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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. On Ambedkar Jayanti, a look at the significance of the Mahad Satyagraha- Indian Express

Relevance: Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present – significant events, personalities, issues

News:

- The Mahad Satyagraha is considered to be the 'foundational event' of the Dalit movement.
- This was the first time that the community collectively displayed its resolve to reject the caste system and assert their human rights.

Mahad Satyagraha of 1927

- It was a pivotal moment in the fight for equality in India.
- **Broken Promises:** In 1923, a law was passed allowing Dalits (untouchables) to access public spaces. However, this change wasn't reflected in reality.
- In response, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was invited to lead a conference for Dalits in Mahad. Though initially labeled a conference, it transformed into a powerful protest.
- **Defying Tradition:** Around 2,500 Dalits marched to a public water tank, challenging their exclusion.
- Dr. Ambedkar himself drew water, a symbolic act of defiance.
- **Facing Backlash:** Upper-caste Hindus reacted by purifying the tank, highlighting the entrenched discrimination.
- **A Movement Ignited:** Undeterred, Dr. Ambedkar called for a larger-scale Satyagraha, a non-violent protest.
- This marked a turning point, with the movement openly challenging the caste system.
- **Lasting Legacy:** The Mahad Satyagraha is seen as the foundation of the Dalit movement in India.
- It was the first organized effort demanding equal rights under Dr. Ambedkar's leadership.
- This protest served as a blueprint for future struggles against caste discrimination and established Dr. Ambedkar as a leader for the oppressed.

Prelims Takeaway

- Dr. Ambedkar
- PUNA PACT

GS II

2. Iran launches attacks on Israel: Who are the Iran-backed regional groups of concern?- Indian Express

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

News:

- On April 14, Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles towards Israel, in retaliation for an Israeli attack on its consulate that occurred in Damascus, Syria, two weeks ago.
- While Israel is not believed to have suffered any major damage early on, Iran warned that a military move from Israel would be met with a much larger response.

India's stand in Iran-Israel tension

- India called for de-escalation in the aftermath of Iran's retaliatory strike against Israel.
- This approach is in contrast to India's instant expression of solidarity with Israel at the highest political level immediately after the October 7 terror attack by Hamas.

Significance of India's approach on recent Iran-Israel tension

- India is navigating a tricky situation.
- There's a big difference between a fight between two countries (like Iran and Israel) and terrorism by a non-state group (like Hamas).

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based questions

- India wants both sides to calm down (show restraint) because it has good relations with both countries.
- If they see India as favoring one side, it could hurt peace in the region.

Complexity of the region's politics

- India's call for de-escalation between Israel and Iran is about recognising the complexity of the region's politics.
- Inter-state and intra-state conflicts in the Middle East are deep and pervasive.
- **India will have to forever balance** its engagement with key regional actors — Egypt, Iran, Israel, Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
- Orientation and interests of these countries are different and often in conflict.

Shift in India's approach towards this region

- In the past, India's regional policy was framed in terms of contradictions between the West and the Middle East.
- E.g., India's steps to manage the fallout of US-Iran tensions.
- Today, Delhi pays attention to the region's internal contradictions.
- E.g., India's stand on Iran – Israel issue, Israel-Palestine issue etc.
- Religion can't be the dominant factor in dealing with the Middle East
- India's call for de-escalation also underlines that religion and associated vote-bank politics can't be the dominant factor in dealing with the Middle East.

India's expanding footprints in the Middle East

- India's ties with the Gulf go beyond just oil and manpower.
- Countries like Saudi Arabia and UAE are now key economic and political partners for India.
- This cooperation is broader than just trade, influencing the entire Indian Ocean region.
- These partnerships are essential for India's plan to create the India Middle East Europe Corridor (IMEC), a major part of its international strategy.

3. What to Know About the Hunger Crisis in Gaza- New York Times

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

News:

- The food production system has been completely obliterated, **and the lack of entry of emergency aid within a short time has created a free fall,** a United Nations official said.

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based questions
- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

Key highlights

- A formal famine declaration comes from a group working with the UN i.e **The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)**.
- There are three main conditions:
 - severe food shortages affecting many households
 - malnutrition in a large portion of children,
 - A high death rate.
- Since its **inception in 2004**, IPC has declared two famines-first, in Somalia in 2011 due to decades of conflict, drought and collapsed economy. Another in South Sudan due to years of drought, civil war destroying the country's economy, and aid blocked by rebel forces.
- Gaza was already subjected to Israeli blockade, backed by Egypt before the ongoing war.
- Under which, humanitarian aid, including food and commercial imports, was tightly restricted.
- But after the Hamas attack, Israel imposed a siege and imposed stricter restrictions by stopping anything it believes could potentially benefit Hamas from entering.
- It also blocked commercial imports of food that had filled Gaza's shops and markets, bombed Gaza's port and territorial farms and restricted fishing.
- Displacement due to airstrikes and fighting plus the destruction of businesses and a surge in prices, has made it hard for families to feed themselves.

4. Another Indian military team has left Maldives, says Muizz, The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Prelims Takeaway

- Maldives
- IOR islands

News:

- Maldives president reaffirmed that foreign ambassadors in Male will not wield authority over him emphasizing that ultimate power rests with the citizens
- The second batch of Indian military personnel manning a helicopter gifted by India to the Maldives has left the island nation as demanded by him,
- Relations between Maldives and India have deteriorated since new president came to power while maintaining **close ties with China**.

India- Maldives Relation:

- India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity and enjoy close, cordial and multi-dimensional relations.
- India was among the first to recognise **Maldives after its independence in 1965** and to establish diplomatic relations with the country.
- India established its resident High Commissioner in 1980.
- Maldives opened a full fledged High Commission in New Delhi in November 2004, at that time one of its only four diplomatic missions worldwide.
- Eight Degree Channel separates Indian Minicoy (part of Lakshadweep Islands) from that of Maldives.

Bilateral Assistance

- The major projects executed by India are:
 - Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital: (IGMH)
 - Faculty of Engineering Technology (FET)

Credit Facility

- India announced a financial assistance package of USD 1.4 bn

Strategic Location:

- The Maldives hold immense strategic importance in the Indian Ocean, acting as a gateway to the Arabian Sea and beyond.
- This allows India to monitor maritime traffic and enhance regional security.
- **Cultural Link:** India and Maldives share a deep cultural and historical connection dating back centuries. Until the first half of the 12th century, **Buddhism** was the principal religion in the Islands.
- There is an inscription of **Vajrayana Buddhism**, that had existed in the Maldives in ancient times.
- Regional Stability: A stable and prosperous Maldives aligns with India's "**Neighbourhood First**" policy, promoting peace and security in the Indian Ocean region

5. Breach of convention: Ecuador should stay within the limits of international laws, The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Prelims Takeaway

- ICJ
- India- South America

News:

- Ecuador's raid recently, at the Mexico embassy in **Quito** is a serious violation of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations on which nations operate their missions in foreign lands.
- The raid was to arrest a former Vice-President in the administration of leftist and former President, who has been sentenced for corruption.
- Mexico, said its sovereignty has been breached, has now moved the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands, demanding the expulsion of Ecuador from the UN.

India -Ecuador Relations:

- **Establishment:** Diplomatic relations between India and Ecuador were formally established on 19 September 1969, laying the foundation for a sustained diplomatic engagement.

Economic Collaboration:

- **Trade and Investment:** Bilateral economic collaboration has been positive .
- Both countries are actively exploring opportunities to improve trade with an emphasis on mutual benefit.
- During 2021, Ecuador had a large net trade with India in the exports of **Mineral Products (\$569M)**, Wood Products (\$64.5M), and Precious Metals (\$17.3M). During 2021, India had a large net trade with Ecuador in the exports of Transportation (\$93.9M), Chemical Products (\$92.1M), and Metals (\$44.1M).

Key Agreements:

- **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):** The signing of MoUs across various sectors, including traditional medicine, health, and pharmaceuticals, reflects deepening of the bilateral relationship and a shared vision for cooperation.
- **Renewable Energy:**
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Both India and Ecuador are active members of the International Solar Alliance, with a joint commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development practices.
- **South-South Cooperation:** The India-Ecuador partnership contributes significantly to the concept of South-South cooperation, as both nations actively engage in forums and alliances advocating for the interests of developing countries on the global stage.

International Court of Justice:

- The ICJ, also known as the **World Court**, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- It was **established in June 1945** by the **Charter of the UN** and began work in April 1946.
- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in **The Hague (Netherlands)**.
- It is one of the six principal organs of the UN..
- The hearings of the ICJ are always public.
- Official Languages: **French and English**
- Powers and Functions: The Court entertains two types of cases:
- First, it can act as a dispute settlement body between two member States in what are called “contentious cases.”
- Second, it can accept requests to issue an advisory opinion on a legal question referred to it by a UN body or specialized agency.
- It consists of **15 judges**, all from different countries, who are elected to nine-year terms by majority votes in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.
- The judges, **one-third of whom are elected every three years**, are eligible for reelection.

6. Solomon Islands readies for polls in shadow of China’s Pacific influence, The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

News:

- Solomon Islanders will head to the polls recently , voting in an election that promises to bolster or blunt China’s regional ambitions.
- The archipelago, one of the world’s least-developed countries, is the unlikely focal point of a diplomatic scramble pitting China against Western rivals.

Key highlights

- Solomon Islands has veered into China’s orbit under Prime Minister **Manasseh Sogavare**, who inked a security pact with Beijing in 2022, catching traditional partners Australia and the U.S. off guard.
- A wave of Chinese aid and investment followed, including tens of millions of dollars for a state-of-the-art medical center and a 10,000-seat athletics stadium.

Solomon Islands:

- Solomon Islands is a nation in **Melanesia**, east of Papua New Guinea, comprising more than 990 islands.
- Its capital is Honiara, located on the island of Guadalcanal.
- The Solomon Islands comprises six major Island groups- **Choiseul, the Shortland Islands, the New Georgia Islands, Santa Isabel, the Russell Islands, the Florida Islands**

Prelims Takeaway

- Solomon Islands
- Quad

- The former **British colony** gained independence in 1978, establishing diplomatic relations with Taiwan as one of its earliest foreign partners.
- It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia.
- It is an important chain of Islands in the Pacific Ocean. In the Quad meeting held recently, the US has said that it is committed to a “free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient” Indo-Pacific region.



GS III

7. Railways' dedicated freight corridor nears completion, scales up ambition, The Hindu

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

News:

- India's ambitious Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) has reached **80% completion**, with the Railways targeting June 2024 for the final touches.
- The foundation for the ambitious project was laid 18 years ago, but it has seen more capital outlay and construction pace under the current government.
- The Dedicated Freight Corridor, once fully operational, will prove to be a gamechanger for India since at present freight trains move along with passenger trains on common rail lines, not an ideal situation for a fast-growing economy that aims to become an industrial superpower.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor:

- It is a high speed and capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight (goods and commodities).
- DFC involves the seamless integration of better infrastructure
- The Ministry of Railways has taken up construction of two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) viz. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from **Ludhiana to Sonnagar (1337 Km)** and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri (1506 Km)**.
- Construction of EDFC has been fully completed and 1220 KM out of 1506 KM of WDFC has been completed and train operations are going on in the completed sections.

Prelims Takeaway

- Railways
- DFC

- To ensure timely completion of Dedicated Freight Corridors, the Government has made timely provision of funds and monitored the project land acquisition activities by close coordination with State Governments directly and also in different forums i.e. Project Monitoring Group (PMG) etc
- Once all sections of the DFC are complete, the duration of Delhi-Mumbai will be reduced to 48 hours.
- The average speed of a freight train is 20 to 25 km per hour as of now. With the DFC, this would go up to **60 km per hour**.
- **National Rail Plan Vision 2030**- The goal is to increase the modal share of rail to 40%-45% of the logistics market to move 3,600 million tonnes (MT) of cargo by 2030-31.
- **PM Gati Shakti**- Railways is one of the key drivers of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- The Ministry of Railways has set up a multi-disciplinary Gati Shakti Directorate in the Railway Board.
- The Gati Shakti Units in all **68 divisions** are also created.
- The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan has helped in expeditious sanction of projects, monitoring of execution of works and coordination with other Ministries/State Governments.

8. Firms told to run gas units as power ask rises, The Hindu

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Prelims Takeaway

- MAHIR
- Gas Power plants

News:

- Centre directs companies to operate underutilized gas-based power plants and extend operations of imported coal based plants to meet the surge in electricity demand during summer months when IMD expects above normal high temperatures.

India's Power Sector:

- India has about **24 gigawatts (GWs)** of **gas-based power plants** that have been idling or underused for decades due to lack of fuel. Power stations would be informed two weeks in advance about the requirements so they could import gas, the government said in its order.
- Given that India would expand by more than 7% over the next few years, the power demand will rise by around 10%.
- Power is one of the most important infrastructural elements, essential to a nation's well-being and economic development.
- **India is 3rd producer and consumer** of electricity worldwide, with an installed power capacity of **411.64 GW** as of January 31, 2023.
- India's installed renewable energy capacity (including hydro) stood at 168.4 GW, representing 40.9% of the overall installed power capacity.
- India has huge ambitions in energy transition and plans to have 500 GW of non-fossil-based electricity installed capacity by 2030 so that non-fossil cleaner fuel comprises 50% of the installed capacity mix by 2030.
- **100% FDI** in the power sector in India is allowed for generation from any sources (except atomic energy), even for transmission and distribution of electric energy.
- There are plenty of Government schemes for the growth of Power Sector like National Smart Grid Mission, Sovereign Green Bonds, Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana
- **Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)** was launched recently to leverage Emerging Technologies in the Power Sector.
- There are Production Linked Incentive Schemes for 'National Programme on High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules'.

9. Why is there a WHO alert on viral hepatitis?, The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life

Prelims Takeaway

- Hepatitis
- WHO Report

News:

- According to the World Health Organization's **(WHO) Global Hepatitis Report 2024** released recently, Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Vietnam, collectively shoulder nearly two-thirds of the global burden of **hepatitis B and C**.

- The report suggests the disease is the second leading infectious cause of death globally with **1.3 million deaths per year**, the same as tuberculosis, a top infectious killer.

Hepatitis Disease:

- Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver** that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and non-infectious agents leading to a range of health problems
 - Some of which can be fatal. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types **A, B, C, D and E**.
- India is vulnerable as a large number of cases remain unaware, lack of awareness of symptoms, screening and treatment and not having access to good hygiene practices.
- Hepatitis B and C are most widespread of the virus found majorly in people, Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination, while hepatitis C is curable with medicines.
- Half the burden of chronic hepatitis B and C infections is among people aged 30-54 years old, with 12% among children under 18 years of age.
- Men account for 58% of all cases.
- Mother to child transmission is responsible for most new infections, and in India, elimination of hepatitis B requires extensive treatment coverage, immunizing and ending any discrimination against patients.
- The WHO data reveals results fall well below the global targets to treat **80%** of people living with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C **by 2030**.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

10. Decoding the judgment on Jim Corbett- The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
News:

- In its ruling in March, the Supreme Court brought to light the unholy nexus of politicians, forest officials, and local contractors responsible for the felling of 6,000 trees in the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand.

Key highlights

- despite conservation goals receiving priority through policies and laws including the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Project Tiger, and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the state's main interest remains increasing revenue.
- The illegal destruction of trees in Jim Corbett can be seen in contravention of the 1983 Supreme Court judgment in Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra vs. State of Uttar Pradesh
 - Which said that "economic growth cannot be achieved at the cost of environmental destruction and people's right to healthy environment."
- National and State forest authorities have leaned on ecotourism to simultaneously attain conservation goals, enhance revenue, and improve the livelihoods of local people.
- the Supreme Court said that the approach must be of eco-centrism and not anthropocentrism.
- The court directed the banning of tiger safaris in core areas and the constitution of a committee to explore the feasibility of permitting tiger safaris in peripheral areas in not just Jim Corbett, but across India.
- It also disagreed with the 2019 guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority permitting a tiger safari on the lines of a zoo in a national park.
- The court stressed that tigers should be sourced from the same landscape as where the safari is being conducted and not outside the tiger reserve.
- According to a report of the Centre for Science and Environment in 2021, India has lost 90% of the area under its four biodiversity hotspots.

What the court missed

- Recovering the cost of restoration does not amount to necessarily recovering the loss of the ability of the environment to provide goods and services.
- In India, the framework of valuation which predated the T.N. Godavarman case (1996) was aimed at replacing lost natural forest with compensatory plantations.
- The two choices which are supported legally and institutionally and serve as the background for the valuation of forest land in India are now compensatory afforestation levy and net present value (NPV).

Conclusion

- The Court could have set a precedent by saying that ecosystem services are more important and generate more revenue than eco-tourism or raised the need of putting in place a precise law and policy relating to ecosystem services. T
- The reasoning provided by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Costa Rica v. Nicaragua (2018) could have been used to understand the methodologies in evaluating damage to the environment.

11. India must adopt holistic approaches to handle human-wildlife conflicts- Down to Earth

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
context:

- India, with its rich biodiversity and burgeoning human population, grapples with a significant challenge: human-animal conflict.
- As habitats shrink and human activities encroach upon wildlife territories, confrontations between humans and animals, mainly tigers and elephants, have escalated, posing threats to both communities.
- It emerges as a major talking point in states like Kerala ahead of the Lok Sabha election. Understanding and mitigating this conflict is crucial for fostering coexistence and preserving India's natural heritage.

<p>Key highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Dynamics: India hosts significant populations of wild elephants and tigers, leading to frequent encounters with humans, resulting in fatalities on both sides. • Habitat Fragmentation: Urbanization, agricultural expansion, and infrastructural development fragment natural habitats, forcing wildlife to encroach upon human settlements. • Economic Impacts: Crop depredation and livestock predation lead to economic losses for farmers, exacerbating tensions between communities and wildlife. <p>Dimension - Impacts and Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Hardships: Crop damage and loss of livestock affect the livelihoods of communities living near wildlife habitats. • Psychological Distress: Fear and anxiety prevail among affected communities, perpetuating animosity towards wildlife. • Conservation Dilemma: Balancing conservation efforts with human livelihood needs presents a complex dilemma, often leading to conflicts of interest. 	<p>Dimension - Required Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Approach: Mitigating human-wildlife conflicts requires a multi-pronged strategy involving proactive measures and community involvement. • Sustainable Solutions: Innovative deterrent methods such as electric fencing and beehive fences can mitigate conflicts without harming wildlife. • Community Empowerment: Investing in community-based conservation initiatives and alternative livelihood options can foster tolerance towards wildlife and alleviate socio-economic burdens. <p>THE SIX ELEMENTS OF HWC MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the conflict: Researching all aspects of the conflict profile to understand the context for conflict in any given situation • Mitigation: Reducing the impacts of HWC after it occurs (compensation, insurance, alternative livelihoods, etc.) • Response: Addressing an ongoing HWC incident (response teams, reporting mechanisms, standard operating procedures, etc.) • Prevention: Stopping or preventing HWC before it occurs (fences, early detection tools, safe working environments, etc.) • Policy: Enabling HWC management through protocols, principles, provisions, and measures stipulated in legislation and undertaken by authorities (international and national law, national and local HWC management plans, spatial plans, etc.) • Monitoring: Measuring the performance and effectiveness of HWC management interventions over time (data collection, information sharing, adaptive management, etc.)
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Quick Look

1. Khavda Renewable Energy Park

- It is the world's largest renewable energy park.
- It is located at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch region, boasting an impressive 45 GW capacity predominantly fueled by solar energy.
- The region has the second-best solar radiation in the country after Ladakh and wind speeds five times that of the plains.
- Situated just one kilometer from the international border with Pakistan, the energy park maintains a buffer zone manned by the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Originally accessed only by a modest airstrip without air traffic control, the site now gears up for a significant clean energy venture. It spans 538 square kilometres, approximately five times the size of Paris.

2. Fort Emmanuel

- It is a ruined fort located at Fort Kochi Beach in Kochi, Kerala. It was originally built in 1503 and reinforced in 1538.
- It was a symbol of the strategic alliance between the Maharajah of Kochi and the Monarch of Portugal, after whom it was named.
- It was a massive structure, and the entire township was within its confines. It greatly helped in strengthening the Portuguese occupation of the area.
- Fort Kochi remained in Portuguese possession until 1683, when the Dutch colonial troops captured the territory and destroyed the Portuguese institutions.
- The Dutch held the fort in their possession until 1795, when the British took control by defeating the Dutch. By 1806, the Dutch, and later the British, had destroyed most of the fort walls and its bastions.

3. Platelets

- Platelets, or thrombocytes, are small, colorless cell fragments in our blood that help with clotting. They are our body's natural bandage to stop bleeding.
- They form in the soft tissue of your bones (bone marrow). The largest cells in your bone marrow (megakaryocytes) make platelets.
- They form in the shape of a plate, which is where they get their name.
- They are smaller than red or white blood cells.

4. Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)

- It's a government body set up under the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- The primary role of FSIB is to identify manpower capabilities and ensure proper selection of talent for senior positions at financial institutions owned by the government.
- It replaced the Bank Board's Bureau (BBB), which was declared an incompetent authority.
- FSIB would be headed by a chairman, a central government nominee.
- The board would comprise the Secretaries of the DFS, the chairman of IRDAI, and a deputy governor of the RBI.
- Additionally, it will have three part-time members who are experts in banking and three more from the insurance sector.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following pairs

1. Individual Satyagraha : protest against the British government
2. Vaikom Satyagraha : protest against the British viceroy
3. Mahad Satyagraha : against upper caste of india

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q2. Consider the following pairs

Region in news : countries

1. Chushul : India
2. Gelephu : United Kingdom
3. tehran : iraq

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. All three pairs
- D. None

Q3. Consider the following:

Country Cities

1. Egypt Haifa
2. Syria -Damascus-
3. Cyprus Nicosia

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q4) Consider the following Places in News-

Capital Country

1. Quito - Solomon Islands
2. Honiara - Ecuador
3. Port Moresby - Papua New Guinea

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q5. Consider the following pair

Country physiography

1. Ecuador Andean highlands
2. Syria Jabal al-Druze Range
3. Cyprus Troodos

How many of the pair given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Solomon Islands-

1. Solomon Islands, country in the southeastern Pacific Ocean
2. It was a Former French Colony till 1978.
3. The islands were a bone of contention during World War 2.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q7. Consider the following statements

1. India is the 4th largest producer and consumer of Electricity
2. 78% FDI is allowed under automatic route
3. India has 35% Renewable Power Generation of total it Capacity

How many statement is /are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All 3
- D. None

Q8. Consider the following statements-

1. Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR) Scheme was launched by Government for Power Sector
2. Its core focus is improving existing Power Sector Units and Increase their Efficiency

Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

Q9. Consider the following statements

National park: State

- 1. South Button Island National Park - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 2. Mathikettan Shola National Park - Kerala
- 3. Rani Jhansi Marine National Park - Andaman and Nicobar Islands

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q10. Consider the following statements

- 1. In 2008, the Centre launched eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- 2. National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency are few among the mission
- 3. One of the eight missions, the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is to develop a capacity to scientifically assess the vulnerability of the Himalayan region to climate change.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- After the failure of the August Offer in 1940, the Indian National Congress decided to launch the "Individual Satyagraha" under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi against britishers
- Vaikom Satyagraha was a social protest against the oppression of people of the lower caste and untouchability in a place near Travancore known as Vaikom. **Hence pair 2 is incorrect**
- Mahad Satyagraha of 1927
- It was a pivotal moment in the fight for equality in India.
- Broken Promises: In 1923, a law was passed allowing Dalits (untouchables) to access public spaces. However, this change wasn't reflected in reality. **Hence 1 and 3 pairs are correct**

Answer 2 Option A is correct.

Explanation

- the final major clash of World War II, raged for over 80 days in 1945.
- US forces fought to capture Okinawa, a strategically located island close to mainland Japan, from a determined Japanese defense. OKINAWA is in japan
- Chushul is a village in the Leh district of Ladakh, India. It is located in the Durbuk tehsil, in the area known as "Chushul Valley.
- The King of Bhutan paid a visit to India in November 2023 during which he hinted at his plans for a Mindfulness City at Gelephu in southern Bhutan. Gelephu is in bhutan.
- **Hence only one pair is correct**
- Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province. With a population of around 9 million in the city and 16 million in the wider metropolitan area,

Answer 3 Option B is Correct

Explanation-

- Haifa is a City in Israel, **Hence Pair 1 is INcorrect.**
- Capital of Syria is Damascus, Hence Pair 2 is Correct
- Cyprus Capital is Nicosia , **Hence Pair 3 is Correct**

Answer 4 Option A is Correct

Explanation

- Ecuador's raid on April 5 at the Mexico embassy in **Quito** is a serious violation of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations on which nations operate their missions in foreign lands. Capital of Ecuador is Quito, **Hence Pair 1 Incorrect**
- Capital of Solomon Islands is Honiara , Solomon Islands is a nation in Melanesia, east of Papua New Guinea, comprising more than 990 islands, located on the island of Guadalcanal. **Hence Pair 2 is Incorrect**
- Capital of Papua New Guinea is Port Moresby, **Hence Pair 3 is Correct**

Answer 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

- It consists of mountain ranges in the west and a steep area inland. In the east is the Syrian Desert and in the south is the Jabal al-Druze Range.
- Ecuador is a country straddling the equator on South America's west coast. Its diverse landscape encompasses Amazon jungle, Andean highlands
- The island is dominated by two mountain ranges, the Troodos Mountains and the Kyrenia Mountains or Pentadaktylos, and the central plain, the Mesaoria, between them
- **Hence all Pairs are correct**

Answer 6 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- Solomon Islands, a country in the **southwestern** Pacific Ocean. It consists of a double chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in Melanesia, **Hence Statement 1 INcorrect.**
- The former **British** colony gained independence in 1978, **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect**
- The Solomon Islands Was a Pivotal WWII Battleground. Hence Statement 3 is Correct.
- Hence Only One Statement is Correct.

Answer 7 Option D is Correct

Explanation:

- India is **3rd producer and consumer of electricity** worldwide, with an installed power capacity of 411.64 GW as of January 31, 2023. **Hence, Statement 1 is INcorrect**
- India's installed renewable energy capacity (including hydro) stood at 168.4 GW, representing **40.9%** of the overall installed power capacity. **Hence, Statement 3 is INcorrect**
- India has huge ambitions in energy transition and plans to have 500 GW of non-fossil-based electricity installed capacity by 2030 so that non-fossil cleaner fuel comprises 50% of the installed capacity mix by 2030.
- **100% FDI** in the power sector in India is allowed for generation from any sources (except atomic energy), even for transmission and distribution of electric energy. **Hence, Statement 12 is INcorrect**

Answer 8 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR) was launched recently to leverage Emerging Technologies in the Power Sector.
- The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy have jointly launched a National Mission to quickly identify emerging technologies in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India. **Hence Statement 1 correct.**
- However the Scheme applies to Emerging Technologies and not to existing technological Power Units, **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**

Answer 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- South Button Island National Park - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Saddle Peak National Park -Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Rani Jhansi Marine National Park - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Anshi National Park -Karnataka
- Silent Valley National -Park Kerala
- Periyar National Park- Kerala
- Pambadum- Shola National Park Kerala
- Mathikettan -Shola National Park Kerala
- **Hence all pairs are correct**

Answer 10 Option C is correct

Explanation

- In 2008, the Centre launched eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- One of these was under the Ministry of Science and Technology, i.e., the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE).
- the "main objective of NMSHE is to develop a capacity to scientifically assess the vulnerability of the Himalayan region to climate change and continuously assess the health status of the Himalayan ecosystem". The revised mission documents for eight (08) National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)namely - National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency. **Hence all statements are correct**



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