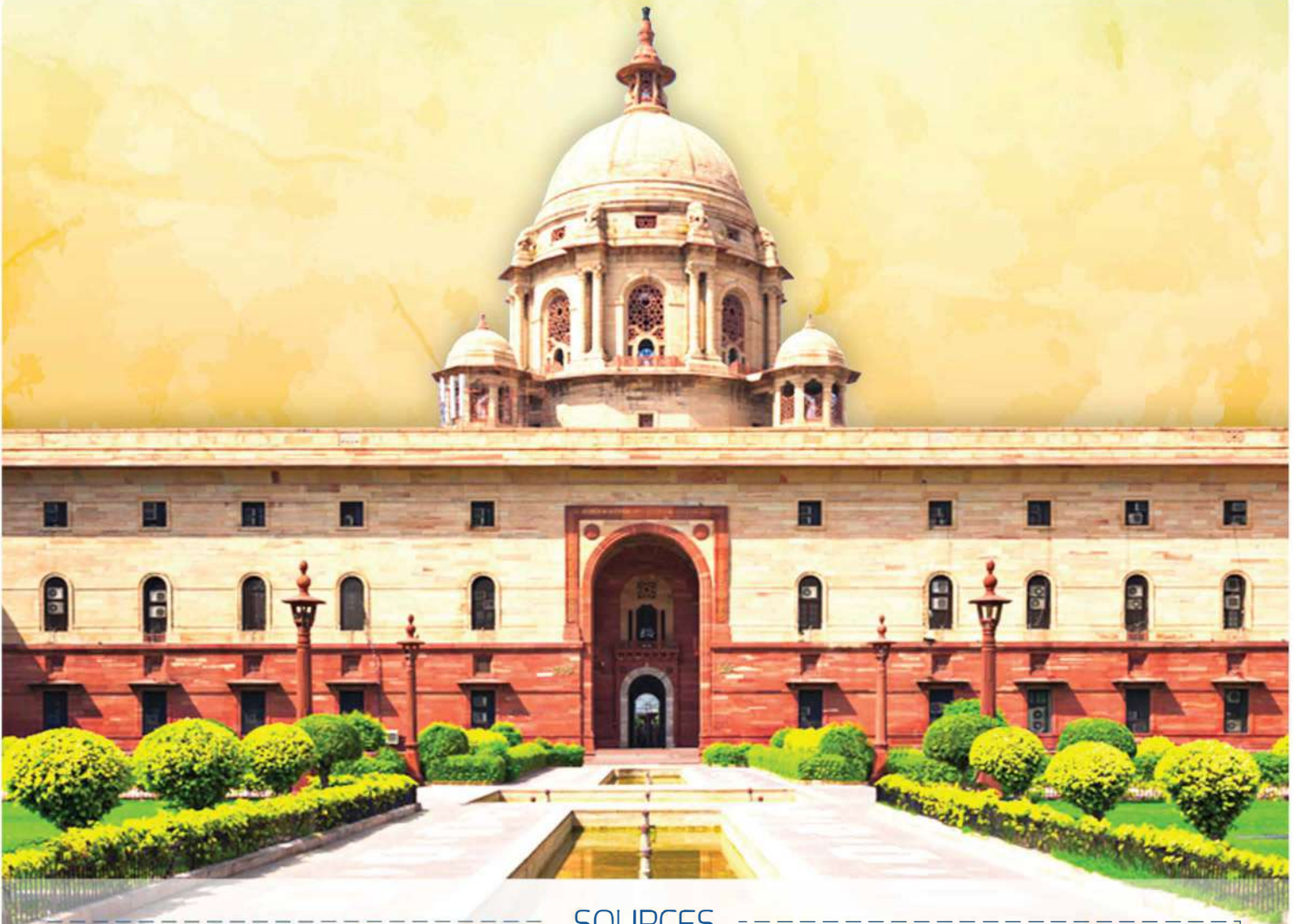




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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Bridge across the Kali river that connects Karnataka's Karwar with Goa collapses

Source: The Hindu

Context: The recent collapse of a bridge connecting Karwar in Karnataka with Goa highlights critical issues in infrastructure development and maintenance in India.

Key Issues:

- **Quality of Construction and Oversight:**
 - The collapse has brought to light the potential irregularities in the work carried out by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** and the construction company, IRB.
 - **Minister for Fisheries**, highlighted that despite repeated issues with construction quality, **no significant action has been taken against those responsible**. This **underscores the need for stringent quality checks and accountability in the execution of infrastructure projects**.
- **Role of Government Agencies:**
 - **National highway projects fall under the purview of the Union government**, which implies a responsibility to ensure the highest standards of construction and maintenance.
 - The incident points to a **lack of oversight and enforcement of safety standards**, which are critical for preventing such disasters.
- **Impact on Public Safety and Mobility:**
 - The bridge's collapse had immediate safety implications and disrupted vehicular movement, **affecting the connectivity between Karnataka and Goa**.
 - **Ensuring the safety and reliability of infrastructure is essential** for public confidence and the smooth functioning of transport networks.
- **Lessons from Past Incidents:**
 - This is not an isolated incident, as similar collapses have occurred, such as the one at Hattikeri in Ankola last year. **Learning from past incidents and implementing corrective measures is crucial for preventing future occurrences**.
- **Call for Accountability and Reform:**
 - There is a pressing need for **accountability from both government bodies and private contractors involved in infrastructure projects**.
 - **Implementing reforms in project management, construction standards, and regular audits** can help mitigate risks and ensure long-term structural integrity.

Conclusion:

The bridge collapse in Karwar serves as a critical reminder of the importance of quality and accountability in infrastructure projects. It calls for a comprehensive review of current practices and the implementation of stricter oversight mechanisms to prevent such incidents in the future. Strengthening infrastructure resilience and ensuring public safety must remain a priority for sustainable development in India.



GS II

2. 'BIMSTEC FTA talks needs revival with realistic possibilities'

Source: The Hindu

Context: Recently, the Indian Commerce Minister emphasised the need to revive negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** among BIMSTEC nations, aiming to explore realistic possibilities such as preferential trade agreements to boost regional trade.

BIMSTEC:

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a **regional organisation comprising seven member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.**
- The group seeks to **enhance economic cooperation and integration in the Bay of Bengal region.**

Background:

- BIMSTEC was established in **1997 with the primary objective of fostering regional cooperation and economic integration among the member countries.**
- The organisation focuses on several areas, including **trade and investment, technology, energy, transportation, and tourism.**
- Despite its potential to drive economic growth in the region, **BIMSTEC's progress in achieving its goals has been slow, particularly regarding trade liberalisation.**
- Negotiations for a **BIMSTEC FTA** began several years ago, intending to create a comprehensive framework to facilitate trade and investment among member states.
- However, these talks have stalled for the past six years due to various challenges, including **geopolitical tensions, protectionist policies, and non-tariff barriers.**

Key Issues

- **Stalled Negotiations**
 - **The lack of progress in FTA negotiations is a significant concern for BIMSTEC countries.**
 - **Urgent need to address the barriers that have hindered progress.**
 - **The delay in negotiations has limited the potential for increased trade and economic integration within the region, which could drive economic growth and development.**
- **Non-Tariff Barriers**
 - **Non-tariff barriers, such as import quotas, licensing requirements, and regulatory standards, pose significant obstacles to trade among BIMSTEC member countries.**
 - **Need for serious efforts to remove these barriers and adopt international trade facilitation norms to create a more conducive environment for trade.**
- **Fair Trade Terms:**
 - **Ensuring fair trade terms and managing trade deficits are crucial for a successful FTA.**



- **Member nations must work collaboratively** to establish equitable terms of trade that benefit all parties involved.
- Addressing **trade imbalances and promoting balanced economic growth** will be essential to the successful implementation of the FTA.
- **Realistic Possibilities:**
 - Suggested exploring realistic possibilities such as **preferential trade agreements (PTAs) as a stepping stone towards a comprehensive FTA.**
 - PTAs can facilitate trade by reducing tariffs on specific goods and services, encouraging greater economic cooperation, and building trust among member states.

Implications

- **Economic Growth and Integration**
 - A successful BIMSTEC FTA could significantly boost economic growth and integration within the region.
 - By reducing trade barriers and promoting cooperation, member countries can capitalise on their comparative advantages, increase intra-regional trade, and enhance their competitiveness in global markets.
- **Geopolitical Significance:**
 - Strengthening economic ties within BIMSTEC can enhance the region's geopolitical significance.
 - As a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, BIMSTEC has the potential to become a pivotal player in regional economic dynamics, contributing to stability and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal region.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- While the potential benefits of a BIMSTEC FTA are significant, several challenges must be addressed. These include **overcoming political and economic differences** among member states, ensuring the effective implementation of trade facilitation measures, and addressing concerns related to trade imbalances.
- However, these challenges also present opportunities for member countries to collaborate and build a more integrated and prosperous region.

Conclusion:

Reviving negotiations for a **BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement** is a crucial step towards enhancing economic cooperation and integration in the Bay of Bengal region. **By addressing non-tariff barriers, ensuring fair trade terms, and exploring realistic possibilities such as preferential trade agreements, BIMSTEC member countries can unlock the region's economic potential and contribute to regional stability and prosperity.** As the organisation seeks to overcome its challenges, the successful implementation of an FTA could serve as a model for regional cooperation and integration in other parts of the world.



3.SC posts PMLA judgement review to Aug. 28, asks if it's 'appeal in disguise'

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Supreme Court of India is scheduled to hear a series of petitions seeking a review of its July 2022 judgement, which granted extensive powers to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Background:

- The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**, was enacted to prevent and control money laundering, confiscate property derived from money laundering, and deal with other related issues.
- Over time, the Act has undergone several amendments, enhancing the powers of the Enforcement Directorate.

Key Issues

- **Judicial Review vs. Appeal:**
 - The **Supreme Court**, as the apex judicial authority, has the power to review its judgments in exceptional circumstances. However, the court has emphasised that a review should not become an appeal in disguise.
 - The review petitions argue that the original judgement contains grave errors that necessitate reconsideration, but the court is cautious to ensure that the review process does not undermine the finality of its judgments.
- **Burden of Proof**
 - One of the most contentious aspects of the judgement is the shift in the burden of proof. Traditionally, in criminal law, the prosecution must prove the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - However, the PMLA's amendments, upheld by the court, require the accused to prove their innocence, reversing the burden of proof. This raises significant concerns about the fairness and constitutionality of the process, particularly when the accused does not have access to the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR).
- **Bail Conditions:**
 - The judgement also upholds stringent bail conditions under the PMLA.
 - The "twin conditions" require that an accused person can be granted bail only if they can prove their innocence and demonstrate that they are unlikely to commit an offence while on bail.
 - These conditions make it exceedingly difficult for accused individuals to secure bail, potentially leading to prolonged pre-trial detention.

Implications

- **Legal and Human Rights Concerns:**
 - The review petitions highlight the potential human rights violations resulting from the judgement, including the denial of the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence.



- The **stringent bail conditions and reversal of the burden of proof could lead to significant miscarriages of justice**, especially for undertrials who may lack the resources to prove their innocence.
- **Impact on the Enforcement Directorate's Role:**
 - While the judgement strengthens the ED's powers to **combat money laundering**, it also raises concerns about potential misuse and overreach.
 - The broad powers granted to the ED could be used to **target individuals without sufficient evidence, leading to harassment and arbitrary detention.**

Conclusion:

- The upcoming review by the Supreme Court presents an opportunity to reassess the balance between empowering enforcement agencies to combat financial crimes and safeguarding individual rights.
- It underscores the need for judicial scrutiny and vigilance to ensure that laws and their implementation do not compromise fundamental rights and freedoms.



GS III

4. Extra 100 gm crushes Vinesh's Olympic dreams

Source: The Hindu

Context: The journey of Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat at the Olympics highlights the intense challenges faced by athletes in maintaining competitive weight categories.

Background:

- Vinesh Phogat, a renowned Indian wrestler, has been a prominent figure in international wrestling, with multiple accolades including two World Wrestling Championships bronze medals in the 53 kg category.
- Her participation in the Olympics has been marked by both remarkable achievements and significant challenges.
- Vinesh was a key figure in the protest against the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, which brought attention to issues of harassment and governance in Indian sports.



The Olympic Challenge:

- **Weight Category Transition:** Vinesh, made a strategic decision to **compete in the 50 kg category for the Olympics**. This required a substantial weight cut, highlighting the extreme measures athletes often take to fit into specific weight classes.
- **Disqualification Incident:** Despite defeating Japan's World and Olympic champion Yui Susaki and reaching the finals in the women's 50 kg category, **Vinesh was disqualified due to being 100 grams over the permissible weight limit during the weigh-in**. This incident underscores the stringent regulations that govern weight management in competitive wrestling.

Rules and Regulations:

- **Weigh-In Procedures:** According to the United World Wrestling (UWW) Article 11, athletes must **meet the required weight limits during the official weigh-in on the morning of their competition**. Failure to do so results in immediate disqualification, as seen in Vinesh's case.
- **Implications of Disqualification:** Vinesh's disqualification allowed her semi-final opponent, Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, to advance to the finals. This **outcome emphasises the strict enforcement of weight regulations and their impact on competition outcomes**.

Broader Implications:

- **Physical and Mental Strain:** The incident highlights the physical strain athletes undergo to meet weight categories, often involving drastic measures such as **sauna sessions and dehydration**. The mental stress of maintaining weight can also affect performance and well-being.
- **Support Systems:** The presence of key officials like the Chef-de-Mission, IOA chief, and medical commission members during Vinesh's weigh-in reflects the support structures in place for



athletes. However, the inability to secure an exemption from the UWW illustrates the limitations within the system.

Conclusion:

Vinesh Phogat's Olympic journey serves as a case study in the challenges of weight management in competitive sports. While her disqualification was a setback, her achievements in reaching the finals demonstrate her skill and determination. The incident calls for a reassessment of support mechanisms for athletes, as well as a consideration of the rules that govern weight categories in wrestling. As India strives for greater success in international sports, understanding and addressing these challenges will be crucial for future athletes.

5.Chandrayaan-3 team, ex-IISc Director win top science awards

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Indian government's recent introduction of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar marks a significant shift in the recognition of scientific excellence in the country.

Announced in conjunction with National Space Day to celebrate the Chandrayaan-3 moon landing, these awards aim to streamline and enhance the visibility of scientific contributions across various domains. The reform in the awards system is a move to acknowledge and encourage exceptional achievements in the field of science and technology.



Background:

In 2022, the Union government made the controversial decision to cut down on the number of scientific awards, with the objective of revamping the recognition process. This led to the introduction of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, which aims to consolidate and simplify the awards structure, making it more inclusive and focused on merit.

Categories of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar:

The awards are divided into four distinct categories, each designed to honour contributions in specific areas of science and technology:

- **Vigyan Ratna:**
 - **Purpose:** Recognize lifetime achievements and significant contributions in a specific field of science and technology.
 - **Maximum Awards:** Up to three.
 - **2024 Winner:** Noted biochemist and former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, G. Padmanabhan.
- **Vigyan Shri:**
 - **Purpose:** Acknowledge distinguished contributions to scientific research and innovation.



- **Maximum Awards:** Up to 25.
- **Fields Covered:** Includes physics, chemistry, mathematics, atomic energy, biological sciences, and earth sciences.
- **Vigyan Yuva (Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award):**
 - **Purpose:** Encourage young scientists who have made exceptional contributions to science and technology.
 - **Maximum Awards:** Up to 25.
 - **2024 Nominees:** 18 scientists nominated for their outstanding work.
- **Vigyan Team Award:**
 - **Purpose:** Recognize teams of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made exceptional contributions while working collaboratively.
 - **Maximum Awards:** Up to three.
 - **2024 Winner:** ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team.

Selection Process:

The awards are determined through a nomination process managed via a portal maintained by the **Union Home Ministry**. This portal serves as a **comprehensive repository** for a range of national awards, ensuring a transparent and efficient nomination and selection process.

Significance of the Awards:

- **Recognition and Motivation:** The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar provides a platform for recognizing exceptional talent and contributions in the scientific community, thereby motivating researchers and innovators to strive for excellence.
- **Focus on Young Talent:** By including a category specifically for young scientists, the awards encourage the younger generation to pursue scientific research and innovation actively.
- **Promoting Teamwork:** The Vigyan Team Award highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving scientific breakthroughs, emphasising the collective nature of modern scientific endeavours.

Conclusion:

The introduction of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar represents a **strategic effort** by the Indian government to **streamline the recognition of scientific excellence**. By consolidating awards into clear categories, the government aims to **enhance the visibility and prestige of scientific contributions**, **fostering an environment of innovation and collaboration**. As the awards are presented on **National Space Day**, they serve as a reminder of India's growing stature in the global scientific community and the pivotal role of science and technology in the nation's development trajectory.

6.LTCG options may spur realty investments, sales: industry

Source: The Hindu

Context: The recent decision by the Indian government to offer taxpayers a choice between a 12.5% Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax and a 20% LTCG with indexation benefits on properties purchased before July 23, 2024, has been met with significant interest from stakeholders in the real estate sector.



Implications for Property Owners and Investors:

- The flexibility to choose between a **reduced tax rate** and an **indexation benefit** addresses **long-standing concerns** among property owners regarding the tax implications of real estate transactions.
- Historically, the **absence of indexation benefits for capital gains** could result in **substantial tax liabilities**, especially in cases where property values have appreciated significantly.
- By offering a 12.5% tax rate, the government aims to **make real estate transactions more attractive and financially feasible for sellers**.
- This lower rate is **expected to stimulate property sales and encourage investments in real estate**, potentially leading to a more vibrant and competitive market.
- On the other hand, the **20% rate with indexation** provides an option for those whose properties **have not appreciated significantly beyond inflation**, thereby balancing the tax burden relative to property appreciation.

Market Dynamics and Sectoral Impact:

- This move could **revitalise the real estate sector** by **reducing tax-related apprehensions and boosting confidence among investors**.
- The real estate sector, an integral part of India's economy, **stands to benefit from increased liquidity and investment inflows**.
- However, the **decision to choose between the two options should be made based on individual financial circumstances and the rate of property appreciation**.
- For properties with gains substantially higher than inflation, the 12.5% tax rate may be advantageous. Conversely, for properties where appreciation is closer to inflation rates, the indexation benefit may be more beneficial.

Conclusion:

The introduction of these tax options represents a strategic shift aimed at fostering growth in the real estate sector. By providing flexibility, the government has not only addressed property owners' concerns but has also created an environment conducive to increased investment and market activity. The ultimate success of this policy will depend on the extent to which it can stimulate real estate transactions and attract new investments while balancing the tax burden equitably.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

7. A closer look at beefing up Jammu's counter-terror grid

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Jammu region has recently witnessed an escalation in terrorist activities, resulting in significant security challenges. The region has been under increased focus due to the infiltration of terrorist cadres, supported by external elements, primarily from Pakistan.

This has necessitated a re-evaluation of the counter-terrorism grid in the area, especially following the redeployment of troops to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after the Galwan incident in 2020.

Counter-Terrorism Deployment Grid

- **Establishing the Grid:**
 - A counter-terrorism deployment grid is designed to dominate vulnerable areas that may facilitate terrorist movements.
 - The grid is established based on threat perceptions, considering factors such as terrain, vulnerability, and local population inclinations.
 - The deployment aims to disrupt terrorist activities by conducting tactical operations and building rapport with the local community.
- **Importance of Local Knowledge:**
 - Knowledge of the terrain and the ability to win the hearts and minds of the local population are crucial for successful counter-terrorism operations.
 - This approach requires a deliberate and time-consuming process where sub-unit commanders build trust with the community to gain intelligence on terrorist activities. The support of the local population is essential in identifying and neutralising threats.

Challenges in Counter-Terrorism Operations

- **Understanding the Local Population:**
 - The local population is often divided into three subsets: a minority supporting the state, a minority supporting the terrorists, and a neutral majority.
 - The success of security forces depends on sustaining support from the state-aligned minority and winning over the neutral majority.
 - Building relationships with the local community is vital to securing information and support against terrorist activities.
- **Orientation of Newly Inducted Troops:**
 - The induction of additional troops, such as the Assam Rifles, presents challenges in terms of orientation and acclimatisation to the region.
 - New troops must understand the area's dynamics, know the local population, and establish trust.
 - It is crucial that these troops work in conjunction with existing units rather than independently, allowing them to leverage local knowledge and resources.



Lessons from Operation Dudhi

- **Historical Context**
 - The Assam Rifles have previously been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir, notably during **Operation Dudhi in May 1991**. This operation, conducted under the leadership of the commanding officer of the 7 Assam Rifles, was a **significant success and highlighted the importance of allowing units to operate as cohesive entities**.
- **Command and Control**
 - Operation Dudhi demonstrated the **effectiveness of trusting commanding officers to lead operations without excessive external control**.
 - Recent trends of increased control beyond the battalion level can disrupt the seamless execution of operations and should be minimised to maintain operational efficacy.

Conclusion:

The current security situation in the Jammu region requires a strategic and well-coordinated approach to counter-terrorism operations. The deployment of additional troops should be integrated into the existing command structure to ensure a cohesive response. Long-term success depends on building strong relationships with the local population and maintaining a consistent presence to counteract terrorist threats. Security forces must focus on sustainable strategies rather than expecting immediate results to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

8. Court shifts the tide on stray dog policy

Source: The Hindu

Context: The recent Supreme Court ruling on the **Animal Welfare Board of India & Anr versus People for Elimination of Stray Troubles & Ors** case, commonly referred to as the **All India Stray Dogs case** or **AWBI vs PEST**, marks a significant development in the ongoing debate surrounding the management of stray dogs in India.

Background:

- The case, which has been in the judicial system for 15 years, revolved around whether municipal and local authorities in India have the discretion to kill stray dogs to address issues such as **overpopulation, rabies control, and human-animal conflict**.
- The **legal battle highlighted a conflict between state and municipal laws**, which allowed culling, and central laws, specifically the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**, and the **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2001**, which advocate for sterilisation as a humane method of controlling stray dog populations.

Legal Precedents:

- Prior to the Supreme Court's decision, several High Courts had issued conflicting judgments regarding the authority of local bodies to cull stray dogs.
- The Bombay, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh High Courts ruled that local authorities could exercise discretion in culling, while the Kerala High Court ruled against such powers, emphasising adherence to central laws prohibiting cruelty to animals.
- The Supreme Court's judgement resolves this legal ambiguity by reiterating the central government's legislative framework, which prohibits the indiscriminate killing of stray dogs and mandates sterilisation as the primary method for population control.



Supreme Court Judgment

- **Key Rulings**

- **Prohibition of Indiscriminate Culling:** Under no circumstances should there be indiscriminate killings of stray dogs. There is a need for authorities to act in accordance with existing legislation that prioritises humane treatment.
- **Recognition of Central Laws:** Supremacy of the PCA Act, 1960, and the ABC Rules, 2023, which mandate sterilisation as the scientific and humane solution to managing stray dog populations.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution, which enshrines the duty of every citizen to protect the natural environment and show compassion towards all living creatures. The court emphasised that compassion is a fundamental constitutional value that authorities must uphold.

Implications:

- **Reinforcement of Humane Treatment:** The judgement strengthens the legal framework for humane treatment of animals, aligning with global best practices advocated by organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Promotion of Scientific Methods:** By mandating sterilisation, the court supports a scientific approach to population control, which is effective in reducing stray dog numbers without resorting to cruelty.
- **Legal Clarity:** The ruling provides legal clarity for local authorities, ensuring they operate within the framework of central laws that prioritise animal welfare.

Challenges and Considerations

- **Implementation Challenges:**
 - **Resource Allocation:** Effective implementation of sterilisation programs requires adequate resources, including funding, infrastructure, and trained personnel.
 - **Public Awareness:** Raising public awareness about the benefits of sterilisation and humane treatment is crucial for garnering support and cooperation from local communities.
- **Addressing Concerns**
 - **Human-Animal Conflict:** While the ruling emphasises humane treatment, it also necessitates measures to address concerns related to human-animal conflict, such as promoting responsible pet ownership and implementing rabies vaccination programs.
 - **Monitoring and Accountability:** Ensuring effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms will be essential to ensure compliance with the court's directives and prevent unauthorised culling.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's judgement in the AWBI vs PEST case represents a significant step forward in promoting the humane treatment of stray dogs in India. By reinforcing the legal framework that prioritises sterilisation and aligns with constitutional values of compassion, the ruling sets a precedent for adopting scientific methods in animal welfare. As India navigates the challenges of implementing this approach, the judgement underscores the importance of balancing human concerns with the ethical treatment of animals, fostering a society that upholds both scientific temper and compassion.



In Brief

9. Villagers cautioned as water level increases in Krishna river

Source: The Hindu

Context: With the flood water level rising in the Krishna river, the police cautioned the people living in the upstream and downstream areas in NTR and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna River:

- **Origin:** The Krishna River originates from Mahabaleshwar in the Satara district of Maharashtra at an altitude of 1,336 metres.
- **Length:** The total length of the river is approximately 1,400 kilometres, flowing eastward into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Geographical Boundaries:** It is bounded by the Balaghat Range to the north, the Eastern Ghats to the south and east, and the Western Ghats to the west.
- **Ecological Impact:** The Krishna River is known for causing significant soil erosion during the monsoon season due to heavy rainfall.
- **Delta Formation:** It forms a large delta with a shoreline of about 120 kilometres on the east coast of India.
- **Agricultural Significance:** About 75.86% of the Krishna River basin is covered with agricultural land.
- **Major Dams and Barrages:** Significant dams and barrages on the Krishna River include Almatti Dam, Srisailem Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, and Prakasam Barrage.
- **Flow Fluctuations:** The river experiences great flow fluctuations due to its dependence on seasonal monsoon rains, affecting its irrigation potential.
- **Urban and Tourist Centers:** Important cities and tourist centres along the Krishna River include Satara, Karad, Sangli, Bagalkot, Srisailem, Amaravati, and Vijayawada.
- **Tributaries:** Major tributaries of the Krishna River include the Bhima, Tungabhadra, Ghataprabha, and Malaprabha rivers.



10. BSF stops entry of around 120 people from Bangladesh

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Border Security Force (BSF) stopped around 120 Bangladeshi nationals, including women and children, from entering India at two locations along the border in north Bengal.

Border Security Force(BSF):

- **Establishment:** Formed in 1965 after the India-Pakistan war.
- **Role:** Defends India's borders, primarily along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, including the Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and Line of Control (LoC).
- **Strength:** Over 200,000 personnel.
- **Control:** Operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Responsibilities:

- **Border Security:** Manages security along the borders including Sir Creek and Sundarbans Delta.
- **Coordination:** Works closely with local police for raids and arrests.
- **First Line of Defence:** Handles illegal migration and cross-border crimes.
- **Integrated Border Management System:** Enhances capability in detecting illegal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, and terrorism.
- **Internal Security:** Also deployed for counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.
- **Legal Powers:** Authorised under various laws (Indian Passport Act, Customs Act, Arms Act, NPSD Act, CrPC) to arrest, search, and seize in border areas.
- **Information Gathering:** Not only apprehends offenders but also collects information to neutralize criminal networks.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following statements is correct regarding weight management in Olympic wrestling?

1. Wrestlers can compete in any weight category regardless of their weight at the time of weigh-in.
2. If a wrestler fails to meet the weight requirement during the official weigh-in, they are disqualified from the competition.
3. The United World Wrestling (UWW) allows for post-weigh-in appeals to adjust weight categories.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar introduced by the Indian government:

1. The Vigyan Ratna category of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is awarded for lifetime achievements and significant contributions in any field of science and technology.
2. The Vigyan Shri category recognizes distinguished contributions only in the fields of physics and chemistry.
3. The Vigyan Team Award is given to teams of three or more scientists or researchers for exceptional contributions made while working collaboratively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which of the following statements about the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and its judicial review by the Supreme Court is/are correct?

1. The PMLA amendments allow the Enforcement Directorate to arrest and search individuals without prior judicial approval.
2. The Supreme Court upheld the PMLA's "twin conditions" for bail, requiring the accused to prove their innocence.
3. The burden of proof under the PMLA lies entirely with the prosecution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding BIMSTEC:

1. BIMSTEC is a regional organisation comprising eight member countries from South and Southeast Asia.
2. The primary objective of BIMSTEC is to promote regional cooperation and economic integration among its member states.
3. The BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations have been progressing smoothly in recent years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Q5. With reference to the Supreme Court's ruling in the Animal Welfare Board of India & Anr vs People for Elimination of Stray Troubles & Ors case, consider the following statements:

1. The ruling allows municipal authorities to cull stray dogs to control their population.
2. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, mandates sterilisation as the primary method for managing stray dog populations.
3. Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution emphasises compassion for living creatures as a fundamental duty of citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. With reference to counter-terrorism strategies in the Jammu region, consider the following statements:

1. The recent induction of additional troops, including the Assam Rifles, aims to strengthen the counter-terrorism grid in the region.
2. Operation Dudhi is an example of a successful counter-terrorism operation conducted by the Assam Rifles in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. The deployment grid in the Jammu region focuses primarily on numerical strength rather than strategic positioning.

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Krishna River:

1. The Krishna River forms a large delta on the east coast of India.
2. It is the largest west-flowing river of the Peninsula.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Kali River:

1. The Kali River flows entirely within the state of Karnataka.
2. It is a major east-flowing river of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q9. The Border Security Force (BSF) was established to:

- A. Conduct military operations against neighbouring countries.
- B. Manage internal security operations across India.
- C. Defend India's international borders and handle cross-border crimes.
- D. Oversee domestic law enforcement agencies.

Q10. Question: Consider the following statements regarding Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax in India:

1. The LTCG tax rate is uniform for all types of assets, including real estate and financial securities.
2. As of the recent government decision, taxpayers can choose between a 12.5% LTCG tax rate and a 20% LTCG tax rate with indexation benefits for properties purchased before July 23, 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only statement 2 is correct.
- C. Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- D. Neither statement 1 nor statement 2 is correct.



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Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Wrestlers must meet specific weight requirements to compete in designated weight categories.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Wrestlers failing to meet the weight requirement during the official weigh-in are disqualified, as per UWW regulations.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The UWW does not allow for post-weigh-in appeals to adjust weight categories, emphasising strict adherence to initial weigh-in results.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Vigyan Ratna category is indeed awarded for lifetime achievements and significant contributions in a specific field of science and technology.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Vigyan Shri category recognizes distinguished contributions in a wide range of fields, including physics, chemistry, mathematics, atomic energy, biological sciences, and earth sciences, not just physics and chemistry.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Vigyan Team Award is given to teams of three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators who have made exceptional contributions while working collaboratively.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The PMLA amendments allow the ED to arrest and search without prior judicial approval, as upheld by the Supreme Court.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Supreme Court upheld the "twin conditions" for bail, requiring the accused to prove their innocence.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The burden of proof under the PMLA has been shifted to the accused, contrary to the general principle where it lies with the prosecution.

4. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** BIMSTEC comprises seven member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The primary objective of BIMSTEC is to promote regional cooperation and economic integration among its member states.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** BIMSTEC FTA negotiations have stalled and not seen much progress in recent years.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The ruling prohibits indiscriminate culling of stray dogs and emphasises sterilisation as the humane method for population control.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, mandates sterilisation as the primary method for managing stray dog populations.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution emphasises compassion for living creatures as a fundamental duty of citizens.



6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Additional troops, including the Assam Rifles, have been deployed to strengthen the counter-terrorism grid in the Jammu region.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Operation Dudhi, conducted by the Assam Rifles in May 1991, is an example of a successful counter-terrorism operation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The deployment grid focuses on strategic positioning and dominating vulnerable areas, not just numerical strength.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Krishna River forms a large delta on the east coast of India, with a shoreline of approximately 120 kilometres.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Krishna River is the second-largest east-flowing river of the Peninsula, not west-flowing. The largest west-flowing river is the Narmada.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Kali River flows entirely within the state of Karnataka.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Kali River is not an east-flowing river; it flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea.

9. Correct Answer is C

Explanation: The Border Security Force (BSF) was established in 1965, primarily to safeguard India's international borders. Its main role is to manage border security along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, including the Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, and the Line of Control (LoC). The BSF is tasked with preventing illegal migration, smuggling, human trafficking, and other cross-border crimes. While it also participates in internal security operations, such as counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency, its foundational purpose is to defend India's borders and address cross-border crimes.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because the LTCG tax rate varies depending on the asset class, with specific provisions for different types of assets, such as real estate and financial securities.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, reflecting the recent government decision that allows taxpayers to choose between a 12.5% LTCG tax rate and a 20% LTCG tax rate with indexation benefits for properties purchased before July 23, 2024.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Analyse the challenges and strategies involved in strengthening the counter-terrorism grid in the Jammu region. Discuss the role of local knowledge and community engagement in enhancing the effectiveness of counter-terrorism operations.

Q2. Discuss the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling in the AWBI vs PEST case for the management of stray dogs in India. What are the implications of this judgement for animal welfare and the implementation challenges faced by local authorities?





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