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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Remembering Vaikom satyagraha, a 100 years later- Indian Express

Relevance: The Freedom Struggle — its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.

Prelims Takeaway

- Satyagraha
- K.P. Kesava Menon

News:

- Vaikom, a temple town in the princely state of Travancore, saw the start of a non-violent agitation on March 30, 1924 — **the first among temple entry movements that would soon sweep across the country.**
- The satyagraha foregrounded social reform amidst the growing nationalist movement, bringing Gandhian methods of protest to the state of Travancore.

Vaikom Satyagraha

- The princely state of Travancore had a feudal, militaristic, and ruthless system of custom-ridden government
 - some of the most rigid, refined and ruthless social norms and customs were seen in Travancore.
- Lower castes like the Ezhavas and Pulayas were considered polluting and various rules were in place to distance them from upper castes.
- These included a prohibition, not just on temple entry, but even on walking on the roads surrounding temples.

Contribution of Leaders:

- **In 1923, Madhavan** presented the issue as a resolution at the Kakinada meet of All India Congress Committee.
- Subsequently, it was taken up by the Congress Untouchability Committee formed by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee in January 1924.
- **Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon K. Kelappan** (also known as Kerala Gandhi) are considered the pioneers of the Vaikom Satyagraha movement.

Factors Leading to Satyagraha:

- Christian missionaries, supported by the East India Company, had expanded their reach and **many lower castes converted to Christianity to escape the clutches of an oppressive system** that continued to bind them.
- Most important of these was the introduction of a modern education system with free primary education for all – even lower castes.
- **Forces of capitalism** and these reforms created new social hierarchies – which were not always congruent with traditional ones.

2. Nor'wester hits Jalpaiguri, leaves 5 dead- The Hindu

Relevance: important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Prelims Takeaway

- Kal Baisakhi
- Thunderstorm

News:

- At least five persons were killed and around 30 were injured after a Nor'wester hit parts of Jalpaiguri district of north Bengal, officials said.

Kal Baisakhi or Nor'wester

- It originates in the Chhotanagpur Plateau, in and around the cities of Ranchi and Jamshedpur.
- In times of incursion of moist air in these elevated regions, amidst high temperatures, these extremely destructive thunderstorms occur.
- The first sign of nor'wester is a low bank of dark cloud in the northwest region, the upper outline of which has the appearance of an arch.
- It approaches slowly at first and then rapidly with a strong gust or squall.

- Sometimes the wind blows with almost hurricane force.

Which are the states affected by Kal Baisakhi?

- Kal Baisakhi originates over Bihar and Jharkhand area, moves eastwards and strikes West Bengal and Odisha.

What are the benefits of Kal Baisakhi?

- Kal Baisakhi definitely brings destruction in terms of lightning, thunderstorm, hailstorm and rainfall.
- However, it is extremely helpful for the pre-Kharif crops like jute, paddy and a large number of vegetables and fruits.
- It gives the much desired relief after mid-day heat and pours well on the thirsty soil for development of crops.

Which months are affected by Kal Baisakhi?

- Kal Baisakhi is a common occurrence during April and May.
- However, few events of Kal Baisakhi in March too cannot be ruled out.

GS II

3. Many countries yet to fully implement steps to prevent misuse of virtual assets, says FATF- The Hindu

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and fora - their structure, mandate.

News:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has found that many countries are yet to fully implement its requirements aimed at preventing misuse of virtual assets and virtual asset service providers (VASPs).
- It is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog,

FATF

- The FATF is an international organization that fights financial crime.
- It creates rules (standards) and encourages countries to follow them to stop money laundering and terrorist financing.
- FATF was started in 1989 to tackle money laundering, and later in 2001, **its focus expanded to include terrorism financing.**
- It's headquartered in Paris and has 39 members, including major economies like the US, India, and China. India joined in 2010.
- FATF uses two lists to identify countries with weaknesses in fighting financial crime:
- **Blacklist:** Countries that actively support money laundering or terrorism funding are blacklisted.
- This can lead to them being cut off from financial aid from organizations like the World Bank and facing economic sanctions.
- Currently, **North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar are blacklisted.**
- **Grey List:** Countries at risk of money laundering or terrorism financing are put on the grey list.
- This serves as a warning to improve their controls or risk being blacklisted.
- Being on either list can make it harder for a country to do business internationally.

Prelims Takeaway

- FATF
- Virtual assets

4. Chargesheet filed against NewsClick in UAPA case -The Hindu

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

News:

- The Delhi Police filed its first chargesheet against news portal NewsClick in a case lodged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, following allegations that they received funds through Chinese firms to spread pro-China propaganda.

Prelims Takeaway

- UAPA
- Bail provision

- Under Section 43 D of the UAPA, the time to file a chargesheet in a case extends from 90 days to up to 180 days.
- In the case in hand, the court granted three extensions to the special cell of the Delhi Police to file the chargesheet.

Bail Related Provisions and Issues in UAPA

- The major problem with the UAPA lies in its Section 43(D)(5), which prevents the release of any accused person on bail
 - If, police have filed the chargesheet that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is prima facie true.
- The effect of Section 43(D)(5) is that once the police elect to charge an individual under the UAPA, it becomes extremely difficult for bail to be granted.
- Bail is a safeguard and guarantee of the constitutional right to liberty.
- In the case of **Zahoor Ahmed Shah Watali**, the Supreme Court in 2019 confirmed that courts must accept the state's case without examining its merits.
- However, courts have since read this provision differently, emphasizing the right to a speedy trial and raising the bar for the state to book an individual under UAPA.

GS III

5. CPCB report to NGT shows 80 pc environmental funds remain unutilised - Indian Express

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

News:

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has spent only 20 percent of the **environment protection charge and environmental compensation** collected so far for mitigating air pollution in Delhi-NCR and protecting the environment.
- The CPCB receives compensation broadly under two heads - environment protection charge (EPC) and environmental compensation (EC).

Prelims Takeaway

- CPCB
- Pollution

The CPCB

- it is a government agency established in **1974 to deal with water and air pollution in India.**
- It advises the government on these issues and sets standards for water and air quality.
- It also creates guidelines for handling waste and pollution control equipment.

The CPCB's main tasks include:

- Keeping rivers and wells clean by preventing water pollution.
- Making the air cleaner by reducing air pollution.

The CPCB sets standards for:

- Water quality
- Air quality
- Industrial waste emissions
- Medical waste disposal
- Vehicle emissions
- Fuel quality
- Noise limits for engines and generators

- The CPCB also creates **minimal pollution standards for different industries, which states must follow.**

6. Plans under way to make Mumbai first tri-service common defence station- Indian Express

Relevance: Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

News:

- The Armed Forces are planning to turn Mumbai into the first “tri-service common defence station” in the country for the Army, Navy and the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- A step aimed at achieving jointness among the three services ahead of the creation of integrated theatre commands

Key Highlights

- Theaterisation is a military strategy where the army, navy, and air force work together as one unit under a single commander for a specific region.
- This allows them to better combine their strengths and resources in wartime.
- Many countries already use theater commands, including major powers like China and the US.
- China, for instance, has a Western Theater Command specifically focused on its border with India.
- India is currently moving towards theaterisation.
- This reform is based on recommendations from various committees and aims to improve coordination between the different branches of the military.
- Right now, India has 17 separate commands for each service (army, navy, air force) and only two that combine them (Andaman and Nicobar Command, Strategic Forces Command).

Steps towards theaterisation include:

- Creating a national defense committee to oversee theater commanders.
- The Inter-Services Organisation Act which gives theater commanders more authority over personnel from different services.
- Limited officer exchanges between services to promote jointness.
- Establishing common defense stations where army, navy, and air force facilities are merged under one leadership for better efficiency (e.g., Mumbai with the Navy in charge).
- Overall, theaterisation aims to make India's military more unified and responsive to modern warfare.

Prelims Takeaway

- Integrated theatre commands
- “Tri-service common defence station”

7. A record 60 traditional products from across India granted GI tag- The Hindu

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

News:

- Over 60 products from across India, including **Banaras Thandai, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- This is the first time that **such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go**

Key Highlights

- **Six traditional crafts from Assam** — Asharikandi terracotta craft, Pani Meteka craft, Sarthebari metal craft, Jaapi (bamboo headgear), Mishing handloom products, and Bihu dhol — have bagged the GI tag.
- Thirteen other products from Assam have been given the tag, including the Bodo Dokhona, the traditional attire of Bodo women
- **Bodo Eri silk**, referred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa (non-violence), which comes from the silkworm *Samia ricini* that feeds mostly on the leaves of the castor plant (*Ricinus communis*), and cassava.

Prelims Takeaway

- Geographical Indication
- TRIPS

- Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf), Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men), Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument), and Bodo Sifung (a long flute) are also on the list.
- The famous Banaras Thandai, a drink made by blending milk with a mix of nuts, seeds and spices, also got the tag.
- The Banaras Tabla, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bharwamirch, and Banaras Lal Peda are among the products that walked away with GI tags in this region.
- The Tripura region secured two tags — one for the Pachra-Rignai, which is a traditional dress worn on special occasions, and the other for the Matabari Peda, a sweet preparation.
- Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery, and Meghalaya Chubitchi also secured the tag.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag Tag

- A GI tag is a name or sign used on certain products that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory are allowed to use the popular product name.
- It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

8. 250 rescued from cyber fraud centres abroad: MEA- The Hindu

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, Nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Prelims Takeaway

- Phishing
- Malware

News:

- The Union government is “collaborating closely” with Cambodian authorities and has rescued about 250 Indians from Cambodia
- They had been lured there by cyber fraud and fake online recruitment scams, the Ministry of External Affairs said

Cyber Frauds

- Cyber frauds are criminal activities which are done on the internet or using digital tools to trick people, businesses, or even governments to make money.
- These crimes aim to acquire sensitive information of the business, people, and government.

Methods Of Cyber Frauds

- **Hacking:** Getting into computer systems to get secret information.
- **Phishing:** Tricking people with fake emails, messages, or websites to steal their personal details.
- **Malware:** Installment of software to steal information or take control.
- **Identity Theft:** Using someone’s personal info to do fraud.
- **Social Engineering:** Tricking people by gaining their trust to get information from them.

Vicious network

A nationwide hunt against agents involved in such scams has revealed some insights into their operations



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

- Job seekers from across South Asia and South East Asia are recruited by agents operating in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and India

- They are promised IT jobs but once there, are forced to work in cyber fraud centres

- They then work over the phone and through social media and get people

to invest in fraudulent cryptocurrency trading and other schemes

- MHA says they get over 2,000 calls a day about such scams involving firms in Cambodia and Myanmar

- MEA cautions people against accepting job offers from South East Asia region, asking them to go through authorised agents

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Compounding crises :Water deficit worsens other adverse events for the poor

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

Context:

- There is only enough water to **fill 23% of the holding capacity in all of South India's reservoirs**
- This, according to the analysis, is nine percentage points lower than the rolling decadal average, speaking to the certainty and the magnitude of the impending crisis.

Key Highlights

- The last time South India faced a summertime water crisis was in 2017.
- The crisis in the same region this year is poised to be different, and worse, for a few reasons.
- First, the monsoons are influenced by various factors; of these, El Niño events render them more erratic, even if isolating their influence thus is a simplification.
- There was an El Niño event in 2014-16 whereas this time there is an ongoing event and among the five strongest such events in recorded history.
- Second, after meteorologists recorded 2023 to be the warmest year on record, they also said they expected 2024 to be worse.
- Fourth, this crisis has happened before; yet, while (some) policies and forecasting have improved, preparedness and implementation of these policies on the ground have not.
- Other factors, including unplanned urban growth, over-extraction of groundwater, low water reuse efficiency, insufficient community involvement, and encroachment and/or degradation of catchment areas, persist.

Impact of climate change

- Climate change will impose a deadlier cost on low- and middle-income countries such as India by creating simultaneous crises.
- Any water crisis must be seen against this backdrop, where it is both a crisis in itself and a factor that compounds the effects of another.
- But governments and policymakers seem to need reminding that this and future crises will neither be just about the water nor the fault of climate change.

10. From East to West, India is making a big push for transnational transport corridors. Here's why- The Print

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

Context

- From East to West, India today is spearheading **major transnational transport corridors that will eventually link the Atlantic to the Pacific via Asia.**

Key Highlights

- The Prime Minister is pushing hard for these corridors
 - The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative through the Arabian peninsula
 - The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) in the West to the trilateral highway in South East Asia
 - The Chennai-Vladivostok route to the East.
- While IMEC aims to connect India to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula through rail and sea links
- INSTC — conceptualised two decades ago — spans 7,200 kilometres, encompassing ship, rail, and road routes connecting India through Iran and Central Asia to Russia.
- The Chennai-Vladivostok corridor holds promise for India's connectivity with the Russian Far East.
- The INSTC was initially intended to send goods from India to Russia through Iran. The first set of goods was transited through it in July 2022 via Iran's Bander Abbas port.
- The INSTC has been viewed as a viable solution for sanctioned countries like Iran and Russia.
- External Affairs Minister has started to link the IMEC and another regional connectivity project — the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) trilateral highway.

Growing global push for economic corridors

- The trilateral highway has been a part of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme since 2001.
- The programme brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka to promote cross-border connectivity and facilitate faster trade connections among the countries.

Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

- The G7 recognised this infrastructure gap in 2021 when it announced the Build Back Better World (B3W).
- The B3W aimed to bridge the \$40 trillion infrastructure gap in the developing world and offer an alternative to the BRI.
- The efforts were eventually renamed the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), on the sidelines of the G7 leaders' summit in Hiroshima, Japan, in 2023.
- The IMEC would see goods shipped from India's Western coast to the UAE and travel via rail to Saudi Arabia and then possibly through Jordan to Israel.
 - Neither Israel nor Jordan signed the original MoU.

Glimpses of global alliances

- As a part of the BRI, in 2017, China hosted the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRI Forum).
- The event drew participation from 29 heads of state and governments, along with delegations representing over 130 countries.
- India refused to attend the forum and even declined to join the initiative.
- The third forum held in 2023 saw the Taliban in attendance despite a lack of international recognition — underscoring Beijing's growing ties with the organisation that has been in power in Afghanistan since 2021.
- Turkey proposed its own "Iraq Development Road" right after IMEC was announced in September 2023.
- The project would see goods transferred to the Grand Faw port at the tip of Iraq and then carried by land to Turkey before they reached Europe.



Quick Look

1. Konda Reddi Tribe

- Konda Reddis is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the banks of the river Godavari and also in the hilly forest tracts of Godavari and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Their mother tongue is Telugu, with a unique accent.
- The Konda Reddy tribe is divided into exogamous septs for regulating matrimonial relations.
- Like other Telugu-speaking people, their surnames are prefixed to individual names.
- Generally, each sept is exogamous, but certain septs are considered as brother septs and marriage alliances with brother septs (agnate relations) are prohibited.

2. Onyx Missile

- The P-800 Onyx, a supersonic medium-range cruise missile, is designed to combat surface ship groups, as well as to destroy ground targets in conditions of strong fire and electronic countermeasures.
- Also known as Russian Brahmos, it can reach speeds of over 3,000 km/h, making it extremely difficult to intercept.
- Additionally, the missile operates at an altitude of 10-15 meters above land or water, further enhancing its stealth capabilities.
- The missile has a range of up to 300 kilometers in its default trajectory and a range of 120 km in a low-altitude trajectory.

3. Madagascar

- Located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is the second-largest island country in the world.
- It covers an area of 592,800 sq. kilometers.
- The country can be divided into three parallel longitudinal physiographic regions.
- The coastal strip in the east, the central plateau and the western regions of low plateaus and plains.
- The Tsaratanana Massif region at the northern end of the island is home to Madagascar's highest point, Maromokotro, at 2,876 m.

4. United nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD)

- UNCTAD is a permanent inter-governmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade.
- Framing policies in various domains such as trade, technology, finance, aid, and transport are the most important priorities of UNCTAD.
- The Conference ordinarily meets once in four years.
- The second UNCTAD Conference took place in New Delhi, India in 1968.

5. Lalit Kala Akademi

- It was inaugurated on 5th August 1954 by the then Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It has preserved and documented a permanent collection of the highest order that reflects the vitality, complexity and unfolding patterns of contemporary, modern, folk and tribal art in India.
- It is India's national academy of fine arts established by Government of India to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. Vaikom Satyagraha was social reform movement started in travancore in 1924 against rigid and oppressive caste system
2. Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon K. Kelappan are considered the pioneers of the movement.
3. Forces of capitalism, modern education system and Proselytization was major factor behind the Satyagraha

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

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

Q2. Which of the following conditions are responsible for Nor'westers

1. Warm, moist air
2. Unstable atmosphere
3. Intense convective activity
4. Moisture inflow

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about FATF

1. All south asian countries are member of FATF except india
2. FATF uses black, gray and white lists to identify countries with weaknesses in fighting financial crime
3. North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar are considered to be actively supporting money laundering or terrorism funding and are blacklisted.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about UAPA

1. It allows for preventive detention of individuals suspected of being involved in unlawful activities.
2. The act empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate and prosecute cases across the country.
3. Section 43(D)(5) of the act, prevents the release of any accused person on bail if, police have filed the chargesheet on reasonable ground

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

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

Q5. Consider the following statements about CPCB

1. It is a government agency established in 1974 to deal with water and air pollution in India.
2. Environment protection charge (EPC) and environmental compensation are received by CPCB for mitigating air pollution in Delhi-NCR and protecting the environment.
3. The CPCB also creates minimal pollution standards for different industries, which states must follow.

How many 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. India does not currently have any common defence stations.
2. The Andaman and Nicobar Command is to be established as a full-fledged, tri service common defence stations
3. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile.

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 about Geographical Indications (GI) Tags in India:

1. Banaras Thandai, Bodo Gamsa, Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving got GI Tag
2. A product can be awarded a GI tag if it has a unique characteristic linked to its geographical origin.
3. Darjeeling Orange was the first product in India to receive a GI tag.

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

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

Q8. Consider the following pair Cyber fraud: Definition

1. Hacking: Getting into computer systems to get secret information.
2. Phishing: Tricking people with fake emails, messages, or websites to steal their personal details.
3. Malware: Installment of software to steal information or take control.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements

Statement I: While the El Nino causes the warming of the surface of Pacific Ocean, IOD causes warming of the Indian Ocean

Statement II: While the El Nino always brings deficient rainfall in India, IOD always brings more rains in India

Which one of the following statements is correct?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements

1. IMEC aims to connect India to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula through rail and sea links
2. INSTC spans 7,200 kilometres, encompassing ship, rail, and road routes connecting India through Iran and Central Asia to Russia.
3. The Chennai-Vladivostok corridor holds promise for India's connectivity with the Russian Far East.

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 C is correct

Explanation

- The satyagraha foregrounded social reform amidst the growing nationalist movement, bringing Gandhian methods of protest to the state of Travancore.

Vaikom Satyagraha

- The princely state of Travancore had a feudal, militaristic, and ruthless system of custom-ridden government
 - Some of the most rigid, refined and ruthless social norms and customs were seen in Travancore.
- Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon K. Kelappan (also known as Kerala Gandhi) are considered the pioneers of the Vaikom Satyagraha movement.

Factors Leading to Satyagraha:

- Christian missionaries, supported by the East India Company, had expanded their reach and many lower castes converted to Christianity to escape the clutches of an oppressive system that continued to bind them.
- introduction of a modern education system with free primary education for all – even lower castes.
- Forces of capitalism
- **Hence, all statements are correct**

Answer 2 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Also known as air mass thunderstorms or convective thunderstorms, are caused by a number of factors, including:
 - Warm, moist air
 - Unstable atmosphere
 - Intense convective activity
 - Moisture inflow
 - Temperature increase **Hence, all Options are correct**

Answer 3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- It's headquartered in Paris and has 39 members, including major economies like the US, India, and China. India joined in 2010. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**

- FATF uses two lists to identify countries with weaknesses in fighting financial crime:
 - Blacklist: Countries that actively support money laundering or terrorism funding are blacklisted.
 - This can lead to them being cut off from financial aid from organizations like the World Bank and facing economic sanctions.
 - Grey List: Countries at risk of money laundering or terrorism financing are put on the grey list. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
 - This serves as a warning to improve their controls or risk being blacklisted.
 - Being on either list can make it harder for a country to do business internationally.
 - Currently, North Korea, Iran, and Myanmar are blacklisted. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Preventive Detention: The UAPA allows for preventive detention of individuals suspected of being involved in unlawful activities. Proponents argue that this provision is essential for preventing potential threats before they materialize, especially in cases where there may not be enough evidence for a formal trial.
- The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) was enacted in 1967 to address anti-national activities and secessionist movements. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has the power to investigate and prosecute cases under the law.
- The major problem with the UAPA lies in its Section 43(D)(5), which prevents the release of any accused person on bail
- if, police have filed the chargesheet that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is prima facie true.
- The effect of Section 43(D)(5) is that once the police elect to charge an individual under the UAPA, it becomes extremely difficult for bail to be granted.

- Bail is a safeguard and guarantee of the constitutional right to liberty. **Hence, all statements are correct**

Answer 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

- It is a government agency established in 1974 to deal with water and air pollution in India.
- It advises the government on these issues and sets standards for water and air quality.
- It also creates guidelines for handling waste and pollution control equipment.
- The CPCB's main tasks include:
- Keeping rivers and wells clean by preventing water pollution.
- Making the air cleaner by reducing air pollution.
- The CPCB also creates minimal pollution standards for different industries, which states must follow.
- has spent only 20 percent of the environment protection charge and environmental compensation collected so far for mitigating air pollution in Delhi-NCR and protecting the environment.
- The CPCB receives compensation broadly under two heads - environment protection charge (EPC) and environmental compensation (EC). **Hence, all statements are correct**

Answer 6 Option B is correct

Explanation

- India does not currently have any common defence stations. **Hence, statements 1 is correct**
- The Andaman and Nicobar Command was established as a full-fledged, tri-service command in 2001. Last year, additional initiatives were implemented to promote cooperation between the services,... **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The Strategic Forces Command (SFC), sometimes called Strategic Nuclear Command, forms part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA). It is responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** A GI tag does not necessarily guarantee the highest quality. It signifies that a product's specific characteristics are linked to its geographical origin. For example, Alphonso mangoes from Ratnagiri have a distinct taste due to the region's soil and climate.
- **Statement 2 (Correct):** This is a key feature of a GI tag. The product's qualities, reputation, or characteristics must be essentially attributable to its geographical origin.
- **Statement 3 (Correct):** Darjeeling tea was indeed the first product in India to receive a GI tag in 2003.

Answer 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Methods Of Cyber Frauds
- Hacking: Getting into computer systems to get secret information.
- Phishing: Tricking people with fake emails, messages, or websites to steal their personal details.
- Malware: Installment of software to steal information or take control.
- Identity Theft: Using someone's personal info to do fraud.
- Social Engineering: Tricking people by gaining their trust to get information from them. **Hence, all pairs are correct**

Answer 9 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a miniature version of the El Nino - La Nina phenomenon being enacted in the Indian Ocean from time to time.
- It has negative and positive phases. In the negative case, the sea surface warms up to the east of the Ocean basin relative to the west.
- This causes convection and precipitation to be confined to the East Indian Ocean, robbing mainland India of its share and affecting rainfall. During a positive IOD phase, exactly the reverse happens;

- but a warmer west Indian Ocean has been found to fuel a concurrent Indian Monsoon. Thus the event has a more direct and immediate impact on the monsoon than the El Nino-La Nina event. **Hence, both statements are incorrect**
 - INSTC — conceptualised two decades ago — spans 7,200 kilometres, encompassing ship, rail, and road routes connecting India through Iran and Central Asia to Russia.
 - The Chennai-Vladivostok corridor holds promise for India's connectivity with the Russian Far East. **Hence, all statements are correct**
- Answer 10 Option C is correct**
- Explanation**
- While IMEC aims to connect India to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula through rail and sea links





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