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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register-PIB

Relevance: Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

News:

- The Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.

Highlights:

- This inclusion is a proud moment for India, a confirmation of the country's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy.
 - It signifies a step forward in global cultural preservation efforts, in safeguarding the diverse narratives and artistic expressions that shape our shared humanity.
- The '**Ramcharitmanas**', '**Panchatantra**', and '**Sahrdayaloka-Locana**' are such timeless works that have deeply influenced Indian literature and culture,
 - 'Sahrdayaloka-Locana', 'Panchatantra', and 'Ramcharitmanas' were authored by Acharya Anandvardhan, Pt. Vishnu Sharma, and Goswami Tulsidas, respectively.
- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), played a vital role in securing a historic moment during the 10th meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP).

Prelims Takeaway

- IGNCA
- Sahrdaya Loka-Locana

GS II

2. UN-linked body defers accreditation of NHRC-India for second year in a row - The Hindu

Relevance: Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.

News:

- GANHRI deferred the accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission-India for the second year in a row.

Highlights:

- The decision, which can **affect India's ability to vote** at the Human Rights Council and some UN General Assembly bodies
- While the committee's latest report is still awaited, its previous report had cited a number of reasons for recommending the deferral, including
 - the **lack of transparency** in appointing members to the NHRC,
 - the **appointment of police officers** to oversee human rights investigations
 - the **lack of gender and minority representation** on the member panel.
- **GANHRI** wanted **NHRC** to make some **structural changes** and incorporate a few suggestions given by them.
 - Some of these demands made by the international peer review report were difficult to undertake during the election process in India.
- The **NHRC's "A-status"** has only been deferred once before, in 2016, but it was restored in 2017.
- This is the **first time India's status has been suspended for two years in a row**.
- The GANHRI cited the **"lack of pluralism"** in the composition of the NHRC, which has **just one woman in its top body right now**.

NHRC

- The NHRC was set up under the **Protection of Human Rights Act**, passed by Parliament in 1993.

Prelims Takeaway

- GANHRI
- NHRC

- It has been accredited as an 'A' Status NHRI since the beginning of the accreditation process for NHRIs in 1999, which it retained in 2006, 2011 and in 2017 also after the deferment.

3. IMF warns Maldives of 'debt distress' with more Chinese loans in the offing- The Hindu

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

News:

- **The International Monetary Fund warned the Maldives against looming "debt distress"** as the small but strategically placed luxury tourist destination looks set to borrow more from main creditor China.

Highlights:

- known for its upmarket beach resorts and celebrity vacationers, Maldives seems to be looming under Debt Distress from its major creditor China
- Maldives President has reoriented the atoll nation away from traditional benefactor India and towards Beijing.
- The IMF said the Maldives remained "at high risk of external and overall debt distress" without "significant policy changes".
 - It urged the Maldives to urgently raise revenue, cut spending and reduce external borrowing to avoid a major economic crisis.
- China has pledged more funding since last year, since the Maldives's presidential elections.

India's goodwill gesture

- Meanwhile, in a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives
 - The rollover of a \$50 million Treasury Bill for another year at the special request Maldivian government,
- The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the **USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill**, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription.

Prelims Takeaway

- India- Maldives
- IMF

4. India, Iran sign Chabahar port operation pact - The Hindu

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

News:

- India and Iran signed a 10-year contract for its operation after concluding the general framework of cooperation on the Chabahar port

Highlights:

- The long-term agreement was signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran, enabling operation of the **Shahid-Behesti terminal**.
- A memorandum of understanding for the development of the Chabahar port by India was signed in May 2015.
 - The contract was executed on May 23, 2016 during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Iran.
- This agreement is **historic for the maritime sector**; it can herald a new age of trade, marine cooperation, and transshipment while boosting trilateral trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan.
- As India continues to invest in Chabahar port, its efficiency and capacity will be further enhanced, solidifying **India's commitment** to the region's **economic development**.

Chabahar port

- Chabahar is a **deep water port located in the Sistan-Baluchistan** province of Iran.
- It serves as a **vital trade artery** connecting India with Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries.
- India will use the **port for humanitarian aid shipments**, reaffirming its commitment to support regional development beyond commercial interests

Prelims Takeaway

- Chabahar port
- Shahid Behesti terminal

GS III

5. Maiden India Pavilion at World Hydrogen Summit 2024, Netherlands showcases National Green Hydrogen Mission-PIB

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

News:

- For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the **World Hydrogen Summit 2024**, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- The India Pavilion, set up by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.

Key highlights

- The World Hydrogen Summit is a prestigious event in the global green hydrogen ecosystem.
 - The India Pavilion at the conference provides India an opportunity to showcase to the world the progress made by the country in the field of Green Hydrogen.
- India launched its **National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023**
 - with an overall outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores.
 - India has set an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) by the end of the year 2030.
 - As on date, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has awarded tenders for setting up of 412,000 tonnes of Green Hydrogen production capacity and 1,500 MW of electrolyzer manufacturing capacity.
- India has also notified scheme guidelines for use of Green Hydrogen in steel, transport / mobility and shipping sectors.
- The Department of Science and Technology has initiated **Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters** to foster innovation and promote Green Hydrogen ecosystem in India.
- A dedicated portal for the National Green Hydrogen Mission has been launched recently, to serve as a one-stop location for information on the Mission and steps taken for the development of the green hydrogen ecosystem in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Hydrogen Mission
- Green Hydrogen

6. Food inflation surges to four-month high in April - The Hindu

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

News: Food inflation surged to a four-month high in April

Highlights:

- Indian consumers faced a further acceleration in steep food prices in April
- the overall retail inflation rate remained virtually unchanged at 4.83% last month from 4.85% in March.
- Food inflation surged to 8.7% in April from 8.5% in March.
 - rural consumers witnessing a sharper uptick of 8.75%.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalized framework for a MPC.
- Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member MPC.
- The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- MPC will have six members - the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board, and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India.
- The external members hold office for a period of four years.
- The MPC takes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote.

Prelims Takeaway

- Inflation
- Monetary Policy

7. Malaysia plans 'orangutan diplomacy' in palm oil pitch- ALJAJEERA

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

Prelims Takeaway

- Orangutan

News:

- Malaysia has said it plans to start an "orangutan diplomacy" programme for countries that buy its palm oil.

Key highlights

- The Southeast Asian nation is the world's second biggest producer of the edible oil after Indonesia
 - But critics say the mass development of the industry has fuelled deforestation and destroyed the habitat of critically endangered orangutans
 - And other emblematic species in one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

Use of Animals in Diplomacy:

- **Animals as Symbols:** Leaders have used animals for centuries to represent their country's values.
 - For example, dogs symbolized loyalty, horses meant power, and ermines conveyed purity.
- **China's Cuddly Ambassadors:** The giant panda is a prime example. China has used these adorable creatures to build better relationships with other countries, even during difficult times.
- **Malaysia's Orangutan Offer:** Similar to China's panda diplomacy, Malaysia proposed gifting orangutans to improve their image abroad, especially concerning palm oil production which is criticized for harming the environment.
- **Ethical concern:** Most importantly, this practice raises ethical concerns.
- We need to think carefully about how these animals are treated and whether using them for diplomacy is fair.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. Aurora lights in India: What caused them to be visible even from Ladakh? -Indian Express

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.

Context:

- Aurora lights in red hues were visible from Ladakh's pristine skies late at night

Key highlights

- These lights, called auroras, are usually seen in high-latitude regions (when measured from the equator), namely the North and the South Pole.
- When witnessed near the North they are called Aurora Borealis, while those in the South are called Aurora Australis.

what are auroras?

- Auroras are bright and colourful lights, formed due to an active interaction in Space between charged solar winds and the Earth's magnetosphere.
- Solar winds are ejections of charged particles from the Sun's atmosphere, mostly composed of protons and electrons.
- The magnetosphere is the region surrounding the Earth where the dominant magnetic field is the Earth's, rather than the magnetic field of interplanetary Space
- It protects the Earth against solar winds and is strongest at the poles.
- However, sometimes solar wind particles flow down the Earth's magnetic field.
- Auroras are produced when these particles collide with atoms and molecules in the Earth's upper atmosphere.
- The collisions produce light, "much like how electrons flowing through gas in a neon light collide with neon and other gasses to produce different colored light bulbs

So why were auroras visible from Ladakh?

- The source of these storms was Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), which are large ejections of magnetic particles and plasma from the Sun's corona the outermost part of its atmosphere.
- One of the manifestations of the solar storm's interactions with the Earth's atmosphere was the emergence of auroras in red, violet and blue colours.
- So strong were the storms that the aurora lights were visible from many lower-latitude regions. The auroras were also visible in parts of the US and the UK.

What is happening to the Sun?

- Currently, there are several magnetically active regions on the visible solar disk, producing multiple high-energy flares.
- These continuous solar storms hold a strong potential for disturbing Space weather and causing major disturbances to the Earth's magnetosphere, lasting for the next two days.

How hazardous are solar storms?

- Intense solar storms can be harmful as they can interfere with and threaten the smooth operations of satellites operating in the Low Earth Orbit or LEO (an altitude ranging between 200-1,600km).
- The most common satellites functioning from the LEO are used for multiple purposes, such as navigation, military, intelligence, communications, etc.
- Thus, Earth's satellite-based GPS, navigation systems, etc. could be vulnerable to solar storms.
- The highly energetic particle environment created by these solar storms can also induce heating in the upper atmosphere.
- This increases the risk of radiation hazards, causing a drag effect on satellites positioned at LEO.

9. Declining poverty ratio: a continuing trend - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.

Context:

- The release of Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2022-23 (HCES) by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) led to estimations of poverty and inequality trends.

Trends in poverty, inequality

- The estimated poverty ratios declined
 - from 29.5% in 2011-12 to 10% in 2022-23 (1.77% points per year) based on the Rangarajan Committee's poverty lines
 - from 21.9% in 2011-12 to 3% in 2022-23 (1.72% points per year) based on the Tendulkar Committee's poverty lines.
- According to the estimates on inequality, between 2011-12 and 2022-23,
 - the Gini coefficient declined from 0.278 to 0.269 for rural areas
 - from 0.358 to 0.318 for urban areas
- This means poverty declined significantly between 2011-12 and 2022-23,
 - though the rate of decline was lower compared to the 2004-05 to 2011-12 period.
 - Inequality declined between 2011-12 and 2022-23 particularly in urban areas.
- The NSSO has changed the reference or recall period of data collection over time to improve the reporting of consumption.
- Three estimates of consumption are available depending upon the recall period of different types of expenditure:
 - uniform reference period (URP);
 - mixed reference period (MRP); and
 - modified mixed reference period (MMRP).
- The Tendulkar Committee estimates poverty ratios on the basis of MRP for 1993-94 and 2004-05.
- The Planning Commission used the same methodology and MRP to estimate poverty ratios for 2009-10 and 2011-12.
- However, the Rangarajan Committee used MMRP for estimating poverty ratios for 2009-10 and 2011-12.

Measurement issues

- The Tendulkar Committee was clear that a calorie norm-based poverty line is no longer appropriate.
 - It converted the urban poverty line of 2004-05 from URP-consumption based, into MRP-consumption.
 - The urban poverty line used by the Lakdawala Committee had calorie norms and so, the Tendulkar Committee also indirectly used these norms.
- In defining the consumption basket separating the poor from the rest, the Rangarajan Committee said
 - that it should contain a food component and some consumption expenditure for essential non-food item groups.
- Therefore the HCES 2022-23 tried to get imputed values for some items of public expenditure.
 - The value figures for items received free entirely or at low prices by the households have been imputed using an appropriate method.
- Thus, there has been a decline in poverty. The inequality in consumption expenditure has come down a bit.
 - Usually, income inequality is higher than inequality in consumption expenditure.
 - There is no unique way of measuring poverty.
 - The higher the poverty cut off, the more will be the number of poor.

10. An overview of the Smart Cities Mission - The Hindu

Relevance: Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation

Context:

- Smart cities were defined by urban practitioners as
 - new Silicon Valleys built with a strong integration of a network of airports, highways, and other types of communications, a so-called intellectual city with advanced ICT.
- The Indian government wanted to adapt to these global changes,
 - With Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) already in place, the Smart City Mission was launched in 2015, which selected Hundred cities for five years under the mission.
 - However, the mission did not clearly define a smart city. It stated, “there is no universally accepted definition of a Smart City,

What was the SCM?

- The Smart City Mission has two main aspects:
- **Area-based** development consisting of three components redevelopment (city renewal), retrofitting (city improvement), Green field projects (city extension);
- **Pan-city** solutions based on ICT. Which are comprised of
 - e-governance, waste management, water management, energy management, urban mobility, and skill development.
- An SPV (special purpose vehicle) led by a bureaucrat or a representative of an MNC, and other major stakeholders was created and registered under the Companies Act.

What is the status of the SCM?

- The Urban Ministry's dashboard, exhibits that 8,033 projects sanctioned under the SCM
- The total outlay was ₹1,67,875 crore, which is 16% less than the projected capital flow (2 lakh Cr). in 100 cities.
- Interestingly, the funding pattern shows that not more than 5% has come through the PPP route.

Where did the SCM falter?

- The selection of 100 cities on a competitive basis was flawed due to the diversity in existing urban realities.
- The SCM became an exclusionary scheme wherein not more than 1% of a city's geographical area was selected for development.
- According to reports by McKinsey, to make Indian cities liveable, a capital expenditure of \$1.2 trillion is required by 2030.
- Additionally, the SPV model designed for smart cities was not aligned
 - with the 74th Constitutional Amendment, which led to many cities objecting to the governance structure.
 - The design, according to critics, was too top-bottom.
- Urban India, according to the World Bank, has more than 49% of the population living in slums.
 - In the name of executing smart city projects, there was displacement of people living in poorer localities.
- Another major consequence of the SCM has been enhanced urban flooding.
 - Some of the towns which have historically never been flooded were made vulnerable because of infrastructure development projects.

Quick Look

1. Silk cotton tree

- It is locally known as semal tree. It is a lofty deciduous tree with buttressed base when old and the whole trunk is covered with large conical prickles.
- It is mainly found in moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, also in the plains.
- Occasionally found in plains from the coast, on the deciduous belt of the hills to 1400 m.
- Members of the Garasia tribe in Rajasthan believe they are descended from semal trees.
- Distribution: In India it is seen in Andaman & Nicobar Island, Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh

2. Xenotransplantation

- Xenotransplantation involves the transplantation of nonhuman tissues or organs into human recipients.
- The development of xenotransplantation is driven by the fact that the demand for human organs for clinical transplantation far exceeds the supply.
- Scientists are still exploring the risks and benefits of xenotransplantation.

3. Mount Ibu

- Mount Ibu is an active stratovolcano located in the northwest part of Halmahera Island, Indonesia.
- It is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region known for its high volcanic and seismic activity due to the movement of tectonic plates.
- Mount Ibu is notable for its frequent eruptions, which often result in the emission of ash clouds and volcanic gases.
- It's a fascinating but potentially dangerous natural wonder.

4. Chabahar

- It is a deep-water port in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. It is the Iranian-port that is the closest to India.
- It is located in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman, providing easy and secure access for large cargo ships.
- It is Iran's first deepwater port that puts the country on the global oceanic trade route map.

5. Leopard Cat

- It is a species of forest-dwelling cat, of the family Felidae. It is noted for its leopard-like colouring.
- They are the most widely distributed Asian small cats.
- Their range extends from the Amur region in the Russian Far East over the Korean Peninsula, China, Indochina, the Indian Subcontinent, to the West in northern Pakistan, and to the south in the Philippines and the Sunda Islands of Indonesia.
- They are found in agriculturally used areas but prefer forested habitats
- Conservation Status: IUCN Red List: Least Concern

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following Statements:

1. The Panchatantra stories were composed by Vishnu Sharma during the Gupta period.
2. The Puranas in their present form were composed during Gupta period
3. Mrichchakatika was written by Vishakadutta

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statement regarding NHRC:

1. It is a constitutional body
2. It was established in conformity to Paris Principles
3. It have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding India- Maldives relation

1. India emerged as Maldives largest trade partner in 2023
2. Hambantota port development project is between India and Maldives.
3. Some of the joint exercises between these two countries are Dosti, Ekatha, Ekuverin

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statement regarding Chabahar port?

1. Chabahar is a shallow water port located in Iran.
2. It serves as a vital trade artery connecting Iran and Saudi Arabia
3. This will entail landlocked nations to gain access to Indian Ocean Region

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q5. Consider the following pairs Hydrogen Source

1. Green Hydrogen - Renewable energy
2. Blue Hydrogen - Nuclear Energy
3. Pink Hydrogen - Natural Gas

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q6. Consider the following statement regarding inflation

1. Headline inflation excludes food and energy prices.
2. Core inflation is the total inflation in the economy
3. Inflation target in India is set at 4% with an upper limit of 6%

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q7. Which of the following are Critically Endangered Mammals

1. Malabar Civet
2. Sumatran Rhinoceros
3. orangutan

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements

1. Auroras are bright and colorful lights, formed due to an active interaction in Space between charged solar winds and the Earth's magnetosphere.
2. Solar winds are ejections of charged particles from the Sun's atmosphere, mostly composed of protons and electrons.
3. The magnetosphere is the region surrounding the Earth where the dominant magnetic field is the Earth's, rather than the magnetic field of interplanetary Space

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following Statements:

1. National Planning Committee (1938) was set up under the chairmanship of Subhash Chandra Bose

2. Alagh Committee(1979), made the first systematic assessment of poverty in India

3. Lakdawala Committee (1993) suggested Consumption expenditure based on calorie consumption

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Q10. Consider the following Statements:

1. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is responsible for the Smart Cities Mission.

2. Surat emerges as the top-performing city, leading in the completion of projects, fund utilization, and overall criteria.

3. The Smart Cities Mission in India is a Centrally Sector Scheme

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- The Panchatantra stories were composed by Vishnu Sharma during the Gupta period. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Puranas in their present form were composed during Gupta period **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Mrichchhakatika, was written by Sudraka **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option B is correct.

Explanation:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established on 12 October, 1993.
- It is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006. **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- It is in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- It has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 3 Option B is correct.

Explanation:

- India emerged as Maldives' 2nd largest trade partner in 2022 and the largest in 2023. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Hambantota Port, also known as the Magampura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port, is a maritime inland port located in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Defense cooperation between India and Maldives extends to the areas of Joint Exercises - Ekuverin, Dosti, Ekatha and Operation Shield. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- Chabahar is a deep water port located in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

- It serves as a vital trade artery connecting India with Afghanistan and Central Asian Countries. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Nations in Central Asia, abundant in resources yet landlocked like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, can leverage Chabahar to gain access to the Indian Ocean Region. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 5 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced using electricity from clean energy sources. **Pair 1 is correct**
- Blue hydrogen is produced mainly from natural gas, using a process called steam reforming. **Pair 2 is incorrect**
- Pink hydrogen is generated through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. **Pair 3 is incorrect**

Answer 6 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- The headline inflation figure includes inflation in a basket of goods that includes commodities like food and energy. That is why it is the total inflation in an economy. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Core inflation is different, it excludes food and energy prices while calculating inflation. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Inflation target in India has been set at 4%, with an upper tolerance limit of 6% and a lower tolerance limit of 2%. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 7 Option C is correct

Explanation

Critically Endangered Mammals

- Pygmy Hog
- Andaman White-toothed Shrew
- Jenkin's Andaman Spiny Shrew
- Nicobar White-tailed Shrew
- Kondana Rat
- Large Rock Rat or Elvira Rat
- Namdapha Flying Squirrel
- Malabar Civet
- Sumatran Rhinoceros
- Javan Rhinoceros . **Hence all pairs are correct**

Answer 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Auroras are bright and colourful lights, formed due to an active interaction in Space between charged solar winds and the Earth's magnetosphere.
- Solar winds are ejections of charged particles from the Sun's atmosphere, mostly composed of protons and electrons.
- The magnetosphere is the region surrounding the Earth where the dominant magnetic field is the Earth's, rather than the magnetic field of interplanetary Space.

Hence all statements are correct

Answer 9 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- In 1938, the National Planning Committee was set up by Subhash Chandra Bose under the **chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru** for the purpose of drawing up an economic plan with the fundamental aim to ensure an adequate standard of living for the masses. **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.**

- VM Dandekar and N Rath (1971), made the first systematic assessment of poverty in India, based on National Sample Survey (NSS) data. **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.**
- Lakdawala Committee (1993): to reflect the consumption patterns of the poor, made the following suggestions: Consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 10 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is responsible for the Smart Cities Mission. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Surat emerges as the top-performing city, leading in the completion of projects, fund utilization, and overall criteria. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Smart Cities Mission in India is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.**





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 +91-9477560001 /002/005

 BRANCH: Delhi Kolkata, Raipur, Patna |
HEAD OFFICE: 641, Ramlal Kapoor Marg,
Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi, 110009

 info@geoias.com

 www.geoias.com