

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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2. How many availed Sec 6A of Citizenship Act: SC to Govt - Indian Express
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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Juvenile crime rate highest in Delhi last yr: NCRB data - Indian Express

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

News:

- According to the latest **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report**, the national capital recorded the **highest rate of crimes committed by children** last year

Prelims Takeaway

- NCRB

Key Points

- Total number of **crimes committed by minors** across the country (30,555 cases).
- Delhi's **rank and position (6th)** in comparison to other states.

Delhi's Disturbing Statistics

- Increase in juvenile **crime rate by 42% in 2021**.
- Specifics on the **number of cases in 2020 (2,643) and 2021 (2,340)**.
- Comparison with other states like **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan**.

Violent Offenses

- There is **Involvement of minors in theft, robbery, and carrying deadly weapons**.
- There is **Slow disposal of cases** and a large number of minors awaiting trial.
- There was seen significant **increase in crimes at railway stations** in Delhi.

GS II

2. How many availed Sec 6A of Citizenship Act: SC to Govt - Indian Express

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

News:

- Chief Justice question to the **Centre regarding citizenship under Section 6A** of the Citizenship Act.

Prelims Takeaway

- Citizenship Act

Key Points

Petitions Challenging Section 6A

- Ongoing **legal proceedings** involving petitions challenging the **validity of Section 6A**.

Historical Connection of Section 6A

- Chief Justice's reference to the historical connection of **Section 6A with India's role in the creation of Bangladesh during the war**.
- Parliament's view that **immigration covered by Section 6A is not merely illegal** but tied to humanitarian aspects and atrocities in East Pakistan.
- It created a **special provision for Assam** by which persons who entered between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971
 - Residing in the state, upon being detected as foreigners, will be allowed to register
- Upon registration, **such a person will have the same rights and obligations** as a citizen of India
 - But will not be entitled to be included in any electoral roll for a period of 10 years.
- Foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966**, and been "ordinarily resident" in the State
 - They would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens including the right to vote.

3. India announces \$250 mn line of credit to Kenya in agri sector - Indian Express

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

News:

- Announcement of a **\$250 million line of credit by India to Kenya** for the modernization of its agricultural sector.
- Agreement was signed between the Indian **Prime Minister and Kenyan President to enhance cooperation in various sectors.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Lines of Credit

Key Points

Key Agreements and Vision Document

- Five pacts were signed covering areas such as **sports, education, and digital solutions.**
- Unveiling of a **joint vision document to enhance maritime engagement** in the Indian Ocean region.
- There was **discussion on cooperation in defense, trade, energy, digital public infrastructure, and healthcare.**

Line of Credit for Agricultural Modernization

- PM announcement of a **\$250 million line of credit for the modernization of Kenya's agricultural sector.**
- **Kenyan offer of land for farming** to Indian companies under a cooperative model.

Invitation for Indian Investments

- Kenyan President **invites Indian companies to invest in various sectors**, including agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, health, green energy, and green mobility.

Appreciation for India's Support

- Kenya expresses **gratitude for India's concessional Lines of Credit for energy, textiles, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).**
- The recent MoU between **Goa Shipyard Ltd and Kenya Shipyard Ltd in defense cooperation** was concluded.

GS III

4. IISER Bhopal researchers conduct first genome sequencing of jamun - Indian Express

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

News:

- Not just Ayurveda but multiple clinical studies have shown the health benefits of jamun as an **excellent source of antioxidants, iron, and vitamin C.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Genome

Key Points

Research Objectives

- The primary aim is to gain new **functional and evolutionary insights from the jamun genome.**
- Exploration of the genomic basis for the wide range of **pharmacological properties attributed to jamun.**
- **Jamun is identified as the largest genome sequenced** from the Syzygium genus.

Genomic and Evolutionary Analysis

- **Utilization of Oxford Nanopore and 10x Genomics** sequencing technologies in decoding the S. cumini genome.
- **Discovery of a higher number of coding genes** in the jamun genome, indicating a neopolyploidy event.
- V. Adaptive Evolution and Pharmacological Properties

Anti-Diabetic Properties

- Presence of glycosides explained as a factor **preventing starch conversion into sugar, elucidating the anti-diabetic value.**

Stress Tolerance and Adaptive Evolution

- **Genes identified in jamun contribute to stress tolerance** against factors like weeds, insects, heat, salinity, and drought.

5. Glaciers shrank 1 m a year in a decade: WMO - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- A report from the WMO reveals that **despite being the warmest decade** on record, the 2011-2020 period experienced the **lowest number of deaths from extreme events.**
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) attributes this positive trend to **advancements in early warning systems, improved forecasting and better disaster management.**

Prelims Takeaway

- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- Climate Finance

Improvements in Early Warning Systems

- The **2011-2020 decade** was the first since 1950 when there was **not a single short-term event with 10,000 deaths or more.**
- **Advancements in forecasting**, particularly in countries like India, contributed to **better preparedness and evacuation**, reducing the impact of natural disasters.

Climate and Environmental Changes

- The decade marked the first **visible signs of recovery in the depleted ozone hole**, signalling positive environmental changes.
- However, **glaciers worldwide thinned by an average of 1 metre per year.**
- **Greenland and Antarctica lost 38% more ice** during the period than during the 2001-2010 period.
- The report also **mentioned the 2021 Uttarakhand rock-avalanche** triggered by a breach in the Nanda Devi glacier in the Himalayas.

Impact of Human-Caused Climate Change

- It significantly **increased the risks of extreme heat events**, with heat waves causing the highest number of human casualties.
- **Tropical cyclones** emerged as the **leading cause of economic damage** during the decade.

Climate Finance

- Public and private climate finance **nearly doubled during the period.**
- Despite the increase, the report emphasizes the need for a **sevenfold increase in climate finance by the end of the decade** to achieve global climate objectives.

6. India's CO2 emission may register biggest rise for 2nd yr: study - Indian Express

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

News:

- Annual study by the **Global Carbon Project reveals** India's potential for the second successive year of **registering the largest growth in carbon dioxide emissions.**
- **Concerns raised at the annual climate change** conference regarding the alarming trends in global emissions.

Prelims Takeaway

- Global Warming

Key Points**Emission Trends and Global Warming**

- Study indicates a **50% chance of breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius** threshold in the next seven years if current emission trends persist.

India's Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- **There is expected 8.2% rise in India's annual CO2 emissions for 2023, doubling the anticipated increase in China.**

- **Power demand growth in India**, particularly driven by insufficient renewable capacity, cited as a major factor.

Comparison with China

- **China's 4% growth in CO2 emissions in 2023**, despite being four times that of India in absolute amounts, contributes significantly to global emissions.

Coal-Fired Power Plants Impact

- It was an anticipated **contribution of 176 million tonnes** to India's increased CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants.

7. One-third of India's coastline vulnerable to erosion: minister - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change cited a study by the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** in the Lok Sabha.
- According to the study **over one-third of India's coastline is vulnerable to erosion**.
- He also highlighted a **state-wise study on beaches facing erosion** conducted by the **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules
- National Centre for Coastal Research

State-wise Vulnerability

- **Andhra Pradesh:** Out of 116 surveyed beaches, 35 are vulnerable to erosion.
- **Goa:** Among 50 surveyed beaches, 22 face erosion and 28 are under accretion.
- **Maharashtra:** 21 out of 31 surveyed beaches face erosion.
- **Kerala:** 13 out of 22 surveyed beaches face erosion.
- **Tamil Nadu:** 9 out of 21 surveyed beaches are prone to erosion.
- **Karnataka:** 13 out of 18 surveyed beaches are prone to erosion.

Overall Coastline Vulnerability

- **33.6% of the Indian coastline is susceptible to erosion**, 26.9% is under accretion, and 39.6% is in a stable state.
- The changes in shoreline are attributed to a **combination of natural and human activities**.
- The receding coastline would **adversely affect the livelihoods of fishing communities**.

Government Measures

- The MoEFCC has implemented the **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification, 2019**, aiming to conserve coastal stretches and protect marine areas.
- **No Development Zones (NDZ)** have been designated to safeguard coastal areas from encroachment and erosion.
- Chief secretaries of coastal states and Union Territories were urged to **finalize the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)**, including
 - mapping erosion-prone areas
 - preparing a shoreline management plan for identified eroding stretches.
- The ministry has **delineated a hazard line for the entire coast of India**.
- **Coastal erosion mitigation measures have been initiated** in Puducherry and Chellanam in Kerala, resulting in the restoration and protection of coastal areas.
- **Technical support has been extended** to the coastal states
 - Design of coastal protection measures at vulnerable stretches
 - Preparation of shoreline management plans

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. The journey towards a plastic-free world - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- Recently, the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** met under the UN Environment Programme to **develop a global plastics treaty**.
- Tasked with delivering a **binding instrument by 2025**, the INC-3 aimed to **finalize the 'zero draft' text** for negotiations.

'Zero Draft' Content and Negotiations

- The zero draft proposed strong obligations to combat plastic pollution but faced watering down during negotiations.
- Contentious issues included core obligations, reduction in primary polymer production and disagreements on treaty objectives.

Core Obligations and Controversies

- Some countries pushed to include economic interests in the treaty's objective, emphasising sustainable development.
- Controversy surrounded the reduction of primary polymer production due to industry concerns and lobbying.
- There were disagreements on the starting point of the plastics lifecycle and provisions regarding problematic plastics and compounds.

Financial Mechanism and Trade Restrictions

- Financial mechanisms, including plastic-pollution fees, reducing the financial flow into projects with a high carbon footprint faced opposition and demands for deletion.
- Trade restrictions on polymers, chemicals, plastic products, and waste were contested by a bloc of countries.
- Misinterpretation of WTO rules by the bloc also hindered discussions on trade limitations.

Upstream Measures and Waste Management

- Upstream measures were rejected, with midstream measures diluted through voluntary approaches and "national circumstances."
- Concerns were raised about potential insistence on unsound waste management solutions.
- The lack of clarity on terms like "environmentally sound management" posed risks.

Rules of Procedure

- Debates on rules of procedure at INC-2 persisted, impacting decision-making at INC-3.
- The lack of consensus on voting procedures left key issues unresolved for future negotiations.

Role of African Group and SIDS

- African Group and Small-Island Developing States advocated for strong binding provisions, representing waste-pickers and indigenous peoples.
- Their efforts were hindered by the tripling of the draft text and frequent delays in meetings.
- INC-3 failed to adopt the mandate to proceed with developing the first draft, causing a setback.

2. THE CRIME STORY - Indian Express

Relevance: Social

Context:

- The latest **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** report highlights concerning trends in **various crime categories**.
- These **include crimes** against women, children, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, suicides and cybercrimes.

Crime Trends

- **Crimes Against Women, Children, and Marginalized Groups**
 - Recorded crimes in these categories **show a steep increase**, raising concerns about the safety of vulnerable sections of society.
- **Suicides:** The report reveals that **468 people took their lives every day in 2022**
- **Cybercrimes:** Instances of cybercrimes **surged by nearly 25%**.

Growing Awareness

- Increased crime numbers in state or city-level data may be attributed to **greater awareness, law enforcement presence or citizen-centric initiatives**.
- However, the NCRB also flags the **possibility of under-reporting**.
 - Especially in cases where perpetrators are acquaintances of the victims.
 - Women may find it challenging to report abuses within close circles.
- An earlier NCRB report, acknowledged that **it did not "capture the socio-economic causative factors"**.

Challenges and Recommendations

- The NCRB cautions that the **data reflects registered crimes**, not the actual numbers.
- The policymakers should interpret it as a **broad picture of crime registration**.
- The **report urged policymakers to**
 - Prioritize the concerns of senior citizens
 - Ensure safety in homes, educational institutions and public spaces for children.
- The report suggests **reading NCRB data alongside studies** highlighting **structural impediments** faced by the underprivileged.
- The **seriousness of the growing incidents of cybercrime is underscored**, calling for law enforcers to stay ahead of the curve.

Conclusion

- The NCRB needs to **engage in conversations about the use of digital systems** for crime prevention and investigation.
- It needs to **adapt to new challenges** while addressing the existing ones.

3. India & geopolitics of AI - Indian Express

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

Context:

- Discussions on the **geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** draw parallels with the nuclear experience, prompting **reflections on India's nuclear history**.
- Despite the differences, the **lessons learned from managing nuclear challenges** can inform strategies for **addressing the risks and opportunities posed by AI**.

Similarities with Nuclear Age

- The nuclear revolution, marked by atomic bombs in 1945, prompted efforts to limit threats to humanity's survival.
- Similarly, the AI revolution poses a potentially transformative impact on the economy, society and polity.
- The challenges include managing geopolitical rivalry, creating norms and establishing institutions to govern AI use.
- As in the nuclear age, there is a call for a ban on military uses of AI or at least a "freeze" on research and development until there is a better assessment of the technology.

US-China Dominance

- The US and China dominate discussions on AI, akin to the superpowers in the nuclear era. Agreements between the US and China on AI are crucial for managing the technological revolution, despite competition.
- Both countries are actively developing military uses of AI.

International Norms and Agreements

- There are proposals for international norms to manage the potential negative consequences of the AI revolution.
- The suggestion of an "International Agency for Artificial Intelligence" mirrors the International Atomic Energy Agency for nuclear energy regulation.
- The US focuses on building "like-minded coalitions," such as the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) to discuss AI development and its effects.

India's Lessons from Nuclear History

- Disarmament Idealism
 - India should avoid disarmament idealism, as seen in its nuclear history, and recognize the urgency of addressing AI challenges.
 - Unlike the nuclear domain, India can't afford to delay action in the AI realm.
- Partnership with the US
 - Building on current momentum, partnership with the US on AI and emerging technologies is crucial.
 - India's historical cooperation with the US faced setbacks due to political hesitations.
 - A proactive approach is necessary to raise India's position in the global AI hierarchy.
- Avoiding Exceptionalism
 - India must resist the temptation to proclaim exceptionalism and pursue a "third way" in technological development.
 - Learning from past mistakes, a collaborative approach, especially involving the private sector, is essential for strong domestic AI capabilities.

Conclusion

- As **India hosts the GPAI summit**, it should leverage its nuclear history lessons to **navigate the challenges of the AI revolution**.
- Recognizing the need for swift action, strengthening partnerships and avoiding exceptionalism are key elements in shaping India's role in the global AI landscape.

Quick Look

1. Geographical Indication Tag

- Four of the agricultural products in the southern part of Tamil Nadu were recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) recognising their uniqueness.
- The four products are The Cumbum paneer grapes, Authoor betel leaves, Sholavandhan betel leaves and Kanniyakumari matti banana.
- GI Tag is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- It is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods).
- Validity: 10 years following which it can be renewed.

2. INS Sandhayak

- Recently, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) delivered INS Sandhayak to the Indian Navy on the occasion of Navy Day.
- It is the largest survey vessel ever built in India.
- It is the first in the series of four Survey Vessels (Large), or SVLs, being built by GRSE.
- The new INS Sandhayak and the remaining ships in the series are far more advanced than their predecessors.
- **Features**
 - It is a 110-metre-long ship propelled by two marine diesel engines combined with fixed-pitch propellers.
 - It is fitted with bow and stern thrusters to help the ships manoeuvre at low speeds during surveys.
 - It is capable of full-scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of port and harbour approaches and the determination of navigation channels and routes.
 - It can also undertake surveys of maritime limits and the collection of oceanographic and geographical data for defence applications.
 - It can carry a helicopter, participate in low-intensity combat, and function as a hospital ship.
 - It can also be used for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

3. International Social Security Association

- It is the principal international institution bringing together social security agencies and organisations of the world.
- Objective: To promote dynamic social security as the social dimension in a globalising world by supporting excellence in social security administration.
- It was founded in 1927 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization
- It has over 320 member institutions from over 160 countries.
- It provides access to information, expert advice, business standards, practical guidelines and platforms for members to build and promote dynamic social security systems worldwide.
- Headquarters: Geneva (at the International Labour Office)

4. Pilatus PC-7 Mk II

- It is a trainer aircraft.
- It is a low-wing, turbo-prop aircraft with tandem seating (the cadet sits in the front, the instructor behind him).
- While the original aircraft has been in service since the 1970s, the Mk II version was introduced in the 1990s, with newer airframe and more advanced avionics.

- It is Powered by a Pratt & Whitney turbo-prop engine, it has a maximum speed of 412 km/h and can fly to a height of slightly more than 10,000 m.
- It has a range of 1,200 km without external tanks, which translates to slightly more than 4 hours of flying time.
- There are 75 Pilatus PC-7 Mk II aircraft in service with the IAF.

5. CV-22B Osprey

- It is a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical take-off, hover, and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency, and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft.
- It was developed to fulfil the needs of the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy operational requirements worldwide.
- It is built by Boeing, an American aerospace company.
- It is used for a wide-range of missions, including long-range infiltration, exfiltration, medium-range assault, special operations, VIP transport, resupply, disaster relief, search-and-rescue, medical evacuation, and humanitarian missions



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Which of the following statements about the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is/are correct?

1. NCRB is a constitutional body mandated to maintain a national database of crime statistics in India.
2. The NCRB is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. One of the primary functions of NCRB is to conduct investigations into criminal cases reported across the country.

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

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

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Citizenship Act is/are correct?

1. The Citizenship Act, 1955, provides for the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship.
2. The Act allows individuals born in India to foreign parents to automatically acquire Indian citizenship.
3. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, facilitates the grant of Indian citizenship to certain persecuted minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

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

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

Q3. Which of the following statements about Kenya is/are correct?

1. Kenya is a landlocked country located in East Africa.
2. The Great Rift Valley, known for its geological features and diverse wildlife, runs through Kenya.

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

Q4. Which of the following statements regarding the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) is/are correct?

1. IISERs were established with the aim of promoting quality education and cutting-edge research in basic sciences.
2. IISERs are autonomous institutions under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. With reference to the the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), consider the following statements

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) for meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
2. Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress which consists of representatives of all members.
3. It publishes the State of the Global Climate Report.

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

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

Q6. Which of the following statements about Global Warming is/are correct?

1. It refers to the long-term increase in Earth's average surface temperature, primarily due to human activities releasing greenhouse gases.

2. Methane is a greenhouse gas that contributes to Global Warming by trapping heat in the atmosphere.
3. It has no impact on weather patterns and extreme events.

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 on Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

1. It classifies the coastal area into different zones to manage infrastructure activities and regulate them.
2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is responsible for formulating and implementing CRZ regulations in India.
3. Under it, CRZ - IV are the most sensitive areas and include ecologically important regions like mangroves, coral reefs, and other areas with rich biodiversity.

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 regarding the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2021

1. It prohibits single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.
2. The ban will also apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.

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

Q9. The Budapest Convention is associated with

- A. Climate Change
- B. Human Rights
- C. Maritime Security
- D. Cybercrime

Q10 With reference to Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), consider the following statements

1. Its primary objective is to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research.
2. India is one of its founding members.

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is not a constitutional body. It is a statutory body that functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its primary responsibility is to collect and analyze crime data from across the country. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect
- The NCRB operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It was set up based on a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible for coordinating and implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project. Hence, statement 2 is correct
- NCRB's role is not to conduct investigations into criminal cases. Instead, it focuses on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of crime statistics. It acts as a repository of crime-related data and provides valuable inputs for policy formulation and crime control strategies. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect

Ans. 2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Citizenship Act, 1955, indeed provides the framework for the acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship. It outlines various ways through which a person can become an Indian citizen, including by birth, descent, registration, and naturalization. Hence, statement 1 is correct
- Birth in India alone does not confer automatic citizenship to individuals born to foreign parents. The citizenship status is determined by specific conditions mentioned in the Citizenship Act, and in some cases, additional requirements like at least one parent being an Indian citizen. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, provides a path to Indian citizenship for members of certain religious minority

communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) who migrated from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan before December 31, 2014, due to religious persecution. Hence, statement 3 is correct

Ans. 3 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Kenya is not a landlocked country. It is located on the eastern coast of Africa and has a coastline along the Indian Ocean. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect
- The Great Rift Valley runs through Kenya, showcasing diverse landscapes, geological features, and significant wildlife. This valley is known for its lakes, mountains, and is a crucial region for understanding the Earth's tectonic activity. Hence, statement 2 is correct

Ans. 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The primary objective of establishing IISERs is to promote high-quality education, research, and innovation in basic sciences, including physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and related interdisciplinary areas. Hence, statement 1 is correct
- IISERs are autonomous institutions funded and managed by the Ministry of Education (formerly the Ministry of Human Resource Development), Government of India. They operate independently to foster scientific research and education. Hence, statement 2 is correct

Ans. 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the UN for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans,

the climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873.
- Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress, which consists of representatives of all members. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It meets at least every four years to set general policy and adopt regulations.
- A 36-member Executive Council meets annually and implements policy.
- The Secretariat, headed by a secretary-general appointed by the congress for a four-year term, serves as the administrative centre of the organization.
- The State of the Global Climate report is an annual publication from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - It presents the latest findings on the state of climate change worldwide.

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Global Warming refers to the sustained increase in Earth's average surface temperature, and it is predominantly attributed to human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to Global Warming. It has a higher warming potential than carbon dioxide over a relatively short time frame, although it is present in lower concentrations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Global Warming is known to have significant impacts on weather patterns, leading to changes in precipitation, temperature extremes, and the frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and heatwaves. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

Ans. 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ) 2019 classifies the coastal area into different zones to manage infrastructure activities and regulate them. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The coastal regulation zones have been declared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change under the Environment Protection Act 1986. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The CRZ classifications are as follows
 - CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas): These are the most sensitive areas and include ecologically important regions like mangroves, coral reefs, and other areas with rich biodiversity. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.
 - CRZ-II (Urban Areas): This zone pertains to developed urban areas where infrastructure already exists.
 - CRZ-III (Rural Areas): CRZ-III areas include rural and semi-urban areas that are relatively less developed.
 - CRZ-IV (Aquatic Zones): This zone covers the aquatic areas including coastal waters, tidal influenced waters, and the seabed up to the territorial limit.
- The three institutions responsible for the implementation of the CRZ are
 - the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) at the Centre
 - the State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities (SCZMAs/UTCZMAs) in every coastal State and Union Territory
 - the District Level Committees (DLCs) in every district that has a coastal stretch and where the CRZ notification is applicable.

Ans. 7 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2021, prohibits single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - o Defined single use plastic as “a plastic commodity intended to be used once for the same purpose before being disposed of or recycled”
 - o Include plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles etc.
- Prohibition on Manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities from 1st July 2022.
- The ban will NOT apply to commodities made of compostable plastic. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.
- Thickness of plastic carry bags increased to 120 microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
- CPCB will monitor the ban, identify violations and impose penalties already prescribed under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

Ans. 8 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Council of Europe’s (CoE) Cybercrime Convention is also known as the Budapest Convention.
- The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime. Hence, option D is correct.

- It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalises certain cybercrime conduct.
- It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between state parties to this treaty.
- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.

Ans. 9 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was officially launched on June 15, 2020
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence is described as the ‘fruition of an idea developed within the G7.’
- At present, GPAI has twenty-nine member states i.e Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (EU).
- India joined the GPAI in 2020 as a founding member. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Its Secretariat is hosted at the OECD.

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