

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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2. Total Solar Eclipse 2024: When is this celestial phenomenon occurring? Will it be visible in India – Date, time, location and significance- Financial express
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## Important News Articles

### GSI

#### 1. India eyes local allies to explore lithium blocks in Argentina- The Hindu

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Lithium
- KABIL

**News:**

- The Mines Ministry has initiated the **process to on-board local partners to start exploration activities for lithium** in Argentina, officials said.

**Key Highlights**

- The State-owned KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.) — a joint venture between Nalco, Hindustan Copper and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)
  - driving the process, acquired five lithium brine blocks, namely Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132 and Cortadera-VI

**Branch office**

- KABIL will also set up a branch office in the Latin- American nation, a government official told businessline.
- India has obtained exploration and exclusivity rights for these five blocks. The agreement will allow us to evaluate, prospect and explore the reserves.
  - And, upon subsequent discovery of lithium minerals, rights for commercial production have also been allowed.
- The MoU states there is a five year time frame given to KABIL within which exploration activities across these blocks have to start failing which “hefty fines” would have to be paid.

**Lithium**

- It is an alkali mineral, also called ‘white gold’. It is soft, silvery-white metal, the lightest metal of the periodic table.

**Major Properties:**

- High Reactivity
- Low Density
- Excellent Electrochemical Properties

**Occurrence and Top Producers:**

- Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite.
- It is extracted from these minerals and refined into lithium metal or its compounds.
- The top producers of lithium are **Australia, Chile, China, and Argentina.**
- In 2022, Australia was the world leader in terms of lithium mine production. Chile and China ranked second and third.
- The major lithium reserves in India are concentrated in states like **Karnataka, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- These states host significant deposits of lithium-bearing minerals, offering substantial potential for extraction

#### 2. Total Solar Eclipse 2024: When is this celestial phenomenon occurring? Will it be visible in India – Date, time, location and significance- Financial express

**Relevance:** Salient features of world’s physical geography.

**News:**

- The world will **witness a captivating solar eclipse in 2024 that will make the Sun disappear.**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Corona
- Eclipse

- This will be a rare celestial event as it will completely cover the Sun, casting a nocturnal ambiance during daylight hours.

#### Total Solar Eclipse:

- A total solar eclipse is a condition **when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth** and completely blocks the Sun's disk, casting a huge shadow on the surface.
- People viewing the eclipse from locations where the Moon's shadow completely covers the Sun—known as the path of totality—will experience a total solar eclipse.
- Weather permitting, individuals along the path of totality will have the opportunity to observe the Sun's corona, its outer atmosphere typically obscured by the Sun's bright face.
- The Sun's corona, **the outermost layer of its atmosphere extending millions of kilometers into space, is exclusively visible during a solar eclipse.**
- Appearing as a faint, pearly-white halo encircling the darkened disk of the Sun, it becomes observable only during this celestial event.
- This solar eclipse will be characterised by a phenomenon known as totality - a condition when viewers may be able to see the chromosphere (a region of the solar atmosphere, appearing as the thin circle of pink around the Moon) along with the corona.
- The totality will offer a rare view where you can momentarily see the stars during the time as the surroundings go completely dark.
- It will also be marked by a dip in air temperatures.

## GS II

### 3. A new report card, where students, their friends, parents get a say: What has NCERT changed, why- Indian express

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

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Holistic Progress Card
- NCERT

#### News:

- The traditional report cards students receive in schools are set to undergo a major change, with the **National Council for Educational and Research Training (NCERT) introducing a new 'holistic progress card' (HPC)**
- It will measure, apart from academic performance, **a child's progress in interpersonal relationships, self-reflection, creativity, and emotional application in classrooms.**

#### Holistic Progress Card (HPC)

- The Holistic Progress Card (HPC) is a new way of assessing students in India, designed by PARAKH under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- It applies to children from grades 1 to 8 and represents a major change from traditional report cards.
- Instead of just using marks or grades, the HPC takes a 360-degree approach, considering feedback from teachers, parents, classmates, and even the students themselves.

#### Some key features of the HPC:

- **Focus on skills and development:** Rather than just testing memorization, the HPC assesses how students apply their knowledge and skills in class activities.
- **This helps teachers identify areas where students excel and where they might need support.**
- **Student involvement:** Students actively participate in their own assessment by reflecting on their progress and setting goals, both academic and personal. This fosters self-awareness and ownership of their learning journey.
- **Collaboration and community:** The HPC encourages collaboration between students and teachers, as well as peer evaluation.

## 4. PM launches India's first underwater Metro line in Kolkata- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

**News:**

- Prime Minister inaugurated Kolkata Metro's Esplanade-Howrah Maidan section
- it passes below the mighty Hooghly river through the country's first underwater transportation tunnel.

**Key Highlights**

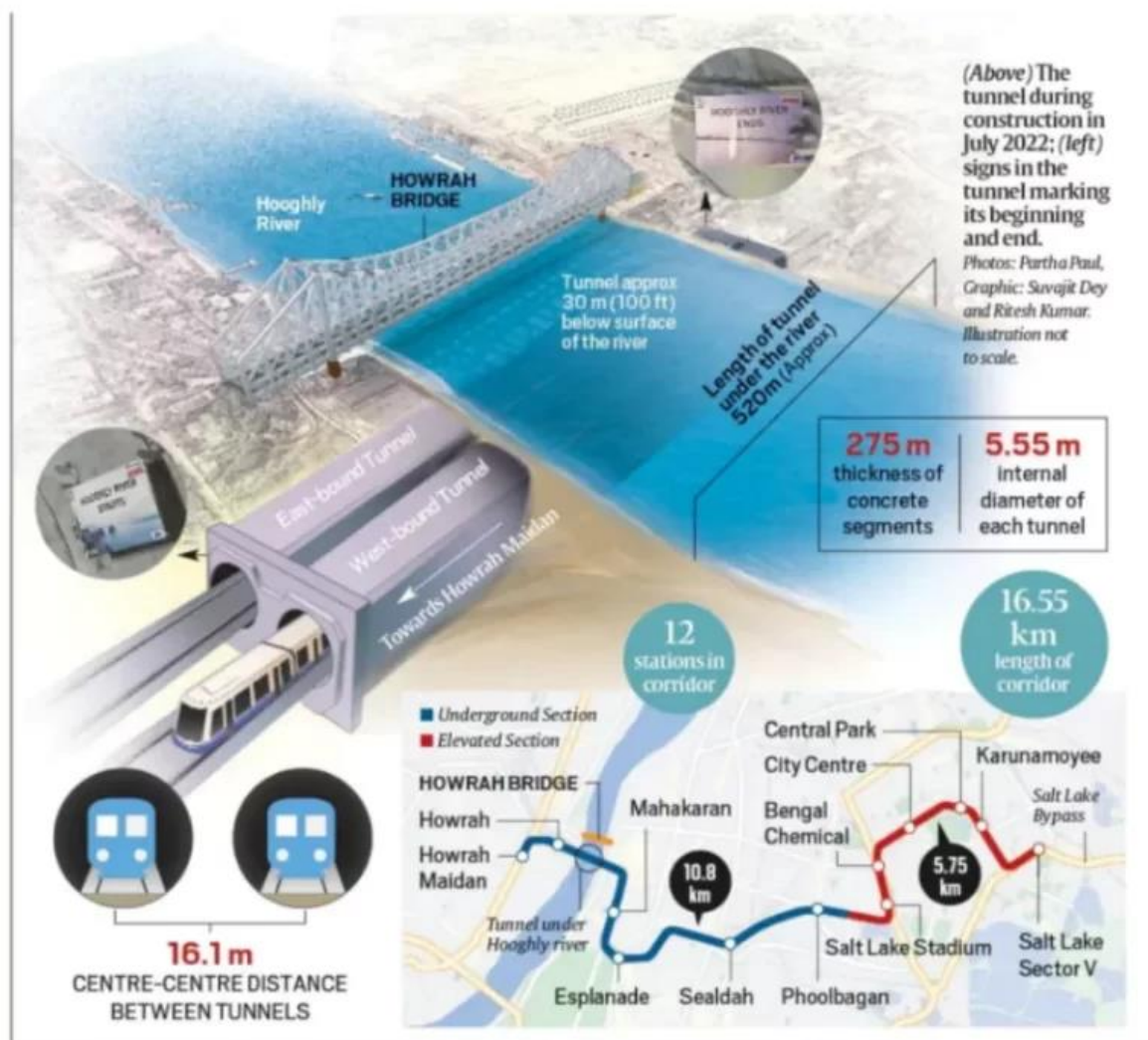
- He also took a ride on a Metro train from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan and interacted with school students during the journey passing through the tunnel, which is a testament to the country's engineering capabilities.

**History of Kolkata Metro: India's First Rapid Transit System**

- The Kolkata Metro is a rapid transit system serving the city of Kolkata and the wider Kolkata Metropolitan Region in West Bengal, India.
- It is the first operational rapid transit system in India, **opening in 1984, and the second busiest and fourth-longest metro network in India** as of January 2023.
- It has four operational lines, with a total length of 59.38 km and 48 stations, and three other lines are in various phases of construction.
- The system has a **mix of underground, at-grade and elevated stations** using both broad-gauge and standard-gauge tracks.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Underground metro
- Map based question



## 5. Don't promote betting, govt. tells media, celebrities- The Hindu

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

**News:**

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, in an **advisory issued warned** against advertisements promoting illegal activities such as betting and gambling.
- Advisory was issued against manufacturers, advertisers, publishers, social media platforms, and broadcasters

**Key Highlights**

- In the advisory, CCPA chairman said the Centre had noticed that betting platforms were employing celebrities and influencers to endorse betting.
- This “gives an impression that indulging in such activity is acceptable
- If the guidelines on misleading advertisements, issued by the Ministry in 2022, are violated, stringent steps as per the Consumer Protection Act will be taken

**Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**

- CCPA established under the **Consumer Protection Act of 2019**, safeguards and defends consumers' rights, issuing guidelines for effective enforcement and enhancement of consumer rights.
- The objective of the **CCPA is to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.**
- It will be empowered to conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services
  - order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements

### Prelims Takeaway

- CCPA
- Consumer Protection Act of 2019

## GS III

## 6. DPIIT organizes LEAPS Valedictory Session recognising 12 participants across logistics industries- PIB

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

**News:**

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry organized a LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield) Valedictory Session yesterday in New Delhi

**The LEAPS program,**

- It is run by the Indian government, is designed to honor and promote excellence and innovation in the logistics industry.
- It aims to support the goals of the National Logistics Policy and the PM GatiShakti program by recognizing outstanding contributions from various players in the logistics sector
  - including established companies, startups, and small and medium-sized enterprises.
  - The PM Gati Shakti Programme aims to understand current gaps in logistics connectivity and facilitate the development of logistics infrastructure
  - (creating connectivity between roadways, rail transport, waterways, and air transport) so as to reduce logistics costs.
  - The programme has an estimated cost of ₹100 trillion.
- These efforts aim to improve India's logistics performance, reduce costs, and create a more efficient and connected logistics network.

### Prelims Takeaway

- LEAD
- GATI SHAKTI

## 7. RBI directs card issuers to let customers choose card network-The Hindu

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

**News:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **directed card issuers not to enter into any arrangement** or agreement with card networks that restrains them from availing the services of other card networks.
- The card issuer include which include **authorized payment system providers, banks and non-banks**

**Key Highlights**

- As per this directive, **card issuers will have to provide an option to their eligible customers** to choose from multiple card networks at the time of issue.
- For existing cardholders, this option needs to be provided at the time of the next renewal.
- These directions will be **effective six months from the date of issue of this circular.**
- As per the current practice, the authorized card networks tie-up with banks/non-banks for issuance of credit cards and the choice of network for a card issued to a customer is decided by the card issuer (bank/non-bank)
  - and is linked to the arrangements that the card issuers have with card networks in terms of their bilateral agreements, the RBI said.
- The banking regulator has asked card issuers and card networks to execute fresh agreements to accommodate the changes.

### Prelims Takeaway

- RBI
- Card issuer

## Shuffling cards

**Card issuers told not to enter into any agreement with networks that restrains their ability to avail services from others**

■ The RBI order applies to all card issuers including authorised payment system providers, banks and non-banks

■ Currently, authorised card networks in India include American Express, MasterCard Asia/Pacific, Rupay, and Visa



■ RBI says the fresh directive has been issued keeping the interest of the payment system and public interest in mind

## 8. Law Commission recommends new law to protect trade secrets- Indian Express

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

**News:**

- The **22nd Law Commission recommended** that new legislation be introduced to **protect trade secrets with exceptions relating to whistleblower protection**, compulsory licensing, government use, and public interest.

### Prelims Takeaway

- National Intellectual Property Rights Policy
- Law Commission

**Key Highlights**

- **Trade secrets are intellectual property** rights on confidential information that may be sold or licensed.
- They derive their value from being kept secret.
- However, unlike other forms of intellectual property, which are limited in duration, trade secrets can be protected indefinitely.
- Currently, **India lacks a specific law for the protection of trade secrets.**
- Instead, they are safeguarded under the general laws governing contracts, common law, criminal law, and principles of breach of confidence and equity.
- However, the **289th Law Commission Report**, published on ‘Trade Secrets and Economic Espionage’, states that:
  - the reference to the commission arose after deliberations in the government, where the need for legislation on the subject was felt.
- However, **the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016**, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee Report have brought back focus
  - on the need for introducing legislation to deal with trade secrets, the report informs.
- On the subject of economic espionage, the report states that “even trade secrets held by the Government of India have been consistently targeted by foreign governments in acts of active and passive economic espionage
  - and hence, there is a need for a single statute to address “all issues related to trade secret leakages and economic espionage”.

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Slow and unsteady: On Tirukkoyilur and the pursuit of anti-corruption cases - The Hindu

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

**Context:**

- A delay in declaring a **legislative seat vacant in India has raised concerns about fairness and consistency in the legal system.**

<p><b>Unequal treatment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tirukkoyilur constituency remained vacant for a long time after a former minister’s conviction           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ unlike another constituency where the seat was vacated quickly after a resignation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This difference has sparked questions about why the process seems slower in some cases than others, especially since there was no court order to delay the vacancy declaration in Tirukkoyilur.</li> </ul> <p><b>Call for better coordination:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This case highlights the need for better cooperation between the judiciary and the legislature.</li> <li>• Working together, these branches of government can ensure that legal procedures are followed consistently and efficiently, particularly in anti-corruption cases.</li> <li>• However, it is important to maintain a balance between upholding the law and respecting individual rights, avoiding any impression of authoritarianism or exceeding judicial authority.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Importance of upholding democratic principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All branches of government, including the judiciary, legislature, and executive, must follow fair and transparent procedures to uphold democratic values.</li> <li>• Following the rules and principles is crucial to maintain trust in the system and prevent misuse of power.</li> <li>• Striking a balance between holding people accountable and protecting individual rights is essential for a healthy democracy and ensuring justice for all.</li> </ul>
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## 10. Free of guilt: On the exoneration of former Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba and five others -The Hindu

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

**Context:**

- The recent **acquittal of G.N. Saibaba and others accused of Maoist links** raises questions about the **use of India's strict anti-terrorism law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).**

### Concerns about the application of UAPA:

- The case highlights the need for solid evidence in UAPA prosecutions, not just suspicion or association.
- The court found flaws in the prosecution's case, including lack of evidence and procedural errors.
- The law's strict bail provisions allow suspects to be held for long periods even without strong evidence, as seen in this case.

### Court's rejection of the prosecution's case:

- The court found no proof of incriminating evidence or links to terrorism or Maoist groups.
- The prosecution's case was further weakened by invalid sanctions under UAPA and procedural irregularities.
- The judgment emphasizes the importance of following proper procedures, especially when using UAPA, and clarifies that merely having literature or publicity materials isn't enough for conviction.

### Importance of safeguards and legal principles:

- The case underscores the need for independent review and strict adherence to procedure when using powerful laws like UAPA.
- It reaffirms the importance of procedural fairness in protecting individuals' rights, especially in serious cases.
- The case prompts discussion about balancing national security concerns with individual liberties, requiring a legal framework that safeguards both.

## Quick Look

### 1. Sudarshan Setu

- Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated Sudarshan Setu, India's longest cable-stayed bridge, in the Gulf of Kutch.
- Also known as Signature Bridge, it will link mainland Gujarat with Bet Dwarka island off Okha coast in Devbhumi Dwarka.
- It provides all-weather road connectivity to Bet Dwarka, the second largest island off Gujarat coast.
- It is technically a sea-link with a total length of 4,772 metres and a 900-metre cable-stayed section.
- This four-lane bridge was constructed at a cost of Rs 978 crore funded by the Union government.
- The bridge features 32 piers supporting seven cable-stayed spans.
- It includes walkways adorned with verses from the Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna, with solar panels serving as walkway roofs.

### 2. Savera Program

- Recently, the Haryana Chief Minister inaugurated the Savera program in collaboration with the Medanta Foundation and the Health Department in Gurgaon.
- Aimed at early detection and prevention of breast cancer, the initiative utilizes visually impaired individuals for screening due to their heightened tactile sensitivity.
  - Breast cancer is highlighted as a prevalent cancer type among women in urban areas.
  - Approximately 90,000 women lose their lives to breast cancer daily in India.
- Visually impaired individuals can detect breast cancer lesions as small as half a centimetre, compared to one centimetre by a normal doctor.
- In its initial phase, the programme will be launched at Civil Hospital in Sector 10, the polyclinic in Sector 31, and PHC in Wazirabad.

### 3. Blanets

- In Christopher Nolan's 2014 film *Interstellar*, three planets featured, other than Earth - depicted as extreme worlds - are theoretically plausible.
- Technically, these planets are called blanets, as they orbit black holes instead of stars.
- In 2019, Japanese scientists proposed a theory suggesting that planets could form within massive dust and gas clouds near supermassive black holes.
  - However, these planets aren't expected to be anything like the earth.
- Similar to how planets form around young stars from swirling dust and gas, blanets could form within the discs surrounding supermassive black holes.
- These blanets are expected to be about 3,000-times as large as the earth.
- They would need to orbit the black hole at a considerable distance of about 100 trillion kilometers to avoid being torn apart by the black hole's immense gravitational forces.

### 4. Hanooman

- Recently the BharatGPT group, led by IIT Bombay, along with seven other elite Indian engineering institutes announced that it would launch its first ChatGPT-like service next month.
- Backed by Reliance Industries Ltd and the Department of Science and Technology, the group built the 'Hanooman' series of Indic language models in collaboration with Seetha Mahalaxmi Healthcare (SML).
- Hanooman is a series of large language models (LLMs) that can respond in 11 Indian languages like Hindi, Tamil, and Marathi.

- It has been designed to work in four fields, including health care, governance, financial services, and education.
- Notably, the series is not just a chatbot; it is a multimodal AI tool, which can generate text, speech, videos and more in multiple Indian languages.
- The size of these AI models ranges from 1.5 billion to a whopping 40 billion parameters.
- One of the first customised versions is VizzhyGPT which is an AI model fine-tuned for healthcare using reams of medical data.

## 5. PSiFI System

- Recently, scientists unveiled a pioneering technology, named personalized skin-integrated facial interface (PSiFI), capable of recognizing human emotions in real-time.
- The technology is based on the phenomenon of "friction charging," where objects separate into positive and negative charges upon friction.
- The system features a first-of-its-kind bidirectional triboelectric strain and vibration sensor that enables the simultaneous sensing and integration of verbal and non-verbal expression data.
- Coupled with a sophisticated data processing circuit, the system facilitates seamless wireless data transfer, enabling the instantaneous recognition of emotions.
- Empowered by machine learning algorithms, it showcases remarkable efficiency in recognizing human emotions, even in scenarios where individuals wear masks.
- The PSiFI system is self-powered, facile, stretchable, and transparent.



**Mentorship**  
India

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. With reference to the proposed 'Language Atlas of India', consider the following statements**

1. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) has proposed to create a Language Atlas of India.
2. The survey would focus on the number of languages, scripts and dialects in India.
3. The first Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) was carried out by Sir George Abraham Grierson in 1950.

**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 regarding Muslim Personal Law in India**

1. "Talaq-e-Bid'ah" refers to the instant and irrevocable divorce pronounced in a single sitting.
2. Mehr" in Islamic law refers to the mandatory gift or financial settlement that a husband must give to his wife at the time of marriage.
3. Sharia courts in India have the authority to adjudicate on matters related to Muslim Personal Law.

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

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

**Q3. What does the Engel Curve, seen in the news recently, describe?**

- A. The relationship between income and savings & investments.
- B. The relationship between income and inflation rates.
- C. The relationship between income and employment levels.
- D. The relationship between income and consumer spending patterns

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Shahpur Kandi Project**

1. The Shahpur Kandi Project is a joint venture between India and Pakistan for the development of hydropower and irrigation infrastructure.
2. The project is located on the Chenab River and involves the construction of a dam to harness water resources for multiple purposes.
3. The implementation of the Shahpur Kandi Project has faced challenges related to inter-state disputes and environmental concerns.

**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 regarding public stock-holding and its implications in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**

1. Public stock-holding refers to the government's accumulation and maintenance of stocks of agricultural commodities for various purposes, including food security.
2. WTO rules prohibit any form of public stock-holding by member countries as it is considered a distortion of international trade.
3. The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) under the WTO provides flexibility for developing countries to implement public stock-holding programs for food security purposes.
4. The Peace Clause, as negotiated in the WTO, protects developing countries from legal challenges regarding their public stock-holding programs for a specified period.

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

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

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector**

1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has initiated the largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector to enhance food security in the country.
2. The largest grain storage plan involves the construction of modern silos equipped with advanced technologies for efficient grain storage.
3. The cooperative sector's largest grain storage plan aims to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure a fair distribution of food grains across various regions.

**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 regarding Household Consumption Expenditure Survey**

1. It is conducted by the National Statistical Office usually every five years.
2. It helps to review critical economic indicators like Gross Domestic Product and poverty levels.

**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

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Third-Party Application Providers**

1. Third-Party Application Providers are entities that develop and offer software applications or services that can be used on platforms or devices created by other companies.
2. The role of Third-Party Application Providers is limited to creating applications for personal use and is not relevant in the context of business or enterprise solutions.

3. Mobile app stores, such as Google Play Store and Apple App Store, serve as platforms where Third-Party Application Providers can distribute their applications to users.
4. Security and privacy concerns are not significant when dealing with applications from Third-Party Application Providers, as they undergo rigorous scrutiny before being made available to users.

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

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

**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the Collective Security Treaty Organisation**

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia.
2. All the Asian countries are members of this organization.

**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**

1. The Rooftop Solar Programme aims to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40 gigawatts (GW) rooftop solar capacity by 2022.
2. The PM-KUSUM scheme aims to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.

**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****Answer 1 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) has planned to conduct a linguistic survey across India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The survey will focus on documenting the number of languages, dialects, scripts, extinct or endangered languages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It will be carried out in two phases, starting with state-wise data collection and then region-wise analysis.
- The first Linguistic Survey of India was conducted by Sir George Abraham Grierson in 1928. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Indian map was redrawn after Independence, and therefore, the LSI includes languages and dialects that may not be a part of contemporary Indian States.
- The most detailed linguistic data was recorded in the 1961 Census, which included even languages with a single speaker.

**Answer 2 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Talaq-e-Bid'ah, or triple talaq in one sitting, was a prevalent practice in Muslim Personal Law where a husband could divorce his wife by pronouncing talaq three times in a single session. However, in 2019, the Indian government enacted the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, making this practice illegal and punishable. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Mehr is indeed a mandatory payment or gift that a husband must give to his wife at the time of marriage in Islamic law. It is meant to provide financial security to the wife, and its amount is agreed upon during the marriage contract. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- Sharia courts in India, also known as Dar-ul-Qaza, do not have legal sanction, and their decisions are not binding. The Indian legal system, including family matters, is governed by Indian laws. However, individuals can approach religious authorities for dispute resolution, but the final legal authority lies with the Indian judiciary. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

**Answer 3 Option D is correct****Explanation**

- Engel's Law is an economic theory put forth in 1857 by Ernst Engel, a German statistician.
- It states that the percentage of income allocated for food purchases decreases as a household's income rises, while the percentage spent on other things (such as education and recreation) increases. **Hence, option D is correct.**

**Answer 4 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- The Shahpur Kandi Project is not a joint venture between India and Pakistan. It is a project between the Indian states of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- The Shahpur Kandi Project is located on the Ravi River, a tributary of the Chenab River. The project involves the construction of a dam to harness water for irrigation and hydropower generation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The implementation of the Shahpur Kandi Project has faced challenges, including inter-state disputes between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, as well as environmental concerns related to the project's impact on the river ecosystem. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

**Answer 5 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Public stock-holding is indeed the accumulation and maintenance of stocks of agricultural commodities by the government, often done to support farmers and ensure food security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- WTO rules do not outright prohibit public stock-holding. However, there are regulations to ensure that such programs do not distort international trade. **Hence, statement 2 is INCORRECT**
- The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) under the WTO provides flexibility for developing countries to implement public stock-holding programs for food security purposes, subject to certain conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- The Peace Clause, negotiated as part of the Bali Package in the WTO, protects developing countries from legal challenges regarding their public stock-holding programs for a specified period, as long as certain conditions are met. **Hence, statement 4 is correct**

**Answer 6 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been involved in initiatives to improve grain storage in the cooperative sector to enhance food security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The largest grain storage plans often involve the construction of modern silos with advanced technologies to ensure efficient and safe storage of food grains, minimizing losses. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- One of the primary goals of such plans is to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure the equitable distribution of food grains to different regions, contributing to food security. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

**Answer 7 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Recently, the government released findings of the All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey conducted between August 2022 and July 2023.
- It will play a key role in reviewing critical economic indicators, including the GDP, poverty levels, and the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is usually conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is designed to collect information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
- The data gathered in this exercise reveals the average expenditure on goods (food and non-food) and services.

**Answer 8 Option B is correct****Explanation**

- Third-Party Application Providers are indeed entities that create software applications or services for use on platforms or devices developed by others. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Third-Party Application Providers are relevant not only for personal use but also play a crucial role in providing business and enterprise solutions. **Hence, statement 2 is INCORRECT**
- Mobile app stores, like Google Play Store and Apple App Store, act as platforms where Third-Party Application Providers can distribute their applications to a wide user base. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

- Security and privacy concerns are significant when dealing with applications from Third-Party Application Providers. While app stores may have review processes, there is still a potential for security vulnerabilities or privacy issues. **Hence, statement 4 is Incorrect**

**Answer 9 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- Collective Security Treaty Organisation is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia, which was established in 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Members: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- On May 14, 2002, in Moscow, the Collective Security Council made a decision to grant the status of an international regional organization to the Collective Security Treaty.
- In 2004 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution granting the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) an observer status in the UN General Assembly.
- The statutory bodies of the Organization are: the Collective Security Council (CSC), the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM), the Council of Ministers of Defense (CIO), the Committee of Secretaries of Security Council (CSSC).
- Headquarter: Moscow, Russia

**Answer 10 Option D is correct**

**Explanation**

- The Solar Park Scheme plans to build a number of solar parks, each with a capacity of nearly 500 MW, across several states.
- In 2014, the government launched the Rooftop Solar Programme that aimed to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2022. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- National Solar Mission is a major initiative of the Government of India and State Governments to promote ecologically sustainable growth while addressing India's energy security challenge.
- International Solar Alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.
- The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



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