



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th May 2024



SOURCES



## Table of Contents

1. India backs Palestine's bid for full UN membership.....	2
2. Govt. notifies Act for armed forces' control.....	3
3. Farmers in Idukki lose the spice of livelihood.....	4
4. India's Technical Textiles market has huge potential backed by a significant growth rate of 10%.....	5
5. Israel, Saudi Arabia, and churn in the Middle East: the view from India.....	6
6. Folds and faults.....	7
7. MoSD signs MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. under the Drone Didi Yojana.....	7
8. India's Index of Industrial Production grows by 4.9 % in March 2024.....	8
9. Keel Laying of 8th ASW SWC (ex-GRSE).....	8
10. Government organises workshop on Quality Control in Green Hydrogen.....	9
Daily Quiz.....	10



## GS II

# 1. India backs Palestine's bid for full UN membership

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

**Prelims:** Israel-Palestine Map, United Nations Membership

**Mains:** Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

**News:** India voted in favour of a draft UN General Assembly resolution that said Palestine is qualified and should be admitted as a full member of the United Nations.

### In Detail

- UAE presented the Arab Group resolution 'Admission of new Members to the United Nations', in support of the State of Palestine's full membership in the UN.
- The resolution got 143 votes in favour, including by India, nine against and 25 abstentions.
- The resolution determined that "the State of Palestine is qualified for membership in the United Nations" in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of the UN and "should therefore be admitted to membership in the United Nations".

### India and Palestine

- India was the first non Arab State to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974.
- India was also one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine in 1988 and in 1996, Delhi opened its Representative Office to the Palestine Authority in Gaza, which was later shifted to Ramallah in 2003.

### Benefits of Full UN Membership

- Palestine, as an observer state, does not have the right to vote in the General Assembly or to put forward its candidature to UN organs.
- Many Additional rights will be given after membership:
  - Right to be seated among member states in alphabetical order
  - Right to make statements on behalf of a group, including among representatives of major groups
  - Right of members of the delegation of the State of Palestine to be elected as officers in the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly
  - Right to full and effective participation in UN conferences and international conferences and meetings convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
- The additional rights and privileges of participation of the State of Palestine will be effective as of the 79th session of the General Assembly that begins in September this year.



## GS III

### 2. Govt. notifies Act for armed forces' control

Source: The Hindu, Page 3

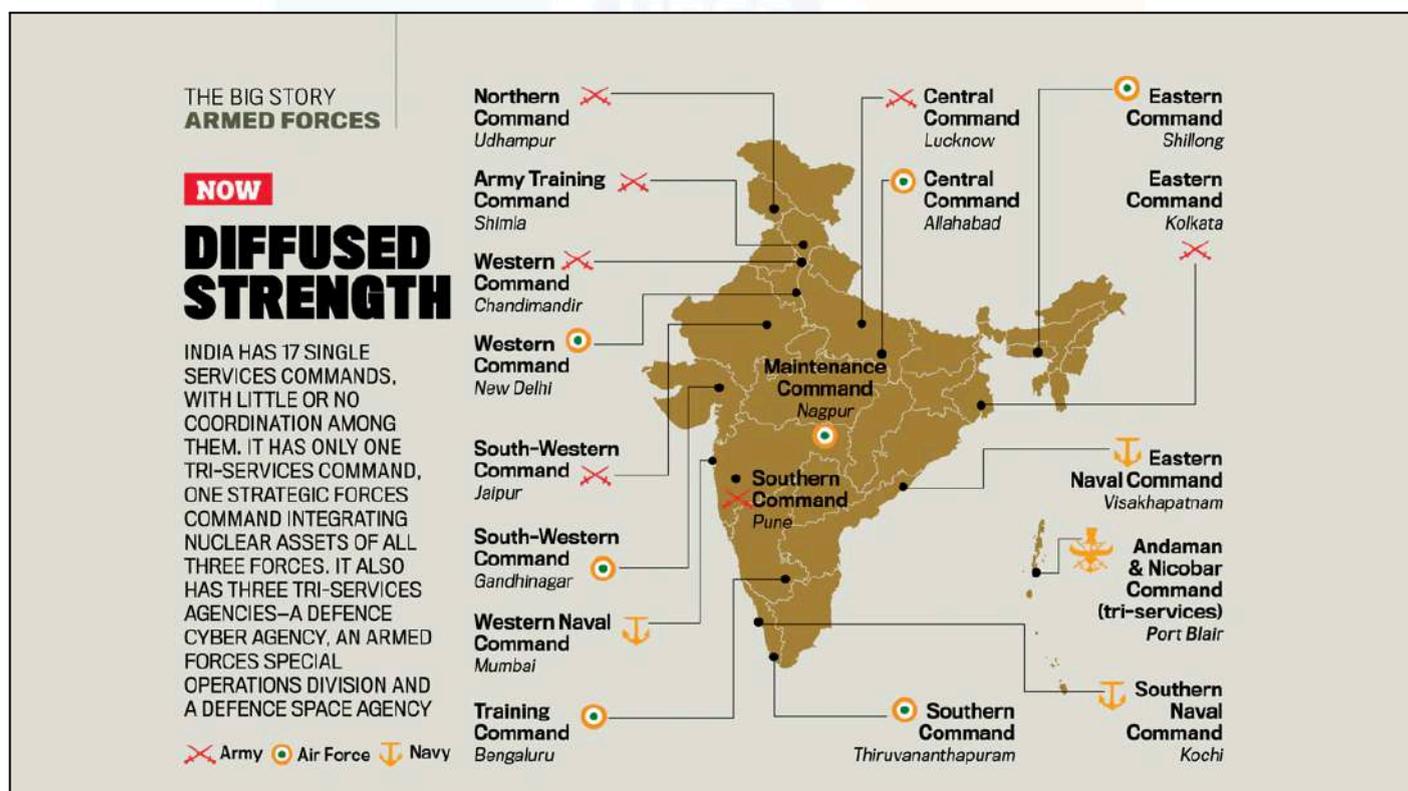
**Prelims:** About the Act, Inter-Service Commands

**Mains:** Various Security Forces and Agencies and their Mandate.

**News:** The government has notified the Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) (Command, Control, and Discipline) Act through a Gazette notification.

#### About the Act

- The Act empowers Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of ISOs to exercise control over Service personnel, serving under them, for effective maintenance of discipline and administration, without disturbing the unique service conditions of each individual Service.
- The Act will empower the Heads of ISOs and pave the way for expeditious disposal of cases, avoid multiple proceedings and will be a step towards greater integration & jointness among the Armed Forces personnel.



### 3. Farmers in Idukki lose the spice of livelihood

Source: The Hindu, Page 9

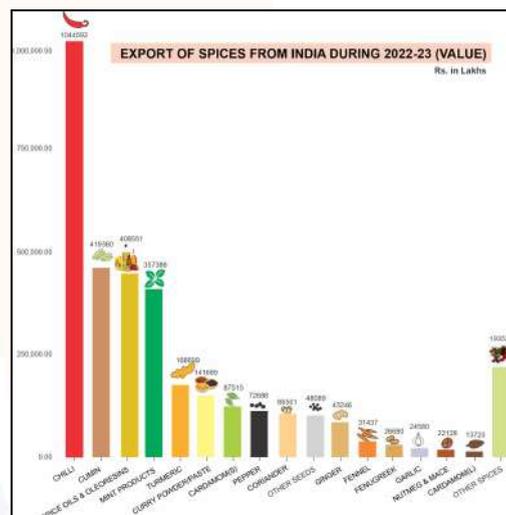
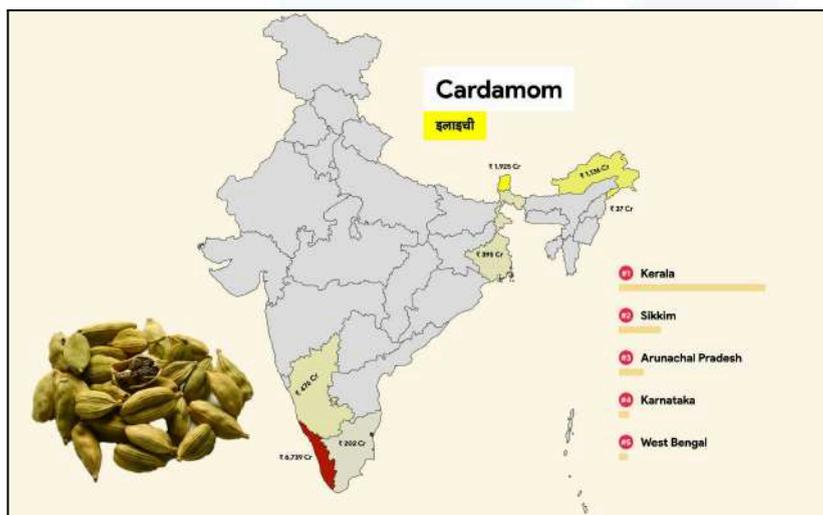
**Prelims:** About Cardamom, Spices Board of India.

**Mains:** Major Crops - Cropping Patterns in various parts of the country.

**News:** Unusually hot weather, coupled with the absence of summer showers, has left cardamom crops yellow and farmers in panic in Kerala's hill district.

#### About Cardamom

- Cardamom is a spice native to southern India and is part of the ginger family.
- It is cultivated mainly in the Southern states, viz., Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- It is grown in forest loamy soils, which are usually acidic in nature with a pH range of 5.0–6.5.
- This crop can be grown at an elevation from 600 to 1500 m. Cardamom typically flourishes in conditions with 60% shade.
- Temperature should be between 10– 35 degree Celsius. Rainfall should be between 1500–4000 mm.
- The growth of cardamom is enhanced when planted in humus rich soils with low to medium available phosphorus and medium to high available potassium.



#### Issues faced by Farmers in Kerala

- The Spices Board of India estimates a 40% drop in production in the coming season. Cardamom worth ₹87,514.84 lakh was exported from Kerala in 2022–23.
- This summer, the sunshine hours increased by an hour, the surface soil temperature rose to 46°C, and atmospheric humidity dropped considerably.
- Prolonged drought and hot conditions have hindered the cardamom farming sector.



## 4. India's Technical Textiles market has huge potential backed by a significant growth rate of 10%

Source: PIB

**Prelims:** Facts and figures regarding Indian Textile Sector, National Technical Textiles Mission(NTTM)  
**Mains:** Effects of Liberalisation on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

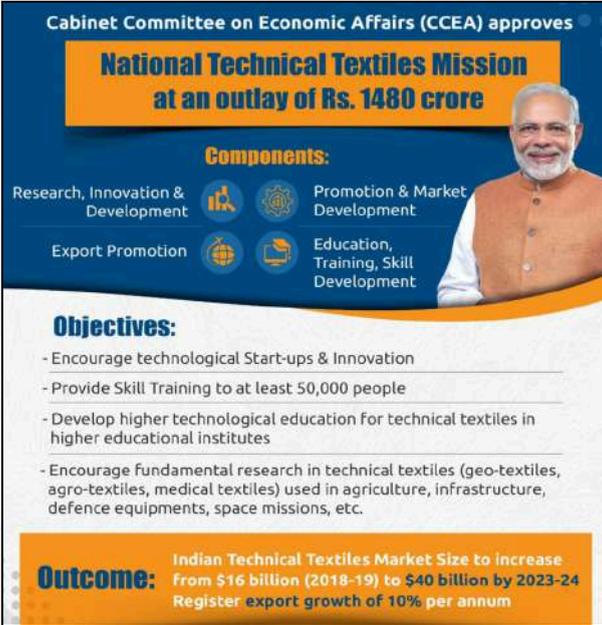
**News:** The Ministry of Textiles in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ahmedabad Textiles Industries' Research Associations (ATIRA) organised a National Symposium on Advancements in Composites, Speciality Fibres and Chemicals in New Delhi.

### Technical Textiles

- Technical textiles are engineered products with a definite functionality.
- They are manufactured using natural as well as man-made fibres such as Nomex, Kevlar, Spandex, Twaron that exhibit enhanced functional properties such as higher tenacity, excellent insulation, improved thermal resistance etc.
- Technical textile accounts for approximately 13% of India's total textile and apparel market and contributes to India's GDP at 0.7%.
- National Technical Textiles Mission(NTTM) is a flagship mission with a view to position India as the Global Leader in Technical Textiles.

### Key takeaways from Symposium

- The specialty fibres are the building blocks of the advanced composites. Specialty fibres like aramids, carbon fibre, zylon, ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMWPE), glass fibre, ceramic fibre can be used for diverse applications such as Fire Retardant fabrics, Bullet Resistant Jackets, windmills (renewable energy) etc.
- The demand for bio-composites is increasing due to growth in its adoption by construction, furniture industry and increased compatibility in medical applications.
- There is use of geotextiles and geo-composites in the railways sector. Similarly, Carbon-fibre reinforced polymer(CFRP) and Asto glass fibres are majorly used nowadays in the space and aerospace sector.
- A collaborative approach among stakeholders including industry representatives, policymakers, researchers, and investors is imperative to address the cost implications in the field of composites and specialty fibres



**Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approves**

**National Technical Textiles Mission**  
at an outlay of Rs. 1480 crore

**Components:**

- Research, Innovation & Development
- Promotion & Market Development
- Export Promotion
- Education, Training, Skill Development

**Objectives:**

- Encourage technological Start-ups & Innovation
- Provide Skill Training to at least 50,000 people
- Develop higher technological education for technical textiles in higher educational institutes
- Encourage fundamental research in technical textiles (geo-textiles, agro-textiles, medical textiles) used in agriculture, infrastructure, defence equipments, space missions, etc.

**Outcome:** Indian Technical Textiles Market Size to increase from \$16 billion (2018-19) to \$40 billion by 2023-24  
Register export growth of 10% per annum



## Editorials, Opinions and Ideas

### 5. Israel, Saudi Arabia, and churn in the Middle East: the view from India

Source: IE, Page 16

The article discusses the recent attempts of The United States of America in forging a mutual defence treaty with Saudi Arabia. It later discusses opportunities and challenges for India. It becomes important for your overall understanding of the International Relation part of General Studies Paper III.

#### How will this deal benefit the USA?

- The USA will control the civilian nuclear energy programme that Saudi Arabia will get.
- Saudi Arabia will commit to not move from US dollars to the Chinese yuan in pricing oil.
- It will signal that America is back in play in the Middle East- to help Biden in re-election.
- To counter China's presence in the region.
- Normalising Saudi Arabia's relations with Israel - making both a trading place for the USA.



India and Saudi Arabia	India and Israel
For India, a US-Saudi Arabia pact and peace between Israel and Iran and Israel and Hamas could mean an opportunity to better harness the region's potential.	India's ties with Israel have become steadily more visible over the past decade, centred mainly on defence and security, innovation, agriculture, etc.
India-Saudi trade was valued at \$52.76 billion in 2022-23. India is the second largest trade partner for Saudi, while Saudi is India's fourth largest trade partner.	Trade volumes have risen from around \$200 million in 1992 (consisting primarily of diamonds) to \$10.7 billion (excluding defence) in 2022-23, of which Indian exports were around \$8.4 billion.
Saudi Arabia was India's third largest crude and petroleum products sourcing destination in 2022-23.	India is Israel's second largest trading partner in Asia, and the seventh largest globally.
Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has invested in approximately \$4.6 billion in Indian startups.	Israel has been a major supplier of defence equipment that has helped meet some of India's security tech challenges.
The more than 2.4 million strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia and the Indian diaspora is widely respected in the kingdom for their contributions.	Israel is an important partner to India in the innovation ecosystem - smart irrigation systems being an example of cooperation in this field.

In 2022, India participated virtually in the first leaders' summit under the I2U2 framework. And in September 2023, the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor connectivity project was launched. In summary, India will welcome a durable peace in the Middle East, with a stronger American presence in the region as India considers the Middle East its extended neighbourhood.



## InBrief

### 6. Folds and faults

Source: The Hindu, Page 6

**News:** Recently, DeepMind launched AlphaFold 3, which can reportedly predict the protein shapes with nearly 80% accuracy as well as model DNA, RNA, ligands, and modifications to them.

#### About AlphaFold 3

- It is an AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- It can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy and can map the behaviour for all of life's molecules, including human DNA.
- It can generate molecules' joint 3D structure.
- It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA and RNA, as well as ligands - smaller molecules.
- Currently, there are over 200 million known proteins, with many more found every year. Each one has a unique 3D shape determining how it works and what it does.
- AlphaFold will aid in the understanding of how those relationships impact biological processes, including the actions of medications, hormone synthesis, and the process of DNA repair, which maintains health.

### 7. MoSD signs MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. under the Drone Didi Yojana

Source: PIB

**News:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana.

#### About Drone Didi Yojana

- The NaMo Drone Didi scheme was launched at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. In March 2024. Under the initiative, rural women are trained to become drone pilots for agricultural purposes.
- The Namo Drone Didi Scheme targets empowering 15,000 Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing them with drones to offer rental services to farmers in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.
- The initiative aims to enhance economic empowerment and financial autonomy among women, especially in rural areas.



## 8. India's Index of Industrial Production grows by 4.9 % in March 2024

Source: PIB

**News:** For the month of March 2024, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 159.2.

### About Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that indicates the performance of various industrial sectors of the Indian economy. Current base year for IIP is 2011 – 12. It is calculated and published by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) every month.
- It is a composite indicator of the general level of industrial activity in the economy.
- The industry groups that it measures are classified under the following:
  - 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.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)		
Sector	Weights (%)	Item groups
Mining	14.37	1
Manufacturing	77.63	405
Electricity	7.99	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>407</b>

## 9. Keel Laying of 8th ASW SWC (ex-GRSE)

Source: PIB

**News:** Keel laying ceremony of the 8th ASW SWC (ex-GRSE) ships was held at M/s GRSE, Kolkata on 10 May 24.

### About ASW SWC

- The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) corvettes, are a class of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) vessels currently being built for the Indian Navy, by Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- They were conceived as a replacement to the ageing Abhay-class corvettes of the Indian Navy.
- The contract for building eight ASW SWC ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on 29 Apr 2019.
- As on date six ships of the project have already been launched with delivery of the first ship (Arnala) planned for August.



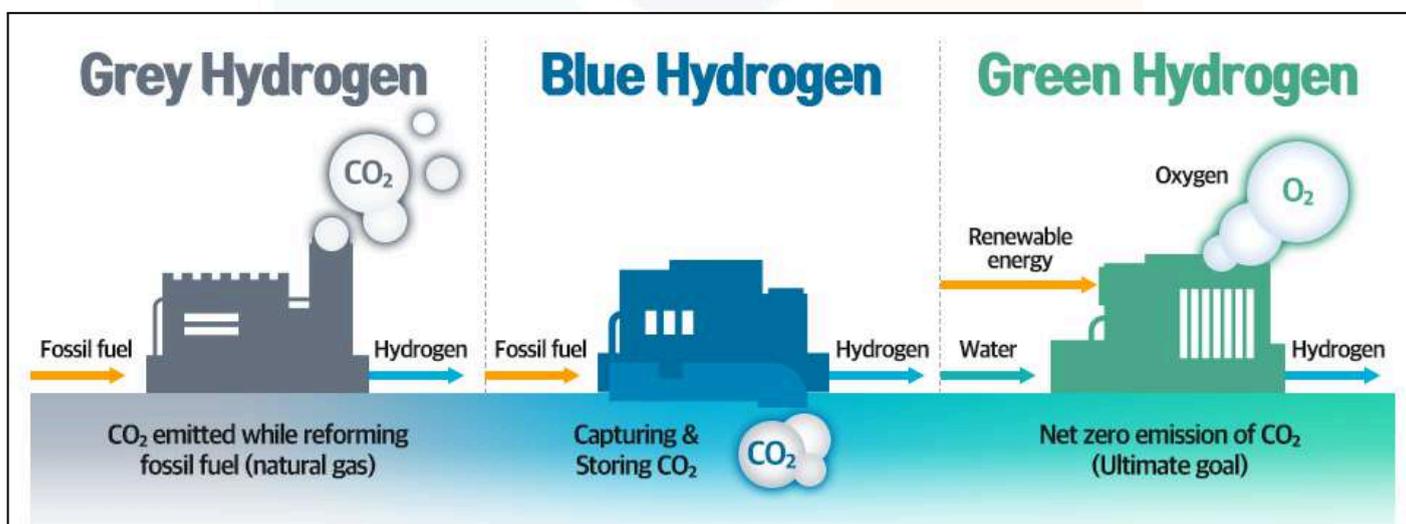
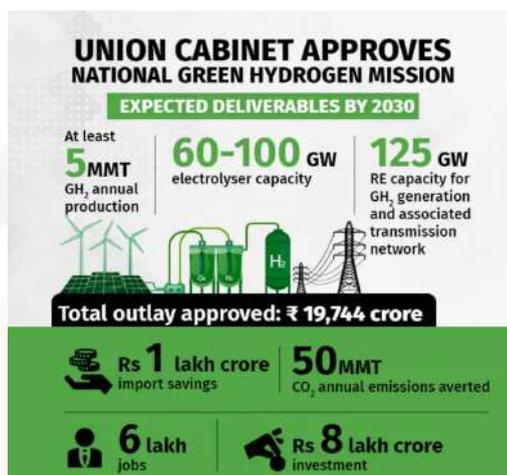
## 10. Government organises workshop on Quality Control in Green Hydrogen

Source: PIB

**News:** The government held a day-long workshop on “Quality Control in Green Hydrogen: Standards & Testing Infrastructure” at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi.

### About Green Hydrogen

- Green hydrogen is the name given to hydrogen gas that has been produced using renewable energy, such as wind or solar power, which create no GHG emissions.
- In comparison, Grey hydrogen is traditionally produced from methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) releasing CO<sub>2</sub>, a greenhouse gas. Blue hydrogen is similar to Grey Hydrogen with the additional technologies necessary to capture the CO<sub>2</sub>.
- To obtain Green Hydrogen, we use an electrical current to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in water. If this electricity is obtained from renewable sources, then energy is produced without emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- In January 2023, the Union Cabinet approved National Green Hydrogen Mission.



## Daily Quiz

1. Recently, India voted in favour of a draft UN General Assembly resolution admitting Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. Ramallah is a city in the West Bank area of Palestine Region.
2. Rafah is a city located north of Golan Height.
3. Haifa is a city located in the Gaza Strip.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

2. Recently, the government has notified the ISO Command, Control, and Discipline Act. Consider the following pairs matching various service commands of Indian Army and their headquarters:

1. Northern Command - New Delhi
2. Central Command - Bhopal
3. Southern Command - Bengaluru

How many of the pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All are correct.
- D. All are incorrect.

3. In 2024, prolonged drought and hot conditions have hindered the cardamom farming sector. In this regard, consider the following statements regarding Cardamom:

1. Cardamom is a spice native to Northeastern India.
2. Cardamom belongs to the ginger family.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

4. Recently, the National Symposium on Advancements in Composites, Speciality Fibres and Chemicals was organised in New Delhi. Consider the following statements regarding technical textiles:

1. Nomex is used as a fabric where resistance from heat and flame is required.
2. Kevlar is used by manufacturers to create products that are flexible, yet strong.
3. Spandex is a fibre known for its exceptional elasticity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All are correct
- D. All are incorrect

5. Recently, The United States of America is forging a mutual defence treaty with Saudi Arabia. Consider the following International Organisations:

1. G20
2. Arab League
3. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
4. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

In how many of the above organisations, both India and Saudi Arabia are members?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. None

6. Recently in the news, "AlphaFold" will be helpful in which of the following fields?

- A. Understanding the biological processes
- B. Unfolding dark matter mysteries
- C. Unifying nuclear fission and fusion
- D. Unleashing seabed mining



7. Which of the following can be an application of drone technology in the Agriculture Sector?

1. Crop Monitoring
2. Pest Detection
3. Precision Spraying
4. Aerial Imaging
5. Soil Analysis
6. Irrigation Management
7. Yield Estimation

Choose the correct option:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

8. India's Index of Industrial Production(IIP) has grown by 4.9 % in March 2024. Which of the following sectors has the least weightage in IIP?

- A. Mining
- B. Manufacturing
- C. Electricity
- D. Information Technology

9. The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) corvettes are currently being built for the Indian Navy. In this regard, which of the following terms correctly defines a 'corvette'?

- A. A large warship designed to carry and deploy aircraft
- B. A heavily armed warship designed for fleet defence and anti-air warfare.
- C. A medium-sized naval warship designed for escort and patrol missions
- D. A small, fast naval warship typically used for coastal defence and escort duties

10. Recently, the government held a workshop on "Quality Control in Green Hydrogen: Standards & Testing Infrastructure". In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. Green hydrogen is the gas that has been produced using renewable energy.
2. Grey hydrogen is the gas that has been produced from methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).
3. Blue hydrogen is the gas that has been produced using hydropower.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

## Solutions

**Answer 1: A**

**Solution 1:**

- Statement 1 is correct: Ramallah is a city in the West Bank area of Palestine Region.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Rafah is a city located in Gaza Strip.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Haifa is a city located in Israel.

Hence, Option A is correct.

**Answer 2: D**

**Solution 2:**

- Northern Command - Udhampur
- Central Command - Lucknow
- Southern Command - Thiruvananthapuram

Hence, Option D is correct.

**Answer 3: B**

**Solution 3:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Cardamom is a spice native to southern India. It is cultivated mainly in the Southern states, viz., Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.



- Statement 2 is correct: It is part of the ginger family.

Hence, option B is correct.

**Answer 4: C**

**Solution 4:**

- Statement 1 is correct: Nomex is used as a fabric where resistance from heat and flame is required.
- Statement 2 is correct: Kevlar is used by manufacturers to create products that are flexible, yet strong.
- Statement 3 is correct: Spandex is a fibre known for its exceptional elasticity.

Hence, option C is correct.

**Answer 5: A**

**Solution 5:**

- The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 members (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union. The African Union was also added in 2023.

Hence, option A is correct.

**Answer 6: A**

**Solution 6:**

- AlphaFold 3 is an AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- It can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy and can map the behaviour for all of life's molecules, including human DNA.

Hence, option A is correct.

**Answer 7: D**

**Solution 7:**

- Drones can be used for Crop Monitoring, Pest Detection, Precision Spraying, Aerial Imaging, Soil Analysis, Irrigation Management, and Yield Estimation in the Agriculture Sector.

Hence, option D is correct.

**Answer 8: C**

**Solution 8:**

- The weightage of Manufacturing, Mining, and Electricity production in the overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is 77.63 per cent, 14.37 per cent, and 7.99 per cent respectively.

Hence, option C is correct.

**Answer 9: D**

**Solution 9:**

- Corvette: A small, fast naval warship typically used for coastal defence and escort duties.
- Frigate: A medium-sized naval warship designed for escort and patrol missions, offering a balance between speed, firepower, and endurance.
- Destroyer: A large, heavily armed naval warship primarily tasked with providing protection to larger fleet units and engaging enemy surface ships and submarines.
- Aircraft Carrier: A large warship designed to carry and deploy aircraft, serving as a mobile air base capable of projecting air power over long distances and supporting naval operations.

Hence, Option D is correct.

**Answer 10: C**

**Solution 10:**

- Statement 1 is correct: Green hydrogen is the gas that has been produced using renewable energy.
- Statement 2 is correct: Grey hydrogen is the gas that has been produced from methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), releasing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Blue hydrogen is the gas that has been produced from methane only, but the CO<sub>2</sub> released is captured and stored.

Hence, option C is correct.





**UPSC  
Mentorship**

A Unit of Mentorship India



कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

## GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

[www.upsmentorship.com](http://www.upsmentorship.com)

@mentorship.india

C - 103, Second Floor, Sector-2  
Noida - 201301

[contact@mentorshipindia.com](mailto:contact@mentorshipindia.com)