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Daily Current Affairs

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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Prolonged exposure to coal mining causes respiratory, skin diseases in workers: study - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News: A survey published by the National Foundation for India stated prolonged exposure to coal mining pollutants has resulted in widespread respiratory and skin diseases

Prelims Takeaway

- Effects of coal mining

Highlights:

- At least 65% of participants interviewed reported issues such as chronic bronchitis, asthma, and skin ailments such as eczema, dermatitis and fungal infections.
- People living closer to the mines were relatively more vulnerable.
- Dhanbad and Ramgarh, which had more people living in such zones, had higher incidence of lung and breathing-related diseases as well as skin infections.
- The world's shift away from coal is expected to result in significant job losses and economic downturns in coal-dependent regions.
- This will not only impact the coal miners and workers directly but also the broader local economy.
- The broader thrust of the study was to investigate 'just transition' or how those who are directly dependent on coal mining may be effectively and sensitively transitioned away from these jobs.

India & Renewable Energy

- While India has committed to source nearly 500 GW of electricity or nearly half its projected installed capacity for 2030 from renewable energy sources, coal is expected to be the mainstay of power generation in India for decades.
- Nearly half of India's installed power generation capacity, or about 205 GW, are coal-powered thermal plants.
- Change however is in the air as for the first time this year, renewable energy accounted for 71.5% of the record 13.6 (GW) power generation capacity added by India in the first quarter (January-March) of this year
- While coal's share (including lignite) of the total power capacity dropped below 50% for the first time since the 1960s.

2. With dummy FIRs, pocket guides, police get ready to switch to new criminal laws- The Hindu

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

News:

- Ahead of the implementation of the new criminal laws from July 1, at least 23 modifications have been made to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS), an online platform used by more than 16,000 police stations across the country to register first information reports.

Prelims Takeaway

- CCTNS
- BNS, 2023

Highlights:

- With the new laws coming into force, the FIRs will be registered under Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), instead of Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- All the States were on board and prepared to switch to the new system from July 1.
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

- The Delhi Police, which was one of the first police forces across the country to roll out training and educational modules for the new laws, aims to sensitise all the 90,000 police personnel by August.
- “Dummy FIRs are being filed to accustom the police officials to the new format.
- We have given pocket-sized books compressing the three laws to all ranks as a ready reckoner.
- The sections of laws being used for years are being changed, the books will come in handy while registering a case
- Another police official said the old laws such as the IPC and CrPC will still be in use. “If a case is registered after July 1 but the crime occurred before the date, it will be registered under the BNSS and relevant sections of the IPC.
- The existing cases in court, where chargesheets are yet to be filed or the trial is still on, will be held under the old system.
- The CCTNS will have both the old and new provisions
- A total of 20 new crimes have been added, and the period of imprisonment has been increased for 33 offences.
- The penalty of community service has been introduced for six crimes and a mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes.

GS III

3. India's largest leopard safari opens at Bannerghatta- The Hindu

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

News:

- South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated by Karnataka at the Bannerghatta Biological Park.
- As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris, an area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari.

Highlights:

- Eight leopards have been released for the safari in the open forest area.
- Bannerghatta is home to a good population of free ranging leopards (*Panthera pardus*), and highlighting these predators is vital.
- The leopard safari area is made up of undulating terrain with natural rocky outcrops and semi-deciduous forest.
- The officials added that owing to increasing human-animal conflict in recent times, the park receives many leopard cubs rescued across Karnataka.
- These cubs will be raised and shifted to the leopard safari to help visitors learn about these big cats, the reasons for the growing human-animal conflicts, and the ways to protect the animals.
- The officials added that four acres within the safari area have been separated, using a solar fence, to help the animals acclimatize to their new environment.

Other initiatives

- A number of new initiatives, which included a renovated elephant weaning center, a babycare room at the butterfly park, a children's play area, an entrance arch, and he also flagged off electric buggies and zoo installations.
- A male elephant calf “Swaraj ” and six hamadryas baboons are also for public display.
- Skywalks are also being developed to establish connectivity between the zoo and the butterfly park.

Prelims Takeaway

- Big Cats
- Bannerghatta

4. Researchers at IISER Tirupati developed an efficient method for moving towards 'Hydrogen economy- PIB

Relevance: Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.

Prelims Takeaway

- Hydrogen Economy
- Methanol

News:

- Researchers have developed an innovative synthetic method to produce hydrogen gas from a mixture of methanol and paraformaldehyde under mild conditions.
- This method has proven particularly effective for
 - hydrogenation of alkynes to alkenes and
 - The combination could be a promising hydrogen carrier, paving the way for advancements in chemical synthesis and sustainable energy solutions.
- The rapid depletion of fossil fuels has spurred the search for alternative energy sources, highlighting the need for sustainable and renewable resources.
- Hydrogen gas generation is particularly important due to its potential to replace fossil fuels in energy storage, transportation, and various chemical processes.
- Methanol and paraformaldehyde, both produced on a large scale, have emerged as viable candidates for hydrogen carriers.
- Their abundance and widespread manufacture make them valuable for the storage and transportation of hydrogen, offering significant advantages over free hydrogen itself.
- The research has utilized commercially available nickel catalysts to produce hydrogen from methanol and paraformaldehyde without the need for bases or activators.
- This efficient catalytic system has demonstrated remarkable efficiency under mild conditions, and the generated hydrogen was successfully employed in chemo- and stereo-selective partial transfer hydrogenation of alkynes.
- This process enabled access to bioactive molecules with enhanced synthetic value.
- This research was supported by ANRF (erstwhile SERB, a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- This research, accepted for publication in the journal Catalysis Science & Technology, opens a new avenue for CO_x-free hydrogen generation, contributing to the advancement of a 'Hydrogen economy.'
- The ability to harness methanol and paraformaldehyde as hydrogen carriers offers significant potential to address the challenges posed by the increasing global energy demands.
- This development marks a significant step forward in the quest for sustainable energy solutions.

5. Union Minister announced grant of 'Mini RATNA' status (Category-1) for Central Electronics Limited (CEL)- PIB

Relevance: Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

Prelims Takeaway

- Mini Ratna
- CEL

News:

- Grant of "Mini RATNA" status (Category-1) for Central Electronics Limited (CEL) at its Golden Jubilee celebration.

Highlights:

- CEL has transformed from a loss-making PSU to a dividend paying PSU and this is the 3rd consecutive year that CEL has paid dividends, that too at increasing rate, to the Government of India.
 - Attaining Net profit of approx. Rs 58 crore.
- In line with Prime Minister's Vision of Amrit kaal, CEL's aim is to increase indigenization of technology and boost manufacturing by capacity building, skill development.
- CEL's contributions in the fields of Defence, Railway, Security, Surveillance and Solar energy shows its vital role in promoting indigenous technologies and manufacturing capabilities.

- Going further, “Rolling out production of Smart Boards which will diversify CEL’s product portfolio but also significantly impact implementation of smart education in schools in the country.
- The new initiatives taken by the CEL Management to strengthen Employee Engagement which led to outstanding performance over the last few years and an all-time high achievement in the last financial year.
- Central Electronics Limited has ticked the right boxes of performance parameters for grant of higher status of Mini RATNA (Category-1).

6. Chandrayaan-4 parts to be sent in 2 launches, assembled in space: ISRO chief

Relevance: Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.

Prelims Takeaway

- ISRO
- NGLV

News:

- Chandrayaan-4, which is supposed to bring back samples from the Moon, would not be launched at one go and instead, different parts of the spacecraft would be sent into orbit through two launches, and the spacecraft would be assembled in space before proceeding to the Moon, ISRO Chairman.

Highlights:

- Chandrayaan-4 is expected to be beyond the carrying capacity of even the most powerful rocket that ISRO currently has.
- The International Space Station and all previous similar facilities were built by assembling different parts in space.
- However, this would be probably the first time in the world that a spacecraft would be launched in parts and then assembled in space.
- Need for docking capability (joining of different parts of a spacecraft) in space — both in Earth space as well as in Moon space, is what ISRO is working on
- Docking of spacecraft modules on the return journey from the Moon is a fairly routine maneuver.
- A part of the spacecraft detaches from the main spacecraft and makes a landing while the other part remains in the Moon orbit. When the landing part leaves the Moon’s surface, it docks and links up with the orbiting part, becoming one unit again.
- A detailed study, internal review, and cost for the Chandrayaan-4 mission have been worked out which will soon be sent to the government for approval.
- This is one of the four project proposals that the space agency plans seek approval for in line with its Vision 2047, which has envisioned India building its own space station by 2035 and sending humans to the Moon by 2040.
- India’s space station, named Bhartiya Antriksh Station (BAS), would also be set up by carrying different parts of the infrastructure in multiple launches.
- “The first segment of the BAS can be launched using the LVM3 rocket because it is the only rocket available today and we have decided that by 2028 we should have the first launch of the BAS.
- ISRO chief said the subsequent modules of BAS would be lifted either by an upgraded version of LVM3 or the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), a heavy rocket that is currently under development. He said the full design and production plan for NGLV had been prepared.
- ISRO is also creating a new launch complex for the bigger and heavier NGLV. He said the current launch complex would not be adequate for the 4,000 ton rocket. “It requires a huge facility and processing capability.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

7. Capital changes, changing prices- THE HINDU

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary – Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Context:

- The National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh is expected to give clarity to the real estate sector.

Key Highlights

- The realtors, who were awaiting the results on June 4, are now planning investments and businesses more in Visakhapatnam and Amaravati than in other parts of the State.
- A correction in investments in Visakhapatnam is likely, while the real estate sector in Amaravati is expected to witness a sudden surge.
- The realtors in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam invested hundreds of crores of rupees between 2014 and 2023.
- Soon after the bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the realtors and investors looked for greener pastures in residual Andhra Pradesh.
- They made huge investments in the expectation that there would be phenomenal demand for housing as the capital was to move to Amaravati from Hyderabad.
- However, there was an inordinate delay in constructing the capital of Amaravati.
- The foundation was laid in October 2015, but the real estate market failed to gain traction, and real estate players and investors returned to Hyderabad.
- During the same period, the government changed in Andhra Pradesh.
- New party floated a three-capital formula for the development of the State.
- Investments began flowing towards Visakhapatnam, which was touted as the executive capital.
- Many ventures on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam city, such as Madhurawada, Pendurthi, Naidu Thota, Sujatha Nagar, Vepagunta, Narava, and BHPV, have come up, even though they remain incomplete for various reasons
- Though the registration fee is one of the main revenue sources, the government should focus on the gradual development of the real estate sector for sustained development.

8. The Indian government plans to set up the Mediation Council of India (MCI) by the end of this year to improve out-of-court dispute resolution and enhance ease of doing business.- THE PRINT

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

Context:

- The government is expected to establish a Mediation Council of India (MCI) by the end of this year to improve the ease of doing business.

Key Highlight

- The initiative aims to facilitate the resolution of disputes, especially those related to business, outside the court system.
- Earlier this year, a committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) suggested the introduction of a voluntary mediation framework to expedite the resolution of disputes out of court.
- This framework can also alleviate the burden on courts, similar to how the government's decriminalization of over 100 legal provisions aims to achieve the same goal.
- The proposed MCI will be established under the Mediation Act, which was enacted last year.
- According to a disclosure in the Rajya Sabha, this Act requires mediation proceedings to be completed within 180 days from their commencement, the business-daily claimed.
- The council will set the rules for mediation and empower mediators.
- The MCI will oversee the education, assessment, and certification of mediators through accredited institutes. It will also establish standards for mediator conduct and recognize mediation service providers.
- The council will consist of a chairperson and two members with expertise in mediation, as specified by the Act.
- It will also include a chief executive officer and a representative from a recognised body of commerce and industry appointed by the central government.

Why is mediation important in business?

- Mediation is a process where a mediator helps disputing parties to reach an agreement outside of court.
- Unlike other forms of out-of-court dispute resolution, mediation does not result in a binding award or judgement.
- Instead, the mediator assists the parties in reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement.
- The Mediation Act, passed last year, mandates the completion of mediation proceedings within 180 days of their initiation.
- The MCI will be established under this legislation.
- The council will also be responsible for the training and certification of mediators through accredited institutes, as reported.
- Currently, mediation is typically pursued only when required by law, such as under the Commercial Court Act of 2015, which mandates that parties attempt mediation before proceeding to court

9. How well is India tapping its rooftop solar potential? - The Hindu

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

Context:

- India's installed rooftop solar (RTS) capacity increased by 2.99 GW in 2023-2024, the highest growth in a year.
- As of March 31, the total installed RTS capacity in India was 11.87 GW, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

RTS programme

- India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in January 2010.
- Its main objective was to produce 20 GW of solar energy (including RTS) in three phases
- In 2015, the government revised this target to 100 GW by 2022.
- In December 2022, India had an installed RTS capacity of 7.5 GW and extended the deadline for the 40-GW target to 2026.
- India's overall RTS potential is approximately 796 GW.
- To meet India's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity, with a solar component of 280 GW, by 2030, RTS alone needs to contribute about 100 GW by 2030.

How are States faring

- In 2024, the RTS capacities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan had taken big strides while some others were behind the curve.
- Rajasthan boasts of the highest RTS potential in the country. Its efforts to streamline approvals, provide financial incentives, and promote RTS through public-private partnerships have spurred this growth.
- However, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, among others, are yet to fully explore their RTS potential.
- Their challenges include bureaucratic hurdles, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of public awareness.

'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'

- It is a flagship initiative to fit one crore households with RTS systems and help them get up to 300 units of free electricity every month.
- An average system size of 2 kW for targeted households will result in a total RTS capacity addition of 20 GW.
- The scheme also encourages the adoption of advanced solar technologies, energy storage solutions, and smart grid infrastructure.

How can RTS grow?

- Creating awareness is key to getting consumers on board.
- In addition, RTS needs to be economically viable for households.
- While government subsidies are helping, multiple low-cost financing options are required.
- The number of banks and non-bank financial companies providing RTS loans has increased of late.
- Access to low-cost RTS loans should be as easy as getting a bike or car loan.
- Promoting R&D in solar technology, energy storage solutions, and smart-grid infrastructure can lower costs, improve performance, and enhance the reliability of RTS systems.
- Investments in training programmes, (like the 'Suryamitra' solar PV technician programme initiated in 2015), vocational courses, and skill development initiatives will help build a skilled workforce.
- As the scheme's implementation enters full swing, net-metering regulations, grid-integration standards, and building codes should be reviewed and updated to help address emerging challenges and facilitate smooth implementation.

10. What is the role of a Lok Sabha's Leader of Opposition? - Indian Express

Relevance: Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.

Context:

- The position of Leader of Opposition which was vacant in Lok Sabha for 10 years has finally been occupied.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha	Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha: the position, role, responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The position of Leader of Opposition was officially described in The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. • The Act describes the Leader of Opposition as a member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People. • A mysterious rule is often quoted by some self-styled experts, which requires a party to have at least 10 per cent of the members of the House for the Speaker to recognise someone as the Leader of the Opposition. . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader of Opposition sits in the front row to the left of the Chair, and enjoys certain privileges on ceremonial occasions like escorting the Speaker-elect to the rostrum. • The Leader of Opposition is also entitled to a seat in the front row during the Address by the President to both Houses of Parliament. • The main duty of the Leader of Opposition is to serve as the voice of the opposition in the House. • An official booklet on Parliament published in 2012 says the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha "is considered as a shadow Prime Minister with a shadow Cabinet, ready to take over the administration if the Government resigns or is defeated on the floor of the House". • The Leader of Opposition is the opposition's representative in the high-powered committees headed by the Prime Minister for appointment to key posts such as the Director of CBI, the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Chief Information Commissioner, the Chairperson and Members of the National Human Rights Commission, and the Lokpal. • In order of precedence, the Leaders of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha come at No. 7, along with Union Cabinet Ministers, the National Security Advisor, the Principal Secretary to the PM, the Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog, former PMs, and Chief Ministers.

Quick Look

1. Gulf of Aden

- It is an extension of the Indian Ocean, located between the Arabian Peninsula and the African continent.
- It connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea and ultimately the Indian Ocean.
- The gulf is named after “Aden,” a port city on Yemen’s coast.
- It is bounded to the south by Somalia and the Socotra Islands (part of Yemen), north by Yemen, east by the Arabian Sea, and west by Djibouti.
- The gulf is connected to the Somali Sea, and to the Red Sea by the Strait of Bab el Mandeb.
- It is demarcated from the Arabian Sea by the Horn of Africa and the Socotra Islands.

2. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- It is a statutory body under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Act, 1952.
- It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Labor and Employment.
- Structure of EPFO:
- The Act and all its schemes are administered by a tripartite board called the Central Board of Trustees.
- The board comprises representatives of the Government (both Central and State), employers, and employees.
- The board is chaired by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

3. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- The act was enacted in 2002, it aims at the conservation of biological resources, managing its sustainable use and enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.
- The act envisaged a three-tier structure to regulate the access to biological resources: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) (at local level)
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was born out of India’s attempt to realize the objectives enshrined in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992

4. Commission for Air Quality Management

- The Commission is a statutory body which was first formed by an ordinance in 2020.
- To be chaired by a government official of the rank of Secretary or Chief Secretary.
- He will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.
- It will also have five ex officio members who are either Chief Secretaries or Secretaries in charge of the department dealing with environment protection in the States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Technical members from CPCB, Indian Space Research Organisation, and NITI Aayog
- Investigating and conducting research related to environmental pollution impacting air quality, preparing codes and guidelines to prevent and control air pollution,
- Issuing directions on matters including inspections, or regulation which will be binding on the concerned person or authority.

5. Official Creditor Committee (OCC)

- It was formed in response to Sri Lanka’s request for debt treatment during last year’s economic crisis.
- It is co-chaired by India, Japan, and France, as chair of the Paris Club.
- China, Sri Lanka’s largest bilateral creditor, chose not to participate in the OCC but attended meetings as an observer
- The Official Creditor Committee (OCC) and Sri Lanka agreed on main parameters aligned with the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement with the IMF.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Renewable Energy in India

1. Nearly half of India's installed power generation capacity are coal-powered thermal plants.
2. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an initiative by India, aims to promote solar energy globally and was established in 2015.
3. Wind energy constitutes the largest share of renewable energy installed capacity in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) is/are correct?

1. CCTNS is a project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of the Government of India.
2. The primary objective of CCTNS is to facilitate the collection, storage, retrieval, analysis, transfer, and sharing of data and information among police stations and other police organizations across the country.
3. CCTNS was initially implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and later transferred to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for management.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q3. Which of the following pairs of National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries and their respective states is/are correctly matched?

1. Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary: Karnataka
2. Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary : Tamil Nadu
3. Jogimatti Wildlife Sanctuary : Andhra Pradesh
4. Namdapha National Park : Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q4. With reference to the hydrogen economy, consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen can be produced through electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources, making it a green fuel.
2. The hydrogen economy primarily focuses on using hydrogen as a fuel for transportation and industrial processes.
3. India's National Hydrogen Mission aims to make the country a global hub for green hydrogen production and export.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. With reference to Miniratna and Maharatna companies in India, consider the following statements:

1. Maharatna status is granted to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that have a higher level of financial autonomy compared to Navratna and Miniratna companies.
2. Miniratna companies are classified into two categories, namely Miniratna Category I and Miniratna Category II.
3. Only those CPSEs which have Navratna status for at least three years are eligible to be considered for Maharatna status.
4. Both Miniratna and Maharatna companies can make their own investments up to a certain limit without seeking government approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. With reference to the Aditya-L1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 2 (L2) of the Sun-Earth system.
2. One of the primary objectives of Aditya-L1 is to study the solar corona, which is the outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere.
3. The mission is designed and managed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with NASA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Q7. Operation Polo which was seen in the news recently, is related to which of the following?

- A. India's Kargil war operation
- B. India's operation to recapture Siachen glacier
- C. India's operation to liberate Bangladesh
- D. India's operation to annex Hyderabad

Q8. Consider the following statement

Statement I : ADR is a mechanism of dispute resolution that is non adversarial, i.e. working together co-operatively to reach the best resolution for everyone.

Statement II : A non-binding procedure in which an impartial third party, the conciliator, assists the parties to a dispute in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreed settlement of the dispute.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna

1. It is a flagship initiative to fit 10 crore households with Roof Top Solar systems
2. It gives households up to 300 units of free electricity every month.
3. India has achieved installation of 40 GW of rooftop solar in 2022

Which of the statements given above is/are INcorrect?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the Leader of Opposition in India:

1. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is the leader of the largest party in opposition having not less than one-tenth of the total strength of the house.
2. The Leader of Opposition is given the status and facilities equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister.
3. The position of the Leader of Opposition is recognized in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- Nearly half of India's installed power generation capacity, or about 205 GW, are coal-powered thermal plants. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an initiative by India, established in 2015, to promote solar energy globally. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- As of recent years, solar energy has surpassed wind energy to constitute the largest share of renewable energy installed capacity in India. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 2 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- CCTNS is indeed a project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), 2009 of the Government of India. **Statement 1 is correct**
- The primary objective of CCTNS is to facilitate the collection, storage, retrieval, analysis, transfer, and sharing of data and information among police stations and other police organizations across the country. **Statement 2 is correct**
- CCTNS has always been under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and has not been transferred to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). **Statement 3 is incorrect**

Answer 3 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary is in Karnataka. **Pair 1 is Correct**
- Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Karnataka, not Tamil Nadu. **Pair 2 is incorrect**
- Jogimatti Wildlife Sanctuary is in Karnataka. **Pair 1 is incorrect**
- Namdapha National Park is located in Arunachal Pradesh. **Pair 4 is Correct**

Answer 4 Option D is Correct

Explanation:

- Hydrogen can be produced through electrolysis of water using renewable energy sources, making it a green fuel. **statement 1 is correct.**

- The hydrogen economy primarily focuses on using hydrogen as a fuel for transportation and industrial processes. **statement 2 is correct.**
- India's National Hydrogen Mission aims to make the country a global hub for green hydrogen production and export. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 5 Option D is Correct

Explanation

- Maharatna status is granted to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) that have a higher level of financial autonomy compared to Navratna and Miniratna companies. **statement 1 is correct.**
- Miniratna companies are classified into two categories, namely Miniratna Category I and Miniratna Category II. This **statement 2 is correct.**
- Only those CPSEs which have Navratna status for at least three years are eligible to be considered for Maharatna status. **Statement 3 is correct.**
- Both Miniratna and Maharatna companies can make their own investments up to a certain limit without seeking government approval. **statement 4 is correct.**

Answer 6 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system. **This statement is incorrect.**
- One of the primary objectives of Aditya-L1 is to study the solar corona, which is the outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere. **This statement is correct.**
- The mission is designed and managed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with NASA. This statement is incorrect. Aditya-L1 is primarily an ISRO mission without collaboration with NASA.

Answer 7 Ans: Option D is Correct

Explanation

- The state of Hyderabad was under the Nizam which included the whole of current-day Telangana, the Marathwada region in Maharashtra and several regions of Karnataka.

- The Nizam of Hyderabad hoped to retain his sovereignty and opposed the idea of merging with India after Independence. Osman Ali Khan Asaf Jah VII, the last Nizam of the princely state of Hyderabad proclaimed Hyderabad as a sovereign state and this added to the tension and led to communal clashes.
- The Indian government did not want Hyderabad to remain free fearing that it would lead to the country's balkanization.
- The then Home Minister Sardar Patel referred to the concept of an independent Hyderabad as "an ulcer in the heart of India which needed to be removed surgically."
- Hence, India decided to annex Hyderabad and named the operation "Operation Polo". On September 13, 1948, Indian forces attacked Hyderabad. In a five-day battle, the Indian Army took Hyderabad and fully integrated it into Indian territory by decisively defeating Nizam.

Answer 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- **Arbitration:**
- The dispute is submitted to an arbitral tribunal which makes a decision (an "award") on the dispute that is mostly binding on the parties.
- **Conciliation:**
- A non-binding procedure in which an impartial third party, the conciliator, assists the parties to a dispute in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreed settlement of the dispute.
- **Mediation:**
- In mediation, an impartial person called a "mediator" helps the parties try to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the dispute.

Answer 9 Option C is correct.

Explanation:

'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'

- It is a flagship initiative to fit one crore households with RTS systems. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It also aims to give households up to 300 units of free electricity every month. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- India had aimed to install 40 GW of rooftop solar by 2022 but has only achieved approximately 12 GW thus far. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 10 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is indeed the leader of the largest party in opposition, and to be recognized as such, the party must have at least one-tenth of the total strength of the house. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Leader of Opposition is given the status and facilities equivalent to that of a Cabinet Minister. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- The position of the Leader of Opposition is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India but is a statutory position, provided under the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**



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