

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 23 Apr. 2024**

### **Important News Articles**

1. Mauritius yet to ratify tax treaty protocol' - The Hindu
2. SC allows abortion of 30-week foetus: What is the law on abortions, and what does the court consider? - Indian Express
3. World Earth Day 2024: Get to know the date, history, theme and significance - Indian express
4. SC grants Centre a week's time to look into Karnataka plea for drought relief - The Hindu
5. Plastic Treaty Talks: What do Countries, Firms want - The Indian Express
6. FSSAI asks states to test branded spices amid quality concerns - Indian Express
7. SC agrees to hear Centre's plea for 'administrative allocation', of spectrum - The Hindu

### **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

8. A lesson from Taiwan in quake resilience - The Hindu
9. Restoring earth's right to 'good health' - The Hindu
10. What are rules around star campaigners? - The Hindu

### **Quick Look**

1. Rampage Missile
2. Artemis Accords
3. Mount Erebus
4. National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank)
5. Copyright infringement

## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. Mauritius yet to ratify tax treaty protocol' - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**News:**

- The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) said last week that the protocol amending the Mauritius-India Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to comply with the base erosion and profit shifting minimum standards, is yet to be ratified.
- The MRA said the protocol will amend the DTAA once it is ratified and notified by both countries.
- "The protocol shall come into force on the date of the later of these notifications.
- Prior to the ratification of the protocol, stakeholders will be provided with clarificatory information on the amendments being brought to the Mauritius-India DTAA
- India and Mauritius signed an amendment to the DTAA on March 7 and included a principal purpose test in the pact in order to ensure that treaty benefits are granted only for transactions with a bona fide purpose.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Map Based questions
- Double Tax Avoidance Agreement

#### **Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) Between India and Mauritius:**

- Governments of India and Mauritius came to a unanimous decision in 1983 regarding the avoidance of double taxation.
- This is the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement or DTAA between India and Mauritius.
- The conventions of DTAA signed between India and Mauritius will be applicable to residents of one or both contracting states.

**Objective:**

- To promote bilateral economic relations and investment between India and Mauritius by providing tax certainty and reducing tax barriers.

**Impact of the Amendment:**

- Following the amendment, there were concerns that foreign portfolio investments coming via Mauritius would face increased scrutiny by tax authorities.
- Also, there were apprehensions that past investments could be covered by the amended protocol.
- This led to India's benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty falling by 1 per cent on April 12, 2024.

#### 2. SC allows abortion of 30-week foetus: What is the law on abortions, and what does the court consider?- 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 has allowed a 14-year-old victim of sexual assault to terminate her almost 30-week pregnancy.
- A Bench said it was a "very very exceptional case where we have to protect her (the girl)".

#### Prelims Takeaway

- MTP act 1971

**Abortion law in India**

- India's abortion law (MTP Act) from 1971 (amended in 2021) lets women terminate pregnancies.
- Up to 20 weeks, one doctor's approval is enough.
- From 20-24 weeks, it's only allowed in special situations (like rape or young girls) and needs approval from two doctors.
- Beyond 24 weeks, things get complicated.
- Special clinics can decide if an abortion is allowed, but only if there's a serious problem with the fetus (checked by a "viability test" to see if it could survive outside the womb).
- This test is controversial because it's based on a somewhat outdated timeframe (24 weeks).
- Courts can sometimes allow abortions even later.

- For example, a recent case allowed a 14-year-old girl to terminate her pregnancy due to potential mental and physical harm.

**MTP act 2021**

- The Act regulates the conditions under which a pregnancy may be aborted.
- It increases the time period within which abortion may be carried out.
- Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.
- It allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks.
- It sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities

**GS III**

### 3. World Earth Day 2024: Get to know the date, history, theme and significance- Indian express

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

**News:**

- World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is a globally recognised event dedicated to raising awareness and promoting the sustainability of our planet.

**Key highlights**

- Earth Day, celebrated every year on April 22nd, is a global movement that began in 1970 (marking its 54th year in 2024).
- It started in the US with millions protesting environmental damage caused by events like the Santa Barbara oil spill.
- The United Nations officially recognized Earth Day in 2009.
- Now celebrated in 192 countries and organized by Earthday.org

**Objective**

- it aims to be the world's biggest environmental movement.
- The purpose of Earth Day is to encourage everyone to work together to fix the planet's ecosystems, fight climate change, and protect the variety of life on Earth.
- This global effort has seen success, like the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gases being signed on Earth Day 2016.
- This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," highlights the growing problem of plastic pollution, which now reaches over 380 million tons a year worldwide.
- It emphasizes the danger plastic poses to our planet and health, calling for a dramatic reduction in plastic production by 2040.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- WWF
- Earth day

### 4. SC grants Centre a week's time to look into Karnataka plea for drought relief - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Disaster and Disaster Management.

**News:**

- The Supreme Court reminded the Centre and Karnataka about the need to amicably resolve differences that arise in a federal structure.
- The Union government assured that "something will be done" to resolve the drought worries of Karnataka in a week's time.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Sendai Framework
- NDMA

- The State said the **Centre was violating the statutory scheme of the Disaster Management Act, 2005**,
- The Manual for Drought Management and the Guidelines on Administration of the State Disaster Response Fund and the NDRF.

#### **Disaster Management Act, 2005**

- It lays down the institutional, legal, financial, and coordination mechanisms at the national, state, district, and local levels for disaster management.
- The act mandates the establishment of various authorities and committees, such as the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and State and District Disaster Management Authorities to oversee and implement disaster management efforts.
- National Disaster Management Authority of India (NDMA) is chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**.
- NDMA has released guidelines (2010) for proper **management of Droughts** in India
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) released in 2016, it is the **first** ever national plan prepared in the country for disaster management.
- With the National Disaster Management Plan (2016), India has aligned its National plan with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**.

#### **Administrative Relations of Center and States (Articles 256 to 263):**

- States required to follow laws made by Parliament
- Concept of "**cooperative federalism**" in administrative matters.
- Centre's power to give directions to states on certain matters

## **5. Plastic Treaty Talks: What do Countries, Firms want- The Indian Express**

**Relevance:** Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### **News:**

- Global Leaders met in Canada, to discuss a **global treaty** to end the Plastic Pollution by the end of year.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- The **U.N. Environment Assembly** in 2022, nations agreed to develop a legally binding agreement by the end of 2024 to address the world's plastic pollution crisis.
- **The treaty** is set to address plastics through their entire lifecycle
- Many plastic and petrochemical-producing countries including Saudi Arabia, Iran and China, known collectively as the group of **Like-Minded Countries** have opposed mentioning production limits.
- Meanwhile, the 60-nation "**High-Ambition Coalition**", which includes EU countries, island nations, Japan and the UAE, wants to end plastic pollution by 2040.

#### **Plastic Usage:**

- The petrochemical industry (Used for making Plastics) says that production caps would lead to higher prices and that the treaty should address:
  - **the reuse or recycling of plastics**, and on developing the market for burning plastics as fuel.

#### **Plastics**

- Plastics are polymers. A polymer is a substance made of many repeating units
- Plastics can be divided into two: thermoplastics and thermosets.
- **Thermoplastics** are defined as polymers that can be melted and recast almost indefinitely.
- **Thermosets** is a polymer that irreversibly becomes rigid when heated

#### **Efforts taken by India:**

- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021** prohibits identified single use plastic items by 2022
- Thickness of plastic carry bags increased from **50 to 75** microns in 2021 and to **120 microns** with effect from 2022
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022** The guidelines provide a framework to Strengthen the **circular economy** of plastic packaging waste
- Promote the development of new alternatives to **plastic packaging**
- Provide the steps for moving towards sustainable plastic packaging by businesses

#### **Prelims Takeaway**

- Types of Plastic
- OECD report

### Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- Released the interim report '**Towards Eliminating Plastic Pollution by 2040**:'
- 21 million tonnes (MT) of plastics leaked into the environment globally.

## 6. FSSAI asks states to test branded spices amid quality concerns - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Statutory bodies

**News:**

- After authorities in **Hong Kong and Singapore** ordered that four spice mixes from two of India's top spice manufactures be **withdrawn** following **detection of high levels of ethylene oxide**, FSSAI has asked states to test branded spices.

**Highlights:**

- Samples of spice mixes from all brands will be tested for the presence of **ethylene oxide**; the compound is not allowed in food products as per the regulations.
- The food regulator has also started **collecting samples of baby formula** to check whether they conform to Indian standards.
  - This comes after an international body highlighted that food and beverage giant **Nestle** was selling baby formula with **higher sugar content** in South Asian, African, and Latin American countries.
- The **FSSAI** had said that the lab reports of the samples from India will be sought and placed before the existing, in-house subject expert committee for examination.
  - A consolidated report on spices is likely to come out in 25 days, according to officials.

**Ethylene oxide:**

- Ethylene oxide is a man-made chemical
- It is used in various industrial processes.
- It is a flammable gas with a sweet odor.
- It appears as a clear colorless gas
- It can easily dissolve in water.
- It is used as an insecticide in stored agricultural products and for sterilizing medical equipment.
- Ethylene oxide** has been classified as a **Group-1 carcinogen** by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
  - Chronic exposure to ethylene oxide can cause irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, and damage to the nervous system.

**FSSAI:**

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous **statutory body** established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
- The FSSAI comes under the **ministry of health and family welfare** and is Headquartered in Delhi.
- Responsibility of FSSAI includes ensuring compliance of **FSS Act, 2006**.
- Enforcement is undertaken on the basis of **surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling** of food products carried out by the Officials of Food Safety Departments

## 7. SC agrees to hear Centre's plea for 'administrative allocation' of spectrum- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-technology, Bio-technology and issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights.

**News:**

- The Supreme Court recently, agreed to hear an application from the Union government to allow the **administrative allocation** of "certain class" of spectrum, rather than by competitive auctions.

**Key Highlights:**

### Prelims Takeaway

- Ethylene oxide
- FSSAI

### Prelims Takeaway

- Radio Waves
- Spectrum

- In 'administrative allocation' of spectrum, the government decides the method for **selecting operators to distribute airwaves**, considered a scarce resource.
- The Union government said spectrum was assigned not only for commercial telecom services but also for **discharge of sovereign** and public interest functions such as security, safety, disaster preparedness, etc.
- In 2012, the Supreme Court had used the word "must" to show that auction was mandatory in the allocation of spectrum and no other methods could be allowed.

#### Spectrum Auctions:

- Communication devices like cell phones and wireline telephones rely on signals transmitted through airwaves, or radio waves, at designated frequencies to avoid interference.
- As the number of cellphone, wireline telephone, and **internet users grows**, there's a demand for more spectrum space to accommodate the increasing volume of signals.
- The **Union government, which owns** all publicly available assets within the country's boundaries, including **airwaves**, auctions spectrum to companies willing to invest in the infrastructure needed to transmit these signals.
- **The Department of Telecom (Ministry of Communications)** oversees the auction process, facilitating the sale of airwaves, known as spectrum, to interested companies.
- Spectrum is **subdivided into bands** with varying frequencies to accommodate different types of communication services.
- Additional spectrum in the **700 MHz** band will be allocated for **Indian Railways' Kavach anti-collision technology**.
- The spectrum will also be reserved for the National Capital Region Transport Corporation to enhance safety and operations in transportation systems.
- Several important communication is also done on spectrum airwaves like for Security purposes, Disaster Preparedness.
- Government is asking for allocating Spectrum rather than applying competitive bidding

#### Radio Waves

- Radio waves are electromagnetic radiation best-known for their use in communication technologies, such as television, mobile phones and radios
- Radio waves have the **longest wavelengths** in the EM spectrum, ranging from about 0.04 inches (1 millimeter) to more than 62 miles (100 kilometers).
- They also have the **lowest frequencies**, from about 3,000 cycles per second, or 3 kilohertz, up to about 300 gigahertz.

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 8. A lesson from Taiwan in quake resilience - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important Geophysical Phenomena such as earthquakes

#### News:

- Recently, **Taiwan** was struck by an **earthquake of 7.4 magnitude**.
- In the last two decades, major earthquakes have occurred in many parts of the world including Indonesia, Japan, China, Italy, Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ecuador, Mexico, Morocco, and the Turkey-Syria border.

**Highlights:**

- The spatial distribution of earthquakes is explained by the **theory of plate tectonics**,
  - which explains how the Earth's outermost layer, the **lithosphere, is broken into 15 major plates** which are constantly moving relative to each other.
  - This is why powerful earthquakes are concentrated along **convergent plate boundaries like the Himalayas**, a tectonic product of the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian plates.
- The earthquake in **Nepal in 2015** caused severe devastation in central Nepal, but spared India. The region around Manali in **Himachal Pradesh was struck by an earthquake of magnitude 5.3 recently**.
- Taiwan, which is a country of strong earthquakes.
- It was formed at a **convergent boundary of the Philippine and Eurasian plates** in the western Pacific Ocean.
  - The Philippine Sea plate is moving northwest towards the Eurasian plate, which is faster than the motion of the Indian plate.
- Today, Taiwan's earthquake preparedness is among the most advanced in the world.
  - Taiwan has the **most advanced earthquake-monitoring network** and early warning systems.
  - **Widespread awareness** campaigns and **safety drills** on earthquakes along with the **government's constant update on earthquake safety requirements** have improved the public's understanding of earthquake risks.
- Taiwan has been able to reach **sound scientific judgements** based on how severe the shaking would be in each location.
  - Taiwan's most iconic building, **Taipei 101**, escaped damage during the latest earthquake.

**What India can do:**

- As India is going through a **major phase of infrastructural expansion** in many tectonically unstable regions, earthquake safety should be of particular concern. All infrastructural projects must comply with seismic safety regulations.
- The Taiwan earthquake provides important lessons for India.
  - These include following **seismic codes, constructing safer engineered structures, and overcoming inadequacies** in the enforcement and non-compliance of seismic codes.
  - In some parts of India, **traditional architectural styles** possessing earthquake resistivity can be rediscovered and encouraged.

## 9. Restoring earth's right to 'good health' - The Hindu

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

- The European Court of Human Rights found the Government of Switzerland guilty of violating the rights of a group of women senior citizens of a Swiss civil society group,
- It noted that the government's actions to curb emissions were inadequate and had failed to protect women against the impacts of climate change.

**Highlights:**

- The decision which is first of its kind in the world highlights how the **climate crisis** is increasingly becoming a **human rights crisis**.
- A month ago a similar watershed moment happened in India, when the Supreme Court of India ruled that people have a **right 'to be free from the adverse impacts of climate change'**, citing **Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution**.
- The latest State of the Global Climate Report by the **World Meteorological Organization** revealed that most climate change indicators reached record levels in 2023.
  - **It confirmed 2023 to be the hottest year since global recording of temperatures was started.**
  - **Records were also broken for ocean heat, sea level rise, Antarctic Sea ice loss and glacier retreat.**
- The health of the planet is under extreme stress, impacting people's **right to live a healthy life**.
- India has made rapid strides in decoupling emissions from economic growth. It has even achieved two of its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets**,
  - **reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% from 2005 level,**
  - **achieving 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources**, well ahead of the target year of 2030.
- However, the country remains highly vulnerable to climate change. **More than 80% of its population lives in districts that are at risk of climate-induced disasters.**

**Approaches to avert climate crisis:**

- Adoption of an overarching regulation on climate change. While India has several laws and regulations related to tackling climate change, a **framework law** can help strengthen climate governance.
- India's localisation model for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** has successfully integrated the SDGs into local-level planning through multi-tiered and multi-stakeholder processes.
  - **Another pathway can build on inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral approaches just like one health initiative.**
- Empower **citizen groups and civil society organisations** in fostering a rights-based dialogue on environment, biodiversity and climate action.



## 10. What are rules around star campaigners? - The Hindu

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

**Context :**

- Sunita Kejriwal, wife of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, was appointed as a ‘star campaigner’ by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for its campaign in Gujarat.

<p><b>What are the legal provisions?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) provides for law relating to expenditure incurred by ‘leaders of a political party’.</li> <li>• These ‘leaders of a political party’ are popularly known as ‘star campaigners’.</li> <li>• The only requirement is that these persons have to be members of the political party that appoints them.</li> <li>• The RP Act provides that a recognised political party (national or State) can appoint a maximum of 40 star campaigners while a registered unrecognised political party can appoint up to 20.</li> <li>• These names are to be communicated to the Election Commission (EC) and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the States as applicable within seven days from the date of notification of such election.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The election expenditure limit for candidates is ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States.</li> <li>• Hence, these star campaigners would be vote-fetchers for candidates set up by respective parties without affecting their expenditure limit.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What are the issues?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EC has issued an advisory to all political parties to maintain decorum and restraint in campaigning and raise the level of election to ‘issue’ based debate.</li> <li>• The star campaigners of all parties have been guilty of using inappropriate and abusive words against leaders of other political parties — appealing to caste/communal feelings of electors and making unsubstantiated allegations.</li> <li>• In January 2020, during a campaign for the Delhi Assembly election, the EC had ordered removal of Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma of BJP from the list of star campaigners for making inflammatory utterances that violated the Model Code of Conduct.</li> <li>• The court observed that the EC does not have any such powers.</li> </ul> <p><b>What needs to be done?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At present, the RP Act stipulates that political parties can appoint or revoke the appointment of star campaigners.</li> <li>• As per Article 324 of the Constitution, the EC is the highest authority that has been vested with the powers of superintendence and control of elections.</li> <li>• Hence, the law may be amended to authorise the EC to revoke the ‘star campaigner’ status of a leader, in case of any serious violation of Model Code of Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ thereby depriving the party candidates of expenditure relief for their campaigns.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Conclusion**

- This would hopefully instill a sense of responsibility among them and ensure that campaigns maintain the necessary decorum and restraint.
- Also, the assessment and apportionment of rally/meeting expenses where star campaigners’ campaign for particular candidate(s) should be made more robust.

## Quick Look

### 1. Rampage Missile

- It is a long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground, seekerless, precision strike missile.
- It was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems.
- It has been developed for use in missions aimed at destroying high-quality, well-protected targets, such as communication and command centers, air force bases, maintenance centers, and infrastructure.
- It may travel at supersonic speeds, making it difficult to identify and intercept with air defense systems.
- It has a range of over 190 miles.
- It can carry 150 kg of explosives.
- It has a blast fragmentation or general-purpose warhead.

### 2. Artemis Accords

- They are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration and use in the 21st century.
- These principles will help to ensure the maintenance of a safe and predictable outer space environment.
- Co-led by NASA and the U.S. Department of State, the Artemis Accords was established in 2020, together with seven other founding member nations (Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom).
- As of April 2024, there were 38 signatories, including India.

### 3. Mount Erebus

- It is the most southerly active volcano on Earth. It is situated on Ross Island, Antarctica.
- It's a stratovolcano, characterized by a conical shape and layers of hardened lava, tephra, and volcanic ash.
- Mount Erebus is known for its persistent lava lake.
- The lake has been active since at least 1972 and is one of only a few long-lived lava lakes on Earth.
- It constantly churns and occasionally spews bombs of molten rock in Strombolian eruptions.
- Because the volcano is in a remote location, researchers monitor it using satellites.

### 4. National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank)

- The Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011 has included the component of tissue donation and registration of tissue Banks.
- The main thrust and objective of establishing the centre is to fill up the gap between 'Demand' and 'Supply' as well as 'Quality Assurance' in the availability of various tissues.
- functions: Coordination for tissue procurement and distribution; Donor Tissue Screening; Removal of Tissues and Storage; Preservations of Tissue; Laboratory screening of Tissues; Tissue Tracking; Sterilization, Records maintenance; Data Protection

## 5. Copyright infringement

- Copyright refers to the right given by the law to creators of literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works and producers of cinematograph films and sound recordings.
- Copyright is a bundle of rights that includes rights of reproduction, communication to the public, adaptation and translation of a work.
- The Copyright Act of 1957 aims to safeguard creative works considered to be a creator's intellectual property.
- A copyrighted work will be considered "infringed" only if a substantial part is made use of without authorisation.
- In cases of infringement, the copyright owner can take legal action and is entitled to remedies such as injunctions and damages.
- The District Court concerned has the jurisdiction in civil suits regarding copyright infringement.



**Mentorship**  
India

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. The Agaléga island, seen in the news recently, is a dependency of which of the following countries?**

- A. Madagascar
- B. Mauritius
- C. Indonesia
- D. Maldives

**Q2. Consider the following statements**

1. France and Israel are the only country who inscribed the guaranteed right to abortion in its constitution
2. Abortion is currently accessible in more than 40 European nations, but some countries are seeing increased efforts to limit access to the procedure.
3. Parliament have amended the constitution to inscribed the guaranteed right to abortion

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Q3. Consider the following Statements Regarding Earth Hour:**

**Statement I:** Earth Hour is the United Nation's annual initiative that began in 2007.

**Statement II:** It is held every year to encourage people from more than 180 countries to save electricity

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q4. Consider the following statements with respect to Sendai Framework:**

1. It outlines seven global targets to be achieved between 2015 and 2030.
2. It is a binding agreement to tackle Disasters.
3. It is the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015).

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

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

**Q5. Why is there a great concern about the 'microbeads' that are released into the environment?**

- A. They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems.
- B. They are considered to cause skin cancer in children.
- C. They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields.
- D. They are often found to be used as food adulterants.

**Q6. Consider the following statements FSSAI**

1. It comes under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
2. It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2010.
3. Responsibility of FSSAI involves ensuring compliance of FSS Act.

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

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

**Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Radio Waves :**

1. Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected back to the earth by the Mesosphere.
2. Shortwave radio signals are used to transmit signals for short distances.
3. Wifi generally uses Low Frequency Radio Waves

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q8. Consider the following statements**

1. The Chi-Chi earthquake in 1999 caused large-scale destruction in Japan.
2. Lithosphere is broken into major plates and minor plates.
3. Hualien City, recently impacted by an earthquake, is situated in China.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**

1. These are targets for mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and for adapting to climate impacts.
2. Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish NDC.
3. India has achieved all of its nationally determined contribution.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q10. Consider the following statements about Elections-**

1. Candidates must file Affidavit along with Nomination Papers in Accordance to RPA, 1950
2. The Model Code of Conduct has Statutory backing by RPA,1951
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

How many statements given above are correctly matched?

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

## Prelims Track Answer

### Answer 1 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- Recently, India and Mauritius jointly inaugurated an airstrip and jetty on Agaléga island, enhancing connectivity and security in the region.
- Agaléga is a two-island Mauritian dependency 1,100 km to the north of Port Louis and 2,500 km southwest of Malé. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- The inauguration underscores India's commitment to supporting Mauritius in meeting its development goals and enhancing maritime security.
- This would lead to more effective monitoring of Mauritius' vast 2.3 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone.
- Further, it will equip Mauritius to better counter-piracy, terrorism, narcotics and human trafficking, and illegal and unregulated fishing.

### Answer 2 Option A is correct

#### Explanation

- France is the only country to currently have such a specification about abortion. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Abortion is currently accessible in more than 40 European nations, but some countries are seeing increased efforts to limit access to the procedure. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's abortion law (MTP Act) from 1971 (amended in 2021) lets women terminate pregnancies.
- Up to 20 weeks, one doctor's approval is enough.
- From 20-24 weeks, it's only allowed in special situations (like rape or young girls) and needs approval from two doctors. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

### Answer 3 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- Earth Hour is the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)'s annual initiative that began in 2007. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- It is held every year on the last Saturday of March.
- It encourages people from more than 180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm as per their local time.

- The idea is to refrain from the use of non-essential lighting to save energy in a symbolic call for environmental protection. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Earth Hour has become a catalyst for positive environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people and collective action.

### Answer 4 Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

- It has outlined seven global targets to be achieved between 2015 and 2030. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement to tackle Disasters. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Sendai Framework is the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) (2005-2015), **Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 5 Option A is Correct

#### Explanation:

- Microbeads are small, solid, manufactured plastic particles that are less than 5mm and do not degrade or dissolve in water.
- Microbeads, because of their small size, pass unfiltered through the sewage treatment system and reach the water bodies. **The untreated microbeads in the water bodies are taken up by the marine animals**

### Answer 6 Option A is correct.

#### Explanation:

- FSSAI comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Responsibility of FSSAI involves ensuring compliance of FSS Act. Enforcement is undertaken on the basis of surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products carried out by the Officials of Food Safety Departments. **Statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 7 Option D is Correct****Explanation:**

- Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected back to the earth by Ionosphere or Exosphere. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- WiFi Transmits at Frequencies of **2.4 GHz or 5 GHz. These frequencies are much higher** than the frequencies used for cellular transmission. Higher frequency means that signals can carry more data. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Shortwave radio signals are used to transmit signals for **long distances**. They are called shortwave due to their small Wavelength. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Answer 8 Option A is correct.****Explanation:**

- In 1999, the Chi-Chi earthquake of magnitude 7.7 occurred in the central part of Taiwan and impacted the western region causing large-scale destruction. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Lithosphere is broken into several plates which are constantly moving relative to each other. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, Taiwan's Hualien City was struck by an earthquake of 7.4 magnitude. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 9 Option B is correct.****Explanation:**

- Nationally Determined Contribution, is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. NDCs are where countries set targets for mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and for adapting to climate impacts. **Statement 1 is correct.**

- Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- India has achieved two of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, which are reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% from 2005 level and achieving 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, well ahead of the target year of 2030. **Statement 3 incorrect.**

**Answer 10 Option A is Correct****Explanation-**

- **According to RPA 1951:** Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with rule 4A of election rules, requires every contesting candidate to file their nomination paper for elections along with an Affidavit, **hence Statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- Model code of Conduct has no Statutory backing, it relies on Moral suasion and Public Cooperation, **Hence Statement 2 is Incorrect**
- Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties, **Hence Statement 3 is Correct.**

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+91 9999 057869  
www.mentorshipindia.com

A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar  
Delhi - 110064

 @mentorship.india