



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. T.N. fisherman dies in bid to evade arrest by Sri Lanka

Source: The Hindu

Context: An Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu tragically lost his life early on Thursday when his fishing vessel capsized in Sri Lankan waters during an attempt to evade arrest by the Sri Lankan Navy, officials in Colombo reported.

Climate Change and Fisheries:

- The incident underscores broader issues related to illegal fishing and the complex maritime tensions in the region, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.
- According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification are affecting fish populations worldwide, leading to shifts in fish distribution and abundance.
- A 2020 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlighted that overfishing and climate change are significantly impacting marine biodiversity, threatening the livelihoods of millions of people dependent on fisheries.
- This has been particularly evident in South Asia, where changing ocean conditions are altering traditional fishing zones, pushing fishermen into contested waters.

Recommendations for Sustainable Fisheries Management:

To address these challenges, various **committees and international bodies** have proposed measures to promote sustainable fisheries management and reduce conflict:

- **Enhanced Monitoring and Cooperation:** Strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing monitoring systems, such as the use of satellite tracking, can help prevent illegal fishing activities and reduce tensions between countries.
- **Adopting Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging the adoption of sustainable fishing practices and diversifying livelihoods can help mitigate the impacts of climate change on fishing communities. The World Bank recommends integrating climate adaptation strategies into national fisheries management plans.
- **Community-Based Management:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) advocates for community-based fisheries management, empowering local communities to manage resources sustainably and equitably.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Ongoing diplomatic dialogue between India and Sri Lanka is crucial to resolving maritime disputes and ensuring the safety of fishermen. Building trust through joint initiatives and agreements can facilitate peaceful and mutually beneficial outcomes.

Conclusion

The tragic incident involving the Tamil Nadu fisherman highlights the urgent need for coordinated efforts to address the complex interplay of climate change, illegal fishing, and regional maritime tensions. Sustainable management and international cooperation are essential to safeguarding the livelihoods of fishing communities and preserving marine ecosystems for future generations.



2. What early warning did Kerala have?

Source: The Hindu

Context: In his response to a calling attention motion on Wayanad landslides in Parliament on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah made several claims on early warning systems in India and how they were utilised to alert the Kerala government ahead of the tragedy.

Climate Change and Its Impact on Kerala's Weather:

The recent landslides underscore the complex interplay between climate change and extreme weather events. According to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, rising global temperatures are intensifying the frequency and severity of extreme weather, including heavy rainfall and flash floods. Kerala, with its unique topography and biodiversity, is particularly vulnerable to climate change. The state has experienced an increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall events, as documented by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

Recommendations for Improved Early Warning Systems:

- **Enhanced Forecasting Capabilities:** The IMD should continue to improve its forecasting models, particularly for localised extreme weather events. The Monsoon Mission (MM), initiated in 2012 and currently in its second phase, aims to enhance India's monsoon prediction capabilities, focusing on agriculture, hydrology, and energy sectors.
- **Community-Based Adaptation Strategies:** Encouraging community-level adaptation measures can help mitigate the impact of climate-induced disasters. Local governments should engage with communities to develop disaster response plans and promote resilient infrastructure.
- **Integration with Climate Models:** Incorporating climate models into early warning systems can provide more accurate predictions and enable better preparedness. Collaborative efforts between national and international meteorological agencies can enhance data sharing and model accuracy.
- **Investment in Technology:** Increasing investment in advanced weather monitoring and prediction technologies, such as Doppler radar systems and satellite imaging, can improve the accuracy and timeliness of warnings.

Challenges and Future Directions:

- Despite significant **advancements in weather prediction and early warning systems**, challenges remain in accurately forecasting and managing climate-related risks.
- The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** continues to emphasise the need for comprehensive climate research and the development of innovative solutions to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable regions like Kerala.
- In conclusion, while early warnings were issued prior to the Wayanad landslides, the complexity of predicting localised extreme weather events highlights the need for continuous improvements in forecasting and preparedness strategies.
- Collaborative efforts between government agencies, research institutions, and local communities are essential to enhance resilience and ensure the safety of populations at risk.



GS II

3. On election of the European Commission president

Source: The Hindu

Context: The newly constituted European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, elected Ursula von der Leyen, the EC's first female President, for a second term.

European Union:

- The European Union is a **group of 27 countries** that operate as a **cohesive economic and political block**.
- The EU grew out of a desire to form a single European political entity to end centuries of warfare among European countries that culminated with World War II and decimated much of the continent.
- The EU has developed an internal single market through a **standardised system** of laws that apply in all member states in matters, where members have agreed to act as one.



What are the Objectives of the EU?

- Promote **peace, values and the well-being of all citizens** of the EU.
- Offer **freedom, security and justice** without internal borders.
- Sustainable development based on **balanced economic growth and price stability**, a **highly competitive market** economy with full employment and social progress, and environmental protection.
- Combat **social exclusion and discrimination**.
- Promote **scientific and technological progress**.
- Enhance **economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among EU countries**.
- Respect its rich **cultural and linguistic diversity**.

European Commission (EC):

- It is an **executive body of the European Union**, responsible for **proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties** and managing the **day-to-day business** of the EU.
- The Commission operates as a cabinet government, with **27 members of the Commission**. There is **one member per member state**. These members are proposed by member countries and the European Parliament gives final approval to them.



- One of the 27 members is the Commission President proposed by the European Council and elected by the European Parliament.
- The Commission is divided into departments known as Directorates-General (DGs) that can be likened to departments or ministries headed by a director-general who is responsible to a commissioner.
- The High Representative (HR) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is appointed by the European Council by voting and the President of the EC must be in agreement with the decision.

4. States can sub-classify SCs for quotas: top court

Source: The Hindu

Context: In a significant judgement, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that states have the authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) for more targeted affirmative action in public employment and education. The ruling was delivered by a seven-judge Constitution Bench, with a majority of 6:1, headed by Chief Justice of India.

Key Highlights:

- **Sub-Classification of SCs:**
 - The Supreme Court upheld the states' right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List, enabling them to provide preferential treatment within the broader SC category.
 - The decision aligns with the precedent set by the nine-judge Bench in the Indra Sawhney case, which allowed classification within the backward classes into "backward" and "more backward."
- **Principle of Sub-Classification:**
 - Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasised that sub-classification within Scheduled Castes is necessary to achieve substantive equality. This principle is applicable when the social status of the sub-groups within SCs is not comparable.
- **Creamy Layer Principle:**
 - Although the judgement did not directly address the application of the "creamy layer principle" to SCs and STs, four out of seven judges on the Bench suggested that the government should consider applying it to these categories.
 - Justices B.R. Gavai, Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mithal, and Satish Chandra Sharma argued that excluding affluent individuals or families from reservation benefits would make room for more disadvantaged members within these classes.
- **Need for Real Equality:**
 - Justice B.R. Gavai highlighted the necessity of identifying and excluding the creamy layer from SCs and STs to achieve real equality, as envisaged by the Constitution.
 - The argument was made that children of affluent SC families, such as those of IAS or IPS officers, should not be equated with children from disadvantaged SC backgrounds.
- **Dissenting Opinion:**
 - Justice Bela Trivedi was the sole dissenter, expressing the view that states do not have the power to alter the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes.



Implications:

- **Policy Development:** The ruling may prompt states to develop policies that sub-classify SCs for targeted affirmative action, ensuring that benefits reach the most disadvantaged sections within these communities.
- **Exclusion of Creamy Layer:** The suggestion to apply the creamy layer principle to SCs and STs could lead to debates and discussions on how to implement such exclusions effectively without diluting the purpose of reservations.
- **Focus on Substantive Equality:** The judgement emphasises the need for policies that ensure substantive equality by recognizing and addressing intra-category disparities among Scheduled Castes.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's decision to allow sub-classification of Scheduled Castes marks a pivotal moment in India's affirmative action landscape. It underscores the need for nuanced approaches to reservation policies that reflect the complexities and diversities within marginalised communities. As states explore these new possibilities, the focus will remain on achieving genuine equality and social justice.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

5.A verdict on the Money Bill that India awaits

Source: The Hindu

Context: Chief Justice of India (CJI) has agreed to list petitions challenging the government's use of the Money Bill route to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.

This issue is crucial as it concerns the circumvention of the Rajya Sabha and potential violations of Article 110 of the Constitution.

Concerns Regarding the Money Bill

- **Circumventing the Rajya Sabha:**
 - Passing contentious amendments as a Money Bill allows the government to circumvent the Rajya Sabha, undermining the bicameral nature of Parliament.
 - The classification of a bill as a money bill limits the Rajya Sabha to only recommending changes, without the power to amend or reject the bill.
 - The Rajya Sabha, as the Upper House, provides additional scrutiny to legislation. Bypassing it reduces the opportunity for comprehensive debate and oversight.
- **Violation of Article 110:**
 - It specifies what constitutes a Money Bill.
- **Speaker's Certification:**
 - The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the authority to certify a bill as a money bill under Article 110 of the Constitution, a decision that is not subject to judicial review.
 - This raises concerns about the potential misuse of this power, allowing for circumvention of legislative processes.

Money Bill:

- **Article 110** of the Constitution of India outlines the definition of a Money Bill, stating that a bill is considered a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with specific financial matters.
- These include:
 - **Taxation Matters:** Imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, or regulation of any tax.
 - **Borrowing Regulation:** Regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government.
 - **Custody of Funds:** Management of the Consolidated Fund of India (revenue received by the government through taxes and expenses incurred in the form of borrowings and loans) or the contingency fund (money to meet unforeseen expenditure).
 - **Appropriation of Funds:** Appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund.
 - **Expenditure Declaration:** Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund.
 - **Receipt of Money:** Receipt of money related to the Consolidated Fund or public accounts.
 - **Other Matters:** Any matters incidental to the above provisions.

Speaker's Certification:

- The decision on whether a bill is a Money Bill rests with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.



- This **decision is final and cannot be questioned in any court** or by either House of Parliament, nor can it be contested by the President.
- Upon certification, the **Speaker endorses the bill as a Money Bill** when it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for recommendations.

Legislative Procedure:

- **Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and must be recommended by the President.** They are treated as government bills and can only be introduced by a minister.
- After passing in the Lok Sabha, the bill is sent to the Rajya Sabha, which has limited powers: It **cannot reject or amend a Money Bill**, it can **only make recommendations and must return the bill within 14 days**, regardless of whether it makes recommendations or not.
- The **Lok Sabha can accept or reject the Rajya Sabha's recommendations.** If the Lok Sabha accepts any recommendations, the bill is deemed passed in the modified form; if it rejects them, it passes in its original form.

Presidential Assent:

- Once a **Money Bill is presented to the President**, he can either give assent or withhold it but **cannot return it for reconsideration.**
- Generally, the President gives assent to Money Bills as they are introduced with his **prior permission.**

Power of Rajya Sabha w.r.t Money Bill:

- Under **Article 109 (1)**, a **Money Bill cannot be introduced in Rajya Sabha.**
- Once passed by Lok Sabha, it is sent to Rajya Sabha — along with the **Speaker's certificate** that it is a Money Bill — for its recommendations.
- However, **Rajya Sabha can neither reject nor amend the Bill**, and **must return it within 14 days**, after which Lok Sabha may choose to accept or reject all or any of its recommendations.
- In either case, the **Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses.**
- Under **Article 109(5)**, if Rajya Sabha fails to return the Bill to Lok Sabha within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed anyway.

6. Mental health matters: the psychological pressures of UPSC preparation

Source: The Hindu

Context: The relentless pressure to succeed can lead to a host of complications for UPSC aspirants. When asked about their experiences with stress, loneliness, and fear of underperformance, six in 10 aspirants reported having feelings of loneliness, while seven in 10 experienced stress.

Mental Health Challenges Faced by UPSC Aspirants:

- The recent flooding at a coaching institute in Delhi has brought attention to the challenging conditions faced by UPSC aspirants. This tragic incident highlights not only the systemic issues within such facilities but also the intense psychological strain that aspirants endure during their preparation journey.
- The combination of academic and economic pressures often takes a significant toll on their mental health.



- According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**'s **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI)** report for 2021, a staggering 35 students commit suicide every day. Data from Lokniti-CSDS indicates that approximately 25% of UPSC aspirants know someone who has attempted suicide or self-harm due to the pressures of exam preparation.

Sources of Pressure

- **Academic Pressure:**
 - The UPSC exams are known for their **rigorous academic demands**. The vast syllabus requires aspirants to study for 10-12 hours daily, often at the expense of sleep, social interaction, and self-care.
 - The constant need to stay updated with current affairs adds to this stress, creating a relentless cycle of pressure. Nearly half of the students surveyed reported experiencing significant self-imposed pressure, with one in three citing anxiety about underperformance.
 - Additionally, competition and family expectations exacerbate these challenges, with one-third of students experiencing peer pressure and 24% feeling family pressure.
- **Economic Pressure:**
 - Many aspirants come from modest backgrounds, making the financial burden of preparation substantial. A significant number of students in our study come from low-income families, with only 15% having a family income between ₹30,000 and ₹50,000 monthly, and 17% earning less than ₹30,000.
 - Among these aspirants, **16% have a farmer as the main earner, and 6% come from families with skilled or semi-skilled workers**. The financial investment in preparation often motivates students from lower-income groups to prioritise a stable income, with 14% of those earning less than ₹20,000 monthly citing a good salary as their primary motive for pursuing the UPSC, compared to just 5% of those earning ₹50,000 or more.
- **Coaching Costs:**
 - The cost of coaching further intensifies financial strain. Nearly half of the aspirants (43%) spend ₹1 to ₹2 lakh annually on coaching, 29% spend ₹2 to 3 lakh, and 5% spend more than ₹3 lakh.
 - Additional **expenses for housing, meals, stationery, and transportation add to this burden**. While most students receive financial support from their families, 20% find it insufficient.
 - To make ends meet, 30% engage in part-time work, 8% offer tutoring, 20% borrow money, and 14% cut costs. Only 16% rely on their parents for additional funds, and financial pressure is more pronounced for those from lower-income families.
- **Integrity of Exams:**
 - Recent **paper leaks in the NEET and UGC NET exams** have raised concerns about the integrity of the UPSC exams, adding to the stress. A significant number of students believe these leaks were intentional (63% for NEET and 45% for UGC NET), which creates anxiety about similar issues with the UPSC.
 - **One-third of aspirants fear a potential leak, with 19% expressing significant concern**. The intense pressure to succeed leads 14% of students to feel they must pass the exam at all costs, with 2% planning to work part-time to prepare for re-examination.

Recommendations:

Addressing mental health challenges through self-care, support systems, and professional help is vital. Recognizing the importance of mental health is the first step towards ensuring that aspirants are not only academically prepared but also mentally resilient.



Policy Recommendations:

- **Increased Access to Mental Health Services:** Institutions should provide free or subsidised counselling services for aspirants, along with workshops on stress management and coping strategies.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educational campaigns focusing on mental health awareness and stigmatisation can encourage students to seek help without fear of judgement.
- **Financial Support Programs:** Scholarships and financial aid programs targeted at low-income students can alleviate the economic burden of UPSC preparation, reducing stress.
- **Integrated Exam Integrity Measures:** Strengthening exam security and addressing concerns about paper leaks can help reduce anxiety among aspirants regarding the fairness of the examination process.
- **Promoting Balanced Study Routines:** Coaching institutes and educators should emphasise balanced study schedules that allow for rest and social interaction, preventing burnout and promoting overall well-being.

By implementing these measures, we can help create a more supportive environment for UPSC aspirants, fostering both their academic success and mental well-being.

7.Private consultation: Government's gatekeeping of critical debates hurts trust in policymaking

Source: The Hindu

Context: Recently, concerns have been raised by several digital creators against the Broadcasting regulation bill 2024. The draft Bill seeks to regulate broadcast of news and current affairs programmes.

Key points of the Broadcasting Regulation Bill 2024

- **Regulating Mechanism:** Multiple types of broadcasters and broadcast network operators. The regulation will depend on their type. Television broadcasting networks will have to register with the central government, while OTT platforms must provide an intimation after meeting a certain threshold of subscribers.
- **Unified Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting:** The bill aims to replace the Cable Television Networks Act of 1995. It also extends the regulatory purview to cover broadcasting of the over-the-top (OTT) content and digital news and current affairs, currently regulated through IT Act, 2000.
- **Programme Code and advertisement Code:** The Bill seeks to regulate broadcast of news and current affairs programmes (excluding print news). Such programmes will have to comply with the prescribed programme code and advertisement code.
- **Self Regulation:** The Bill provides for a self-regulatory structure to ensure compliance with the programme and advertising codes. This includes:
 - (i) self-regulation
 - (ii) constituting self-regulatory organisations, and
 - (iii) establishing a Broadcast Advisory Council.



- **Content Evaluation Committee (CEC):** Each broadcaster will have to also set up an internal Content Evaluation Committee (CEC). All broadcast content must be certified by the CEC.
- **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities:**
 - The Bill promotes the use of subtitles, audio descriptors, and sign language for persons with disabilities.
 - The Bill provides for the appointment of Disability Grievance Officer.
- **Infrastructure sharing provisions:** The Bill introduces provisions for infrastructure sharing among broadcasting network operators.
- **Dispute resolution:** The Bill establishes a structured dispute resolution mechanism

Significance of the Broadcasting Regulation Bill 2024:

- **Consolidation and Modernisation**-The Bill replaces outdated Cable Television Networks Act, 1995. The Bill adopts a unified, future-focused approach by adapting to the dynamic world of OTT, Digital Media, DTH, IPTV.
- **Promotes 'ease of doing business'** - The bill seeks to promote 'ease of doing business' by incorporating provisions for Dispute Resolution mechanism in the broadcasting domain.
- **Further Push to 'Digital India'** - The bill seeks to promote technological advancement and service evolution in the broadcasting domain, which will give a further push to our goal 'digital India'.
- **Provides for 'Right of Way'** - The Bill provides for 'Right of Way' which would enable cable operators to easily obtain permissions from various local agencies to roll out their network in a new city.
- **Promotes infrastructure sharing**- The broadcasters would benefit from the infrastructure sharing, in the same way as the telecom operators benefited from sharing cellular towers and spectrum.
- **Empowers Broadcasters by providing for self-regulation mechanisms**- The Bill provides provisions for the establishment of Content Evaluation Committees which would be a self-certification body of the broadcasters. This would provide autonomy to the broadcasting industry in matters of obtaining certification.
- **Promotes 'ease of living'** - The bill promotes 'ease of living' by enhancing the accessibility of broadcasting services for persons with disabilities by promoting the use of subtitles, audio descriptors and sign language.

Conclusion and Way Forward:

We must also seek to explore these ways for addressing the challenges of the Bill and for better media regulation-

- **Stakeholder Consultation**-Extensive Consultations with industry experts, content creators, broadcasters, and the public can give extensive feedback to the government regarding their concerns on the Bill.
- **Promotion of Media Literacy**- Investment in media literacy programs to educate the public about responsible media consumption like Singapore and Australia.
- **Responsible Media**-The media must uphold its duty of being the 4th pillar of the Indian democracy and ensure that journalistic ethics are not compromised.



- **Ensuring the independence of the CEC and BAC-** The government must nominate members from the broadcast industry and from civil society to keep the CEC and BAC independent and impartial.

In Brief

8. The relevance of pumped storage projects

Source: **The Hindu**

Context: The Union Budget for 2024-25 promised that “a policy for promoting pumped storage projects will be brought out for electricity storage and facilitating smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable and intermittent nature.”

Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH):

- PSH is a type of **hydroelectric energy storage**.
- PSH is a **fundamentally simple system** that consists of **two water reservoirs** at different elevations.
- **Working:**
 - When there is **excess electricity available**, such as **during off-peak hours** or from **renewable sources like solar and wind**, it is used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir.
 - When there is a demand for electricity, the water is released from the upper reservoir back down to the lower reservoir, passing through turbines that generate electricity.
 - The system also requires power as it pumps water back into the upper reservoir (recharge).
- PSH plants operate much like **conventional hydropower plants**, except PSH has the ability to use the same water over and over again.
- The technology **absorbs surplus energy** at times of low demand and releases it when demand is high.
- The **energy storage capacity of a PSH depends on the size of its two reservoirs**, while the amount of power generated is linked to the size of the turbine.
- There are two main types of PSH:
 - **Open-loop:** with either an upper or lower reservoir that is continuously connected to a naturally flowing water source such as a river.
 - **Closed-loop:** an ‘off-river’ site that produces power from water pumped to an upper reservoir without a significant natural inflow.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following statements regarding landslides in India is/are correct?

1. Landslides are most common in the Himalayan region due to the steep slopes and tectonic activity.
2. Deforestation and unplanned construction are significant human-induced factors contributing to landslides in India.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding pumped storage projects is/are correct?

1. Pumped storage projects are used to store and generate electricity by moving water between two reservoirs at different elevations.
2. Pumped storage projects are primarily used to provide base load power in the energy grid.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding a Money Bill in the Indian Parliament is/are correct?

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, not in the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to decide whether a bill is a Money Bill or not.
3. The Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments to a Money Bill but cannot reject or amend it on its own.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q4. Which of the following countries is a part of the European Union (EU)?

- A. Norway
- B. Switzerland
- C. Poland
- D. Iceland

Q5. What broader issues does the tragic incident involving the Tamil Nadu fisherman underscore, according to the context provided?

- A. Increased piracy in the Indian Ocean
- B. The impact of climate change on marine ecosystems and illegal fishing
- C. The decline of traditional fishing practices
- D. The development of new fishing technologies



Q6.Assertion (A): The Broadcasting Regulation Bill 2024 empowers broadcasters by providing self-regulation mechanisms.

Reason (R): The Bill provides provisions for the establishment of Content Evaluation Committees (CEC) which would be a self-certification body of the broadcasters.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

Q7.Which of the following is a recommended strategy to improve early warning systems for extreme weather events in Kerala?

- A. Reducing investment in weather monitoring technology
- B. Discontinuing the Monsoon Mission
- C. Enhancing forecasting capabilities and integrating climate models
- D. Ignoring community-based adaptation strategies

Q8.Consider the following statements regarding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

- 1. The UPSC is established under Article 320 of the Indian Constitution.
- 2. The members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.
- 3. The UPSC is responsible for conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the Union and the All India Services.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- Landslides are most common in the Himalayan region due to the steep slopes and tectonic activity.
 - The Himalayan region is highly prone to landslides because of its steep terrain, geological composition, and tectonic activity. The constant movement of the Indian tectonic plate against the Eurasian plate creates a dynamic environment that increases the likelihood of landslides. Heavy rainfall and snowmelt can also trigger landslides in this region.
- Deforestation and unplanned construction are significant human-induced factors contributing to landslides in India.
 - Human activities such as deforestation and unplanned construction destabilise slopes and increase the risk of landslides. The removal of vegetation weakens soil structure, reducing its ability to absorb water, which can lead to increased runoff and slope instability. Unplanned construction, especially in hilly areas, adds stress to the land and disrupts natural drainage systems, further exacerbating landslide risks.

Both statements accurately describe the natural and human-induced factors contributing to landslides in India.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- Pumped storage projects are used to store and generate electricity by moving water between two reservoirs at different elevations.
 - This statement is correct. Pumped storage projects work by moving water between two reservoirs situated at different heights. During periods of low electricity demand, excess energy is used to pump water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir. During periods of high electricity demand, water is released back to the lower reservoir through turbines, generating electricity.
- Pumped storage projects are primarily used to provide base load power in the energy grid.
 - This statement is incorrect. Pumped storage projects are primarily used for load balancing, not base load power. They provide grid stability by storing energy when demand is low and releasing it during peak demand periods, thus helping manage fluctuations in electricity supply and demand rather than serving as a continuous base load power source.

3. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, not in the Rajya Sabha.
 - This statement is correct. According to Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, a Money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to decide whether a bill is a Money Bill or not.
 - This statement is correct. The decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha on whether a bill is a Money Bill is final and cannot be challenged in any court.
- The Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments to a Money Bill but cannot reject or amend it on its own.
 - This statement is correct. The Rajya Sabha can recommend amendments to a Money Bill, but it cannot make changes to it. The Lok Sabha may accept or reject any or all of the recommendations. The Rajya Sabha must return a Money Bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days with its recommendations; otherwise, the bill is deemed to be passed in both Houses in the form it was passed by the Lok Sabha.



4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- Poland is a member of the European Union, having joined the EU in 2004 as part of the EU's largest single expansion.
- Norway is not a member of the EU. It is part of the European Economic Area (EEA), which allows it access to the EU's single market without being an EU member.
- Switzerland is not a member of the EU. It has bilateral agreements with the EU, which allow it access to the single market to a certain extent, but it is not an EU member.
- Iceland is not a member of the EU. Like Norway, it is part of the EEA, granting it access to the EU's single market without full EU membership.

5. Answer: B) The impact of climate change on marine ecosystems and illegal fishing

Explanation:

The incident involving the Tamil Nadu fisherman underscores broader issues related to illegal fishing and complex maritime tensions, exacerbated by climate change impacts on marine ecosystems. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and overfishing are affecting fish populations, leading to shifts in fish distribution and abundance. These changes are particularly evident in South Asia, where altering ocean conditions push fishermen into contested waters, thus linking the incident to the broader issues of climate change and illegal fishing. The other options, such as increased piracy, the decline of traditional fishing practices, and the development of new fishing technologies, are not highlighted as the main issues in the provided context.

6. Answer: A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

Assertion (A): The Broadcasting Regulation Bill 2024 empowers broadcasters by providing self-regulation mechanisms. This is true as the bill introduces a framework where broadcasters have the autonomy to regulate their own content through established internal committees.

Reason (R): The Bill provides provisions for the establishment of Content Evaluation Committees (CEC) which would be a self-certification body of the broadcasters. This is also true because the bill mandates that each broadcaster set up an internal Content Evaluation Committee to certify their content, ensuring compliance with the program and advertisement codes.

The reason correctly explains why the assertion is true. The establishment of Content Evaluation Committees empowers broadcasters by allowing them to self-regulate, hence both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.



7. Explanation:

The statement discusses various recommendations for improving early warning systems in Kerala to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events, particularly in light of climate change. One of the key strategies mentioned includes enhancing forecasting capabilities and integrating climate models into early warning systems.

A) Reducing investment in weather monitoring technology: This is incorrect as the statement recommends increasing investment in advanced weather monitoring and prediction technologies.

B) Discontinuing the Monsoon Mission: This is incorrect because the Monsoon Mission is highlighted as a crucial initiative aimed at improving India's monsoon prediction capabilities.

C) Enhancing forecasting capabilities and integrating climate models: This is correct. The statement emphasizes the need to improve forecasting models and incorporate climate models into early warning systems for more accurate predictions and better preparedness.

D) Ignoring community-based adaptation strategies: This is incorrect as the statement recommends encouraging community-level adaptation measures to mitigate the impact of climate-induced disasters.

Thus, the correct answer is C) Enhancing forecasting capabilities and integrating climate models.

8. Answer: B) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The UPSC is established under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution, not Article 320. Article 320 deals with the functions of the UPSC.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The members of the UPSC, including its chairman, are appointed by the President of India as per Article 316 of the Indian Constitution.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** The UPSC is indeed responsible for conducting examinations for appointments to the services of the Union and the All India Services, which is one of its primary functions outlined in Article 320 of the Constitution.

Therefore, the correct answer is B) 2 and 3 only.



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