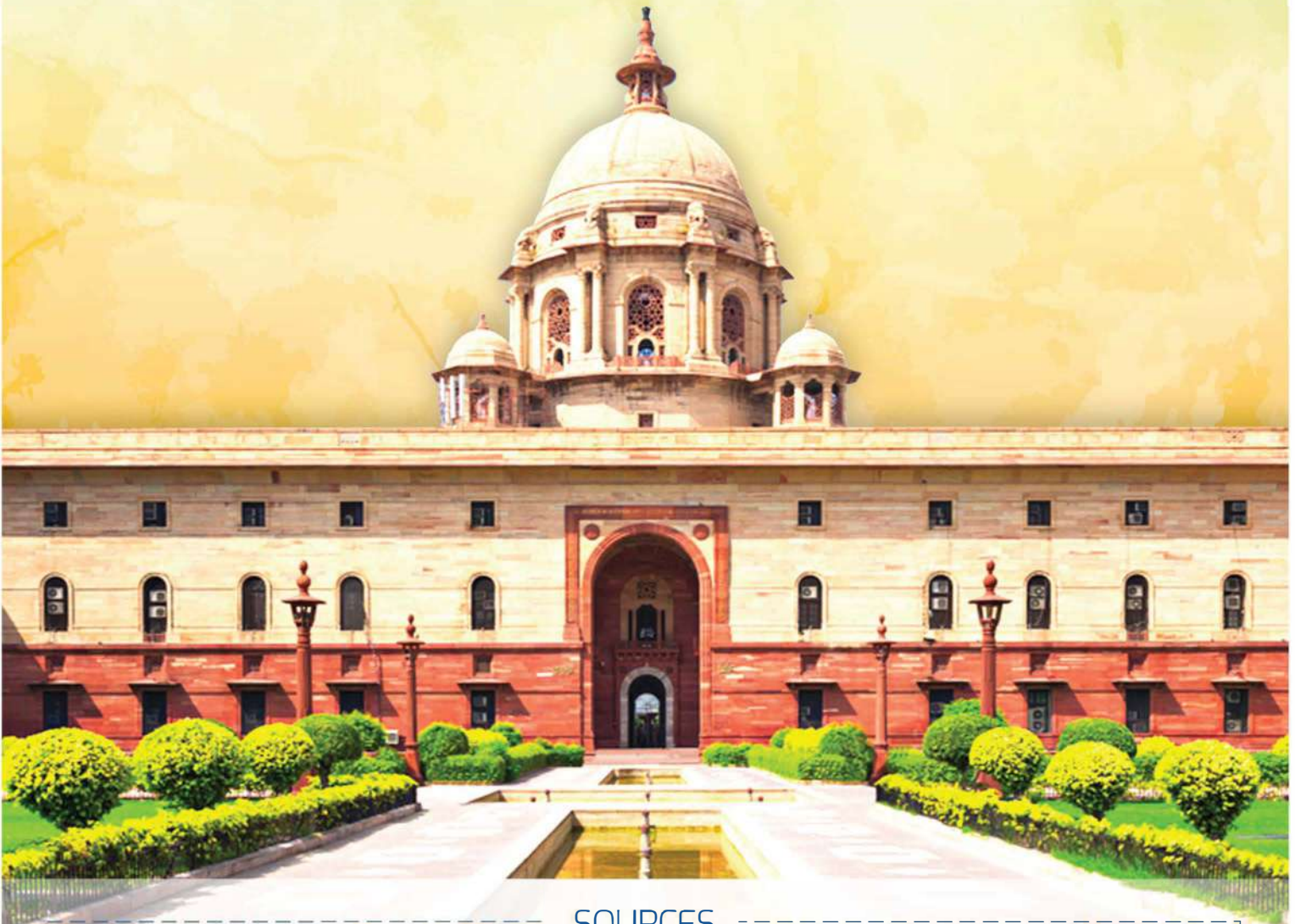




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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Shivaji's wagh nakh from U.K. to be displayed in Satara

Source: The Hindu, Page 3

Context: A weapon wielded by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1659 will return to India in November this year.

- The 'wagh nakh' – an iron weapon shaped like tiger claws – was used by the Maratha leader to kill the Bijapur sultanate's general Afzal Khan.

What is the 'Wagh Nakh'?

- The 'wagh nakh,' literally translating to 'tiger claws,' is a unique mediaeval dagger used across the Indian subcontinent.
- This fearsome weapon featured four or five curved blades affixed to a glove or a bar, designed for personal defence or stealth attacks.
- Its sharp blades were capable of slicing through skin and flesh with ease.



Chhatrapati Shivaji's Defense with the 'Wagh Nakh':

- Chhatrapati Shivaji faced Afzal Khan, a Bijapur general assigned to stop Shivaji's strong campaigns in the Konkan. Khan suggested a peaceful meeting, but Shivaji, anticipating danger, came prepared.
- He concealed a 'wagh nakh' and wore chainmail (armour made from small metal rings) under his attire. When Khan attacked, Shivaji's 'wagh nakh' struck, resulting in Khan's death, ultimately securing Shivaji's victory.

Chhatrapati Shivaji:

- The founder of the Maratha Kingdom
- Also known as the Father of Indian Navy
 - Strategically established a navy and forts at the coastline to defend the Konkan side of Maharashtra.
- He was a dependable supporter of women and their honour.



- He had a **council of ministers (Asht Pradhan)** to advise him on the matters of the state but he was not bound by it.
- He was called the '**Mountain Rat**' and was widely known for his **guerrilla warfare tactics**.

2. Centre to explore Tizu Zunki river to connect Nagaland with Southeast Asia for trade, tourism

Source: Deccan Herald

Context: The Ports, Shipping and Waterways ministry has decided to carry out feasibility studies to use the National Waterways-101 on the Tizu Zunki River for the transportation of cargo and passengers.

Tizu River:

- Nagaland has four main rivers, namely, **Doyang, Dhansiri, Dhiku and Tizu**.
- The first three flow towards the west through the Assam plains to join River Brahmaputra, while the **Tizu River system flows towards the east and southeast and pours into the Irrawaddy in Myanmar**.
- The Tizu River forms an important drainage system in the eastern part of Nagaland.
 - It originates from the **central part of Nagaland state** and runs through a northeast direction, flows through Kiphire and Phek districts and confluences in the **Chindwin River** of Myanmar.
 - **The Chindwin River further enters into Irrawaddy River**, the largest river of Myanmar.
 - The River Irrawaddy further **drains into the Andaman Sea via the Irrawaddy Delta** after travelling through river ports like Mandalay.
- The **main tributaries** of the River Tizu are river **Zungki, Laney, and Likimro**.
 - The **Zungki River**, which is the **biggest tributary of Tizu**, starts from the north-eastern part of Changdong forest in the south of Teku, and flows in a southern direction towards Noklak, Shamator, and Kiphire, and finally joins Tizu below Kiphire.

National Waterways 101:

- The proposed **Tizu-Zungki waterway**, or NW 101, will link Nagaland with the **Chindwin River, Myanmar**, and beyond.
- **On the Nagaland side**, it is set to **run approximately 42 km**, starting from Longmatra in Kiphire to Avangkhu in Phek's Meluri sub-division.
- From Avangkhu, it will link up with the Chindwin and on to the **Tamanthi port, Myanmar**, traversing some 117 km.



3. India backs Mauritius' efforts to reclaim Chagos Archipelago

Source: The Hindustan Times

Context: Recently, the external affairs minister said that India will continue supporting Mauritius on the issue of the Chagos Archipelago in line with its stand on decolonization.

Chagos Archipelago:

- It is an island group located in the central Indian Ocean and is about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) south of the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent.
- It is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom that was established on November 8, 1965.
- Its key islands include the Diego Garcia atoll, Danger Island, Egmont Islands, Eagle Islands, Nelsons Island, Peros Banhos atoll. (Diego Garcia island, which houses a strategic US military base).
- **Climate:** It experiences a tropical marine climate with high temperatures and elevated humidity levels. The island's climate is heavily moderated by the trade winds which blow over the islands.

Chagos Island Dispute

- The Chagos dispute centres around the archipelago in the Indian Ocean, which Britain claimed along with Mauritius in 1814.
- In 1966, Britain leased Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Islands, to the United States, which was seeking a military base in the region.
- The Chagossians, who are mostly descendants of African slaves brought to the islands in the 18th century, have since been engaged in a prolonged legal battle for the right to return to their homeland.
- Mauritius, which gained independence from Britain in 1968, has consistently maintained its claim over the Chagos Islands.
- In 2019, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) dismissed the UK's right to govern the Chagos Islands and called on its government to withdraw from the archipelago.

GS III

4. Nine of 13 crew members of capsized oil tanker rescued by Navy off Oman coast

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Context: Indian Navy's mission-deployed warship INS Teg, assisting in a search-and-rescue (SAR) operation after the Comoros-flagged oil tanker MV Prestige Falcon capsized off the Oman coast, rescued nine crew members — eight Indians and one Sri Lankan.

INS Teg:

- INS Teg is a modern warship with advanced technologies to make it stable, fast and stealthy.



- The Teg class of ships have been **built to meet specific Command and Control needs of Indian Navy** for coordinated surface,air and underwater missions,”
- An **advanced version of the Talwar-class** guided missile frigates,these ships have been fitted with an upgraded multi-role combat suite to make them one of the most potent platforms of the Navy,they said.
- “INS Teg’s weapons suite includes **surface-to-air** and **surface-to-surface** missile systems,**100 mm medium range gun**,**close-in weapon system**,**torpedo tubes** and **anti-submarine rockets**.
- The ship is also armed with an **anti-submarine cum airborne early warning helicopter** and its weapons suite and sensors are fully integrated with the latest **Combat Management System (CMS)**.
- It has a **displacement of 3,850 tonnes**.
- The word Teg means a **single-edged curved sword** used by Sikh warriors.

5. First confirmed death due to Chandipura virus in Gujarat

Source: The Hindu, Page 3

Context: The first fatality of a four-year old girl who had contracted Chandipura virus in Gujarat while the death toll of suspected cases has gone up to 15 as the virus has spread in almost a dozen districts of the State.

What is a virus called Chandipura?

- Chandipura virus, named after the town in Maharashtra, is known to **cause brain inflammation, progressing rapidly from an influenza-like disease to coma and death**.
- The Chandipura Vesiculovirus (CHPV) **mainly infects children under 14 years of age**.

Causes:

- The virus **primarily spreads through the bite of sand flies**, sometimes through mosquitoes.
- Animal experiments indicate that **neurons are damaged** by the virus and **neurodegeneration** is induced.
- The **female phlebotomine sandfly is the probable virus vector (or carrier)**.
- In **Senegal, Nigeria and also in India, the virus was found in sandflies**.
- In 2003, in southern India, the Chandipura virus was responsible for an epidemic in which 329 children developed acute encephalitis and 183 died.

Symptoms: Sudden high fever followed by **headache, seizures and vomiting**, often leading to unconsciousness, are the symptoms. Physicians prescribe a blood test on the basis of the symptoms.

Therapy: There is **no particular drug for its treatment**. With early diagnosis, however, the patient is given hospitalisation and symptomatic care, which may help save lives.

Prevention: The best approach for suppressing **CHPV infection** is prevention. According to the **National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)**, maintaining good nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and knowledge in rural areas is important for the containment of disease-transmitting vectors.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. On political representation of women

Source: The Hindu, Page 8

Context: Election of 74 women to 18th Lok Sabha (LS) is a slight dip in women representation as 78 women were elected to 17th LS (14.4% representation).

Status of women representation in Legislature:

- 9.7% of 797 women contestants won in 18th LS elections while in 17th LS elections, 10.74% of 726 women contestants won.
- **Women's representation in LS increased from 5% in the first LS to its highest in 17th LS (14.4%).**
- Presently, women members constitute 14.05% of Rajya Sabha members.

Significance of women representation:

- Women legislators perform better in their constituencies on economic indicators than their male counterparts
- **Women are less likely to be criminal and corrupt**, more efficacious, and less vulnerable to political opportunism.

Challenges to women's legislative representation:

- Societal Prejudices, male dominated political structures, and family obligations.
- **Structural disadvantages:** Election campaigns are costly, time-consuming and are marred by inappropriate commenting, hate speeches, abusive threats and muscle power.

Steps taken for increasing women political representation:

- **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (106th Amendment Act)** to reserve one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies including Legislative Assembly of Delhi.
- The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments** made reservation of 1/3rd seats in Panchayats and Municipalities for women.
- India pledged to achieve **SDG target 5.5**, which calls for women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in politics and public life.



In Brief

7. Report soon on 'financial irregularities' in Periyar Tiger Conservation Foundation

Source: The Hindu, Page 5

Context: The Kerala Finance Inspection wing under the State Finance Department will submit a detailed report on the alleged financial irregularities in the Periyar Tiger Conservation Foundation (PTCF) under the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Thekkady.

Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR):

Location:

- It is located in the **Western Ghats** of Kerala.
- It was declared a **Tiger Reserve in 1978**.
- It gets its name from the **River Periyar** which has its origin deep inside the reserve.
- **Two main rivers, Pamba and Periyar** drain the reserve.
- It is home to many **tribal communities** including the **Mannans** and the **Palians**.
- **Terrain:** Hilly and undulating with a maximum altitude of 2016 m.
- **Vegetation:** It consists of **tropical evergreen, semi- evergreen and moist deciduous**.
- **Flora:** There are more than 171 species of grasses. Important flora includes **teak, mangoes, rosewood, jamun, jacarandas, terminalias, tamarind, royal poinciana, bamboo** etc.
- **Fauna:** Includes **Elephants, Wild Pigs, Sambar, Gaur, Mouse Deer, Dole or Barking Deer, Indian Wild Dog** and **Tiger**.
- The **major four species of primates** are also found at Periyar - the rare **lion-tailed macaque, the Nilgiri Langur, Gee's Golden Langur, Common Langur** and **Bonnet Macaque**.
- It Is also being considered as the **habitat of the elusive Nilgiri Tahr**.



8. ADB retains India's FY25 GDP growth outlook at 7%

Source: The Hindu, Page 13

Context: India's GDP growth is expected to be 7% this year with inflation averaging 4.6%, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its Asia Development Outlook July report on Tuesday.

Asian Development Bank:

- It is a **multilateral development bank** established on **19th December 1966**.
- Its primary mission is to "**foster economic growth and cooperation**" among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- **Functions:**
 - ADB assists members and partners by **providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments** to promote social and economic development.
 - It also provides financing to certain private sector projects as well as **public-private partnerships**.
 - The ADB regularly facilitates **policy dialogues** and provides **advisory services**.
 - They also use **co-financing operations** that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources while providing assistance.
- **Headquarter:** Manila, Philippines.
- **Members:** From **31 members** at its establishment in **1966**, ADB has grown to encompass **68 members**—of which **49** are from within Asia and the Pacific and **19** outside.
- **Control:**
 - ADB is **run by a board of governors**, which represents the member countries of the ADB.
 - The ADB was modelled closely on the **World Bank** and has a similar weighted **voting system** where votes are distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions.
 - As of 2022, ADB's **five largest shareholders** are **Japan** and the **United States** (each with 15.6% of total shares), the **People's Republic of China** (6.4%), **India** (6.3%), and **Australia** (5.8%).
- **Source of Funding:** It relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending, and the repayment of loans for the funding of the organisation.



9. Govt wants its big banks to help their rival—the country’s youngest infra lender

Source: The Mint,

Context: The government wants to increase the capital base of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, or NaBFID, to 1 trillion through support from banks.

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development:

- It was set up in 2021, by an **Act of the Parliament**(The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021).
- It is a specialised **Development Finance Institutions in India**.
- **Objectives:**Addressing the **gaps in long-term non-recourse finance** for infrastructure development, strengthening the development of bonds and derivatives markets in India, and sustainably boosting the country’s economy.
- **Regulated by:** It shall be regulated and **supervised by RBI** as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI).
- The principal idea behind the setup of NaBFID is to **provide a dedicated and specialised institution** focused on addressing the long-term financing needs of the infrastructure sector in India.

What is a Development Finance Institution?

- These are **organisations owned by the government** or public institutions to provide funds for infrastructure and large-scale projects, where it often becomes unviable for large banks to lend.
- They provide two types of funds- Medium (1-5 years) and Large (< 5 years).



Daily Quiz

Q1. With reference to 'Nilgiri Tahr' consider the following statements:

1. It is an endemic species of the Western Ghats.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. It has been designated as the state animal of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

Statement: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is revered for his strategic acumen and effective use of guerrilla warfare tactics.

Reason: Shivaji's military campaigns focused on disrupting larger, more powerful armies through surprise attacks and ambushes, enabling him to establish an independent Maratha kingdom in Western India.

Choose the correct option based on the statement and reason:

- A. Both the statement and reason are correct, and the reason is the correct explanation of the statement.
- B. Both the statement and reason are correct, but the reason is NOT the correct explanation of the statement.
- C. The statement is correct, but the reason is incorrect.
- D. The statement is incorrect, but the reason is correct.

Q3. Consider the following pairs:

National Park	River
Raimona National Park	Sankosh River
Dudhwa National Park	Ghaghara River
Periyar National Park	Pamba River
Panna National Park	Yamuna River

Choose the correct options:

- A. Only one pair is correct
- B. Only two pairs are correct
- C. Only three pairs are correct
- D. All four pairs are correct

Q4. What is the significance of the Tizu Zunki River in its region?

- A. It is a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- B. It forms the border between two states in India.
- C. It is known for its sacred status in local folklore and rituals.
- D. It is a source of hydroelectric power generation.

Q5. Who releases the Asian Development Outlook report annually?

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- D. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Q6. Consider the following statements about National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID):

Assertion: The establishment of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) is crucial for addressing the infrastructure deficit in India.

Reasoning: NBFID will have the authority to issue long-term bonds to raise funds for infrastructure projects.

Choose the correct option based on the assertion and reasoning:

- A. Both the assertion and reasoning are true, and the reasoning correctly explains the assertion.
- B. Both the assertion and reasoning are true, but the reasoning does not correctly explain the assertion.
- C. The assertion is true, but the reasoning is false.
- D. The assertion is false, but the reasoning is true.

Q7. Consider the following statements about Asian Development Bank (ADB):

Statement 1: As of 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has 68 member countries.

Statement 2: ADB's total approved operations in 2022 amounted to \$28.9 billion, supporting projects in sectors such as energy, transport, and education.

Choose the correct option based on the statements:

- A. Both statements 1 and 2 are true, and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1.
- B. Both statements 1 and 2 are true, but statement 2 is NOT the correct explanation of statement 1.

- C. Statement 1 is true, but statement 2 is false.
- D. Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is true.

Q8. Which of the following statements correctly describes the power of the Lok Sabha?

- A. Lok Sabha has the sole authority to amend the Constitution of India.
- B. Lok Sabha can introduce and pass Money Bills without the approval of the Rajya Sabha.
- C. Lok Sabha can dissolve the Rajya Sabha.
- D. Lok Sabha appoints the Chief Justice of India.

Q9. Chandipura virus primarily affects which organ of the human body?

- A. Lungs
- B. Liver
- C. Brain
- D. Kidneys

Q10. Consider the following statements about Wagh Nakh:

Statement 1: Wagh Nakh is a traditional Indian weapon used primarily for self-defence.

Statement 2: Wagh Nakh is also known as "tiger claws" due to its resemblance to the claws of a tiger.

Choose the correct option based on the statements:

- A. Both statements 1 and 2 are true.
- B. Both statements 1 and 2 are false.
- C. Statement 1 is true, but statement 2 is false.
- D. Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is true.



Solutions

1. The correct answer is A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Nilgiri Tahr is an endemic species of the Western Ghats.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Nilgiri Tahr is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It has been designated as the State animal of Tamil Nadu.

2. The correct answer is A

Explanation:

- The statement correctly highlights Shivaji's reputation for strategic brilliance and guerrilla warfare tactics.
- The reason explains how Shivaji's military strategies were instrumental in challenging and defeating large armies, ultimately leading to the establishment of the Maratha kingdom.

3. The correct answer is C

Explanation:

- Raimona National Park is marked by the Sankosh River along with the inter-state boundary of West Bengal and Assam from the Indo-Bhutan border.
- The Ghaghara River separates Dudhwa National Park from Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. I
- The park is a repository of rare, endemic, and endangered flora and fauna and forms the major watershed of two important rivers of Kerala: the Periyar and the Pamba.
- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna. Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

4. The correct answer is C

Explanation: The Tizu Zunki River holds cultural and religious significance in the region of Nagaland, India. It is revered by the local Naga tribes for its role in their folklore, traditions, and rituals. Rivers often have a special place in indigenous cultures worldwide, symbolising life, purity, and spirituality. In the case of the Tizu Zunki River, its importance goes beyond geographical or economic significance; it is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity and spiritual practices of the people living in its vicinity. This cultural significance highlights its importance beyond mere physical attributes, making it a focal point of local beliefs and customs in Nagaland.

5. The correct answer is C

Explanation: The Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report is an annual publication released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It provides forecasts and analysis of economic trends in Asia and the Pacific, including growth projections, economic challenges, and policy recommendations for the region. The report covers a wide range of topics related to economic development, infrastructure, finance, and socio-economic issues across ADB's member countries in Asia.

6. The correct answer is A

Explanation:

Assertion: The establishment of NBFID is crucial for addressing the infrastructure deficit in India. This statement is true because India faces a significant infrastructure deficit across various sectors, and NBFID is intended to provide long-term financing solutions to bridge this gap.

Reasoning: NBFID will have the authority to issue long-term bonds to raise funds for infrastructure projects. This statement is true as per the objectives outlined for NBFID, which include issuing bonds to raise funds specifically for infrastructure development. These bonds will help mobilise long-term capital needed for large-scale infrastructure projects.



7. The correct answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** As of 2023, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) does indeed have 68 member countries. This information is factual and reflects the current membership of the ADB.
- **Statement 2:** ADB's total approved operations in 2022 were \$28.9 billion. This figure includes loans, grants, and technical assistance provided by ADB to support development projects across its member countries. These projects span various sectors, including energy, transport, education, and others aimed at fostering economic growth and reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific.

Both statements independently provide accurate information about the Asian Development Bank, but statement 2 does not directly explain or provide additional context to statement 1. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

8. The correct answer is B

Explanation:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The Lok Sabha does not have the sole authority to amend the Constitution of India. Amendments to the Constitution require a special majority vote in both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) as well as ratification by at least half of the state legislatures.
- **Option B:** Correct. According to Article 109 of the Indian Constitution, Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. Once passed by the Lok Sabha, a Money Bill is sent to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations. However, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject or amend a Money Bill. It can only suggest amendments, which may or may not be accepted by the Lok Sabha. Therefore, in practice, the Lok Sabha has significant autonomy in the passage of Money Bills.

- **Option C:** Incorrect. The Lok Sabha does not have the power to dissolve the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution like the Lok Sabha, which is dissolved every five years or earlier by the President.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The Lok Sabha does not appoint the Chief Justice of India or any judges of the Supreme Court. Judicial appointments are made by the President of India based on recommendations from the collegium of judges.

9. The correct answer is C

Explanation:

Chandipura virus is a fast-spreading virus that primarily affects the brain, causing encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). It belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected sandflies. The virus primarily targets the central nervous system, leading to symptoms such as high fever, convulsions, and coma, particularly in children. Therefore, option C is the correct answer as it identifies the organ primarily affected by Chandipura virus infection.

10. The correct answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Wagh Nakh, also known as "tiger claws," is indeed a traditional Indian weapon. It consists of finger rings with attached curved blades or claws that were historically used for self-defence, especially by practitioners of martial arts like Varma Kalai and Kalaripayattu.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. Wagh Nakh is known as "tiger claws" because its design and shape resemble the claws of a tiger. The weapon is named so due to its distinctive claw-like structure, which was believed to enhance the effectiveness of strikes in combat.



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