

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Government of India notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board - PIB

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

News:

- The Government of India today notified the **constitution of the National Turmeric Board**.
- The National Turmeric Board will **focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Ministry of AYUSH
- Turmeric

Key points

Composition

- The Board shall have a **Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government**
- Members from the **Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry** of the Union Government
- Senior State Government **representatives from three states (on rotation basis)**
- Select **national/state institutions involved in research**, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters, and have a Secretary to be appointed by the Department of Commerce.

Objective

- To provide **leadership on turmeric** related matters
- Facilitate **greater coordination with Spices Board** and other Government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.
- To **further increase awareness** and consumption
- Develop **new markets internationally** to increase exports, promote research development into new products,
- Develop **on our traditional knowledge for value-added** turmeric products.
- It will especially **focus on capacity building and skill development** of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition.
- The Board's **activities into research, market development, increasing consumption, and value addition**

India's position in turmeric production

- India is the **largest producer, consumer and exporter** of turmeric in the world.
- In the year 2022-23, an area of **3.24 lakh ha was under turmeric cultivation in India** with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production).
- The largest producing states of Turmeric are **Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**.
- India has more than **62% share of world trade in turmeric**.
- The leading **export markets for Indian Turmeric are Bangladesh, UAE, USA and Malaysia**.
- With the focused activities of the Board, it is **expected that turmeric exports will reach USD 1 Billion by 2030**.

GS II

2. SYL canal front and centre, Punjab-Haryana ties hit troubled waters again - Indian Express

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

News:

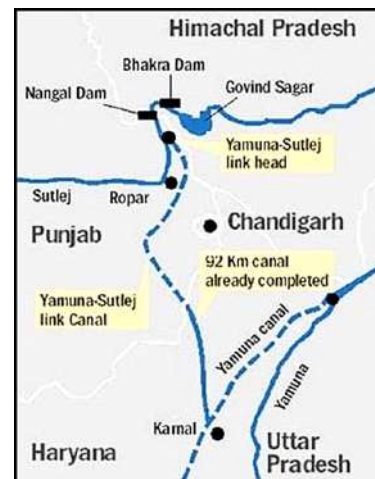
- The Supreme Court gave direction to the government of Punjab to complete the construction of the project The Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (SYL) Dispute

- The Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (SYL), is an under-construction canal to connect the Sutlej and Yamuna rivers.
- The decades-old dispute over the canal, which is supposed to carry water from Punjab to Haryana, has its origin in a disagreement over sharing of Ravi-Beas water.
- The river Beas joins river Sutlej in Punjab.
- The dispute regarding sharing of river water emerged after Punjab was reorganised in 1966, and the state of Haryana was created (out of Punjab).
- After this, Punjab refused to share waters of Ravi and Beas with Haryana.
- The court asked the Union government to “survey the portion of the land allocated for the project in Punjab to ensure that the land is protected

Prelims Takeaway

- Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal
- Beas river



3. MGNREGS runs out of funds; Ministry seeks more budget - The Hindu

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

News:

- Six months into the financial year, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), has run out of funds
- The data as per the statistics put out by the Ministry on its website is running a deficit of ₹6,146.93 crore.

Key Points

- An amount of ₹60,000 crore was sanctioned for the scheme for 2023-24, which was 18% lower than the ₹73,000-crore budget estimates for the financial year 2022-23.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) had approached the Finance Ministry asking for a supplementary budget of ₹23,000 crore.
- The Ministry, quoting from statistics, said that out of the sanctioned ₹60,000 crore, ₹56,105.69 crore, 93.5% of the funds had been released to the States.
- Though, the Ministry's statistical report (7.1.1) available on the website shows a deficit of ₹6,146 crore.
- “This is a story that repeats each year without fail.

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.

Prelims Takeaway

- MGNREGA

- 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**.
- **Data:**
 - As of 2022-23, there are **15.4 crore active workers** under the MGNREGA.

4. Rajasthan CM announces three new districts - The Hindu

Relevance: Polity

News:

- The **Rajasthan Chief Minister** recently announced the **formation of three new districts** namely Malpura, Sujangarh and Kuchaman.
- This takes the **total number of districts** in the State to **53**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Formation of Districts
- Changing Name of Districts

The Districts

- India's districts are **local administrative units** inherited from the **British Raj**.
- They generally form the **tier of local government** immediately below states and territories.
- A district is headed by a **Deputy Commissioner/ Collector**.
 - He is responsible for the **overall administration and the maintenance of law and order**.
- Districts are most frequently further **subdivided into smaller administrative units**, called either **tehsils or talukas or mandals**, depending on the region.

The Procedure

- The power to **create/alter/abolish** new districts or existing districts rests with the **State governments**.
- This can either be done through an **executive order** or by **passing a law** in the State Assembly.
- Many States prefer the **executive route by simply issuing a notification** in the official gazette.

Role of Central government

- The Centre has **no role to play** in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones.
- The Home Ministry comes into the picture only when a State wants to **change the name of a district or a railway station**.
- The State government's request is **sent to other departments and agencies seeking clearance**.
 - These include the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry.
- A **no-objection certificate** may be issued after examining their replies.

GS III

5. Left-wing extremism will be totally eliminated in two years, says Shah - The Hindu/ Left Wing Extremism will be uprooted in next 2 years: Shah - Indian Express

Relevance: Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

News:

- Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be totally eliminated from the country in two years**.

Key point

- The **central government had approved the 'National Policy and Action Plan** to address LWE' in 2015.

Prelims Takeaway

- SAMADHAN
- Left-wing extremism

- The policy envisages a **multi-pronged strategy** involving security-related measures, development interventions, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, etc,
- As per officials, **Steadfast implementation of this policy has resulted in consistent decline** in LWE violence across the nation,
- According to the **data prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs**, there were **17,679 LWE-related incidents and 6,984 deaths between 2004 and 2014**.
- In contrast, **there have been 7,649 LWE-related incidents and 2,020 deaths from 2014 to 2023 (till 15 June 23)**, the data showed.

Left-wing extremism

- It is also known as **left-wing terrorism or radical left-wing movements**
- it refers to **political ideologies and groups that advocate for significant** societal and political change through revolutionary means.
- LWE **groups may target government institutions**, law enforcement agencies, or private property to further their agenda.
- The LWE **movement in India originated in a 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal**.

Responsible Factors:

- The 2006 **D Bandopadhyay Committee** identified following gaps :
 - governance gaps
 - extensive discrimination against tribals in economic
 - Socio-political
 - cultural spheres as the primary causes of Naxalism's proliferation.

Government Initiatives

- **National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism 2015:**
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** The Juvenile Justice Act, enacted in 2015, plays a crucial role in protecting children affected by LWE
- **SAMADHAN:** It is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels

6. Two out of five amphibians are facing extinction threat due to climate change: study - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- A new study found that **climate change is emerging as one of the biggest threats to frogs, salamanders, and caecilians**.
- The study titled **'Ongoing declines for the world's amphibians in the face of emerging threats'** analysed two decades of data from around the world.
- It provides an **update to the landmark 2004 document** based on the **first global amphibian assessment for the IUCN Red List**.
- These data will be **published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Amphibians
- IUCN Red List
- IUCN

Key Highlights

- **Two out of every five amphibians** are threatened with extinction primarily as the result of **habitat destruction and climate change**.
- Between 2004 and 2022, a **few critical threats** have pushed **more than 300 amphibians closer to extinction**.
- **Nearly 41% of all amphibian species assessed** are currently **globally threatened**, considered critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable.
 - This is compared to 26.5% of mammals, 21.4% of reptiles and 12.9% of birds.
- **Four amphibian species** were documented as having gone **extinct since 2004**
 - The Chiriquí harlequin toad (*Atelopus chiriquiensis*) from Costa Rica
 - The sharp-snouted day frog (*Taudactylus acutirostris*) from Australia
 - Craugastor myllomyllon and the Jalpa false brook salamander (*Pseudoeurycea exspectata*), both from Guatemala.

- **Twenty-seven additional critically endangered species** are now **considered possibly extinct**.
- However, **120 species have improved their Red List status since 1980**.

Why the Threat?

- **Climate Change**
 - It was the primary threat for 39% of these species.
 - Climate change is especially concerning for amphibians in large part because they are particularly sensitive to changes in their environment.
- **Habitat Destruction**
 - Habitat destruction and degradation are still the **most common threats**.
 - They **affect 93% of all threatened amphibian species**.
 - These are **due to**
 - agriculture (crops, livestock like cattle and livestock grazing, and silviculture)
 - infrastructure development and other industries
- **Other Factors**
 - **Disease caused by the chytrid fungus and overexploitation** also continue to cause amphibian declines.

Action Plan for Conservation

- Of the 63 species that improved as the **direct result of conservation action**, most improved due to **habitat protection and management**.
- The **protection and restoration of amphibians is a solution to the climate crisis** because of their **key role in keeping carbon-storing ecosystems healthy**.

7. City AQI turns 'poor'; prohibitions to curb air pollution imposed - The Hindu/GRAP stage 1 kicks in as air quality dips to poor, condition likely to prevail till Sunday - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, **Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI)** slipped into the **"poor category"**.
- Following it, **Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was imposed** in the National Capital Region (NCR) **to prevent further deterioration of air quality**.

National Air Quality Index

- Launched in **2014** with outline **'One Number - One Color - One Description'** for the **common man to judge the air quality** within his vicinity.
- **Developed by the CPCB** in consultation with **IIT-Kanpur** and an expert group comprising **medical and air-quality professionals**.
- The **measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants**
 - Particulate Matter (PM10)
 - Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
 - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
 - Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)
 - Carbon Monoxide (CO)
 - Ozone (O3)
 - Ammonia (NH3)
 - Lead (Pb)
- AQI has **six categories of air quality** namely **Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe**.

Graded Response Action Plan

- Formulated in **2016** and notified in 2017 for **Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR)**.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Air Quality Index
- Graded Response Action Plan
- The Committee for Air Quality Management

- These are **institutionalised measures** to be taken when air quality deteriorates, hence works only as an **emergency measure**.
- It includes the measures to be taken by **different government agencies**
 - To prevent worsening of Air Quality of Delhi-NCR
 - To prevent PM10 and PM2.5 levels from going beyond the 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.
- If air quality reaches the **severe+ stage**, GRAP talks about **shutting down schools** and **implementing the odd-even** road-space rationing scheme.

8. Red flags since 2005: Teesta-III dam may not survive lake outburst - Indian Express

Relevance: Disaster and Disaster management.

News:

- **The glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** that ravaged parts of Sikkim also washed away the 60-metre-high rock-filled concrete dam of the 1200-MW **Teesta-III hydel project near Chungthang village**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question
- The glacial lake outburst flood

Key Points

- There were a **string of early warnings before Teesta-III was commissioned in 2017. company**.
- Way back in 2005, the **Environment Ministry's steering committee for Carrying Capacity Study of Teesta Basin noted that :**
 - glacial moraines temporarily forming glacial lakes and debris cones, are a potential source of hazard in North Sikkim."
- **South Lhonak glacial lake**, in particular, was under watch for decades as it steadily expanded in size.
- But **Teesta-III underestimated the risk posed by** a once-in-a-century flood event.

Protecting hazard

- A more **credible dam safety governance** should be put in place.
- **Accountability for the lapses must be fixed** and credible, functioning early warning systems need to be created.

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)

- It is a **release of meltwater from a moraine-dam** or ice-dam glacial lake due to dam failure.
- They **cause disastrous floods downstream** and create a huge loss of lives and property.
- These **floods can be triggered by a number of factors**, including changes in the volume of the glacier, changes in the water level of the lake, and earthquakes.
- According to **NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority)**, **glacial retreat** due to climate change
- Most parts of the **Hindu Kush Himalayas has given rise to the formation of numerous** new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Aligning higher education with the United Nations SDGs - The Hindu

Relevance: Education

Context:

- The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals with 169 targets that all 193 UN member states have agreed to try to achieve by 2030.

Current Scenario in SDGs

- SDGs are a matter of urgency, and actions by all countries to end poverty and other socioeconomic and environmental problems should align with strategies that
 - improve the standard of life and education
 - reduce inequality
 - harness economic growth
- Though it has been eight years since the inception of these goals, the SDGs Report 2023 flagged slow progress due to
 - Prolonged effects of COVID19
 - Impacts of the climate crisis
 - The Russia- Ukraine conflict
 - A weak global economy
- The lack of progress towards the goals is a universal experience, but it has been more pronounced in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Case of India

- India also has suffered a setback in achieving these goals.
- Yet, recent actions and policies indicate that India is committed towards realising SDGs.

NEP 2020 and SDGs

- SDG 4 pertains to access to quality education which is a prerequisite for the achievement of other goals.
- India, with a longstanding history of equitable and inclusive education, has accelerated efforts to ensure the achievement of SDGs through various reforms.
- Among them, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 should be given credit to a great extent.

SDGs and Higher Education

- Though NEP 2020 calls for changes at all levels of education, priority should be accorded to higher education.
- This is because it accelerates social mobility, empowers people through creativity and critical thinking, and grants them employment skills.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Data
 - People with a higher education degree are more employable and earn an average of 54% more than those who only have completed senior secondary education.
- A university-inclusive education, thus,
 - better protects people against poverty (SDG1)
 - prevents them from hunger (SDG2)
 - supports them for good health and well-being (SDG3)
 - promotes gender equality (SDG5)
 - provides them decent work, which in turn drives economic growth (SDG 8), and reduces inequalities (SDG10)

Suggested Actions

- Universities should strengthen the research-teaching nexus in university education.
- Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary systems of education produce multitalented people who can pursue research, and find innovative solutions to global challenges.
- Sustainable development is possible only if we radically change the way we produce and consume (SDG12).
- Innovative solutions and startups (SDG 9) must be developed in collaboration with private companies.
- Introducing Value-Based Education (VBE) will help citizens become responsible towards self, society, and the planet and help our nation achieve "Life on Land" (SDG15).

Suggestions for India

- NEP 2020 demands that Indian higher education be committed to mapping its day-to-day operations with SDGs.
- Ranking universities according to the achievement of SDGs is a welcome move, but is still inadequate to meet the SDG deadline.
- Universities should come out strengthened and play a part in the education, innovation, culture, and civic life of their local communities.
- Community health, energy saving measures, efficient resource allocation, waste reduction, development of local skills, the sharing of services, infrastructure, and facilities with other universities or external partners should become a culture in universities.

Conclusion

- It has been realised that **higher education cannot work in isolation.**
- It must be **directly integrated with socioeconomic development** where each activity and transaction has meaningful and multiple impacts on SDGs.

2. The art of letting it be - Indian Express

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

Context:

- Recently, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** maintained the **status quo on interest rates** and retained its stance of withdrawing accommodation.
- The RBI prefers **higher rates for longer periods** for both domestic and external reasons.

Domestic Reasons

- In the beginning of the second quarter of this fiscal year prices of tomatoes and other food items rose significantly.
- It became more concerning with volatile and rising crude oil prices.
- The RBI Governor noted that the transmission of past rate hikes to bank lending and deposit rates remains incomplete.
- These factors have nudged the MPC to hold its stance of "withdrawal of accommodation"

External Reasons

- The continuation of hawkish monetary policies by major central banks, especially the US Federal Reserve
- The rise in crude oil prices

Hawkish Policy of Major Central Banks

- Global central banks have been on their toes since Covid-19 struck.
- First, they had to ease monetary policy rapidly to fight an economic collapse, and then hike repeatedly to tame inflation.
- Central banks in the advanced countries may opt for a cautious approach and keep rates higher for longer given the challenges in inflation control.
- As a result of this position, the US 10-year treasury yield has surged to 4.8 percent, marking its highest level in 16 years.
- This is attracting capital to the US and away from the emerging markets, and strengthening the dollar and the rupee, not surprisingly, has been under the pump.

India's Current Scenario

- India's growth has held strong despite costlier crude oil, weakening rupee and pressure on food inflation from an erratic monsoon.
- Supply shocks amid healthy growth will keep the RBI cautious.
 - RBI has already raised its inflation forecast for this fiscal to 5.4 per cent from the 5.2 per cent made in June.
- The fresh arrivals have corrected vegetable prices, and crushed those of tomatoes, causing angst at farms.
- Consequently, August inflation softened to 6.8 per cent.
- RBI's inflation for the second quarter at 6.4 percent implicitly assumes around 5 percent inflation in September.

Challenges Ahead

- The concern over cereals, pulses and spices inflation persists given their double-digit readings.
- The overall kharif sowing is only marginally above last fiscal's level and lags for pulses and jute.
- The forecast for El Nino conditions persisting until the end of the year, is also alarming.
- The southwest monsoon also influences groundwater and reservoir levels for the rabi or winter crop, which is produced in largely irrigated areas.
- Central Water Commission Data
 - As on September 29, live storage at reservoirs was 82% of the previous year's corresponding levels and 92% of the decadal average.
- The volatile crude oil prices have emerged as another potential risk.
 - India is highly vulnerable here because around 85% of its requirement is imported.
- If they rise and sustain at elevated levels, headline inflation can rise via direct and indirect effects of higher production and transportation costs.
- In addition, higher crude prices create upside risks for the current account and fiscal deficit, and a downside risk to growth

Quick Look

1. BlueWalker 3 satellite

- Launched in September 2022, it is a prototype satellite, part of a satellite constellation planned by its owner AST SpaceMobile.
- It was one of the brightest objects in the night sky, outshining all the brightest stars.
- It is the largest-ever commercial communications array deployed in low-Earth orbit.
- It is designed to communicate directly with cellular devices via 3GPP standard frequencies at 5G speeds.
- It uses wavelengths close to those that radio telescopes observe in, the satellite could also hamper radio astronomy.

2. Yak Churpi

- 'Yak Churpi,' has been granted the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- It is a dairy product made from the milk of the indigenous Arunachali yak breed.
 - It is reared by tribal yak pastoralists known as Brokpas who migrate along with their yaks to higher reaches during summers and descent to mid-altitude mountainous regions during winters.
 - These remarkable yaks are primarily found in the West Kameng and Tawang districts of the state.
 - Arunachali yaks are also the only registered yak breed in India
- Churpi is a naturally fermented dairy product and rich in protein content.
- It is an essential dietary staple for tribal communities inhabiting the cold and mountainous regions of Arunachal Pradesh.
- This GI tag is going to serve the cause of yak conservation and yak pastoralists' socio-economic upliftment.

3. Ichamati River

- It is a trans-boundary river that flows through India and Bangladesh and acts as a boundary between the two nations.
- It is now in three parts: The longer part flows from the Mathabhanga River, a distributary of the Padma.
- After flowing for 208 km, it joins the Kalindi River near Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas and Debhata in Satkhira District.
- Ichhamati River and its tributaries form a large oxbow lake complex in North 24-Parganas district near Bangaon.

4. Kolleru Lake

- It is the largest freshwater lake in India located in Andhra Pradesh between the Krishna and Godavari deltas.
- The lake serves as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for these two rivers.
- The lake is fed directly by water from the seasonal Budameru and Tammileru streams.
- It serves as a habitat for migratory birds.
- The lake was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in November 1999 under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It was also designated a wetland of international importance in November 2002 under the international Ramsar Convention.

5. Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZs)

- The National Wildlife Action Plan of MoEFCC stipulated that state governments should declare land falling within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as ESZs under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- While the 10-km rule is implemented as a general principle, the extent of its application can vary.
- Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs, if they hold larger ecologically important “sensitive corridors”.
- Activities Around ESZs
 - Prohibited Activities: Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution, establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood.
 - Regulated Activities: Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, widening of roads.
 - Permitted Activities: Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world.
2. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

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

Q2. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus directly. Among the following, which one is such a river that joins the Indus directly?

- A. Chenab
- B. Jhelum
- C. Ravi
- D. Sutlej

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

1. The IUCN is a global union composed of governments only.
2. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

1. It is India's central authority for Indian child adoption.
2. It is a statutory organisation that reports to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 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. Which of the following best defines the term "sustainable development"?

- A. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- B. Achieving economic growth at any cost to ensure prosperity for the current generation.
- C. Rapid industrialization and urbanisation to improve living standards in the short term.
- D. Prioritising environmental conservation over human well-being.

Q6. Consider the following statements with reference to MGNREGA

1. MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.
2. 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.

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

1. The power to create/alter/abolish new districts or existing districts rests with both the Central Government and the State Government.
2. The power to change the name of a district or a railway station rests with the Central Government.

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 on National Air Quality Index

1. The National AQI uses colour codes for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.
2. The measurement of air quality is based on six pollutants enumerated in the Kyoto Protocol.
3. It has three categories of air quality namely Good, Satisfactory and Poor
4. It is published by the Central Pollution Control Board.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q9. Which of the following is not glacial lake?

- A. Lonar lake
- B. South Lhonak Lake
- C. Devtal lake

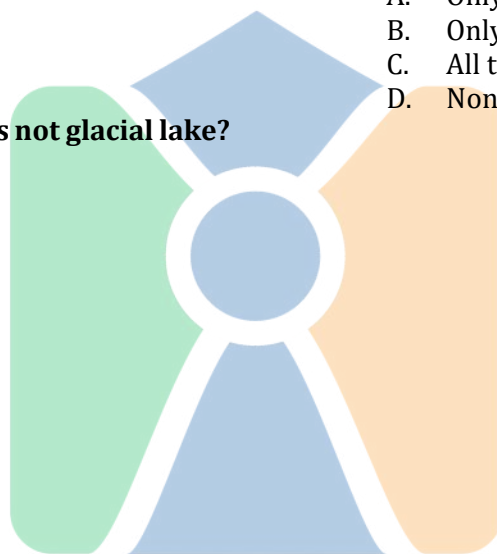
- D. Chorabari Lake

Q10. Consider the following statements with reference to inflation

1. If the inflation is too high, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to buy government securities.
2. Wholesale price index (WPI) is adopted as a key measure of Inflation by the Reserve Bank of India.
3. Decreased money circulation helps in controlling inflation.

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

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

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Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option D is correct

Explanation

- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the year 2022-23, an area of 3.24 lakh ha was under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonnes (over 75% of global turmeric production).
- The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans.2 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The Jhelum joins the Chenab near Jhang in Pakistan. The Ravi joins the Chenab near Sarai Sidhu.
- Satluj is joined by the Chenab in Pakistan.
- Thus, Satluj receives the collective drainage of the Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum rivers. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- It joins the Indus a few kilometres above Mithankot.

Ans. 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The IUCN is a global union composed of both government as well as civil society organisations. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Created in 1948, it is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.
- It is headquartered in Switzerland.
- India became a member of IUCN in 1969, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also a key indicator for the SDGs and Aichi Targets.

Ans. 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is India's central authority for Indian child adoption. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a statutory organisation that reports to the Ministry of Women and Child

Development, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It is authorised to control and supervise both international and domestic adoptions.
- CARA is India's recognised authority for intercountry adoptions under the terms of the 1993 Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. In 2003, India ratified the treaty.

Ans. 5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Sustainable Development refers to development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. **Hence, Option A is correct.**
- This most widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development was given by the Brundtland Commission in its report Our Common Future (1987).
- Three core elements of sustainable development are economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

Ans. 6 Option C is correct

Explanation

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 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.

Ans. 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The power to create/alter/abolish new districts or existing districts rests with the State governments.
- This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly.
- The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

- The Home Ministry comes into the picture only when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies seeking clearance.

Ans. 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The National Air Quality Index was launched in 2014 with outline 'One Number - One Color - One Description' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The widely-used National Air Quality Index (NAQI) given by the Central Pollution Control Board is a 24-hour average. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- It has been developed by the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur and an expert group comprising medical and air-quality professionals.
- The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants viz. Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), Ammonia (NH₃) and Lead (Pb). **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- AQI has six categories of air quality namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted,

Poor, Very Poor and Severe. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans. 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, saline, soda lake.
- It is located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra, India.
- Lonar Lake is an astrobleme created by a meteorite impact during the Pleistocene Epoch **Hence, option A is correct.**

Ans. 10 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Inflation refers to the rise in the average price level of goods and services leading to a decline in the value of money within a particular economy.
- The wholesale price index and the consumer price index are the two main indicators of inflation in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India had adopted the consumer price index as its key measure of inflation in India since 2014. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- If the inflation is too high, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to sell the government securities. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Decreased money circulation helps in controlling inflation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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