



**UPSC
Mentorship**
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. 35-foot-tall Shivaji statue unveiled by PM last year collapses

Source: The hindu

Context: A statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, which was unveiled by the Prime Minister last year at a fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, collapsed.

Statue of Chatrapati Shivaji:

- **Historical Background:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630-1680) was the founder of the Maratha Empire in India.
- **Early Conflicts:** Shivaji Maharaj's military engagements against the Adil Shahi Sultanate of Bijapur commenced when he was just 16 years old.
- **Administrative Innovations:** He introduced the Ashta Pradhan system, an administrative council comprising eight ministers, and emphasised the use of Marathi and Sanskrit in his administration.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

- **Early Life and Rise:**
 - **Birth and Early Years:**
 - Born on April 10, 1627, at Shivneri Fort, Maharashtra.
 - Youngest son of Shahji and Jija Bai.
 - Little interaction with father due to Shahji's campaigns in Karnataka.
 - **Initial Conquests:**
 - Seized Torna Fort in 1647 at age 16.
 - Expanded control by capturing nearby forts from the Adilshahi Sultanate.
 - **Administrative Setup:**
 - Managed his father's Jagir in Pune and established a small but effective council of ministers.
- **Key Military and Political Events**
 - **Early Campaigns:**
 - Conquered Purandar Fort (1648), pivotal for Maratha defence.
 - Captured Javli Fort (1656), leading to the acquisition of Raigad Fort.
 - **Confrontations with Bijapur Sultanate:**
 - **Battle of Pratapgad (1659) against Afzal Khan:** significant victory.
 - Post-1659, continued expansions despite Shahaji's imprisonment and subsequent release.
 - **Struggle Against Aurangzeb:**
 - Faced Mughal invasions led by Shaista Khan; countered with raids and attacks, including the raid on Surat.
 - Treaty of Purandar (1665) with Raja Jai Singh I, agreeing to limit his conquests.
 - **Conflict with the British:**
 - Initially allied with the British but turned adversarial after British support to Bijapur Sultanate.



- **Administrative Reforms:**
 - **Central Administration:**
 - **Ashta Pradhan system:** Eight ministers including Peshwa (Prime Minister), Majumder (Finance), Pandit Rao (Religious Affairs), Dabir (Foreign Affairs), Senapati (Military), Nyayadhish (Justice), Mantri (Chronicles), and Sachiv (Correspondence).
 - Promoted Marathi and Sanskrit over Persian.
 - **Revenue Administration:**
 - Replaced Jagirdari System with Ryotwari System.
 - Introduced Chauth and Sardeshmukhi taxes.
 - **Military Administration:**
 - Established a strong and disciplined military force.
 - Emphasized guerrilla warfare tactics and maintained a well-organized navy.
- **Forts and Maritime Legacy**
 - **Key Forts:**
 - **Raigad Fort:** Capital and coronation site.
 - **Pratapgad Fort:** Site of the battle against Afzal Khan.
 - **Sindhudurg Fort:** Naval base off the Konkan coast.
 - **Rajgad Fort:** Early stronghold.
 - **Torna Fort:** First major conquest.
 - **Maritime Achievements:**
 - Developed a powerful navy and constructed several naval forts.
 - Recognized as the “Father of the Indian Navy” for his strategic naval innovations.
- **Cultural and Social Contributions:**
 - **Promotion of Marathi and Sanskrit:**
 - Replaced Persian with Marathi in court.
 - Commissioned the creation of ‘Rajavyavaharakosa’, a dictionary of state terms.
 - **Religious Tolerance:**
 - Practiced secularism and provided support to all religions.
 - Encouraged social inclusivity and opposed caste discrimination.
- **Legacy and Impact:**
 - **Leadership and Strategy:**
 - Known for strategic acumen in military tactics and administration.
 - Emphasized guerrilla warfare and promoted a strong sense of nationalism and secularism.
 - **Recognition:**
 - Celebrated annually on Shivaji Jayanti (February 19th).
 - Noted by historians like MG Ranade for his administrative brilliance and compared to Napoleon for his organisational skills.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj remains a symbol of resistance against tyranny, a pioneer in administration and military strategy, and a beacon of secularism and national pride in Indian history.



GS II

2. On the unrest in the Balochistan region

Source: The Hindu

Context: Large-scale protests erupted in Balochistan, Pakistan, initiated by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) to address human rights violations, resource exploitation, and inadequate government services.

Balochistan Protests and Regional Dynamics:

Historical Background:

- **Formation and Coercion:** Balochistan's historical trajectory includes the 1947 declaration of independence by the Khan of Kalat, later coerced into accession with Pakistan in 1948.
- **Gwadar Acquisition:** Gwadar, part of the Sultanate of Oman at Pakistan's independence, was acquired by Pakistan in 1958.
- **One Unit Scheme:** Introduced in 1955, leading to centralization and subsequent abolition in 1970, but did not fully resolve issues of provincial autonomy.

Economic and Political Factors:

- **Economic Neglect:** Despite Balochistan's mineral wealth and strategic location, it remains economically underdeveloped with minimal local benefits from resource exploitation.
- **Economic Indicators:** Contributed 4.5% to Pakistan's GDP and 14% of national road network, yet faces severe socio-economic issues.

Human Rights Issues:

- **Counter-Insurgency Measures:** Reports of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and fake encounters have deepened discontent. Official figures of disappearances are contested by civil society.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Impact:

- **CPEC Investments:** China has invested in infrastructure projects in Balochistan, including Gwadar port, raising concerns about militarization and local displacement.
- **Local Discontent:** Lack of tangible benefits from CPEC, illegal fishing by Chinese trawlers, and rapid demographic changes have fueled local resentment.

Current Challenges and Recommendations:

- **Military Response:** Increasing attacks on security forces and CPEC projects by insurgent groups. The government's response involves heightened security measures.
- **Call for Compassion:** Editorials suggest a need for compassionate engagement with Baloch grievances, focusing on missing persons and socio-economic disparities.
- **Nation-Building Issues:** The conflict underscores challenges in nation-building based on religion and the failure to address ethnic and regional aspirations.
- **Lessons from Other Regions:** Experiences from Sri Lanka and Myanmar highlight the consequences of failing to address provincial aspirations.

Conclusion:

- **Need for Inclusive Solutions:** Addressing Balochistan's issues requires an inclusive approach that balances security with genuine political and economic reforms.
- **Importance of Stakeholder Participation:** Effective resolution must involve local stakeholders in decision-making processes to address grievances and foster long-term stability.



3. BRICS: India may mull proposal on currencies if 'non-binding'

Source: The Hindu

Context: BRICS countries aim to use national currencies for trade to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

What is BRICS?

- **Definition:** BRICS is an acronym representing a coalition of major emerging economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.**
- **Summits:** The BRICS Leaders' Summit is held annually, with the most recent being the 15th BRICS Summit hosted by South Africa in 2023. Russia is set to host the 16th BRICS Summit in October 2024.

Formation and Evolution:

- **Initial Formation:** The initial grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC) was informally established during a meeting at the G8 Outreach Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2006. This was formally recognized at the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York later that year.
- **Formalisation:** The first official BRIC summit occurred in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. South Africa joined the group in 2010, leading to the establishment of BRICS.

Notable Developments:

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** At the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza in 2014, the leaders signed the agreement to establish the New Development Bank (NDB), aimed at supporting infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies.

Significance:

- **Demographics and Economy:** BRICS countries collectively represent about 3.5 billion people, making up approximately 45% of the global population. Their combined economies exceed USD 28.5 trillion, accounting for around 28% of the world's GDP.
- **Energy Production:** The group's members, along with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, contribute nearly 44% of global crude oil production.

4. Ending the war on Gaza would relieve Israel's struggling economy, say experts

Source: The Hindu

Context: In Jerusalem's Old City, nearly all souvenir shops are closed. In Haifa's flea market, forlorn merchants polish their wares on empty streets. Airlines are cancelling flights, businesses are failing and luxury hotels are half empty.

Economic Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Israel and Gaza:

- **Current Situation:**
 - **Economic Decline:** Israel's economy is experiencing significant distress due to nearly 11 months of conflict with Hamas, affecting business operations and tourism.
 - **Tourism Sector:** Tourist destinations in Jerusalem and Haifa are almost deserted, with luxury hotels and airlines seeing a notable decline in activity.



- **Small Business Impact:** Many small businesses are either struggling or have shut down due to decreased consumer activity and the mobilisation of reserves.
- **Government and Economic Response:**
 - **Government Stance:** The Israeli government maintains that the economic impact is temporary; however, experts argue that a ceasefire could alleviate further economic damage.
 - **Economic Analysis:** Experts note that ongoing uncertainty about the conflict's duration and intensity is significantly harming economic stability.
 - **Deficit and Downgrades:** Israel's budget deficit has increased to over 8% of GDP, surpassing initial forecasts. Credit rating agencies have downgraded Israel's credit status, which may increase borrowing costs.
- **Impact on Gaza:**
 - **Humanitarian Crisis:** Gaza's economy is in severe distress, with widespread displacement, high unemployment, and a death toll exceeding 40,000.
- **Broader Economic Effects:**
 - **Rebuilding Costs:** The extended conflict entails substantial costs for rebuilding infrastructure, compensating affected individuals, and ongoing military expenditures.
 - **Regional Tensions:** The conflict's potential to escalate involves threats from neighbouring countries, which impacts regional stability and economic activity.
- **Tourism and Transportation:**
 - **Airline and Port Activity:** Major airlines have suspended flights to Israel, and the port of Haifa is experiencing reduced activity due to global shipping disruptions and regional security concerns.
- **Future Projections:**
 - **Economic Forecast:** The Bank of Israel forecasts a reduced economic growth rate of 1.5% for 2024 if the conflict concludes soon, down from an earlier prediction of 3%.
 - **Overall Cost:** The total economic impact of the conflict is estimated to reach \$120 billion, approximately 20% of Israel's GDP.



GS III

5. Pragyan rover reveals signs of magma ocean on ancient moon

Source: The Hindu

Context: A long night awaited the Pragyan rover on the moon as it bid farewell to operators at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) one last time.

Key Highlights on Chandrayaan-3 Mission and Findings

- **Mission Overview:**
 - **Launch Date:** Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon on August 23, 2023.
 - **Rover:** Pragyan rover operated for two weeks, studying lunar soil.
 - **End of Mission:** Pragyan stopped functioning due to subzero temperatures, but successfully completed its scientific objectives.
- **Key Discoveries:**
 - **Ferroan Anorthosite:** The rover identified ferroan anorthosite in the lunar soil, confirming the presence of this rock type at the Moon's south pole. This supports theories about the Moon's formation from a primordial magma ocean.
 - **Sulphur and Rock Fragments:** Detected sulphur and confirmed the presence of small rock fragments around crater rims.
- **Scientific Importance:**
 - **Ferroan Anorthosite:** Supports the idea that the Moon's surface was covered by an ancient ocean of magma.
 - **Comparison with Past Missions:** Confirms findings similar to those from Apollo and Luna missions but in a new lunar region.
- **Technical Details:**
 - **Instruments:** Pragyan's Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) used to analyse lunar dust and rocks.
 - **Data Collection:** The rover provided high-quality data that could not be obtained by orbiters alone.
- **Additional Information:**
 - **Significance:** Prime Minister declared August 23 as India's 'National Space Day' to mark the mission's success.
 - **Publication:** The findings were published in Nature on August 21, just before the first commemoration of the mission's success.



6. Crime, health-worker safety and a self-examination

Source: The Hindu

Context: In 2017, violent attacks on medical personnel in Maharashtra led to heightened demands for better security in public hospitals. Recent tragic death of a resident doctor in Kolkata has spurred nationwide attention and Supreme Court intervention.

Addressing Health Worker Safety and Corruption in India:

- **Current Measures:**
 - **Supreme Court Actions:**
 - Constitution of a national task force to enhance hospital safety.
 - Focus areas include improved infrastructure, CCTV surveillance, increased security presence, and safe night transport.
 - **State Initiatives:**
 - West Bengal's 'Rattierer Saathi' program to enhance safety for women working night shifts in medical institutions.
- **Underlying Issues:**
 - **Limited Effectiveness of Traditional Measures:**
 - Past responses, like enhancing hospital security and legislation, have often been insufficient.
 - Corruption has been a significant, yet under-recognized, factor contributing to violence and the overall frailty of public health systems.
 - **Impact of Corruption:**
 - WHO estimates corruption costs nearly \$455 billion annually, more than the cost to extend universal health coverage globally.
 - Corruption in developing countries, including India, exacerbates health crises and poor outcomes.
- **Necessary Reforms:**
 - **Focus Beyond Security:**
 - The national task force should not only address immediate safety concerns but also tackle deep-rooted corruption in the public health sector.
 - **Comprehensive Strategies Required:**
 - **Administrative Reforms:** Enhance transparency, accountability, and oversight within health systems.
 - **Whistle-Blower Protections:** Implement effective reporting and protection mechanisms.
 - **Digitalization:** Modernize public management systems to reduce corruption.
 - **Ombudsmanship:** Reduce political interference in health management.
 - **Global Examples:** Learn from countries like Brazil in combating medical corruption.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Resistance to Change:** Modernizing outdated public hospital systems remains a challenge.
 - **Broad Participation Needed:** Successful reform requires input from various sectors, including public health experts, legal professionals, and government authorities.



Conclusion:

- Effective and lasting solutions to health worker safety and corruption require a holistic approach that goes beyond traditional responses. Addressing these issues is crucial for improving public health systems and ensuring the safety and efficacy of healthcare delivery.

7. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation will attend the 54th Foundation Day celebrations of BPR&D as Chief Guest in New Delhi

Source: PIB

Context: 54th Foundation Day of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)

- **Event Overview:**
 - **Date and Location:** The 54th Foundation Day of BPR&D will be held on August 28, 2024, in New Delhi.
 - **Chief Guest:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation will be the Chief Guest for the event.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Lecture:** Union Minister will deliver the Dr. Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial Lecture titled “New Criminal Laws – Citizen Centric Reforms.”
 - **Honours:** The Home Minister will award the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and President's Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) for 2023 and 2024.
 - **Publication Release:** A special edition of the “Indian Police Journal,” focusing on new criminal laws, will be launched during the event.
- **BPR&D's Role and Mission:**
 - **Mandate:** Since its establishment in 1970, BPR&D has functioned as a think tank for the Indian Police, emphasising research and development to improve policing.
 - **Focus Areas:** The institute aims to develop policies and procedures for police and correctional services, adopt new technologies, enhance capacity building, and promote inter-agency cooperation.
- **Leadership and Vision:**
 - **Current Leadership:** Under Prime Minister leadership and Union Minister guidance, BPR&D is committed to transforming Indian police forces into SMART (Sensitive, Modern, Alert, Responsive, and Tech-savvy) forces.
 - **Objective:** To equip police forces with intellectual, physical, and organisational resources to effectively address policing and internal security challenges.
- **Attendees:**
 - The ceremony will include Union Home Secretary, Directors General of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), heads of central police organisations, and senior officials from the Home Ministry and other departments.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

8. The heavy shackles of fear and vigilance

Source: The Hindu

Context: The brutal rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata has led to the country finding itself, once again, engaged in a deep conversation on the safety of women in India.

Key Points on Women's Safety and Vigilance

- **Incident Triggering Discussion:**
 - Recent brutal rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata has intensified discussions on women's safety in India.
- **Spectrum of Violence:**
 - Women face various forms of violence: sexual harassment, dowry-related deaths, rape, and domestic violence.
 - Physical impacts are visible, but psychological and behavioural consequences are often overlooked.
- **Psychological Impact:**
 - **Constant Vigilance:** Women live in a state of perpetual alertness, evaluating threats in both public and private spaces.
 - **Psychological Strain:** This vigilance becomes ingrained and exhausting, leading to unrecognised psychological distress.
- **Effects on Daily Life:**
 - **Restricted Freedom:** Fear impacts career choices, personal relationships, and simple pleasures like walks or travel.
 - **Intergenerational Burden:** Safety concerns and behavioural adjustments are often passed from mother to daughter, reinforcing the idea that women must ensure their own safety.
- **Disadvantaged Groups:**
 - **Additional Challenges:** Women from marginalised communities face intensified risks due to caste, class, and religion.
 - **Lack of Support:** These women often lack institutional support and navigate more dangerous environments.
- **Societal Impact:**
 - **Restricted Potential:** Women's constant vigilance limits their experiences and contributions to society.
 - **Need for Change:** Addressing both physical and psychological impacts is crucial for creating a more equitable society.
- **Call to Action:**
 - **Broaden Understanding:** Recognize and address the less visible forms of violence that impact women.
 - **Unlock Potential:** Ensure women are free from the constraints of fear and able to contribute fully to society.



In Brief

9. POCSO court sends accused in Badlapur assault case to judicial custody for 14 days

Source: The Hindu

Context: The accused in the Badlapur child sexual abuse case was sent to 14 days of judicial custody by a special Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) court in Kalyan.

Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO):

- **Enactment:** The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act came into effect on 14th November 2012, following India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.
- **Objective:** Addresses sexual exploitation and abuse of children, with clearer definitions and increased penalties.
- **Definition:** A child is defined as anyone below 18 years. Amendments in 2019 introduced harsher penalties, including the death penalty for severe offences.

Features:

- **Gender Neutral:** Applies to both boys and girls equally.
- **Reporting Ease:** Non-reporting of child sexual exploitation is an offence. Explicit definitions of crimes like sexual assault.
- **POCSO Rules 2020:** Includes provisions for interim compensation, immediate special relief, and support persons for affected children.

Issues and Challenges:

- **Investigation Problems:** Low representation of women in police forces, lapses in crime scene preservation, and delays in charge filing.
- **Judicial Concerns:** Inadequate provisions for age determination and lack of conditions for recent intercourse in prosecutions.
- **Implementation Gaps:** Delays in investigations and insufficient training for handling cases.

Initiatives:

- **Programs:** Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and several child protection laws and acts.
- **Future Directions:** Increase resources, provide training for officers, and establish special POCSO courts to expedite trials.



10. Indian govt probes Telegram as CEO Pavel Durov arrested in France, potential ban looms: Report

Source: Business Today

Context: Pavel Durov, the man behind the encrypted messaging app Telegram, was arrested

Pavel Durov's Arrest and its Implications

- **Indian Government Investigation:**
 - Telegram is under scrutiny by the Indian government for its alleged use in criminal activities like extortion and gambling.
 - The investigation could potentially lead to a ban on the app based on the findings.
- **Recent Arrest:**
 - Pavel Durov, the founder of Telegram, was arrested at Le Bourget Airport in Paris on August 25, 2024.
 - The arrest is linked to allegations that Durov failed to prevent the criminal misuse of Telegram.
- **Charges and Impact:**
 - Durov faces potential severe charges which could result in a significant prison sentence.
 - His arrest raises concerns about communication freedom in Europe and may affect France's image as a startup-friendly country.
- **Background:**
 - Durov, a billionaire and the 120th richest person globally, founded Telegram in 2013 after leaving Russia due to government pressures.
 - Telegram is known for its end-to-end encryption and secure communication features.
- **Criticism:**
 - Edward Snowden criticised the arrest, calling it an assault on human rights and accusing the French President of compromising global privacy standards.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following statements correctly describes the POCSO Act?

- The POCSO Act was enacted in 1992 to address child sexual abuse.
- The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.
- The 2019 amendments to the Act introduced life imprisonment as a penalty for all offences.
- POCSO Rules 2020 do not provide for interim compensation for child victims.

Q2. Which of the following was a key finding of the Chandrayaan-3 mission?

- Discovery of water ice at the Moon's equator.
- Detection of ferroan anorthosite rocks at the lunar south pole.
- Evidence of volcanic activity on the Moon's surface.
- Identification of methane emissions from lunar craters.

Q3. Which of the following groups consists of BRICS members?

- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, Japan
- Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa, Canada
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, Saudi Arabia

Q4. Which of the following statements about the administrative reforms under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is/are correct?

- He replaced the Jagirdari System with the Ryotwari System.
- The Ashta Pradhan council consisted of eight ministers with specific roles including finance, military, and justice.

Which of the following options given is/are correct?

- Only 1

- Only 2
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Chandrayaan-3:

- Chandrayaan-3 is the third mission in India's Chandrayaan series aimed at exploring Mars.
- Chandrayaan-3 includes a lander and a rover but does not have an orbiter component.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only statement 1 is correct
- Only statement 2 is correct
- Both statements 1 and 2 are correct
- Neither statement 1 nor 2 is correct

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical location of the Gaza Strip:

- The Gaza Strip is bordered by Egypt to the southwest and Israel to the east and north.
- The Gaza Strip has a coastline along the Mediterranean Sea to the west.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Only statement 1 is correct
- Only statement 2 is correct
- Both statements 1 and 2 are correct
- Neither statement 1 nor 2 is correct

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court of India's powers and practices related to requesting data and information:

- The Supreme Court of India has the authority to request data and information from the Central and State governments for the purpose of conducting judicial reviews and ensuring compliance with its orders.
- The Supreme Court can compel the production of documents and information



from private entities if it is deemed necessary for the adjudication of a case.

3. The Supreme Court's power to request information extends to both legislative and executive branches, but does not extend to the judiciary itself.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. Shivaji's ashtapradhan was like a Council of Ministers collectively responsible to him.
2. Chauth was one-fourth of the land revenue paid to the marathas.
3. All ministers except nyayadhish and pandit had to participate in the war.

Which of the above statements(s) is/are correct?

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

Q9. National Space Day is observed to celebrate achievements in space exploration and promote STEM education. Which of the following

statements about National Space Day is/are correct?

1. National Space Day is celebrated annually on the first Friday of May in the United States.
2. The day was established to commemorate the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1.
3. It is recognized officially by the United Nations as an international holiday.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Moon's orbit around the Earth:

1. The Moon reaches its aphelion when it is farthest from the Earth in its orbit.
2. The Moon reaches its perihelion when it is closest to the Earth in its orbit.
3. The terms aphelion and perihelion are generally used to describe the orbit of the Earth around the Sun, not the Moon around the Earth.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** as the Act came into effect in 2012, not 1992.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** as the 2019 amendments include the death penalty for severe crimes, not life imprisonment for all offences.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** as POCSO Rules 2020 do provide for interim compensation.

2. Correct Answer is B

Explanation: The Chandrayaan-3 mission's significant finding was the detection of ferroan anorthosite rocks in the lunar south pole region, supporting theories about the Moon's early magma ocean.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

BRICS is an acronym for the group of emerging economies consisting of:

- Brazil
- Russia
- India
- China
- South Africa

This group was originally formed as BRIC when South Africa joined in 2010, leading to the current BRICS designation. **Options B, C, and D** list countries that are either not part of BRICS or include countries that are not part of the group.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Shivaji Maharaj replaced the Jagirdari System with the Ryotwari System.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Ashta Pradhan council indeed consisted of eight ministers with specific roles.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Chandrayaan-3 is part of India's lunar exploration series, not Mars. The mission aims to land on the Moon, continuing the objectives of Chandrayaan-2.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Chandrayaan-3 includes a lander and a rover, and does not have an orbiter. The orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 is still functioning and providing data.

6. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gaza Strip is bordered by Egypt to the southwest and Israel to the east and north.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gaza Strip has a coastline along the Mediterranean Sea to the west.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Supreme Court can request data and information from both Central and State governments to ensure proper implementation of laws and compliance with its directions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Supreme Court has the power to compel private entities to produce documents and information if it is necessary for the case at hand.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Supreme Court's power to request information does not specifically exclude the judiciary itself. However, it is more commonly exercised in relation to the legislative and executive branches.



8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** "Shivaji's Ashtapradhan was like a Council of Ministers collectively responsible to him."
 - **Correct:** The Ashtapradhan was indeed a council of eight ministers who advised and assisted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in administration, making it akin to a Council of Ministers. The council was collectively responsible to Shivaji.
- **Statement 2:** "Chauth was one-fourth of the land revenue paid to the Marathas."
 - **Correct:** Chauth was a tax amounting to one-fourth (25%) of the land revenue paid by non-Maratha states to the Marathas as a safeguard against Shivaji's military raids.
- **Statement 3:** "All ministers except Nyayadhish and Pandit had to participate in the war."
 - **Incorrect:** The Nyayadhish (Justice) and Pandit (Religious Affairs) were not involved in military activities. However, the Senapati (Military Commander) and other ministers related to military and administrative affairs had roles in wartime strategies.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** "National Space Day is celebrated annually on the first Friday of May in the United States."
 - **Correct:** National Space Day is indeed celebrated annually on the first Friday of May in the United States.
- **Statement 2:** "The day was established to commemorate the launch of the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1."
 - **Incorrect:** National Space Day was not established specifically to commemorate the launch of Sputnik 1. Instead, it is intended to

celebrate space exploration and STEM education more broadly.

- **Statement 3:** "It is recognized officially by the United Nations as an international holiday."
 - **Incorrect:** National Space Day is not officially recognized by the United Nations as an international holiday. It is a national observance in the United States.

10. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** "The Moon reaches its aphelion when it is farthest from the Earth in its orbit."
 - **Incorrect:** The terms aphelion and perihelion are used to describe the Earth's orbit around the Sun. The correct terms for the Moon's orbit around the Earth are apogee (farthest point) and perigee (closest point).
- **Statement 2:** "The Moon reaches its perihelion when it is closest to the Earth in its orbit."
 - **Incorrect:** As with Statement 1, the terms perihelion and aphelion are not used for the Moon's orbit around the Earth. Perigee is the term for the closest point.
- **Statement 3:** "The terms aphelion and perihelion are generally used to describe the orbit of the Earth around the Sun, not the Moon around the Earth."
 - **Correct:** Aphelion and perihelion are terms used to describe the Earth's orbit around the Sun. For the Moon's orbit around the Earth, the correct terms are apogee and perigee.





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C - 103, Second Floor, Sector-2
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