



**UPSC  
Mentorship**

A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21 September 2024



SOURCES



## Table of Contents

1. Coffee Exporters Target 60% Share from Value-Added Beans by 2047.....	2
2. Bombay High Court Strikes Down Centre's Amended IT Rules.....	3
3. Supreme Court Asks Government to Explain Delay in Appointment of Judges.....	4
4. Blockchain and Smart Materials Among Innovative Projects in PM Solar Scheme.....	5
5. How Kerala Reduced Mortality from Amoebic Meningoencephalitis.....	6
6. A new White Revolution: Where India stands, where it aims to be.....	7
7. How Starlink satellites are 'blinding' astronomers.....	8
8. ISRO to Take All Precautions Before Manned Gaganyaan Mission: S. Somanath.....	9
9. Food Price Volatility Remains a Contingent Risk: RBI Officials.....	10
10. With recent decisions, Supreme Court has deepened constitutional idea of personal liberty.....	11
<b>Daily Quiz.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Solutions.....	15



## GS I

# 1. Coffee Exporters Target 60% Share from Value-Added Beans by 2047

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** Coffee Production, Value-Added Exports, Coffee Board, Agricultural Policy

**Mains:** Export Strategy, Sustainable Agriculture, Economic Growth

**Context:** The Coffee Board of India has announced ambitious plans for the coffee export sector, projecting that value-added coffees will account for 60% of total coffee exports by 2047.

### Current Export Trends:

- Value-added coffees currently represent 38% of total coffee exports, while speciality coffees make up 5%.

### Production Goals:

- Total coffee production is expected to rise to nine lakh tonnes by 2047, up from 3.6 lakh tonnes currently.
- The area dedicated to coffee cultivation is projected to expand to eight lakh hectares from 4.8 lakh hectares.
- Nearly 99% of coffee holdings are with small growers.

### Export Value Increase:

- Current annual coffee exports stand at 3.8 lakh tonnes.
- By 2047, the total value of coffee exports is anticipated to grow to \$6 billion, up from \$1.29 billion.
- The volume of value-added and speciality coffees is expected to increase from 1.5 lakh tonnes to seven lakh tonnes.

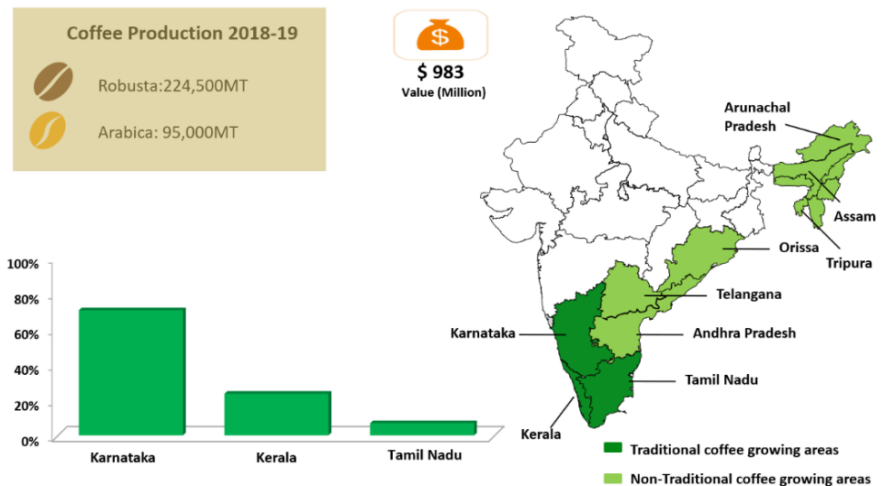
### Future Initiatives:

- The Coffee Board plans to implement community-driven initiatives to enhance the quality of post-harvest processing.
- Training programs will be offered to interested growers, alongside support for exporters to target high-value markets.

### Conclusion:

- The Coffee Board's roadmap aims to position India as a leader in eco-friendly and sustainable coffee production, enhancing the nation's coffee culture while significantly boosting export potential.
- With a focus on quality and value addition, the initiatives could transform India's coffee industry over the next few decades.

## INDIA COFFEE MARKET-KEY DATA



## GS II

# 2. Bombay High Court Strikes Down Centre's Amended IT Rules

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** Information Technology Rules, Fact Check Unit (FCU), Articles 14, 19, Right to Speech

**Mains:** Constitutional Rights, Government Overreach, Media Freedom

**Context:** The Bombay High Court has struck down the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2023, which allowed the Centre to establish a **Fact Check Unit (FCU)** to identify "fake, false, and misleading" information related to the government on social media.

### Key Judgement:

- Justice Atul Sharachchandra Chandurkar delivered the verdict after a split decision from Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale in January 2024.
- The IT Rules (2023) were deemed to violate Articles 14 (Right to Equality), 19 (Freedom of Speech), and 19(1)(g) (Right to Profession).
- The terms "fake, false, and misleading" were considered vague and lacking clear definitions, creating a "chilling effect" on intermediaries.

### Background:

- The FCU was established in April 2023 via an amendment to the IT Rules, 2021.
- A petition was filed in the Bombay High Court challenging the amendments on the grounds of freedom of speech and expression.
- In March 2024, the Supreme Court stayed the government notification that established the FCU under the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

### Government's Defense:

- The Solicitor-General defended the FCU as a minimal restriction method to combat misinformation, arguing that private companies already have fact-checking units.

### Petitioners' Argument:

- Petitioners contended that the government's involvement in fact-checking would infringe upon human rights and noted that no harm occurred in the FCU's absence, given the split verdict.

### Implications:

- Under the IT Rules (2023), the FCU could direct social media platforms to remove content deemed false about the Central government, with non-compliance risking loss of "safe harbour" protection under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000.



## 3. Supreme Court Asks Government to Explain Delay in Appointment of Judges

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** Supreme Court Collegium, Judicial Appointments, Article 124, Constitutional Law

**Mains:** Judicial Independence, Collegium System, Government Overreach, Delay in Judicial Appointments

**Context:** On September 20, 2024, the Supreme Court ordered the government to explain delays in clearing Collegium-recommended judicial appointments, emphasizing that the Collegium's recommendations cannot be treated as mere suggestions.

### Key Judgement:

- The Chief Justice, leading a three-judge bench, called for a detailed chart from the government outlining the reasons for pending Collegium recommendations and the level at which they were stuck.
- The bench reiterated that the Supreme Court Collegium has a constitutional status, and its recommendations cannot be arbitrarily delayed or ignored.

### Background:

- The Second Judges case (1993) mandates that recommendations reiterated by the Collegium must be accepted by the government. Ignoring such recommendations would amount to a breach of judicial conventions.

### Government's Stand:

- The government sought more time to gather responses regarding some pending appointments.
- The government's delay in clearing judicial appointments has led to High Courts functioning with Acting Chief Justices for extended periods.

### Petitioners' Argument:

- Senior advocates raised concerns about delays in High Court appointments, urging the court to direct the government to act within a reasonable time frame.
- Petitioners called for a rule whereby if the government fails to respond within six weeks, Collegium recommendations should be automatically deemed accepted.

### Significant Cases:

- The case of Saurabh Kirpal, recommended as a judge of the Delhi High Court, is particularly significant due to his advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights. His appointment has been pending since 2017.

### Implications:

- The ongoing delays in judicial appointments affect the functioning and efficiency of the judiciary, with several High Courts facing leadership gaps.
- The Supreme Court's directive to the government could push for timely appointments, upholding judicial independence and preventing further backlog.

### Reactions:

- The court's firm stance on the Collegium's authority was seen as an important move to preserve the sanctity of the judicial appointment process.

### Conclusion:

- The Supreme Court's demand for transparency from the government on the delays in judicial appointments reflects its commitment to safeguarding judicial independence and ensuring that the Collegium's constitutional authority is respected.



## 4. Blockchain and Smart Materials Among Innovative Projects in PM Solar Scheme

Source: The Hindu

**Prelims:** PM Surya Ghar Scheme, Renewable Energy, Rooftop Solar, Blockchain, Electric Vehicles (EVs)

**Mains:** Renewable Energy Initiatives, Innovative Technology in Energy, Solar Energy Policy

**Context:** Under the ₹75,000 crore **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**, the MNRE has launched a ₹500 crore sub-component for Innovative Projects, inviting proposals from companies and individuals to enhance **RoofTop Solar (RTS)** installations through new technologies.

### Innovative Project Proposals:

- Companies and individuals are invited to submit novel ideas for rooftop solar installations (RTS), which will be reviewed by a committee.
- Examples of innovative projects include:
  - Blockchain-based peer-to-peer RTS
  - Smart building materials for solar integration
  - RTS integrated with electric vehicles (EVs)
  - Grid-responsive RTS with battery storage
  - Digital solutions for RTS management
  - DISCOM systems for RTS management and optimization

### Project Duration and Financial Assistance:

- Each project is expected to last for a maximum of 18 months.
- Financial assistance will be capped at 60% of the project cost or a maximum of ₹30 crore per project.
- The **National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE)**, a subsidiary of **MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (MNRE)**, will be responsible for implementing these innovative projects.

### PM Surya Ghar Scheme Overview:

- Launched on February 29, 2024, the scheme aims to boost solar rooftop capacity by encouraging residential households to generate their own electricity.
- With an outlay of ₹75,021 crore, the scheme is set to be implemented until FY 2026-27.
- It provides subsidised rooftop solar (RTS) installations, offering a maximum subsidy of ₹78,000 per household.
- The scheme also facilitates subsidised loans for solar installation through banks, and individuals can apply to vendors of their choice.

### Current Progress:

- 1.3 crore families have registered for the scheme since its launch.
- 3.75 lakh homes have already installed rooftop solar systems since March 2024.

### Conclusion:

- The PM Surya Ghar Scheme is an ambitious effort to promote solar rooftop installations in residential areas, with an innovative edge provided by blockchain technology, smart materials, and energy storage solutions.
- This move not only strengthens India's commitment to renewable energy but also encourages the adoption of cutting-edge technology in the energy sector.



## GS III

# 5. How Kerala Reduced Mortality from Amoebic Meningoencephalitis

Source: The Hindu

**Prelims:** Amoebic Meningoencephalitis, Free-Living Amoebae (FLA), Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)

**Mains:** Public Health Strategies, Disease Management, Role of Government in Healthcare

**Context:** Kerala saw a rise in amoebic meningoencephalitis cases, a rare infection from free-living amoebae in freshwater. Despite a global mortality rate of 97%, the state reduced it to 26%, saving 14 of 19 patients.

**Key Factors in Kerala's Success:**

- **Proactive Case Detection:**
  - Early identification and testing were pivotal.
  - Health authorities closely monitored acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) cases, conducting cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) tests for amoebae in all suspected cases.
- **Aggressive Treatment:**
  - Kerala adapted the CDC protocol for amoebic encephalitis.
  - Patients received a cocktail of antibiotics, including Miltefosine (a broad spectrum antimicrobial, anti-leishmanial, phospholipid drug), leading to significant recovery. Out of 19 patients treated, 14 survived after a 28-day course.

**Unique Challenges and Responses:**

- **Sporadic Infections:**
  - Infections primarily affected children aged 5-15, but a rare cluster in adults occurred in Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Urban Infection:**
  - An urban patient contracted the infection from an unclean overhead water tank.

**Public Health Initiatives:**

- **The health department launched awareness campaigns emphasizing:**
  - Avoiding stagnant water.
  - Using nasal plugs while swimming.
  - Refraining from diving into water bodies.

### About Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

It is a rare infection of the central nervous system caused by infection with *Naegleria fowleri*, a microscopic amoeba commonly called a "brain-eating amoeba."



### Naegleria fowleri

- *Naegleria fowleri* is a free-living amoeba (a single-celled living organism that is too small to be seen without a microscope).
- *Naegleria fowleri* lives in warm fresh water and soil around the world.
- *Naegleria fowleri* does not live in salt water, like the ocean.

### Spread

- PAM Occurs when people swim in bodies of warm freshwater (such as lakes and streams/rivers) where *Naegleria fowleri* is present.
  - *Naegleria fowleri* infects people when water containing the amoeba enters the body through the nose.
  - It destroys the brain tissue and causes swelling of the brain.
  - *Naegleria fowleri* can NOT be spread from person to person.



- Advising those with prior head injuries or nasal surgeries to avoid potentially contaminated water.

**Research and Future Measures:**

- Kerala is funding amoebic meningoencephalitis research via the One Health platform, collaborating with ICMR and scientific institutions to study environmental factors affecting FLA growth.
- Plans include scaling up diagnostic capabilities, particularly molecular techniques for early detection.

**Conclusion:**

- Kerala's proactive approach, aggressive treatment, and effective public health responses have turned its encounter with amoebic meningoencephalitis into a success story.
- These insights are expected to enrich global medical literature on the disease.

## 6. A new White Revolution: Where India stands, where it aims to be

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** White Revolution, Dairy Cooperatives, Milk Production, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

**Mains:** Dairy Sector Development, Cooperative Societies, White Revolution 2.0, Employment in Rural India, Livelihood for Women

**Context:** India, the top milk producer, achieved 230.58 million tonnes in 2022-23, up from 17 million tonnes in 1951-52. Following Operation Flood (1970), the government launched White Revolution 2.0 to boost milk procurement and strengthen dairy cooperatives.

**Key Features of White Revolution 2.0:**

- **Milk Procurement Goal:**
  - Dairy cooperatives procured 660 lakh kg/day of milk in 2023-24. The government aims to increase this to 1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29 by expanding the cooperative network.
- **Cooperative Expansion:**
  - There are 1.7 lakh Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCSs) covering 30% of Indian villages, with a focus on Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
  - A new central sector scheme (NPDD 2.0) will fund the creation of 56,000 new DCSs and upgrade existing ones.
- **Financial Assistance:**
  - NDDB will provide financial assistance to support village-level milk procurement systems, chilling facilities, and capacity-building programs. 1,000 MPACSS will receive Rs 40,000 each for infrastructure upgrades.

**India's Dairy Sector Overview:**

- India's milk production increased from 187.75 million tonnes (2018-19) to 230.58 million tonnes (2022-23), though growth slowed from 6.47% to 3.83% annually.
- **Top Milk-Producing States:**
  - Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh together contribute over 53% of India's total milk production.





- **Per Capita Availability:**

- India's per capita milk availability is 459 grams/day, higher than the global average of 323 grams/day.

**Dairy Sector's Role in the Economy:**

- The dairy sector contributed Rs 11.16 lakh crore to the agriculture and allied sectors in 2022-23, surpassing cereals.
- **Employment and Livelihood:**
  - The sector provides livelihoods to 8.5 crore people, mostly women, with 63% of the milk production sold in the market, while the rest is consumed by producers.

**Conclusion:**

- White Revolution 2.0 aims to boost milk procurement by 50% through cooperative societies, ensuring better market access for dairy farmers and generating employment in rural areas, especially for women.
- The initiative will play a pivotal role in strengthening India's dairy sector, further cementing its position as a global leader in milk production.

## 7. How Starlink satellites are 'blinding' astronomers

Source: The Indian Express

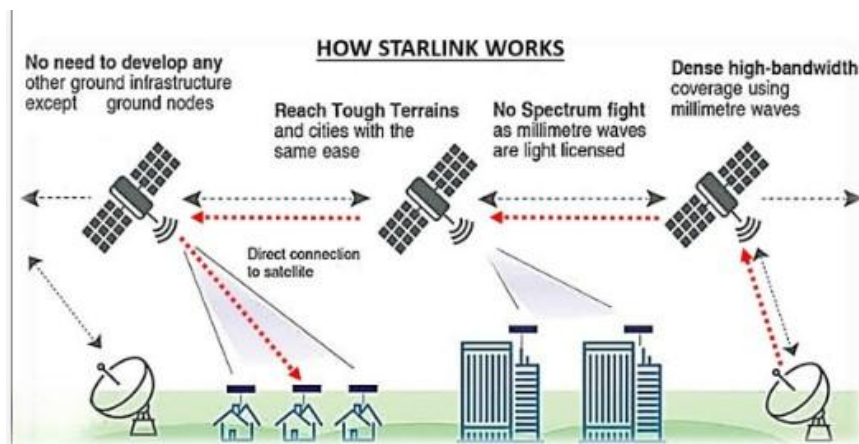
Prelims: Starlink, SpaceX, Electromagnetic Radiation, Radio Astronomy, UNOOSA

Mains: Space Regulation, Satellite Technology, Impact on Astronomy, Electromagnetic Pollution

Context: Starlink satellites disrupt astronomical observations, particularly in radio astronomy. A study found they emit **Unintended ElectroMagnetic Radiation (UEMR)** that interferes with observations. Starlink has over 6,300 satellites at 550 km above Earth.

**Key Issues:**

- **Radio Noise and UEMR:**
  - Starlink satellites emit radio noise, which hinders radio astronomers studying celestial objects.
  - Radio astronomy observes space using radio waves instead of visible light, but just like bright light can blind a person, intense radio frequencies can overwhelm telescopes.
  - UEMR creates disturbances akin to bright visible light making faint celestial objects hard to detect.



**Astronomical Challenges:**

- **Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON)** compares the situation to seeing the faintest star next to a full moon i.e. satellites create a similar blinding effect.



- The **Max Planck Institute from Germany** stated that satellites are literally "blinding" their equipment due to the excessive electromagnetic emissions.
- The issue is set to worsen with second-generation Starlink satellites, which emit 32 times more UEMR than their predecessors.

**Need for Regulation:**

- Experts are calling for regulatory measures to control satellite emissions, similar to existing rules for radio pollution from ground-based sources like cellphone towers.
- Currently, regulations for space-based electromagnetic emissions are limited, and astronomers often rely on voluntary cooperation from companies like Starlink.
- The **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** estimated there could be as many as 100,000 satellites orbiting Earth by 2030, amplifying the issue.

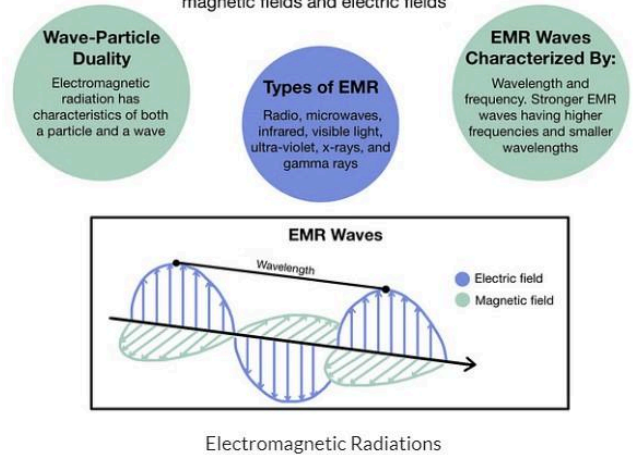
**Conclusion:**

- Starlink's satellites, though beneficial for global internet connectivity, present significant challenges for astronomy, particularly in radio frequency observations.
- As the number of satellites increases, the need for global regulation becomes crucial to balance technological advancements with the needs of scientific research.

**What is Electromagnetic Radiation?**

(Also referred as ER or EMR)

**Definition:** A type of radiation that has both magnetic fields and electric fields



## 8. ISRO to Take All Precautions Before Manned Gaganyaan Mission: S. Somanath

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** ISRO, Gaganyaan Mission, Manned Spaceflight, Chandrayaan-4, Venus Orbiter Mission

**Mains:** India's Space Program, Human Spaceflight, Space Technology Development

**Context:** ISRO emphasized that the agency will take all necessary precautions and conduct sufficient tests before launching the manned Gaganyaan mission.

**Safety Measures and Testing:**

- ISRO plans to conduct three uncrewed missions before launching the manned Gaganyaan mission.
- The agency aims to avoid mishaps like the recent Boeing Starliner incident, where the spacecraft returned to Earth without astronauts. Somanath stressed the need for caution and pessimism during preparations to ensure success.
- The first uncrewed mission is likely to be launched by December, with the rocket already at ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport for final integration.

**Gaganyaan Mission Details:**

- The Gaganyaan project aims to demonstrate human spaceflight capability by sending a three-member crew to 400 km orbit for a three-day mission, followed by a safe return to Earth, landing in Indian sea waters.



- This marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration, as ISRO works to establish itself as a major player in manned spaceflight.

**Future Missions:**

- **Somanath also discussed plans for upcoming missions, including:**
  - Chandrayaan-4
  - Venus Orbiter Mission
  - Development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle
  - Construction of the first unit of Bharatiya Anatriksh Station, India's planned space station.

**Conclusion:**

- ISRO's Gaganyaan mission represents a major leap in India's space exploration ambitions.
- With a focus on safety and comprehensive testing, the agency aims to ensure the success of its manned spaceflight and continue advancing its presence in space technology through future missions like Chandrayaan-4 and the Venus Orbiter Mission.

## 9. Food Price Volatility Remains a Contingent Risk: RBI Officials

**Source:** The Hindu

**Prelims:** Food Inflation, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Economic Indicators

**Mains:** Food Security, Inflation Trends, Economic Policy

**Context:** Despite the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation falling below the Reserve Bank of India's target for the second consecutive month in August, food price volatility continues to pose a risk, as highlighted by RBI officials.

**Current Food Inflation Trends:**

- Food inflation year-on-year (y-o-y) increased to 5.3% in August, up from 5.1% in July.
- This rise was influenced by a negative momentum of 30 basis points being more than offset by an unfavorable base effect of 52 basis points.

**September Price Data Insights:**

- **High-frequency food price data up to September 18 shows:**
  - Moderation in prices of cereals (primarily rice) and pulses (excluding gram).
  - A decline in prices of potatoes and tomatoes, while onion prices have increased.
  - Edible oil prices have remained stable.

**Subgroup Inflation Analysis:**

- In August, inflation trends varied across different food subgroups:
- Increased inflation in eggs, fruits, vegetables, and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Decreased inflation in cereals, meat and fish, pulses, and sugar.

**Conclusion:**

- While the RBI reports a positive trend in CPI inflation, the persistent volatility in food prices underscores the importance of monitoring inflation indicators and market conditions.
- The fluctuations in various food subgroups reveal the complexities of managing food security and economic stability in India.



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 10. With recent decisions, Supreme Court has deepened constitutional idea of personal liberty

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Article 21, Right to Life and Personal Liberty, Bail Laws, UAPA, PMLA

**Mains:** Judicial Interpretation of Article 21, Personal Liberty, Bail Jurisprudence, Role of Judiciary in Safeguarding Fundamental Rights

**Context:** Recent Supreme Court rulings have strengthened the constitutional protection of personal liberty under Article 21, especially regarding restrictive bail laws in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

#### Key Judgements:

- In July 2024, a division bench of the Supreme Court ruled that prolonged trials under strict laws like UAPA cannot justify indefinite detention.
- The court invoked Article 21 to assert that no law can sanction permanent imprisonment, emphasizing that life and liberty are “overarching and sacrosanct” rights.
- In August 2024, another bench extended this principle to PMLA cases, stating that since personal liberty is a higher constitutional right, statutory provisions must align with this principle.
- The court reaffirmed that deprivation of liberty should not be the norm.

#### Historical Perspective:

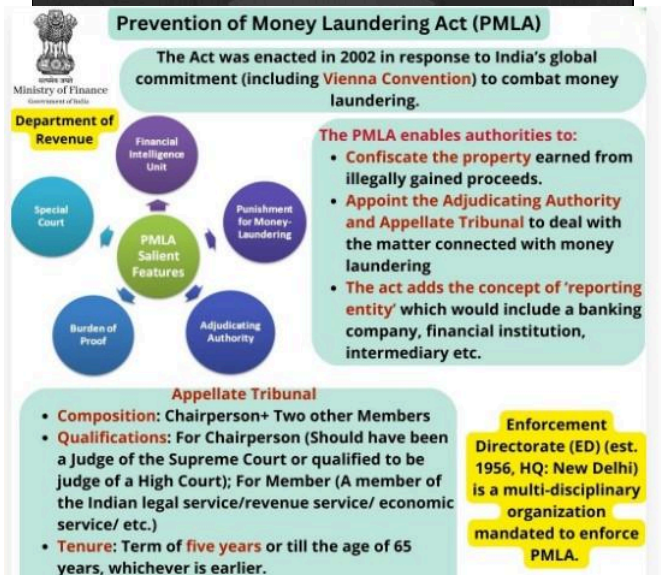
- The recent rulings align with the principle that bail is the rule, and jail is the exception.
- Despite a trend toward stringent bail laws in recent decades, these judgments signal a return to a pro-bail approach, reinforcing due process rights.

#### Constitutional Vision:

- These decisions reflect the Constituent Assembly’s commitment to robust personal liberty.
- Although Article 21 does not explicitly mention due process, the court’s reaffirmation underscores the fundamental freedoms intended by the framers.
- This marks a significant milestone in the preservation of personal liberty, especially as India celebrates 75 years of its Constitution.

#### Conclusion:

- These judgments demonstrate the court’s role in safeguarding constitutional values, illustrating that fidelity to the Constitution can coexist with laws addressing special circumstances.
- The revival of the pro-bail approach reinforces foundational principles of life, liberty, and due process within India’s constitutional framework.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Coffee Exporters' target of achieving a 60% share from value-added beans by 2047:**

1. Value-added coffees currently account for 38% of India's total coffee exports.
2. By 2047, India aims to increase its total coffee production to nine lakh tonnes, up from 3.6 lakh tonnes currently.
3. The Coffee Board of India plans to reduce the area dedicated to coffee cultivation by half to improve quality.
4. By 2047, India's coffee export value is expected to grow to \$6 billion, up from \$1.29 billion.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Bombay High Court's verdict on the Amended IT Rules, 2023:**

1. **Statement 1:** The Bombay High Court struck down the amended IT Rules, 2023, which allowed the establishment of a Fact Check Unit (FCU) on the grounds that it violated Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution.
2. **Statement 2:** The Court ruled that the terms "fake, false, and misleading" used in the IT Rules were vague and could have a chilling effect on the freedom of speech.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is independent of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

**Q3. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding the Supreme Court's**

**directive to the government on judicial appointments:**

1. **Assertion (A):** The government's delay in acting on Collegium recommendations undermines the efficiency of the judiciary and violates the principle of judicial independence.
2. **Reason (R):** The Collegium's recommendations, once reiterated, are constitutionally binding, and the government's failure to accept them amounts to overreach into judicial appointments.

**Which of the following is 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.

**Q4. What is the key objective of integrating rooftop solar (RTS) installations with electric vehicles (EVs) under the PM Surya Ghar Scheme?**

- A. To reduce grid dependence by allowing EVs to function as standalone energy sources for households.
- B. To enable households to generate electricity that can directly charge EVs, promoting a self-sustaining clean energy ecosystem.
- C. To create a centralized charging infrastructure for EVs across urban areas using household solar power.
- D. To introduce EV subsidies linked with rooftop solar installations for large-scale commercial transport.

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding how Kerala reduced mortality from Amoebic Meningoencephalitis:**

1. Kerala reduced the mortality rate of amoebic meningoencephalitis to 26%,



significantly lower than the global mortality rate of 97%.

2. Health authorities conducted cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) tests for amoebae in all cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
3. The state launched public health initiatives advising against swimming in stagnant water and using nasal plugs while swimming.
4. A key reason for Kerala's success was the development of a new antibiotic, Miltefosine, specifically for amoebic meningoencephalitis.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding White Revolution 2.0 in India:**

1. **Statement 1:** White Revolution 2.0 aims to increase daily milk procurement by dairy cooperatives from 660 lakh kg/day in 2023-24 to 1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29 through the expansion of cooperative networks.
2. **Statement 2:** India's per capita milk availability is currently lower than the global average, which is a major challenge for the country's dairy sector.

**Which of the following is correct?**

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is independent of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

**Q7. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding the impact of Starlink satellites on astronomy:**

1. **Assertion (A):** Starlink satellites disrupt astronomical observations by emitting unintended electromagnetic radiation (UEMR), which interferes with radio telescopes.
2. **Reason (R):** The rapid increase in the number of Starlink satellites orbiting Earth is causing concern among astronomers due to the potential for radio pollution from space-based systems.

**Which of the following is 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.

**Q8. Consider the following pairs regarding ISRO's recent and upcoming missions:**

Mission	Objective
1. Gaganyaan	Manned spaceflight mission to Low Earth Orbit
2. Chandrayaan-4	Manned lunar mission
3. Venus Orbiter Mission	Scientific study of Venus's atmosphere and surface
4. Next Generation Launch Vehicle	ISRO's future heavy-lift launch vehicle for advanced missions

**How many pairs are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All are correct



**Q9. Consider the following statements regarding food price volatility as highlighted by RBI officials:**

1. Despite the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation falling below RBI's target for two consecutive months, food price volatility remains a risk.
2. Year-on-year (y-o-y) food inflation in August increased to 5.3%, driven by negative momentum and an unfavourable base effect.
3. High-frequency data up to September 18 shows a decrease in the prices of cereals and pulses, while the prices of potatoes and tomatoes increased.
4. Subgroup inflation trends in August showed increased inflation in eggs, fruits, vegetables, and decreased inflation in non-alcoholic beverages.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q10. In its July 2024 judgement, what did the Supreme Court assert regarding the prolonged trials under laws like the UAPA?**

- A. Prolonged trials justify indefinite detention
- B. Prolonged trials do not justify indefinite detention
- C. Indefinite detention is permissible under strict laws
- D. Article 21 allows for prolonged detentions in special circumstances



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Currently, value-added coffees represent 38% of India's total coffee exports.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Coffee Board projects that total coffee production will rise to nine lakh tonnes by 2047, up from the current 3.6 lakh tonnes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Coffee Board plans to expand the area under coffee cultivation to eight lakh hectares (from the current 4.8 lakh hectares), not reduce it.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Coffee Board projects that the value of coffee exports will increase to \$6 billion by 2047, up from \$1.29 billion currently.

### 2. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** because the Bombay High Court indeed struck down the amended IT Rules, 2023, on the grounds that they violated Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 19 (Freedom of Speech) of the Indian Constitution.
- **Statement 2 is also correct** as the Court ruled that the terms “fake, false, and misleading” were too vague and not clearly defined, which could result in a “chilling effect” on intermediaries and users, potentially discouraging free speech.
- **Statement 2 further explains Statement 1**, as the vagueness of these terms was a key factor in the Court's decision to strike down the rules due to their violation of constitutional rights.

### 3. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true** because delays in appointing judges have a direct impact on the efficiency of the judiciary, leading to prolonged

vacancies, especially in High Courts. Such delays also threaten judicial independence, which is a fundamental feature of India's Constitution.

- **Reason (R) is true and provides the correct explanation for the Assertion.** According to the Second Judges Case (1993), the Collegium's recommendations, once reiterated, must be accepted by the government. Ignoring or delaying these recommendations without valid justification can be seen as overreach, disrupting the balance between the judiciary and executive.

### 4. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- Integrating rooftop solar installations with electric vehicles (EVs) is aimed at creating a self-sustaining ecosystem where households can generate electricity through solar power and use it to charge their EVs.
- This reduces the dependence on conventional grid electricity and promotes clean energy consumption.

### 5. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kerala reduced the mortality rate of amoebic meningoencephalitis to 26%, much lower than the global average of 97%.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kerala's health authorities proactively conducted CSF tests in all AES cases to detect amoebae.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Public health initiatives emphasized avoiding stagnant water and using nasal plugs while swimming to prevent infection.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Miltefosine is not a new antibiotic but part of an existing CDC-recommended treatment





protocol used by Kerala for amoebic meningoencephalitis.

**6. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct** because White Revolution 2.0 indeed aims to boost daily milk procurement by dairy cooperatives from 660 lakh kg/day in 2023-24 to 1,007 lakh kg/day by 2028-29, focusing on expanding the cooperative network across Indian villages.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** as India's per capita milk availability is 459 grams/day, which is higher than the global average of 323 grams/day. Therefore, the per capita milk availability is not a major challenge for the Indian dairy sector. Instead, it reflects the country's strength in milk production.

**7. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- **Assertion (A) is true** because Starlink satellites emit unintended electromagnetic radiation (UEMR), which interferes with radio telescopes, causing disruptions in radio astronomical observations. This unintended interference is a significant issue for astronomers studying faint celestial objects using radio waves.
- **Reason (R) is also true** because the rapid increase in the number of Starlink satellites amplifies concerns about space-based radio pollution.
- **However, the increase in satellite numbers is not directly the reason for UEMR interference.** UEMR is caused by the design and electromagnetic emissions of each satellite, not just the sheer number of satellites.

**8. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

- Gaganyaan is a manned spaceflight to low Earth orbit, the Venus Orbiter Mission is focused

on studying Venus, and the Next Generation Launch Vehicle is being developed for advanced future missions.

- Chandrayaan-4 is not a manned lunar mission, making pair 2 incorrect.

**9. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** CPI inflation fell below RBI's target for two consecutive months, but food price volatility remains a concern.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Year-on-year food inflation in August rose to 5.3%, influenced by negative momentum and an unfavorable base effect.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The prices of cereals and pulses (excluding gram) moderated, and the prices of potatoes and tomatoes declined, not increased.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While inflation increased for eggs, fruits, and vegetables, it decreased for non-alcoholic beverages.

**10. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- In its July 2024 ruling, the Supreme Court declared that prolonged trials under strict laws like UAPA do not justify indefinite detention.
- Citing Article 21, which guarantees the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, the Court emphasized that personal liberty is sacrosanct and that bail, not jail, should be the rule.
- It asserted that even under national security laws, indefinite detention without trial violates constitutional safeguards, ensuring that individuals' liberty cannot be curtailed indefinitely without due process.





**UPSC  
Mentorship**

A Unit of Mentorship India



कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



Power To Empower



75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

## GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

[www.upsmentorship.com](http://www.upsmentorship.com)

@mentorship.india

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

[contact@mentorshipindia.com](mailto:contact@mentorshipindia.com)