DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

20 August 2024

Table of Contents

GS I

1. Clean Ganga Mission head flags slow pace of project

Source: The Hindu

Context: The head of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently expressed concern about delays in river-cleaning projects across various states.

Namami Gange Programme:
- **Overview:**
  - Launched: June 2014
  - Objective: Reduce pollution and rejuvenate the Ganga River
  - Managed by: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
  - Funding: Rs. 20,000 crore
  - Scope: 288 projects

- **Main Pillars:**
  - Sewage Treatment Infrastructure
  - River-Front Development
  - River-Surface Cleaning
  - Biodiversity
  - Afforestation
  - Public Awareness
  - Industrial Effluent Monitoring
  - Ganga Gram

- **Ganga Guardians:**
  - **Role:** Local volunteers focusing on biodiversity and cleanliness
  - **Goals:** Raise awareness, connect communities, and integrate local livelihoods with Ganga conservation

- **Wildlife Institute of India (WII):**
  - **Established:** 1982
  - **Location:** Dehradun, Uttarakhand
  - **Function:** Wildlife research, training, and advisory

- **Ganga River System:**
  - **Source:** Bhagirathi (Gangotri Glacier) and Alaknanda (Devprayag)
  - **Key Tributaries:** Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi
  - **Journey:** From the Himalayas to the plains at Haridwar

GS II

2. From Crisis to Cooperation: India's Role in South Asia

Source: The Indian Express

Context: The recent political upheaval in Bangladesh, including the Prime Minister's resignation and interim governance by the Bangladesh Army, underscores regional volatility.

Why India's Neighbours Face Continuous Political and Economic Turmoil?

- **Military Interference in Governance:**
  - **Historical Context:** South Asia has experienced frequent military coups, undermining democracy (e.g., Pakistan, Myanmar).
  - **Consequences:** Military interventions lead to instability, human rights abuses, and economic disruption.

- **Economic Vulnerabilities:**
  - **Sri Lanka:** Severe economic crisis in 2022 due to high external debt.
  - **Bangladesh:** Dependency on the garment industry makes it vulnerable to global demand fluctuations.
  - **Maldives:** Tourism reliance exposes it to economic shocks, like the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **Pakistan:** High external debt with significant Chinese holdings.

- **Geopolitical Competitions and External Influences:**
  - **China's Influence:** Investments and strategic leases (e.g., CPEC in Pakistan, Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka) enhance China's regional presence.
  - **Nepal:** Balancing between Indian and Chinese interests, seen in infrastructure projects.

- **Climate Change and Environmental Challenges:**
  - **Maldives:** Threatened by rising sea levels.
  - **Bangladesh:** Potential internal climate migrants due to environmental impacts.
  - **Pakistan:** Economic loss from catastrophic floods.
  - **Nepal:** Glacial retreat affecting water security.

- **Colonial Legacy and Fragile Institutions:**
  - **Historical Borders:** The Radcliffe Line and the creation of Bangladesh have left enduring border disputes.
  - **Democracy:** Many South Asian countries are categorised as "flawed democracies" or "hybrid regimes."

- **Demographic Pressures and Socio-Economic Disparities:**
  - **Youth Population:** High unemployment rates among youth in Nepal and Sri Lanka.
  - **Job Creation:** Need for economic opportunities to prevent extremism and social unrest.

- **Current Major Challenges for India:**
  - **Pakistan:** Tensions over Kashmir, cross-border terrorism, and strategic challenges from China.
  - **Bangladesh:** Political upheaval, migration concerns, and bilateral issues like the Teesta River agreement.
  - **Nepal:** Political instability, growing ties with China, and border disputes.
  - **Sri Lanka:** Recovery from economic crisis, Tamil minority issues, and debt restructuring.
  - **Maldives:** Shift towards China and reduction of Indian military presence.
  - **Myanmar:** Military coup, Rohingya refugee issue, and increased Chinese influence.
  - **Bhutan:** Balancing foreign relations and the Doklam issue.
  - **Afghanistan:** Taliban's return and impact on Indian investments.

- **Measures for India to Enhance Relations with Neighbors:**
  - **Connectivity:** Accelerate projects like the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement and India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.
  - **Economic Empowerment:** Shift from aid to trade with initiatives like a Neighborhood First Economic Zone.
  - **Cultural Engagement:** Expand cultural diplomacy and promote cross-border tourism.
  - **Disaster Diplomacy**: Lead in establishing a South Asian Disaster Response Force.
  - **Multilateral Mediation:** Revitalise SAARC and focus on climate change and public health.
  - **Green Diplomacy:** Form a South Asian Green Alliance for climate resilience.
  - **Sports Diplomacy:** Revive South Asian Games and improve regional sports infrastructure.

These measures can foster regional cooperation and stability while securing India's strategic interests.

3. Malaysian PM arriving today; trade,strategic ties on agenda

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Malaysian Prime Minister will visit Delhi. He will meet with the Prime Minister to sign agreements and discuss a "multi-sectoral cooperation agenda" aimed at boosting trade, strategic relations, and people-to-people connections, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

India- Malaysia Bilateral Relations:

- India established diplomatic relations with Malaysia in 1957.
- **Strategic:** Malaysia is part of India's Act East policy and also a key partner for India in ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations).
- **Defence Cooperation:** Conducted Joint Exercise "Harimau Shakti" (Army) annually, Samudra Lakshman Maritime Exercise (Navy), Udara Shakti (Air force) and Royal Malaysian Navy Ship participates in Exercise MILAN.
- **Trade:**
  - Both sides signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, a free trade agreement.
  - Bilateral trade touched $19.4 billion during 2021-22.
  - Trade between both countries can be settled in Indian Rupee in addition to current modes of settlement in other currencies.
  - India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.

- **Cultural:**
  - Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur conducts classes in Carnatic Vocal, Kathak dance, Yoga, Hindi language by trained teachers from India and Malaysia.
  - Centre was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Center (NSCBICC) in 2015.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** More than 1 lakh Indians nationals repatriated from Malaysia under Vande Bharat Mission during Covid-19.

GS III

4. Polio vaccine in Gaza hampered by violence

Source: The Hindu
Context: The threat of polio is rising fast in the Gaza Strip, prompting aid groups to call for an urgent pause in the war so they can ramp up vaccinations and head of a full-blown outbreak.

Polio:
- **Overview:**
  - **Disease:** Poliomyelitis, a viral infection affecting the nervous system
  - **Virus Strains:**
    - Wild Poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)
    - Wild Poliovirus type 2 (WPV2)
    - Wild Poliovirus type 3 (WPV3)
  - **Symptoms:** Can cause paralysis or death; most cases are mild with fever, tiredness, nausea, etc.

- **Spread:**
  - Transmitted via the faecal-oral route or contaminated food/water
  - Primarily affects children under 5

- **Prevention:**
  - **Vaccines:**
    - **Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV):** Administered as a birth dose and in multiple rounds up to 24 months
    - **Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV):** Given with the third DPT dose
  - **No cure:** Prevention is key

- **Global Efforts:**
  - **Initiative:** Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched in 1988
  - **Current Status:** Polio is largely restricted to rural Afghanistan and Pakistan; Africa declared polio-free in 2020
  - **World Polio Day:** October 24th

- **Vaccines History:**
  - **Salk Vaccine (IPV):** Inactivated virus, requires injection, induces systemic immunity

- ○ **Sabin Vaccine (OPV):** Live attenuated virus, administered orally, induces mucosal immunity but has a risk of vaccine-derived polio

- **India's Progress:**
  - ○ Polio-free certification from WHO in 2014
  - ○ Last wild poliovirus case detected in January 2011

5.India Unveils Lethal 'Swadeshi' Kamikaze Drones With 1,000 Km Range

Source: Times of India

Context: As India approaches its 78th Independence Day, the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has unveiled powerful indigenous Kamikaze drones. These unmanned aerial vehicles, equipped with home-built engines, have a range of up to 1,000 kilometres.

The Indian kamikaze drone will be around 2.8 meters long with a wingspan of 3.5 meters.

Switchblade Drones Overview:
- **Description:** Switchblade drones, also known as Kamikaze drones, are small unmanned aerial vehicles armed with explosives designed to strike targets directly. They are named for their blade-like wings that deploy upon launch.
- **Capabilities:** These drones can bypass traditional defences, cost significantly less than larger drones, and are hard to detect on radar. They can be programmed for autonomous target engagement using facial recognition.
- **Specifications:**
  - ○ **Weight:** 5.5 pounds, including warhead.
  - ○ **Range:** Up to 7 miles.
  - ○ **Blast Radius Adjustment:** Allows for precise targeting with adjustable blast radius.
  - ○ **Camera:** Equipped with real-time video for target identification and operational oversight.
  - ○ **Speed:** Cruises at 63 mph.

Global Presence: Russia, China, Israel, Iran, and Turkey all possess similar drones.

Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. The 'livery of India's freedom' is under threat

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Prime Minister's call for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign around Independence Day highlights the significance of the national flag.

Historical Context of Khadi:
- **Flag Code of India:** Historically required the national flag to be made of "hand spun and hand-woven wool/cotton/silk khadi bunting."
- **Symbolism:** Khadi represents India's struggle for independence and commitment to self-sufficiency.
- **Historical Significance:** Khadi was a symbol of sovereignty and national integration.

Recent Policy Changes:
- **2022 Amendment:** Allowed "machine-made polyester bunting" and exempted polyester flags from Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- **Impact on Khadi Industry:** Shift led to a decline in khadi's prominence, affecting traditional khadi producers.
- **Protest:** Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha (KKGSS) protested against the shift, citing it as detrimental to the khadi industry.

Economic and Strategic Implications:
- **Import of Polyester:** India has become a net importer of polyester yarn, often from China.
- **Contradiction with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat':** The policy contradicts the self-reliance narrative, with imported materials used for national flags.
- **Impact on Khadi Workers:** Khadi spinners and weavers face economic hardships due to decreased government procurement and competition from cheaper polyester flags.

Burden on Handloom Sector:
- **GST Impact:** Introduction of GST on both handloom products and raw materials increases financial strain on handloom workers.
- **Government Policies:** Efforts such as demonetisation and unplanned lockdowns have adversely affected handloom industries.

Current Challenges for Khadi and Handloom Industries:
- **Decreased Khadi Procurement:** Government procurement of khadi has reduced, affecting traditional producers.

- **Lack of Global Promotion:** Failure to build a global market for Indian handlooms and regulate market standards.
- **Market Confusion:** Semi-mechanised khadi is sold under the same tag as traditional hand-spun khadi, undermining genuine products.

The Path Forward
- **Restoration of Khadi:** Reinstate khadi as the exclusive fabric for the national flag to uphold its historical and symbolic significance.
- **Support for Handloom Sector:** Implement supportive measures for handloom workers, including GST exemptions and better market access.

7. New migrant realities in Karnataka gig's Sector

Source: The Hindu
Context: Karnataka became the second state after Rajasthan to come up with legislation for Gig Workers.

Highlights of the Karnataka Gig Workers Bill:
- **Welfare Board:** Includes the Karnataka labour minister, two aggregator officials, two gig workers, and one civil society member.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Two-level mechanism and transparency in automated systems.
- **Timely Payments:** Aggregators must pay weekly and explain any deductions.
- **Unique ID:** Workers get a unique ID for all platforms.
- **Social Security:** Access to schemes based on contributions and a grievance mechanism.
- **Autonomy:** Workers can end contracts with 14 days' notice; aggregators need valid reasons for termination.
- **Work Safety:** Mandates safe working conditions.
- **Welfare Fund:** Fund financed by fees from aggregators, state, and worker contributions.
- **Penalties:** Fines from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh for violations.

Gig Workers:
- **Definition:** Individuals working outside traditional employer-employee relationships.
- **Gig Economy:** System of temporary positions and short-term engagements.

Need for Social Security:
- **Job Security:** Address terminations and income uncertainty.
- **Health Insurance:** Provides access to healthcare benefits.
- **Fair Conditions:** Ensures fair compensation and working conditions.
- **Long-term Security:** Supports retirement savings.

Challenges:
- **Flexibility:** Adapting benefits to gig workers' flexible schedules.
- **Funding:** Complex funding mechanisms due to self-employment.
- **Coordination:** Difficulties in data sharing and ensuring coverage across multiple platforms.
- **Education:** Raising awareness about rights and entitlements.

Recommendations:
- **Implement Code on Social Security, 2020:** Expedite rule-making and board establishment.
- **Expand Employer Responsibilities:** Treat gig workers similarly to regular employees.
- **Education and Training:** Invest in skill development.
- **Government Support:** Collaborate to create fair mechanisms and extend schemes like Ayushman Bharat.
- **Adopt International Models:** Follow examples from the UK and Indonesia for worker benefits.

In Brief

8. How the Banni grasslands of Kachchh, Gujarat can be restored

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Gujarat government recently said that the central government has approved setting up a cheetah breeding and conservation centre in Banni Grassland.

Banni Grassland:
- **Location:** Northern Kachchh district, Gujarat
- **Features:**
  - Shaped by river damming, invasive Prosopis juliflora, and varied livestock grazing
  - Home to 22 ethnic groups (mostly pastoralists), 48 settlements, and 40,000 people
- **Biodiversity:**
  - **Flora:** Prosopis juliflora, Cressa critica, Cyperus spp, Sporobolus, Dichanthium, Aristida
  - **Fauna:** Nilgai, Chinkara, Blackbuck, Wild boar, Golden Jackal, Indian Wolf, among others
  - **Animals:** Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Horses, Camel
- **Protected Areas:**
  - Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (380 sq km)
  - Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve (227 sq km)

9. Indian Coast guard chief Rakesh Pal passes away

Source: The Hindu

Context: Director general of Indian coast guard passes away.

Indian Coast Guard:
- It is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.

- **History**: It was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India.
- **Parent ministry:** It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Administration:** The organisation is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG).
- **Head Quarter:** Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) is located at New Delhi.
- The interim Indian Coast Guard (ICG) came into being on 1st February 1977. The ICG in its present shape was formally inaugurated on 18th August 1978 as an independent armed force of the Union government with the enactment of the Coast Guard Act 1978, to prevent the sea-borne smuggling of goods that hampered the economy.
- The ICG is India's maritime security force, the responsibilities of the ICG include offshore security, marine safety, and coastal security as well as safeguarding India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- The force maintains order in international shipping lanes and India's vast seas.
- According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, ICG department is ranked as the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world

10. CCPA imposes fine on IAS coaching centre for misleading ad

Source: The Hindu
Context: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs.3 lakh on Sriram's IAS, a coaching institute, for publishing a misleading advertisement.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):
- **Establishment:** Formed in 2020 under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- **Administering Ministry**: Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- **Composition:**
  - Chief Commissioner (Head)
  - Two Commissioners (one for goods, one for services)
  - Investigation Wing headed by Director General
  - District Collectors' Role: Can investigate complaints regarding consumer rights violations, unfair trade practices, and false advertisements.
- **Powers and Functions:**
  - Investigate violations of consumer rights and unfair trade practices.
  - Impose penalties up to ₹10 lakh and imprisonment up to 2 years for false/misleading advertisements; up to ₹50 lakh and 5 years for repeat offences.
  - Ban endorsers of false advertisements from endorsing products/services for up to 1 year; up to 3 years for repeated violations.
  - File complaints with District, State, and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions.
- **Consumer Protection Act 2019:**
  - **Consumer Definition**: A person who buys goods or services for consideration, excluding those buying for resale or commercial purposes.
  - **Misleading Advertisement:** Defined as false descriptions, false guarantees, misleading representations, or deliberate concealment of important information.
  - **Consumer Rights:** Includes right to safety, right to be informed, right to choose, right to be heard, right to seek redressal, and right to consumer education.

Q1.Consider the following statements regarding the Ganga River:
1. The Ganga River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The Ganga is the longest river in India, flowing entirely within the country's borders.
3. The river's basin is shared by four countries: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

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

Q2.Consider the following statements regarding the CCPA:
1. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is responsible for the regulation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements in the consumer sector.
2. The CCPA is a statutory body established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and operates directly under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3.Which of the following statements about the Indian Coast Guard is/are correct?
1. The Indian Coast Guard was established by the Indian Coast Guard Act, 1978.
2. The primary mandate of the Indian Coast Guard is to ensure maritime security and safeguard the country's maritime interests, including the prevention of smuggling and maritime pollution.

3. The Indian Coast Guard operates directly under the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Q4.Which of the following statements about the Banni Grassland is/are correct?
1. The Banni Grassland is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
2. The Banni Grassland is known for its rich biodiversity, including several endemic species of flora and fauna.
3. The Banni Grassland is a designated Wildlife Sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3

Q5.Which of the following statements about polio is/are incorrect?
1. Polio is caused by the poliovirus, which affects the nervous system and can lead to paralysis.
2. The polio vaccine used in India is the oral polio vaccine (OPV), which contains inactivated poliovirus.
3. Polio can be transmitted through contaminated food and water.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None of the above

Q6.Which of the following statements about the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus rivers is/are correct?

1. The Ganga River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand, India.
2. The Brahmaputra River flows through the northeastern states of India and is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in its upper reaches in Tibet.
3. The Indus River primarily flows through India and has its mouth in the Arabian Sea.

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 best defines gig workers?

A. Gig workers are individuals who are permanently employed by a single organisation with a fixed salary and benefits.
B. Gig workers are freelancers or independent contractors who engage in short-term, flexible, and project-based work, often mediated through online platforms.
C. Gig workers are seasonal labourers employed in agriculture or similar sectors with no long-term employment contracts.
D. Gig workers are employees who work on a contractual basis with a clear, long-term agreement with a specific employer.

Q8.Which of the following statements about kamikaze drones is/are correct?

1. Kamikaze drones are designed to carry explosive payloads and crash into their targets, detonating upon impact.
2. Kamikaze drones are named after the Japanese World War II suicide pilots, but they are primarily used for reconnaissance and surveillance missions.
3. Kamikaze drones are also known as loitering munition or suicide drones and are employed for their precision in targeting and reducing collateral damage.
4. Kamikaze drones are exclusively used by state military forces and are not employed by non-state actors or insurgent groups.

How many of the above is/are correct:

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

Q9.Which of the following countries share a land border with India?

1. Afghanistan
2. Myanmar
3. Nepal
4. Sri Lanka

Choose the correct option:

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

Q10.Which of the following statements about the Flag Code of India is/are correct?

1. The Flag Code of India, 2002, governs the display and usage of the Indian national flag, including its dimensions and the manner in which it should be hoisted.
2. According to the Flag Code of India, the national flag can be displayed by private citizens only on government-authorised days and must be made of a specific fabric as prescribed by the code.

Which of the following options is/are correct:

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

Solutions

1.Correct answer is C
Explanation:
- **Statement 1:** The Ganga does originate from the Gangotri Glacier, but it is located in Uttarakhand, not Himachal Pradesh. However, the primary part of the statement is correct about the origin.
- **Statement 2:** The Ganga is not the longest river in India; the Godavari holds that title. Additionally, the Ganga flows into Bangladesh, so it does not flow entirely within India.
- **Statement 3:** The Ganga Basin is shared by India and Bangladesh. While it does not include Nepal and Bhutan directly, it does encompass a broader regional area.

2.Correct answer is C
Explanation:
- **Statement 1**: This is **correct**. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is indeed responsible for regulating unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, among other consumer protection activities.
- **Statement 2**: This is also **correct**. The CCPA was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.

3.Correct answer is B
Explanation:
- **Statement 1: This is incorrect.** The Indian Coast Guard was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978, but it was set up by an act of Parliament.
- **Statement 2: This is correct.** The Indian Coast Guard's primary mandate includes ensuring maritime security, safeguarding maritime interests, preventing smuggling, and addressing maritime pollution.
- **Statement 3: This is correct.** The Indian Coast Guard operates under the Ministry of Defence, not the Ministry of Home Affairs as sometimes mistaken.

4.Correct answer is B
Explanation:
- **Statement 1: This is correct**. The Banni Grassland is indeed located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
- **Statement 2: This is correct.** The Banni Grassland is known for its rich biodiversity, including various species of birds, animals, and plants. It supports a unique ecosystem in the arid region of Kutch.
- **Statement 3: This is incorrect.** The Banni Grassland is not a designated Wildlife Sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. However, it is an important ecological zone and has been recognized for its significance in other ways.

5.Correct answer is A
Explanation:
- **Statement 1**: This is **correct**. Polio is indeed caused by the poliovirus and can affect the nervous system, potentially leading to paralysis.
- **Statement 2**: This is **incorrect**. The oral polio vaccine (OPV) used in India contains weakened (live attenuated) poliovirus, not inactivated poliovirus. The inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) contains killed virus and is used in other vaccination programs.
- **Statement 3**: This is **correct**. Polio is transmitted through contaminated food and water, which is a common route of infection.

6. Correct answer is A
Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is correct.** The Ganga River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand, India.
- **Statement 2: This is correct.** The Brahmaputra River, known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in its upper reaches in Tibet, flows through northeastern India.
- **Statement 3: This is incorrect.** The Indus River primarily flows through Pakistan, not India, and its mouth is in the Arabian Sea.

7. Correct answer is B
Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is incorrect.** Gig workers are not typically permanently employed by a single organisation with a fixed salary and benefits. They usually work on a short-term or freelance basis.
- **Statement 2: This is correct.** Gig workers are freelancers or independent contractors who engage in short-term, flexible, and project-based work, often facilitated through online platforms or apps.
- **Statement 3: This is incorrect.** While some gig workers may be involved in seasonal or agricultural work, the term "gig workers" broadly encompasses various types of short-term, flexible jobs beyond just seasonal agricultural work.
- **Statement 4: This is incorrect.** Gig workers do not typically have long-term, clear, and fixed agreements with specific employers. Their work is characterised by its temporary and flexible nature.

8. Correct answer is A
Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is correct.** Kamikaze drones are designed to carry explosive payloads and crash into their targets, detonating upon impact, similar to the concept of kamikaze attacks.
- **Statement 2: This is incorrect.** While the term "kamikaze" is derived from Japanese World War II suicide pilots, kamikaze drones are primarily designed for offensive purposes rather than reconnaissance or surveillance.
- **Statement 3: This is correct.** Kamikaze drones are also known as loitering munition or suicide drones. They are valued for their precision in targeting and minimising collateral damage.
- **Statement 4: This is incorrect.** Kamikaze drones are used not only by state military forces but also by non-state actors and insurgent groups, reflecting their increasing availability and use in various conflicts.

9. Correct answer is B
Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Afghanistan does not share a land border with India. The countries that share land borders with India are Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Myanmar shares a land border with India.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Nepal shares a land border with India.
- **Statement 4: Incorrect.** Sri Lanka does not share a land border with India; it is an island nation to the south of India, separated by the Palk Strait.

10. Correct Answer is A
Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is correct.** The Flag Code of India, 2002, provides detailed guidelines on the display and usage of the national flag, including specifications on its dimensions and the correct manner to hoist it.
- **Statement 2: This is incorrect.** The Flag Code of India permits private citizens to display the national flag on all days and occasions, not just government-authorised days. It also allows the flag to be made of various materials, provided it meets the prescribed standards of dignity and respect.

MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1.Discuss the implications of the shift from khadi to polyester in the production of the Indian national flag. How does this policy change affect India's traditional handloom industry and cultural heritage? Propose measures to restore the significance of khadi in national symbols and support traditional handloom industries.

Q2.Examine the challenges and opportunities faced by India in managing its relationships with neighbouring countries considering their recent political and economic turmoil. How can India effectively balance its strategic interests with the need for regional stability and cooperation?

GET IN TOUCH

📞 +919999057869

🌐 www.upscmentorship.com

📷 @mentorship.india

📍 C – 103, Second Floor, Sector-2 Noida – 201301

✉️ contact@mentorshipindia.com