



**UPSC
Mentorship**
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



Table of Contents

1. Version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' mobile app launched.....	2
2. Courts should not hesitate to grant bail under UAPA in deserving cases: Supreme Court.....	2
3. Kallakurichi hooch tragedy: final arguments begin before HC on plea for a CBI/SIT probe.....	3
4. The post-Mandal moment is here — and it calls for a new politics.....	4
5. Expanding contraceptive choices.....	5
6. ICMR and Panacea Biotec initiate the First Dengue Vaccine Phase 3 Clinical Trial in India with Indigenous Dengue Vaccine, DengiAll.....	6
7. What is a DDoS attack?.....	6
8. The shock-effects of South Asian tumult.....	7
9. Multilateral air exercise Tarang Shakti to be made a biennial event: IAF Chief.....	8
10. North India's largest floating solar project commissioned in MP's Omkareshwar.....	8
Daily Quiz.....	9
Solutions.....	11



GS I

1. Version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' mobile app launched

Source: Deccan Herald

Context: The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application.

FloodWatch India Version 2.0:

- FloodWatch India Version 2.0 is a mobile application developed by **Central Water Commission (CWC) under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The app provides real-time information and forecasts related to flood situations across India.
- It now covers 592 flood monitoring stations, up from 200 in the previous version, offering a more comprehensive overview of flood conditions.
- The app includes information on the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs in India, aiding in flood management.
- **Key features include:**
 - It provides **real-time river flow data and flood forecasts** up to 7 days in advance.
 - Users can view **state-wise and basin-wise flood forecasts and advisories**.
 - The app uses **satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring** to ensure accurate and timely flood information.
 - The app is **available in English and Hindi** and offers both **readable and audio broadcast** formats.

GS II

2. Courts should not hesitate to grant bail under UAPA in deserving cases: Supreme Court

Source: The Hindu

Context: Denying bail solely because the offence is serious, despite the accused's eligibility, violates their fundamental right to life and fair procedure under Article 21.

UAPA:

- **Objective:** The UAPA is designed to prevent unlawful activities that threaten the integrity and sovereignty of India. It is commonly referred to as the Anti-Terror Law.
- **Definition of Unlawful Activities:** Actions intended to disrupt India's territorial integrity and sovereignty.



- **Powers and Penalties:** The Act grants significant powers to the central government, including death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.

Major Provisions:

- **Terrorist Designation:** The central government can label individuals or organisations as terrorists if they:
 - Commit or participate in acts of terrorism
 - Prepare for terrorism
 - Promote terrorism
 - Are otherwise involved in terrorism
- **Property Seizure:** Investigating officers must get prior approval from the Director General of Police or, if the NIA is involved, the Director General of NIA to seize properties linked to terrorism.
- **Investigative Authority:** Officers of the NIA (rank of Inspector or above) and senior police officers (Deputy Superintendent or above) are empowered to investigate cases under UAPA.

Procedure for Declaring Organisations Unlawful:

- **Tribunal Formation:** When the government declares an organisation unlawful, a tribunal is established to review and confirm the decision.
- **Notification Process:** The government must issue a notification and send it to the tribunal within 30 days. The tribunal must then decide within 6 months.
- **Legal Effect:** The declaration does not take effect until the tribunal confirms it and the order is published in the official gazette.

Criticisms:

- **Substantive and Procedural Issues:**
 - Section 35 allows the government to list individuals as terrorists based on major suspicion without a thorough process.
 - The broad and vague powers can infringe on individual liberties guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **Delayed Justice:**
 - In approximately 43% of cases, charge sheets take over a year or two to be filed, causing significant delays in justice.

Conclusion: The UAPA plays a crucial role in counter-terrorism efforts but faces criticism for its broad powers and procedural delays, which impact individual rights and timely justice.

3. Kallakurichi hooch tragedy: final arguments begin before HC on plea for a CBI/SIT probe

Source: The Hindu

Context: Bihar and Chhattisgarh reported the highest number of hooch-related deaths from 2016 to 2020.

Hooch Tragedy: Key Points
Spurious Liquor:



- **Definition:** Adulterated alcohol, often containing harmful methyl alcohol, causing blindness, serious health issues, or death.
- **Characteristics:** Cheap and often consumed by lower-income groups.

Reasons for Consumption:

- **Demand-Supply Issue:** High demand for cheap liquor, especially where alcohol is banned.
- **Liquor Ban:** Incidents often occur in states with liquor bans due to the search for cheaper alternatives.

Arguments in Favour of Liquor Ban:

- **Economic Impact:** Robust economy possible without liquor revenue; focus on curbing tax evasion and corruption.
- **Public Health:** Aligns with Directive Principles of State Policy for improving public health and nutrition.
- **Health Risks:** Liquor damages health, impacts liver, and overall body functioning.
- **Social Issues:** Contributes to domestic violence, family disruption, and neglect.
- **Addiction and Crime:** Reduces addiction and crime rates associated with alcohol consumption.

Arguments Against Liquor Ban:

- **Revenue Generation:** Liquor sales provide significant revenue through excise duties.
- **Legal and Social Issues:** Potential rise in crime due to alcohol withdrawal; illegal methods of obtaining liquor.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Right to consume and trade liquor related to Articles 21 and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

Conclusion: Hooch tragedies highlight the dire need for effective regulation and enforcement against spurious liquor, while balancing the arguments for and against liquor bans.

4. The post-Mandal moment is here — and it calls for a new politics

Source: Times of India

Context: The Supreme Court's recent ruling permitting states to sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for reservations has ignited debate, introducing new complexities into India's affirmative action policies and questioning their fairness and effectiveness.

Key Aspects of the Ruling

- **Sub-Classification and Reservation:** The ruling permits states to create sub-quotas within SC and ST categories. This approach aims to refine the allocation of reservations and address intra-group disparities. However, it introduces complexity into the reservation system, which could affect its implementation and impact.
- **Responses to the Ruling:** The decision has elicited varied responses. Political parties are notably reticent, likely due to the sensitive nature of caste politics. Proponents of the reservation system are critical, arguing that the ruling may undermine the intent of affirmative action by creating further divisions and complications.



- **Historical Context:** The ruling reflects ongoing tensions from the post-Mandal era. The Mandal Commission Report of 1980, which recommended reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), marked a significant shift in Indian caste politics. This report was influenced by historical struggles against caste discrimination led by figures like Jyotiba Phule and B.R. Ambedkar.
- **Concept of Creamy Layer:** The introduction of the "creamy layer" concept within SCs and STs aims to ensure that reservations benefit the most marginalised. This concept, while intended to enhance fairness, has been criticised for potentially excluding those who are still in need of support.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court's ruling underscores the complexities of caste-based reservations in contemporary India. It highlights the need for a nuanced approach to affirmative action that addresses both historical injustices and current disparities. As the debate unfolds, it will be crucial to balance the objectives of social equity with the practical challenges of implementing such policies.

GS III

5. Expanding contraceptive choices

Source: The Hindu

Context: India's inclusion of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg, a single-dose emergency contraceptive pill (ECP), in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) marks a major policy shift to enhance accessibility and affordability of contraception.

Key Developments:

- **Policy Shift:**
 - **Inclusion in NLEM:** The single-dose Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg has been added to the NLEM, ensuring it is available at a controlled price. This change is crucial as it addresses the market disparity between affordable public sector options and more expensive private sector alternatives.
 - **Historical Context:** Previously, the two-dose regimen of Levonorgestrel (0.75 mg tablets) was included in the NLEM, but the single-dose version remained unregulated in the private market, creating affordability issues.
- **Contraceptive Use Trends:**
 - **Growing Demand:** India sees over 35 million sales of oral ECPs annually, with a compound annual growth rate of 12%. This reflects a strong demand for emergency contraception among women and their partners.
 - **Fertility Rate and Family Planning:** India has achieved replacement level fertility, and the demand for family planning services has increased significantly, from 66% in 2015-16 to 76% in 2019-21.
- **Public vs. Private Sector:**
 - **Sectoral Roles:** While the public sector dominates long-acting reversible contraceptives and sterilisation, the private sector is pivotal for oral contraceptives and ECPs. The new pricing control aims to bridge gaps between public and private sector availability.
- **Future Directions:**
 - **Broader Access:** The government's move to price control the ECP is part of a broader effort to diversify contraceptive options and improve accessibility. This is aligned with the recent



introduction of other contraceptive methods such as subcutaneous injectables and subdermal implants.

Conclusion: The inclusion of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg in the NLEM reflects India's commitment to enhancing contraceptive choices and addressing affordability issues. Continued focus on expanding access and responding to women's needs is essential for effective family planning and reproductive health.

6. ICMR and Panacea Biotech initiate the First Dengue Vaccine Phase 3 Clinical Trial in India with Indigenous Dengue Vaccine, DengiAll

Source: PIB

Context: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotech have announced the initiation of the first-ever Phase 3 clinical trial for a dengue vaccine in India.

Indigenous Dengue Vaccine:

- **Initiation:** First-ever Phase 3 clinical trial for India's indigenous dengue vaccine, DengiAll.
- **Developers:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotech.
- **Vaccine:** DengiAll, a tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- **Previous Trials:** Phase 1 and 2 completed in 2018-19 with promising results.
- **Funding:** Primarily funded by ICMR, with partial support from Panacea Biotech.
- **Significance:** Represents a major step towards combating dengue and aligns with the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

7. What is a DDoS attack?

Source: Times Of India

Content: Tech billionaire Elon Musk has flagged a "massive DDOS attack" on X that disrupted the airing of his interview with former US President.

Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) Attack:

- **Definition:** A DDoS attack aims to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server or network by overwhelming it with a flood of Internet traffic, preventing access to online services.
- **Mechanism:** It utilises multiple compromised systems, such as computers and IoT devices, to generate attack traffic. These compromised systems, known as bots or zombies, form a botnet controlled by the attacker.
- **Objective:** Unlike other cyberattacks, DDoS attacks do not try to breach security perimeters but focus on making websites and servers unavailable to legitimate users.
- **Execution:** The botnet sends requests to the target's IP address, potentially overwhelming the server or network and causing denial of service.
- **Complexity:** Due to the use of legitimate Internet devices for the attack, distinguishing between attack traffic and normal traffic can be challenging.
- **Additional Risks:** DDoS attacks can serve as a smokescreen for other malicious activities and can be used to take down security appliances, potentially breaching security perimeters.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

8. The shock-effects of South Asian tumult

Source: The Hindu

Content: India has faced a series of shocks in its neighbourhood in recent years. Key events include the 2021 Myanmar coup, the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, the 2022 political upheavals in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and shifts in political dynamics in the Maldives, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Key Lessons for India:

- **Engagement with All Stakeholders:**
 - India must avoid one-sided engagements with neighbouring countries. The failure to recognize and engage with opposition parties in Bangladesh and other nations has led to diplomatic setbacks.
 - Comprehensive engagement with all political stakeholders is essential to manage relationships effectively.
- **Maintaining Diplomatic Vigilance:**
 - The government should enhance its monitoring and diplomatic outreach to stay ahead of political changes in its neighbourhood.
 - This includes keeping channels open with both ruling and opposition parties to avoid being caught off guard by sudden shifts in power.
- **Avoiding Communal Binaries:**
 - India should not tie its foreign relations to religious or communal lines. The focus should be on pluralism and democratic values rather than assumptions based on religion.
 - Policies like the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act**, which have been viewed negatively in the region, illustrate the pitfalls of such an approach.
- **Strengthening Regional Mechanisms:**
 - India needs to **reaffirm its role in regional organisations** like SAARC and BIMSTEC to counterbalance external influences and foster regional cooperation.
 - The abandonment of SAARC due to bilateral issues with Pakistan highlights the need for a more consistent regional strategy.
- **Promoting Democratic Values:**
 - Economic progress cannot substitute for democratic principles. Ensuring democratic governance and addressing issues such as joblessness and inequality are crucial for long-term stability and positive international relations.

Conclusion: India's recent experiences underline the importance of balanced diplomacy, inclusive engagement, and adherence to democratic values. To navigate regional complexities effectively, India must adapt its strategies to be more resilient and responsive to changes in its neighbourhood.



In Brief

9. Multilateral air exercise Tarang Shakti to be made a biennial event: IAF Chief

Source: The Hindu

Context: The IAF has significantly increased its participation in bilateral and multilateral exercises.

Exercise Tarang Shakti:

- **Event:** Exercise Tarang Shakti
- **Organiser:** Indian Air Force (IAF)
- **Type:** First multinational air exercise hosted by the IAF
- **Objective:**
 - To enhance interoperability with friendly foreign countries
 - To foster professional interactions and enrich employment philosophies
 - To exchange valuable insights among participating forces
- **Phases:**
 - **Phase 1:** Southern India, first two weeks of August
 - **Phase 2:** Western sector, end of August to mid-September
- **Participating Countries:**
 - Australia
 - France
 - Germany (deploying fighter jets and an A400M transport aircraft)
 - Japan
 - Spain
 - United Arab Emirates
 - United Kingdom
 - United States
- **Goals:**
 - Enhance tactical and operational capabilities
 - Collaborate and share insights among participating nations

10. North India's largest floating solar project commissioned in MP's Omkareshwar

Source: Times of India

Context: Madhya Pradesh has commissioned the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.

Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:

- **Location:**
 - **Site:** Omkareshwar, District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh
 - **Water Source:** Backwaters of the Omkareshwar Dam on the Narmada River
- **Project Details:**
 - **Type:** Largest floating solar project in central and north India
 - **Capacity:** 90 MW
 - **Developer:** SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a subsidiary of SJVN



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following statements accurately describes the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)?

1. The UAPA is designed to counter activities threatening India's sovereignty and grants the central government powers to designate individuals or organisations as terrorists based on suspicion alone.
2. Under the UAPA, investigating officers do not need prior approval for seizing properties related to terrorism if the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is involved.
3. The UAPA tribunal, headed by a retired or sitting High Court judge, is required to confirm an organisation's unlawful status within 3 months of the government's notification.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

2. Exercise Tarang Shakti is a multinational air exercise hosted by the Indian Air Force. Which of the following countries is not listed as a participant in this exercise?

- A. Australia
- B. Germany
- C. China
- D. Japan

Q3. Consider the following statements about dengue:

1. Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which has four distinct serotypes.
2. The main symptom of dengue fever is a high fever that typically lasts for more than two weeks, and it can be effectively treated with antiviral medications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:

1. The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is the largest floating solar project in India, located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
2. This project has been developed under a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. Recently in the news, DengiAll is related to:

- A. Development of a new antiviral drug for dengue fever.
- B. An indigenous dengue vaccine undergoing Phase 3 clinical trials in India.
- C. A new government initiative for expanding malaria vaccination.
- D. An international collaboration for dengue fever research.

Q6. Regarding the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. The UAPA was enacted in 1967 with the primary objective of dealing with unlawful activities associated with terrorism and secessionism.
2. Under UAPA, individuals can be designated as "terrorists" based on their involvement in activities that threaten the sovereignty, integrity, and security of India.



3. The UAPA mandates a maximum period of 90 days for the police to complete the investigation and file a charge sheet, similar to the provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q7. Which of the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is/are correct?

1. The CBI was established in 1963 as a statutory body under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.
2. The CBI operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is responsible for investigating crimes of national and international importance.
3. The Director of the CBI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of a committee that includes the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Which of the following countries are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

1. Brunei
2. India
3. Myanmar
4. South Korea

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks:

1. A DDoS attack involves using multiple compromised computers or devices to flood a target server or network with excessive traffic, aiming to make it unavailable to legitimate users.
2. Unlike other cyberattacks, DDoS attacks focus on breaching security perimeters to steal data or infiltrate systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the recent inclusion of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg in India's National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)?

1. The single-dose Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg is included in the NLEM to address affordability issues by regulating its price, which was previously unregulated in the private market.
2. The two-dose regimen of Levonorgestrel (0.75 mg tablets) was previously included in the NLEM, while the single-dose version was excluded until now.
3. The inclusion of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg in the NLEM is part of a broader government initiative to diversify contraceptive options, including new methods such as subcutaneous injectables and subdermal implants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This statement is correct.** The UAPA aims to prevent activities that threaten India's sovereignty and integrity. It allows the central government to designate individuals or organisations as terrorists based on various criteria, including suspicion of involvement in terrorism. This is in line with the powers granted by the Act.
- **Statement 2: This statement is incorrect.** Under the UAPA, investigating officers, whether from the NIA or other agencies, are required to obtain prior approval from the Director General of Police (DGP) or the Director General of the NIA before seizing properties linked to terrorism. Thus, the assertion that they do not need prior approval is false.
- **Statement 3: This statement is incorrect.** The UAPA tribunal, which is indeed headed by a retired or sitting High Court judge, is required to decide on the unlawful status of an organisation within 6 months of receiving the government's notification, not 3 months.

2. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- Exercise Tarang Shakti involves countries such as Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the UAE, the UK, and the US.
- China is not listed among the participating countries.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dengue fever is caused by the dengue virus, which has four distinct serotypes, and is primarily transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The main symptom of dengue fever is a high fever that typically lasts for about 2-7 days. There are no specific antiviral medications for dengue; treatment generally focuses on supportive care, such as hydration and fever management.

4. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is indeed the largest floating solar project in India, and it is located in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The project is developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy and executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh, not Gujarat.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

DengiAll is India's first indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine developed by Panacea Biotec, and it is currently in Phase 3 clinical trials to assess its effectiveness against the four dengue virus serotypes.

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct** - The UAPA was indeed enacted in 1967 to address unlawful activities related to terrorism and secessionism.
- **Statement 2 is Correct** - The UAPA allows for the designation of individuals as "terrorists" based on their activities that threaten national security.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect** - Under UAPA, the period for completing the investigation and filing a charge sheet is



180 days, not 90 days, which is different from the general provisions under the CrPC.

7. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct** - The CBI was indeed established in 1963 under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect** - The CBI operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, not the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Statement 3 is Correct** - The Director of the CBI is appointed by the Prime Minister based on the recommendation of a committee that includes the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Brunei** - Correct. Brunei is a member of ASEAN.
- **India** - Incorrect. India is not a member of ASEAN but is a dialogue partner.
- **Myanmar** - Correct. Myanmar is a member of ASEAN.
- **South Korea** - Incorrect. South Korea is not a member of ASEAN; it is a dialogue partner.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** DDoS attacks use a network of compromised devices (bots) to flood the target with traffic, making it unavailable to legitimate users. This attack does not focus on breaching security perimeters or stealing data.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** DDoS attacks aim to overwhelm and disrupt services, not to breach security perimeters or steal data.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct.** The single-dose Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg has been included in the NLEM to control its price, addressing the previous disparity between affordable public sector options and more expensive private sector alternatives.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect.** The two-dose regimen of Levonorgestrel (0.75 mg tablets) was included in the NLEM earlier, but the single-dose version was not previously regulated in the private market, not the other way around.
- **Statement 3 is Correct.** The inclusion of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg is part of the broader effort to diversify contraceptive options and improve access, aligning with other recent contraceptive advancements.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorist laws by amending UAPA 1967 and NIA act. Analyse the changes in the context of the prevailing security environment while discussing scope and the reasons for opposing UAPA by human rights organisations.





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