



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12 August 2024



SOURCES



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GS I

1. The Gotipua dancers who stumble from boyhood stardom to adulthood anonymity

Source: The Hindu

Context: Gotipua, a traditional dance form originating from Odisha in the 16th century, holds a unique place in India's cultural heritage. However, the form is facing significant challenges, including a decline in practitioners, economic hardships for performers, and evolving societal norms.

Historical Context:

- Gotipua dance is considered a **precursor to the classical Odissi dance**.
- **Emerged during the rise of Vaishnavism in Odisha, where dance by women was discouraged.**
- To overcome this restriction, **young boys were trained to perform in female attire**, representing divine figures or female characters in traditional rituals and ceremonies.
- The dance form was **historically supported by kings and zamindars**, who played a crucial role in sustaining the gurukuls (training centres) for Gotipua.

The Training and Transition:

- Becoming a Gotipua dancer involves a **rigorous training regimen that spans over 10 years**, requiring more than 20,000 hours of practice.
- The training starts as early as age five, **emphasising singing, dancing, yoga, and acrobatics.**
- These young dancers often sacrifice their education and family time, focusing solely on their art.
- By age 16, their transition into adulthood poses a significant challenge due to the physical changes that affect their performance capabilities.

Current Challenges:

- **Decline in Practitioners:** There has been a noticeable decline in the number of Gotipua dancers and gurukuls. While there were once 20 students per akhada, this number has dwindled to four or five. The **primary reasons include reduced interest among children and the economic burden on families.**
- **Economic Hardship:** After transitioning out of Gotipua, **many dancers find it difficult to secure stable employment due to limited educational qualifications.** The current daily wage for dancers involved in construction work is around ₹300, highlighting the stark contrast between their past acclaim and present struggles.
- **Cultural and Social Shifts:** The evolving societal norms and the exclusion of women from religious rituals have led to resistance against female participation in Gotipua. However, some women are beginning to take up the dance, leading to debates on whether this alters the traditional essence of Gotipua.
- **Government Support:** The Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MKSY) provides a **modest pension for artists**, but many Gotipua dancers must wait until their late 40s or early 50s to qualify. This delay leaves them vulnerable for decades without a reliable safety net.

Future Prospects:

Efforts to integrate Gotipua with Odissi dance could offer a viable path forward. By establishing Gotipua as a foundational course for Odissi, the transition from Gotipua to classical dance could be streamlined,



providing dancers with more career stability. Additionally, the **Cultural Troupe Management System** aims to assist dance groups with financial support for performances, which could alleviate some economic pressures.

Conclusion:

The Gotipua dance form represents a critical aspect of Odisha's cultural heritage. However, its survival depends on addressing the economic, social, and institutional challenges faced by its practitioners. By adapting and integrating traditional forms with modern needs, there is hope for preserving this unique art form while ensuring the well-being of its performers.

2. Prime Minister lauds wide range of community efforts to protect elephants

Source: PIB

Context: World Elephant Day, celebrated annually on August 12, serves as a global reminder of the need to protect and preserve one of Earth's most majestic creatures. Elephants, revered for their grandeur and intelligence, have been deeply intertwined with human culture and history for centuries.

Elephants in Indian Culture and History:

- In India, elephants are **more than just wildlife**; they are embedded in the cultural and historical tapestry of the nation.
- Symbolising strength, wisdom, and prosperity, elephants hold a sacred place in various religious and cultural contexts.
- The revered deity Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of wisdom and remover of obstacles, is a testament to their spiritual significance.
- Historically, elephants have played crucial roles in royal ceremonies, warfare, and as symbols of status and power in Indian kingdoms.
- The ancient art and literature of India often depict elephants, reflecting their importance in ceremonial and everyday life.
- From the grand processions of Maharajas to the intricate carvings in temples, elephants have been celebrated as symbols of both divine and earthly grandeur.

Conservation Challenges:

- Despite their revered status, elephants face significant threats to their survival. **Habitat loss due to deforestation, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching for ivory** are critical issues that endanger their populations.
- As human populations expand and encroach upon elephant habitats, conflicts arise, often resulting in the killing of elephants and destruction of their natural environments.
- The **illegal ivory trade continues to pose a severe threat**, with poachers targeting elephants for their tusks, which are highly valued in black markets.
- Moreover, **climate change exacerbates** these challenges by altering the availability of water and food resources, further stressing elephant populations.

Conservation Efforts and Progress: On World Elephant Day, it is imperative to recognize the concerted efforts being made to address these challenges. Conservation organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, are working tirelessly to protect elephants and their habitats.



Key initiatives include:

- **Protected Areas and Wildlife Corridors:** Establishing and expanding protected areas and wildlife corridors help safeguard elephant habitats and facilitate safe migration. These measures are crucial for maintaining healthy populations and reducing human-wildlife conflicts.
- **Anti-Poaching Measures:** Enhanced anti-poaching strategies, including surveillance technology and stricter law enforcement, are vital in curbing the illegal ivory trade. Collaboration with international bodies and local communities plays a significant role in these efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging local communities in conservation efforts is essential. Education programs that highlight the benefits of coexisting with elephants and the importance of their protection can foster a more harmonious relationship between humans and wildlife.
- **Research and Monitoring:** Ongoing research and monitoring of elephant populations help track their health, migration patterns, and the effectiveness of conservation strategies. This data is critical for adapting and refining conservation approaches.

Celebrating Progress and Reaffirming Commitments:

- The Prime Minister's acknowledgment of the increased elephant population over recent years is a testament to the effectiveness of these conservation efforts. However, **maintaining and enhancing this progress requires continued commitment from all sectors of society.**
- **World Elephant Day** is an opportunity to celebrate the strides made in elephant conservation and to reaffirm our dedication to protecting these magnificent animals. It is a **reminder of the interconnectedness of cultural heritage and wildlife conservation**, urging us to ensure that future generations inherit a world where elephants continue to thrive in their natural habitats.

Conclusion:

As we mark World Elephant Day, it is crucial to reflect on the cultural significance of elephants and the challenges they face. Through collective efforts and unwavering commitment, we can secure a future where elephants, revered symbols of strength and wisdom, continue to roam our landscapes and enrich our lives. The journey of elephant conservation is ongoing, and every step taken today paves the way for a brighter tomorrow for these extraordinary creatures.



GS II

3. Foreign Minister concludes three-day key visit to Maldives

Source: The Hindu

Context: Indian External Affairs Minister completed a key visit to the Maldives, the first high-level engagement since the President, who is seen as pro-China, took office in 2023. The visit highlights India's strategic interest in the Indian Ocean and its commitment to strengthening bilateral ties amid regional geopolitical changes.

Key Highlights:

- **Diplomatic Engagement:**
 - Visit was a **significant diplomatic move** aimed at **reaffirming India's commitment** to its **"Neighbourhood First"** policy and **Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.
 - The visit included **high-level meetings** with Maldivian President, Defence Minister, and other key officials.
 - The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral relations and addressing recent strains due to the new Maldivian government's pro-China stance.
- **Bilateral Cooperation:**
 - During the visit, the Minister extended greetings from the Prime Minister and highlighted India's ongoing development assistance to the Maldives.
 - A key outcome was the inauguration of an India-funded water and sewerage network project, demonstrating India's continued support for Maldivian infrastructure development.
- **Strengthening Ties:**
 - Both countries expressed a commitment to deepen their **multi-dimensional relationship**.
 - Discussions covered a range of bilateral issues, including **defence and security cooperation**. The **reaffirmation of mutual cooperation** in these areas is vital for maintaining regional stability and countering potential geopolitical shifts in the Indian Ocean.
- **Regional Significance:**
 - The Maldives, a critical maritime neighbour, plays a significant role in India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean region. The ongoing engagement is part of India's broader strategy to ensure regional stability and prosperity, amid rising global and regional challenges.

Conclusion:

Foreign Minister's visit to the Maldives highlights the strategic importance of the bilateral relationship and India's proactive role in fostering regional stability. Despite recent strains, both countries have shown a renewed commitment to strengthening ties and collaborating on key development and security issues.



4. NCERT removes cartoon on coalition politics, says it cast 'India in negative light'

Source: The Hindu

Context: The recent decision by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to remove a political cartoon from the Class 12 textbook "Politics in India since Independence" has sparked considerable debate.

Content of the Removed Cartoon:

- The removed cartoon depicted a series of Indian Prime Ministers from the period of 1990 to 1998, showcasing their respective coalition governments and raising questions about their stability.
- It illustrated the challenges and uncertainties of coalition politics in India, portraying leaders like V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda, I.K. Gujral, and A.B. Vajpayee in a context of political instability and survival.
- This depiction was intended to offer students a visual representation of the political landscape during a significant phase of Indian history.

Reasons for Removal:

- NCERT justified the removal of the cartoon by stating that it portrayed India in a negative light.
- The educational body replaced the cartoon with a dialogue between two fictional students discussing coalition politics and its implications.
- This change reflects an attempt to present a more neutral and balanced view of the political scenario, focusing on the conceptual understanding of coalition dynamics rather than specific political critiques.

Implications for Educational Content:

- **Objective Representation vs. Perceived Bias:**
 - The removal raises questions about the balance between objective representation of historical and political realities and the perceived biases that might arise from such representations.
 - The cartoon, by emphasising the instability of coalition governments, could be seen as reflecting a critical view of a specific political era.
 - The replacement with a dialogue aims to encourage critical thinking without focusing on any particular political critique.
- **Impact on Student Understanding:**
 - Educational content plays a crucial role in shaping students' understanding of political systems and governance.
 - By removing the cartoon, there is a risk of sanitising the historical narrative and potentially hindering a comprehensive understanding of coalition politics.
 - The new content, while designed to provoke thought, may lack the historical specificity that helps students grasp the complexities of Indian political history.
- **Freedom of Expression and Historical Integrity:**
 - The decision to remove the cartoon can be viewed as part of a broader debate on freedom of expression in educational materials.



- It raises concerns about whether such actions may compromise the integrity of historical and political education by prioritising a politically neutral stance over a more nuanced portrayal of historical events.
- **Role of Cartoons in Education:**
 - Cartoons and illustrations often serve as powerful educational tools by simplifying complex issues and engaging students in critical discussions.
 - The removal of the cartoon may diminish the use of visual aids in teaching, which can be crucial in making political concepts more accessible and relatable.

Conclusion:

The NCERT's removal of the political cartoon from the Class 12 textbook signifies a shift towards a more neutral presentation of political content in education. While the intent to avoid portraying India negatively is understandable, it is essential to ensure that such changes do not dilute the educational value or the critical engagement of students with historical and political realities. A balanced approach that preserves historical integrity while fostering critical thinking would be ideal. As India continues to evolve politically, educational content must reflect these changes in a way that supports a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the country's democratic and political landscape.



GS III

5. What is the Google 'monopoly' antitrust case and how does it affect consumers?

Source: The Hindu

Context: The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, under Judge Amit Mehta, ruled against Google for monopolistic practices in web search and advertising, violating Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

Background and Ruling: The antitrust lawsuit accused Google of using exclusive distribution deals to maintain its search engine monopoly. The court found that Google's \$26 billion payments in 2021 for default search placement were central to its dominance in search services and ads.

Implications of the Ruling:

- **Monopolistic Practices:**
 - The court's ruling underscores the detrimental effects of monopolistic behaviour on consumer choice and market competition.
 - By dominating the search engine market, **Google has been accused of stifling innovation and quality improvements**, as evidenced by internal studies suggesting that Google could degrade its search service without losing revenue.
 - This lack of competitive pressure can lead to complacency and reduced service quality, adversely impacting users.
- **Potential Remedies:**
 - The court has tasked both **Google and the DOJ with proposing remedies to address the monopolistic practices.**
 - Potential remedies could include **breaking up Google or terminating its exclusive agreements with mobile device manufacturers.**
 - Such measures could significantly alter the competitive landscape of the digital market and impact how consumers access and use search and advertising services.
- **Future Outlook:**
 - Google has **indicated plans to appeal the ruling, and the final resolution of the case remains uncertain.**
 - In addition to this lawsuit, the **DOJ is preparing for further antitrust actions against other tech giants, including Microsoft, OpenAI, and Nvidia.**
 - These actions signal a broader regulatory push to address perceived anti-competitive practices in the tech industry and ensure fair market competition.

Conclusion: The ruling against Google represents a critical moment in antitrust enforcement and highlights the need for effective regulatory mechanisms to address monopolistic practices in the technology sector. As the case progresses through appeals and potential remedies are considered, the broader implications for tech industry regulations and consumer rights will become clearer. The outcome of this case will likely set important precedents for future antitrust actions and shape the competitive dynamics of the digital economy.



6. Hindenburg report on SEBI chief raises political storm

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Indian political scene recently saw a heated debate as the Leader of Opposition called for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry into the SEBI Chairperson, following allegations in a Hindenburg report. The report claimed Buch had stakes in offshore entities related to alleged financial misconduct by the Adani Group.

SEBI:

- **Establishment and Powers:**
 - **Established:** April 12, 1988, as a non-statutory body.
 - **Statutory Powers:** Acquired on January 30, 1992, with the passing of the SEBI Act, 1992.
 - **Regulatory Domain:** Securities and commodity market in India.
 - **Administrative Domain:** Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **Historical Background:**
 - **Pre-SEBI Regulation:** The Controller of Capital Issues regulated the market under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947, before SEBI's establishment.
 - **Autonomous Status:** Granted statutory powers and became an autonomous body in 1992.
- **Headquarters and Regional Offices:**
 - **Headquarters:** Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.
 - **Regional Offices:** Northern (New Delhi), Eastern (Kolkata), Southern (Chennai), Western (Ahmedabad).
 - **Local Offices:** Initially had 17 local offices for investor education, 16 closed as part of restructuring by June 2023.
- **Organisational Structure:**
 - **Board Composition:**
 - **Chairman:** Nominated by the Union Government of India.
 - **Members:**
 - Two members from the Union Finance Ministry.
 - One member from the Reserve Bank of India.
 - Five members nominated by the Union Government, with at least three being whole-time members.
- **Scope and Jurisdiction:**
 - **Collective Investment Schemes:** Brought under SEBI's regulation, excluding nidhis, chit funds, and cooperatives, after the 1999 amendment.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

7. Parties, serious crimes and the need for judicial clarity

Source: The Hindu

Content: Recent observations by the Supreme Court of India regarding the legal implications for political parties under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the role of cabinet decisions in individual criminal accountability have sparked significant legal and constitutional debates.

Observations on Political Parties and PMLA:

- **Role of Political Parties under PMLA:**

- The observation by **Justice Sanjiv Khanna's Bench** raises critical questions about the role of political parties under the PMLA.
- The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** has, for the first time, implicated a political party, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in a case under the PMLA.
- The legal basis for this decision stems from Section 70 of the PMLA, which deals with offences committed by companies. This section stipulates that if an offence is committed by a company, individuals in charge can be held accountable.
- However, the term **"company"** in **Section 70 of the PMLA** is defined to include firms and other associations of individuals but does not explicitly mention political parties.
- The **Representation of the People Act, 1951** defines a political party as any association or body of individual citizens calling itself a political party, which is distinct from the definition under the PMLA.
- Hence, the interpretation of whether a political party fits under the category of "association of individuals" is contentious.

- **Legal Interpretation and Implications:**

- The application of Section 70 to political parties raises several legal concerns. According to the **principle of ejusdem generis (of the same kind)**, the explanation to Section 70 seems to cover entities akin to bodies corporate or firms, which might not naturally include political parties.
- This distinction implies that the **PMLA was not originally intended to apply to political parties, suggesting that extending its scope could lead to complex legal and constitutional issues.**
- Furthermore, if political parties are implicated under such statutes, it might result in severe consequences for their operational and financial stability, potentially affecting their role in democratic governance.

Observations on Cabinet Decisions and Criminal Liability:

- **Separation of Policy and Criminality:**

- The cabinet, as a collective decision-making body, is responsible for policy formulation, and individual members are expected to act based on collective decisions.



- According to constitutional principles and the Westminster model of governance, a **cabinet decision is a collective responsibility, and individual ministers are not typically held criminally accountable for policies enacted by the cabinet as a whole.**
- Criminal liability should generally apply to individual actions that contravene the law, rather than collective policy decisions.
- The Court's observation highlights the **need to distinguish between policy decisions made by a cabinet and individual culpability.** If ministers were held criminally liable for cabinet decisions, it could disrupt the functioning of the cabinet and undermine the principle of collective responsibility.
- **Implications for Governance:**
 - The potential criminalization of cabinet decisions could have far-reaching consequences for governance. It might deter ministers from making bold policy decisions or lead to political instability.
 - The **judiciary must clarify the extent of individual liability** for collective decisions to ensure that policy-making processes are not unduly hampered.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's recent observations reflect the evolving legal landscape concerning political parties and cabinet decisions. The implications of these observations are significant for both the legal system and the functioning of democratic institutions. There is a need for judicial clarity on the applicability of anti-money laundering laws to political parties and the limits of individual criminal liability in the context of collective cabinet decisions.

8. A nutrition strategy would have averted Olympic agony

Source: The Hindu

Content: The disqualification of Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat from the women's 50kg final at the Paris Olympics 2024 due to exceeding the weight limit by 100 grams has exposed critical gaps in the Indian sports support system.

This incident underscores the urgent need for integrating precision nutrition into athletic training and management.

The Science of Precision Nutrition:

- Precision nutrition represents a **shift from traditional one-size-fits-all dietary approaches to personalised, data-driven nutrition strategies.**
- Involves **understanding an athlete's unique metabolic responses, microbiome, and physiological needs.**
- By utilising a multi-omics approach—incorporating genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and epigenetics—integrated with bioinformatics and machine learning, precision nutrition **provides individualised dietary recommendations.**
- This method **allows for real-time adjustments based on an athlete's physiological data, ensuring optimal performance and compliance with weight regulations.**



Importance of Continuous Monitoring:

- The **reliance on traditional dietary methods**, which often involve subjective reporting and high respondent burden, **can lead to inaccuracies and inefficiencies**.
- **Continuous monitoring technologies**, such as wearable sensors and continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), **offer more precise and real-time data** on an athlete's physical condition and metabolic responses.
- For instance, **CGMs can track minute-by-minute glucose levels**, providing insights into how different foods affect an athlete's energy levels and overall performance.
- **This technology has shown promise in sports**, with notable athletes like Eliud Kipchoge leveraging it for personalised nutrition strategies.

Challenges in Weight-Based Sports:

- **Weight-based sports**, including wrestling, boxing, and martial arts, present unique challenges in maintaining weight categories.
- **Athletes often resort to extreme measures**—such as dehydration and starvation—leading to detrimental effects on their health and performance.
- The case of Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers highlights the risks associated with such practices. **Precision nutrition could mitigate these risks by offering more sustainable and health-conscious weight management strategies.**

Role of Sports Nutritionists:

- To implement precision nutrition effectively, **sports nutritionists need to be an integral part of an athlete's support team.**
- These **professionals should be trained in precision nutrition principles** and involved in monitoring athletes' dietary needs over time.
- Their role includes understanding sports-specific rules, weight categories, and safe weight management techniques.
- Enhanced collaboration between nutritionists, coaches, and athletes is essential for developing tailored nutritional plans that accommodate both performance and health.

Conclusion:

The disqualification of Vinesh Phogat serves as a critical reminder of the need for advanced nutritional strategies in Indian sports. **By adopting precision nutrition and integrating continuous monitoring technologies, the Indian sports support system can address the challenges faced by athletes, particularly in weight-based disciplines.** This approach not only optimises performance but also prioritises the health and well-being of sportspersons. As India aims to elevate its global sports standing, embracing precision nutrition will be pivotal in achieving sustainable success and avoiding future setbacks.



In Brief

9. Tungabhadra dam gate swept away in Karnataka, flood warning issued

Source: The Hindu

Context: A crest gate of the Tungabhadra reservoir, near Hospet, in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka was washed away late on Saturday, raising fears of floods downstream.

Tungabhadra Dam:

- **Location and River:**
 - Constructed across the **Tungabhadra River**.
 - Situated at the confluence of the Tungabhadra River with the Hospet-Koppal area in Karnataka, India.
- **Construction and History:**
 - **Joint project initiated in 1949** by the erstwhile Kingdom of Hyderabad and Madras Presidency.
 - After India became a republic in 1950, it was continued as a joint project between the Mysore and Hyderabad governments.
 - Construction was completed in 1953.
- **Structure:**
 - **India's largest stone masonry dam.**
 - **One of only two non-cement dams in India**, the other being the Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala.
 - Built using **surkhi mortar** (a mixture of mud and limestone).
- **Purpose and Features:**
 - **Multipurpose dam:** Provides benefits for irrigation, electricity generation, and flood control.
 - The Northern canal on the Hyderabad side (now Telangana) features a tunnel named **Papaiah Tunnel**.
- **Engineering Aspects:**



- The dam is notable for its use of manual labour and material suited to the local labour conditions at the time of construction.
- **Durability:**
 - The dam has withstood the test of time for over 70 years and is expected to continue functioning for many more decades.

10. Khaps in Haryana seek justice for Vinesh Phogat, demand Bharat Ratna

Source: The Hindu, Page 3

Context: Several khaps in Haryana came out in support of wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified at the Paris Olympics for being overweight, seeking justice for the grappler and demanded the Bharat Ratna for her.

Bharat Ratna:

- **Institution Date:**
 - **Instituted:** 2 January 1954
- **Description:**
 - **Highest Civilian Award of the Republic of India.**
 - **Purpose:** Conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order" across any field of human endeavour.
- **Criteria for Award:**
 - Originally limited to arts, literature, science, and public service.
 - Expanded in December 2011 to include "any field of human endeavour."
- **Process:**
 - **Recommendations:** Made by the Prime Minister to the President.
 - **Recipients:** Receive a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a peepal leaf-shaped medallion.
 - **Monetary Grant:** None.
- **Order of Precedence:**
 - Recipients rank seventh in the Indian order of precedence.
- **Notable Recipients:**
 - **First Recipients (1954):** C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, C. V. Raman.
 - **Youngest Recipient:** Sachin Tendulkar (2014).
 - **Oldest Recipient:** Dhondo Keshav Karve (100th birthday).
- **Posthumous Awards:**
 - **Allowed Since:** January 1966.
 - **First Posthumous Award:** Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- **Notable Non-Indian Recipients:**
 - Mother Teresa (naturalised citizen).
 - Abdul Ghaffar Khan (born in British India, later a Pakistani citizen).
 - Nelson Mandela (South African citizen).
- **Suspensions:**
 - **First Suspension:** July 1977 to January 1980.
 - **Second Suspension:** August 1992 to December 1995.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Gotipua dance form:

1. Gotipua dancers are trained rigorously from a young age and perform in female attire.
2. The decline in Gotipua practitioners is attributed to a combination of cultural resistance and economic hardships.
3. Government initiatives like the Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana provide immediate financial relief to Gotipua dancers.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, is/are correct?

1. The PMLA was enacted to prevent money laundering and to provide for the confiscation of property derived from money laundering.
2. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is the primary agency responsible for investigating offenses under the PMLA.
3. Under the PMLA, political parties can be directly implicated in money laundering cases.
4. The PMLA allows for the attachment of properties involved in money laundering before a court conviction is secured.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2, and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Q3. Which of the following statements regarding precision nutrition and its application in sports is/are correct?

1. Precision nutrition involves tailoring dietary recommendations based on an individual's metabolic responses and physiological data.
2. Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) are used to track minute-by-minute glucose levels and can help in formulating personalised nutrition plans for athletes.
3. Precision nutrition relies solely on traditional dietary methods without incorporating advanced technologies.
4. Weight-based sports often involve extreme measures for weight management, which precision nutrition aims to address through sustainable practices.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Q4. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Tungabhadra River?

- A. The Tungabhadra River is a tributary of the Godavari River.
- B. The Tungabhadra Dam is constructed across the Tungabhadra River in Karnataka.
- C. The Tungabhadra River originates in the Western Ghats in Kerala.
- D. The Tungabhadra River flows through the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

Q5. Which of the following statements about the Bharat Ratna award is/are correct?

1. The Bharat Ratna was instituted on January 2, 1954.
2. The award was briefly suspended twice in its history, once from July 1977 to January 1980, and again from August 1992 to December 1995.
3. The award was first conferred on three recipients, including Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1954.



Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- C. Only statements 2 and 3 are correct.
- D. All statements are correct.

Q6. Which of the following statements is correct about the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)?

- A. NCERT was established in 1961 and operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- B. NCERT is responsible for developing and publishing textbooks for central government schools.
- C. The NCERT is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education and is primarily focused on higher education.
- D. NCERT has a mandate to create and distribute textbooks only for primary education in India.

Q7. Which of the following statements about Asian and African elephants is/are correct?

- 1. African elephants are larger than Asian elephants and have larger ears that are shaped like the continent of Africa.
- 2. Asian elephants have a higher number of toenails on their front feet compared to African elephants.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Which of the following statements about the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is/are correct?

- 1. The ED is a law enforcement agency under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and primarily focuses on economic offences and money laundering.
- 2. The ED was established in 1956 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and is responsible for the implementation of both the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and FEMA.

- 3. The Director of the Enforcement Directorate is appointed by the Supreme Court of India.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Q9. Which of the following statements about the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is/are correct?

- 1. SEBI was established in 1992 through an Act of Parliament to regulate the securities market and protect investor interests.
- 2. SEBI Chairpersons are appointed by the Supreme Court of India.
- 3. SEBI's primary functions include regulating stock exchanges, overseeing market participants, and ensuring compliance with securities laws.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Q10. Which of the following best describes India's "Neighbourhood First" policy?

- A. A diplomatic strategy focused on expanding trade with distant countries to enhance global influence.
- B. A foreign policy approach prioritising improved relations and cooperation with neighbouring countries in South Asia to promote regional stability and development.
- C. A military strategy aimed at securing India's borders through increased defence spending and strategic alliances.
- D. A cultural initiative designed to increase cultural exchanges and tourism between India and European countries.



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** as Gotipua dancers are indeed trained from a young age and perform as female characters.
- **Statement 2 is also correct**, reflecting the decline in practitioners due to cultural and economic challenges.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana does not provide immediate relief but a modest pension after a long wait.

2. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, was enacted to prevent money laundering and to provide mechanisms for the confiscation of property obtained through money laundering activities. It aims to combat the threat of money laundering and its effects on the financial system.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is the primary agency responsible for investigating offences under the PMLA. The ED operates under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, and handles the enforcement of the PMLA.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** As per the current legal interpretations, political parties are not directly implicated under the PMLA. The application of the PMLA to political parties has been a subject of legal debate and has not been explicitly defined in the Act. The law primarily focuses on individuals and entities directly involved in money laundering activities.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** The PMLA provides for the attachment of properties involved in money laundering before a

court conviction is secured. This is done to prevent the accused from disposing of or tampering with the proceeds of crime while the investigation is ongoing.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Precision nutrition customises dietary recommendations based on an individual's unique metabolic responses and physiological data, integrating advanced technologies for optimal results.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) provide real-time data on blood glucose levels, which can be used to create personalised nutrition strategies for athletes, improving their performance and energy management.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Precision nutrition utilises advanced technologies such as CGMs and bioinformatics, not solely traditional dietary methods.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Weight-based sports often involve extreme weight management techniques, and precision nutrition seeks to offer more sustainable and healthier alternatives.

4. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Tungabhadra River is a tributary of the Krishna River, not the Godavari.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Tungabhadra Dam is indeed constructed across the Tungabhadra River in Karnataka.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The Tungabhadra River originates in the Western Ghats in Karnataka, not Kerala.



- **Statement 4: Incorrect.** The Tungabhadra River flows through Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and joins the Krishna River. It does not empty directly into the Bay of Bengal.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bharat Ratna was indeed instituted on January 2, 1954.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The award was briefly suspended twice, once from July 1977 to January 1980, and again from August 1992 to December 1995.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The first recipients in 1954 were C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and C. V. Raman, not Jawaharlal Nehru.

6. Correct Answer is B

Explanation: NCERT was established in 1961 and operates under the Ministry of Education (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development). It is tasked with developing and publishing textbooks and educational materials for schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other central government schools.

7. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** African elephants are indeed larger than Asian elephants and their ears are large and shaped like the map of Africa.
- **Statement 2 is also correct:** Asian elephants typically have more toenails on their front feet (5 toenails) compared to African elephants (4 toenails).

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The ED operates under the Ministry of Finance and deals with economic offences, money

laundering, and foreign exchange violations.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The ED was established in 1956 under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) and operates under both the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). It was not established under FEMA.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The Director of the Enforcement Directorate is appointed by the Central Government, not the Supreme Court.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** SEBI was established in 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992, with the aim of regulating the securities market and protecting investor interests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** SEBI Chairpersons are appointed by the Central Government, not the Supreme Court of India.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** SEBI's functions include regulating stock exchanges, overseeing market participants, and ensuring compliance with securities laws.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

India's "Neighbourhood First" policy is a foreign policy approach that prioritises strengthening relationships and enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries in South Asia. This strategy is aimed at promoting regional stability, security, and economic development. By focusing on its immediate neighbours, India seeks to build a stable and prosperous regional environment, address cross-border challenges, and foster mutually beneficial partnerships. The policy reflects India's commitment to regional integration and collaborative development, making option B the most accurate description.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the implications of the recent antitrust ruling against Google by the U.S. District Court. How does this ruling reflect on the broader regulatory approach towards major tech companies, and what potential remedies could impact the digital market?





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