



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Grasslands in Kutch likely to host cheetahs from Africa

Source: The Hindu

Context: India will be soon releasing cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 and it was declared extinct in the country in 1952.

Cheetahs:

- The cheetah is **one of the oldest of the big cat species**, with ancestors that can be traced back more than five million years to the **Miocene era**.
- The cheetah is also the **world's fastest land mammal that lives in Africa and Asia**.

African Cheetah:

- **Characteristics:** They have slightly brownish and golden skin which is thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs.
- They have **much more prominent spots and lines on their face as compared to their Asian cousins**.
- **Distribution:** Found all over the African continent in thousands of numbers.

Protection:



- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
- CITES: Appendix 1.
- WPA: Schedule-2.

Asiatic Cheetah:

- **Characteristic:** Slightly smaller than the African Cheetahs.
- They have pale yellowish fawn coloured skin with more fur under their body, specifically on the belly. **Distribution:** Found only in Iran with less than 100 individuals left.

Protection:

- IUCN Red List: critically endangered.
- CITES: Appendix 1.
- WPA: Schedule-2.

Sr. No.	Parameter	African Cheetah	Asiatic Cheetah
1.	IUCN status	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered.
2.	CITES status	Appendix-I of the List.	Appendix-I of the List.
3.	Distribution	Around 6,500-7,000 African cheetahs present in the wild.	40-50 found only in Iran.
4.	Physical Characteristics	Bigger in size as compared to Asiatic Cheetah.	Smaller and paler than the African cheetah. Has more fur, a smaller head and a longer neck. Usually have red eyes and they have a more cat-like appearance.
5.	Image		

What are the Threats?

- **Human-wildlife conflict, loss of habitat and loss of prey, and illegal trafficking.**
- **Deforestation and agriculture** eventually led to less forest land and Cheetah habitat.

- The advent of climate change and growing human populations have only made these problems worse.

What are the Key Points of Kuno National Park?

- Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh is one the most unique destinations for all wildlife lovers and enthusiasts.
- It has a healthy population of chital, sambar, nilgai, wild pig, chinkara and cattle.
- Currently, the leopard and striped hyena are the only larger carnivores within the National Park, with the lone tiger having returned to Ranthambore earlier this year.

2.Chandrashekhar Azad

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Prime Minister recently paid tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary.

Chandrashekhar Azad:

- He was a **great Indian freedom fighter**.
- His resolve to fight for India's independence was ignited early
- Joined the **Non-Cooperation Movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Azad was disappointed by Gandhi's suspension of the non cooperation movement in **February 1922**, after several policemen had been murdered by a revolutionary mob at Chauri Chaura.
- He became an **active member of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**, an organisation dedicated to overthrowing British rule through revolutionary means.
- By **1928**, he had played a crucial role in transforming the HRA into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), which aimed to establish a socialist republic in India.
- He worked closely with other notable revolutionaries, including the **legendary Bhagat Singh**.
- Together, they sought to challenge and dismantle the oppressive colonial regime.
- He played key a role in the **Kakori Train Robbery (1926)**, the attempt to blow up the Viceroy's train (1926), and the shooting of Saunders at Lahore (1928) to avenge the **killing of Lala Lajpat Rai**.
- Azad was known for his unwavering resolve and extraordinary bravery.
- In January 1931, during a fierce encounter with the British police in Alfred Park, Allahabad, Azad fought valiantly but was eventually cornered. Faced with the prospect of capture, Azad chose to end his life on his own terms, declaring that he would never be captured alive.

3.Panchamasali Lingayats, and politics surrounding their quota demands

Source: The Hindu

Context: Inclusion in the OBC 2A category will allow the Panchamasali Lingayat community to benefit from a 15 per cent quota in government jobs and educational opportunities.



What are the Key Points of the Move?

- Karnataka currently has 32% quota for OBC, and 17% and 7% quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively, taking the total to 56%.
- The **Panchamasali sub-sect of Veerashaiva Lingayats** has demanded inclusion in the 2A category which has 15% quota from their current 3B category which has 5% quota.
- The Cabinet's decision is based on the recommendations of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.
- The **Vokkaliga community**, which is currently in the 3A category, will be moved to a newly-created 2C category with 4% reservation. And the Lingayat community, which is in the 3B category, will now be in a new 2D category with 5% reservation.
- The Cabinet decision ensures that there is no sub-categorisation of the Lingayat community.
- The Lingayats are a dominant community who make up nearly 17% of Karnataka's six crore population- followed by Vokkaligas. The new categories will not affect the existing reservation provided to other communities.
- The reservation will be applicable only in education and jobs, and "not political reservation.

Who are Lingayats?

- The term Lingayat denotes a person who **wears a personal linga**, an iconic form of god Shiva, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony.
- Lingayats are the followers of the **12th-century social reformer-philosopher poet, Basaveshwara**.
- Basaveshwara was against the caste system and Vedic rituals.
- The Lingayats are **strict monotheists**. They enjoy the worship of **only one God, namely, Linga (Shiva)**.
- Lingayats had been classified as a Hindu subcaste called "**Veerashaiva Lingayats**" and they are considered to be Shaivites.

Separate Religion for Lingayats:

- Lingayats had distanced themselves from Hindu Veerashaivas because the latter followed the Vedas and supported the caste system, to which Basaveshwara was against.
- Veerashaivas are the followers of the five peethas (religious centres), called Pancha Peethas. These peethas are set up on similar lines to the four peethas set up by Adi Shankara.

Who are Vokkaligas?

- It is even believed that the **Rashtrakutas and Western Gangas were of Vokkaliga origin**.
- Vokkaliga is a category defined in terms of occupation, and to that extent could be an ethnic category; these are largely farmers by origin.
- The **Vokkaliga caste originates in the Indian state of Karnataka**. In the former princely state of Mysore, the **Vokkaligas were the largest community**.
- As a community of warriors and cultivators, they have historically wielded tremendous demographic, political, and economic dominance in Old Mysore.



How has the Status of OBC Reservation Emerged Over Time?

- The **Kalelkar Commission**, set up in **1953**, was the first to identify backward classes other than the **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** at the national level.
- The **Mandal Commission Report**, 1980 estimated the OBC population at 52% and classified 1,257 communities as backward.
- It recommended increasing the existing quotas, which were only for SC/ST, from 22.5% to 49.5% to include the OBCs.
- The central government reserved 27% of seats in union civil posts and services for OBCs [Article 16(4)]. The quotas were subsequently enforced in central government educational institutions [Article 15 (4)].
- In 2008, the Supreme Court directed the central government to exclude the **creamy layer (advanced sections)** among the OBCs.
- The **102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018** provided constitutional status to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**, which was previously a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

4. Streets turn into rivers as Typhoon Gaemi blows past Philippines

Source: IE

Context: Relentless rain drenched the northern Philippines, triggering floods in Manila and deadly landslides as Typhoon Gaemi intensified the seasonal monsoon.

Typhoon Gaemi:

- Typhoon Gaemi, known in the Philippines as **Super Typhoon Carina**, is an **active tropical cyclone** that is currently threatening Taiwan, after severely affecting the Philippines in late July 2024.
- Gaemi, which means ant in Korean, is the third named storm and second typhoon of the 2024 season. Gaemi started as a tropical disturbance near Palau.
- The disturbance continued to intensify further due to its favourable conditions in the Philippine Sea.
- Carina was upgraded into a tropical storm, which attained the name Gaemi by the JMA. Moving northwestwards, Gaemi began to organise its cloud tops as it started to reach typhoon status.
- Gaemi rapidly intensified into a Category-4 typhoon as it underwent an eyewall replacement cycle. Gaemi slightly weakened into a high-end Category-3 typhoon while it was stalling over the coast before it made landfall over Hualien, Taiwan.
- Together with the southwest monsoon and Tropical Storm Prapiroon, heavy rains were reported over southern and northern Luzon, triggering widespread flash floods in various areas of the region.

Philippines:



- Combined with moisture from the southwest monsoon, the influence of Gaemi produced heavy rainfall across parts of the Philippines.
- Two thoroughfares in the **Zamboanga Peninsula** and **Cordillera Administrative Region**, respectively, were blocked due to rock falls, with access only possible to small vehicles.
- The **Angat Dam** saw water level increases of up to 3.8 m (12 ft) amidst rainfall from Gaemi.
- Downstream, the reservoir of **La Mesa Dam** in Quezon City also rose up causing water to overflow.
- The third and highest alarm was raised on the **Marikina River**.

GS II

5. India committed to FTA with the U.K., says PM

Source: The Hindu

Context: Recently, India and the UK have launched the formal Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, that both countries envisage concluding by the end of 2022.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA):

- It is a **pact between two or more nations** to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them.
- Under a free trade policy, **goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange.**
- The concept of free trade is the **opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.**
- FTAs can be categorised as **Preferential Trade Agreement, Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**

India-UK Trade Relations:

- India and the UK are **vibrant democracies**, with a partnership built on our shared history and rich culture.
- The diverse Indian diaspora in the UK, which acts as a **“Living Bridge”**, adds further dynamism to the relations between the two countries.
- The UK is one of the largest investors in India, among the G20 countries.

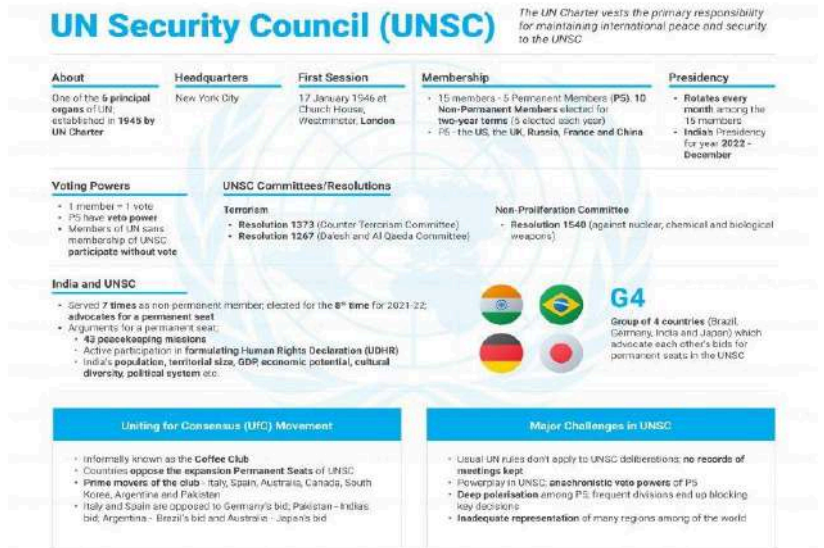
Significance of FTA between India & the UK:

- **Increasing Exports of Goods:** Trade deals with the UK could boost exports for large job-creating sectors such as textiles, leather goods, and footwear.
- **Clarity on Services Trade:** The FTA is expected to provide certainty, predictability and transparency and will create a more liberal, facilitative and competitive services regime.
- **Strategic Advantage:** The UK is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and one of the strategic partners of India.
- **Strengthening bonds** with the trade would seek UKs support at global issues like standoff with China in the Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and claim for permanent seat at UNSC.




What is UNSC?

- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- Mandate to maintain international peace and security.
- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council.



UN Security Council (UNSC) *The UN Charter vests the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the UNSC.*

About	Headquarters	First Session	Membership	Presidency
One of the 6 principal organs of UN established in 1945 by UN Charter	New York City	17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 members - 5 Permanent Members (P5): 10 Non-Permanent Members elected for two-year terms (5 elected each year) P5 - the US, the UK, Russia, France and China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotates every month among the 15 members India's Presidency for year 2022 - December
Voting Powers	UNSC Committees/Resolutions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 member = 1 vote P5 have veto power Members of UN sans membership of UNSC participate without vote 	Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 1373 (Counter Terrorism Committee) Resolution 1267 (Dahesh and Al Qaeda Committee) 	Non-Proliferation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 1540 (against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons) 		
India and UNSC				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Served 7 times as non permanent member, elected for the 8th time for 2021-22; advocates for a permanent seat Arguments for a permanent seat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 peacekeeping missions Active participation in formulating Human Rights Declaration (UDHR) India's population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, cultural diversity, political system etc. 	 <p>G4 Group of 4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) which advocate each other's bids for permanent seats in the UNSC</p>			
Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Movement	Major Challenges in UNSC			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informally known as the Coffee Club Countries oppose the expansion Permanent Seats of UNSC Prime movers of the club - Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's bid, Pakistan - India's bid, Argentina - Brazil's bid and Australia - Japan's bid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal UN rules don't apply to UNSC deliberations; no records of meetings kept Powerplay in UNSC; anachronistic vote powers of P5 Deep polarisation among P5; frequent divisions end up blocking key decisions Inadequate representation of many regions among of the world 			

Composition:

- The UNSC is composed of 15 members: 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.
- Five permanent members: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Ten non-permanent members: Elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

India's Membership:

- India has served seven times in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member and in January 2021, India entered the UNSC for the eighth time.
- India has been advocating a permanent seat in UNSC.

Voting Powers:

- Each member of the Security Council has **one vote**.
- A "No" vote from one of the five permanent members blocks the passage of the resolution.



6.No progress on UN Security Council expansion, say former Ambassadors

Source: The Hindu

Context: On the sidelines of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, the G-4 countries highlight 'urgent need' for reform in the U.N. Security Council (UNSC).

Who are the Group of Four(G-4) Countries?

- The G4 is a grouping of **Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** which are **aspiring to become permanent members of the UNSC**.
- The G4 countries are supporting each other's bids for permanent membership of the UNSC.
- The G4 nations **traditionally meet on the sidelines of the annual high-level UN General Assembly session**.

What are the Key Highlights of the G-4 Meeting?

- They felt that the UN decision-making bodies needed to be urgently reformed as global issues were increasingly complex and interconnected.
- They reiterated their support for African countries being represented in a permanent and non-permanent capacity.

Why is there a Need for UNSC Reforms?

- The UN represents a larger world and the irony is that it has only 5 permanent members in its important body.
- At the time of the formation of the UNSC, big powers were given privileges to make them part of the council.
- The regions like far East Asia, South America, and Africa have no representation in the permanent membership of the council.

Why is India Demanding the Permanent Membership of the UNSC?

- India deserves a permanent place in the council considering the size of its economy, population and the fact that it is the largest democracy in the world.
- India has become a major player not only in Asia but also in the world.



GS III

7.Indigenously developed Automatic train protection (ATP) system Kavach deployed on 1465 Route km and 144 locomotives on South Central Railway

Source: The Hindu

Context: ₹1216.77 crore utilised on Kavach so far; Allocation of funds during the year 2024-25 stands at ₹ 1112.57 crore

Kavach:

- Kavach is an **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system and a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order.
- Kavach **aids the loco pilot in trains running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes** in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the train safely run during inclement weather.
- Kavach has been **certified for highest level of Safety Integrity Level - SIL4 by Independent Safety Assessor and reduces the probability of train collisions in block sections and on running lines at stations through its non-SIL features.** With this, Kavach has potential for adoption by other countries.

Implementation of Kavach involves execution of many activities, such as:

- Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station.
- Installation of RFID tags throughout the track length.
- Installation of Telecom Towers throughout the section.
- Laying of optical Fibre cable along the track.
- Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.

Kavach 4.0

- The Kavach 4.0 specification was approved by **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).**
- This version covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network. This is a significant milestone in safety for Indian Railways.
- Within a short period, Indian Railway has developed, tested and started deploying **Automatic Train Protection System.**
- Funds sanctioned for Kavach are being used for Kavach only.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

8. Is immunity for the President and Governors absolute?

Source: The Hindu

Context: Supreme Court (SC) of India agreed to examine the question of immunity to Governors from any kind of criminal prosecution, granted under **Article 361** of the Constitution. This came after the Chief Justice of India heard a plea from a female Raj Bhavan employee who filed a sexual harassment complaint against the West Bengal Governor.

Immunities Provided to the Governor under Article 361:

Immunities under Article 361:

- **Non-Answerable to Courts:** Article 361(1) states that the President or the Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise of their powers and duties, or for any act done in the exercise of those powers and duties. Article 361 is an exception to Article 14 (Right to Equality).
- **Protection from Criminal Proceedings:** Under Article 361(2), no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office.
- **No Arrest:** Under Article 361(3), no arrest or imprisonment processes can be issued against the President or Governor during their term of office.
- **Protection from Civil Proceedings:** Under Article 361(4), no civil lawsuits can be filed against the President or Governor of a State during their term of office for any personal acts until two months after giving written notice.

Recommendations Regarding Reforms in the Office of the Governor

- **Sarkaria Commission (1988):**
 - The Governor should be appointed by the President after consulting the Chief Minister of the respective state.
 - The Governor should be an individual of eminence in public life and should not belong to the state where they are appointed.
 - Governors should not be removed before the completion of their term, except under rare and compelling circumstances.
 - The Governor should serve as a bridge between the Centre and the state, rather than acting as an agent of the Centre.
 - Discretionary powers should be exercised sparingly and judiciously, avoiding any actions that might undermine the democratic process.



- **Venkatachaliah Commission or National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) (2002):**
 - The appointment of Governors should be entrusted to a committee comprising the prime minister, the home minister, the speaker of the Lok Sabha and the chief minister of the concerned state.
 - The governors should be allowed to complete their five-year term unless they resign or are removed by the President on the grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.
 - The central government should consult the Chief Minister before taking any action to remove the governor.
 - The Governor should not interfere in the day-to-day administration of the state.
 - He should act as a friend, philosopher and guide to the state government and use his discretionary powers sparingly.

Constitutional Provisions Related to the Governor:

- **Article 153:** There shall be a Governor for each state. A single person can be appointed as the Governor for two or more states (recommended by the Sarkaria Commission).The Governor is appointed by the President and is a nominee of the Central Government.
- **Articles 157 and 158:** Specify the eligibility requirements for the post of Governor.
- **Article 161:** The Governor has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, etc.
- **Article 163:** There is a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in some conditions where discretion is allowed.
- **Article 164:** The Governor appoints the Chief Minister and other Ministers.
- **Article 200:** The Governor assents, withholds assent, or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President passed by the Legislative Assembly.
- **Article 213:** The Governor may promulgate ordinances under certain circumstances.



In Brief

9. Banni Grassland

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:

- It is located along the **northern border of Kachchh district in the state of Gujarat.**
- It is **one of the largest grasslands in the Indian subcontinent** with an area of over 2500 sq.km.
- The Banni is also home to 22 ethnic groups, the majority of whom are pastoralists, spread across 48 settlements in 19 Panchayats, with a population of close to 40,000 people.
- It is home to great biological diversity, having 37 grass species, 275 bird species, and domesticated animals like Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Horses and Camel, as well as wildlife.
- The **Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary** which spans over an area of 380 Sq. km and the recently notified 227 Sq. km **Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve** are part of the Banni Grasslands.
- **Flora:** The vegetation here mainly comprises Prosopis Juliflora, Cressa critica, Cyperus spp, Sporobolus, Dichanthium, and Aristida.
- **Fauna:** It is home to mammals such as the Nilgai, Chinkara, Blackbuck, Wild boar, Golden Jackal, Indian Hare, Indian Wolf, Caracal, Asiatic Wildcat and Desert Fox etc.
- The region also serves as a **breeding ground for the Banni buffalo and the Kankrej cow**

10. Vishnupad Temple

Source: IE

Context: The Finance Minister announced during the Union Budget speech that corridor projects will be built for the Vishnupad Temple in Gaya and the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

Vishnupad Temple:

- It is in the **state of Bihar** and dedicated to **Lord Vishnu.**
- It was **built in 1787** on the orders of **Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Ahmadnagar.**
- It is located on the banks of the **Falgu river.**
- **Architecture:** Architecturally, the temple is around **100 feet tall and has 44 pillars.**
- Devotees visit the temple during **pitra-paksh**, a period in the Hindu calendar when people take part in rituals to remember their ancestors.

Key facts about Mahabodhi Temple:

- The temple stands to the **east of the Mahabodhi Tree, where Gautam Buddha is believed to have attained nirvana.** The temple has a unique shape and a height of 170 feet.
- It is located in Bodh Gaya, in central Bihar, on the banks of the Niranjana River.
- The **Mahabodhi Temple Complex** is the **first temple built by Emperor Asoka** in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th–6th centuries.
- It is one of the **earliest Buddhist temples** built entirely in brick, still standing, from the late Gupta period and it is considered to have had significant influence in the development of brick architecture over the centuries.
- It was recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002.**



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the differences between African and Asian cheetahs:

1. The African cheetah is slightly larger and faster than the Asian cheetah.
2. The Asian cheetah has a more restricted range, primarily found in Iran, whereas the African cheetah is spread across several countries in Africa.
3. The conservation status of both African and Asian cheetahs is listed as "Endangered" under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. With reference to the Banni Grassland, consider the following statements:

1. The Banni Grassland is located in the state of Gujarat, India.
2. It is known for its unique ecosystem and is home to a variety of wildlife, including the Indian Wild Ass.

Q4. With reference to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), consider the following statements:

1. Free Trade Agreements are designed to reduce or eliminate trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas between the member countries.
2. FTAs only apply to goods and not to services.
3. FTAs can include provisions on intellectual property rights and labour standards.

3. The grassland is primarily formed by the deposition of alluvial soil by the Indus River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about Typhoon Gaemi:

Assertion (A): Typhoon Gaemi caused significant flooding and damage in several countries in East Asia.

Reason (R): Typhoon Gaemi was characterised by slow movement and high rainfall intensity, leading to prolonged exposure to storm conditions in affected areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None of the above



Q5. With reference to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. The UNSC has a total of 15 members, including 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.
2. The non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected for three-year terms.

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

Q6. Which of the following countries are part of the G4 grouping, which advocates for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council?

1. India
2. Brazil
3. Germany
4. Japan

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. With reference to the "Kavach" system in India, which of the following is correct:

- A. Kavach is an advanced missile defence system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- B. Kavach is a satellite-based communication system for the Indian Armed Forces.
- C. Kavach is a safety mechanism designed to prevent train collisions in India.
- D. Kavach is a cyber-security initiative aimed at protecting critical infrastructure in India.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): The Governor of a state in India has the power to reserve certain bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President of India.

Reason (R): The President of India holds the highest executive authority in the country and can make decisions on bills reserved by the Governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

Q9. Which of the following statements correctly describes the immunities granted to the Governor of a state in India?

1. The Governor cannot be sued in any court for actions taken in the exercise of their official duties.
2. The Governor is immune from prosecution for any criminal acts committed during their tenure.
3. The Governor can be held liable for actions taken in their personal capacity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10. Where is the Vishnupad Temple, known for its ancient and significant religious importance, situated?

- A. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gaya, Bihar
- C. Puri, Odisha
- D. Rishikesh, Uttarakhand



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The African cheetah is generally larger and faster compared to the Asian cheetah.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Asian cheetah is critically endangered and primarily found in Iran, whereas the African cheetah is distributed across several African countries.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The conservation status of the African cheetah is "Vulnerable" under the IUCN Red List, while the Asian cheetah is listed as "Critically Endangered".

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Banni Grassland is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Banni Grassland is known for its unique ecosystem and supports a variety of wildlife, including the Indian Wild Ass.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Banni Grassland is primarily formed by the deposition of sediments brought by rivers flowing from the nearby Rann of Kutch, rather than the Indus River.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** Typhoon Gaemi did cause significant flooding and damage in East Asia, including countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.
- **Reason (R) is true:** The slow movement and high rainfall intensity of Typhoon Gaemi led to prolonged storm conditions, which contributed to the extensive flooding and damage. Thus, the reason correctly explains the assertion.

4. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** FTAs aim to reduce or eliminate trade barriers like tariffs and quotas between member countries to facilitate free trade.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** FTAs can apply to both goods and services, not just goods.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Modern FTAs often include provisions on intellectual property rights, labour standards, environmental standards, and other regulatory measures to ensure fair trade practices.



5. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The UNSC has 15 members, including 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected for two-year terms, not three-year terms.

6. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

The G4 grouping consists of India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan. These countries support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

7. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Kavach is not a missile defence system developed by ISRO.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kavach is not a satellite-based communication system for the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kavach is a safety mechanism designed to prevent train collisions in India.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Kavach is not a cyber-security initiative aimed at protecting critical infrastructure in India.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true:** The Governor of a state can reserve certain bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President of India as per Article 200 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Reason (R) is true:** The President of India, as the highest executive authority, has the power to make decisions on bills reserved by the Governor. Therefore, the reason correctly explains the assertion.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Governor cannot be sued in any court for actions taken in the exercise of their official duties, which is a constitutional immunity.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Governor is not immune from prosecution for criminal acts committed outside the scope of official duties.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Governor can be held liable for actions taken in their personal capacity, outside the scope of official duties.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Vishnupad Temple is not located in Varanasi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Vishnupad Temple is located in Gaya, Bihar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Vishnupad Temple is not located in Puri.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Vishnupad Temple is not located in Rishikesh.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

1. Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies?





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