

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 30 September 2023

Important News Articles

1. 'Age of consent under POCSO must remain'
2. Afghan consulates counter embassy's decision to shut down
3. Electoral bonds to go on sale from October 4
4. In SC case on Agama, the contested history of temple priesthood
5. Hot, dry August lifts core sector growth to a 14-month high - The Hindu
6. FinMin notifies Oct 1 date for implementing amended provisions for e-gaming- Indian express
7. Damsfly species found in Western Ghats named after climate impact on insects
8. IAF to buy 156 more 'Prachand' Light Combat choppers for deployment along China, Pak border

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Push for more women, this time in the police - The Hindu
2. Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review - The Hindu

Quick Look

1. Naganathaswamy Temple
2. Armageddon Reedtail
3. Toto language
4. Greater sand-plover

Important News Articles

GS II

1. 'Age of consent under POCSO must remain'

Relevance: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

News:

- The government **should not tinker with the age of consent currently 18 years** under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**, the Law Commission said in a report
- Instead, **it advised the introduction of "guided judicial discretion"** while sentencing in cases that involve the tacit approval of children in the 16 to 18 years age bracket.

Prelims Takeaway

- Law Commission

Tacit approval'

- In the report, **the Law panel noted that certain amendments would be required in the POCSO Act, 2012** to remedy the situation in cases involving tacit approval, though not consent under law, on the part of children aged between 16 and 18 years.
- reference **was made by the Madhya Pradesh High Court (Gwalior Bench)** in April this year,
- the Court noted that the enforcement of the POCSO Act, **in its present form, "causes injustice in cases of statutory rape where de facto consent is present"**.

Reporting crime in real time

- The **Law Commission also submitted a report (no. 282)** in which it recommended **amending Section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973**
 - in order to roll out the registration of e-FIRs in a phased manner, beginning with offences that attract a jail term of up to three years.

2. Afghan consulates counter embassy's decision to shut down

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

News:

- Afghanistan's last remaining diplomats in Delhi plan their exit**, citing a resource crunch and lack of support from the Ministry of External Affairs,
- The **move to shut down the Embassy could cast a long shadow on the future of about 25,000 Afghan refugees in India.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Taliban

Key points

- No government has yet recognised the Taliban as the legitimate authority** in Kabul, although at least 15 countries, including India, operate diplomatic missions there.
- In addition, many **like Russia, China, Pakistan, and some central Asian countries** have allowed the Taliban to appoint Acting Ambassadors in their capitals
- while **some have even allowed the black and white flag of the Taliban's Islamic Emirate to replace** the red, green and black tricolor of the previous Islamic Republic.
- However, **since 2021, the government has canceled all visas to Afghans**, issuing only a handful to Afghan citizens since then,
- This **left in the lurch thousands of Afghan students** who had received admission in Indian institutes.

India approached Afghanistan since the Taliban Regime

- After the Taliban takeover, **India is caught in the middle of this dilemma** divided between restoring Afghanistan as a strategic priority in its policy and the practical hurdles on the ground.
- Currently, **India is assessing three broad ways of potential engagement** with Afghanistan:
 - Providing humanitarian assistance.
 - Exploring a joint counterterrorism effort with other partners.
 - Engaging in talks with the Taliban.

- The end goal of all these is to **restore people-to-people links and prevent backsliding** of the gains Delhi's developmental aid has made in Afghanistan in the past two decades.
- **India has undertaken more than 400 key infrastructure** projects in all 34 Afghan provinces and has signed strategic agreements to enhance trade and bilateral relations.
- **From 2002 to 2021, India spent \$4 bn in development assistance in Afghanistan**, building high-visibility projects such as highways, hospitals, the parliament building, rural schools, and electricity transmission lines.
- **These projects have created a vast and deep pool of goodwill** for India of the kind that no other country can claim.
- One of the projects that was left incomplete was the **Shahtoot Dam**, to provide drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul.

3. Electoral bonds to go on sale from October 4

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

News:

- The government on September 29 announced the 28th **tranche of electoral bond sales to be undertaken over a ten-day window starting October 4** and closing on October 13, at all authorised branches of the State Bank of India.

Key points

- In November 2022, **the government had amended the scheme to grant itself the power to declare an extra fortnight of electoral bond sales** in years when States and Union Territories with a legislature have polls.
- Individuals **can buy electoral bonds on their own** or along with others, and remit them to registered political parties with at least one percent vote share in the Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha elections.
- **The bonds are valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issuance.**

Electoral Bonds

- **Electoral bonds are money instruments like promissory notes**, which can be bought by companies and individuals in India from the **State Bank of India (SBI)**
- It is **donated to a political party, which can then encash these bonds.**
- **The bonds are only redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.**
- **A person being an individual can buy bonds**, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

Electoral Bond Scheme

- **Electoral Bonds Scheme was launched in 2018** to cleanse political funding in India.
- The central idea behind the electoral bonds scheme is **to bring about transparency in electoral funding in India.**
- **The government had described the scheme as an "electoral reform" in a country moving towards a "cashless-digital economy".**

4. In SC case on Agama, the contested history of temple priesthood

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

News:

- Recently, the Supreme Court ordered status quo on the appointment of archakas (priests) in Agamic temples in Tamil Nadu.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Agamas

The Agamas

- These are a **collection of Tantric literature (in Tamil and Sanskrit) and scriptures of Hindu schools.**
- The three **main branches of Agama texts are Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Shakta.**
- The term '**Agamas**' **literally means tradition** or that which has come down, and the Agama texts describe yoga, mantras, temple construction, deity worship, etc.

- Temple worship according to Agamic rules can be said to have started during the **Pallava dynasty (551-901 AD) in South India**, but they were fully under establishment during the Chola dynasty (848-1279 AD).
- The niches of following **Agamic rules for building Shiva temples in Tamil Nadu continues even in the modern era.**
- Almost all the temples follow **the same custom during festivals and worship methods** with minor exceptions.

the Priests of Agamic temples Approach SC

- An association of **archakas had challenged reforms introduced by the present govt of Tamil Nadu**, which are seen as attempting to change the hereditary system of appointing archakas in Agama temples.
- The **petitioners asked for the quashing of the state government's order**, which paved the way for individuals trained in Agama Sastra, irrespective of caste and gender, to assume priesthood.
- The **petitioners alleged the state government** was unlawfully attempting to appoint non-believers as archakas, infringing upon religious rights protected under the Constitution of India.
- They **contended that knowledge of the Agamas** required years of rigorous training under learned Gurus and a one-year certificate course run by the government is not sufficient to assume priesthood.

GS III

5. Hot, dry August lifts core sector growth to a 14-month high - The Hindu

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

News:

- Output at **India's eight core infrastructure sectors** climbed by a combined 12.1% in August, the fastest pace in 14 months,
- five of them **reported double-digit growth, spurring hopes of a healthy uptick** in industrial production last month.

Eight Core Sectors

- These **comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**
- The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: **Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.**

Index of Industrial Production

- **IIP is an indicator that measures** the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- It is compiled and **published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is a composite indicator that measures **the growth rate of industry groups classified under:**
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- Base Year for IIP is **2011-2012.**

6. FinMin notifies Oct 1 date for implementing amended provisions for e-gaming- Indian express

Relevance: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News:

- The Finance Ministry has notified October 1 as the date for implementation of the amended Goods and Services Tax (GST) law provisions for taxing e-gaming, casinos and horse racing.

Prelims Takeaway

- Online gaming

Key Points

- According to the changes to the Central GST Act, these supplies will be treated as “actionable claims” that are similar to lottery, betting and gambling and subject to 28 per cent GST on full face value of bets.
- The amendments to Integrated GST (IGST) Act makes it mandatory for offshore online gaming platforms to take registration in India and pay taxes in accordance with domestic law.
- In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council, comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, had approved amendments to the law to include:
 - online gaming
 - casinos and horse racing as taxable actionable claims,
- clarified that such supplies would attract 28 per cent tax on full bet value.
- Parliament last month passed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council’s decision.

the Draft Rules for Online Gaming (as an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021)

- Online gaming companies must register with a self-regulatory body.
- The body must have a board of directors with five members from diverse fields, including online gaming, public policy, IT, psychology, and medicine.
- Online gaming companies must undertake additional due diligence, including KYC of users, transparent withdrawal and refund of money, and a fair distribution of winnings.
- Gaming companies must secure a Random Number Generation Certificate, which is typically used by platforms that offer card games to ensure that game outputs are statistically random and unpredictable.
- Online gaming companies will not be allowed to engage in betting on the outcome of games.
- Online gaming platforms must appoint a compliance officer, a nodal officer, and a grievance officer.

7. Damselfly species found in Western Ghats named after climate impact on insects

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

News:

- Recently, researchers from MIT-World Peace University from Pune discovered a new damselfly species in Kerala’s southern Western Ghats and named it as ‘Armageddon reedtail’.

Prelims Takeaway

- Western Ghats

Armageddon Reedtail

- The species was discovered northeast of Thiruvananthapuram.
- It has a captivating dark brown to black body with vibrant greenish-blue eyes, and half of its eight abdominal segments are marked with delicate pale blue markings.
- Its only habitat is primary montane streams, where it thrives beneath dense canopy cover.
- The name, Armageddon Reedtail, is a direct reference to the concept of “Ecological Armageddon”, a term used to describe the devastating decline of insect populations around the world.
- This species faces the threat of extinction due to habitat loss and changing environmental conditions.

Western Ghats

- It is also known as the **Sahyadri Hills**, are well known for their rich and unique assemblage of **flora and fauna**.
- The range is called **Sahyadri in northern Maharashtra and Sahya Parvatham in Kerala**.
- The northern **portion of the narrow coastal plain between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea is known as the Konkan Coast**.
- The central portion is called **Kanara** and the southern portion is called **Malabar region or the Malabar Coast**.
- The foothill region east of the Ghats in Maharashtra is known as **Desh**, while the eastern foothills of central Karnataka state is known as **Malanadu**.
- In the south the range is known as **the Nilgiri malai in Tamil Nadu**.
- It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- **It is one of the eight hotspots of biological diversity in the world** due to its high level of biological diversity and endemism.

8. IAF to buy 156 more 'Prachand' Light Combat choppers for deployment along China, Pak border

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to place orders for **156 'Made-in-India' Prachand attack helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Prachand attack helicopters

Prachand attack helicopters

- It is an **indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)**.
- It is **developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.**
- The **multi-role attack helicopter** has been customized as per the requirements of the Indian armed forces to operate both in desert terrains and high-altitude sectors.
- It is the **only attack helicopter in the world** that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft).
- It is **fitted with a 5.8-tonne twin-engine named Shakti engine**, primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude areas.
- Its **maximum speed is 268 kilometres per hour**.
- It has a range of **550 kilometres and endurance of over three hours**.
- It has the **best stealth features, armored-shield systems**, and dark-mode attack capability.
- A pressurized **cabin offers protection from nuclear, biological, and chemical contingencies**.
- It is equipped **with a countermeasure dispensing system that protects it from enemy radars or infrared seekers of enemy missiles**.
- The weapon complement includes a **20mm nose gun in the front, capable of firing 800 rounds per minute from a range of up to 2 km**.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Push for more women, this time in the police - The Hindu

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

Context

- In a few years from now, **women lawmakers** will form at **least 33%** of all lawmakers in India.
- The **Constitution** (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) **Bill, 2023** has been passed by both **Houses of Parliament**.
- The purpose of this amendment is to increase **women's participation in policymaking**.

Reservation, actual availability in the police

- Most States have a policy to fill up 30% or 33% of the vacant posts (of direct recruitment) with women in their police forces through horizontal reservation – i.e., if the minimum reserved vacant posts are not filled up in each category of the SC, ST, Other Backward Classes and unreserved with women on merit, women candidates are pushed up in the list to make up for the gap.
- The reservation for women in the State armed police forces is restricted to 10% in some States.
- Women are generally recruited against notified vacancies after permission is granted by the government to fill up vacancies.
- According to the details published by the BPR&D, a few States such as Kerala, Mizoram and Goa do not have a policy of reservation for women in the police force, but women's representation in these States varies between 6% and 11%.
- Though the MHA has repeatedly asked States to increase the representation of women in the police force to 33%, the actual availability remains low.
- Many States do not have a permanent police recruitment board and do not have a free hand to undertake recruitment at regular intervals.
- Assuming that the attrition rate in the police forces is about 2.5% to 3% and the annual sanction of new posts to be about 1.5% to 2%, recruitment is done only against about 4% to 5% of the total posts.
- Thus, going by the past, it would take not less than 20 years to increase women's representation from 10% to 30% in the entire police force.

Crime data and need for more women police

- With 'criminal law' and 'criminal procedure' on the Concurrent List, the central government has made various amendments in these laws; certain reports and statements are to be mandatorily recorded by a woman police officer.
- Arrest and search of a woman accused must be done by a woman police officer.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau data, about 10% of the total crime defined under the Indian Penal Code was committed against women and about 5.3% of total arrested persons in 2021 were women.
- Therefore, the available women force is insufficient even in dealing with cases that are related to women.
- Women are also needed for law-and-order and day-to-day duties.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has further enlarged the scope of women recruitment in the police force
- It is undisputed that women can handle any assignment in a police institution.
- They have already proved their mettle in most police duties. In a democratic country, every institution needs to be truly representative of its populace to win their trust.

Efforts must be made

- 'Police' being a 'State' subject in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the implementation of 'police reforms' remains primarily a concern of the States.
- The MHA began providing financial incentives from 2018-19 (by reserving 10% in the first year and 20% of total modernisation funds thereafter) to States that implement police reforms to a satisfactory level.
- Similarly, though the establishment of the Police Recruitment Board was another such reform, many States were not enthusiastic about implementing this, and, consequently, did not get this benefit.
- The MHA also provided a special grant to encourage States to establish a 'women desk' in every police station.
- But there are not enough women personnel to handle them in the districts. The MHA also has a special provision in the modernisation plan to build separate toilets for women staff, and ensure crèche facilities for children in every police station which is sanctioned thus.

Conclusion

- Efforts should be made to encourage more women to join the police force – for this, a conducive environment and basic infrastructure are a minimum necessity.

2. Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review - The Hindu

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

Context

- The recently **concluded G-20 Declaration**, among its many **commitments, reiterated** the need to **pursue reform** of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** to **improve** all its **functions** and **conduct proactive discussions** “to ensure a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system **accessible to all members by 2024**”.

On the ISDS

- While the future of the WTO's appellate process is uncertain, another area of international law witnessing the formative stages for an appellate process is international investment law through investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS), an ubiquitous component of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs).
- The ISDS today is the principal means to settle international investment law disputes.
- India has had a chequered history with ISDS, with five adverse awards: four in favour, and several pending claims.

Benefits of an appellate review

- A critical structural facet of the ISDS mechanism is that it operates through ad hoc or one-off arbitration tribunals without any appellate review.
- In international investment law, hundreds of ISDS tribunals operating under different arbitral institutions have, on several occasions, offered diverging interpretations of the same treaty provision.
- Likewise, these tribunals have reached opposite conclusions despite interpreting and applying the same treaty to the same facts.
- The absence of an appellate review mechanism has meant that inconsistent and incoherent decisions and legal reasoning dot the landscape of international investment law.
- This has caused instability and improbability for states and foreign investors, making the regime chaotic.
- An appellate review mechanism will allow for rectifying errors of law and harmonising diverging interpretations.
- It will have the power to uphold, modify, or reverse the decision of a first-tier tribunal and thus bring coherence and consistency, which, in turn, will infuse predictability and certainty into the ISDS system.
- An appellate mechanism will also be better than existing mechanisms such as the annulment proceedings, which only apply to arbitrations administered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

India's stand

- Although India has not made a formal statement on this issue, India, presumably, supports the idea of an appellate review in the ISDS because Article 29 of the Indian model BIT talks of it.
- Given India's concerns about inconsistency and incoherence in the ISDS system, supporting the creation of an appellate review mechanism will be in India's interest.

Way forward

- Since India's quest has always been to establish a rule-based global order, it should support an appellate review which will usher in greater confidence for states and investors in international investment law.

Mentorship
India

Quick Look

1. Naganathaswamy Temple

- It was built by Rajendra Chola I (1012-1044 CE).
- It is referred as Kailasamudaiyar temple in inscriptions.

Features

- It is known for its exquisite stone sculptures and important inscriptions.
- It consists of an ekatala vimana and a mukha mandapa.
- The walls of both structures are divided into three bays.
- The central bays of the vimana have niches to accommodate Dakshinamurthi in the south, Lingodhbava in the west and Brahma in the north.
- The mukha mandapa is provided with three niches on the south and the north.
- Excellent sculptures of Bikshatana, Adavallan and Ganapathi decorate the south, whereas Gangadarara, Durga and Ammaippar are in the north.
- All the niches have well carved and distinctive makara thoranas (ceremonial arches) with relief sculptures in the centre.
- Inscriptions: The temple is known for its important inscriptions belonging to the periods of Rajendra Chola I and Kulothunga I (regnal years 1070-1120 CE).
- Nine interesting and informative inscriptions have been recorded from this temple.
- The earliest among them belongs to the fourth regnal year of Rajendra Chola I.
- It refers to a grant of land free of taxes by the nagarathar of Ilaichikkudi for raising a flower garden named after the king for the use of the temple.

2. Armageddon Reedtail

- The species was discovered northeast of Thiruvananthapuram.
- Features: It has a captivating dark brown to black body with vibrant greenish-blue eyes, and half of its eight abdominal segments are marked with delicate pale blue markings.
- Its only habitat is primary montane streams, where it thrives beneath dense canopy cover.
- The name, Armageddon Reedtail, is a direct reference to the concept of "Ecological Armageddon", a term used to describe the devastating decline of insect populations around the world.
- Threat: This species faces the threat of extinction due to habitat loss and changing environmental conditions.

3. Toto language

- It is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by the tribal Toto people and is written in the Bengali script
- A prominent community member Dhaniram Toto developed a script as recently as in 2015.
- It is spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan.

Toto Shabda Sangraha

- The dictionary has been compiled by Bhakta Toto, a bank employee-cum-poet, and published jointly by the trust and Bhasha Samsad
- The dictionary is a step in the direction of preserving the language, alive so far only orally, by putting its vocabulary in print.
- Toto words, to be translated into Bengali and English, will be composed in the Bengali script, considering that the Toto script is still in a nascent stage and members of the tribe are more familiar with the Bengali script.

4. Greater sand-plover

- It is known for long distance migration.

Appearance

- It is a medium-sized plover with a long hefty bill.
- Breeding adults have a dark mask and orangish chest, neck, and forehead; females duller than males.
- Non-breeding birds and immatures are sandy brown above and white below, with a white throat and “eyebrows.”
- Additionally, unlike some Lesser Sand-Plovers, Greater never has a black boundary around the throat.
- It breeds in high-elevation areas, where it favors arid, open habitats, sometimes near water. Winters on coastal mudflats and estuaries.
- It breeds during April to May in central Asia, late March to late May in Turkey and upto late June in Armenia.
- It winters in the shores of Indian and Australian Oceans after the breeding.
- Diet: The bird’s diet consists of beetles, worms, crustaceans, molluscs, other insects and their larvae.
- Habitat: Mudflats and sandy shores.
- Behaviour/Ecology: Associates with other feeding shorebirds, especially Lesser Sand Plover.
- Conservation status
 - IUCN: Least Concern



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding provisions of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). Which of the statements is INCORRECT ?

- A. The Act calls for mandatory reporting of sexual offences.
- B. A false complaint with intent to defame a person is also punishable under the Act
- C. "Children" according to the Act are individuals aged below 18 years.
- D. The primary body tasked with implementing the provisions of the Act is the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Q2. Consider the following statement Afghanistan

1. In Afghan politics, Taliban is a Sunni fundamentalist organization.
2. The word Taliban means students in the Pashto language.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Electoral Bonds.

1. Electoral bonds, can be given to a registered political party which is either a national party or a state party.
2. Although called a bond, the banking instrument resembling promissory notes will not carry any interest.

Select the correct answer using the codes given.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Q4. Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects." The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- A. Buddhism
- B. Jainism
- C. Shaivism
- D. Vaishnavism

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding "Index of Industrial Production (IIP)":

1. IIP is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
2. The Base year of IIP is 2011 – 12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q6. With reference to online gaming, consider the following statements:

1. Goa and Sikkim prohibit any sort of gambling, betting or wagering on games of chance.
2. E-sports were earlier played privately or on consoles in video game shops but are now played online in an organised way.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary, where a new damselfly species (Protosticta anamalaica) was spotted, is in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerela
- C. Tamilnadu
- D. Maharashtra

Q8. With reference to Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Prachand, consider the following statements;

1. Chetak and Cheetah are indigenous light combat attack helicopters.

2. The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 meters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?

- A. World Economic Forum
B. UN Human Rights Council
C. UN Women
D. World Health Organization

Q10. With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge

by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.

2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Answer

Ans:1 Option D is Correct

Explanation

- The Act calls for mandatory reporting of sexual offences. A false complaint with intent to defame a person is also punishable under the Act.
- "Children" according to the Act are individuals aged below 18 years. The Act is gender-neutral.
- Different forms of sexual abuse including but not limited to sexual harassment, pornography, penetrative & non-penetrative assault are defined in the Act.
- The power to make rules lies with the central government. To monitor the implementation of the Act, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) have been made the designated authority. Both being statutory bodies.
- Section 42 A of the Act gives POCSO Act overriding powers over other acts.

Ans:2 Option D is Correct

Explanation

- In Afghan politics Taliban is a Sunni fundamentalist organization. **statement 1 is Correct**
- The word Taliban means students in the Pashto language. **statement 2 is Correct**

Ans:3 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- Electoral bonds will allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary.
- Although called a bond, the banking instrument resembling promissory notes will not carry any interest.
- The electoral bond, which will be a bearer instrument, will not carry the name of the payee and can be bought for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore
- Eligibility: electoral bonds, can be given to a registered political party which has secured at least 1 per cent vote in the last Lok Sabha or state assembly elections. That party will have to give one bank account to the Election Commission and it will have to be encashed within 15 days.
- Need: The electoral bonds are aimed at rooting out the current system of largely

anonymous cash donations made to political parties which lead to the generation of black money in the economy.

Ans:4 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- Jain religion believe in reincarnation. This cycle of birth, death, and rebirth is determined by one's karma.
- Jains believe bad karma is caused by harming living things. To avoid bad karma, Jains must practice ahimsa, a strict code of nonviolence.
- Jains believe plants, animals, and even some nonliving things (like air and water) have souls, just as humans do.
- The principle of nonviolence includes doing no harm to humans, plants, animals, and nature.

Ans:5 Option C is Correct

Explanation

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- It is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
- The index is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme. It is implemented six weeks after the reference month ends, i.e a lag of six weeks.
- The Base Year of the Index of Eight Core Industries has been revised from the year 2004-05 to 2011-12 from April, 2017.

Ans:6 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- These states allow betting and gambling on games of chance. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**
- E-sports are the video games which, in the 1990s, were played privately or on consoles in video game shops but are now played online in an organised way between professional players, individually or as teams **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

Ans:7 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- Entomologists from the Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS) have recently identified the species, Anamalai Reed-tail (Protosticta anamalaica) from the Western Ghats in the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur.

- With this, the number of odonates in Kerala has grown to 182.
- The insect was first spotted at Ponmudi hills in the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary of the Munnar landscape.
- The genus Protosticta Sels consists of slender-built damselflies commonly known as Reed-tails or Shadow-damsels.

Ans:8 Option B is Correct

Explanation

- India has been operating sub-3-ton category French-origin legacy helicopters, Chetak and Cheetah, made in India by the HAL. These single-engine machines are primarily used for utility helicopters. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**
- The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world which can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 meters with a considerable load of weapons and fuel, meeting the specific requirements laid out by the Indian Armed Forces. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

Ans:9 Option A is Correct

Explanation

Global Gender Gap Index:

- It is released by World Economic Forum which is an annual report. Hence the option 1 is correct. • The first publication of this index was released in 2006.
- This index is ranked among 153 countries by using 4 dimensions namely as follows,
 - Educational attainment,
 - Health and survival,
 - Economic participation & opportunity and
 - Political empowerment.
- According to the 14th edition of the Global Gender Gap Index, India has ranked in the 112th position whereas Ireland is topped among the countries.

Ans:10 Option C is Correct

Power to review its own judgement

- Article 137 of the Constitution of India, 1950, provides that subject to provisions of any law and rules made under Article 145, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it.
- According to article 128 of the Indian Constitution, the chief justice of India may at any time request a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a retired judge of a high court (who is duly qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court) to act as a judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. He can do so only with the previous consent of the president and also of the person to be so appointed. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- As a Court of Record, High Court can review its judgments under Article 226 Of the Constitution. As per Article 215, every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.
- Being a Court of Record, the High Court can review its own judgments under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Similarly, under Article 137, the Supreme Court shall have the power to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Kerala High Court has iterated the legal proposition that High Courts as Courts of Record could review their orders.
- A Division Bench of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Shaji P Chaly were confronted with an appeal against a review petition.

Mentorship India

Our mission is crystal clear – to provide the finest UPSC mentorship and guidance available in India. We recognize that the path to success in the UPSC examination is both demanding and multifaceted. This is precisely why we have developed a comprehensive approach that goes beyond conventional coaching. Our commitment lies in fostering excellence by equipping aspirants with the necessary tools, knowledge, and unwavering support to not only excel in the examination but also in life itself.

Mentorship India represents more than just an organization; it is a community of ambitious individuals bound together by the shared objective of conquering the UPSC examination. We warmly invite you to embark on this transformative journey alongside us. Whether you are a novice taking your initial steps or a seasoned aspirant aiming for the pinnacle, Mentorship India is your dependable companion in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

+91 9999 057869
www.mentorshipindia.com

A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar
Delhi - 110064

 @mentorship.india