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Daily Current Affairs

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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Mahavir's focus on free will - The Hindu

Relevance: Important personalities.

News: Mahavir strongly emphasized the importance of free will (the freedom from external influences such as fate) as a core principle of his philosophy.

Mahavir's Philosophy:

- Mahavir strongly emphasized the importance of free will as a core principle of his philosophy.
- According to him life is a combination of “**niyati**” (fate) and “**purusharth**” (action based on free will) and fate is always a result of **purusharth** (previous karma).
- Mahavir preached the supremacy of the “Atma” (the self) in determining one's life. He believed in Atma as “**Paramatma**” (the supreme).
- Mahavir declares that only the one who accepts that it is, in fact, him who is the master of his own destiny, is a true follower of his principles of “**Atmavad**” (belief in souls characteristic of consciousness and supreme potential).

Jainism:

- Jainism became prominent in the **6th century B.C** it was propagated by Mahavira.
- There were **24 tirthankaras**, the last of whom was Mahavira.
- Spread of the new agricultural economy paved for its origin.
- **Three jewels or Triratna** of jainism include Right faith, Right knowledge, Right Action.
- **Doctrine of Jainism** revolves around Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Aparigraha, Brahmacharya.
- The fifth doctrine of **Brahmacharya** (observing continence) was introduced by Mahavira.

Prelims Takeaway

- Jainism
- Philosophy of Mahavira

GS II

2. Centre releases curriculum framework for anganwadis - The Hindu

Relevance: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors.

News:

- National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024 titled ‘**Aadharshila**’ was released by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)

Prelims Takeaway

- Aadharshila
- Anganwadis

Highlights:

- The Union government has released this curriculum to teach children aged three to six years.
- The focus of the curriculum circles around **pre-school learning in 14 lakh Anganwadis across the country**.
- **A longitudinal research** of 42000 Indian children up to primary grades for about five years indicated that
 - Children who have **received early childhood education** are expected to do much **better in school and are psychosocially better adapted** in comparison to those who did not receive any formal education before six years of age.
- Children are going up school ladder without learning to read and write which may **hamper** achieving age-appropriate learning levels like math and language skills

Aadharshila:

- The curriculum includes a **mix of academic and extracurricular activities** like storytelling, arts and crafts, exploring, free play, conversation etc.
- This curriculum will give an impetus to **pre-school learning in children aged three to six**
- The curriculum will help children **to easily transition into Grade 1** by developing skills.
- This framework will serve as a **base for States to develop their own culturally appropriate curriculums** seen as a solution to tackle challenges of children.

3. India delivers first batch of BrahMos supersonic missiles to Philippines- The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, Regional and Global Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Prelims Takeaway

- BrahMos
- Philippines

News:

- India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.
- The Philippines concluded a **\$375-million deal** with India for an anti-ship variant of the BrahMos becoming the **first export customer** for the joint venture missile between India and Russia.

Highlights:

- The first batch was delivered aboard a transport aircraft of the **Indian Air Force** which landed in the **Philippines**
- The delivery comes amid the showdown between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea and will significantly augment the defensive posture of the Philippines armed forces once the systems are operationalised.

Brahmos:

- BrahMos is a long-range **nuclear-capable supersonic cruise** missile system.
- It possesses the capability to be deployed from several platforms, including air, sea, and land.
- It is capable of traveling at speeds of up to **Mach 3**, and it is one of the world's fastest cruise missiles.
- It was developed by BrahMos Aerospace and tested for the first time in **2001**.
- BrahMos is named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva (Russia). BrahMos is the potent offensive missile weapon system already inducted into the Armed Forces.

BrahMos Aerospace:

- Following the Gulf War of the 1990s, it became clear that the country needed a cruise missile system.
- As a result, in 1998, India and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement in Moscow.
- It paved the way for the formation of BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India's **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** and **Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM)**.

India's Relations with Philippines:

- India and the Philippines are two democratic countries in the Indo-Pacific region that share a common approach towards the **Indo-Pacific**, emphasizing the importance of a free, open, and stable region.
- Political Relations: India and the Philippines formally established diplomatic relations on 26 November 1949, shortly after both countries gained independence. (Philippines in 1946 and India in 1947).
- When India launched the Look East Policy and intensified partnership with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1992, it also resulted in intensified relations with the Philippines both bilaterally and in the regional context.
- With the **Act East Policy (2014)**, the relationship with the Philippines has diversified further into political-security; trade and industry, etc.
- Economic Relations: India is currently the Philippines' fifteenth largest trading partner, with trade worth approximately **USD 3 billion** in 2022.
- Also, Philippines has been a net importer in goods trade with India

Philippines:

- The Philippines is an archipelago located in Southeast Asia, bordered by the Philippine Sea to the east, the South China Sea to the west, and the Celebes Sea to the south.
- It consists of 7,641 islands, with **Luzon and Mindanao** being the largest.
- The capital city is Manila, situated on Luzon Island.

GS III

4. 'Conditions not ripe for easing restrictive monetary stance', Downward pressure on inflation must be maintained until a better balance of risks becomes evident, MPC minutes cite RBI's Patra as saying

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Prelims Takeaway

- MPC & Inflation
- RBI

News:

- Price stability has to be restored in order to ensure that the rising growth trajectory in the economy is sustained and economic conditions are not yet ripe to ease the restrictive monetary stance.
- Official retail inflation data for March showed food price inflation remained sticky at **8.52%**.

Monetary Policy Committee:

- Monetary Policy is the process of regulating the supply of money in an economy by the monetary authority of the country.
- The Monetary Policy, generally, adjusts the inflation rates or interest rates to sustain the price stability and to maintain the predictable exchange rates with foreign currencies.
- Monetary policy is either **contractionary or expansionary** and is often seen separate from the fiscal policy which deals with taxation, spending by government, and borrowing.
- When the total money supply is increased rapidly than normal, it is called an expansionary policy, while a slower increase or even a decrease of the same refers to a contractionary policy.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was constituted as per Section 45ZB under the RBI Act of 1934 by the Central Government. The first meeting of MPC was conducted on 3rd October 2016 in Mumbai.
- The committee determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- The MPC is required to **meet at least four times in a year**.
- The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.
- Once every **six months**, the Reserve Bank is required to publish a document called the **Monetary Policy Report** to detail the sources of inflation and the forecasts of inflation for 6-18 months ahead.

Instruments of Monetary Policy

- There are both direct and indirect instruments used for implementing monetary policy:
 - Repo rate
 - Reverse Repo rate
 - Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)
 - Corridor
 - Bank Rate
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)
 - Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
 - Open Market Operations (OMOs)
 - Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS)

5. DRDO hands over first batch of indigenous Leading Edge Actuators & Airbrake Control Module to HAL for LCA Tejas Mk1A - PIB

Relevance: Various Security Forces and Agencies and their Mandate.

News:

- DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Marking a significant leap towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies. The HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current **83 LCA Tejas Mk1A order**.

Prelims Takeaway

- DRDO
- Defence technology

Key Highlights

- The Secondary Flight Control of LCA-Tejas, comprising Leading Edge Slats and Airbrakes, now boasts state-of-the-art servo actuators and control modules.
- The production of these critical components is underway at the Accessories Division, HAL, Lucknow, marking a significant stride towards bolstering **India's aerospace manufacturing capabilities**.

DRDO:

- DRDO was formed in 1958.
- DRDO is the **R&D** wing of the **Ministry of Defence**, Govt of India, with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems.
- Equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment in accordance with requirements laid down by the three Services.
- **Agni and Prithvi** series of missiles; light combat aircraft, **Tejas**; multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defense system, **Akash**; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc., have given quantum jump to India's military might, generating effective deterrence and providing crucial leverage.
- "**Balasya Mulam Vigyanam**"—the source of strength is science—drives the nation in peace and war

6. Forests a national asset and major contributor to financial wealth: SC - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

News:

- Amid concerns over Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act (FCAA) 2023 an appeal was filed in Supreme court by the State of Telangana against a High Court decision for "graciously gifting" forest land to a private person.

Highlights:

- The Supreme Court in a recent judgment has asserted that forests in India are a national asset and are a major contributor to the nation's financial wealth.
- Forests play a pivotal role and serve as a major sink of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- The mitigation value of CO₂ locked in forests was put as \$5 per tonne of CO₂, this sink of about 24,000 mt of CO₂ is worth \$120 billion, or ₹6 lakh crores.
- The court also quoted **report** of the Ministry of Environment and Forests titled '**India's Forest and Tree Cover: Contribution as a Carbon Sink**',
 - The report stated from the year 1995 to 2005, the carbon stocks stored in our forests and trees have increased from 6,245 million tonnes (mt) to 6,662 mt, registering an annual increment of 38 mt of carbon or 138mt of CO₂ equivalent".

Prelims Takeaway

- FCAA
- Carbon Sink

- Another **2022-23 report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** highlights the macroeconomic impact of climate change and changing patterns of rainfall.
 - These macroeconomic factors cost the economy 2.8% of its GDP and lower the living standards of nearly half of its population by 2050.
 - Moreover, climate change could cost India 3% to 10% of its GDP annually by the year 2100

Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act (FCAA) 2023

- The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, amended the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA) and came into force in December last year.
- The amendment introduced major changes in FCA the key focus was on expansion of its applicability to different types of land and exemptions to specific land categories.
- The Act has been criticized of giving exemptions without an appropriate 'assessment and mitigation plan
- The FCAA also paves the way of giving States the power to regularize encroachments in protected forests and determine diversions of forestlands.

7. Petroleum Minister Hardeep S Puri talks to OPEC Secretary General about recent trends and volatility in global oil markets- PIB

Relevance: Effects of Liberalization on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

Prelims Takeaway

- OPEC
- Crude Oil

News:

- In a conversation with the **OPEC Secretary General**, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, emphasized the importance of balancing market stability, affordability, with pragmatism.

Key Highlights:

- As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India is committed to supporting efforts to achieve balance in global energy markets.
- India and OPEC have a longstanding partnership. **India is the second largest export destination for OPEC.**
- During Financial Year 2022-23, India imported crude oil, LPG, LNG, and petroleum products from OPEC countries, amounting to approximately **US\$ 120 billion.**

OPEC:

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of **12 oil-exporting developing nations** that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- The OPEC Secretariat is the executive organ of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), located in Vienna.
- OPEC's formation by five (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela) oil-producing developing countries in Baghdad in September 1960
- Occurred at a time of transition in the international economic and political landscape.

8. IREDA's GIFT City office to boost Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Manufacturing Projects- PIB

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

Prelims Takeaway

- IREDA
- MNRE

News:

- Energy Storage key to achieving targets under National Green Hydrogen Mission: IREDA at World Future Energy Summit 2024

Highlights:

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has opened an office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- It will specialize in providing **debt options denominated** in foreign currencies.
- This will facilitate natural **hedging** and significantly reduce the **financing costs** for Green Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Manufacturing projects.
- The strategic initiative which would contribute to the country's journey towards a greener future.
- The IREDA emphasized the critical role that energy storage will play in achieving the **National Green Hydrogen Mission's** ambitious target of over **5 million metric tons per annum (MTPA)** Hydrogen production by 2030.

IREDA:

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a **Mini Ratna** (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise.
- Under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**. IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** in 1987.
- Engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the motto: **"ENERGY FOR EVER"**
- **Solar Energy projects** have maximum loans under IREDA.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Scientists and a wish list for the incoming government- The Hindu

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

Context:

- Increase in the nation's gross domestic expenditure on research and development (currently **below 0.7% of GDP**), both from the government exchequer and private players, Private contribution only 40% of the total spend on R&D.
- Government spending on research and development should **increase by at least 50%** year-over-year in the next five years, accounting for nearly **4% of GDP** at the end 2029.

Steps to Increase R&D:

- Recently established **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, where the private sector is expected to contribute **₹36,000 crore** over five years.
- Public sector institutions' physical and intellectual infrastructure, such as universities and research institutions, must be improved.
- A robust science grant management system to facilitate research will be required,
- hiring in educational and research institutions to a globally accepted standard that is transparent, fast and free from any influence.
- The most critical implementation that scientists look forward to is the freedom to speak and write on their subjects based on evidence and which is **free from interference**.

India 2050:

- For India to aspire to be the **second largest economy** by 2050, the incoming government must improve the **ease of doing science** and provide scientists the complete freedom to think and implement, away from excessive bureaucratic and administrative processes and paperwork.
- While supporting our researchers in **creating wealth and jobs** for society through innovation and entrepreneurship, it is vitally important that the incoming government also invests in fundamental science and knowledge creation.

10. Permanent status, Palestine should be granted full-member status of the UN for a start - The Hindu

Relevance: Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

Context:

- The resolution proposed by Algeria on granting Palestine full-member status at the UN, was vetoed by the USA.
- Even though the state of Palestine received permanent UN observer status in 2012, and temporary powers of a full member in 2019 it is yet to be recognised as a full member.
- **Israel became a full member of the UN in 1949.**

Israel- Palestine Conflict:

- The present conflict has its roots in the 20th century.
- The British government in the **Balfour Declaration of 1917** announced “the establishment in Palestine a national home for the **Jewish People**”.
 - This declaration was in the hope to gain Jewish support for World War I.
- The Arabs in Palestine opposed this declaration over the concerns of subjugation for the Palestinians.
- A colony was established by the British in Palestine after the First World War to rule the area until the Palestinians were ready to govern themselves.
 - This was called Mandatory Palestine as it was according to the League of Nations mandate.
- During the course of World War II, several **Jews escaped Europe from the Holocaust** and were brought to Palestine.
- Over the years tension between Israel and Palestine has persisted with some countries siding for a two-state solution.

United Nations Security Council:

- The United Nations Charter established six major organs of the UN, one of which was the United Nations Security Council.
- UNSC has the charge of maintaining international peace and security.
- The council has **15 members**:
 - The five permanent members - United States, the Russian Federation, France, China and the United Kingdom.
 - Ten non-permanent members including India (elected for two-year terms).
- The council is headquartered at New York.
- The resolutions of the UN Security Council are binding on all member states.

Quick Look

1. Shompen Tribe

- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in the dense tropical rain forests of the Great Nicobar island
- They are one of five PVTGs in Andaman and Nicobar island.
- Census (2011) quotes their estimated population to 229
- Most of them are uncontacted and speak their own language. However, the dialects may vary.
- Being a semi nomadic tribe their main sources of livelihood are hunting, gathering, fishing.
- Staple food of the Shompen tribe is the pandanus fruit, which they call larop.

2. Vasuki Indicus

- The fossils of this snake were found in Panandhro Lignite Mine, Kutch, Gujarat.
- It is one of the largest snakes that ever existed.
- It likely lived in Middle Eocene period 47 million years ago
- The fossil found belonged to the now-extinct Madtsoiidae snake family. However, it represents a unique lineage from India.
- It is believed it likely had a cylindrical body, a robust and powerful build,
- It was as big as Titanoboa, another massive snake that was reportedly the longest ever known.

3. Mount Ruang

- A remote Indonesian volcano sent ash spewing into the sky,
- After nearly half a dozen eruptions earlier this week forced thousands to evacuate when molten rocks rained down on their villages.
- The country's volcanology agency said the eruption sent a plume of smoke 400 metres above the peak.

4. Air Taxis

- Air taxi service is a type of on-demand air transportation.
- It offers short-distance flights for individuals or small groups.
- Air taxis provide flexibility and convenience with regards to schedule of flights.
- India is in talks with a U.S based company to even start trials of electric air taxis.

5. Mount Apo

- The highest peak, and an active volcano in the Philippines' Mindanao Island.
- The Philippines has a tropical climate with high temperatures and humidity year-round, experiencing wet and dry seasons.
- The Philippines is considered one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.
- The Philippines is also a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, which makes it geologically active. It has more than 20 active volcanoes, including Mayon (recently erupted in 2023), Taal, and Mount Pinatubo (erupted in 1991).

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about Jainism:

1. There are total 20 Tirthankaras in Jainism.
2. Tri Ratna or three jewels include Right faith, Right knowledge, Right action.
3. Rishabhdev added the doctrine of Brahmacharya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Aadharshila:

1. It was released by the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. It mainly deals with children up to the age of 14 years.
3. It includes academic activities with little emphasis on extracurriculars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Philippines

1. The Philippines is surrounded by Celebes Sea in the North.
2. Equator passes over Philippines
3. It lies in the Ring of Fire in Pacific Ocean

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Monetary Policy

1. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was constituted under the RBI Act of 1934 by the Central Government.
2. The first meeting of MPC was conducted on 3rd October 2016 in Delhi.
3. Monetary policy report is published by the RBI every 3 months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. Consider the following Statements regarding DRDO

1. It is the research & development wing under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It was formed in 1968 with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies
3. 'Balasya Mulam Vigyanam' is the motto of DRDO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following Statements:

1. Carbon sinks, places that absorb more carbon than they release.
2. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, amended the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986.
3. Forest subject comes under the union list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about OPEC-

1. OPEC has 15 members
2. OPEC has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. OPEC produces 40% of the world's crude oil output

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements

1. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a MahaRatna Enterprise.
2. It was established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1997
3. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements

1. India spend on Science R&D is 0.66% of the GDP in 2023
2. Majority of the expenditure is done by the Government sector.
3. interim Budget for 2024-25,gave a corpus of Rs 2 lakh crore to bolster the research and innovation ecosystem

Which 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. The Balfour declaration was signed between Israel and Iran.
2. Unlike Israel, Palestine is a full member of the UN.
3. UNSC consists of 10 permanent members and 5 non permanent members.

Which 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 A is correct.

Explanation:

- There are a total 24 Tirthankaras in Jainism. First Tirthankara was Rishabdev and last was Mahavira. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- For the attainment of liberation there are three jewels in Jainism including Right faith, Right knowledge, Right action. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- The doctrine of Brahmacharya or observing continence was introduced by Mahavira. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option D is correct

Explanation:

- Aadharshila' was released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) for the development of early childhood education. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Aadharshila curriculum deals with children aged 3 to 6. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The curriculum includes a mix of academic and extracurricular activities like storytelling, arts and crafts, exploring, free play, conversation etc. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 3 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Antarctica are some of the important places located in the ring of the fire. **Statement 3 is correct.**
- The Philippines are located near the Equator. The equator does not pass over. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Philippines is surrounded by Celebes Sea in the South. **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**

Answer 4 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was constituted under the RBI Act of 1934 by the Central Government. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The first meeting of MPC was conducted on 3rd October 2016 in Mumbai which is the headquarters of RBI. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Once every six months, the Reserve Bank is required to publish a document called the Monetary Policy Report to detail the sources of inflation and the forecasts of inflation for 6-18 months ahead. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 5 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- DRDO is the R&D wing under the ministry of defence. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was formed in 1958 with a vision to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies and a mission to achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies and systems. **Option 2 is incorrect.**
- 'Balasya Mulam Vigyanam', the source of strength is science-drives the nation in peace and war is the motto of DRDO. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 6 Option A is correct.

Explanation:

- Carbon sinks are the places that absorb more carbon than they release. They continuously take carbon out of the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, amended the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Forest comes under concurrent list, which has 52 subjects. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 7 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- Currently, the Organization has a total of 12 Member Countries. **Hence Statement 1 is INcorrect**
- OPEC had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first five years of its existence. This was moved to Vienna, Austria, on September 1, 1965. **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect**
- OPEC produces 40% of the world's crude oil output. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 8 Option D is Correct.

Explanation:

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna (Category - I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect & Statement 3 is incorrect .**
- IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987 engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the motto: "ENERGY FOR EVER". **Hence, Statement 2 is Incorrect.**

Answer 9 Option B is correct

Explanation:

- India's GERD as percentage of GDP remained at 0.66% and 0.64% during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively. **Hence Statement 1 Correct**
- Majority of the expenditure is done by the Government sector. Less than 40% expenditure is done by the Private Sector. **Hence Statement 2 Correct**
- interim Budget for 2024-25, gave a corpus of **Rs 1 lakh crore** to bolster the research and innovation ecosystem **Hence Statement 3 is Incorrect.**

Answer 10 Option D is correct.

Explanation:

- The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British Government in the year 1917 during the first world war. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Israel became a full member of the UN in 1949 even though Palestine received observer status in 2012 it is yet to be recognised as a full member. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- UNSC consists of 5 permanent members and 10 non permanent members. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**



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