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By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GSI

1. NCERT alters Class 12 history book, says Harappans indigenous to India - The Hindu

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

News:

- The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has made revisions in the history book for Class 12 students, particularly regarding the origins and decline of the Harappan civilization,

Harappan Civilization

- The history of India begins with the birth of **the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**, also known as Harappan Civilization.
- It flourished around 2,500 BC, in the western part of South Asia, in contemporary Pakistan and Western India.
- The Indus Valley was home to the largest of the four ancient urban civilizations of **Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China**.
- In 1920s, the Archaeological Department of India carried out excavations in the Indus valley wherein the ruins of the two old cities, viz. **Mohenjodaro and Harappa were unearthed**.
- In 1924, **John Marshall, Director-General of the ASI**, announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.
- Rakhigarhi is an archaeological site located in Hisar district (Haryana), in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.

Rakhigarhi

- It is the largest Harappan site** in the Indian subcontinent
- It is a mature Harappan phase and is represented by a planned township having mud-brick as well as burnt-brick houses with a proper drainage system.
- A cylindrical seal with five Harappan characters on one side and a symbol of an alligator on the other is an important find from this site.
- The ceramic industry was represented by red ware, which included dish-on-stand, vase, perforated jar among others.

Prelims Takeaway

- Rakhigarhi
- Mohenjodaro

2. The rock paintings at Kumittipathi testify to prehistoric Kongu region - The Hindu

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

News:

- An elephant with prominent tusks, painted in white, draws the attention of visitors first at the rock art site at Pathimalai in Kumittipathi, a village around 30 km from Coimbatore city.
- Believed to be around 3,000 years old, these cave paintings are among the important rock arts in the Kongu region.

Kumittipathi painting

- Deep inside a cave in Tamil Nadu, India, lie 3,000-year-old rock paintings.
- These significant works of art offer a glimpse into the lives of the region's earliest inhabitants.
- The paintings depict an elephant, a possible chariot or peacock, and scenes from daily life.
- Interestingly, the artists used a mixture of white pigment and natural gum to create their works on the cave walls.

Prelims Takeaway

- Kumittipathi painting

- Unlike most rock paintings in Tamil Nadu found on sheltered rocks, the Kumittipathi paintings are hidden within a cave, adding to their mystery and intrigue.

GS II

3. Supreme Court stays High Court order striking down law regulating U.P. madrasas - The Hindu

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

News:

- The Supreme Court recently **stayed the operation of an Allahabad High Court judgment which struck down a 20-year-old Uttar Pradesh law** regulating madrasas and ordered the transfer of their students to regular schools.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 29
- Article 14

Key highlights

- A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India decided to freeze the implementation of the High Court judgment of March 22 in an interim order
 - even as the Uttar Pradesh government said it had learnt to “accept” the verdict.
- The State claimed to have fought tooth and nail for the survival of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004 in the High Court.
- However, it has now reconciled to the High Court’s point of view that the Act threatened the principles of secularism and **was violative of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.**
- “The remedy would not be to strike down the Madrasa Board Act
 - **but to issue suitable directions to enable students pursuing their education in madrasas to access the quality** of education made available by the State in other institutions,” Chief Justice dictated in the order for the Bench.

Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004

- The Act aimed to **regulate and govern the functioning of madrasas** (Islamic educational institutions) in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- It provided a framework for the establishment, recognition, curriculum, and administration of madrasas across Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this Act, the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education was established to **oversee and supervise the activities of madrasas in the state.**

4. India abstains at U.N. Human Rights Council on vote calling for Gaza ceasefire, arms embargo against Israel -the hindu

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

News:

- **India abstained on a resolution at the Human Rights Council** that called on Israel for **an immediate ceasefire in Gaza** and called on states to implement an arms embargo, which was adopted by the 47-member Human Rights Council.

Prelims Takeaway

- Arms embargo
- UNSC

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- It is an international organization that works to protect human rights around the world.
- It was created in 2006 and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The UNHRC has 47 member countries that are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- These countries meet three times a year to discuss human rights issues and investigate human rights abuses.
- The Council has a number of important functions, including:
 - Monitoring human rights conditions in all UN member countries
 - Conducting investigations into human rights abuses
 - Reviewing the human rights records of all UN member countries (Universal Periodic Review)
 - Appointing experts to investigate specific human rights issues

- India voted in favor of resolutions criticizing Israel for human rights abuses and calling for Palestinian self-determination, but abstained from a resolution calling for an arms embargo on Israel because it did not condemn Hamas.

Arms embargo

- **The UNSC imposed an arms embargo on Haiti in 2022.**
- It banned all supplies of arms and related materiel to individuals and entities.
- In 2023 it was modified to a full arms embargo on all non-government individuals and entities.
- **The embargo is time limited**

GS III

5. RBI Keeps Repo Rates Unchanged At 6.5 Percent For Seventh Consecutive Time- the hindu

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

News:

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the key repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the seventh consecutive meeting, as it focused on reigning in retail inflation that has stayed above its 4 per cent target.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- It is a **committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** that is responsible for setting the repo rate, the interest rate at which banks borrow from the RBI.
- The MPC was **established in 2016**.
- The MPC meets at least four times a year to review the monetary policy stance. In its latest meeting, the MPC kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
- The MPC also maintained its focus on withdrawing liquidity from the system to control inflation.
- The MPC's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged was in line with expectations.
- Analysts had predicted that the MPC would hold the rate steady, given the recent slowdown in economic growth.
- The MPC's focus on withdrawing liquidity is **aimed at curbing inflation, which has been running above the RBI's target of 4% for several months**.
- The RBI's latest economic forecast predicts that GDP growth will slow to 7% in 2024-25, from 8.7% in 2023-24.
- The slowdown is expected to be driven by a number of factors, including the ongoing global economic slowdown and the tightening of monetary policy by central banks around the world.
- The RBI also revised its inflation forecast upwards to 4.5% for 2024-25, from 4.2% earlier.
- The MPC's next meeting is scheduled for August 2024.
- At that meeting, the MPC will review the latest economic data and decide on the future course of monetary policy.
- The MPC's decisions are important for the Indian economy as they can impact factors such as inflation, interest rates, and economic growth.
- The MPC's actions are closely watched by businesses, investors, and consumers alike.

Prelims Takeaway

- MPC
- Inflation

6. RBI to enable UPI for cash deposit

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

News:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to **enable the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for cash deposits** considering the app's popularity and convenience.

Key highlights

Prelims Takeaway

- FPIs
- International Financial Services Centre

- It is now proposed to facilitate cash deposit facility through the use of UPI.”
- **Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) deployed by banks** enhance customer convenience while reducing cash-handling load on bank branches.
- The facility of cash deposit is presently available only through the use of debit cards.
- The Governor said operational instructions on enabling UPI for cash deposit facility will be issued shortly.
- In another measure, to facilitate wider non-resident participation in **Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)**,
 - the RBI decided to permit eligible foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre also to invest in such bonds.
- A scheme for investment and trading in SGrBs by eligible foreign investors in IFSC is being notified separately in consultation with the Government and the IFSC Authority.
- At present, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) registered with SEBI are permitted to invest in SGrBs under different routes available for investment by FPIs in government securities.

Retail Direct scheme

- The RBI also decided to introduce a mobile app for its Retail Direct scheme, introduced in November 2021.
- The scheme gives **access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with RBI and invest in government securities.**
- The scheme enables investors to buy securities in **primary auctions and buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.**

7. What is the new 'Akashteer Command and Control Systems' and how will it enhance India's air defences

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- The Indian Army has initiated the induction of control and reporting systems under '**Project Akashteer**' to **bolster its air defense capabilities.**
- This project aims to deliver an unprecedented level of situational awareness and control for the force to ensure the safety of friendly aircraft and engage hostile aircraft in contested airspace.

Project Akashteer

- It is a game-changer for India's air defense.
- This high-tech system automates air defense control by **using digital tools.**
- This provides the military with a clear picture of what's happening in the sky (situational awareness) and lets them quickly take control.
- The system can track low-altitude airspace and manage ground-based air defense weapons.
- **Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited**, Akashteer is a key part of India's push for self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- **Faster Response and Less Friendly Fire:** By automating tasks, Akashteer lets the military react quicker to threats while minimizing the risk of accidentally hitting their own aircraft.
- **Clearer Picture:** By connecting radar and communication systems, Akashteer gives the military a complete view of the airspace, making it easier to find and deal with enemy targets.
- **Future-Proofed Defense:** Project Akashteer paves the way for a fully automated air defense system, ensuring India's air safety for years to come.

Prelims Takeaway

- Akashteer
- Atmanirbhar Bharat

8. The Southern Ocean has the earth's cleanest air — scientists finally know why

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

News:

- The **Southern Ocean is renowned for having the cleanest air on Earth.**
- But the precise reasons why have remained a mystery, until now.

Reason scientist found

- There's more to it than just a lack of human activity.
- Yes, there are fewer people down there using industrial chemicals and burning fossil fuels.
- But there are natural sources of fine particles too, such as salt from sea spray or dust whipped up by the wind.

The Southern Ocean

- It is also called **the Antarctic Ocean**, encircles Antarctica like a frigid moat.
- It's the youngest and second-smallest of Earth's five oceans, born from the separation of Antarctica and South America.
- **This dramatic split created the Drake Passage**, a notorious channel known for its rough seas.
- The Southern Ocean is a wild and unforgiving place.
- It's a battleground of strong winds, fierce storms, and icy temperatures that change dramatically with the seasons.
- Despite the harsh conditions, the Southern Ocean teems with life.
- A rich supply of phytoplankton near Antarctica fuels a fascinating food chain.
- Whales, penguins, orcas, and seals are just a few of the amazing creatures that call this frigid ocean home.

Prelims Takeaway

- Drake Passage
- Antarctica ocean

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Green Hydrogen push will need to counter challenges

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

News:

- Recently, the government affirmed its commitment towards making India a green hydrogen hub with a trial run of two buses that will operate on this clean fuel.
- It has plans to roll out 15 more such buses by the end of the year.

Key highlights

- These vehicles have virtually zero emissions and their fuel cells are much more efficient than internal combustion engines.
- Hydrogen, produced through a clean process, is rightly seen as a more dependable fuel — bereft of the uncertainties of solar or wind energy.
- India has an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission that aims to produce 5 million tonnes of the fuel annually from 2030.
- The project aims to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore and avert 50 million metric tonnes of GHG emissions.
- However, several barriers must be overcome before this green fuel becomes commercially viable.
- The technology to use electricity to draw hydrogen from water — electrolysis — has been around since the 1800s.
- The use of renewable energy-generated electricity makes the process green.

CHALLENGES

- That's where the first challenge appears. Experts estimate that India will need to add about 100 GW of RE capacity every year for the next seven years to attain its green hydrogen-related goals
 - to put things in perspective, it added about 16 GW of RE last year.
- Moreover, producing 1 kg of this clean fuel requires eight to nine litres of water.
 - Given the water stresses in large parts of the country, making hydrogen production less water-intensive will be a big challenge for the country's clean fuel programme.
- According to International Energy Agency data, the global manufacturing capacity of electrolyzers — the unit where electrolysis takes place — is about 10 GW.
- to attain its 2030 target, India could need six to 10 times the world's current electrolyser production capacity. A
- ccess to rare earth minerals — a market dominated by China — will play a critical role in scaling up electrolyser production capacity.
- Technological innovations will be required in transporting and storing the highly inflammable green fuel — the safety concern is one reason that buses will not be carrying passengers, to begin with.

Conclusion

- The government has done the right thing in tapping into Indian Oil Corporation's proven capacities for the country's first green hydrogen vehicle project.
- To access markets, it will now need to develop more expertise and forge partnerships with other countries.

10. India's message to China: Respect the rules you expect everyone else to follow

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

News:

- Recently china has changed the name of few area of arunachal against which india took a firm stand against China's aggression towards neighbors

Key highlights

- **China's Provocations:** China has been trying to claim territory in Arunachal Pradesh by renaming locations and using historical justifications.
- These tactics aim to expand China's influence and control.
- **India Pushes Back:** India strongly rejects China's attempts to rename places and asserts its own ownership of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Additionally, India's recent support for the Philippines in the South China Sea dispute signals a shift in India's foreign policy.
- India is now advocating for a "rules-based order" where international law, like the UN law of the sea (UNCLOS), is respected.
- This includes the 2016 ruling that went against China's claims in the South China Sea.

China's Reaction and India's Stance:

- China is not happy with India's new stance and warns of a negative impact on their relationship.
- However, India remains committed to peaceful solutions and maintaining stability.
- India wants China to also follow international rules and norms, as recently communicated by Indian leaders.

Quick Look

1. Washington Treaty

- The Washington Treaty, or North Atlantic Treaty, forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- It was signed in Washington D.C. in 1949, by 12 founding members.
- The Treaty derives its authority from Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defence.
- Collective defence is at the heart of the treaty and is enshrined in Article 5. It commits members to protect each other and sets a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance.
- The treaty is short, containing only 14 articles and provides for in-built flexibility on all fronts.
- Despite the changing security environment, the original treaty has never had to be modified and each ally has the possibility to implement the text in accordance with its capabilities and circumstances.

2. Electroencephalogram (EEG)

- It is a recording of brain activity. It is a test that detects abnormalities in your brain waves, or in the electrical activity of your brain.
- During the procedure, electrodes consisting of small metal discs with thin wires are pasted onto your scalp. The electrodes detect tiny electrical charges that result from the activity of your brain cells.
- The charges are amplified and appear as a graph on a computer screen or as a recording that may be printed out on paper.

3. Strategic Forces Command (SFC)

- The SFC, sometimes called Strategic Nuclear Command, forms part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), which is responsible for command-and-control decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
- It is responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. It was created in 2003.
- It is the responsibility of the SFC to operationalize the orders of the NCA under the leadership of a Commander-in-Chief who is a Senior Officer.
- It has the sole responsibility of initiating the process of delivering nuclear weapons and warheads after acquiring clear approval from the NCA.
- Moreover, the final target selection is also done by the SFC through a calibrated, cumulative process involving various levels of decision-making, including formal approval from the NCA.

4. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- It was established in 1999 as an international independent agency to lead a collaborative worldwide movement for doping-free sport.
- It's governance and funding are based on an equal partnership between the sport movement and governments of the world.
- Its primary role is to develop, harmonize and coordinate anti-doping rules and policies across all sports and countries.

- Its key activities include scientific research, education, the development of anti-doping capacities and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), the document harmonizing anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.

5. NATO

- It is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty. It currently has 32 alliance members from North America and Europe.
- Its fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security through political and military means.
- It is a system of collective defence where independent member states agree for mutual defence in case of any attack by an external party.
- Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states that an attack against one ally is an attack against all.
- NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust, and, in the long run, prevent conflict.
- NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Match the following pair

1. Kalibangan: Rajasthan
2. Lothal : Gujarat
3. Surkotada : Gujarat

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

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

Q2. Match the following pair

1. Bhimbetka cave painting : Madhya Pradesh.
2. Madhubani painting : tamil nadu
3. Kumittipathi painting : bihar

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about

1. DPSP Promotes education and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections of the people.
2. educational institutions established under an endowment or trust and administered by the state can provide religious education
3. Education of minorities, protection of interests of minorities is enshrined in fundamental duty

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

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

Q4. Gaza Strip is bordered by which of the following

1. Israel
2. Mediterranean sea
3. egypt

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. It is a committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that is responsible for setting the repo rate, the interest rate at which banks borrow from the RBI.
2. The MPC meets at least four times a year to review the monetary policy stance. In its latest meeting, the MPC kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
3. The MPC also maintained its focus on withdrawing liquidity from the system to control inflation.

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 Retail Direct scheme

1. The RBI decided to introduce a mobile app for its Retail Direct scheme, introduced in November 2021.
2. The scheme gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with RBI and invest in government securities.
3. The scheme enables investors to buy securities in primary auctions and buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.

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

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

Q7. Project Akashteer, recently seen in news, is related to which of the following

- A. It is scheme by government of india to increase awareness about voting
- B. It is Scheme to increase enrolment of students in rural school
- C. Surface to surface missile developed by DRDO
- D. It is a high-tech system that automates air defense control by using digital tools.

Q8. Consider the following statements about Southern Ocean

- 1. It's the youngest and second-smallest of Earth's five oceans, born from the separation of Antarctica and South America.
- 2. It is the only ocean 'to touch three other oceans (Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean)
- 3. Antarctic Circumpolar Current is the only current in the global ocean to close upon itself in a circumpolar loop.

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. India has an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission that aims to produce 5 million tonnes of the fuel annually from 2030.
- 2. The technology to use electricity to draw hydrogen from water electrolysis has been around since the 1800s.
- 3. rare earth minerals, a market dominated by China will play a critical role in scaling up electrolyser production capacity.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements

- 1. The Johnson Line proposed by the British placed Aksai Chin in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2. China rejected the Johnson Line and favored the McDonald Line, asserting control over Aksai Chin.
- 3. Currently, Aksai Chin is administered by China

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 C is correct****Explanation**

- Kalibangan- Hanumangarh District, Rajasthan on the bank of Ghaggar river
- Lothal - Gujarat on Bhogva river near the Gulf of Cambay
- Surkotada- Gujarat
- Banawali- Fatehabad district of Haryana
- **Hence all pairs are correct**

Answer 2 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The Bhimbetka cave paintings are Prehistoric paintings found on the Bhimbetka rock shelters in the Raisen district of present-day Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- Kumittipathi painting - Deep inside a cave in Tamil Nadu, India, lie 3,000-year-old rock paintings. **Hence, option 2 is incorrect.**
- These significant works of art offer a glimpse into the lives of the region's earliest inhabitants.
- The paintings depict an elephant, a possible chariot or peacock, and scenes from daily life.
- Madhubani art (originally Mithila art) is a style of painting practiced in the Mithila region of India (bihar) and Nepal. **Hence, option 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 3 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- DPSP Promotes education and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections of the people.- article 46 **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Article 28- No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- (2) Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to an educational institution which is administered by the State but has been established under any endowment or trust which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institution.

- (3) No person attending any educational institution recognised by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to take part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such institution or in any premises attached thereto unless such person or, if such person is a minor, his guardian has given his consent thereto.
- Education of minorities, protection of interests of minorities - article 29 fundamental right **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 4 Option C is correct**Explanation****Gaza Strip**

- Location: The Gaza Strip is a coastal Palestinian region along the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Israel and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Together with the West Bank, it forms the State of Palestine, with Israel situated between the two territories. **Hence all option are correct**
- Governance: Hamas, a politico-military entity, has administered the Gaza Strip since its electoral victory in 2006.
- Control: While Israel maintains authority over Gaza's airspace and coastline, it has also implemented limitations on goods entering the territory. Additionally, Egypt manages its border with Gaza.

Answer 5 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- It is a committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that is responsible for setting the repo rate, the interest rate at which banks borrow from the RBI.
- The MPC was established in 2016.
- The MPC meets at least four times a year to review the monetary policy stance. In its latest meeting, the MPC kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.
- The MPC also maintained its focus on withdrawing liquidity from the system to control inflation. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The RBI also decided to introduce a mobile app for its Retail Direct scheme, introduced in November 2021.
- The scheme gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with RBI and invest in government securities.
- The scheme enables investors to buy securities in primary auctions and buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.

Hence all statements are correct

Answer 7 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Project Akashteer
- It is a game-changer for India's air defense.
- This high-tech system automates air defense control by using digital tools.
- This provides the military with a clear picture of what's happening in the sky (situational awareness) and lets them quickly take control. **Hence option D is correct**

Answer 8 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Southern Ocean is the only ocean 'to touch three other oceans (Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean) and to completely embrace a continent rather than being embraced by them'.
- It is also defined by its Antarctic Circumpolar Current that was formed 34 million years ago. The current flows from west to east around Antarctica.
- Antarctic Circumpolar Current:
- ACC is the only current in the global ocean to close upon itself in a circumpolar loop.
- The Southern Ocean

- It is also called the Antarctic Ocean, encircles Antarctica like a frigid moat.
- It's the youngest and second-smallest of Earth's five oceans, born from the separation of Antarctica and South America. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 9 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- India has an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission that aims to produce 5 million tonnes of the fuel annually from 2030.
- The project aims to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore and avert 50 million metric tonnes of GHG emissions.
- However, several barriers must be overcome before this green fuel becomes commercially viable.
- rare earth minerals — a market dominated by China — will play a critical role in scaling up electrolyser production capacity.
- The technology to use electricity to draw hydrogen from water — electrolysis — has been around since the 1800s. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 10 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Johnson Line proposed by the British placed Aksai Chin in the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- China rejected the Johnson Line and favored the McDonald Line, asserting control over Aksai Chin.
- Though Aksai Chin is administered by China, India's official position on the issue is that, by virtue of it being a part of Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh), the region remains an integral part of India. **Hence all statements are correct**

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