



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11 July 2024



SOURCES



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GS I

1. Over 33% of flood deaths in 8.82% area of Assam

Source: The Hindu

Context: Recently, floods in Assam have resulted in over 50 deaths, displacing 360,000 people. More than 40,000 hectares of crops and 130 wild animals have been affected by flooding.

What is Flood?

Floods are the most frequent type of natural disaster and occur when an overflow of water submerges land that is usually dry.

Between 1998-2017, 2 Billion people have been affected worldwide due to floods.

Causes: These are often caused by heavy rainfall, rapid snowmelt or a storm surge from a tropical cyclone or tsunami in coastal areas.



Types of Floods:

- **Flash Floods:** These are caused by rapid and excessive rainfall that raises water heights quickly, and rivers, streams, channels or roads may be overtaken.
- **River Floods:** These are caused when consistent rain or snow melt forces a river to exceed capacity.
- **Coastal Floods:** These are caused by storm surges associated with tropical cyclones and tsunamis.
- **State of Flood in India:** India has a total geographical area of 329 million hectares, out of which more than 40 million hectares are flood-prone.
-

Causes of Regular Floods in Assam:

1. **A large Number of Rivers:**
 - Assam has more than 120 rivers, several of which originate from the hills and mountains of extreme rainfall hotspots in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya as well as in China and Bhutan.
 - The Brahmaputra river, flowing through Assam, accumulates significant sediment as it reaches the lower elevation of Assam, slowing down and depositing sediment and debris.
2. **The Monsoon:**
 - The monsoon is intense in the Northeast. According to the State Disaster Management Authority, annual rainfall averages around 2900 mm with maximum precipitation in June and July.
 - As per data from Assam government, 85% of the annual rainfall in the Brahmaputra basin takes place during the monsoon months.
 - It also gets a good amount of rainfall in April and May due to thunderstorm (Kalbaisakhi) activities which account for flooding during heavy rain in June.



3. Climate Change:

- The melting of glaciers and snow caps in the Tibetan Plateau due to global warming and climate change is causing increased water flow in the Brahmaputra River, impacting downstream regions like Assam with more frequent flooding.

4. Human Intervention such as construction of Embankments:

- Construction of embankments first started in Assam in the 1960s to control floods. However, six decades later, most of these embankments have either outlived their utility or are in bad condition.

5. Population Boom:

- The population density of Brahmaputra valley has increased from 9-29 people per sq. km. in 1940-41 to 398 per sq. km in the plain areas of Assam as per the 2011 census, according to a report by the Brahmaputra Board.
- This has led to human settlements in river basin areas becoming more vulnerable to floods.



GS II

2. Caste discrimination in prisons must end, says CJI

Source: The Hindu

Context: The PIL exposes instances from Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu jails where cooking is allocated to dominant castes, while "specific lower castes" are assigned menial jobs such as sweeping and cleaning toilets.

Prison

The Prison system in India is alleged to perpetuate discriminatory practices, including the division of labor based on caste hierarchy and the caste-based segregation of barracks.

Caste-based labor distribution is deemed a relic of colonial India and is considered humiliating and unhealthy, violating the prisoners' right to life with dignity.

What are the Supreme Court's Observations on Caste Discrimination in Prisons?

- Three-judge Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, finds that prison manuals in over 10 states support caste-based discrimination and forced labour.
- States include Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu.
- Caste-based discrimination, segregation, and treatment of denotified tribes as "habitual offenders" within prisons are deemed a "very important issue" by the SC.
- SC emphasised the need for prompt and comprehensive addressing of alleged discriminatory practices.

How do the Laws Allow Caste Discrimination Inside Indian Jails?

Legacy of Colonial Policies:

- India's criminal justice system, rooted in colonial legacy, primarily focuses on punishment rather than reformation or rehabilitation.
- The 'Prisons Act of 1894,' dating back almost 130 years, underscores the outdated nature of the legal framework.
- The Act lacks provisions for the reform and rehabilitation of prisoners
- Recognizing the deficiencies in existing laws, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reviewed 'The Prisons Act, 1894,' 'The Prisoners Act, 1900,' and 'The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950.'
- This review led to the assimilation of relevant provisions into the forward-looking 'Model Prisons Act, 2023.'

Way Forward:

- The states should adopt the Model Prison Manual of 2016 released by the Ministry of Home Affairs based on the Nelson Mandela Rules in 2015.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Nelson Mandela Rules in 2015, emphasising dignity and non-discrimination for all prisoners.



- Courts should consider judicial intervention to strike down discriminatory provisions, ensuring the protection of fundamental rights and promoting equality within the prison system.

3. The case for a caste Census

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Census Act, of 1948 should be amended to make enumeration by caste mandatory, instead of leaving it to the whims of the Union executive. Such data can be collected as part of the regular Census, with a few pertinent queries added to the questionnaire.

Who conducts the Census?

- Post-1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- All the censuses since 1951 were conducted under the 1948 Census of India Act.
- Census 2011: The latest one
- Census 2011 was the 15th National Census of the country since 1872 and the 7th after Independence.
- This census was conducted in two phases which are as follows:
 - House Listing or Housing Census
 - Population Enumeration

Census in Ancient and Medieval India

- The earliest literature 'Rig-Veda' reveals that some kind of population count was maintained during 800-600 BC in India.
- The celebrated 'Arthashastra' by 'Kautilya' written in the 3rd Century BC prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for taxation.
- It contained a detailed description of methods for conducting population, economic, and agricultural censuses.
- During the regime of the Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report 'Ain-e-Akbari' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth, and many other characteristics.

Census in Modern Times

- The first complete census of India was conducted in 1830 by Henry Walter in Dacca (now Dhaka) part of India at that time. In this census, the statistics of the population with sex, broad age group, and the houses with their amenities were collected.
- The Second Census was conducted in 1836-37 by Fort St. George (according to the government website of Census India.)

The 2021 Census: What's new?

- For the first time the data will be collected digitally via mobile applications.
- There will be a provision of working in offline mode.



- The Census 2021 will be conducted in 18 languages out of the 22 scheduled languages (under 8th schedule) and English, while Census 2011 was in 16 of the 22 scheduled languages declared at that time.
- It also will introduce a code directory to streamline the process
- The option of “Other” under the gender category will be changed to “Third Gender”.
- There were roughly 5 lakh people under the "other" category in 2011.
- For the first time in the 140 year history of census in India, data is proposed to be collected through a mobile app by enumerators and they will receive an additional payment as an incentive.
- The Census data would be available by the year 2024-25 as the entire process would be conducted digitally and data crunching would be quicker.
- Data from the Census 2011 is still being released. E.g.: The dataset on migration was published recently.

Issue of Caste Data Collection

- Earlier in 2018, the Ministry of Home Affairs had declared that the Other Backward Class (OBC) category would be included in the Census 2021.
- However, the Registrar-General of India (RGI) has said that only SC/ST will be included as the unreliable nature of caste data collection decreases the credibility of the results. E.g.: A person belonging to the Yadav caste writes Yadu, Yaduvanshi, etc. in the form; there is no standardisation. People sometimes even confuse caste with gotra.
- The 2011 caste data, collected as part of the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC), is yet to be released by the Centre.

4. Centre cancels FCRA registration of NGO Centre for Financial Accountability that works on environment, human rights

Source: The Hindu

Context: In a recent report, Centre for Financial Accountability had highlighted how projects sanctioned in a Special Economic Zone operated by Adani Group in Kutch region of Gujarat will compound environmental hazards and increase health risks for people

About FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) :

- **Purpose:** FCRA stands for Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, which is a law enacted by the Parliament of India to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions by individuals, associations, and companies.
- **Prohibition:** The Act prohibits the receipt of foreign contributions "for any activities detrimental to the national interest".
- **Registration:** Organisations require the government's permission to receive funding from abroad.



- **Implementation:** The Act is implemented in convergence with various Union government Ministries and agencies, State authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals.
- **Amendments:** The Act has been amended over time, with the latest amendment being the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020. The Bill makes the following changes to the Act:
- **Public servants and foreign donations:** Public servants are prohibited from accepting foreign donations.
- **Restriction on donation transfer:** Foreign donations cannot be transferred to any other person, regardless of their registration status under the Act.
- **Identity proof requirement:** Aadhaar number, passport copy, or Overseas Citizen of India card must be provided as identity proof by those seeking permission, registration, or renewal of registration to accept foreign donations.
- **FCRA account:** Foreign donations can only be received in an “FCRA account” in a specified branch of the State Bank of India in New Delhi.
- **Unutilised foreign donations:** The government can halt the use of unutilised foreign donations if the Act is violated.
- **Registration certificate renewal:** Every person with a registration certificate must renew it within six months before it expires.
- **Administrative expense limit:** The limit for using foreign donations for administrative purposes has been reduced from 50% to 20%.
- **Voluntary surrender of registration certificate:** The central government can allow a person to surrender their registration certificate.
- **Suspension period:** The government can suspend the registration of a person for up to 360 days, instead of 180 days.
- **Penalties:** The Act provides for penalties for making false statements, delivering false accounts, and for contravention of any provision of the Act.



GS III

5. Apple alerts users of being targeted by Pegasus-like spyware

Source: TheHindu

Context: At least two persons in India on Wednesday reported receiving a Pegasus-like alert from Apple on their iPhones. The alerts, sent out on Tuesday night, warned them that they had been targeted by a “mercenary” attack.

Pegasus Spyware:



- Pegasus spyware is a highly invasive mobile surveillance tool that can secretly infiltrate and monitor smartphones, collecting data and information from various apps and sources.
- It was developed by the Israeli cyber-intelligence firm NSO Group, which claims to sell it only to government agencies for fighting crime and terrorism.

Operating Procedure:

- Pegasus uses “zero-click” methods to infect devices; it is a malicious software that allows spyware to be installed on a device without the device owner’s consent.
- The spyware doesn't necessitate any user actions for installation, distinguishing it from regular apps that require explicit user confirmation.
- It can exploit vulnerabilities in apps such as WhatsApp, iMessage, or FaceTime, and send a message or a call that triggers the installation of the spyware, even if the user does not open or answer it.
- Pegasus is a spyware that can exploit zero-day vulnerabilities to deploy spyware on Apple products.
- A zero-day vulnerability is an undiscovered flaw or bug in an operating system that the mobile phone’s manufacturer does not yet know about and so has not been able to fix.

Targets:

- Several investigations and reports have revealed that Pegasus spyware has been used to spy on journalists, human rights activists, lawyers, opposition leaders, and heads of state.
- Some of the countries that have been accused of using Pegasus spyware to target their critics and enemies include Saudi Arabia, Mexico, India, Morocco, Hungary, Azerbaijan, and Rwanda.

Implications:

- Pegasus spyware threatens privacy and security for individuals and groups exposing corruption, defending human rights, and advocating democracy.
- It undermines press freedom by exposing journalists' sources, methods, and materials, compromising their independence.
- The spyware poses a risk to the sovereignty and stability of nations, enabling foreign interference and espionage in internal affairs and decision-making processes.

Challenges:

- Pegasus spyware is difficult to detect and remove, as it can hide its presence and activity on the device, and can self-destruct if it senses that it is being discovered or analysed.
- Pegasus spyware is difficult to regulate and control due to its operation in legal grey areas.
- NSO Group and its clients commonly deny or evade responsibility for the misuse and abuse of spyware.



6. Why is India drilling a 6-km deep hole in Maharashtra?

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, is a specialised institute mandated to execute India's scientific deep-drilling programme. Under BGRL, the aim is to drill the earth's crust and conduct scientific observations to help expand our understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the Koyna-Warna region.

What is scientific deep drilling?

- Scientific deep-drilling is the enterprise of strategically digging boreholes to analyse deeper parts of the earth's crust.
- It offers opportunities and access to study earthquakes and expands our understanding of the planet's history, rock types, energy resources, life forms, climate change patterns, and more.
- The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, is a specialised institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences mandated to execute India's sole scientific deep-drilling programme.
- Under BGRL, the aim is to drill the earth's crust to a depth of 6 km and conduct studies to help expand the understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the Koyna-Warna region of Maharashtra.
- This region has been experiencing frequent earthquakes since the Shivaji Sagar Lake, or the Koyna Dam, was impounded in 1962.

Benefits of a deep-drilling mission:

- Earthquakes are challenging to study. Surface-level observations can't make complete sense of them. The recurrent earthquakes in Koyna are synchronous with the dam's loading and unloading during the monsoon and post-monsoon periods, offering an opportunity to widen our understanding of earthquakes.
- However, making observations inside the earth is a different ball game. Scientifically drilled boreholes can be a hub of direct, unique in situ experiments and observations and monitor a region's fault lines and seismic behaviour.
- They also provide exact and fundamental knowledge of the composition of the earth's crust, structure, and processes, and help validate models based on surface studies.
- Thus, it can inform a range of societal problems related to geohazards and geo-resources. Investing in scientific deep-drilling can also help expand scientific know-how and technological innovation, especially in seismology (the study of earthquakes).
- It can also spur the development of tools and equipment for drilling, observation, data analysis, sensors, etc.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

7. A case of people versus population

Source: The Hindu

Context: July 11 has been observed as World Population Day since 1989 after the global population crossed the five billion mark. The population is now estimated to be 8.1 billion, with India as the most populous nation (1.44 billion), which is slightly more than China's.

Changes in India:

Some of the major socio-economic changes in India over 27 years:

- **First**, the population has grown 44% from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate of the population has fallen sharply — from nearly 2% to below 1%.
- **Second**, the per capita GDP of Indians grew six times, from \$400 to \$2,400. The average lifespan of an Indian has increased from 61 years to 70 years.
- **Third**, Indians living below the multi-dimensional poverty line decreased from 43% to 11%.
- Just four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh (5.4 crore out of 23.6 crore), Bihar (4.2 crore out of 12.7 crore), Madhya Pradesh (2.52 crore out of 8.7 crore) and Jharkhand (1.1 crore out of 4 crore) account for 83% of the national total of people below the poverty line, while accounting for only 34 % of India's total population.
- How to address this persisting disparity in socio-economic growth and poverty reduction among Indian States is among the top priorities of the central and State governments and beyond the scope of this article.

Impact of climate change:

- Far more serious issue facing the people of India is the adverse effects of climate change which do not recognise national boundaries. This is where the population versus people dichotomy becomes apparent.
- India, with a per capita GDP of \$2,400 and a population of 1.44 billion, produces and consumes just \$3.5 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. Major cause of global warming over the past few decades, resulting in unpredictable weather changes. In turn this has adversely affected the poor in developing nations more severely than people in developed nations with much better housing and civic infrastructure.
- With 11% of its people still below the poverty line, India will continue to accord priority to economic growth over climate change mitigation measures, and rightly so.

Global South and growth:

- India is looked upon by the nations of the Global South in their efforts to maintain economic growth in their respective nations as the first priority, followed by measures to achieve net zero.
- India has fixed the year 2070 to achieve this, compared to the European Union's target of reaching net zero by 2050. But India would strive for zero poverty within the next decade.
- The next few decades will see developing nations focusing on eradicating persistent poverty among their people rather than responding to population growth doomsday.



8. India's demographic journey of hits and misses

Source: **The Hindu**

Context: As we observe World Population Day on July 11, there is much to look at in India's demographic journey over the decades.

India's population dynamics

- Three components, namely fertility, mortality, and migration, play a pivotal role in shaping India's demographic landscape. India has made significant strides in reducing its fertility.
- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, India's total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 3.4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021, dropping below the replacement level of 2.1.
- There has been a significant drop in the mortality rate as well. The average life expectancy of Indians has also increased over time.
- The reduction in fertility signifies a transition toward smaller family norms. This can reduce the proportion of the dependent population and result in a demographic dividend — a period where the working-age population is larger than the dependent population.
- India can harness the potential of its young workforce by creating employment. The decline in mortality and increase in life expectancy are reflections of a robust health-care system and increased living standards.

The country's SDG journey:

- 'Development' in the simplest way means ensuring the basic requirements of food, shelter and health for all. 'No Poverty, Zero Hunger and Good Health' are the three most important SDGs which form the core of 'development'.
- India's journey from the brink of a demographic disaster to striving towards the 2030 goal of 'leaving no one behind' has seen a couple of hits and misses. India made great leaps towards the goal of eradicating poverty. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line reduced from 48% to 10% between 1990 and 2019.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) that came into effect in 2006 played a critical role in addressing rural poverty. The Janani Suraksha Yojana of 2005 — it provides cash benefits to pregnant women — not only accentuated institutional deliveries but also saved poor families from hefty health expenditures.

What needs looking into:

- For India to achieve the SDGs, the changing population dynamics has to be acknowledged while forming policies.
- India needs to address income inequality, harness its demographic dividend by creating job opportunities for the youth of India and address changing health needs.



In Brief

9. ED summons YouTuber in money laundering case

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav on July 23 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the suspected use of snake venom as a recreational drug in parties hosted by him.

Enforcement Directorate

Agency Background:

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a specialised financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Legal Mandate:

- ED primarily enforces the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which targets money laundering activities and deals with proceeds of crime.

Jurisdiction:

- It investigates financial crimes with an international dimension and those involving a threshold limit of financial transactions.

Functions:

- **Money Laundering:** Investigates cases related to money laundering and conducts inquiries under the PMLA.
- **FEMA Enforcement:** Enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to regulate foreign exchange transactions and external trade.
- **Adjudication:** Conducts adjudication proceedings to impose penalties and confiscate proceeds of crime.
- **Asset Forfeiture:** Seized and confiscated properties derived from criminal activities.

International Cooperation:

- ED collaborates with international agencies and financial intelligence units to combat cross-border financial crimes and facilitate information exchange.



10. CBI chargesheets former Kerala Police, IB officials in ISRO espionage case

Source: The Hindu

Context: The espionage case had stirred a political storm in Kerala in 1994; according to the chargesheet, ex-police officer Vijayan has been booked for assault and use of criminal force against a woman.

Establishment and Structure:

- The CBI was established in 1941 as the Special Police Establishment (SPE) and was renamed the Central Bureau of Investigation in 1963.
- It operates under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India.

Jurisdiction:

- The CBI investigates a wide range of cases, including corruption, economic offences, special crimes, cases of significant public interest, and cases referred by the central government or courts.

Powers and Functions:

- **Crime Investigation:** Conducts investigations into cases where inter-state ramifications or international implications are suspected.
- **Corruption Cases:** Probes corruption cases against public servants at the central level and other cases of significant public interest.
- **Special Crimes:** Investigates cases like terrorism, cybercrime, organised crime, and cases affecting national security.
- **Legal Advisory:** Provides expertise in legal matters and assists law enforcement agencies in matters of crime detection, prevention, and investigation.

Structure:

- The CBI is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the Government of India and is assisted by additional directors, joint directors, and other officers.

Autonomy and Accountability:

- The CBI is expected to function with autonomy in its investigative functions while being accountable to the government and the judiciary.

Daily Quiz

1. Which of the following factors contributes to flash floods?

A) Sudden release of water from a dam or reservoir

B) Prolonged heavy rainfall over a large area

C) Rapid snowmelt in mountainous regions

D) Coastal storm surge during a cyclone



2. Which committee is responsible for formulating model prison rules in India?

- A) Justice Verma Committee
- B) Justice Krishna Iyer Committee
- C) Justice Malimath Committee
- D) Justice Mukherjee Committee

3. What is the primary objective of conducting a caste census in India?

- A) To determine the distribution of different castes in rural and urban areas
- B) To gather data for the equitable distribution of resources and benefits
- C) To promote social justice and equality
- D) To enforce reservation policies effectively

4. What does FCRA stand for?

- A) Foreign Corporate Registration Act
- B) Foreign Contribution Regulation Act
- C) Foreign Currency Regulation Act
- D) Foreign Company Restriction Act

5. Pegasus spyware is alleged to have been used by governments to:

- A) Combat cyberterrorism
- B) Monitor criminal activities online
- C) Target dissidents and journalists
- D) Implement secure communication networks

6. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is responsible for:

- A) Regulating environmental policies in India
- B) Investigating economic offenses and enforcing economic laws
- C) Monitoring international trade agreements
- D) Managing disaster relief funds

7. Consider the following:

Statement: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's premier investigative agency.

Reasoning: The CBI is entrusted with investigating major criminal cases, including those related to corruption, economic offences, and special crimes. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

Options:

- A) Both the statement and the reasoning are correct and related.
- B) The statement is correct, but the reasoning is incorrect.
- C) The statement is incorrect, but the reasoning is correct.
- D) Both the statement and reasoning are incorrect.

8. Consider the following statements:

Statement: Disaster management involves activities aimed at minimising the impact of natural or man-made disasters.



Question: Which of the following is NOT a phase of disaster management?

- A) Mitigation
- B) Preparedness
- C) Implementation
- D) Response

9. Consider the following statements:

Statement: Article 20 of the Indian Constitution provides protection against double jeopardy.

Question: Which of the following principles is NOT explicitly guaranteed under Article 20?

- A) Prohibition of ex post facto laws

B) Right against self-incrimination

C) Right to a fair and speedy trial

D) Prohibition of retrospective criminal laws

10. Question: Which statement about ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is correct?

A) ISRO was established in 1972.

B) The headquarters of ISRO is located in Bengaluru.

C) ISRO's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched in 1981.

D) ISRO operates under the Ministry of Science and Technology.



Solutions

1. Correct Answer: (A) Sudden release of water from a dam or reservoir

Explanation: Flash floods are characterised by rapid onset and usually occur within a few hours of intense rainfall or other events that cause a sudden release of water. While options B, C, and D can also contribute to flooding, they typically refer to different types of flooding scenarios: prolonged heavy rainfall can cause riverine flooding, rapid snowmelt can lead to snowmelt floods, and storm surges occur along coastlines during cyclones. However, option A specifically relates to the sudden onset and intensity typical of flash floods.

2. Correct Answer: (B) Justice Krishna Iyer Committee

Explanation: The Justice Krishna Iyer Committee, formed in 1980, was tasked with formulating model prison rules in India. These rules serve as guidelines for the management and administration of prisons across the country, ensuring humane treatment of prisoners and adherence to legal standards.

3. Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: To gather data for the equitable distribution of resources and benefits

4. Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

5. Correct Answer: (C)

Explanation: Target dissidents and journalists

6. Correct Answer: (B)

Explanation: Investigating economic offences and enforcing economic laws

7. Correct Answer: (A)

Explanation: Both the statement and the reasoning are correct and related.

Statement: The statement is factual. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is indeed India's premier investigative agency, established to investigate serious crimes and offences of national importance.

Reasoning: The reasoning provides additional information about the role and jurisdiction of the CBI. It correctly explains that the CBI investigates major criminal cases, including corruption and economic offences. It also correctly states that the CBI operates under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.

8. Correct Answer: (C) Implementation

Explanation: Disaster management typically involves four phases: mitigation (preventing or reducing the risk of disasters), preparedness (planning and training to respond effectively), response (immediate actions during and after a disaster), and recovery (restoring and rebuilding affected communities). "Implementation" is not considered a distinct phase but rather encompasses actions taken during all phases.

9. Correct Answer: (C) Right to a fair and speedy trial

Explanation:



Article 20 of the Indian Constitution provides protection to individuals against certain ex post facto laws and arbitrary actions by the state in criminal matters. It includes:

- Prohibition of ex post facto laws (making an act punishable that was not punishable when committed).
- Protection against double jeopardy (being tried and punished more than once for the same offence).
- Right against self-incrimination (not being compelled to be a witness against oneself).
- Prohibition of retrospective criminal laws (imposing a heavier penalty than what was applicable at the time of the offence). However, Article 20 does not explicitly guarantee the right to a fair and speedy trial. This principle is generally understood as part of the broader

framework of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, which includes the right to a fair trial.

10. Correct Answer: (B) The headquarters of ISRO is located in Bengaluru.

Explanation:

A) ISRO was actually established on August 15, 1969.

B) The headquarters of ISRO is indeed located in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

C) ISRO's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched on April 19, 1975.

D) ISRO operates under the Department of Space, which is part of the Government of India and not under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer as it accurately reflects a factual detail about ISRO.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

1. Discuss the significance and challenges associated with conducting a caste-based census in India. How can a comprehensive caste census contribute to effective policymaking and social justice in the country? Analyse with reference to relevant constitutional provisions and socio-political implications.
2. India's demographic profile has undergone significant transformations over the past decades. Discuss the key demographic trends, their implications for socio-economic development, and the policy imperatives for harnessing India's demographic dividend.





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