The Hindu/ Protesting new hit-and-run law, truckers dial down after talks with Home Secretary - Indian Express

Relevance: Pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

News:

- **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita** has enhanced the punishment for hit-and-run cases.
- This has led to the **strike** by transporters across the country.
- The meeting of **All India Motor Transport Congress** has been called in by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**.

What is the issue ?

- Transporters, including bus and taxi unions, have called a nationwide strike from **January 1 to January 30**.
- The strike is to protest **Section 106** of the BNS
- The section prescribes a maximum of **punishment of 10 years** in cases of rash and negligent driving.
- The government has not notified the implementation of the section.

Impact of the Strike

- Truckers strike sets off **panic buying of fuel** in several States.
- The drivers have **refused to ply** their vehicles on the roads.
- The impact of the strike was **being felt all over the country**,
 - specially in the northern States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh.

What is the stance of the Government ?

- If a driver had accidentally hit someone and informed the police on time, then he or she would face a **lesser punishment of five years**.
- The duration of sentences in such cases had been increased to 10 years because of the **observations made by the Supreme Court**

Claims of Drivers

- Whenever an accident takes place, the **case is always registered against the driver of the heavy vehicle**,
 - even though the driver of the small vehicle is at fault.
- There are chances of being **thrashed**.
- In some instances, drivers have been **lynched**.
- Drivers are an **unorganised lot**.
- Sometimes the drivers run to **save themselves from lynching**.

Different Punishment under New Law

- Under new law, doctors face **two years of imprisonment** for death due to negligence
- Section 106(1) of the BNS provides for a punishment of "**0-5 years**", while Section 106(2) provides for a punishment of "**0-10 years**" in "hit and run" cases.
- **Section 106(1)**, where the sentence is lesser, that is, up to **five years**, and is a bailable offence. **Section 106(2)** is a non-bailable offence.

Current Position on Punishment

- Currently, under **Section 304A** of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which will be replaced by the Sanhita, the punishment for causing death by negligence is **two years imprisonment** and fine, or both.

Prelims Takeaway

- Section 304-A of IPC
- Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

2. 'CAA rules may be notified before Lok Sabha election' - The Hindu/ Govt ready with rules for CAA, set to be notified before LS polls announcement - Indian Express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Assam Accord
- CAA, 2019

News:

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act was passed by the Parliament of India in December 2019.
- The rules for its implementation will be notified before the Lok Sabha Elections of 2024.

Status of The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The Bill, sought to fast-track Indian citizenship to **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians** but **not Muslims**
 - who migrated to India owing to religious persecution in **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**.
- The bill got the consent of the **President of India in 2019**.
- After the implementation of the rules the process of granting citizenship will start.

Process for Getting Citizenship

- The applicants will have to declare the year when they entered India **without travel documents**.
- **No document** will be sought from the applicants.
- Requests of the applicants, who had applied after 2014, will be converted as per the new rules.
- The Centre has so far availed **eight extensions** of the date to frame the rules.
- In the last two years, over **30 District Magistrates and Home Secretaries** of nine states have been given powers to grant Indian citizenship under the Act.

Impact of CAA on Assam Accord

- The protests in Assam were fuelled by fears that the legislation would **permanently alter the demographics** of the state.
- The CAA is seen in Assam as a violation of the **1985 Assam Accord** which allows foreign migrants who came to Assam after **January 1, 1966** but before **March 25, 1971** to seek citizenship.
- The cut-off date for citizenship to be extended under the CAA is **December 31, 2014**.

Petitions against Law

- A clutch of petitions, including by the Indian Union Muslim League, are before the Supreme Court, challenging the constitutional validity of the CAA.
- The petition alleges that CAA leaves out the persecuted Rohingya of Myanmar, Tibetan Buddhists from China and Tamils from Sri Lanka.

The Stand of the Government

- The Centre said the basis of the **"reasonable classification"** made by the 2019 Act was not religion
 - but **"religious discrimination"** in neighbouring countries which are "functioning with a state religion".
- The legislation was **not** meant to be an **omnibus solution** to issues across the world.
- The Indian Parliament cannot be expected to take **note of possible persecutions** that may be taking place across various countries in the world.
- The current Act is a **kind of amnesty** against i.e. persecution on the ground of religion in theocratic countries.
- The constitutionality of CAA ought to be tested **within that legislative domain**.
- The constitutionality **cannot be conflated to extend beyond that object** and the reasons behind the Parliamentary cognizance of the issue.

3. Pleas in SC challenge new law on appointment process for CEC, ECs - The Hindu/ Plea challenges new law on appointment of CEC, ECS - Indian Express

Relevance: Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

News:

- Recently, a **PIL** was filed in the Supreme Court over the recent amendments to the **appointment process of the CEC and ECs**.
- The PIL sought the **quashing** of the new law that **grants the central government extensive powers** in making appointments to the Election Commission.

Prelims Takeaway

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL)
- Election Commission of India

Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023

- The new law was criticized for **dropping the CJI from the selection committee**.
- It now empowers the **President to appoint the CEC and ECs** based on the **recommendation of a Selection Committee** consisting of
 - The Prime Minister
 - The Leader of Opposition in the House of the People
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- It includes provisions for a **search committee** chaired by the **Union Law Minister** to prepare a **panel of candidates** for the selection committee's consideration.

Opposition's Allegations

- The opposition accuses the government of **defying a March 2023 Supreme Court order**.
- The March 2023 SC order specified the **involvement of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and the CJI** in selecting the CEC and ECs

Seeking an Independent System

- The PIL calls for the implementation of an **"independent and transparent system of selection"**.
- It suggests constituting a **neutral and independent selection committee** for the appointment of the CEC and ECs.
- It seeks the **inclusion of the CJI** in the selection committee, emphasizing the importance of a **fair and unbiased process** in appointing the key electoral authorities.

4. SC's translation projects raced ahead in 2023 as ret'd. HC judges, law clerks help AI - The Hindu

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

News:

- The Supreme Court of India successfully **accelerated its translation initiative** in 2023.
- It completed the translation of over 31,000 judgments into various Scheduled Languages through the **e-SCR portal**.

Prelims Takeaway

- e-SCR Portal
- Common Core Vocabulary Initiative
- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Translation Process

- The translation process gained momentum under the current CJI, employing retired High Court judges and law clerks to correct AI-based software translations.
- The initiative faced challenges in **translating legal terminology**, particularly in languages like Tamil, where a standardised glossary is lacking.

Challenges and Concerns

- Legal experts question the **practical utility of translated judgements** when High Courts are not conducting proceedings in regional languages, except in Hindi-speaking states.
- The absence of standardized legal glossaries in regional languages raises **concerns about accuracy and coherence**.

Common Core Vocabulary Initiative

- The Bar Council of India is working on creating a "**Common Core Vocabulary**" to standardize legal terminology in all Indian regional languages.
- Critics argue that allowing regional languages in court proceedings is **essential for developing a comprehensive glossary** that aligns with the **understanding of the common man**.

e-SCR Portal

- Initiative to provide the **digital version of the apex court's judgements** in the manner as they are reported in the official law report.
- It provides **free access** to about 34,000 judgements of the SC to lawyers, law students, and the common public.
- These verdicts will be available on the apex court website, its mobile app, and on the judgement portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).
- The Supreme Court has developed a **search engine** with the help of the National Informatics Centre comprising **elastic search techniques** in the database of e-SCR.
- The **search facility in e-SCR** provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, judge search, year and volume search and bench strength search options.

GS III

5. Free Movement Regime at Myanmar border to end soon, entry into India will need visa - The Hindu/ Govt plans to end Free Movement Regime along international border with Myanmar - Indian Express

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

News:

- The Indian government recently decided to terminate the **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** along the **India-Myanmar border**.

Free Movement Regime (FMR)

- The FMR was established in 2018 under the **Act East policy**.
- It facilitates the **movement of tribes** residing along the India-Myanmar border **up to 16 km** into each other's territory **without requiring a visa**.
- It allows members of hill tribes to cross over with a **border pass, valid for one year, and stay for up to two weeks**.
- The India-Myanmar border spans **1,643 km** across the states of **Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh**.

Government's Strategy

- The decision comes as part of a broader plan to **enhance border security** by implementing an **advanced smart fencing system** throughout the entire India-Myanmar border.
- **Reasons for Ending FMR**
 - To curb the misuse of the FMR by insurgent groups for attacks on the Indian side and then escape into Myanmar.
 - To address concerns related to illegal immigration, drug trafficking and gold smuggling along the border.

Chief Minister's Call for Termination

- The Manipur Chief Minister had earlier urged the Centre to **permanently end the FMR** in September 2023, citing concerns about **illegal immigration**.
- The state is actively working towards implementing a **National Register of Citizens** and **reinforcing the border with Myanmar**, especially in Manipur.
 - Only about 10 km of the 390 km border is currently fenced in Manipur.

Prelims Takeaway

- Free Movement Regime (FMR)
- Act East Policy
- National Register of Citizens
- Location Based Questions

Impact and Future Plans

- The introduction of smart fencing and the termination of the FMR are expected to
 - strengthen border security
 - address security concerns
 - regulate the movement of individuals across the India-Myanmar border
- The government's focus on enhancing security measures aligns with **broader geopolitical considerations and national interests.**

6. Inoperative accounts: How will RBI's revised guidelines benefit customers? - Indian Express

Relevance: Economy

News:

- The RBI has introduced revised guidelines regarding the **classification** of accounts and deposits as **inoperative and unclaimed.**
- As per the norms, account holders can **reactivate their accounts** by submitting KYC documents.

Prelims Takeaway

- Inoperative Accounts
- Reserve Bank of India

Inoperative Account and Unclaimed Deposits

- A savings or current account is deemed inoperative if there are **no 'customer induced transactions'** for over **two years.**
- Customer induced transactions include **financial and non-financial activities** initiated by the account holder.
- **Unclaimed Deposits**
 - Balances in savings/current accounts not operated for 10 years
 - Term deposits unclaimed within 10 years

Revised RBI Guidelines

- Banks are required to conduct an **annual review** for accounts lacking customer-induced transactions for **over a year.**
- In cases without **explicit term deposit renewal mandates,** banks must review accounts where customers haven't **withdrawn or transferred proceeds post-maturity.**

Communication and Reactivation

- Banks are instructed to **notify account holders** via letters, email or SMS about inactivity for the last year.
- If no operations occur in the next year, the **account becomes 'inoperative,'** requiring KYC document submission for reactivation.

Account Classification Criteria

- Only **customer-induced transactions** are considered for classifying an account as inoperative.
 - It excludes bank-induced transactions like charges and fees.
- Account classification is **specific to the account,** not the customer.
- **Zero-balance accounts** for government beneficiaries and student scholarships are **exempt.**

Reactivation Process

- Banks should offer KYC updation at all branches and through **video-customer identification process (V-CIP)** upon request.
- Reactivation must **adhere to KYC guidelines,** and **no charges** should be imposed for activation.

Non-maintenance Penalty and Interest

- **No penal charges** are allowed for non-maintenance of minimum balances in inoperative accounts.
- **Interest on savings accounts must be credited** regularly, irrespective of the account's operational status.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

7. The global nuclear order is under strain - The Hindu

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

Context:

- The **Global Nuclear order (GNO)** was established during the Cold War with the **US and USSR**.
- **Objective:** To prevent nuclear tensions and curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

Elements of the GNO	Changing Geopolitics and Nuclear Landscape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral mechanisms and arms control negotiations, such as the hotline, were initiated to manage the nuclear arms race. • Multilateral negotiations in 1965 led to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968, becoming a cornerstone with 191 adherents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ India chose not to sign the NPT and conducted an underground peaceful nuclear explosive, or PNE in 1974. • The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) emerged in 1975 to control nuclear technology transfer for peaceful purposes. <p style="text-align: center;">Successes and Challenges of the GNO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The taboo against nuclear weapons has been held since 1945. • Non-proliferation efforts have limited the number of nuclear-armed countries. • Arms control during the Cold War provided some stability. • However, the post-Cold War era saw challenges, with the US and Russia facing changing geopolitics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current nuclear landscape involves a more assertive China challenging the US, leading to strained treaties and strategic stability talks. • The US withdrawal from treaties like the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and uncertainties around New START, pose threats to the GNO. • Last year, Russia de-ratified the CTBT to bring it on a par with the US, raising concerns about the resumption of nuclear testing. • Furthermore, the display of Russian nuclear sabre-rattling to warn NATO and the US against escalating tensions in Ukraine has reignited nuclear apprehensions. • The US ignored when Israel pursued nuclear development in the 1960s-70s and China helped Pakistan with its nuclear programme in the 1980s. <p style="text-align: center;">Shift in US Policies and Allies' Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolving US policies, domestic priorities, and uncertainties about extended deterrence raise questions among allies in East Asia about the reliability of US commitments. • Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, possessing technical capabilities, may consider independent nuclear deterrents, impacting the traditional concept of the US nuclear umbrella.

Conclusion

- The **GNO is facing increasing challenges** due to geopolitical shifts, evolving nuclear strategies, and uncertainties in US commitments signalling **potential instability in the global nuclear landscape**.

8. Faulty compulsion - The Hindu

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

Context:

- The government recently declined to extend the deadline for **linking Aadhaar details to job cards for MGNREGS workers** beyond December 31, 2023.
- **Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS)** has become **mandatory**, impacting 35% of job card holders and 12.7% of active workers.

Issues with ABPS Implementation

- The government asserts that ABPS ensures **quick payments, reduces rejections and prevents leaks**.
- The government also contends that the ABPS is a **robust and a safer way to transfer wages** since 2017.
- However, the **over-reliance** on technical tools has resulted in problematic implementation, with beneficiaries devoid of a **proper recourse for corrections**.
- Data analysis by **LibTech India**
 - Discrepancies between the Aadhaar and the job card led to the deletion of 7.6 crore workers' names in the past 21 months

Problems with Aadhaar-Based Payments

- Errors, such as **spelling discrepancies** between Aadhaar and job cards, **incorrect mapping** of Aadhaar to bank accounts, result in **payment failures**.
- Government claims of reduced wage payment delays due to Aadhaar use are disputed, with delays often attributed to **insufficient funds**.

Concerns and Recommendations

- Mandatory ABPS without addressing **faulty Aadhaar seeding and mapping issues** could exacerbate problems.
- The Ministry of Rural Development may consider **exemptions for gram panchayats facing technical issues**.
- However, **social audits** should be conducted to assess the **extent of the problem** before insisting on ABPS.
- The government should reconsider the decision and focus on resolving **seeding and mapping problems** before enforcing ABPS.

Conclusion

- MGNREGS, a crucial **demand-driven welfare scheme** for rural poor, should not be dependent on a **flawed technological system**.
- The government should address the technical issues, and ensure a smoother implementation of the ABPS in the **interest of beneficiaries**.

9. DESIGNATED TERRORIST - Indian Express

Relevance: Polity

Context:

- Under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**, the person behind Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder, **Gangster Goldy Brar**, was declared a **designated terrorist** by the Centre.

Definition of "Terrorist" and "Terrorist Act"

- The UAPA does not specifically define the words "terror" or "terrorist".
- However, it outlines a "terrorist act" as
 - any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country.
- While the original Act dealt with "unlawful" acts related to secession; the anti-terror provisions were introduced in 2004.

Amendments in 2019

- The 2019 amendments allowed the central government to designate individuals as terrorists if found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in acts of terror.
- This expanded the existing provisions for terrorist organisations.
 - Similar provision existed in Part 4 and 6 of UAPA for organisations that can be designated as a "terrorist organisation".

Process of Designating Individuals as Terrorists

- The central government can declare an individual as a terrorist through an official gazette notification, adding their name to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA.
- No prior hearing is required before such designation.
- Individuals convicted in a terror case are referred to as terrorists, while those suspected are called terror accused.
- The 2019 amendment did not specify the standard of proof required to establish an individual's involvement in terrorist activities.

Consequences of Being Declared a Terrorist

- Unlike the UN's global terrorist designation with associated sanctions, the 2019 amendment did not detail specific consequences.
 - The UN's designation of a global terrorist is associated with sanctions including travel bans, freezing of assets and an embargo against procuring arms.
- It empowered the Centre to remove a name from the schedule upon application.
- If the application filed is rejected by the government, they have the right to seek a review within one month after the application is rejected.

Review Committee and Judicial Recourse

- The central government established a review committee, including a chairperson and three members, to review designations.
- Individuals can challenge the government's order in court, providing avenues for appeal and potential removal from the terrorist list.

10. Raj Bhavan needs radical reforms - The Hindu

Relevance: Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Context:

- The **conduct of Governors** in several states has raised concerns about their **adherence to constitutional morality**.
- The recent incident involving the Governor of Kerala has prompted discussions on the **legal consequences** of such behaviour and the **need for systemic changes** in the appointment process.

Constitutional Morality and Public Conduct

- While the Constitution outlines the functions, powers, and duties of Governors, it cannot be expected to govern individual behaviour explicitly.
- However, the notion of constitutional morality should govern Governors in their public conduct.
- In *NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2018)*, the Supreme Court emphasised the need to identify the “moral values of the Constitution” based on a notion of “constitutional culture”.
- It said that “constitutional morality places responsibilities and duties on individuals who occupy constitutional institutions and offices”.

Limited Immunity for Governors

- Article 361 of the Constitution provides limited and conditional immunity for Governors.
- It states that Governors are not answerable to any court for the exercise of their powers and duties.
- However, this immunity does not extend to misbehaviour unrelated to official duties.
- The Supreme Court, in *Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India (2006)*, affirmed that the whimsical conduct of the Governor is amenable to judicial review.

Legal Liability for Extra-Constitutional Gestures

- The recent case of *Kaushal Kishor vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2023)* addressed the freedom of expression of public functionaries.
- The Court affirmed that the personal liability of public functionaries exists for matters unconnected with their public duty such as crimes or offences like defamation.

Commission Reports and Systemic Changes

- The Sarkaria Commission Report (1988) and the Punchhi Commission report (2010) have criticised the conduct of some Governors.
- Suggested recommendations include
 - ensuring the detachment of Governors from local politics
 - refraining from burdening the Governors with additional powers
 - improving the selection process of the Governors

Way Forward

- The Article 155 of the Constitution should be amended to ensure consultation with the Chief Minister in the appointment of Governors.
- An independent body for selecting the Governor potentially involving the Chief Justice of India might improve the quality of the selection process.
- Legal prohibitions should be introduced against further rehabilitation of Governors in any official capacity.

Quick Look

1. "State of the Judiciary" Report

- Recently, a report titled 'State of the Judiciary' was published by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.
- Key Findings
 - Nearly one-fifth (19.7%) of district court complexes in India do not have separate toilets for women.
 - Existing women's toilets often suffer from broken doors and irregular water supply, compromising the hygiene and dignity of users.
 - Some court complexes have shared washrooms for male and female judges.
 - Only 6.7% of women's toilets in district court complexes are equipped with sanitary napkin vending machines.
 - Most district courts lack toilets specifically designated for transgender persons.
 - Judges in some instances personally engage sweepers and cleaners to ensure the cleanliness of the toilets.

2. Exercise Desert Cyclone

- It is the inaugural edition of joint military exercise "Desert Cyclone 2024" between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- It will be held from January 2 to January 15 in Rajasthan.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in Urban Operations.
- This exercise is marking a significant milestone in the strategic partnership.

3. Sarna Religion

- A recent study at IIT Indore on tribal culture, forest conservation, and wildfire in central India sheds light on the Sarna religion's tenets.
- Indigenous religious faith predominantly followed in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region.
- Concentrated mainly in the tribal belt states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- Followers of the Sarna faith are nature worshippers.
- The holy grail of the Sarna faith is "Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land)."
- Its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- Believers of the Sarna faith do not practise idol worship, nor do they adhere to the concept of the Varna system, heaven-hell, etc.
- Important Festivals: Sarhul, Karam, Faggu

4. National Judicial Data Grid

- NJDG is a database of orders, judgments and case details of Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.
- It has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in coordination with the Computer Cell Registry.
- Data is updated on a near real-time basis by the connected District and Taluka courts.
- Aligned with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), NJDG provides an Open Application Programming Interface (API) to Central and State Governments.
- Through this one may access case related information, statistics such as institution, pendency and disposal of cases, case-types, year-wise break-up of the Supreme Court of India

5. MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.

- It aims to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- The act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- If any rural adult fails to get work within 15 days of demanding it, an 'unemployment allowance' is given.
- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries need to be women.
- The Centre bears 60% of the cost of the materials used for MGNREGS work and the remaining 40% is provided by the State governments.



Mentorship
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Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to Section 106 (of causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita consider the following statements

1. The section has the provision of maximum imprisonment of three years.
2. The section contains the provisions of both bailable and non-bailable offence.
3. The section has enhanced the punishment as compared to similar provision in the erstwhile Indian Penal Code.

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

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

Q2. With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019, consider the following statements

1. The act was passed in the year 2019.
2. The act has provisions of fast-track Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians but not Muslims.
3. The act covers the migrants to India owing to religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.
4. The act is in consonance with the Assam Accord, 1985.

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

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

Q3. With reference to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, consider the following statements

1. The act has dropped the CJI from the selection committee.
2. The act empowers the President to appoint the CEC and ECs.
3. The selection committee will consist of the Prime Minister of India.

4. The act includes provisions for a search committee chaired by the Union Law Minister

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the e-SCR portal

1. It provides the digital version of the Supreme Court's judgments.
2. It provides free access to the judgements to lawyers and law students only.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to India-Myanmar

1. The India-Myanmar border spans across the states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) facilitates the movement of tribes residing along the India-Myanmar border up to 16 km without requiring a visa.

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

Q6. With reference to inoperative accounts, consider the following statements

1. A savings or current account is deemed inoperative if there are no 'customer induced transactions' for over two years.
2. Inoperative accounts also include zero-balance accounts for government beneficiaries and student scholarships.
3. Penal charges can be imposed for non-maintenance of minimum balances in inoperative accounts.
4. Recently, RBI allowed account holders to reactivate their inoperative accounts by submitting KYC documents.

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

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

Q7. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty

1. It is an international treaty that aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
2. It requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
3. India is a signatory to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty.

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 on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

1. It guarantees 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of rural households.
2. At least one-third of beneficiaries under MGNREGA have to be women.
3. Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) has recently been made mandatory for wage payment under MGNREGA.
4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is its nodal ministry.

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

- A. Only one

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

Q9. Consider the following statements on Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

1. It specifically defines the words "terror", "terrorist" and "terrorist act".
2. Under it, the centre can declare both individuals and organisations as terrorists.
3. No prior hearing is required before such designation.

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

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

Q10. With reference to the Constitutional Duties of Governor, consider the following

1. Reservation of the bill for the consideration of the President of India.
2. Recommendation of the President Rule in the State.
3. Additional charge as an administrator of Union Territory.
4. Appointment of the CM after elections.
5. Calling upon the Chief Minister to seek information regarding administrative and legislative affairs

In how many matters given above the Governor of the State has been granted discretion by the Constitution of India ?

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

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

- Section 106(1) of the BNS provides for a punishment of “0-5 years”, while Section 106(2) provides for a punishment of “0-10 years” in “hit and run” cases. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 106(1), where the sentence is lesser, that is, up to five years, and is a bailable offence. Section 106(2) is a non-bailable offence. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Currently, under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which will be replaced by the Sanhita, the punishment for causing death by negligence is two years imprisonment and fine, or both. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 sought to fast-track Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians but not Muslims. **Hence, Statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
 - who migrated to India owing to religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- After the implementation of the rules the process of granting citizenship will start.
- The protests in Assam were fuelled by fears that the legislation would permanently alter the demographics of the state.
- The CAA is seen in Assam as a violation of the 1985 Assam Accord which allows foreign migrants who came to Assam after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971 to seek citizenship. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**
- The cut-off date for citizenship to be extended under the CAA is December 31, 2014.

Answer 3 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**
- The new law was criticised for dropping the CJI from the selection committee. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- It now empowers the President to appoint the CEC and ECs based on the recommendation of a Selection Committee. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Selection Committee consists of
 - The Prime Minister **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
 - The Leader of Opposition in the House of the People
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- It includes provisions for a search committee chaired by the Union Law Minister to prepare a panel of candidates for the selection committee's consideration. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- e-SCR Portal is an initiative to provide the digital version of the apex court's judgements in the manner as they are reported in the official law report. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides free access to about 34,000 judgements of the SC to lawyers, law students, and the common public. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- These verdicts will be available on the apex court website, its mobile app, and on the judgement portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).
- The Supreme Court has developed a search engine with the help of the National Informatics Centre comprising elastic search techniques in the database of e-SCR.
- The search facility in e-SCR provides for free text search, search within search, case type and case year search, judge search, year and volume search and bench strength search options.

Answer 5 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The India-Myanmar border spans 1,643 km across the states of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Free Movement Regime (FMR) was established in 2018 under the Act East policy.
- It facilitates the movement of tribes residing along the India-Myanmar border up to 16 km into each other's territory without requiring a visa. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It allows members of hill tribes to cross over with a border pass, valid for one year, and stay for up to two weeks.

Answer 6 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- A savings or current account is deemed inoperative if there are no 'customer induced transactions' for over two years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Zero-balance accounts for government beneficiaries and student scholarships are exempt. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- As per RBI's recent norms, account holders can reactivate their accounts by submitting KYC documents. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- Banks should offer KYC updation at all branches and through video-customer identification process (V-CIP) upon request.
- Reactivation must adhere to KYC guidelines, and no charges should be imposed for activation.
- No penal charges are allowed for non-maintenance of minimum balances in inoperative accounts. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Interest on savings accounts must be credited regularly, irrespective of the account's operational status.

Answer 7 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The Nuclear Proliferation Treaty is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. Presently, it has 191 member states.
- It requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
- India is one of the only five countries that either did not sign the NPT or signed but withdrew later, thus becoming part of a list that includes Pakistan, Israel, North Korea,

and South Sudan. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

- India opposes it since it is selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and it legitimises the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers.

Answer 8 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- If any rural adult does not get work within 15 days of demanding it, an 'unemployment allowance' will be given.
- ABPS became mandatory for wage payment under flagship rural employment guarantee scheme MGNREGA from January 1. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) does not specifically define the words "terror" or "terrorist". **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- However, it outlines a "terrorist act" as any act committed with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, economic security, or sovereignty of India.
- Amendments introduced in 2019 brought in provisions by which the Centre can declare individuals; not only organisations; as designated terrorists. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The central government can declare an individual as a terrorist through an official

gazette notification, adding their name to the Fourth Schedule of the UAPA.

- No prior hearing is required before such designation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The 2019 amendment did not specify the standard of proof required to establish an individual's involvement in terrorist activities.

Answer 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Governors of states can act at their constitutional discretion in the following instances
 - When they have to reserve the bill for the consideration of the President of India, Governors can decide on their own without the advice of the Council of Ministers. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - When he has to recommend for the President's rule in the state, he can act at

his own discretion. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

- When he is given an additional charge as the administrator of the Union Territory, he can take actions at his own discretion. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- When he has to determine the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licences for mineral exploration
- When he calls upon the Chief Minister to seek information regarding administrative and legislative affairs. **Hence, Statement 5 is correct.**
- In ordinary circumstances the Governor does not have much discretion in the appointment of the Chief Minister of a State in India. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**



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