



**UPSC
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Judicious use of sucralose as sugar substitute helps diabetics: study

Source: The Hindu

Context: Artificial sweeteners have gained popularity among calorie-conscious individuals seeking low-calorie options. However, recent studies have raised concerns about their long-term effectiveness for weight loss and potential health risks.

What are Artificial Sweeteners?

- Artificial sweeteners are **sugar substitutes** that are used as alternatives to natural sugars.
- These sweeteners are **chemically synthesised** and provide a sweet taste without the high calorie content of regular sugar.
- They are commonly used in various food and beverage products, including diet sodas, sugar-free desserts, and low-calorie snacks.
- Some examples of artificial sweeteners are **saccharin, aspartame, acesulfame potassium (Ace-K), sucralose, neotame, and advantame.**

Benefits:

Artificial sweeteners offer benefits for **weight management, diabetes control, tooth decay prevention, and provide safe options for individuals with phenylketonuria (PKU), a genetic disorder, due to their low or zero-calorie content, minimal impact on blood sugar levels, non-fermentable nature, and absence of phenylalanine.**

Negative Impacts:

- **Controversial Health Effects:** Some studies suggest potential negative health effects of artificial sweeteners, such as an increased risk of metabolic disorders, and disrupted gut microbiota. However, scientific evidence remains inconclusive.
- **Digestive Issues:** Some people may experience digestive discomfort, such as bloating, gas, or diarrhoea, after consuming products containing artificial sweeteners.

Findings from the WHO Report:

- WHO advises **against using artificial sweeteners as a means of achieving weight control or reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases.**
- While short-term use may result in weight loss and reduced body mass index (BMI), **long-term consumption of artificial sweeteners has been associated with weight gain.**
- Potential connection between **artificial sweeteners and bladder cancer and preterm birth in pregnant women.**
- Higher intake of artificial sweeteners, particularly in beverages and added to foods, is associated with an **increased risk of type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (including stroke and hypertension), and preterm birth.**

WHO Recommendations: Instead of relying solely on non-sugar sweeteners, the WHO recommends **considering other methods to reduce the intake of free sugars, such as consuming naturally occurring sugars from fruits or opting for unsweetened food and beverages.**



Example - Diet Colas:

- Diet colas, marketed as zero-calorie alternatives to regular colas, use artificial sweeteners to achieve the zero-calorie claim.
- The intense sweetness of artificial sweeteners can alter taste perception, making normal sweets seem less sweet and potentially leading to cravings for more sugary foods.
- Special attention is given to erythritol, which should be avoided due to its potential health risks.

2. Earthquake 2,500 years ago abruptly changed Ganga river's course

Source: The Hindu

Context: Movement of river channels in the Ganges delta- an almost 2-km-wide “paleochannel” — a well-preserved mud and sand archive of the river’s ancient course — about 45 km to the south of the modern Ganga river.

Ganga:

- The Ganga River, also known as the Ganges, is one of the most significant rivers in the world, holding immense cultural, geographical, and environmental importance.
- Originating from the Himalayas, the Ganga flows through northern India and Bangladesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

Geographical Features:

- **Source and Course:** The Ganga originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the western Himalayas, at an elevation of about 7,000 metres.
- It travels approximately 2,525 kilometres through the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal before flowing into Bangladesh, where it merges with the Brahmaputra River to form the Sundarbans delta.
- **Major Tributaries:** The Ganga is fed by several major tributaries, including the Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak, and Kosi rivers. These tributaries contribute significantly to its flow and play a crucial role in the river’s water resources.
- **Delta Formation:** The river’s delta, known as the Sundarbans, is one of the world’s largest and most dynamic deltas. It is characterised by its complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats, and mangrove forests.

Cultural and Historical Significance:

- **Religious Importance:** The Ganga is revered as a sacred river in Hinduism. It is personified as the goddess Ganga and holds a central place in Hindu religious practices. Pilgrims travel from across India to take a ritual bath in its holy waters, believing it will cleanse them of sins.
- **Historical Impact:** Historically, the Ganga has been the cradle of Indian civilization. The fertile plains along the river have supported agriculture and urban development for thousands of years. Major cities like Varanasi, Allahabad, and Kolkata have developed along its banks, each with its own historical and cultural legacy.
- **Festivals and Rituals:** Numerous festivals are celebrated on the banks of the Ganga, including the Kumbh Mela, a major Hindu pilgrimage that occurs every 12 years at four different locations along the river. This event attracts millions of devotees and tourists from around the world.



Environmental Challenges:

- **Pollution:** The Ganga faces severe pollution due to the discharge of untreated sewage, industrial waste, and religious offerings. Major cities along the river contribute significantly to its contamination, impacting water quality and ecosystem health.
- **Water Scarcity:** Over-extraction of water for agricultural and industrial use has led to reduced flow in certain stretches of the river, affecting the river's health and the livelihoods of communities dependent on it.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change is impacting the Ganga's flow patterns. Melting glaciers in the Himalayas and changing rainfall patterns are altering the river's volume and seasonal flow, affecting water availability and agricultural productivity.

Conservation Efforts:

- **Namami Gange Programme:** Launched in 2014, the Namami Gange programme is a flagship initiative by the Government of India aimed at cleaning and rejuvenating the Ganga. The program focuses on sewage treatment, riverfront development, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Community Involvement:** Various non-governmental organisations and local communities are actively involved in conservation efforts. Initiatives include river clean-up drives, awareness campaigns, and sustainable practices to reduce pollution.
- **Legislation and Policies:** Several laws and policies have been enacted to protect the Ganga, including the Ganga Act and the National River Conservation Plan. These frameworks aim to regulate pollution, promote sustainable water management, and ensure effective implementation of conservation measures.

Future Outlook and Recommendations:

- **Strengthening Enforcement:** Ensuring strict enforcement of pollution control regulations and penalties for non-compliance is essential for improving water quality in the Ganga.
- **Integrated River Basin Management:** Adopting an integrated approach to river basin management, which considers the entire river ecosystem and its tributaries, will help address the challenges faced by the Ganga.
- **Enhancing Public Awareness:** Raising awareness about the importance of the Ganga and promoting community participation in conservation efforts are crucial for the long-term sustainability of the river.
- **International Cooperation:** Collaboration between India and Bangladesh is vital for managing the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta and addressing transboundary water issues.

Conclusion:

The Ganga River is a vital lifeline for millions of people, rich in cultural heritage and ecological significance. Addressing the challenges it faces requires a comprehensive approach that combines conservation efforts, community involvement, and robust policies. By taking concerted actions, it is possible to preserve the Ganga's health and ensure that it continues to sustain and enrich the lives of future generations.



GS II

3. There is pressure from poor Muslim groups to amend Wakf Act: Minister of Minority Affairs

Source: The Hindu

Context: As the Union government prepares to amend the Wakf Act, 1995, the Minister for Minority Affairs told The Hindu that there has been a long standing demand from “poor Muslim groups” to amend the legislation.

What is Waqf?

- Waqf is an Islamic endowment of property to be held in trust and used for a charitable or religious purpose.
- The term “waqf” comes from the Arabic word meaning “confinement” or “prohibition.”
- In simpler terms, it means dedicating property in the name of God for religious or charitable purposes.
- Waqf can be formed through a deed by a donor, known as the waqif, or by converting a property that has been used for religious or charitable reasons for a significant period of time.
- Once a property is designated as a waqf, it cannot be sold, inherited, or gifted, as it is considered to belong to Allah.

Wakf Act 1954:

- The concept of waqf and the administration of waqf properties have existed for centuries.
- However, the formal establishment of Waqf Boards in India took place with the enactment of the **Wakf Act of 1954**, which was later replaced by the **Wakf Act of 1995** to streamline and improve the administration of waqf properties.
- **Currently, the Wakf Act 2013 governs waqf properties and their administration in India.**
- This act introduced significant amendments to enhance the management of waqf properties, ensuring better accountability and transparency.

Waqf Board Powers:

The Waqf Board is responsible for managing Waqf properties, recovering lost properties, and allowing the transfer of these properties through methods like sale, gift, mortgage, exchange, or lease. For any transaction to proceed, at least two-thirds of the board members must agree.

The board also appoints custodians to make sure that the Waqf and its income are used for their intended purposes. The Central Wakf Council (CWC), which was set up in 1964, supervises and gives advice to the Waqf Boards at the state level throughout India. **Some of its key powers are:**

- **Inspection:** The Board can inspect waqf properties and accounts to ensure compliance with the law.
- **Appointment of Mutawalli:** The Board has the authority to appoint or remove mutawallis if necessary.
- **Legal Actions:** It can take legal actions to protect waqf properties from encroachment or misuse.
- **Audit:** It conducts regular audits of waqf accounts and properties.

Wakf Act Amendment Bill 2024 Issue:



The **Wakf Board Amendment Bill of 2024** aims to introduce changes to the **Wakf Act of 1995**, which governs the administration of waqf properties in India. Here are some of the proposed amendments:

- **Mandatory Verification:** Waqf Boards will have to verify all property claims to ensure transparency.
- **Changes to Waqf Boards:** Revisions will be made to Sections 9 and 14 to modify how Waqf Boards are composed and how they operate. This will include representation for women.
- **New Property Verification:** Properties claimed by boards will undergo new verification processes to resolve disputes and prevent misuse.
- **Involvement of District Magistrates:** District magistrates may be involved in overseeing waqf properties to ensure proper management.

GS III

4. INDIA bloc protests against 18% GST on life, health insurance

Source: The Hindu

Context: The GST on insurance premiums was introduced with the intention of broadening the tax base and increasing revenue. However, the move has faced backlash from various political leaders and citizens alike.

The imposition of an 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on life and health insurance premiums has recently sparked significant controversy in India. Opposition parties, particularly those within the INDIA bloc, have launched protests against this decision, criticising it as a burdensome measure on the middle class and an example of "tax terrorism."

Key Points of Protest:

- **Economic Impact on Individuals:** The GST imposition is seen as an additional financial burden on individuals who are already struggling with high out-of-pocket health expenses. With health insurance being a critical safeguard against unforeseen medical costs, adding GST is viewed as an undue financial strain on families.
- **Political Reactions:** Leaders from the INDIA bloc have condemned the tax, describing it as a form of opportunistic taxation.
- **Parliamentary Dynamics:** The issue has been prominently raised in both Houses of Parliament, reflecting its significant political and social implications. The protests and debates underscore the contentious nature of tax policies and their impact on public sentiment and governance.
- **Government Response:** In response to the protests, Lok Sabha Speaker has urged members to avoid staging protests on the Parliament steps, highlighting the need for orderly conduct in addressing such issues.



Implications:

- **For Policy Makers:** The backlash against the GST on insurance premiums highlights the importance of considering the socio-economic impact of tax policies. Policymakers must balance revenue needs with the potential financial burden on citizens.
- **For Citizens:** The GST on insurance premiums may prompt individuals to reevaluate their insurance coverage and could potentially lead to decreased uptake of health insurance, exacerbating issues related to healthcare affordability.
- **For Political Landscape:** The protests and political reactions demonstrate the influence of taxation policies on electoral and public opinion, which could impact future political strategies and legislative decisions.

GST:

- It is an indirect tax (not directly paid by customers to the government), that came into effect from 1 July 2017 through the implementation of the 101st Amendment to the Constitution of India by the Indian government.
- It has actually replaced various indirect taxes such as - service taxes, VAT, excise and others in the country.
- It is levied on the manufacturer or seller of goods and the providers of services.
- Types of GST: State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST, on exports and imports).

Conclusion: The ongoing debate over GST on life and health insurance premiums underscores the need for a nuanced approach to tax policy that considers both economic implications and public welfare. As the government and opposition parties continue to navigate this issue, it will be crucial to address the concerns of citizens and seek solutions that balance fiscal objectives with social equity.

5. Centre issues norms for organ transport in India

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has, for the first time, issued comprehensive guidelines for the transportation of live human organs.

Background: The Legal Framework:

The transplantation of organs in India is governed by the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994**. This Act permits the harvesting of organs from living donors or brain-dead patients with the consent of family members. The harvested organs are transported from one hospital to another, often across long distances, depending on the location of eligible recipients who are registered with their respective authorities. The new guidelines aim to address the logistical challenges associated with such transportation, providing a standardised approach for healthcare institutions.

Key Features of the New Guidelines:

- **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):**



- The SOP issued serves as a **guiding document for healthcare institutions in States and Union Territories**, detailing the protocols for transporting organs by various modes, including air, road, metro trains, and over water.
- Importantly, the guidelines stipulate that human organs for transplant must be transported only within the territory of India, prohibiting international transportation.
- **Air Transportation Protocols:**
 - The Ministry recommends that the **organ box be screened without being opened during air transportation**, while ensuring that passengers carrying it undergo security checks.
 - Priority is to be given to staff carrying the organ box during deboarding, facilitated by an in-flight announcement by the Pilot-in-Command.
 - **Airlines are advised to offer priority seating, reservations, and late check-in options for organ transport staff.**
 - A **'Green path,'** free from obstruction, from the ambulance to the aircraft and vice versa at the destination.
- **Utilisation of Infrastructure:**
 - The guidelines emphasise the **use of available infrastructure, such as metro trains and water routes, to expedite organ transportation, particularly in urban areas with heavy traffic congestion.**

Implementation Challenges and Considerations:

- **Coordination Among Stakeholders:**
 - **Effective implementation requires seamless coordination** among hospitals, airlines, security personnel, and transport authorities to ensure timely and safe transportation of organs.
- **Training and Awareness:**
 - **Training programs for staff involved in organ transportation** are crucial to familiarise them with the new protocols and ensure compliance.
 - **Awareness campaigns may be necessary to inform stakeholders about the significance of the guidelines and the need for cooperation.**
- **Infrastructure and Technology:**
 - Upgrading transportation infrastructure and integrating technology for real-time tracking of organ transport can further **enhance efficiency and safety.**

Conclusion:

The **introduction of guidelines for the transportation of live human organs marks a significant step forward in India's healthcare system.** By establishing a clear framework for the movement of organs, these protocols **aim to reduce delays, minimise wastage, and increase the success rate of organ transplants.** As India continues to improve its healthcare delivery mechanisms, these guidelines reflect a commitment to ensuring that life-saving medical procedures are carried out with precision and urgency. For the guidelines to achieve their intended impact, concerted efforts from all stakeholders are required to address the logistical and operational challenges inherent in organ transportation.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. Powering up to get to the \$30-trillion economy point

Source: The Hindu

Context: India's rapid economic growth, with a GDP growth rate exceeding 7%, has led to optimistic projections that the 21st century could be India's century.

For India to become a \$30-trillion economy by 2047, as envisioned by the government, it must focus on sustained economic growth driven by liberal economic policies and robust private sector involvement.

Economic Growth as a Tool for Poverty Alleviation:

- Economic growth has proven to be the most effective tool for **poverty alleviation and improving living standards**.
- **Liberalisation in 1991** led to a **significant decline in poverty**, with the rate dropping to approximately 20% by 2011.
- While concerns about income inequality persist, data indicates that **overall living standards have improved, especially for those at the bottom of the economic pyramid**.
- **Wealth creation, a natural byproduct of economic growth, incentivizes entrepreneurship and drives overall societal progress**. Therefore, the focus should remain on fostering economic growth rather than being swayed by inequality criticisms.

Current Economic Challenges:

- **Despite India's impressive growth, challenges remain**. The high-growth years of 2000-2010, driven by an IT services boom, created a thriving middle class.
- However, **46% of India's labour force is still engaged in agriculture, contributing only 18% to GDP, indicative of low productivity and underemployment**.
- Another concern is the **low female labour force participation rate (FLFPR)**, which stands at 37%. This figure is misleading, as it was only 26% in 2019, with many women returning to agricultural labour post-COVID-19. In comparison, countries like China, Vietnam, and Japan have FLFPRs between 60%-70%.
- To harness the potential of India's working-age population, which numbers 950 million but has only half employed, **the country must focus on low-skilled, employment-intensive manufacturing with a strong export orientation**.
- This strategy has been successful for countries like **South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Vietnam**, known as the '**Asian Tigers**,' who achieved rapid growth through export-led industrialization.

Risks of Protectionism and the Middle-Income Trap:

- **India must resist the temptation to impose high import tariffs, which could lead to inefficient domestic industries shielded from global competition**.
- Such protectionist measures can **hinder India's competitiveness**, particularly in sectors reliant on imported components, ultimately raising costs for downstream exports.



- The **middle-income trap** is a significant concern, as many countries struggle to transition from middle to high-income status.
- To avoid this trap, **India must leverage its surplus labour for growth in low-end sectors while developing the capabilities to move up the value chain in manufacturing.**

Policy Recommendations:

- **Market-Led Economy:**
 - India needs a **market-driven approach** that allows private enterprises to thrive without **excessive government intervention.**
 - Reforms to enhance the ease of doing business must continue unabated, emphasising **'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.'**
- **Cluster-Led Industrial Model:**
 - Developing industrial clusters with **world-class infrastructure**, akin to those in China and Vietnam, can attract both employers and workers.
 - These clusters should include **plug-and-play facilities** and **ancillary ecosystems** for **education, healthcare, and entertainment.**
- **Focus on Low-Skilled Manufacturing:**
 - Emphasising sectors like electronics assembly and apparel manufacturing can create employment opportunities for large numbers of people. **Inter-state migration and urbanisation can be key indicators of progress in this regard.**
- **Enhancing Female Labor Force Participation:**
 - **Increasing FLFPR is crucial for maximising India's demographic dividend.** Policies encouraging female workforce participation and addressing barriers to women's employment are essential.

Conclusion:

India's growth story presents both **tremendous opportunities and formidable challenges.** To achieve its goal of becoming a **\$30-trillion economy by 2047, India must adopt forward-thinking and ambitious policies** that remove barriers to growth. By capitalising on its demographic dividend and fostering a conducive environment for manufacturing and exports, India can realise its potential as a global economic powerhouse and fulfil its destiny as a **Vishwaguru.**



7. On U.P.'s stringent anti-conversion law

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the **Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, altering the original 2021 anti-conversion law by making its provisions more draconian and susceptible to misuse.

Introduction:

The **Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly** recently passed the **Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which **modifies the existing anti-conversion law of 2021**. The amendment has drawn significant attention due to its more stringent provisions aimed at preventing unlawful religious conversions, purportedly influenced by "foreign and anti-national elements."

Rationale for the Amendment

The amendment was proposed to make the existing legislation "as stringent as possible" in response to the **alleged involvement of organised entities in demographic changes through unlawful conversions**. According to state government data, 427 cases were registered under the original Act between January 2021 and April 2023, highlighting the perceived urgency of the situation.

Key Provisions of the Amendment

- **Increased Penalties:**
 - The **minimum prison term** for unlawful conversion has been raised from one year to five years, and the **maximum from five years to ten years**. The **fine has been increased from ₹15,000 to ₹50,000**.
 - For conversions involving minors, women, or individuals from Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, the **penalty has increased from a prison term of 2-10 years to 5-14 years**, with the fine raised from ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh.
- **New Offences:**
 - A **new provision introduces a prison term of 7-14 years and a fine of ₹10 lakh** for securing "foreign" or "illegal" funds for unlawful conversion.
 - **Another offence mandates a minimum of 20 years to life imprisonment** for using threats, force, or coercion to instigate unlawful conversion, particularly targeting vulnerable groups.
- **Complaint Registration:**
 - The amendment allows "**any person**" to file an FIR related to violations of the Act, expanding the scope from the original provision, which restricted complaints to aggrieved individuals and their relatives.
- **Bail Provisions:**
 - All offences under the Act are now **cognizable and non-bailable**. **Bail can only be granted by a sessions court** after providing the public prosecutor an opportunity to oppose the bail application.
 - The accused bears the burden of proving their innocence to secure bail, complicating the process of obtaining interim release.

Comparative Analysis with Other States:



- Several states, including Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh, have enacted **anti-conversion laws**, albeit with variations in their provisions.
- Unlike Uttar Pradesh, these states often require individuals intending to convert to provide prior notice to authorities but do not impose severe penalties or life imprisonment. They also typically restrict complaint filing to aggrieved individuals or their families, excluding third-party interventions.

Constitutional and Legal Challenges:

- The amendment is expected to face legal challenges concerning its constitutional validity, particularly regarding its compliance with **Article 25** of the Constitution, which **guarantees the freedom of religion**.
- The Supreme Court is currently examining similar **anti-conversion laws** from various states, and the outcome may influence the future of the Uttar Pradesh legislation.

Conclusion:

The **Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, reflects a heightened approach to tackling perceived threats of unlawful religious conversions. While intended to **protect vulnerable communities and maintain social harmony**, the law has sparked debates over its potential for misuse and infringement on constitutional rights. The **forthcoming judicial scrutiny will play a crucial role** in determining the balance between safeguarding religious freedom and preventing coercive conversions.



In Brief

8. SEBI proposes relaxing norms for investment advisers, analysts

Source: The Hindu

Context: Markets regulator SEBI proposed relaxing net worth, qualification and experience requirements for investment advisers and research analysts, a move aimed at curbing the activities of unregulated financial influencers.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is a Statutory Body (a Non-Constitutional body which is set up by a Parliament) established in 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- The basic functions of SEBI is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote and regulate the securities market.
- The headquarters of SEBI is situated in Mumbai.
- The regional offices of SEBI are located in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi.



Background:

- Before SEBI came into existence, Controller of Capital Issues was the regulatory authority, it derived authority from the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947.
- In 1988, the SEBI was constituted as the regulator of capital markets in India under a resolution of the Government of India.
- Initially SEBI was a non statutory body without any statutory power but became autonomous and given statutory powers by SEBI Act 1992.

Structure:

- SEBI Board consists of a Chairman and several other whole time and part time members.
- SEBI also appoints various committees, whenever required to look into the pressing issues of that time.
- Further, a Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has been constituted to protect the interest of entities that feel aggrieved by SEBI's decision.
- SAT consists of a Presiding Officer and two other Members.
- It has the same powers as vested in a civil court. Further, if any person feels aggrieved by SAT's decision or order can appeal to the Supreme Court.



9. Rights groups warn of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh

Source: The Hindu

Context: Rights groups and diplomats in Bangladesh raised concerns at reports of attacks on minorities, including Hindus, a day after the Prime Minister was ousted following mass protests.

Constitutional Provisions and Legal Framework:

- **Definition:**
 - Minorities in India are identified based on **religion and language**.
 - **National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992**, lists Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains as religious minorities.
- **Constitutional Safeguards:**
 - **Article 29:** Protection of interests of minorities to conserve their language, script, or culture.
 - **Article 30:** Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.
 - **Article 15:** Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
 - **Article 25-28:** Freedom of religion.
- **Statutory Bodies:**
 - **National Commission for Minorities (NCM):** Monitors and evaluates the development of minorities.
 - **Ministry of Minority Affairs:** Formulates policies, plans, and coordination for minority communities.
- **Education:**
 - **Lower literacy rates** compared to the national average.
 - Initiatives like **Padho Pardesh** and **Nai Udaan** aim to improve educational outcomes for minorities.
- **Employment:**
 - **Lower representation in government jobs and the private sector.**
 - **Nai Manzil** and **USTTAD** schemes focus on skill development and employment opportunities.
- **Economic Indicators:**
 - **Higher levels of poverty and lower access to financial services.**
 - The **Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme** focuses on enhancing opportunities for education, employment, and economic development.
 - Political Representation
- **Representation in Legislature:**
 - Minorities are **underrepresented in Parliament and State Assemblies.**
 - **Initiatives to encourage political participation and representation.**



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution specifically provides for the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice?

- A. Article 29
- B. Article 30
- C. Article 25
- D. Article 15

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities:

- 1. It aims to enhance opportunities for education among minority communities.
- 2. It includes a focus on providing employment through skill development and financial inclusion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:

- 1. SEBI was established as a statutory body in 1992.
- 2. One of SEBI's primary functions is to regulate the stock market and protect the interests of investors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- 1. The amendment increases the minimum prison term for unlawful conversions to five years.
- 2. The amendment allows only aggrieved individuals to file an FIR related to violations of the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. With reference to the new guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the transportation of live human organs, consider the following statements:

- 1. The guidelines allow for the transportation of human organs both within India and internationally to facilitate global transplants.
- 2. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) includes the use of metro trains and water routes for organ transportation within India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Wakf Board?

- 1. The Wakf Board is a statutory body established under the Wakf Act, 1954, with the primary responsibility of administering and managing properties dedicated for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.
- 2. The Wakf Board is responsible for supervising the maintenance of Wakf properties, resolving disputes related to their management, and ensuring the



proper utilisation of the funds generated from these properties.

3. The Wakf Board's jurisdiction extends to overseeing the management of Wakf properties across all Indian states, including those states where no Wakf Board has been established.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Which of the following statements are correct regarding sugar?

1. The Government of India exclusively imports all raw sugar used for domestic consumption, ensuring that the country relies entirely on foreign sources for its sugar supply.
2. The sugar industry in India is a significant part of the economy, contributing to employment in rural areas and being crucial for the livelihoods of farmers and workers in the industry.
3. India has implemented a system of sugar quotas for mills to manage the distribution and pricing of sugar, which is designed to stabilise the market and ensure equitable distribution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Which of the following statements about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India is/are correct?

1. GST is a single tax levied on goods and services at the national level, replacing various indirect taxes previously imposed by the central and state governments.
2. The GST Council, which is responsible for making recommendations on GST rates and policies, consists of only Union Ministers.

3. GST is implemented through a dual system where both the Central and State Governments levy tax on goods and services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Which of the following statements about the Ganga River are correct?

1. The Ganga River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Himalayas and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
2. The Ganga River has only one major tributary, the Yamuna.
3. The Sundarbans Delta, formed by the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, is one of the world's largest delta systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the new guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the transportation of live human organs in India?

1. The guidelines allow for the international transportation of human organs for transplant.
2. The guidelines recommend that the organ box be screened without being opened during air transportation.
3. A 'Green path' from the ambulance to the aircraft is mandatory at both the departure and destination points.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Article 30 of the Indian Constitution** specifically provides for the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. This article ensures that minorities, whether based on religion or language, have the right to establish and manage educational institutions that serve to preserve and promote their culture and identity. This right is seen as a crucial component in maintaining the educational and cultural rights of minority communities.
- **Article 29** deals with the protection of interests of minorities, allowing any section of citizens residing in India having a distinct language, script, or culture to conserve the same. It ensures that no discrimination is made on the grounds of religion, race, caste, language, or any of them in granting admission to educational institutions maintained by the state.
- **Article 25** guarantees the freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion. It ensures the freedom of religion for individuals but does not specifically address educational rights.
- **Article 15** prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. While it provides a broad framework for non-discrimination, it does not specifically address the

establishment of educational institutions by minorities.

2. Correct Answer is C

Explanation: The Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme focuses on the educational and economic empowerment of minority communities. It includes enhancing educational opportunities and providing employment through skill development, ensuring financial inclusion and economic growth.

3. Correct Answer is C

Explanation: SEBI was established as a statutory body under the SEBI Act of 1992. Its main role is to regulate the securities market in India and protect investors' interests while promoting and regulating the development of the securities market.

4. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the amendment increases the minimum prison term for unlawful conversions to five years.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** because the amendment allows "any person" to file an FIR related to violations of the Act, not just aggrieved individuals.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The guidelines stipulate that human organs for transplant must be transported only within the territory of India, prohibiting international transportation.



- **Statement 2 is correct.** The SOP includes the use of various modes of transport such as metro trains and water routes to facilitate organ transportation within India.

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Wakf Board is indeed established under the Wakf Act and manages properties dedicated for religious or charitable purposes.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Wakf Board has the responsibility to supervise, resolve disputes, and ensure proper utilisation of funds from Wakf properties.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The Wakf Board's jurisdiction is specific to the states where it is established. It does not extend to overseeing Wakf properties in states without a Wakf Board.

7. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** India does not rely exclusively on imports for its sugar supply. The country produces a significant amount of sugar domestically from sugarcane.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The sugar industry is a major sector in India, significantly impacting rural employment and the livelihoods of many people.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The Indian government does implement sugar quotas and price controls to manage the distribution and pricing of sugar in the domestic market.

8. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** GST is indeed a single tax levied on goods and services, consolidating various indirect taxes such as VAT, service tax, and excise duty previously imposed by both Central and State Governments. This simplifies the tax structure and aims to create a unified national market.

- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The GST Council is not composed of only Union Ministers. It includes both the Union Finance Minister and the Finance Ministers of the States. The Council is a key body that makes recommendations on GST rates, policies, and issues related to the implementation of GST.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** GST is implemented through a dual system where both the Central and State Governments levy tax on goods and services. This is known as the Central GST (CGST) and State GST (SGST) for intrastate transactions, and Integrated GST (IGST) for inter-state transactions.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Ganga River indeed originates from the Gangotri Glacier and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Ganga River has several major tributaries, including the Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak, and Kosi.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Sundarbans Delta is a large delta formed by the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.

10. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The guidelines specifically prohibit the international transportation of human organs for transplant, restricting transportation only within the territory of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The guidelines recommend that the organ box be screened without being opened during air transportation to maintain the integrity and sterility of the organ.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While the guidelines suggest the creation of a 'Green path' to facilitate unobstructed transportation from the ambulance to the aircraft, it is not mandated as a requirement at both departure and destination points.

Thus, the correct answer is D) 2 only.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Comment on Anti-Conversion Laws in India? (15 Marks 250 Words)

Q2. Discuss the political crisis in Bangladesh following the dissolution of the 12th Parliament and the resignation of the Prime Minister. Examine the implications of these developments for Bangladesh's democratic institutions and minority communities. (250 words)





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