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GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Project Sampoorna: A successful measure against malnutrition

Project Sampoorna's success in reducing child malnutrition is a model that can be easily implemented anywhere.

Project Sampoorna

- Project Sampoorna has been implemented in the Bongaigaon district of Assam.
- It aims to target Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- It was launched to target the mothers of SAM/ MAM children with the tagline being 'Empowered Mothers, Healthy Children'.
- It was based on the success of the community-based COVID-19 management model (Project Mili Juli).

Key features of the project

- Under this project, the mother of a healthy child of an Anganwadi Centre was paired with the target mother and they would be **Buddy Mothers**.
- They were usually neighbours and shared similar socioeconomic backgrounds.
- They were given diet charts to indicate the daily food intake of their children and would have discussions on all Tuesdays at the Anganwadi centres.
- 100 millilitres of milk and an egg on alternate days for the children for the first 3 months were provided so that their mothers could stabilise themselves in the newly found jobs.
- Children who had not improved were checked and treated by doctors under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

Success of the project

- This project has prevented at least 1,200 children from becoming malnourished over the last year.
- National Nutrition Mission and the State government recognised this project in the 'Innovation Category'.
- The mothers were enrolled in Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and were thus working.

2. Midday meal scheme

Flagging “critical” levels of malnutrition and anaemia among children, the Union Government has urged the states to explore the possibility of introducing millets in **the mid-day meal scheme, now known as PM Poshan.**

Need for and significance:

Millets or nutri-cereals, which include Jowar, Bajra, and Ragi, are rich in minerals and B-complex vitamins, as well as proteins and antioxidants, making them an ideal choice for improving the nutritional outcome of children.

The scheme **guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha.**

- Students **up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.**
- The Scheme comes under **the Ministry of HRD.**
- It was **launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP - NSPE)**, a centrally sponsored scheme. **In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.**
- The Scheme is also covered by **the National Food Security Act, 2013.**

Objective:

Address hunger and malnutrition, increase enrolment and attendance in school, improve socialisation among castes, provide employment at grassroot level especially to women.

The MDM rules 2015, provide that:

- **The place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.**
- **If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.**

- The School Management Committee mandated under **the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009** shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme.

Nutritional norms:

In terms of calorie intake, as per the MDM guidelines, the children in primary schools must be provided with at least 450 calories with 12 grams of protein through MDM while the children in upper primary schools should get 700 calories with 20 grams of protein, as per MHRD.

The food intake per meal by the children of primary classes, as provided by MHRD is 100 grams of food grains, 20 grams of pulses, 50 grams of vegetables and 5 grams of oils and fats. For the children of upper-primary schools, the mandated breakup is 150 grams of food grains, 30 grams of pulses, 75 grams of vegetables and 7.5 grams of oils and fats.

3. UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) recently held a meeting with the women activists and applauded their courage and affirmed that the UN will continue to stand by the people of Afghanistan.

UNAMA

- UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1401**.
- It was basically established **to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development**.
- Its original mandate was to support the implementation of **the Bonn Agreement** (December 2001).
- Reviewed annually, this mandate has been altered over time to reflect the needs of the country.
- **UNAMA is an integrated mission**. This means that the Special Political Mission, all UN agencies, funds and programmes, work in a multidimensional and integrated manner to better assist Afghanistan according to nationally defined priorities.

Bonn Agreement

- Bonn was a closed-door negotiation; participants were isolated, outside contact was limited during the negotiations, and there was no publicity until after the agreement was signed.
- The existing nominal head of state (Rabbani) was sidelined and did not participate, and the Taliban were completely excluded from the Bonn negotiations.
- The United Nations and several other international actors played major roles in pushing the negotiations forward, and the Bonn Agreement was blessed by the U.N. Security Council.

The Bonn Agreement set an ambitious three-year political and administrative roadmap which was, by and large, followed:

- The Emergency Loya Jirga (grand council) of June 2002 established the transitional administration, a new Constitution was ratified in early 2004, and presidential and parliamentary elections were held in 2004 and 2005.

What are UN special political missions?

The term 'Special Political Mission' encompasses entities that are not managed or directed by **the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)** such as the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

4. Caught in the crossfire

An Indian fisherman was killed in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) off the Gujarat coast.

Background

- According to the National Fishworkers Forum, there are 558 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails, and 74 from Pakistan in Indian prisons.
- Consular access to those in prison is difficult.
- In 2007, both countries formed a joint judicial committee comprising eight retired judges to facilitate the exchange of civilian prisoners.
- The mechanism has been defunct since 2013, and attempts to revive it in 2018 did not bear fruit.

- There are frequent conflicts over fishing rights along the International Maritime Boundary Line between India-Pakistan.

Concerns of Fishermen

- Fishermen often get caught in the fluctuating fate of the bilateral relations between the two countries, which is currently at a low.
- It is a tragedy that ordinary people could end up in a foreign prison while trying to earn their livelihood.
- Even fishermen venturing near the India-Sri Lanka maritime border often fall victim though both countries maintain cordial bilateral ties.
- Pakistan has aggressively sponsored violence in India, and terrorists trained by its agencies sailed in a hijacked Indian fishing boat in 2008 to Mumbai.
- Many Indian villages along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh are also theatres of conflict, as communities often find it difficult to reconcile with international borders that divide their traditional spheres of economic and social activities.

Conclusion

- This is a humanitarian issue, and India and Pakistan must work together to resolve it.
- Furthermore, both countries must avoid escalating tensions as a result of the recent occurrence.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

5. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report, 2021

The Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021 Index Rankings has been recently released.

LEADS

- The LEADS index was launched in 2018 by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and Deloitte.
- It ranks states on the score of their logistics services and efficiency that are indicative of economic growth.
- States are ranked based on quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing as well as on operational ease of logistics.

Highlights of the 2021 report

- India's logistics costs account for 13-14 per cent of GDP, compared to 7-8 per cent in developed countries.
- Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have emerged as the top performers in the LEADS 2021 index respectively.
- West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Assam were ranked 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st respectively.
- North Eastern States, and J&K and Ladakh have been considered a separate group for LEADS rankings.

6. 'GMC to forge solutions to key issues'

- The article examines some **major aspects of maritime security for India** as discussed by the Indian Navy chief on the sidelines of the ongoing Goa Maritime Conclave.

Major Challenges:

Increasing Chinese presence in IOR:

- From a security perspective, since independence, India has not faced any significant maritime threat. Much of the Indian maritime security focus was in terms of the relatively minor naval threat from Pakistan and non-traditional threats including piracy and terrorism. While these concerns remain, they have been overtaken by worries about China as an emerging IOR power, with a growing footprint in the region.
- China has been expanding its naval assets at a very fast pace. Apart from the increased forays into the IOR (Indian Ocean Region), the Chinese Navy also has a base in Djibouti. This is complemented by **China's growing maritime ties with countries in the IOR and increasing naval presence in the region.**
- China's growing Indian Ocean presence seems to be **contesting India's strategic role in the IOR.** It also poses **security threats for Indian assets in the region.**
- Also in a related development, **China has recently exported warships to Pakistan which are to be deployed in the Indian Ocean.** This is an indication of the increasingly close military cooperation between Pakistan and China, which analysts see as aimed at bolstering Pakistani capabilities in an **effort to balance India in the region.**
- The Indian Navy has been closely monitoring the Chinese Navy and its maritime assets deployed in the IOR. In addition, the Indian Navy is also

prioritising modernisation and revising operational philosophy to counter the Chinese challenge.

Narco terrorism:

- Available intelligence indicates that there is a flow of drugs from the Makran coast, down to the East coast of Africa, from where it moves to the island nations, which are tourism-dependent economies, and then to Sri Lanka and India and also across the world.
- Thus **sea bound drug trafficking** is a security threat to India more so in the aftermath of the recent developments in Afghanistan.
- There seems to be a **close nexus between drug trafficking and arms smuggling via sea routes in the Indian Ocean.**

Efforts of India in the maritime domain:

Naval exercises:

- India has been conducting regular naval exercises with both regional nations and also countries like the U.S., France, etc.
- The **Malabar exercise** including India, the U.S., Japan and Australia has continuously increased in scope and complexity. Such exercises by **ensuring interoperability** will allow the nations to coordinate operations seamlessly in case of any contingency or challenge.

Goa Maritime Conclave:

- Goa Maritime Conclave **brings together a small group of navies in the immediate neighbourhood**, considers common challenges and helps formulate tangible solutions to key issues. The GMC has grown as a platform.

Colombo Security Conclave:

- In order to tackle the threat of **sea-bound drug trafficking**, India is part of initiatives such as the Colombo Security Conclave, which involves focused operations with countries that are affected by drug trafficking.

Logistics agreements:

- India has signed logistics support agreements with several countries, including the U.S., Australia and Japan.
 - Military logistics agreements are merely administrative arrangements between strategic partners that would facilitate replenishment of fuel, rations, and spare parts, as well as berthing and

maintenance for each other's warships, military aircraft, and troops during port visits and joint exercises, on a reciprocal basis.

- The Navy stands to benefit from these agreements as they **will help acquire much-needed reach and sustenance for the Indian navy.**

Mission Based Deployments (MBD):

- India started Mission Based Deployments for the navy in 2017.
 - The Mission Based Deployments concept involves **deploying mission-ready ships and aircraft at major and sensitive locations** like critical sea lanes of communications and choke points to protect India's maritime interests.
- The MBD concept ensures Indian ships are on regular deployment in key areas in the IOR. This helps the **Indian Navy increase their familiarity with the area of operation**, helps assure friendly nations by being available for response in any situation and also helps the Indian Navy **establish its credibility as a net security provider in the IOR.**

Other efforts:

- India has been collaborating and cooperating with other nations in the IOR in the domain of **information-sharing, hydrographic cooperation**, maritime law enforcement, training, opportunities in **disaster response, crisis management, etc.**

7. New climate pledges barely affect global warming: UN

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Emissions Gap Report 2021** noted that the world is on track for a **global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century** while the Paris climate agreement had envisaged limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- The assessment of new emission pledges made at the ongoing COP26 climate summit, by the UNEP notes that they will do little to slow global warming.
- UNEP pointed that while **emissions must fall 45% by 2030 to keep temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius**, the member countries' renewed NDCs would see emissions climb 13.7% by 2030 before sharply declining thereafter.
- Noting that the most ambitious emission cuts are envisaged after 2030, the UN has called on nations to sharply accelerate their greenhouse gas cuts this decade.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Global Drug Policy Index inaugurated

The first-ever Global Drug Policy Index was recently inaugurated.

Global Drug Policy Index

- It is released by the Harm Reduction Consortium, ranks Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia as the five leading countries on humane and health-driven drug policies.
- It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
- It is composed of 75 indicators running across five broad dimensions of drug policy:
 1. Criminal justice
 2. Extreme responses
 3. Health and harm reduction
 4. Access to internationally controlled medicines and
 5. Development

Highlights of the 2021 ranking

- The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico.
- Norway, despite topping the Index, only managed a score of 74/100.
- And the median score across all 30 countries and dimensions is just 48/100.

India's performance

- India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries
- It has an overall score of 46/100.

2. Climate Change Performance Index, 2021

The 17th edition of the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021 was released recently.

About CCPI

- The CCPI is an independent monitoring tool for tracking countries' climate protection performance. It has been published annually since 2005.
- It is compiled by Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network.
- It evaluates 57 countries and the European Union, which together generate 90%+ of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Parameters of the index

- The CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).
- The CCPI's unique climate policy section evaluates countries' progress in implementing policies working towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals.

Highlights of the 2021 report

- The first three ranks of the overall rankings were kept empty because no country had performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating.
- The 2021 report places Sweden on top, while countries such as Morocco and the UK are also ranked high.
- The bottom-ranked country, the United States, therefore, was placed at 61.

Low performers

- Iran and Russia are ranked the lowest in this category.
- Overall, Australia, South Korea and Russia are among the lowest performing countries along with Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia.
- China is ranked 33 overall and has an overall rating of "low".

India's performance

- In the overall rankings, India is at number 10 with a score of 63.98.
- It is a high performer except in the renewable energy category, in which it is ranked "medium".

- The report says that India is benefiting from its relatively low per-capita emissions.
- In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, Sweden, Egypt, Chile and the UK are in the top 7. India is ranked 12.

3. SMILE Scheme

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated this scheme for Support for Marginalized Individuals.

About the scheme:

- “SMILE stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”.
- **Focus of the scheme is** on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, basic documentation, education, skill development, economic linkages etc.
- It **includes sub scheme** - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’.
- The scheme would be implemented with the support of State/UT Governments/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) , institutions and others.

Beggars In India:

1. According to the Census 2011 total number of beggars in India is 4,13,670 (including 2,21,673 males and 1,91,997 females) and the number has increased from the last census.
2. West Bengal tops the chart followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at number two and three respectively. Lakshadweep merely has two vagrants according to the 2011 census.
3. Among the union territories, New Delhi had the largest number of beggars 2,187 followed by 121 in Chandigarh.
4. Among the northeastern states, Assam topped the chart with 22,116 beggars, while Mizoram ranked low with 53 beggars.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

4. Net-zero presents many opportunities for India – and challenges

India joined the other G20 countries in making a “net-zero” commitment, setting 2070 as its target year.

Why was it important to sign up for net-zero?

- India’s topography – **its 7,000 km-long coastline**, the Himalayan glaciers in the north, and its rich forest areas which house natural resources like coal and iron ore – make the country uniquely vulnerable to climate change.
- An IMF study suggests that if emissions continue to rise this century, India’s real GDP per capita could fall by 10 per cent by 2100.
- India’s traditional position has been that since its per capita energy use is only a third of the global average, and it needs to continue to grow to fight poverty, costly energy reduction targets should not be applied to it.

Opportunities presented by India’s net-zero approach

- It could give a clear signal of India’s intentions and provide better access to international technology, funding and markets.
- We estimate that **60 per cent of India’s capital stock** – factories and buildings that will exist in 2040 – is yet to be built.
- The country can potentially leapfrog into new green technology, rather than being overburdened with “re-fitting” obligations.
- If India can now transition to green growth, it could create a more responsible and sustainable economy.
- If India’s exports achieve a “green stamp”, **they may find better market access**, especially if the world imposes a **carbon tax** on exports.
- Around 2-2.5 million additional jobs can be created in the renewables sector by 2050, taking the total number of people employed there to over 3 million.

Challenges

- The **finances of power distribution companies** need to be improved to fund the grid upgrades necessary for scaling up renewables.
- India needs a **coordinated institutional framework** that can help overcome multiple levels of complexity like federalism, fiscal constraints and bureaucracy.
- The **energy investment requirement will be high**, rising from about \$70-80 billion per year now to \$160 billion per year.

- While the private sector will be required to fund much of this, the government can play a pivotal role, especially in the early days.
- The transition years will be bumpy.
- **Inflation could be volatile** till renewables reached their full potential.

Conclusion

India is on the right track but needs to redouble its efforts to remove the obstacles.

5. Leonid's Meteor Shower

What is Leonid Meteor Shower?

- Meteor showers are named after the constellation they appear to be coming from.
- The Leonids originate from the constellation Leo the Lion- the groups of stars that form a lion's mane.
- They emerge from the comet Tempel-Tuttle, which requires 33 years to revolve once around the Sun.
- These meteors are bright and among the fastest moving- travelling at speeds of 71 km per second.
- During this year's showers, peaks of around 10 to 15 meteors are expected to be seen every hour.
- The Leonid showers include fireballs- bright and large meteors than can last longer than average meteors, and "earthgazers" - meteors which appear close to the horizon with colourful and long tails.

What is a meteor shower?

- On its journey around the Sun, the Earth passes through large swathes of cosmic debris.
- The debris is essentially the remnants of comets – great frigid chunks of matter that leave behind dirty trails of rocks and ice that linger long after the comets themselves have passed.
- As the Earth wades through this cloud of comet waste, the bits of debris create what appears from the ground to be a fireworks display in the sky – known as a meteor shower.
- Several meteor showers can be seen around the year. According to NASA, over 30 meteor showers occur annually and are observable from the Earth.

6. Froth formation in Yamuna

The visuals of devotees taking a dip in the froth-filled waters of the Yamuna River sent chills down the spine of the residents of Delhi.

What is Froth Formation?

- This is a phenomenon that takes place on many lakes and streams.
- Foam bubbles are produced when organic matter decomposes.
- These foam-producing molecules have one end that repels water and another that attracts water and they work to reduce the surface tension on the surface of the water.
- These foam bubbles are lighter than water, so they float on the surface as a thin film that gradually accumulates.

What causes the froth?

- The presence of phosphates and surfactants in untreated sewage from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is a major reason behind frothing.
- While these two components comprise of 1 per cent, the remaining 99 percent is air and water.

What are the sources of pollution that cause foam formation?

- Untreated sewage may contain soap-detergent particles.
- The other sources are industrial effluents, organic matter from decomposing vegetation, and the presence of filamentous bacteria.
- The pollution from the sugar and paper industries in Uttar Pradesh also causes pollution in the Yamuna.

What are its health hazards?

- Short-term exposure can lead to skin irritation and allergies.
- If ingested, these chemicals may cause gastrointestinal problems and diseases like typhoid.
- Long-term exposure to heavy metals in industrial pollutants can cause neurological issues and hormonal imbalances.

7. Integrated theatre commands:

In a fresh push towards the creation of theatre commands to fight the next wars in an integrated manner, **the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** under the

Defence Ministry has asked the three services to conduct studies on the structures of the new formations and submit their reports by April next year.

Background:

- India currently has **19 military commands with 17 of them service-oriented**. While both the Army and the Air Force have seven commands each, the Navy has three.
- India also has a **Tri-Service Command** – Andaman and Nicobar Command – besides **the Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**, which looks after the country's nuclear stockpile.

An integrated theatre command envisages a **unified command of the three Services, under a single commander**, for geographical areas that are of strategic and security concern.

- The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal – from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy – with seamless efficacy.
- The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services.

Why does India seek theatre commands?

- This will help in better planning and military response and also bring down cost.
- While the cost may go up in the immediate future since all theatres would have to be armed with sufficient systems, it will prove to be cost-effective in the long term as all acquisitions will be a unified one.
- It will provide a unified approach to fighting the future wars.

Proposals in this regard:

The need for a unified approach to war fighting was brought out in the deliberations after the 1999 Kargil battle.

- The Kargil Review Committee and the then Group of Ministers besides the Naresh Chandra Committee had called for structural changes in higher defence management.
- It was **the Shekatkar committee**, headed by Lt Gen. (retired) D.B. Shekatkar, which had recommended the creation of the post of CDS and theatre commands.

8. Challenges of Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles is considered as a major solution to a severe emissions problem but it is not without challenges.

Transport Sector & Emissions

- The transport sector is responsible for almost a quarter of direct carbon-dioxide emissions from burning fuel. Of that, passenger cars account for 45%.
- Emissions goes beyond tailpipe exhaust: Every step of making a vehicle's 20,000-30,000 parts, which involves a few thousand tonnes of aluminium, steel and other materials, produces emissions.

Issues with Electric Vehicles

- Electric Vehicles may eventually solve the tailpipe-emission problem, they don't address all the damage done to the environment while making them
- Compared with traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, **greenhouse gases released while making EVs** account for a higher portion of life-cycle emissions.
- As the EV gains momentum, battery production and research is powering ahead and sales are growing. That means **material emissions** will rise to over 60% by 2040 from 18% today.
- **Decarbonizing the production phase** of a car is harder than the use phase
- Currently battery units in EVs are heavy, increasing the total weight of the car, which in turn requires more energy to drive. To deal with this, carmakers are turning to aluminium for light-weight body designs, with EVs using 45% more of the Aluminium than traditional vehicles. **Emissions from aluminium have started rising** because it's energy-intensive to mine and produce.
- Companies try to make batteries that can take cars further, they are using nickel, cobalt and manganese, which generate still more greenhouse gases.
- The high greenhouse gas emissions in the car manufacturing supply chain are **"not even properly quantified"** by carmakers, because of poor disclosure of their suppliers' emissions data

Way Forward

- The best path forward starts with **better disclosure** on life-cycle emissions of EVs.
- There is need to make better EV batteries, so as to get more energy into a smaller, **lighter batteries**.
- There is need for realistic solutions like battery recycling, prioritizing types that use less carbon-intensive materials, or emission caps on the battery and electric vehicle manufacturing process.

Prelims Practice Questions

1. Sports person Emma Raducanu became famous throughout the world for which of the following achievements?

- a. She became the youngest tennis player to get to the world number 1 rank
- b. She became the first female tennis player to win both singles and doubles titles at Wimbledon
- c. She became the first singles qualifier to win a Grand Slam title
- d. She became the first female tennis player to win all the four grand slams in one single year

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Emma Raducanu is a British professional tennis player.
- Raducanu is the reigning US Open champion. By winning the US Open Championship, Raducanu became the first singles qualifier in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam title.

2. With reference to the Chicago Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It sets the standards for freedom of airspace.
2. It established the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

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

- Freedom of air rule emanates from the **Chicago Convention** in 1944.
- The signatories to the convention decided to set rules that would act as fundamental building blocks to **international commercial aviation. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It also **established the core principles permitting international transport by air**, and also led to the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).
 - ICAO is a **United Nations (UN)** specialized agency, established in 1944, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

3. As per NASA's definition, a meteor storm must have at least

- a. 100 meteors per hour
- b. 1,000 meteors per hour
- c. 10,000 meteors per hour
- d. 1,00,000 meteors per hour

Answer: b

Explanation:

- As per NASA's definition, a meteor storm must have at least 1000 meteors per hour.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Global Drug Policy Index 2021'

1. It is released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
2. The first edition of index was released in 2019.
3. India is ranked 18th in the index.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- Recently, the **inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021** was released by the **Harm Reduction Consortium**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - The **Harm Reduction Consortium** is a **global consortium of networks** aiming to challenge the global “**war on drugs**”, scale up access to harm reduction services, and advocate for increased resources for harm reduction.
 - It is a **first of its kind index** that ranks 30 countries drawn from across regions. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The index is a unique tool that documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies.
 - It provides each country with a score and ranking that shows how much their drug policies and their implementation align with the **United Nations principles of human rights, health and development**.
 - The Index provides an essential accountability and evaluation mechanism in the field of drug policy.
 - It evaluates the performance of 30 countries covering all regions of the world.
- India’s **rank is 18 out of 30 countries**. It has an overall score of 46/100. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

5 The Ninth Schedule was introduced in the Constitution of India during the prime ministership of

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru
- b. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- c. Indira Gandhi
- d. Morarji Desai

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Ninth Schedule became a part of the Constitution in 1951 when the Indian Constitution was amended for the first time.
- It was introduced by the Jawaharlal Nehru Government.
- It was created by the new Article 31B, which along with 31A was brought in by the government to protect laws related to agrarian reform and for abolishing the Zamindari system. While A. 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws, A. 31B shields specific laws or enactments.
- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2021:

1. It is released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. It ranks the states on the basis of quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing etc.
3. Gujarat has remained on top of the rankings for consecutively three years.

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

Answer : D

Explanation

- Recently, the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has released the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report (Index) 2021**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It was launched in 2018.
- The LEADS report is aimed at gauging the logistics performance of states and Union Territories (UT) and identifying areas where they can improve logistics performance.
 - States are **ranked based on quality and capacity of key infrastructure** such as road, rail and warehousing as well as on operational ease of logistics including security of cargo, speed of terminal services and regulatory approvals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The report is structured along the three dimensions which collectively influence logistics ease- Infrastructure, Services, and Operating and Regulatory Environment which are further categorised into 17 parameters.
- Ranking of States:
 - Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have emerged as the top performers in the LEADS 2021 index respectively.
 - This is the **third year in a row that Gujarat remained on top** of the rankings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Delhi stands at the top rank among Other UTs.
 - Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker among the north-eastern states and Himalayan region followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya.

Mains Practice Questions

1. People should not be considered as a mere headcount but as citizens having certain basic rights. Discuss the significance and challenges associated with the census in India. (250 Words)

Approach:

- Highlight the significance and challenges associated with the census in India.
- Highlight some measures to overcome them.

2. The moral compass of the society that is essential to enhance common good and well being of all has been losing relevance. Critically examine. (250 words)

Approach:

- Briefly state what constitute the moral values of society.
- Highlight the common good and well-being that can be accrued from such values.
- Highlight degeneration of common good by not following social moral values.
- Conclude by suggesting some measures to correct it.