

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets GI tag: CM Manik Saha- The Indian Express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Risa Textile
- GI tag

News:

- The traditional tribal attire of Tripura too has also been bestowed with the recognition of GI Tag, Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said in Agartala on Sunday.

Risa Textile:

- It is a **handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment** and also as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect.
- It is woven in colorful designs and has a crucial social and religious significance.
- Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given a risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, around age 12 to 14.
- **Religious relevance:** The risa is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities, a turban by men during weddings and festivals, a cummerbund over the dhoti, a head scarf by young girls and boys and a muffler during winters.
- It is presented as a **mark of honour to distinguished recipients.**
- Risa is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura.
- The traditional Tripuri female attire consists of three parts — risa, rignai and rikutu.
- Risa is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment.
- Rignai is primarily worn as the lower garment and literally means 'to wear'.
- Rituku is mainly used as a wrap, or like a 'chunri' or a 'pallu' of the Indian saree. It is also used to cover the heads of newly married Tripuri women.
- The complete Tripuri attire is claimed to have originated even before the time of the Manikya kings, who ruled Tripura for over 500 years starting from the 15th century.

GS II

2. EFTA pact may be first for India with committed investments and jobs- The Hindu

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

News:

- The proposed free trade agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association (**EFTA**) countries, **may be formalized soon as the pact "is ready" and goes through legal scrutiny.**

Prelims Takeaway

- EFTA
- Trade and Investment Agreement

Key Highlight

- The agreement commitment of \$100-billion investments from the four-country bloc into India over the next 15 years generating an estimated one million jobs,
- This is the first FTA for India where it has been able to get a commitment on investment and employment from the partner nations.
- The EFTA countries are looking at investing in joint ventures in areas such as pharmaceuticals
 - Especially medical devices, certain chemicals, food processing and engineering products,"

Free trade pact

- EFTA countries, which include Switzerland, Finland, Norway and Leichtenstein, re-started talks for a free trade pact with India, **called Trade and Investment Agreement, in October 2016.**

- The chapters contained in the proposed pact include trade in goods, rules of origin, trade in services, investment promotion and cooperation, trade and sustainable development, and customs and trade facilitation.
- The JV areas the countries have short-listed mainly include areas where there is no competition from India.
- EFTA has agreed to the condition of investments being made in India because they are getting market access.

Exports to EFTA

- India's exports to the EFTA bloc in 2023 were at \$1.87 billion, with items such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, apparel and pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, dominating the export basket.
- On the other hand, it imported \$20.45 billion goods from the EFTA countries in 2023 with inflows of pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, and coins valued at \$16.7 billion.

3. Centre launches 'DIP' & 'Chakshu' portals to check cyber crime, financial frauds- PIB

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Chakshu
- Saathi portal

News:

- Recently, the Minister of Communications, Railway, and Electronics & Information Technology launched the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)'s 'Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)' and 'Chakshu'** facility on Sanchar Saathi portal

Digital Intelligence Platform:

- It is **developed by the Department of Telecommunications.**
- It is a secure and integrated platform for real time intelligence sharing, information exchange and coordination among the stakeholders, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), law enforcement agencies (LEAs), banks and financial institutions (FIs), social media platforms, identity document issuing authorities etc.
- The portal also contains information regarding the cases detected as misuse of telecom resources.
- The shared information could be useful to the stakeholders in their respective domains.
- It also works as a backend repository **for the citizen-initiated requests on the Sanchar Saathi portal for action by the stakeholders.**
- The DIP is accessible to the stakeholders over secure connectivity and the relevant information is shared based on their respective roles. The said platform is not accessible to citizens.

What is Chakshu?

- It is the latest addition to the citizen centric facilities already **available on the Sanchar Saathi portal of DoT.**
- It facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding:
 - Like KYC expiry or update of bank account/payment wallet/SIM/gas connection/electricity connection
 - Sextortion, impersonation as government official/relative for sending money, disconnection of all mobile numbers by Department of Telecommunications etc.
- In case, a citizen is already a victim of cyber-crime or financial fraud
- It is advised to report at cyber-crime helpline number 1930 or website <https://www.cybercrime.gov.in> of Government of India.

GS III

4. India's snow leopard count: Why this Himalayan feat is only the first step to securing the cat- Indian Express

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

News:

- A new report by the Indian government reveals an **8% increase in the national leopard population since 2018, with an estimated 13,874 leopards in India.**
- However, **the survey, covering 70% of leopard habitat** across 20 states, also identified regional variations.

Key Findings:

- **Overall growth:** The national leopard population increased from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

Regional disparities:

- **Central India and Eastern Ghats:** Stable or slightly growing populations (largest growth rate at 1.5% per year).
- **Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains:** Worrying decline of 3.4% per year.

Habitat distribution:

- 65% of leopards reside outside protected areas, particularly in the Shivalik landscape (foothills of the Himalayas).
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards (3,907), followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Several states, including Odisha, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Telangana, reported population declines.

Positive aspects:

- **Tiger conservation benefits leopards:** The report suggests that leopard populations thrive within tiger reserves due to increased prey availability and protection measures.

Threats:

- **Poaching:** Targeting leopards directly or poaching their prey (bushmeat trade).
- **Habitat loss:** Activities like mining and development threaten leopard habitats.
- **Road accidents:** A significant cause of leopard mortality.
- The report emphasizes the need for continued conservation efforts to address regional declines and mitigate various threats faced by leopards in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- Eastern Ghats
- Western Ghat

5. Google removes popular Indian apps including Naukri, Shaadi in tiff over payments system- Indian Express

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

News:

- Several **popular Indian apps have been removed from the Google Play Store** due to a disagreement over payment methods for in-app purchases.

Key Highlights

- **Apps delisted:** Google removed these apps for not following its billing policies.
- **Supreme Court ruling:** A recent court decision allowed Google to delist apps that violate its Play Store policies.
- **Billing policy at stake:** The issue centers on Google's fees for in-app purchases, where users buy things within an app.
- **In-app purchases explained:** This is a common way for app developers to make money, offering features like virtual items, subscriptions, and more, with payments happening directly through the app.

Prelims Takeaway

- Search engine
- google

- **Fee disagreement:** Google changed its in-app purchase fees in India (between 11% and 26%), but the delisted apps objected to these new terms.

6. UNEA-6: Extraction & use of world's resources has grown three times more in 50 years- Down To Earth

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

News:

- **Global production and consumption of material resources has grown** more than three times over the last 50 years as per UNEP report
- It is growing at an average of more than 2.3 per cent a year, despite the increase being the main driver of the triple planetary crisis.

Global Resource Use on the Rise, Unevenly Distributed: UNEP Report

Unequal Consumption:

- A new report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Resource Panel (IRP) reveals a stark picture of global inequality in resource consumption.

High-income countries:

- Drive most resource demand, **responsible for over 55% of greenhouse gas emissions and 40% of particulate matter pollution.**
- Consumption has more than doubled in the past 50 years.

Low-income countries:

- Consume six times less resources than wealthy nations.
- Generate 10 times less climate impact.

Resource Use Trends:

- Global resource use has increased significantly since 1970 (30 billion tonnes to 106 billion tonnes in 2020).
- This trend is expected to continue, with potential growth of 60% by 2060.

Environmental Impacts:

- Current resource use patterns are unsustainable and contribute to the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution).

Call to Action:

- The report urges resource efficiency and support policies to:
- Reduce material use.
- Minimize environmental impact.
- Improve well-being and economic growth, especially in the Global South.
- Decoupling economic growth from resource use is essential for a sustainable future.
- Transforming consumption patterns is crucial, with wealthy nations needing to drastically reduce consumption and developing nations requiring increased access to resources for basic needs.

Solutions:

- Implementing circular economy principles (refuse, reduce, redesign, reuse, repair, recycle).
- Supportive regulations and evaluation of existing systems.
- Embedding resources in environmental agreements.
- Defining sustainable resource use pathways.
- Implementing financial, trade, and economic incentives.

Report Scope:

- Analyzes resource use trends, impacts, and distribution across different income groups and regions.
- Offers solutions for sustainable resource use and reducing inequalities.

Prelims Takeaway

- UNEP
- International Resource Panel

7. DefConnect 2024: Raksha Mantri launches ADITI scheme to promote innovations in critical & strategic defence technologies- PIB

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

Prelims Takeaway

- ADITI
- iDEX

News:

- Raksha Mantri launched **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations** in critical and strategic defence technologies

ADITI Scheme:

- **Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI)** is a scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defense technologies.
- **Objective:** It aims to develop about 30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies in the proposed timeframe.
- **Eligibility:** Under this scheme start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development and innovation endeavors in defense technology.
- **Time period:** This scheme worth Rs 750 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- It falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
- It also envisages to create a 'Technology Watch Tool' to bridge the gap between the expectations and requirements of the modern Armed Forces and the capabilities of the defence innovation ecosystem.
- In the first edition of ADITI, **17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4)** - have been launched.
- To motivate young innovators, iDEX was expanded to iDEX Prime, with the assistance increasing from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore.

8. A vaccine that prevents six cancer- The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- HPV
- Sexually transmitted infection

News:

- January was observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Additionally, every year, March 4 is observed as International HPV Awareness Day.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- HPV is a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which more than 40 are spread through direct sexual contact.
- Among these, two HPV types cause genital warts, and about a dozen HPV types can cause certain types of cancer. More than 95% of cervical cancer is caused by the HPV virus.

Transmission:

- It is the most common **sexually transmitted infection (STI) globally**.
- It also spreads through **skin-to-skin contact**.
- Once infected, most people do not develop any symptoms, thereby not being aware that they have the virus.
- Getting **vaccinated against HPV helps prevent cancer in men and women**.

HPV Vaccination:

- It prevents HPV infections that can progress to cancer or genital warts.
- The HPV vaccination is more efficacious if given between the age group of 9-26 years.
- Once a person gets HPV, the vaccine may not be as effective.
- The HPV vaccine isn't given during pregnancy.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. The status of india's nuclear program- The Hindu

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

Context:

- Prime Minister witnessed the **start of the process of core-loading the indigenous prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR)** at the Madras Atomic Power Station in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu

<p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India Starts Fuel Loading for Second Stage of Nuclear Program <p>India's Three-Stage Nuclear Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to achieve energy security and sustainable development through nuclear power. • Stage 1: Uses pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs) fueled by natural uranium. • Stage 2 (current): Reprocesses spent fuel from stage 1 to create plutonium for fast breeder reactors (FBRs). • Stage 3 (future): Uses advanced heavy water reactors (AHWRs) that burn thorium-plutonium fuel and generate fissile uranium-233. 	<p>Significance of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marks India's entry into the second stage of its nuclear program. • Makes India the second country (after Russia) to operate a commercial FBR. • Demonstrates India's advanced nuclear technology and commitment to peaceful applications. • FBRs are complex and many countries have abandoned them due to technical challenges. • PFBR uses mixed oxide (MOX) fuel initially, transitioning to a thorium-uranium blanket for breeding future fuel. • This project is significant for India's long-term goal of a thorium-based nuclear fuel cycle.
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10. Why mineral are critical- Indian express

Relevance: Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

News:

- Two important steps have been taken by the government in the past year on the subject of critical minerals.
- The first was to **identify a list of 30 critical minerals** (apart from rare earths, which are clearly identified in the periodic table) in July 2023
- the second was to **amend the existing mining laws** in November 2023 to allow private sector participation in the auction of 20 blocks of critical.

Critical minerals:

- **Identified:** India has identified 30 crucial minerals essential for various industries, including clean energy, defense, and fertilizers.
- **Significance:** These minerals are vital for achieving clean energy goals and national development. The growing demand for electric vehicles and renewable energy creates a massive need for these resources.
- **Global demand:** The global demand for critical minerals is expected to skyrocket due to climate change mitigation efforts, making strategic planning and resource security crucial for India.

Challenges and concerns:

- **Concentration:** Critical mineral reserves are heavily concentrated in a few countries, mainly China, creating vulnerabilities in global supply chains due to uneven distribution and processing capabilities.
- **Chinese dominance:** China's dominance in refining critical minerals and rare earths raises concerns about its potential to influence global supply chains and technological advancements through its monopoly.
- **Dependency risks:** India's ambitious clean energy goals rely heavily on critical minerals, particularly for battery manufacturing and renewable energy infrastructure.
- Despite efforts to secure resources through agreements with other countries, India remains heavily reliant on imports, posing challenges for domestic industries and technological advancements.

India's response:

- **International collaboration:** India's participation in initiatives like the US-led Minerals Security Partnership
- aims to strengthen supply chains by collaborating with countries holding critical mineral deposits and processing expertise, reducing dependency risks.

Long-term solutions:

- **Strategic planning:** The lack of access to critical minerals and processing technology could hinder India's decarbonization journey.
- Long-term strategic planning and resource diversification are essential to overcome these challenges.

Quick Look

1. Image Correction Algorithm

- Scientists at India's Raman Research Institute (RRI) have developed a novel image-correction algorithm
- It aimed at enhancing images used in the study of ultracold atoms.
- These atoms, cooled to temperatures near absolute zero, exhibit intriguing quantum mechanics properties.
- Current imaging methods, which rely on fluorescence, absorption, and phase-contrast techniques, suffer from flaws such as interference fringes that obscure the true images.
- The new algorithm significantly reduces these fringes by 50%
- This leads to clearer images and enables more precise calculations of parameters like atom number and temperature uncertainty.
- This advancement holds promise for deeper insights into the behaviour of ultracold atoms and their quantum properties.

2. Extension to Subsidised Sugar Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has extended the Subsidised Sugar Scheme.
- It is aimed at providing sugar at subsidized rates to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families until March 31, 2026.
- This initiative is intended to enhance the nutritional intake of the poorest citizens. Under this scheme, the Central Government provides a subsidy of Rs. 18.50 per kg per month of sugar to AAY families in participating States.
- The extension of the scheme is projected to provide benefits exceeding Rs. 1850 crore during the period of the 15th Finance Commission (2020-21 to 2025-26). Additionally, the Government of India offers free ration under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY).
- It sells essential food items like 'Bharat Atta,' 'Bharat Dal,' 'Bharat Rice,' tomatoes, and onions at affordable prices to support vulnerable sections of society.

3. Reservation to OBC in Jammu and Kashmir

- The Union government has introduced a new bill in the Lok Sabha to provide reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This legislation aims to align existing laws with constitutional provisions.
- It will ensure representation for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities for the first time since India's independence.
- The proposed Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to amend relevant acts to bring them in line with constitutional provisions.
- The bill will affect the provisions related to the reservations for backward classes in local governance.
- Currently, there is no provision for OBC reservations in these local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The bill aims to address this gap by empowering a commission to determine the number of reserved seats once the legislation is passed.

4. Vyomitra

- India is preparing for its manned space mission, Gaganyaan, in 2025.
- The country plans to send a humanoid robot named Vyommitra to space first to test critical systems.
- Vyommitra, weighing 40 kg and developed by ISRO.
- It will simulate human functions within the spacecraft's orbit.

- It is equipped to operate control panels, monitor parameters, perform life support operations, and engage in conversations using artificial intelligence.
- Vyommitra aims to ensure the habitability and safety of the Gaganyaan module before crewed flights.
- Her deployment marks a significant step toward future Gaganyaan missions.

5. ABHYAS

- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS'.
- ABHYAS is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT).
- It is designed by the DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).
- It offers a realistic threat scenario for the practice of weapon systems.
- It is the ideal platform for the validation of Armed Forces equipment slated for induction (only those that require aerial engagement).
- It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot indigenously made by the ADE.
- It has a radar cross-section and a visual and infrared augmentation system required for weapon practice.
- The target drone has a laptop-based Ground Control System with which the aircraft can be integrated and pre-flight checks, data recording during the flight, replays after the flight and post-flight analysis can be carried out.

6. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

- Recently, experts from the ICIMOD declared the Hindu Kush Himalaya region a biosphere on the brink of collapse and called for bold action and urgent finance to prevent nature loss.
- The ICIMOD, established in 1983, is an intergovernmental knowledge and learning centre working on behalf of the people of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH).
- Mission: To build and share knowledge that drives regional policy and action and attracts investment that enables the diverse countries and communities of the HKH to transition to greener, more inclusive, and climate-resilient development.
- Member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Functions
 - It serves the region through information and knowledge generation and sharing to find innovative solutions to critical mountain problems.
 - It bridges science with policies and on-the-ground practices.
 - It provides a regional platform where experts, planners, policymakers, and practitioners can exchange ideas and perspectives towards the achievement of sustainable mountain development.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about Risa Textile:

1. It is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment and also as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect.
2. The risa is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities,

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

Q2. Consider the following countries

1. Iran
2. Vietnam
3. Thailand
4. Sri Lanka
5. Malaysia

How many of the above countries provide visa free travel to Indians ?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements Chakshu

1. It is the latest addition to the citizen centric facilities already available on the Sanchar Saathi portal of DoT.
2. It facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding:

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements

1. India witnessed a significant decline in its national leopard population according to the latest survey.
2. The Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains have shown the highest growth rate for leopards in India.
3. Madhya Pradesh currently has the highest number of leopards in India.

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

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

Q5. Consider the following statements

1. Several popular Indian apps have been removed from the Google Play Store due to a disagreement over payment methods for in-app purchases.
2. In-app purchases is a common way for app developers to make money, offering features like virtual items, subscriptions

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) in India:

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

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

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

Q7. Consider the following statements ADITI Scheme:

1. Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) is a scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defense technologies.
2. Under this scheme start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development and innovation endeavors in defense technology.

3. It falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

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

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about CAR-T Cell Therapy

1. It genetically reprograms a patient's immune system.
2. It uses chimeric antigen receptors.
3. It is primarily related to the treatment of the nervous system.

How many of the above given statements are correct ?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR):

1. Marks India's entry into the second stage of its nuclear program.
2. Makes India the second country (after Russia) to operate a commercial FBR.

3. Demonstrates India's advanced nuclear technology and commitment to peaceful applications.

4. FBRs are complex and many countries have abandoned them due to technical challenges.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements on Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)

1. It is a US-led collaboration that aims to catalyze public and private investment in critical mineral supply chains globally.

2. India is not a member of the Mineral Security Partnership.

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

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

- It is a handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment and also as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect.
- It is woven in colorful designs and has a crucial social and religious significance.
- Adolescent Tripuri girls are first given a risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, around age 12 to 14.
- Religious relevance: The risa is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities, a turban by men during weddings and festivals, a cummerbund over the dhoti, a head scarf by young girls and boys and a muffler during winters. **Hence, both statement are correct**

Answer 2 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Iran has become the latest country in the past few months to give visa-free access to India tourists. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka have also eased visa rules for Indian tourists. **Hence, Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct.**
- In 2023, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced that visitors from India and China will be granted 30-day visa-free entry into Malaysia from December 1. **Hence, Statement 5 is correct.**
- The visa exemption in Malaysia is still subject to security screenings for records of crime or violence.

Answer 3 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- It is the latest addition to the citizen centric facilities already available on the Sanchar Saathi portal of DoT.
- It facilitates citizens to report suspected fraud communication received over call, SMS or WhatsApp with the intention of defrauding:
- like KYC expiry or update of bank account/payment wallet/SIM/gas connection/electricity connection **Hence, both statement are correct**

Answer 4 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- A recent survey by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) suggests an increase in the national leopard population. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- According to the MoEFCC report, the Shivalik hills and Gangetic plains have actually experienced a decline in the leopard population. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- Madhya Pradesh has consistently been reported to have the highest number of leopards in India, and the MoEFCC report is unlikely to contradict this trend. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 5 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Several popular Indian apps have been removed from the Google Play Store due to a disagreement over payment methods for in-app purchases.
 - Apps delisted: Google removed these apps for not following its billing policies.
 - Supreme Court ruling: A recent court decision allowed Google to delist apps that violate its Play Store policies.
 - Billing policy at stake: The issue centers on Google's fees for in-app purchases, where users buy things within an app.
 - In-app purchases: This is a common way for app developers to make money, offering features like virtual items, subscriptions, and more, with payments happening directly through the app.
 - Fee disagreement: Google changed its in-app purchase fees in India (between 11% and 26%), but the delisted apps objected to these new terms. **Hence, both statement are correct**
- Answer 6 Option B is correct**
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- Explanation**
- The Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) is an agency established under the Department of Defence Production within the Ministry of Defence (MoD). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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

Answer 7 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) is a scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defense technologies.
- Objective: It aims to develop about 30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies in the proposed timeframe.
- Eligibility: Under this scheme start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development and innovation endeavors in defense technology.
- Time period: This scheme worth Rs 750 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- It falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

Answer 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The CAR-T Cell Therapy is the pioneering treatment that genetically reprograms a patient's immune system to fight cancer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The therapy is showcasing promising results post-treatment.
- It is a revolutionary therapy that modifies immune cells, specifically T-cells, into potent cancer fighters known as CAR-T cells.

- The therapy involves collecting and genetically modifying the patient's T-cells to express chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) specific to cancer cells. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- These modified cells are then infused back into the patient to target and attack cancer cells. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- This offers a targeted immunotherapy approach.

Answer 9 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Marks India's entry into the second stage of its nuclear program.
- Makes India the second country (after Russia) to operate a commercial FBR.
- Demonstrates India's advanced nuclear technology and commitment to peaceful applications.
- FBRs are complex and many countries have abandoned them due to technical challenges.
- PFBR uses mixed oxide (MOX) fuel initially, transitioning to a thorium-uranium blanket for breeding future fuel. **Hence, ALL statement are correct**

Answer 10 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) was announced in June 2022 by the US to strengthen critical mineral supply chains. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Specifically, the MSP focuses on critical minerals that are inputs for electric vehicles and advanced batteries.
- Participating countries pursue investment in mining, processing, and recycling development that maintains high environmental and social governance standards.
- Members: Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- India has recently been inducted into MSP. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

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