

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 30 Mar. 2024**

### **Important News Articles**

1. Panneer Thiratchai: A sweet treat from Cumbum that is available throughout the year- Indian express
2. Discussed 'peace formula' with India: Ukraine Foreign Minister - The Hindu
3. Union home ministry extends validity of FCRA registered NGOs till June 30 -The Hindu
4. ECI's C-Vigil app a big hit with voters: over 79,000 violations reported so far through the complaints app since announcement of General Elections; 99 % cases disposed off- PIB
5. DoT asks telcos to suspend USSD-based call forwarding, switch to alternate mode from Apr 15- Economics times
6. With less than 150 Great Indian Bustards remaining in the wild, what's driving their extinction?
7. Procurement through centre's GeM portal crosses Rs 4 trillion mark in FY24 - The Indian Express
8. India launches database to record crimes against UN peacekeepers- Business Standard

### **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

9. Kerala govt goes to SC over Governor withholding assent to Bills: The issues and the law -The Indian Express
10. On sustainable building materials | Explained- The Hindu

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1. Solar Flares
2. AMRUT Scheme:
3. Non-Performing Asset (NPA)
4. Cnemaspis vangoghi

## Important News Articles

### GS I

#### 1. Panneer Thiratchai: A sweet treat from Cumbum that is available throughout the year- Indian express

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Cumbum Valley
- GI TAG

**News:**

- Cumbum valley—grapes city of south India—is very popular for Muscat Hamburg (panneer thiratchai) cultivation.
- It is noteworthy that the valley contributes up to 85% of panneer thiratchai production in the country.

**The Panneer Grape: A Year-Round Treat from South India**

- The Panneer grape is a special grape variety grown primarily in the Cumbum Valley of Tamil Nadu.
- Unlike most Indian grapes with a limited harvest season, Panneer grapes thrive year-round.
- This makes them a favorite among farmers for their quick growth and early maturity.

**Panneer grapes offer several advantages:**

- **Versatility:** These grapes are perfect for making wine, spirits, jams, canned juices, and raisins.
- **Health Benefits:** Rich in vitamins, tartaric acid, and antioxidants, Panneer grapes are known to reduce the risk of chronic diseases.
- **Superior Taste:** They boast a delicious taste alongside their distinctive purplish-brown color.
- **Geographical Recognition:** In recognition of its unique qualities, the Panneer grape received a Geographical Indication Tag in 2023.
- The Cumbum Valley, nestled in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, is aptly nicknamed the "Grapes City of South India."
- This region is the heartland of Panneer grape cultivation, with the Muscat Hamburg variety (another name for Panneer) accounting for nearly 85% of the area's vineyards.

### GS II

#### 2. Discussed 'peace formula' with India: Ukraine Foreign Minister - The Hindu

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question
- Peace plan

**News:**

- India and Ukraine recently, **discussed a 'Peace Formula' for the conflict between Russia and Ukraine**
- Foreign Minister of Ukraine met with the External Affairs Minister and described the Russian campaign against Ukraine as a "full-scale war", while arguing for energizing India-Ukraine relations with new projects.

**Global Peace Summit on Ukraine**

- The summit was Hosted by Switzerland

**Aim and Agenda of the Summit :**

- The summit aims to convene world leaders with the primary agenda of discussing strategies to halt Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.
- It will help to demonstrate global unity to advocate for a resolution to the conflict
- Invited Nations from the Global South to ensure diverse representation and perspectives at the summit.
- It will be largely focused On Ukraine 10 Point Peace Plan.

- The Swiss government has acknowledged the request and is currently in the process of finalizing additional details for the summit's organization and execution.

### 3. Union home ministry extends validity of FCRA registered NGOs till June 30 -The Hindu

**Relevance:** Development processes and the development industry — the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- NGO
- FCRA

**News:**

- The Union home ministry extended till June 30 the validity of all FCRA registered NGOs whose licences are expiring on March 31, in a relief to those whose renewal applications are still under consideration.

**The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):**

- Passed in 1976 during India's Emergency, the FCRA was a response to worries about foreign influence.
- The law aimed to control foreign donations to ensure organizations receiving them operated in line with India's democratic values.
- Strengthened in 2010 and again in 2020, the FCRA gives the government more control over how NGOs handle foreign funds.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) enforces the law and can block donations used against India's national interests.

**Key Points of the FCRA:**

- **Registration:** NGOs that want foreign donations must register with the FCRA and open a special account at the State Bank of India in Delhi.
- The funds can only be used for approved purposes. Annual reports are required, and transfers to other NGOs are not allowed.
- **Restrictions:** The FCRA prohibits receiving foreign funds for people in certain professions (like journalists or politicians) and organizations with political aims.
- **Registration Process:** NGOs apply online with documents.
- Those with cultural, economic, educational, religious, or social programs can qualify. The MHA checks backgrounds and approves/denies applications within 90 days. Registration lasts 5 years and needs renewal.
- **Cancellation:** The MHA can cancel registration for inactivity, misuse of funds, or if deemed necessary for public interest.
- The NGO can defend itself before cancellation, and a court challenge is possible. A cancelled NGO cannot re-register for 3 years.
- Suspensions and freezing of funds are also possible during investigations.

### 4. ECI's C-Vigil app a big hit with voters: over 79,000 violations reported so far through the complaints app since announcement of General Elections; 99 % cases disposed off- PIB

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- cVigil
- Election commission

**News:**

- **The cVIGIL app of Election Commission** of India has become an effective tool in the hands of people to flag election code violations.
- Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 79,000 complaints have been received as of today.

- **Speed and transparency** are the cornerstones of cVIGIL app.

#### **cVigil: Empowering Citizens for Fair Elections**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the cVigil app, putting the power to report electoral malpractices right in your pocket.
- This user-friendly app makes it easier than ever to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.

#### **Features for Vigilant Citizens:**

- **Report on the Go:** Witness political misconduct? With cVigil, you can file a complaint within minutes, eliminating the need to visit the Returning Officer's office.
- **Real-Time Evidence Capture:** Capture photos, videos, or audio recordings directly through the app, providing valuable evidence of the violation.
- **Track Your Complaint:** Receive a unique ID for your complaint, allowing you to track its progress on your phone.
- **Time-Bound Action:** The app ensures a 100-minute response window, guaranteeing a swift response to your report.
- **Precise Location Tracking:** Geo-tagging automatically captures the location of the violation, aiding flying squads in immediate action.
- **Live Incident Focus:** cVigil allows reporting only for ongoing violations, ensuring the most up-to-date information reaches authorities.
- cVigil empowers citizens to become active participants in ensuring fair and ethical elections.

## **5. DoT asks telcos to suspend USSD-based call forwarding, switch to alternate mode from Apr 15- Economics times**

**Relevance:** Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

#### **News:**

- The Department of Telecom has asked telecom operators to deactivate USSD-based call forwarding with effect from April 15 and move to alternative methods to re-activate it, an official order said.
- Mobile subscribers use USSD service just by dialling any active code on their phone screens.

#### **Prelims Takeaway**

- USSD
- IMEI

#### **Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD):**

- It is a communications protocol used in Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) networks for sending short text messages.
- It is an instant messaging service and messages are not stored on the operator side or on the subscriber's device.

#### **USSD format:**

- It generally exist as one of two types, depending on their origin:
- The user can send the operator a request in the form of a USSD command.
- It is used to display balance deduction in mobile phones where a message pops-up on the device screen after a call or outgoing SMS.
- It is also used for checking IMEI numbers of mobiles.
- USSD, or Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, is a way to communicate with your mobile network operator directly from your phone. It's like a simple messaging system built into your phone that doesn't require internet or store messages.
- The maximum length of a USSD message is 182 characters, but most codes are much shorter.

## GS III

### 6. With less than 150 Great Indian Bustards remaining in the wild, what's driving their extinction?

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- The Great Indian Bustard
- IUCN

**News:**

- The Supreme Court last week said it will review its April 2021 order to bury underground all power lines in the habitat of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), after the Centre found the order “practically impossible to implement” over long distances.

**The Great Indian Bustard: A Bird on the Brink**

- The Great Indian Bustard (GIB), the largest of India's four bustard species, is facing a critical fight for survival.

**Habitat and Decline:**

- Once widespread across the Indian subcontinent, their habitat has shrunk to a mere 10%.
- These grassland birds, crucial indicators of healthy grasslands, are now critically endangered with just 50-249 individuals remaining.

**Main Threat: Power Lines**

- The biggest threat to GIBs are overhead power lines.
- Their poor frontal vision and weight make it difficult to dodge these lines, leading to collisions and fatalities.
- Research suggests 18 GIBs die from this cause annually in Rajasthan alone.
- The recent boom in renewable energy infrastructure in their core habitat (Kutch and Thar desert) has exacerbated the problem.

**Other Threats:**

- Free-ranging dogs
- Pesticide use in farmlands
- Loss of grassland (especially nesting sites)
- Decreased support from local communities

**Conservation Efforts:**

- **Species Recovery Programme:** A government initiative to create a captive breeding population for future reintroduction.
- **Bird Diverters:** Reflectors installed on power lines to make them visible to GIBs and prevent collisions.

**Supreme Court Intervention:**

- The Supreme Court has mandated burying power lines in core GIB habitat and set up committees to oversee implementation.
- The Centre argues against burying all lines due to technical and economic challenges.
- In March 2024, the Court established a new committee to explore further conservation measures.
- The future of the Great Indian Bustard hangs in the balance.
- Balancing development needs with critical species protection remains a challenge.

### 7. Procurement through centre's GeM portal crosses Rs 4 trillion mark in FY24 - The Indian Express

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- GeM
- PSU

**News:**

- The procurement of goods and services through the centre's Government e-Market (GeM) portal has crossed Rs 4 trillion so far this fiscal
- buying activities by various ministries and departments have picked up pace, a senior government official said

- Launched in 2016, GeM (Government e-Marketplace) is an online platform for government agencies to buy and sell goods and services.
- It's mandatory for central and state government departments, PSUs, and affiliated organizations to use GeM for procurement.

**Benefits of GeM:**

- **Increased Efficiency, Transparency, and Speed:** GeM streamlines public procurement by offering various buying options like bidding and direct purchase.
- **Wider Selection and Price Comparison:** Buyers have access to a larger variety of products from numerous suppliers, allowing for price comparison and cost-effectiveness.
- **Benefits for Sellers:** Businesses gain easy access to the national public procurement market and government organizations, with a user-friendly platform for bids and monitoring.

**Challenges for Informal Sector Sellers:**

- **Registration Hurdles:** The current registration process can be lengthy and require documents like GSTIN or PAN cards, which informal sector businesses often lack.
- **Unrealistic Pricing:** Low mandated prices set by government departments and a compulsory minimum discount can make fulfilling orders unprofitable for small businesses.
- **Distance Factor:** Bids are often for distant locations, adding logistical costs and reducing profit margins.

**Proposed Solutions:**

- **Simplified Registration:** Streamlining the registration process, similar to the MSME Ministry's Udyam Portal, would make it easier for informal businesses to join GeM.
- **Dynamic Pricing:** A more flexible pricing system based on market rates and past orders could ensure fair compensation for sellers.
- **Local Matching:** Matching government orders with local vendors would reduce shipping costs and support local businesses, aligning with the "Vocal for Local" campaign.

**Way forward**

- Overall, GeM is a positive step towards a more efficient and transparent public procurement system.
- By addressing the challenges faced by informal sector sellers, GeM can further empower small businesses and create a more inclusive marketplace.

## 8. India launches database to record crimes against UN peacekeepers- Business Standard

**Relevance:** Important International institutions, agencies and for their structure, mandate.

**News:**

- India has launched a new database designed to record crimes against UN peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable

**The UN peacekeeping**

- It marks its 75th anniversary this year and a yearlong campaign has been organized for the same.
- UN Peacekeeping has been one of the most important tools for mitigating conflict and promoting peace and security around the globe.
- The Department of Peace Operations of the UN plays the function of peacekeeping as an "instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace".
- Although the United Nations acknowledges that all actions are "mutually reinforcing" and that overlap between them is common in practice, it is separated from peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peace enforcement.
- The theme of the 75th anniversary "Peace begins with me" recognizes the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers, past and present.
- It also pays tribute to the resilience of the communities that we serve, who continue to strive for peace

**Prelims Takeaway**

- UN Peacekeeping
- UN

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Kerala govt goes to SC over Governor withholding assent to Bills: The issues and the law -The 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.

**News:**

- **The Kerala government** last week **approached the Supreme Court** saying **President had withheld assent to four Bills passed by the state “while disclosing no reason**
- Governor had withheld assent to seven Bills — some for as long as two years — before referring them to the President.
- Kerala urged the top court to declare the referring of state Bills to the President as “unconstitutional and lacking in good faith”.

<p><b>Governor a role</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Indian Constitution <b>gives the Governor a role in the state's lawmaking process, but this can lead to friction.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Governor's Options:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approve the Bill:</b> This is the most common scenario.</li> <li>• <b>Withhold Assent:</b> The Governor can temporarily block the Bill from becoming law. They can ask the legislature to reconsider it.</li> <li>• <b>Send to President:</b> In some cases, the Governor can send the Bill to the President for review.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Controversy: Taking Too Long</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution doesn't specify how long a Governor has to decide on a Bill.</li> <li>• Some Governors hold onto Bills for a long time, frustrating lawmakers.</li> </ul> <p><b>States Fighting Back</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several state governments have gone to court arguing that Governors are exceeding their authority by delaying decisions.</li> </ul> <p><b>President's Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President's role is more limited than the Governor's.</li> <li>• The President can either approve or reject Bills sent for review, but unlike Governors, Presidents must provide a reason for rejecting a Bill.</li> </ul>
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**The Issue Remains:**

- While the Court's decision clarifies the Governor's responsibility, it doesn't give a specific timeframe for decision-making.
- This means the potential for conflict remains. The Kerala government's recent petition to the Supreme Court highlights this ongoing debate.

### 10. On sustainable building materials | Explained- The Hindu

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

**Context:**

- India is witnessing an unprecedented construction boom, with over 3,00,000 housing units erected annually.
- This growth brings economic opportunities and improved **living standards but also poses significant environmental challenges.**
- The building sector, a major energy consumer, accounts for over 33% of India's electricity usage, contributing to environmental degradation and climate change.



- **The India Cooling Action Plan forecasts an eight-fold increase** in cooling demand between 2017 and 2037, emphasising the need for thermal comfort while reducing active cooling demand.

**Eco-Niwas Samhita:**

- It is a Residential Energy Conservation Building code developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- The code sets standards to limit heat gain and loss and ensure adequate natural ventilation and day lighting potential.

**It was launched in two parts**

- ENS 2018 (Part 1) sets minimum standards for building envelope designs for energy-efficient residential buildings.
- ENS Part 2 launched by the Bureau as ENS 2021 focuses on the building's code compliance and electromechanical systems.
- It also addresses other aspects such as, Energy Efficiency in Electro-Mechanical Equipment for Building Operation, Renewable Energy Generation, Embodied Energy of Walling Materials and Structural Systems.

**Residential Envelope Transmittance Value**

- It is a metric measuring heat transfer through a building's envelope.
- Lower RETV values lead to cooler indoor environments and decreased energy usage.
- For optimal efficiency, improved occupant comfort and lower utility expenses, it's recommended to maintain an RETV of 15W/m<sup>2</sup> or less.

**What next?**

- Interdisciplinary collaborations with sustainability experts to delve deeper into integrated design and optimise strategies can unlock the potential for a sustainable built environment.
- the journey toward sustainable construction is challenging but essential for a greener future.
- By re-imagining construction design and practices, manufacturing innovative walling materials, and fostering a culture of sustainability, we can create resilient and energy-efficient structures that align with environmental goals and significantly improve the quality of life for the masses.


**Mentorship**  
India

## Quick Look

### 1. Solar Flares

- Solar flares are large explosions that occur at the sun's surface when twisted magnetic field lines suddenly snap, emitting large bursts of electromagnetic radiation.
- They are seen as bright areas on the sun and they can last from minutes to hours.
- In a matter of just a few minutes, they heat the material to many millions of degrees and produce a burst of radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum
  - Including from radio waves to x-rays and gamma rays.
  - Although solar flares can be visible in white light, they are often more readily noticed via their bright X-ray and ultraviolet emissions.

### 2. AMRUT Scheme

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in 2015, in 500 selected cities and towns across the country.
- It has been subsumed under AMRUT 2.0 in 2021.
- It focuses on development of basic infrastructure in the selected cities and towns in the sectors of water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces and parks, and non-motorized urban transport.
- A set of Urban Reforms and Capacity Building have been included in the mission.
- AMRUT 2.0, which was launched for a period 2021-26, is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps
  - to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the AMRUT scheme.

### 3. Non-Performing Asset (NPA)

- A NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days. They can include various types of loans, such as personal loans, business loans, mortgages and credit card debt.
- When the ratio of NPAs in a bank's loan portfolio rises, its income and profitability fall, its capacity to lend falls and the possibility of loan defaults and write-offs rise.
- Types of NPAs: Different types of NPAs depend on how long they remain in the NPA category

### 4. Cnemaspis vangoghi

- It is a new species of lizard discovered from the Southern Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu. It is named for Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890), as the striking colouration of the new species is reminiscent of one of his most iconic paintings, The Starry Night.
- It is described as a small-sized gecko and has a distinctive yellow head and forebody, adorned with light blue spots on the back.
- It prefers living among rocks and can occasionally be found on buildings and trees.
- Both species inhabit low-elevation, deciduous forests within the Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve, adding to the five previously known endemic vertebrates of the region.

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the following options**

**Product : state**

1. Wancho Wooden Craft : Arunachal Pradesh
2. Garad Saree : West Bengal
3. Panneer grape : Maharastra

**How many of the pairs given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q2. Consider the following statement:**

**Statements I:** Global Peace Summit on Ukraine Hosted by Ukraine

**Statements II:** Aim and Agenda of the Summit is to convene world leaders with the primary agenda of discussing strategies to discuss with global south to help ukraine against Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q3. Consider the following statements about The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA):**

1. The law aimed to control foreign donations to ensure organizations receiving them operated in line with India's democratic values.
2. NGOs that want foreign donations must register with the FCRA and open a special account at the State Bank of India in Delhi.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) enforces the law and can block donations used against India's national interests.

**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 statement :**

**Statements I:** cVigil app released by ministry of home affairs to keep an eye on neighboring countries.

**Statements II:** The aim of the app is to regulate cross-border terrorism, Infiltration and exfiltration of armed militants.

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q5. Consider the following statements about Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD):**

1. It is a communications protocol used in Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) networks for sending short text messages.
2. It is an instant messaging service and messages are not stored on the operator side or on the subscriber's device.
3. The maximum length of a USSD message is 182 characters, but most codes are much shorter

**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 about The Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**

1. The GIB is endemic to the Thar Desert and nowhere else found in India.
2. The main threat to GIBs is the loss of their grassland habitat due to agricultural expansion.
3. The GIB lays multiple eggs in a clutch, increasing their chances of successful breeding.

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

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

**Q7. Consider the following statements about GeM (Government e-Marketplace)**

1. Launched in 2016, GeM (Government e-Marketplace) is an online platform for government agencies to buy and sell goods and services.
2. It's mandatory for central and state government departments, PSUs, and affiliated organizations to use GeM for procurement.
3. GeM streamlines public procurement by offering various buying options like bidding and direct purchase.

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

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

**Q8. United Nations peacekeeping plays a vital role in maintaining global security. Analyze the following statements and choose the correct option:**

1. UN peacekeeping missions are primarily focused on enforcing peace agreements between warring parties.
2. The deployment of UN peacekeeping forces requires mandatory approval from all five permanent members of the Security Council.
3. UN peacekeeping missions are funded through mandatory contributions from member states.

**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**

1. The Governor can temporarily block the Bill from becoming law and can ask the legislature to reconsider it.
2. The Constitution doesn't specify how long a Governor has to decide on a Bill.
3. The President can either approve or reject Bills sent for review, but unlike Governors, Presidents must provide a reason for rejecting a Bill.

**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 Eco-Niwas Samhita:**

1. It is a Residential Energy Conservation Building code developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
2. The code sets standards to limit heat gain and loss and ensure adequate natural ventilation and day lighting potential.
3. It also addresses other aspects such as, Energy Efficiency in Electro-Mechanical Equipment for Building Operation, Renewable Energy Generation, Embodied Energy of Walling Materials and Structural Systems.

**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 A is correct

#### Explanation

- The Panneer grape is a special grape variety grown primarily in the Cumbum Valley of Tamil Nadu.
- Unlike most Indian grapes with a limited harvest season, Panneer grapes thrive year-round.
- They boast a delicious taste alongside their distinctive purplish-brown color.
- Geographical Recognition: In recognition of its unique qualities, the Panneer grape received a Geographical Indication Tag in 2023. **Hence, OPTION C is incorrect.**

### Answer 2 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- Global Peace Summit on Ukraine
- The summit was Hosted by Switzerland
- Aim and Agenda of the Summit :
- The summit aims to convene world leaders with the primary agenda of discussing strategies to halt Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.
- It will help to demonstrate global unity to advocate for a resolution to the conflict
- Invited Nations from the Global South to ensure diverse representation and perspectives at the summit. **Hence, BOTH statement are incorrect.**
- Switzerland agrees to host global peace summit on Ukraine, aiming to find a resolution to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine

### Answer 3 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- The law aimed to control foreign donations to ensure organizations receiving them operated in line with India's democratic values.
- Strengthened in 2010 and again in 2020, the FCRA gives the government more control over how NGOs handle foreign funds.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) enforces the law and can block donations used against India's national interests.
- Registration: NGOs that want foreign donations must register with the FCRA and open a special account at the State Bank of India in Delhi.
- The funds can only be used for approved purposes. Annual reports are required, and transfers to other NGOs are not allowed.

- Restrictions: The FCRA prohibits receiving foreign funds for people in certain professions (like journalists or politicians) and organizations with political aims. **Hence, ALL statements are correct.**

### Answer 4 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the cVigil app, putting the power to report electoral malpractices right in your pocket.
- This user-friendly app makes it easier than ever to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.
- Report on the Go: Witness political misconduct? With cVigil, you can file a complaint within minutes, eliminating the need to visit the Returning Officer's office.
- Real-Time Evidence Capture: Capture photos, videos, or audio recordings directly through the app, providing valuable evidence of the violation. **Hence, BOTH statements are incorrect.**

### Answer 5 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- It is a communications protocol used in Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) networks for sending short text messages.
- It is an instant messaging service and messages are not stored on the operator side or on the subscriber's device.
- It is also used for checking IMEI numbers of mobiles.
- USSD, or Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, is a way to communicate with your mobile network operator directly from your phone. It's like a simple messaging system built into your phone that doesn't require internet or store messages.
- The maximum length of a USSD message is 182 characters, but most codes are much shorter. **Hence, ALL statements are correct.**

### Answer 6 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- While the Thar Desert is a significant habitat for GIBs, they are also found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

- The main threat to GIBs is overhead power transmission lines. Their poor frontal vision and weight make them vulnerable to collisions.
- The GIB lays only one egg every 1-2 years, making them particularly susceptible to habitat loss and other disturbances. **Hence, ALL statements are incorrect.**

**Answer 7 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- The procurement of goods and services through the centre's Government e-Market (GeM) portal has crossed Rs 4 trillion so far this fiscal
- buying activities by various ministries and departments have picked up pace, a senior government official said
- Launched in 2016, GeM (Government e-Marketplace) is an online platform for government agencies to buy and sell goods and services.
- It's mandatory for central and state government departments, PSUs, and affiliated organizations to use GeM for procurement.
- Benefits of GeM:
- Increased Efficiency, Transparency, and Speed: GeM streamlines public procurement by offering various buying options like bidding and direct purchase. **Hence, ALL statements are correct.**

**Answer 8 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- UN peacekeeping missions are deployed to conflict zones after a ceasefire or peace agreement to monitor and stabilize the situation, create conditions for lasting peace, and protect civilians. They are not directly involved in enforcing peace agreements through military action. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Deployment of peacekeeping forces requires authorization by the UN Security Council, but approval from all five permanent members (China, France, Russia, UK, USA) is not mandatory. A veto by any permanent member can block deployment, but a simple majority vote suffices for authorization. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

- UN peacekeeping missions are funded through assessed contributions from member states, meaning the amount each country contributes is calculated based on a formula considering factors like GDP and population. These contributions are not mandatory, but member states are obligated to pay their assessed share. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 9 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- The Governor can temporarily block the Bill from becoming law. They can ask the legislature to reconsider it.
- Send to President: In some cases, the Governor can send the Bill to the President for review.
- The Controversy: Taking Too Long
- The Constitution doesn't specify how long a Governor has to decide on a Bill.
- Some Governors hold onto Bills for a long time, frustrating lawmakers.
- States Fighting Back
- Several state governments have gone to court arguing that Governors are exceeding their authority by delaying decisions. **Hence, ALL statements are correct.**

**Answer 10 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- It is a Residential Energy Conservation Building code developed by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- The code sets standards to limit heat gain and loss and ensure adequate natural ventilation and day lighting potential.
- It was launched in two parts
- ENS 2018 (Part 1) sets minimum standards for building envelope designs for energy-efficient residential buildings.
- ENS Part 2 launched by the Bureau as ENS 2021 focuses on the building's code compliance and electromechanical systems.
- It also addresses other aspects such as, Energy Efficiency in Electro-Mechanical Equipment for Building Operation, Renewable Energy Generation, Embodied Energy of Walling Materials and Structural Systems. **Hence, ALL statements are correct.**

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