

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Centre warns against offers of jobs with Russian Army- The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question

News:

- Offers for **support jobs with the Russian Army made by unverified agents are "fraught with danger and risk to life"**, the External Affairs Ministry said
- Government announced that stern action has been initiated by **the Central Bureau of Investigation against the agencies that conned Indian nationals** into fighting for the Russian forces in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Key Highlights

- The CBI concluded the searches in connection **with the case against visa consultancy firms and agents**
- alleging their involvement in the trafficking of Indian nationals to Russia on the pretext of employment opportunities.
- "These traffickers have been operating as an organized network and were luring Indian nationals through social media channels like YouTube, etc. and also through their local contacts/agents for highly-paid jobs in Russia.
- Thereafter, the trafficked Indian nationals were trained in combat roles and deployed at front bases in the Russia-Ukraine war zone against their wishes
- thus, putting their lives in grave danger. It has been ascertained that some of the victims also got grievously injured in the war zone

2. India-EFTA TEPA: India is Set to Conclude a Trade Pact with EFTA Bloc- Indian Express

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

Prelims Takeaway

- EFTA
- EU

News:

- India and the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) grouping — comprising **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**
- They are likely to **sign a long-negotiated bilateral free trade agreement** on March 10
- It aimed at increasing **trade and investment flows, job creation and economic growth**, according to multiple sources.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- The EFTA is the intergovernmental organization of **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**
- It was set up in 1960 (by the Stockholm Convention in 1960) by its then **seven Member States for the promotion of free trade and economic integration between its members.**
- The organisation operates in parallel with the European Union (EU), and all four member states participate in the European Single Market and are part of the Schengen Area.
- However, they are not a party to the European Union Customs Union.
- The main tasks of the Association are threefold -
 - Maintaining and developing the EFTA Convention, which regulates economic relations between the four EFTA States;
 - Managing the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), which brings together the EU and 3 of the EFTA States - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - in a single (internal) market.
 - Developing EFTA's worldwide network of free trade agreements.

3. The launch of the National Cooperative Database (NCD) will be a milestone in the cooperative sector- PIB

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

News:

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **will launch the National Cooperative Database at New Delhi.**
- The Minister of Cooperation will also release the '**National Cooperative Database 2023: A Report**'.

The National Cooperative Database (NCD)

- It is a central hub for information on India's cooperative societies, **created by the Ministry of Cooperation.**
- This online platform **aims to strengthen the cooperative sector by providing a comprehensive and up-to-date resource.**
- Developed with input from state governments, federations, and other stakeholders, the NCD acts as a bridge between the central government, states, and individual cooperatives.
- Information on each society, including registration details, location, membership numbers, and financial data, is collected and validated.
- This allows for better communication and collaboration across the cooperative network.

The NCD offers several advantages:

- **Easy access:** All data is available in one place, simplifying information retrieval.
- **Reliable information:** Data is comprehensive, current, and accurate.
- **User-friendly interface:** The system is easy to navigate and use.
- **Network connections:** The database helps identify linkages between cooperatives.
- **Customizable reports:** Users can generate reports and graphs based on specific criteria.
- **Data-driven insights:** The NCD allows for data analysis to inform decision-making.
- **Visual representation:** Geographical mapping provides a clear picture of cooperative distribution.

Prelims Takeaway

- Minister of Cooperation
- 'National Cooperative Database 2023

4. Two key RTI portals under 'emergency maintenance' - The Hindu

Relevance: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

News:

- the Union government's **RTI Online portal, for filing Right to Information** applications to central government bodies, has been **undergoing 'emergency maintenance'**
- It is preventing applicants from retrieving their filed applications conveniently.

Key Highlights

- Meanwhile, it emerged that the Election Commission of India (ECI), which maintains its own RTI portal, patched its systems to fix an issue exposing RTI applicants' personal data
 - A security vulnerability that was disclosed by security researcher Karan Saini to the news portal TechCrunch.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) coordinated with the ECI to resolve the vulnerability,
- The Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**), **under the Ministry of Home Affairs, runs the RTI Online portal.**
- Public authorities continue to be able to access the government side of the portal and process applications
- The RTI portals maintained by different governments have had a spotty record in the last few years.

Prelims Takeaway

- RTI
- CERT-in

GS III

5. Center tweaks Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar free electricity scheme- The Hindu

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

News:

- The Centre has tweaked the new ₹75,000-crore **PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna (Prime Minister's Rooftop Solar: Free Electricity Scheme)**.
- From an initial plan to fully subsidize the installation of 1-3 KW solar systems in one crore households via tie-ups with renewable energy service companies

Key Highlights

- Now, the scheme will **cover only up to 60% of the installation costs**.
- Households wanting to benefit from the scheme must pay the remaining amount and at least ₹20,000, depending on the installed system's power capacity.
- They can get a low-interest, collateral-free loan to help cover the cost.
- To be eligible, houses must have a suitable roof and be connected to the grid.
- Consumers are still responsible for paying for all the power they use from the grid.

India's current solar capacity

Installed capacity

- According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, solar power installed capacity in India has reached **around 73.31 GW as of December 2023**.
- Meanwhile, rooftop solar installed capacity is around **11.08 GW as of December 2023**.
- India was to have installed 40 GW of rooftop-solar by 2022.
- Overall, solar power has a major share in the country's current renewable energy capacity, which stands at around 180 GW.

Prelims Takeaway

- PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna
- Solar power

6. US Coast Guard ship Bertholf arrives in Port Blair ahead of joint exercise- India Today

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:

- A United States Coast Guard (USCG) ship, **the Bertholf, reached Port Blair for a joint exercise with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, marking a significant step in bolstering bilateral cooperation between the two forces.

Sea Defenders-2024

- It is a collaborative training mission between the **Indian and United States Coast Guards**.
- Held off the coast of Port Blair, India, **the exercise simulates various maritime threats**.
- These include **pirate attacks, drone strikes on commercial ships, search and rescue at sea, fighting large fires**, responding to ocean pollution, and stopping drug smuggling.
- The event also practices medical evacuations by sea to improve emergency response capabilities.

the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- It's an armed force that protects India's interests at sea and enforces maritime laws.
- The ICG's area of responsibility **includes India's territorial waters, surrounding zones, and exclusive economic zone**.
- They work with other Indian organizations to secure India's maritime interests, assist boats and fishermen in need, and safeguard the marine environment.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Indian Coast Guard
- Sea Defenders

7. WHO highlights growing HIV drug resistance to dolutegravir, urges global action- Down to Earth

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

News:

- **Resistance to the antiretroviral drug dolutegravir (DTG) is increasing among HIV patients**, a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted.

Dolutegravir (DTG):

- It is an antiviral drug used with other medications to treat human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the virus that can cause the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- Dolutegravir is in a class of medications called HIV integrase inhibitors.
- It works by decreasing the amount of HIV in your blood and increasing the number of immune cells.
- Although **dolutegravir does not cure HIV**, using it along with other medications may decrease your **chance of developing AIDS and HIV-related illnesses such as serious infections or cancer**.
- WHO has recommended the use of dolutegravir as the preferred first- and second-line HIV treatment for all population groups.
- It is more effective, easier to take and has fewer side effects than other drugs currently in use.
- Common side effects of dolutegravir may include:
 - headache;
 - tiredness; or
 - sleep problems (insomnia).
 - Some side effects can be serious. These include severe skin rashes and allergic reactions, liver problems, and drug interactions.

HIV/AIDS

- AIDS is a chronic, **potentially life-threatening condition caused by HIV**.
- HIV attacks the body's immune system, making a person more vulnerable to other infections and diseases.
- If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS.

Transmission:

- It is a **sexually transmitted infection (STI)**, can also be spread by contact with infected blood, and from illicit injection drug use or by sharing needles.
- It can also be spread from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

Prelims Takeaway

- Sexually transmitted infection
- HIV

8. What is Haiper, the text-to-video model created by Google DeepMind, TikTok alumni?- Indian express

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

News:

- The race to bring out the best text-to-video AI model seems to be intensifying.
- **Haiper** — a company founded by former members of Google DeepMind, TikTok, and top labs from research academia — **introduced an eponymous new text-to-video model**.

What is Haiper and who is backing it?

- Haiper is an all-in-one visual foundation model that allows everyone, with or without technical training, to generate high-quality video content with ease.
- The founders claim that **Haiper brings forward cutting-edge machine learning with the belief that creativity should be “fun, surprising, and shareable”**.
- The company has built Haiper as a powerful, industry-agnostic creativity tool.

What does Haiper do?

- Haiper offers tools such as **text-to-video, animated static images, video repainting tools, etc**.

Prelims Takeaway

- AI
- Haiper

- Users can go on to the website, log in with their email addresses, and start generating videos for free by typing in text prompts.
- At present, users can only generate HD video spanning 2 seconds, and a slightly lower-quality video could go up to four seconds.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Can a justice system without women bring justice to women?- Indian Express

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

Context:

- The latest **India Justice Report (IJR)** points out that the **gender gap remains wide** in each of the subsystems that make up the justice delivery system — police, judiciary, prisons, legal aid, and human rights commissions.

Key highlights

- A new report, the India Justice Report (IJR), reveals a concerning lack of women throughout India's justice system.
- This is despite quotas meant to increase female participation.
- The report shows a significant gender gap across all areas of the justice system, including police, courts, prisons, and human rights commissions.
- While quotas have helped some women enter the system, they are mostly concentrated in lower-level positions.

The data is stark:

- only about 3 lakh (300,000) women work in the entire justice system.
- Even in the judiciary, the numbers dwindle as you move up the ranks. Just 13% of high court judges are women, and the Supreme Court has only three female judges. There has never been a woman Chief Justice of India.
- The report also criticizes the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for its lack of gender diversity.
- The NHRC has never had a woman commissioner, and only six state human rights commissions have women members or secretaries.

This lack of women in leadership roles:

- Suggests a broader apathy towards gender equality within these institutions.
- The report criticizes decision-makers for deflecting responsibility and failing to take proactive steps to address the imbalance.
- The report argues that a more diverse justice system would benefit everyone.
- Research shows that workplaces with greater diversity are more effective.
- Including women would bring new perspectives and experiences, leading to a more well-rounded understanding of complex issues.
- A more inclusive justice system would also be seen as more legitimate and trustworthy by the public. People are more likely to trust a system that reflects the society it serves.

The report concludes with a call for action.

- Justice institutions need to be prepared to address the challenges that prevent women from fully participating in the system.
- This requires a thorough review of existing structures and practices to identify and eliminate barriers to women's advancement.

10. India's suboptimal use of its labour power- The Hindu

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

Context:

- A vast majority of **Indians earn the entirety of their incomes through labour as opposed to ownership** of capital or land.
- Further, about **90% of the working Indian population earns its livelihood through informal employment** that is characterised by little or no job security, no employment benefits, no social protection, and lower earnings.

A deeper reading of improvements

- At first glance it would seem that things have improved in the recent past for which we have yearly data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
 - beginning 2017-18, which replaced the earlier periodic National Sample Survey (Employment-Unemployment).
- Overall, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has gone up steadily to 58.35% in 2021-22, starting at 52.35% in 2017-18, a trend that is being driven largely by women in rural areas.
- Moreover, the overall unemployment rate has also declined from 6.2% in 2017-18 to 4.2% in 2021-22.
- For the youth, the unemployment rate numbers are higher (12% in 2017-18 to 8.5% in 2021-22) but display the same downward trend.
- For both the LFPR and the unemployment rate, the very latest data available for 2022-23, display the same trajectory.

India's jobs crisis, the macroeconomic reasons

- When we look at the different categories of the employed, namely, regular wage/salaried work, casual work, and self-employment and their trends, we can see that the improvements in LFPR and the drop in the unemployment rate are largely driven by self-employment.
- A disturbing trend emerges if we look at them separately to identify which subcategory explains the overall rise in the self-employed.
- While the fraction of the self-employed who are employers has gone up marginally by less than one percentage point from 3.78% in 2017-18 to 4.57% in 2021-22, t
- the bulk of the growth in self-employment has come from the rise of unpaid family workers, which has increased from 26% to 31.4% over the period.
- Though the absolute number of workers in each employment type is increasing over the period of study, within the employed pool
 - The sharpest rise is seen in the proportion of unpaid family labour such as a helper in the family-run kirana store.

The determinant in more women in the job market

- The average daily earnings for both the salaried and the self-employed stagnated over the period, showing no increase in real terms.
- However, those in casual work saw an increase from ₹162 a day in 2017-18 to ₹196 a day in 2021-22, which is about a 20% increase
- this is the category that is responsible for the moderate increase in the overall average earnings of the employed.
- While this is a positive development, we must put it in context: even with a 30-day work month, casual workers were making ₹6,000 a month at 2010 prices (or, ₹11,520 in 2021 prices).
- this is barely above the poverty line of ₹4,080 a month in rural areas and ₹5,000 a month in urban areas (poverty lines in 2011-12 prices).
- To sum up our findings, while the rise in the LFPR and fall in the unemployment rate since 2017-18 appears to be a positive sign,

Phase of demographic dividend

- Taken together, own-account workers, casual workers, and unpaid family workers form more than three quarters of the employed.
- That is to say, more than three quarters of our working population is engaged in work which is typically of low productivity.
- To put it in context, India is in its period of demographic dividend which is expected to peak in less than 20 years and exhaust in roughly another 30 to 35 years.
- In this golden period of reaping labour productivity, the economy continues to utilise its labour capital in a suboptimal fashion by engaging a majority in low quality work.

Quick Look

1. Index of Industrial Production

- IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- It is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups.
- The industry groups that it measures are classified as
 - Broad sectors like manufacturing, mining, and electricity.
 - Use-based sectors like capital goods, basic goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure goods, consumer durables, and consumer non-durables.
- It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, etc. for policy-making purposes.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.
- Eight Core Sectors
 - These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
 - The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilisers.

2. Alaskapox

- Recently, an elderly man from Alaska became the first person to die after contracting Alaskapox.
- Alaskapox is an orthopox virus that was first discovered in Alaska, USA, in 2015.
- It is a double-stranded DNA virus belonging to the same genus Orthopoxvirus as smallpox, monkeypox, and cowpox.
 - Orthopoxviruses are zoonotic viruses that can infect various mammals, including humans.
- Current evidence indicates that the Alaskapox virus primarily occurs in small mammals.
 - The virus has been most commonly identified in red-backed voles and shrews.
- Symptoms: One or more skin lesions (bumps or pustules), swollen lymph nodes and joint and/or muscle pain. Immunocompromised people might be at increased risk for more severe illness.
- Transmission: While human-to-human transmission of Alaskapox has not yet been observed, some orthopoxviruses can spread by direct contact with lesions.

3. Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

- The Prime Minister will inaugurate the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha BAPS Mandir, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.
- BAPS is a socio-spiritual Hindu faith based on the Vedic teachings propagated by Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781-1830 CE).
- It is an NGO with a Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
- It was formally established in 1907 CE by Brahmaswarup Shastriji Maharaj.
- Five-lifetime vows of BAPS followers: No Alcohol, No Addictions, No Adultery, No Meat, No Impurity of body and mind.

4. National Creators Award

- It is the first-of-its-kind award that will be targeted at "Gen Z", a reference to the young generation hooked to the internet and social media.
- Objectives
 - Put change-makers on centre stage – recognizing and boosting digital creators that are making an impact
 - Elevate the influence of digital media on social impact
 - Bring a community of creators, leaders and government on one platform to spur a social revolution, a national movement during 'Amrit Kaal'
 - Using creativity to drive positive change.
- Eligibility Criteria
 - Participants must be 18 years of age or above at the time of nomination.
 - 19 categories are open exclusively to individuals of Indian nationality. One category is dedicated to international digital creators.
 - Content must be published on one or more digital platforms viz. Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook.
 - Language: English or any other Indian language.
 - Creators can self-nominate in a maximum of three categories. Those nominating others can nominate in all 20 categories.

5. SWATI Portal

- Recently, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal.
- Aim: To create a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine).
- The database of the SWATI Portal will serve in policy-making to address the challenges of Gender-gap.
- It is developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. China recently signed a 'Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement' with which country?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. UAE
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

1. UNCLOS was adopted in 1982 and came into force in 1994.
2. UNCLOS defines the rights and responsibilities of nations regarding the use of the world's oceans and establishes guidelines for marine resource management.
3. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is one of the dispute settlement mechanisms under UNCLOS.
4. All countries are parties to UNCLOS, and non-members do not have access to its benefits.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Atal Bhujal Yojana

1. It is a scheme to facilitate sustainable groundwater management implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It is funded by the Centre and the states on a 50:50 basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Broadcasting Policy:

1. The policy in India outlines guidelines and regulations for the functioning of television and radio broadcasting.
2. The formulation of the policy is the exclusive domain of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
3. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure government control over media content and programming.

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 the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana

1. It aims to provide electricity to all rural households across the country.
2. The scheme focuses on harnessing solar power for rural electrification.
3. The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is the responsibility of the Ministry of Power.
4. The scheme offers 100% financial assistance to households for the installation of solar-powered equipment.

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 Sea Defenders-2024

1. It is a collaborative training mission between the Indian and United States Coast Guards.
2. Held off the coast of Port Blair, India, the exercise simulates various maritime threats including pirate attacks, drone strikes on commercial ships, search and rescue at sea

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about Fixed Dose Combination (FDC)

1. FDCs combine multiple drugs to improve patient compliance, reducing the chance of missing doses.
2. In India, antibiotic FDCs are worrisome due to the growing antibiotic microbial resistance (AMR) in the country.

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

1. As per IT rules, online games, with or without monetary involvement, require approval from a regulatory body.
2. Fantasy sports are the games in which the player selects a team of real sports players from several teams and earns points based on how well the players perform in real life.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements with reference to Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality

1. It was established at the G20 summit 2023 under India's Presidency.
2. It aims to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise.

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

Q10. Which of the following is a key indicator used to measure unemployment in a country?

- A. Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- B. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- C. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
- D. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Ans: Option A is Correct

Explanation

- The People's Bank of China and the Central bank of Saudi Arabia recently inked a local currency swap deal.
- The agreement, valid for three years and subject to extension by mutual consent, involves a sum of 50 billion yuan (\$6.93 billion) or 26 billion Saudi riyals. This bilateral currency swap arrangement is anticipated to bolster financial collaboration between the two nations, enhance the utilization of local currencies, and foster increased trade and investment, as stated in the official announcement.

Answer 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- UNCLOS was adopted in 1982, and it entered into force on November 16, 1994. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- UNCLOS is a comprehensive international treaty that defines the rights and responsibilities of nations concerning the use of the world's oceans. It covers various aspects, including navigational rights, territorial sea limits, and guidelines for the conservation and management of marine resources. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- ITLOS is indeed one of the dispute settlement mechanisms established by UNCLOS to deal with disputes related to the interpretation and application of the convention. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- While a large majority of countries are parties to UNCLOS, not all countries have ratified it. However, even non-parties can benefit from certain customary international law principles established by UNCLOS. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect**

Answer 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Atal Bhujal Yojana is a Central Sector Scheme for facilitating sustainable groundwater management with an outlay of Rs. 6000 crore.

- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is being funded by the Government of India and the World Bank on a 50:50 basis. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The entire World Bank's loan component and central assistance will be passed on to the States as grants.
- Objective: To improve the management of groundwater resources in select water stressed areas in identified states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- It promotes panchayat led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management.

Answer 4 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The National Broadcasting Policy provides guidelines, regulations, and principles for the functioning of television and radio broadcasting in India. It addresses various aspects, including content standards, licensing, and industry practices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in India is responsible for formulating the National Broadcasting Policy. It plays a central role in shaping the policy framework that governs broadcasting activities in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While the National Broadcasting Policy does establish regulations to ensure compliance with certain standards, its primary objective is not to exercise government control over media content. The policy aims to balance the interests of various stakeholders, promote diversity, and ensure quality in broadcasting. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 5 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana aims to provide round-the-clock electricity supply to rural households, thereby ensuring access to electricity for all. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The primary focus of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana is to harness solar power for providing electricity to rural areas. It involves the installation of solar power plants and standalone solar systems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana falls under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), not the Ministry of Power. **Hence, statement 3 is Incorrect**
- While the scheme provides financial assistance, it may not cover the entire cost. The level of financial assistance varies, and beneficiaries may be required to contribute a certain amount. **Hence, statement 4 is Incorrect**

Answer 6 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- It is a collaborative training mission between the Indian and United States Coast Guards.
- Held off the coast of Port Blair, India, the exercise simulates various maritime threats.
- These include pirate attacks, drone strikes on commercial ships, search and rescue at sea, fighting large fires, responding to ocean pollution, and stopping drug smuggling. **Both the statements are correct**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Academics from India, Qatar, and the UK recently published a study that highlighted the concerning prevalence of unapproved and banned Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) antibiotics in India.

- FDCs combine multiple drugs to improve patient compliance, reducing the chance of missing doses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However, formulating FDCs is complex, as interactions between active ingredients and excipients can impact efficacy or create toxic elements.
- Antibiotic FDCs are worrisome due to the growing antibiotic microbial resistance (AMR) in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian pharmaceutical companies use FDCs to evade drug price control regulations under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO).
- Manufacturers often provide their own testing protocols to government laboratories.
- Creating FDCs provide companies the opportunity to charge higher prices for drugs, avoiding intense market competition.

Answer 8 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- As per IT rules, online real money games require approval from a regulatory body, while those without monetary involvement do not need regulation. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Types of online gaming
 - e-Sports: These are video games that were played privately or on consoles in video game stores in the 1990s. Now, they are played online in a structured manner between professional players, either individually or in teams.
 - Fantasy sports: These are games in which the player selects a team of real sports players from several teams and earns points based on how well the players perform in real life. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Online casual games: These could be skill-based, where the outcome is heavily impacted by mental or physical skill or chance-based.

Answer 9 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- India established the "Global Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality" at the 54th annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The primary objective of this new Alliance is to bring together global best practices, knowledge sharing and investments in the identified areas of women's health, education, and enterprise. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the alliance will be housed and anchored by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Centre for Women Leadership.

- The WEF has come on board as a 'Network Partner' and Invest India as an 'Institutional Partner'.
- The alliance aims to champion women-led development, leveraging India's spectacular inclusive growth story and its philosophy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas".

Answer 10 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is a key indicator used to measure unemployment. It represents the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.



Mentorship India

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