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GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Governing Delhi

Context:

- The **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021** was recently introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha.

Background:

Administrative tug of war:

- Delhi has been witness to **administrative tug of war between the Delhi government and Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**. The L-G refused to send files regarding three reserved subjects – land, police and public order – to the Chief Minister’s office.
- Several orders issued by the Delhi government related to matters such as transfer of bureaucrats, setting up of Commissions of Inquiry and the administration of the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), were either declared void or reversed by the L-G citing procedural lacunae ranging from lack of approval from his office to not being constitutionally empowered to take such decisions.

Judiciary’s take:

- The issue was taken by the Delhi government to the **Delhi High Court which, in August 2016, held that the L-G had “complete control” of matters related to the NCT** and “nothing will happen without the concurrence of the L-G”. However, the judgment held that the L-G was bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in some matters. The Delhi government then moved the Supreme Court.
- **A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court held that the “real authority to take decisions lies in the elected government”**. The Court stated that the NCT’s government, needed only to inform the L-G of its “well-deliberated” decisions instead of obtaining his “concurrence” in every issue of day-to-day governance.
- Another two-judge bench hearing the issue of Services – the transfer and posting of bureaucrats – and power over the ACB delivered a split verdict

and noted that though the L-G was free to form an opinion on any matter, the L-G should not intervene routinely but only in matters fundamental to Delhi.

Details:

- Under the new bill, **modifications have been proposed to four sections of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.**
 - The amendments seek to **promote “harmonious relations between the legislature and the executive”.**
 - It provides for rules made by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi to be “consistent with the rules of the House of the People” or the Lok Sabha.
 - The Bill seeks to define the responsibilities of the elected government and the Lieutenant Governor along the constitutional scheme of governance of the NCT interpreted by the Supreme Court in recent judgments regarding the division of powers between the two entities.
 - The amendments also propose to ensure that the Lieutenant Governor is “necessarily granted an opportunity” to exercise powers entrusted to him under proviso to Clause (4) of Article 239AA of the Constitution.
 - Clause (4) of **Article 239AA of the Constitution** provides for a Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister for the NCT to “aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor” in the exercise of his functions for matters in which the Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws.

Concerns:

- Some experts believe that the amendments may render the NCT government to function with **lesser autonomy.**
- The move to render the elected representatives to function with lesser autonomy marks the **taking back of the right of Delhi’s citizens to vote for those they deem fit to administer them.**

Counter view:

- The new bill seeks to **address ambiguities in legislative provisions related to the administration of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.**
- The elected government of Delhi had always been a local administrative body to be headed by the L-G as an administrator and the recent bill only tries to rectify any ambiguities regarding the same.

2. India, United States resolve to intensify defence cooperation

Context:

- Talks between Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense General Lloyd James Austin III (retd).

Background:

India- U.S. defence co-operation:

- India and the U.S. have been involved in a number of **bilateral and multilateral military exercises**.
- The **foundational agreements, LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA** have also been signed between India and the U.S.
- Recently the Leaders' Summit of India, U.S., Japan and Australia was held under the **Quadrilateral Framework**.

Details:

- The bilateral discussion covered “military-to-military engagement across services, information sharing, cooperation in emerging sectors of defence, and mutual logistics support”.
- India resolved to intensify **defence cooperation with the U.S. Central Command in Florida and with the U.S. Commands in the Indo-Pacific region and Africa**.
- The U.S. Secretary of Defense described the partnership with India as a “central pillar” of the American policy for the Indo-Pacific.

Significance:

- The visit marks the first of the Secretary of Defense after taking charge as part of the Biden-Harris administration. This could indicate the continued support for deepening the relationship with India even under the new Presidentship.
- The deepening of the defence co-operation between the two countries could help realise the full potential of the foundational agreements for mutual benefit.
- Austin's visit is also crucial as it comes in the midst of expectations that the U.S. is likely to deliver a message over India's plans to acquire the Russian S-400 missile defence system. The move could attract U.S. sanctions under the **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act**.
- The subtle reference to Beijing's growing military activities in the South China Sea region could help India use the U.S. as a counter balance the increasingly assertiveness of the Chinese.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

3. Mining threat looms over Aravalis in Haryana

Context:

- Haryana State government's moves to seek Supreme Court's permission to resume mining in the Aravalli hill region.

Details:

- The State government has moved the Supreme Court to seek permission to begin mining in the Aravalis in Gurugram, Faridabad and Nuh.
 - Mining has been banned in Gurugram and adjoining districts for more than a decade now as per the Supreme Court orders.

Concerns:

- The environmentalists have strongly opposed legalising of mining in the Aravalis in the National Capital Region based on the following arguments.

Impact on air quality:

- The environmentalists argue that the move to legalize mining could cause colossal damage to the environment, especially when the region is already grappling with poor air quality.
- **Faridabad has the worst air quality in Haryana and figures among the most polluted cities in the world.** Gurugram, too, had topped the list of most polluted cities in the world in 2018. It is also argued that Gurugram and Faridabad have a high population density, but low per capita forest cover. The ban on mining in Gurugram and Faridabad, had resulted in a significant improvement in the forest cover.
- The destruction of the Aravalis would worsen the NCR air pollution situation. The poor air quality could have a **detrimental impact on the city residents' health.**

Impact on groundwater resources:

- The Aravalis with their natural cracks and fissures have the potential to accommodate two million litres of water per hectare in the ground every year.

- The resumption of mining in the region could prove detrimental to the **already fast depleting groundwater level** in the region posing a water security threat to the residents of the region.

Impact on wildlife:

- The wildlife surveys show that Gurugram and Faridabad hills act as a **significant wildlife habitat and corridor**, especially for the leopards. There is also movement from and into the Asola wildlife sanctuary. The resumption of mining here will be disastrous for the wildlife.
 - The Aravalli mountain range is a biodiversity hotspot with 400-odd species of trees, shrubs and herbs; 200-odd native and migratory bird species; 100-odd butterfly species; 20-odd reptile species and 20-odd mammal species, including leopards.

Desertification:

- The Aravalli mountain range is the only **natural barrier against desertification**.
- The resumption of mining activity in the region would lead to further deforestation in the region further exacerbating the threat of desertification in the region.

Threat posed by illegal mining:

- A very high number of illegal mining have been reported from the state.
- Mining, when earlier allowed, was carried out in a haphazard manner without adhering to the norms causing huge damage to the environment and the wildlife.

Counter-arguments:

- As per the Economic Survey of Haryana 2020-21, the collection from mining for 2020-21 till January is ₹770.00 crore, the highest since 2005-06. This amounts to a substantial **stream of revenue for the state government**.
- The mining in this region would not just help **meet the demand for construction material** but also **generate employment**.

Way forward:

Selecting suitable areas for mining:

- Mining should not be done in NCR districts adjacent to Delhi which are important wildlife habitats and corridors, have poor air quality and high

population. Mining should also not be allowed in thick forest areas. Mining should be confined to isolated hillocks in distant areas with minimal impact on wildlife corridors and air quality.

- This would result in minimum damage to environment and help **ensure sustainable development**.
- A survey needs to be conducted to identify the possible areas for mining.

Creating conservation zones:

- The government could consider notifying 50,000 acre of Aravalis as deemed forest and retaining all Aravalis in south Haryana as **natural conservation zone**.

Afforestation measures:

- The government should come up with a three-year road map to **take the legal native forest cover in the State to 20% as per the Haryana Forest Department policy target**. This move could help offset some of the negative impacts of deforestation carried out for mining operations.

4. NITI Aayog vision for Great Nicobar ignores tribal, ecological concerns

Context:

- The Standing Committee of the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has denotified the entire **Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary** to build port, trade zone on the **Great Nicobar Island**.

Details:

- As part of the NITI Aayog-piloted 'holistic' and 'sustainable' vision for Great Nicobar Island, about 244 sq. km. of the island area would be developed as a trade zone.
- The phase I of the project spread over 150 sq. km area of the island would include an airport complex, a trans-shipment port (TSP) at South Bay, a parallel-to-the-coast mass rapid transport system and a free trade zone and warehousing complex.
- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)** would act as the nodal agency.

Concerns:

Ecological concern:

- Significant changes have been effected to the legal regimes for wildlife and forest conservation to allow for the development of the envisaged project. This could have an adverse impact on the ecology of the island.
 - Apart from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) denotifying the entire Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, an Environment Ministry expert committee has approved a **“zero extent” Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** for the Galathea NP to allow use of land in the south-eastern and south-western part of the island for the NITI Aayog plan. It proposes a zero extent ESZ for nearly 70% of the periphery of the park.
- The phase I of the project would lead to clearance of the pristine forest on about 18% of the 910 sq. km. island, and will cover nearly a quarter of its coastline. The envisaged project seems to overlook the ecological uniqueness of the island.
 - Galathea Bay is included in **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)-I**, the zone with maximum protection.
 - The park, part of a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, houses a range of forest types, and has one of the best preserved tropical rainforests in the world.
 - The beaches on the island, like at the mouth of the river Galathea in South Bay, are among the most prominent nesting sites globally of the Giant leatherback. It for this reason that the bay was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1997. India’s **National Marine Turtle Action Plan has listed Galathea Bay as one of the ‘Important Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Areas’ and ‘Important Marine Turtle Habitats’ in the country.**
- The envisaged project could prove detrimental to the biodiversity of the island.
 - The park is home to 648 species of flora and hosts 330 species of fauna including rare and endemic ones such as the Nicobar wild pig, Nicobar tree shrew, the Great Nicobar crested serpent eagle, Nicobar paradise flycatcher and the Nicobar megapode.
 - **The Nicobar megapode** is a globally endangered bird unique to the Nicobars. Recent study on this species have documented 90% of this ground nesting bird’s nests to be within a distance of 30 m from the shore. The study had recommended that the entire west and southern coast of Great Nicobar be protected for the megapode and other wildlife like nesting marine turtles.

Tribal concerns:

- The Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is home to the **indigenous Shompen community**. The envisaged project poses threat to the Shompen community.
- The proposed project areas are important foraging grounds for the hunter-gatherer nomadic community. Large forest areas on the island could become inaccessible and useless for the Shompen.

Geological vulnerability:

- The available evidence seems to suggest that issues of the **geological vulnerability of the islands** have not been factored in.
- The island remains **vulnerable to Tsunami** given its proximity to the geologically active ring of fire region. This raises questions over safety of life, property and the investments in this zone.
 - 8-metre-high tsunami waves have been observed at the Great Nicobar coast on December 26, 2004. There are also evidences of land subsidence of about 3-4 m post the Tsunami. Loss of life and property then was limited because the Great Nicobar coast is largely uninhabited.

Way forward:

- The project will need to ensure that the welfare and integrity of Shompen community is given priority as envisaged in the Shompen Policy of 2015.
- There is the need to protect the park from an ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view.
- The project should factor in the complex ecological, social and geological vulnerabilities of the region while planning and implementing the project.

For related information on the envisaged development of the Little Andaman Island refer to the following article:

5. The row over Myanmar refugees in Mizoram

Context:

- Following the military coup in Myanmar, **at least 1,000 people from the adjoining Chin State of Myanmar are said to have crossed over to Mizoram**, fearing a military crackdown.
 - Most of the refugees were deserters from Myanmar's police and fire services department. They had to flee after joining the civil resistance movement.

- Most of the refugees waded across the **Tiau River that runs along much of Mizoram's 510-km border with Myanmar.**

Concerns:

History of influx:

- Extremism, counter-insurgency and sectarian violence have driven people out of Myanmar into India in the past as well.
- More than **1,200 Buddhists and Christians from Myanmar's Arakan State had taken refuge in Mizoram's Lawngtlai district in 2017.** They fled their homes after the Myanmar Army clashed with the extremist Arakan Army. Thousands of Chins are said to be living in Mizoram for more than 40 years now.
- **Manipur**, too, has been dealing with the influx issue, for a long time. The villages of the Kuki-Zomi have often had people crossing over from Myanmar.

Porous border:

- Much of the border with Myanmar is without any fence. **The tough terrain along the border comes in the way of maintaining airtight vigil along the border.**
 - Despite the potential of fences in stemming influx of refugees, some are against the idea of fencing the border, insisting that a fence would make "free movement" of border residents into each other's country difficult. There are more than 250 villages with about 3,00,000 people living within 10 km of the India-Myanmar border.
 - **India and Myanmar had in 2018 agreed to streamline the movement of people within 16 km of the border on either side.**

Differences between State government and central government:

- The Centre's directive is at complete odds with the State government's stand.
- The Mizoram government favours providing refuge to the Chins, who are ethnically related to the majority Mizos in the State, but the Ministry of Home Affairs has made it clear that "India is not a signatory to the **1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereon**". The Ministry has pointed out that State governments have no powers to grant "refugee status to any foreigner".
- Mizoram is caught between a humanitarian urge and India's policy on refugees.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. NewSpace India Limited to operate space assets of ISRO

In news

- The **NewSpace India Limited** will own and operate capital intensive space assets of ISRO as part of the space reforms process.

Key takeaways

- NewSpace India Limited is in advance stage of discussion with the Department of Space to take ownership of two new communication satellites for commercial purpose.
- The transponders on these satellites will be leased to the private companies with DTH and Broadband services.

Important value additions

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) of Government of India.
- It is a commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and a subsidiary company of Department of Science.
- **Established in:** 2019
- **Administrative control:** Department of Space (DoS) and the Company Act 2013.
- **Objective:** To scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.
- **Headquarter:** Bengaluru.

2. India to implement GPS-based toll collection system

In news

- According to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India will implement a GPS-based toll collection system and remove all toll booths within a year.

GPS-based toll collection system

- Toll collection will happen via GPS.
- The money will be collected based on GPS imaging of vehicles.
- 93% of the vehicles were paying toll using **FASTag** but the remaining 7% had still not adopted it despite paying double the toll.

Vehicle Scrapping Policy

- The policy was first announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22.
- The automobile industry in India will see a jump in turnover to ₹10 lakh crore from ₹4.5 lakh crore.
- The new policy provides for fitness tests after the completion of 20 years in the case of privately owned vehicles and 15 years in the case of commercial vehicles.
- Any vehicle that fails the fitness test or does not manage renewal of its registration certificate may be declared as an End of Life Vehicle.
- The policy will kick in for government vehicles from April 1, 2022.
- Mandatory fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles will start from April 1, 2023.
- For all other categories of vehicles, including personal vehicles, it will start in phases from June 1, 2024.

3. Hong Kong's new amendment by NPC

In news

- The National People's Congress (NPC) of China has recently approved a decision on improving Hong Kong's electoral system.

Key takeaways

- This paves the way how **Hong Kong** shall choose its leaders.

- It gives Beijing-appointed politicians greater power in running the HKSAR's politics.
- Now, the size of the Legislative Council will be expanded to 90, with the additional 20 members joining the 35 others who are nominated, thus reducing the share of directly elected representatives.
- The amendment also bestows greater power on a newly expanded Election Committee of 1,500 nominated members, up from 1,200 previously.
- The most controversial change is the setting up of a new "candidate qualification review committee", which "shall be responsible for reviewing and confirming" the qualifications of candidates for Election Committee members, the Chief Executive, and Legislative Council members.

4. The Indian Ocean border dispute between Kenya and Somalia:

Context:

Kenya has said it will not take part in proceedings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over its maritime border dispute with Somalia.

What's the issue?

The main point of disagreement between the two neighbours is the direction in which their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean should extend.

Where is the disputed area?

- According to Somalia, the sea border should be an extension of the same direction in which their land border runs as it approaches the Indian Ocean, i.e. towards the southeast.
- Kenya, on the other hand, argues that the territorial southeast border should take a 45 degree turn as it reaches the sea, and then run in a latitudinal direction, i.e. parallel to the equator. Such an arrangement would be advantageous for Kenya, whose coastline of 536 km is more than 6 times smaller than Somalia's (3,333 km).

Why is this area important?

The triangular area thus created by the dispute is around 1.6 lakh sq km large, and boasts of rich marine reserves. It is also believed to have oil and gas deposits.

GS 3 :Economy, Science and Technology,Environment

5. The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021

In news

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021 recently.
- The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938.
- It increases the maximum foreign investment allowed in an insurance company from 49% to 74%.

Key takeaways

- The Act provides the framework for the functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity.
- The Bill also removes restrictions on ownership and control.
- Foreign investment may be subject to additional conditions as prescribed by the central government.
- The Act requires insurers to hold a minimum investment in assets which would be sufficient to clear their insurance claim liabilities.
- If the insurer is incorporated or domiciled outside India, such assets must be held in India in trust and vested with trustees who must be residents of India.

6. Government questions methodology and data accuracy of Global Hunger

Index:

Context:

The government has questioned **the methodology and data accuracy of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) report**, alleging that children considered healthy were also counted to determine the ranking.

- The government has already written to **NGO Welthungerhilfe**, which compiles the report, expressing concerns about their methodology, data accuracy and sample size and was yet to hear from them.

What's the issue?

In the latest report, India was ranked below countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar when it was among the top 10 food-producing countries in the world.

- India was ranked at the 94th position out of 107 countries that were studied.

What is Global Hunger Index?

The report is a peer-reviewed publication released annually by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.

- It tracks hunger at global, regional and national levels.

How are Countries ranked?

The GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger – insufficient caloric intake, child undernutrition, and child mortality – using four component indicators:

- **UNDERNOURISHMENT:** the share of the population that is under-nourished, reflecting insufficient caloric intake
- **CHILD WASTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (low weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
- **CHILD STUNTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- **CHILD MORTALITY:** the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Score:

The GHI **ranks countries on a 100-point scale**, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst. Values less than 10 reflect low hunger, values from 20 to 34.9 indicate serious hunger; values from 35 to 49.9 are alarming; and values of 50 or more are extremely alarming.

Key findings:

- India has **the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world**, which reflects acute undernutrition.

- The report put India under serious category with the score of 27.2.
- In the region of the south, east, and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, and North Korea.
- The child stunting rate in India was 37.4 %.
- The child wasting was at 17.3 %.
- The undernourishment rate of India was at 14% and child mortality at 3.7 %.

Prelims Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Ranthambhore Tiger Sanctuary:

1. It lies at the junction of Satpura and Vindhya ranges.
2. Kailadevi sanctuary is a part of Ranthambhore Tiger Sanctuary.
3. Chambal river and its tributary Banas drain the Ranthambhore National Park.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan state in Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts, at the **junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It comprises the **Ranthambore National Park** as well as Sawai Mansingh and **Kailadevi Sanctuaries. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - This isolated area with tigers in it represents the north-western limit of the Bengal tiger's distribution range and is an outstanding example of Project Tiger's efforts for conservation in the country.
- The **Chambal River** forms a natural boundary of the Ranthambore national park towards the east
 - To the northeast of the Ranthambhore national park, flows the river **Banas**, a tributary of Chambal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Gluten is naturally found in certain cereal grains.
2. Celiac disease is the severe form of gluten intolerance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer :C

Explanation

- Gluten is a family of storage proteins – formally known as prolamins – that are **naturally found in certain cereal grains**, such as wheat, barley etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The two main proteins in gluten are glutenin and gliadin.
- Gluten offers a variety of functional culinary benefits and is responsible for the soft, chewy texture that is characteristic of many gluten-containing, grain based foods.
- When heated, gluten proteins form an elastic network that can stretch and trap gas, allowing for optimal leavening or rising and maintenance of moisture in breads, pasta, and other similar products.
- **Celiac disease**, also spelled as coeliac disease, is the most **severe form of gluten intolerance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

3. With reference to the supplementary grant, consider the following statements:

1. The provision for supplementary grant is provided in Article 116 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The supplementary grant is regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only

- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : B

Explanation

- **Supplementary Grant** is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.
 - **Article 115** pertains to **supplementary**, additional or excess grants.
 - Article 116 of the Constitution pertains to Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are **regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4. Which of the following state has launched SAAMAR Campaign to tackle malnutrition?

- a. Kerala
- b. Bihar
- c. Chhattisgarh
- d. Jharkhand

Answer : d

SAAMAR Campaign

- Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction (SAAMAR) campaign aims to tackle malnutrition in Jharkhand.
- It will identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem in a state where malnutrition has been a major problem.
- SAAMAR has been launched with a 1000 days target, under which annual surveys will be conducted to track the progress.
- The campaign also tries to target Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- To tackle severe acute malnutrition children, every Anganwadi Centres will be engaged to identify these children and subsequently will be treated at the Malnutrition Treatment Centres.

- In the same process the anemic women will also be listed and will be referred to health centers in serious cases.
- It will start with every panchayat which will be treated as a unit and there will be 8-10 parameters to tackle the nutritional issue.

5. With respect to Affordable Approaches to Cancer Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aims at supporting high quality research that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in the participating countries.
2. It is a joint initiative of India and the United Kingdom (UK).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *incorrect*?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : d

- *The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a Cancer Research Initiative Affordable Approaches to Cancer in 2018.*

Affordable Approaches to Cancer Initiative

- The broad aim of the research initiative is to support high quality research to deliver innovative and translatable outputs that accelerate progress against cancer outcomes in both the countries, and which also have the potential to have major global impact.
- Under the initiative, the core challenges have been identified and seven seed grants have been awarded.
- The institutions involved from the Indian side include - Cachar Cancer Hospital & Research Centre; RTI International; Translational Health Science Technology Institute; Tata Memorial Hospital; All India Institute for Medical Sciences; Cochin Cancer Research Centre; Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute.

6. Consider the following pairs

1. Mausam App - Agromet advisory
2. Meghdoot App - Lightning Warning
3. Damini App - Weather forecast & Warning

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are *incorrectly* matched?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None of the above

Answer : c

1. Mausam App - Weather forecast & Warning
2. Meghdoot App - Agromet advisory
3. Damini App - Lightning Warning



Mains Practice Questions

1. Hydrogen is being dubbed as the alternative fuel. However, there are many problems associated with the leveraging of hydrogen technology. Discuss.

Approach

- Start the answer by briefly discussing the context of using hydrogen as an alternate fuel.
- Discuss the pros and cons of hydrogen as a source of energy.
- Conclude suitably.

2. Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.

Approach

- Start by briefly writing about judicial legislation and doctrine of separation of power.
- Discuss the rationale of judicial legislation with specific focus on PILs.
- Body of the answer must justify PILs.
- Conclude positively on PILs with a caution that it must not take the form of Judicial Overreach.

