

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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7. Raksha Mantri to inaugurate two big piers and seven towers with 320 homes in Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka- Economics times
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Important News Articles

GS I

1. A 5,000-year-old cemetery discovered in Italy belongs to the Copper Age- Times of India

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

News:

- Archaeologists in Italy have made a remarkable discovery of a 5,000-year-old cemetery that belonged to a Copper Age society

Copper Age:

- The Copper Age, or Chalcolithic time period, is a period that spans from about 5,000 to 2,000 years ago, depending on the region.
- It was a transitional phase from the Neolithic period (the New Stone Age) to the Bronze Age.
- It is characterized by the emergence of metallurgy, especially the use of copper, along with stone tools.
- It coincides with the beginnings of craft specialization, the development of agriculture, long-distance trade, and increased sociopolitical complexity.
- Farmers typically raised domestic animals such as sheep-goats, cattle, and pigs, a diet supplemented by hunting and fishing.
- Crops grown by Chalcolithic farmers included **barley, wheat and pulses**.
- A main identifying characteristic of the Chalcolithic period is polychrome painted pottery.
- **Houses built by Chalcolithic farmers** were constructed of stone or mudbrick.
- One characteristic pattern is a chain building, a row of rectangular houses connected to one another by shared party walls on the short ends.
- Another pattern, seen in larger settlements, is a set of rooms around a central courtyard, which may have facilitated the same sort of social arrangement.
- In archaeology, the first signs of massacres, battles and warrior burials begin appearing with the rise of the Copper Age.
- By the end of the Copper Age, people discovered that by adding tin to copper, a stronger and more durable metal could be created: bronze. From that point on, the Bronze Age begins.

Prelims Takeaway

- Chalcolithic
- Copper Age

2. Globally, women have just two-thirds of legal rights given to men, finds World Bank- Down TO Earth

Relevance: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

News:

- **Legal rights for women worldwide** are significantly lower than initially perceived, according to a new report by the **World Bank Group**.

Key Highlights

- The World Bank's Women, Business and Law Index measures how laws and regulations in 190 countries affect women's economic opportunities.
- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 representing equal legal rights for men and women.
- The latest 2024 report highlights that **no country has achieved perfect gender equality in its legal framework**.
- When considering legal distinctions related to violence and childcare, women are found to have less than two-thirds or 64 per cent of the rights enjoyed by men, it has found.
 - Earlier estimates projected women had 77 per cent of the rights.

Prelims Takeaway

- World Bank
- Women, Business and Law Index

- This means **women everywhere still face legal barriers** compared to men in areas like mobility, work, pay, marriage, parenthood, business ownership, and property rights.
- **India's ranking improved to 113th globally**, but Indian women still have only 60% of the legal rights granted to men, which is lower than the global average of 64.2%.

GS III

3. Google reinstates Indian apps 'in spirit of cooperation'- The Hindu

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

News:

- Google is **reinstating dozens of apps that were delisted by the company** on March 1 for resisting the firm's platform fees on in-app payments

Key Highlights

- they temporarily reinstating the apps of the developers with appeals pending in the Supreme Court
- "Google maintains its right to implement and enforce its business model, as established in various courts.

Over-The-Top (OTT) Platforms

- OTT platforms are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting platforms
 - but soon branched out into the production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves.
- These platforms offer a range of content and use artificial intelligence to suggest to users the content they are likely to view based on their past viewership on the platform.

Services:

- Most OTT platforms generally offer some content for free and charge a monthly subscription fee for premium content which is generally unavailable elsewhere.
- In 2022, the Central Government notified the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 to regulate OTT platforms.**

Prelims Takeaway

- OTT
- Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021

4. Why Anthropic calls the new Claude 3 its 'most intelligent' AI model yet- The Indian Express

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

News:

- Artificial Intelligence start-up Anthropic announced its latest family of **AI models called Claude 3**

Claude: Powerful AI Language Models

- Claude is a family of advanced AI models from Anthropic, **capable of understanding and responding to text, voice, and documents.**
- These models excel at generating **relevant and context-aware responses, surpassing many competitors in speed and quality.**

Three models for different needs:

- **Claude 3 Haiku:** This is the most lightweight and responsive option, ideal for scenarios where instant answers are crucial.
- **Claude 3 Sonnet:** Striking a balance between power and affordability, Sonnet offers strong capabilities for various use cases and is currently accessible through the free Claude.ai chatbot.
- **Claude 3 Opus:** The most powerful member of the family, Opus boasts superior performance and can handle complex tasks.
- However, it requires a paid subscription on Anthropic's website.

Prelims Takeaway

- Claude 3 Haiku
- AI

- **Enhanced capabilities:** All three models now feature a 2,000,000-token window, potentially leading to improved performance, accuracy, and the ability to handle more information in user prompts.

5. U.N. warns of climate change impact on women run farms in poor nations-The Hindu

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

News:

- **Women who run farms and rural households in poor countries suffer more from climate change** and are discriminated against as they try to adapt to other sources of income in times of crises, the United Nations warned

Prelims Takeaway

- FAO
- United Nations

Key Highlights of report

- **A new report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation**, The Unjust Climate, found that
 - female-headed rural households lose on average 8 per cent more of their income during heat waves and 3 percent more during floods, compared to male-headed households.
- That disparity translates into a per capita reduction of USD 83 due to heat stress
 - USD 35 due to floods coming up to an annual total of USD 37 billion and USD 16 billion respectively in poor countries, the UN agency said in the report.
- Considering the significant existing differences in **agricultural productivity and wages between women and men, the study suggests**
 - That if not addressed, climate change will greatly widen these gaps in the years ahead, FAO said.
- Significantly, the report noted that few government plans to address climate change and promote adaptation strategies take into account the specific vulnerabilities of rural women and youths.
- Only 6 percent of the more than 4,000 proposals contained in the national climate adaptation plans of the countries surveyed mentioned women.
- The report noted that in many poor countries, **women are discriminated against in their ability** to have rights to land or to make decisions over their work.
- When they then try to diversify their sources of income as a result of climate crises reducing farm and livestock productivity
 - They also face discrimination in gaining access to information, financing and technology.
- The report called for **targeted strategies to address the particular vulnerabilities of rural households headed by women.**
- 'Social differences based on locations, wealth, gender and age have a powerful
 - Yet poorly understood, impact on rural peoples' vulnerability to the impacts of the climate crisis

6. Warming up to climate change: What is carbon capture and can it help save the planet?- Indian express

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

News:

- Last week, Germany announced that it would allow **carbon capture and off-shore storage for certain industrial sectors**, such as cement production to help meet its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2045.
- The country is **currently the biggest carbon dioxide (CO2) emitter in Europe.**

carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

- CCS is a technology that **captures carbon dioxide (CO2), a greenhouse gas, from industrial facilities** and power plants, and then stores it deep underground.
- This is different from simply removing CO2 from the air, as CCS specifically targets emissions at the source.

The process involves three steps:

Prelims Takeaway

- CO₂
- Carbon Capture and Storage

- **Capture:** CO₂ is separated from exhaust gases using various methods like chemical solvents (post-combustion), gasification (pre-combustion), or pure oxygen burning (oxyfuel combustion).
- **Transport:** Captured CO₂ is compressed into a liquid and transported through pipelines or other means to storage sites.
- **Storage:** CO₂ is safely stored deep underground in geological formations like saline aquifers or depleted oil and gas reservoirs.
- While CCS offers a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it's important to note that different capture methods have varying efficiency levels and energy requirements.

7. Raksha Mantri to inaugurate two big piers and seven towers with 320 homes in Naval Base Karwar, Karnataka- Economics times

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- Raksha Mantri will inaugurate two big piers and seven towers with 320 homes today for Navy officers and Defence civilians **as part of Project Seabird in Naval Base Karwar in Karnataka**

Prelims Takeaway

- Project Seabird

Project Seabird

- **India's biggest naval base project is** taking shape on the west coast at Karwar, Karnataka.
- **Born from necessity:** Following the **1971 war with Pakistan, India recognized the need for another naval base to ease congestion in Mumbai harbor and bolster** Western Fleet security.
- **A project unfolds:** Officially approved in 1985, Project Seabird saw its foundation laid in 1986.
- **This massive project boasts several firsts for India, including** a dedicated seaport for military transport and a unique docking and undocking system for ships and submarines.
- **Phase 1:** Completed in 2005, this initial phase involved constructing a deep-water harbor, breakwaters, a township, a naval hospital, a dockyard, and a ship lift.
- **Phase 2:** Launched in 2011, this ongoing expansion is divided into phases 2A and 2B.
- It aims to significantly increase docking capacity for warships, establish a new Naval Air Station, and undertake other crucial projects.
- **Future ambitions:** Upon completion, Project Seabird will become the largest naval base in the Eastern Hemisphere, capable of accommodating around 32 warships, 23 submarines, and housing aircraft squadrons.
- This ambitious project signifies India's growing naval power and strategic vision.

8. NASA satellite captures 'odd holes' in clouds caused by aeroplanes- Times of india

Relevance: Salient features of world's physical geography.

News:

- NASA's Terra satellite, **ice crystals in the hole's center form wispy streaks of precipitation that do not hit the ground.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Altocumulus clouds
- Cavum clouds

Cavum clouds:

- These clouds are also known as "**hole-punch clouds** or fallstreak holes."

Formation of cloud

- These are formed when **airplanes pass through layers of altocumulus clouds**, which are mid-level clouds containing supercooled water droplets (water below freezing temperature but still in liquid form).
- As the aircraft moves through, a **process known as adiabatic expansion can cause the water droplets to freeze into ice crystals.**
- These ice crystals eventually become too heavy and fall out of the cloud layer, **creating a hole in the clouds.**
- They are formed when planes pass through at a relatively steep angle.

Altocumulus clouds

- These are typically **found in groups or heaps clumped together.**

- They're found in the **middle layer of the troposphere**, lower than cirrocumulus and higher than their cumulus and stratocumulus counterparts.
- The term mackerel sky is also common to altocumulus (and cirrocumulus) clouds that display a pattern resembling fish scales.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Deprivileging bribe- The Hindu

Relevance: Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

Context:

- The artificial distinction that the Supreme Court of India made over 25 years ago between 'bribe-givers' and 'bribe-takers' in the infamous JMM bribery case

<p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judgment left many aghast that those who paid crores of rupees to MPs for voting in favor of the P.V. Narasimha Rao government in a no-confidence motion were to be prosecuted for corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ but those who took the money were immune from prosecution. • The reason was that those who had voted for money enjoyed the constitutional privilege of not being subject to any legal consequence for "anything said or any vote given in Parliament". <p>THE VERDICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court has corrected this anomaly in the law related to parliamentary privileges by holding that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ There can be no immunity for a Member of Parliament or a State legislature against a bribery charge in connection with a vote or speech in the legislature. • In overruling the majority verdict in P.V. Narasimha Rao vs State (CBI/SPE) (1998), a seven-member Constitution Bench has foregrounded probity as the main aspect of parliamentary functioning. 	<p>Article 105 and 194</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court has made it clear that parliamentary privilege Article 105 (for MPs) and Article 194 (for State legislators) is aimed at protecting the freedom of speech and independence of the legislators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ in their functioning in the House and cannot extend to bribery ◦ as it is not essential to the casting of the vote or in deciding how to cast it. • The majority feared that limiting this privilege might have serious consequences and felt that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ public indignation over the conduct of some MPs accepting a bribe should not lead to the court construing the Constitution ◦ so narrowly that it removes the guarantee for effective parliamentary participation and debate. • However, the seven-member Bench has concluded that the potential for such misuse is neither enhanced nor diminished by recognising the court's jurisdiction to prosecute a member for bribery. <p>Privileges of Rajya sabha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bench has also held that voting in a Rajya Sabha election, being part of a legislator's function, is protected under Article 194 of the Constitution as a privilege. • It requires utmost protection for a member to vote freely and without fear of legal persecution. • Overall, the verdict meets public expectation that the members they elect do not act under monetary inducement.
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10. The dynamics of household consumption- The Hindu

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

Context:

- The eagerly awaited fact sheet of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 was released recently by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The results of the survey are significant as the last results on household consumption expenditure were released in 2011-12.

What the survey does

- The HCES offers a close look at how households across India incur expenditures on consumable items in a given period.
- The HCES has played a pivotal role in India's growth story since its inception in 1950-51.
- Beyond merely detailing spending habits, this survey has been a crucial factor in estimating the head count ratio
 - which is the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line.
- Moreover, the HCES has been an invaluable resource for research in diverse fields,
 - including economics and sociology, contributing to our understanding of the nation's socio-economic landscape.
- A significant stride in HCES 2022-23 was the positive shift to the modern and efficient computer-assisted personal interview method from the traditional paper-aided personal interview method.
- This shift expedited data collection and processing, introducing a more streamlined scrutiny mechanism across divisions of the NSSO.

Parameters of survey

- The robust sampling design, coupled with the incorporation of new items and innovative survey techniques, reflects a dedication to staying attuned to the dynamics of a rapidly changing official statistics domain.
- The fact sheet provides key estimates within six months of the end of the survey
 - with low relative standard errors for monthly per capita expenditure at both national and State levels.
- While embracing modernity, the survey also retained certain traditional practices.
- The age-old method of imputing the value of home-grown or produced stock, gifts, loans, and exchanges persisted.
- Additionally, the NSSO took a pioneering step by imputing the value of items received free of cost through various social welfare programmes for the first time.

Insights into changes, trends

- The fact sheet provides intriguing and precise insights into India's economic landscape.
- The average **MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure)** stands at **₹3,773 in rural India and ₹6,459 in urban India**.
- Notably, when considering imputed values of free items, these figures increase to ₹3,860 and ₹6,521, respectively.
- Analysing the trend from **1999-2000 to 2022-23** reveals a **significant transformation in MPCE composition in rural and urban areas**.
- There is a noticeable **decline in the percentage share of expenditure on food items (especially cereals)**, accompanied by an increase in the share of spending on fresh fruits and processed foods.
- There is a **surge in non-food expenditures' share, particularly on durable goods**, indicating an improved standard of living and a growing preference for lifestyle enhancements.

Quick Look

1. "State of the Judiciary" Report

- Recently, a report titled 'State of the Judiciary' was published by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.
- Key Findings
 - Nearly one-fifth (19.7%) of district court complexes in India do not have separate toilets for women.
 - Existing women's toilets often suffer from broken doors and irregular water supply, compromising the hygiene and dignity of users.
 - Some court complexes have shared washrooms for male and female judges.
 - Only 6.7% of women's toilets in district court complexes are equipped with sanitary napkin vending machines.
 - Most district courts lack toilets specifically designated for transgender persons.
 - Judges in some instances personally engage sweepers and cleaners to ensure the cleanliness of the toilets.

2. Exercise Desert Cyclone

- It is the inaugural edition of joint military exercise "Desert Cyclone 2024" between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- It will be held from January 2 to January 15 in Rajasthan.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in Urban Operations.
- This exercise is marking a significant milestone in the strategic partnership.

3. Sarna Religion

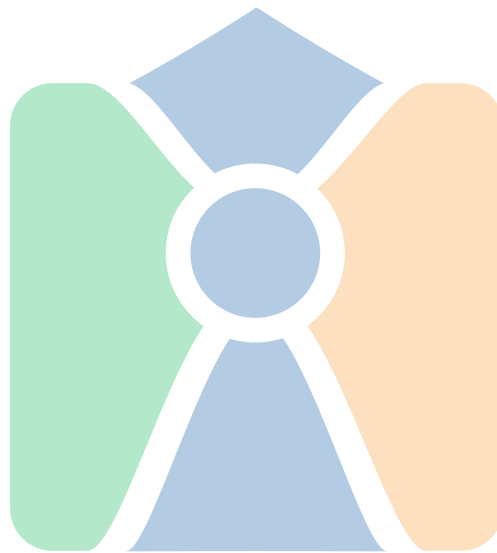
- A recent study at IIT Indore on tribal culture, forest conservation, and wildfire in central India sheds light on the Sarna religion's tenets.
- Indigenous religious faith predominantly followed in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region.
- Concentrated mainly in the tribal belt states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.
- Followers of the Sarna faith are nature worshippers.
- The holy grail of the Sarna faith is "Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land)."
- Its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- Believers of the Sarna faith do not practise idol worship, nor do they adhere to the concept of the Varna system, heaven-hell, etc.
- Important Festivals: Sarhul, Karam, Faggu

4. National Judicial Data Grid

- NJDG is a database of orders, judgments and case details of Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.
- It has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in coordination with the Computer Cell Registry.
- Data is updated on a near real-time basis by the connected District and Taluka courts.
- Aligned with the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), NJDG provides an Open Application Programming Interface (API) to Central and State Governments.
- Through this one may access case related information, statistics such as institution, pendency and disposal of cases, case-types, year-wise break-up of the Supreme Court of India.

5. MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.
- It aims to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- The act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- If any rural adult fails to get work within 15 days of demanding it, an 'unemployment allowance' is given.
- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries need to be women.
- The Centre bears 60% of the cost of the materials used for MGNREGS work and the remaining 40% is provided by the State governments.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements a Lost Wax Method

1. The method involves creating a detailed wax model, coating it with alluvial soil, heating to burn away the wax, and filling the mold with molten metal.
2. A copper amulet at a neolithic site in Mehrgarh and the Dancing Girl of Mohenjo Daro was also crafted using this technique.
3. The method is indigenous to the Chola era.

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

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

Q2. Consider the following statements

1. The World Bank's Women, Business and Law Index measures how laws and regulations in 190 countries affect women's economic opportunities.
2. The latest 2024 report highlights that no country has achieved perfect gender equality in its legal framework.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements

1. Most OTT platforms generally offer some content for free and charge a monthly subscription fee for premium content which is generally unavailable elsewhere.
2. In 2022, the Central Government notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 to regulate OTT platforms.

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. With reference to deepfake technology, consider the following statements

1. Deep Fakes are digital media, video, audio, and images, edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
2. The deep fakes are generated by highly skilled individuals and they require a large amount of data of the source and the target person.
3. India lacks specific laws addressing deep fakes and AI-related crimes, relying on existing legislation like the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the context of climate change:

1. COP is an annual gathering organized by the United Nations to address international climate-related issues and negotiate global agreements.
2. COP28 is currently focused on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST), a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to enhance climate actions.
3. The host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28.

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 carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

1. CCS is a technology that captures carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas, from industrial facilities and power plants, and then stores it deep underground.
2. This is different from simply removing CO₂ from the air, as CCS specifically targets emissions at the source.

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about Project Seabird

1. India's biggest naval base project is taking shape on the west coast at Karwar, Karnataka.
2. Following the 1971 war with Pakistan, India recognized the need for another naval base to ease congestion in Mumbai harbor and bolster Western Fleet security.
3. Officially approved in 1985, Project Seabird saw its foundation laid in 1986.

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 Altocumulus clouds

1. These are typically found in groups or heaps clumped together.
2. They're found in the middle layer of the troposphere, lower than cirrocumulus and higher than their cumulus and stratocumulus counterparts.

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

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. parliamentary privilege Article 105 (for MPs) and Article 194 (for State legislators) is aimed at protecting the freedom of speech and independence of the legislators
2. voting in a Rajya Sabha election, being part of a legislator's function, is protected under Article 194 of the Constitution as a privilege.

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23

1. Rural consumption spending fallen more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23
2. There is a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households.
3. Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased

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

- Lost Wax Method: Sculptors who created the Nataraja statue which is placed at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, trace their lineage 34 generations back to the Cholas.
- The crafting process used is the traditional 'lost-wax' casting method, indigenous to the Chola era. **Hence statement 3 is correct**
- The lost-wax method dates back at least 6,000 years, a copper amulet crafted using this method at a neolithic site in Mehrgarh, Balochistan (present day Pakistan) is dated to circa 4,000 BC.
- Notably, the Dancing Girl of Mohenjo Daro was also crafted using this technique. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- This method involves creating a detailed wax model, coating it with alluvial soil, heating to burn away the wax, and filling the mold with molten metal. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- The Cholas excelled in the lost wax method for producing elaborate metallic sculptures.
- This technique was used to create intricate sculptures for millennia.

Answer 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The World Bank's Women, Business and Law Index measures how laws and regulations in 190 countries affect women's economic opportunities.
- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 representing equal legal rights for men and women.
- The latest 2024 report highlights that no country has achieved perfect gender equality in its legal framework. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Most OTT platforms generally offer some content for free and charge a monthly subscription fee for premium content which is generally unavailable elsewhere.
- In 2022, the Central Government notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 to regulate OTT platforms. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 4 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Deep Fakes are digital media, video, audio, and images, edited and manipulated using Artificial Intelligence (AI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are created using a technique called generative adversarial networks (GANs), which involve two competing neural networks: a generator and a discriminator.
- They require a large amount of data of the source and the target person, which are often collected from the internet or social media without their consent.
- Despite applications in education, criminal forensics and film production, they raise concerns about exploitation, sabotage elections and misinformation.
- Now, deepfakes can easily be generated by semi-skilled and unskilled individuals by morphing audio-visual clips and images. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- India lacks specific laws addressing deep fakes and AI-related crimes, relying on existing legislation like the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is indeed an annual gathering organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together countries to discuss and negotiate global agreements on climate change-related issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- COP28 is currently underway, and one of its primary focuses is on implementing the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST is a review mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement to assess collective progress and enhance climate actions globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- the host country, UAE, has successfully operationalized the Loss and Damage Fund during COP28. This fund is intended to assist developing countries in recovering from climate disasters. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 6 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- CCS is a technology that captures carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas, from industrial facilities and power plants, and then stores it deep underground.
- This is different from simply removing CO₂ from the air, as CCS specifically targets emissions at the source.
- The process involves three steps:
- Capture: CO₂ is separated from exhaust gases using various methods like chemical solvents (post-combustion), gasification (pre-combustion), or pure oxygen burning (oxyfuel combustion). **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- India's biggest naval base project is taking shape on the west coast at Karwar, Karnataka.
- Born from necessity: Following the 1971 war with Pakistan, India recognized the need for another naval base to ease congestion in Mumbai harbor and bolster Western Fleet security.
- A project unfolds: Officially approved in 1985, Project Seabird saw its foundation laid in 1986. **Hence all the statements are correct**

Answer 8 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- These are typically found in groups or heaps clumped together.
- They're found in the middle layer of the troposphere, lower than cirrocumulus and higher than their cumulus and stratocumulus counterparts.
- The term mackerel sky is also common to altocumulus (and cirrocumulus) clouds that display a pattern resembling fish scales. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 9 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Court has made it clear that parliamentary privilege Article 105 (for MPs) and Article 194 (for State legislators) is aimed at protecting the freedom of speech and independence of the legislators

- in their functioning in the House and cannot extend to bribery
- as it is not essential to the casting of the vote or in deciding how to cast it.
- The majority feared that limiting this privilege might have serious consequences and felt that
- public indignation over the conduct of some MPs accepting a bribe should not lead to the court construing the Constitution
- so narrowly that it removes the guarantee for effective parliamentary participation and debate.
- However, the seven-member Bench has concluded that the potential for such misuse is neither enhanced nor diminished by recognising the court's jurisdiction to prosecute a member for bribery.
- The Bench has also held that voting in a Rajya Sabha election, being part of a legislator's function, is protected under Article 194 of the Constitution as a privilege.
- It requires utmost protection for a member to vote freely and without fear of legal persecution. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 10 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The survey has covered 2.62 lakh households, out of which 1.55 lakh were in rural areas and 1.07 lakh were in urban areas.
- The HCES 2022-23 results showed that rural consumption spending rose more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- with a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased to Rs 3,773 per month in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 per person in 2011-12, a jump of 164 per cent. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

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