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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. New criminal laws in force; Cr.PC, IPC applicable only for old cases - The Hindu

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

News: New criminal laws come into effect across the country despite objections from some states.

Highlights:

- Union government officials said that the States were free to bring in their own amendments to some provisions of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).
- The BNSS prescribes the procedure and conditions for arrest, bail, and custody, among other things.
- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860, may also be amended soon to incorporate a section on sexual crimes against men and transgender persons.
- A senior government official said that police officers were being asked to invoke other allied sections under the BNS, such as wrongful confinement and physical hurt, if they get such complaints, until an amendment is brought to correct this anomaly.
- The Bharatiya Sakshya (BS), which replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, is the third law which will come into force.
- The IPC and Cr.PC will run concurrently along with the new laws as several cases are still pending in courts and some crimes that took place before July 1 that are reported later will have to be registered under the IPC.

Prelims Takeaway

- BNSS
- BS

2. Meningoencephalitis claims two lives in Kerala: officials - The Hindu

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

News: Unhygienic water, mercury rise may be behind 'brain-eating amoeba' disease in Kerala

Highlights:

- Unhygienic and stagnant water resources and high temperatures could be the factors contributing to the recent unusual rise in the rare, but fatal **primary amoebic meningoencephalitis cases** in the State.
- First detected in Alappuzha municipality in 2016, the infection was reported in Malappuram in 2019 and 2020, Kozhikode in 2020, Thrissur in 2022, and in Alappuzha in 2023.
- There has been a rise in such cases the world over. **Warming of the atmosphere and stagnant and unhygienic water** resources could be some of the conditions leading to it.
- This type of amoeba is found to be more active in warm water.
- This infection is caused by **Naegleria fowleri**, also called '**brain-eating amoeba**', which lives in fresh warm water, such as lakes and rivers.
- The amoeba infects people when it enters their body through the nose. It travels up to the brain and destroys the tissues and results in its swelling.

Prelims Takeaway

- Naegleria fowleri
- Amoebic meningoencephalitis

3. Modi's visit to Moscow timely, say experts-THE HINDU

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

News:

- It will also be a signal to Western countries, including the U.S. and Europe, that the PM intends to continue to 'balance' India's relations, two years since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began

Key Highlights

Prelims Takeaway

- NSTC

- The Modi-Putin talks are expected to focus on the rise in India-Russia trade due to India's import of oil
 - Smoothing out payment issues arising from Western sanctions, building on previous conversations on the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route
 - And concluding the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) agreement that will pave the way for more defence exchanges.
- It will be Modi's first visit to Moscow since 2015 and marks a return to the decades-old annual India-Russia summit format.
- The PM's visit, which is likely to be his first bilateral visit abroad in his third term, would place Russia on a par with India's closest neighbours that have normally been the destination of first visits by Indian Prime Ministers.
- India, as China, had made a "choice" to deal with Russia in national currencies, adding that about 60% of the India-Russia trade was now settled in them
 - Despite the fact that China and India are engaged economically with Western countries that have sanctioned Russia.
- Officials said India and Russia are discussing increased investments in the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime corridor and in Siberia
 - While India wants to source minerals from Russia. Issues that need to be sorted include insurance, and negotiating with ports in between for transit, there may be some issues with ports in China.
- The route presents a more effective option than the International North-South Transport Corridor or other options, the source added.

GS III

4. Specific PET scan for TB for more effective treatment- The Hindu

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

News:

- A more accurate way to scan for tuberculosis has been developed by researchers based in the U.K. and the U.S. using **positron emission tomography (PET)**.

Highlights:

- The team has developed a new radiotracer, which is taken up by live TB bacteria in the body.
- Radiotracers are radioactive compounds which give off radiation that can be detected by scanners and turned into a 3D image.
- The new radiotracer, called **FDT**, enables PET scans to be used for the first time to accurately pinpoint when and where the disease is still active in a patient's lungs.
- The researchers have put the new radiotracer through extensive preclinical trials with no adverse effects and it is now ready to go into Phase I trials in humans. The study has been published in the journal Nature Communications.
- The new approach developed by the researchers is more specific as it uses a carbohydrate that is only processed by the TB bacteria.
- A key advantage of the new approach is that it only requires a hospital to have standard radiation control and PET scanners, which are becoming more available throughout the world.
- This means it can be produced without specialist expertise or laboratories and so would be a viable option in low- and middle-income countries with less developed healthcare systems. These countries currently see over 80% of global TB cases and deaths from the disease.

Prelims Takeaway

- TB
- Nikshay

5. India prepares 1st comprehensive list of fauna- The Indian Express

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

News:

- India has prepared a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 1,04,561 species, becoming the first country in the world to do so.
- Launching the “Fauna of India Checklist Portal” on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata.

Highlights:

- Union Environment Minister said the first comprehensive document on the faunal species in India will position the country as a global leader in biodiversity documentation.
- The faunal checklist will be an invaluable reference for taxonomists, researchers, academicians, conservation managers and policymakers.
- The document comprises 121 checklists of all known taxa, covering 36 phyla.
- Endemic, threatened and scheduled species have also been included in the list.
- The minister said India is a global champion in biodiversity conservation, as reflected by the fact that “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” was the first major programme undertaken.
- The government’s initiatives, such as the International Big Cat Alliance to preserve biodiversity and species, and the relocation of cheetahs to India is one such successful project.

Prelims Takeaway

- Big Cat Alliance
- Zoological Survey of India

6. DRDO takes up study on development of indigenous submarine-THE HINDU

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- As the procurement of new submarines under P-75I goes on, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken up a preliminary study on the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76.

Prelims Takeaway

- DRDO
- P75I

Key Highlights

- This will be a continuation of the advanced technology vessel (ATV) project, to build a conventional submarine
- under which the Arihant series of nuclear ballistic missile submarines are being built and another project for building nuclear-powered submarines is currently under way, the source said.
- Under P-76, there will be substantial indigenous content, including weapons, missiles, combat management system, sonars, communications, electronic warfare suite, mast and periscope, sources said.
- The Navy has a 30-year submarine building programme, and after the P-75I, it intends to design and build conventional submarines indigenously, senior officials had stated on several occasions.

Propulsion module

- An air independent propulsion (AIP) module designed and developed by the DRDO is now awaiting fitment on the Scorpene-class submarines.
- The first Scorpene-class submarine Kalvari is expected to go for refit in 2025 when the fitment process will begin and is expected to take two to three years, sources said.
- An AIP module acts as a force multiplier as it enables conventional submarines to remain submerged for a longer duration thereby increasing their endurance and reducing chances of detection.

- The DRDO-developed AIP module is phosphoric acid-based which is widely available, officials noted.
- An AIP module has a stack of fuel cells generating hydrogen.
- The power output of each fuel cell in the DRDO AIP is 13.5 kW.
- It is being so asked up to 15.5 kW and will eventually be scaled up to 20 kW which will meet future submarine requirements like the P-76, sources said.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

7. Weaponizing PMLA : The finding that Soren may not be guilty exposes ED's approach to political cases- 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 grant of bail to former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Hemant Soren exposes the questionable practice of the Enforcement Directorate in slapping money-laundering cases just to arrest political adversaries of the ruling dispensation.

Key Highlights

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) forces courts to render a preliminary finding on
 - Whether there is reason to believe that those jailed for laundering money are guilty of the offence and grant bail only if they record a negative finding.
- Weaponising such provisions against political opponents can have grave consequences for their personal liberty.
- Justice of the Jharkhand High Court has analysed the material and circumstances of the case and given him bail based on a conclusion that there is reason to believe that Mr. Soren is not guilty.
- The Enforcement Directorate registered a case under the PMLA against him based on a police case related to forgery and fabrication of documents involving a revenue inspector and his associates.
- The High Court's findings such as these may be the subject of appeal or may be revisited during the trial.
- However, they also shine a light on how central agencies are showing unseemly haste in arresting political functionaries in office based on inferences and surmises.

8. India lacks diagnostic tests for emerging infectious diseases- The Hindu

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

News:

- Zika virus is a mosquito-borne pathogen belonging to the flavivirus family of viruses which also includes dengue; India's lack of significant Zika surveillance means we might never fully understand its spread
- A recent case of Zika virus infection in Pune has renewed concerns about India's preparedness for diagnosing emerging infectious diseases.

Highlights:	Diagnostics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After experiencing symptoms like fever and rashes, the 46-year-old doctor was hospitalized and diagnosed with Zika virus infection after his samples were sent for testing to the apex virology institute.• This is not the first time Zika has been identified in India. Cases have been identified in multiple States in India in the past, with larger outbreaks occurring in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh as recently as 2021.• Clinical symptoms of Zika infection in many cases could be mild and indistinguishable from other infectious diseases including dengue.• However, for pregnant women, the Zika virus poses a significant risk as it can be transmitted from mother to child, potentially leading to microcephaly in the offspring.• Due to climate change, it is not surprising that multiple dengue outbreaks are making headlines.• The same vectors that spread dengue could also spread Zika.• However, India's lack of significant Zika surveillance means we might never fully understand its spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In March 2023, CDSCO, India's apex organization for diagnostic approvals, confirmed that there is no approved diagnostic test for Zika.• This limitation hinders our ability to diagnose Zika, relying only on classical symptoms and high clinical suspicion, making it complex as we see a concurrent upsurge in dengue cases across the country.• Surveillance by ICMR on Aedes mosquitoes showed Zika virus positivity following human cases, indicating that many cases are likely being missed.• Despite multiple avian influenza outbreaks in India this year affecting poultry, and an ongoing outbreak in Kerala, human testing and surveillance have remained limited.• This is partially compounded by the lack of widely available diagnostic tests and over-reliance on a few apex institutes.• India has experienced several Nipah virus outbreaks, notably in West Bengal (2001 and 2007) and Kerala (2018, 2021, and 2023).• Rapid identification and isolation of cases, contact tracing, and targeted screening of contacts are key to the effective containment of Nipah outbreaks.• While many countries grant emergency approvals for diagnostics based on synthetic genomic material, India requires validation on clinical samples, which are not readily accessible.• Although there have been multiple publications on Zika and Nipah outbreaks over many years now, the genomes from these outbreaks are still not rapidly released in public repositories.• The Nipah virus genome from the 2023 outbreak in Kerala was only released last month.• Even with ongoing avian influenza outbreaks in multiple States, we do not yet have the whole genome sequences available• During the COVID-19 pandemic, India swiftly expanded its testing infrastructure by rapidly decentralizing and leveraging the existing network of hospitals, medical colleges, and private laboratories nationwide and tapping into the industry with a systematic approach for approvals of diagnostic tests making diagnostics widely available and accessible. The experience gained from the COVID-19 pandemic can be a stepping stone for improving testing capacities for other emerging diseases.• By decentralizing testing facilities particularly at the district and sub-district levels, and developing accessible and affordable diagnostic tests for Zika, Nipah, avian influenza, and many more emerging infectious diseases, India can ensure a more effective response to future outbreaks.• There has never been a better time to swiftly establish a decentralized system for diagnostics, genomic surveillance, and data sharing to enable preparedness and public health response to emerging infectious diseases.

9. What is holding up the Teesta treaty?- The Hindu

Relevance: India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

News:

- A technical team will soon visit Bangladesh to discuss conservation and management of the Teesta river in Bangladesh.
- The remark triggered speculation about the Teesta water sharing treaty with Bangladesh, a key bilateral agreement that has been pending between the two countries for over a decade.

What is India's stand?

- Foreign Secretary told the media that the discussion "between the two leaders was less about water sharing per se, and more about the management of the water flows within Teesta".
- West Bengal Chief Minister took issue with the Centre's stand.
 - She wrote a letter to the Indian PM conveying her strong reservation that no discussion on the sharing of Teesta waters should be taken up with Bangladesh without the involvement of the State.

Why is Bengal upset?

- Bengal CM pointed out that if Teesta's water is shared with Bangladesh, lakhs of people in north Bengal will get severely impacted.
- This is not the first time she has voiced her opposition to the proposed water sharing agreement of India with Bangladesh.
- In 2017, the Chief Minister had also referred to an alternative proposal of sharing waters of the Torsa, Manshai, Sankosh and Dhansai rivers but not Teesta.

- In all, 54 rivers flow between India and Bangladesh and sharing of river waters has been a key bilateral issue.
- India and Bangladesh agreed on the sharing of waters of the Ganga in 1996 after the construction of the Farakka Barrage and by the 2010s the issue of sharing of the Teesta came up for negotiation.
- In 2011, during the United Progressive Alliance-II government, India and Bangladesh were close to signing an agreement on the Teesta but Bengal CM walked out of the deal, and since then, the agreement has been pending.

What is the proposal?

- In 2011, when the proposal for sharing Teesta water was drawn up, it was said India would get 42.5% and Bangladesh 37.5% of the river water from December to March.
- A tributary of the Brahmaputra, the Teesta river originates from the Tso Lhamo Lake in north Sikkim.
- The river travels for about 150 km in Sikkim and 123 km in West Bengal, before entering Bangladesh it flows another 140 km in Bangladesh and joins the Bay of Bengal.
- Teesta is Bangladesh's fourth largest trans-boundary river and its floodplain covers an area of 2,750 square kilometres in Bangladesh.
- But 83% of the river's catchment area lies in India and the remaining 17% is in Bangladesh, supporting 8.5% of its population and 14% of its crop production.

What are the political considerations?

- While the Awami League government in Bangladesh is facing questions from the Opposition about the delay in inking an agreement on the Teesta, the dams for hydro-electric power generation in Sikkim and the Teesta Barrage Project at Gazoldoba in West Bengal is making the flow of the river erratic in Bangladesh, leading to either floods or scarcity of water.
- The visit of a technical team from India to discuss conservation of the Teesta in Bangladesh also comes amid the backdrop of China proposing major dredging work on the river and building reservoirs and embankments in 2020.
- The Bangladesh government has put the proposal on hold for the past four years.
- Environmental activists have also been raising questions on the ecological impact of hydro-electric projects on the river.
- In October 2023, a glacial lake outburst triggered floods in the Teesta basin that claimed hundreds of lives and destroyed the Teesta III hydroelectric dam.
- Sharing of waters of transboundary rivers have been mandated by international laws including The Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers in 1966.
- Article 253 of the Indian Constitution gives powers to the government to enter any transboundary river water-related treaty with a riparian state.

Why is Bengal talking about the Ganga treaty?

- The Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh completes 30 years in 2026 and a renewal of the agreement is on the cards.
- It has been pointed out that water sharing with Bangladesh has changed the Ganga's morphology and affected lakhs of people in West Bengal owing to river erosion.
- "Lakhs of people have been displaced from their habitation rendering them homeless and also leading to their loss of livelihood.
- The reduced silt load in Hooghly has impeded the nourishment of the Sundarban delta.

10. Should education be brought back to the State list? - The Hindu

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

Context:

- The recent NEET-UG exam has been embroiled in controversies over the award of grace marks, allegation of paper leaks and other irregularities.
- This puts a lot of questions on whether 'Education' should go back to being a state subject.

Historical Background

- The Government of India Act, 1935 during the British rule created a federal structure for the first time in our polity.
- The legislative subjects were distributed between the federal legislature (present day Union) and provinces (present day States).
- Education, which is an important public good, was kept under the provincial list.
- After independence, this continued and education was part of the 'State list' under the distribution of powers.
- However, during the Emergency Swaran Singh Committee was constituted to provide recommendations for amendments to the Constitution.
- One of the recommendations of this committee was to place 'education' in the concurrent list in order to evolve all-India policies on the subject.
- This was implemented through the 42nd constitutional amendment (1976) by shifting 'education' from the State list to the concurrent list.

International practices

- In the U.S., State and local governments set the overall educational standards, mandate standardised tests and supervise colleges and universities.
- The federal education department's functions primarily include policies for financial aid, focussing on key educational issues and ensuring equal access.
- In Canada, education is completely managed by the provinces.
- In Germany, the constitution vests legislative powers for education with landers (equivalent of States).
- In South Africa, on the other hand, education is governed by two national departments for school and higher education.
- The provinces of the country have their own education departments for implementing policies of the national departments and dealing with local issues.

Way forward

- The arguments in favour of 'education' in the concurrent list include a uniform education policy, improvement in standards and synergy between Centre and States.
- Considering the vast diversity of the country, a 'one size fits all' approach is neither feasible nor desirable.
- As per 'Analysis of Budgeted expenditure on Education' prepared by the Ministry of Education in 2022, out of the total revenue expenditure by education departments in our country 15% is spent by the Centre while 85% is spent by the States.
- The arguments against restoring 'education' to the State list include corruption coupled with lack of professionalism.
- The recent issues surrounding recent exams have however displayed that centralisation does not necessarily mean that these issues would vanish.
- Bringing back education to the state list would enable them to frame tailor-made policies for syllabus, testing and admissions for higher education including professional courses like medicine and engineering.
- Regulatory mechanisms for higher education can continue to be governed by central institutions like the National Medical Commission, University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education.

Quick Look

1. UNRWA

- UNRWA stands for UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.
- It was founded in 1949 to provide aid to about 700,000 Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.
- The UN agency operates in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, as well as Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan countries where the refugees took shelter after their expulsion.
- The agency runs education, health, relief and social services, microfinance and emergency assistance programmes inside and outside refugee camps based in the aforementioned areas.
- UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions by donor states like the US.
- It also gets a limited subsidy from the UN, which is used only for administrative costs.

2. Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data(GISAID)

- GISAID is a public platform started by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2008 for countries to share genome sequences.
- The GISAID Initiative promotes the international sharing of all influenza virus sequences, related clinical and epidemiological data associated with human viruses, and geographical as well as species-specific data associated with avian and other animal viruses
- This helps researchers understand how the viruses evolve, spread and potentially become pandemics.
- It actively promotes the development of novel research tools for the analysis of influenza data by helping developers to facilitate the integration or connection of their tools to analyze GISAID data.

3. Hul Diwas

- The literal meaning of 'Hul' – is revolution which began in 1855.
- It was led by two brothers Sidhu and Kanhu
- The rebellion took place in present-day Jharkhand around the Rajmahal Hills.
- It was an organized war against colonialism led by the Santals, standing against the oppression by the British and their collaborators such as Zamindars, the police.
- 'Hul Diwas', marks the beginning of the Santal rebellion.
- The Santal people – or Santalis – were not the original inhabitants of modern day Santhal Pargana.

4. Shyok River

- It is a river that flows through northern Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, India, and enters the Pakistan-administered region of Gilgit-Baltistan, where it joins the Indus River.
- It is a tributary of the Indus River.
- It originates from the Rimo Glacier and gets its name from a Ladakhi word meaning 'the river of death'.
- It is fed by meltwater from numerous glaciers on its journey.
- It meanders through the high-altitude deserts and mountain ranges of Ladakh before converging with the Indus.
- Its main right-bank tributary is the Nubra River.

5. National Judicial Academy (NJA)

- NJA, established in 1993 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is an independent society, fully funded by the Government of India, and works under the directions of the Supreme Court of India.
- Situated in Bhopal, its mandate is to Strengthen the Administration of Justice through Judicial Education, Research, and Policy Development.
- It organizes training to aid the judges in their judging roles and in the performance of court administration work.
- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the Chairman of the General Body of NJA as well as the Chairman of the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Academic Council of NJA.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):

1. The BNSS aims to replace the existing Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in India.
2. The BNSS includes provisions for enhanced protection of the rights of women and children.
3. Under the BNSS, the maximum period of police custody has been reduced to 30 days.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM):

1. PAM is caused by a bacterium that thrives in freshwater environments.
2. The symptoms of PAM often resemble those of bacterial meningitis.
3. The primary route of infection for PAM is through ingestion of contaminated water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which of the following countries are connected with the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

1. India
2. Iran
3. Azerbaijan
4. Central Asia
5. Europe

Which of the option above are correct

- A. 1,2,3
- B. 2,4,5
- C. 3,4,5
- D. 1,2,3,4,5

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the NIKSHAY and the End TB Strategy:

1. NIKSHAY is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which aims to provide a comprehensive platform for managing tuberculosis (TB)
2. The End TB Strategy, adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to reduce TB incidence by 80% and TB deaths by 90% by 2035 compared to 2015 levels.
3. The NIKSHAY Poshan Yojana is a scheme under NIKSHAY that provides financial support to TB patients.

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

Q5. Match the following fauna with their respective regions in India:

Fauna - Region

1. Snow Leopard – (i) Western Ghats
2. One horned Rhinoceros – (ii) Sundarbans
3. Bengal Tiger – (iii) Himalayas
4. Nilgiri Tahr – (iv) Kaziranga National Park

Select the correct option:

- A. 1-(iii), 2-(iv), 3-(ii), 4-(i)
- B. 1-(iii), 2-(ii), 3-(iv), 4-(i)
- C. 1-(i), 2-(iv), 3-(iii), 4-(ii)
- D. 1-(iv), 2-(i), 3-(ii), 4-(iii)

Q6. Consider the following Statements:

Statement 1: India's Nuclear Triad has been achieved, the capability of a nuclear strike via Land, Air, and Naval (Sea).

Statement 2: Nuclear Triad's Naval capability was achieved by INS Kalvari.

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

Q7. Consider the following statements

1. For prevention of money laundering, there is separate provision in constitution
2. stringent bail standard in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), puts the onus on the accused to prove that there is no prima facie case against them while seeking bail.
3. If anyone under the age of sixteen years or is a woman or is sick or infirm, may be released on bail, if the Special Court so directs

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

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

Q8. Consider the following pairs of virus types and their corresponding control measures implemented in India:

Virus Type - Control Measure

1. Influenza Virus - (i) Seasonal vaccination campaigns
2. Dengue Virus - (ii) Mosquito control and public awareness campaigns
3. Hepatitis B Virus - (iii) Universal immunization program for newborns
4. Human Immunodeficiency Virus - (iv) Anti-retroviral therapy and awareness programs

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 1-(i), 2-(ii), 3-(iii), 4-(iv)
- B. 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(i), 4-(iv)
- C. 1-(iii), 2-(i), 3-(ii), 4-(iii)
- D. 1-(iv), 2-(ii), 3-(iii), 4-(i)

Q9. Consider the following pairs of rivers and their significance to India and Bangladesh:

River	Significance
1. Ganges (Ganga)	(i) Forms a major delta and supports agriculture
2. Brahmaputra	(ii) Important for inland navigation and fisheries
3. Teesta	(iii) Source of hydroelectric power and irrigation
4. Feni	(iv) Shared river water dispute and flood management

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 1-(i), 2-(ii), 3-(ii), 4-(iv)
- B. 1-(i), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(ii)
- C. 1-(iii), 2-(i), 3-(ii), 4-(iv)
- D. 1-(iv), 2-(i), 3-(i), 4-(iii)

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the education system in India

1. The Right to Education Act, 2009 mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years.
2. Education is listed as a state subject under the Indian Constitution.
3. Swaran Singh Committee recommended transfer of education to Concurrent list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- The Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) is intended to replace the existing Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in India, aiming to modernize and streamline criminal procedure laws. **Statement 1 is correct**
- The BNSS includes specific provisions to enhance the protection of the rights of women and children, ensuring better safeguards and legal remedies. **Statement 2 is correct**
- The period of police custody under the BNSS has not been uniformly reduced to 30 days; it varies based on the nature of the offense and judicial discretion. **Statement 3 is incorrect**

Answer 2 Option C is correct

Explanation:

- PAM is caused by Naegleria fowleri, which is an amoeba, not a bacterium. **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- The symptoms of PAM, such as headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting, can resemble those of bacterial meningitis. **Statement 2 is correct**
- The primary route of infection is not through ingestion but through the nasal passages when people get water up their nose, typically during swimming or other water activities. **Statement 3 is incorrect**

Answer 3 Option D is Correct

Explanation:

- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200 km (4,500 mile) multimodal route that connects St. Petersburg, Russia to Mumbai, India via Iran. The route uses a network of railways, roadways, and seaports to move freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Hence all options are correct

Answer 4 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- **NIKSHAY Initiative:** NIKSHAY is indeed an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It provides a comprehensive platform for TB patient management and information. It integrates various aspects of TB control, including patient tracking, monitoring treatment, and recording outcomes. This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of the TB control program in India. **Statement 1 is correct**

- **End TB Strategy:** It serves as a blueprint for countries to reduce TB incidence by 80%, TB deaths by 90%, and to eliminate catastrophic costs for TB-affected households **by 2030**. The Strategy is not a “one size fits all” approach and its success depends on adaptation for diverse country settings. **Statement 2 is Incorrect**
- **NIKSHAY Poshan Yojana:** The NIKSHAY Poshan Yojana is a nutritional support scheme under the NIKSHAY initiative. It provides financial support to TB patients to ensure they receive adequate nutrition during their treatment. This scheme is part of India's efforts to enhance TB patient care and support. **Statement 3 is correct**

Answer 5 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- **Snow Leopard (A-3):** The Snow Leopard is found in the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas. They are adapted to cold mountainous environments and are a key species in this region.
- **One-horned Rhinoceros (B-4):** The One-horned Rhinoceros is predominantly found in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. This park is famous for its significant population of this species.
- **Bengal Tiger (C-2):** The Bengal Tiger is found in various regions across India, but it is notably associated with the Sundarbans, a vast mangrove forest area spanning India and Bangladesh.
- **Nilgiri Tahr (D-1):** The Nilgiri Tahr is an endemic species to the Western Ghats. This mountain goat is adapted to the montane grasslands and rocky areas of this region.

Answer 6 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- The Nuclear Triad of India is a three-sided military-force structure consisting of ICBMs (land-based nuclear missiles), SSBNs (nuclear-missile-armed submarines), and Strategic Bombers (strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs and missiles).
- The theory underlying the triad is that spreading the country's extensive nuclear arsenals across various weapons platforms and dimensions would provide a Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD). **Hence Statement 1 is correct**

- In 2018, with the deployment of **INS Arihant** (an SSBN), a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine, India got its fully operational Nuclear Triad. **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**

Answer 7 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from money laundering. **Hence statements 1 IS INcorrect**
- Section 45 provides for bail on money laundering charges.
- This provision in the law, like the stringent bail standard in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), puts the onus on the accused to prove that there is no prima facie case against them while seeking bail.
- However, there is a crucial exception to the bail standard.
- “Provided that a person, who is under the age of sixteen years or is a woman or is sick or infirm, may be released on bail, if the Special Court so directs,” the law says.
- This exception is similar to exemptions under the Indian Penal Code for women and minors. **Hence statement 2 & 3 are correct**

Answer 8 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- **Influenza Virus (A-1):** Seasonal vaccination campaigns are a key control measure for the influenza virus in India, aiming to reduce the incidence of influenza, especially during peak seasons.
- **Dengue Virus (B-2):** The primary control measures for dengue involve mosquito control strategies, such as eliminating breeding sites, and public awareness campaigns to educate people about prevention methods.
- **Hepatitis B Virus (C-3):** The Universal Immunization Program in India includes vaccination for Hepatitis B for newborns, aiming to prevent the spread of this virus from mother to child during childbirth.

- **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) (D-4):** Control measures for HIV include the provision of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) for those infected and extensive awareness programs to educate the public on prevention and safe practices.

Answer 9 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- **Ganges (Ganga) (A-1):** The Ganges River forms a major delta, known as the Sundarbans, which is crucial for agriculture, fisheries, and biodiversity in both India and Bangladesh. It plays a significant role in the socio-economic activities of the region.
- **Brahmaputra (B-2):** The Brahmaputra River is significant for inland navigation and fisheries. It supports transportation and fishing activities, which are vital for the livelihoods of many people in the region.
- **Teesta (C-3):** The Teesta River is a source of hydroelectric power and irrigation. It is vital for agricultural activities in the regions it flows through, particularly in the states of Sikkim and West Bengal in India.
- **Feni (D-4):** The Feni River is a subject of shared river water disputes and flood management issues between India and Bangladesh. Cooperation and agreements on the Feni River are crucial for managing water resources and preventing floods.

Answer 10 Option C is correct

Explanation:

- The Right to Education Act, 2009 indeed mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years. **Statement 1 is correct**
- Education was a subject in the State List but the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976 shifted it to the Concurrent List. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- During the Emergency Swaran Singh Committee was constituted to provide recommendations for amendments to the Constitution.
- One of the recommendations of this committee was to place ‘education’ in the concurrent list in order to evolve all-India policies on the subject. **Statement 3 is correct.**



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