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JUDICIAL TIMES

AUGUST 2023

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(AUGUST 2023)

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INDEX

S.NO	TOPIC	Pg. No.
1	CURRENT AFFAIRS	4
2	CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ'S	27
3	TRANSLATIONS	47 - 51
a	Hindi	47
b	English	50
4	LIST OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	52
5	GK MCQ'S	55
6	CASE STUDY	66

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. India's First Indigenous 700 MW Nuclear Reactor Starts Commercial Operation in Gujarat

- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector.
- The reactor, known as KAPP-3, began operating at 90 percent of its total power capacity on June 30, 2023, as confirmed by a senior official from KAPP.
- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is spearheading the development of two 700 MW PHWRs at Kakrapar, which is already home to two 220 MW power plants. The NPCIL has ambitious plans to construct a total of sixteen 700 MW PHWRs across the country and has received financial and administrative sanction for the initiative.

2. India handed over torch of Startup 20 to Brazil

- The Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, concluded successfully in Gurugram.
- This two-day summit served as a platform for fostering innovations, collaborations, knowledge sharing, and strategic alliances within the global startup ecosystem.
- The closing ceremony saw the official torch handover to Brazil, the next G20 presidency country, which committed to continuing the Startup20 initiative in 2024.

3. India Joins Champions Group of Global Crisis Response Group

- India received an invitation from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to join the Champions Group of the GCRG.
- This invitation highlights India's increasing global leadership and commitment to addressing contemporary global challenges.
- Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been designated as Sherpa to the GCRG process.

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- The Sherpas, including Verma, will hold a virtual meeting to discuss the agenda.

4. Nari Adalats: Women-Only Courts for Alternative Dispute Resolution

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development, under the Sambal sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, will implement the Nari Adalats.
- Initially launched as a pilot project in 50 villages in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, the initiative will expand to the entire country in the next six months.
- Implementation will be a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, and Common Service Centers operated by MeitY.
- The scheme draws inspiration from the Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats (People's Court of Women) previously run by the National Commission for Women.
- The Nari Adalats aim to focus on reconciliation, grievance redressal, and raising awareness of women's rights and entitlements.

5. Launch of 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' by Amit Shah

- Led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the CRCS - Sahara Refund Portal ensures that investors will recover their funds that were affected by scams.
- It addresses the concerns of individuals whose hard-earned money is stuck in the four Cooperative Societies of Sahara Group, which have previously not received adequate attention.
- This cooperative movement will provide millions of people who lack capital but have a strong desire to contribute to the nation's development with a practical and viable avenue to fulfill their aspirations.

6. India donates \$1 million to promote Hindi at UN

- India's Permanent Representative, Ruchira Kamboj, presented the donation cheque and reaffirmed India's commitment to promoting the use of Hindi at the United Nations.
- She highlighted the efforts made by the UN to mainstream and consolidate news and multimedia content in Hindi, which have been well-received both in India and among Hindi-speaking populations in other countries.

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7. India supports U.N. on Black Sea initiative

- In response to the food crisis, Turkey and the UN mediated the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July 2022.
- The agreement allowed three Ukrainian Black Sea ports (Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Pivdennyi) to export commercial fertilizer and food.
- Teams from Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, and the UN were involved in inspecting ships leaving these ports, ensuring safe navigation through a predetermined path to Istanbul, avoiding minefields.

8. Phangnon Konyak becomes first woman MP from Nagaland to preside over Rajya Sabha.

- S. Phangnon Konyak, an Indian politician hailing from Nagaland, holds the position of State President of BJP Mahila Morcha in her region. In a historic moment, she earned the distinction of being the first woman from Nagaland to secure a seat as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.
- In addition to being the first female Rajya Sabha MP in April 2022, S. Phangnon Konyak achieved another groundbreaking milestone on July 17, 2023, by becoming the inaugural woman member to be appointed to the panel of vice-chairpersons.

9. 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to be launched in run-up to Independence Day

- In this month, in Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, PM Modi announced the launching of "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign to honor the bravehearts and programmes will be organised across the country in memory of those who laid down their lives for the country.
- During the campaign of "Meri Mati Mera Desh", an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out. This 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' will reach Delhi, carrying the soil in 7,500 Kalash from villages and various corners of the country. This yatra will also carry plants from various parts of the country. An 'Amrit Vatika' will be built close to the National War Memorial from these 7,500 Kalash of soil and plants.

10. Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy

- The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram

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at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. New Zealand becomes first country to ban plastic produce bags

- New Zealand has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the first country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.
- This move will extend beyond bags, as it also includes banning of plastic straws and silverware. This significant move aligns with the government's ongoing campaign against single-use plastics, which began in 2019 with the prohibition of thicker plastic shopping bags.
- New Zealand always had a significant problem regarding the excessive generation of plastic waste, which requires urgent attention and effective solutions. The 2019 bag ban alone prevented over 1 billion plastic bags from being used in the country

2. Iran Becomes Full Member of SCO: Key Highlights from the India-Hosted Summit

- Iran has officially become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on this significant occasion.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the people of Iran on Iran's full membership in the SCO. He also welcomed Belarus' SCO membership, as indicated by the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations.
- PM Modi highlighted the growing interest of other countries in joining the SCO, emphasizing the organization's importance.

3. What is Global South?

- The Ukraine war has led to the increased recognition of the term "Global South" as many influential countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have shown hesitation in aligning themselves with NATO.

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- The term “Global South” refers to a diverse group of countries located primarily in the southern hemisphere, encompassing Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region. It represents a confluence of political, geopolitical, and economic resemblances among nations. Historically, these nations have faced numerous challenges, including poverty, political instability, and underdevelopment.
 - The term “Global South” originated in 1969 when political activist Carl Oglesby introduced it. Its popularity grew significantly following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, which marked the conclusion of the “Second World” era.
4. **UAE becomes first Arab country to get observer status on Asian-Pacific Money Laundering**
- UAE or United Arab Emirates is participating with observer status in the plenary of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), a Financial Action Task Force-Style regional body (FSRB), taking place this week in Vancouver, Canada. The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted observer status at the APG
 - The UAE delegation to the plenary is led by Hamid Al Zaabi, Director-General of the Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (EO AML/CTF), and includes representatives from the UAE Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and other governmental authorities.
5. **Saudi Arabia becomes 51st country to sign ASEAN’s TAC**
- Jakarta, Indonesia – On the sidelines of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta, Saudi Arabia has officially become the 51st country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).
 - With the signing of the TAC, Saudi Arabia demonstrates a strong commitment to adhere to the values and principles of ASEAN as embodied in the treaty. The TAC calls for cooperation, collaboration, and upholding international law to promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia and beyond.
6. **Japan becomes second Quad partner to sign semiconductor pact with India**
- India and Japan have solidified their partnership by signing an agreement to jointly develop the semiconductor ecosystem. The deal aims to bolster the resilience of the global supply chain, particularly in the crucial semiconductor industry.

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- The memorandum signed by Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Yasutoshi Nishimura, encompasses various areas of collaboration.
- These include semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment research, and talent development.

7. Russia bans sex change and transgender marriages

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the LGBTQ+ community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia's embattled LGBTQ+ population.
- The new legislation imposes a comprehensive ban on various aspects related to gender changes.
- It prohibits any medical interventions aimed at altering a person's sex and also bars individuals from changing their gender in official documents or public records.
- Only medical intervention to treat congenital anomalies will be allowed under the new law.
- Furthermore, the legislation goes beyond restricting gender changes and extends its impact to marriages and family planning.

8. Why UNESCO wants a global smartphone ban in schools

- UNESCO urged to ban the worldwide use of smartphones in schools in order to curtail classroom disruption and encourage better learning outcomes
- The main reason behind the UNESCO's decision to worldwide prohibition on smartphones in schools is to reduce the dependence on digital technology and encourage better learning outcomes.

9. Scotsman James Skea elected new IPCC chair in Nairobi

- James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea of the United Kingdom was elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in Nairobi, Kenya. Skea beat his nearest rival, Thelma Krug of Brazil, in a run-off.

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- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a United Nations body established in 1988. It is a scientific organization responsible for assessing and providing objective information on climate change, its impacts, and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies.
 - The IPCC operates through the collaboration of thousands of scientists from around the world who volunteer to contribute their expertise and research.
10. **The Bank of Israel joins the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR)**
- ICCR has been established by the World Bank in 2009 with the support of Bank for International Standards (BIS).
 - The chairperson of ICCR is Jean Pesme.
 - The main aim of ICCR is to create international credit reporting standards.
 - ICCR includes representatives of central banks around the world and private financial regulators.
 - The ICCR supports a broad, forward-looking approach to issues in the world of credit reporting, achieving consensus regarding policy aspects that affect the public interests.

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ECONOMICS

1. Gross GST Collection in June Reaches ₹1.61 Trillion, Marking Fourth Occurrence Above ₹1.60 Trillion

- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection for the month of June reached ₹1.61 trillion, according to the Ministry of Finance
- This amount represents a significant 12% increase compared to the revenue collected from GST in the same month of the previous year
- It is also noteworthy that this is the fourth time the gross GST collection has surpassed the ₹1.60 trillion mark since the introduction of GST.

2. India's External Debt Reaches \$624.7 Billion at End-March 2023

- India's external debt has witnessed a slight increase, reaching USD 624.7 billion at the end of March 2023, according to data released by the Reserve Bank.
- The external debt of India rose by USD 5.6 billion compared to the previous year, when it stood at USD 619.1 billion as of March 2022
- As of March 2023, long-term debt (with an original maturity of over one year) amounted to USD 496.3 billion, registering a decline of USD 1.1 billion compared to March 2022.

3. India FDI Inflow in FY 2023: Latest Data Analysis on Investment Landscape

- India remains a bright spot in the world economy despite a decrease in FDI due to global headwinds.
- India's growth factors include a large labor market, enabling policies, and an expanding digital economy.
- India received its highest-ever FDI inflow of US\$83.57 billion in the fiscal year 2021-2022.
- However, FY 2023 saw a drop in FDI inflows due to global uncertainties.
- Total FDI inflows in FY 2023 amounted to US\$70.97 billion.

4. Net Direct Tax Collection Grows 16% to Rs 4.75 Lakh Crore in FY24: Income Tax Department

- The net direct tax collection in the current fiscal year has witnessed a significant growth of 16%, reaching Rs 4.75 lakh crore, indicating a surge in economic activity.
- According to the Income Tax department, this collection represents 26.05% of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the full 2023-24 fiscal, which is set at Rs 18.23 lakh crore.

5. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) Report, 2022

- The third edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for States/UTs of India for the year 2022 is set to be released by NITI Aayog on July 17, 2023.
- This index assesses the export performance of Indian states and UTs, considering the global trade context in FY22. The report emphasizes the importance of developing districts as export hubs and conducts a district-level analysis of merchandise exports in the country.

6. India to Surpass US and Become World's 2nd Largest Economy by 2075: Goldman Sachs Report

- Goldman Sachs analysts project India to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075.
- The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075.
- China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s.
- India's burgeoning population and progress in innovation and technology are driving its economic forecast.
- Higher capital investment and rising worker productivity contribute to India's economic growth.
- The country's dependency ratio is expected to be one of the lowest among regional economies

7. ADB keeps India's FY24 growth forecast at 6.4% banking on demand strength

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently projected India's economic growth to moderate in the current financial year, FY24, to 6.4 per cent, down from the 6.8 per cent expansion witnessed in FY23.
- The slowdown is attributed to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices. However, ADB remains optimistic about India's economic prospects, expecting growth to accelerate to 6.7 per cent in FY25.

8. India's forex reserves breach \$600 billion-mark, hover around 15-month high

- India's foreign exchange reserves have recorded their most substantial weekly surge in four months, witnessing a remarkable increase of \$12.74 billion, reaching an impressive total of \$609.02 billion, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI highlighted that Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs) played a pivotal role in the surge, surging by \$11.19 billion to an impressive total of \$540.17 billion.
- FCAs, expressed in dollar terms, take into account the appreciation or depreciation of non-US units such as the euro, pound, and yen, held within the foreign exchange reserves.
- Moreover, the nation's gold reserves also rose significantly by \$1.14 billion, reaching \$45.20 billion.

9. SEBI Introduces Framework for Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced the establishment of the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF). This fund, regulated by SEBI, is designed to function as a 'backstop facility,' providing support during stressed market conditions by purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities.
- The primary purpose of the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) is to instill confidence among market participants during periods of market stress.

- The working group responsible for establishing the CDMDF included representatives from different mutual funds, the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), and the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

10. Government Releases Draft Framework for India's First Carbon Market

- The Indian government has taken a significant step towards establishing India's first carbon market by notifying a draft framework for the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023. The framework outlines the regulatory structure and key stakeholders responsible for the formation and functioning of the carbon market.
- The draft framework establishes a National Steering Committee responsible for overseeing the operations of the carbon market. The committee will be headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Power and will include key representatives from various ministries, including Environment, Finance, New and Renewable Energy, Steel, Coal, Petroleum, and Niti Aayog.
- The CERC will serve as the regulatory body for all trading activities within the Indian carbon market. It will ensure compliance, monitor trading activities, and enforce regulations to maintain market integrity.
- Grid-India: Grid-India will act as the registry for the carbon market. It will maintain a record of carbon credits, transactions, and participant information, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- The BEE will assume the role of the carbon market administrator. It will develop procedures and eligibility criteria for accrediting carbon verification agencies.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. India launches Bharat 6G Alliance

- India has taken a significant stride forward in the field of telecommunications, with the acquisition of over 200 patents for 6G technology. The announcement was made by the Communications and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, during the launch of the Bharat 6G Alliance in New Delhi
- To offer enhanced capabilities such as improved reliability, ultra-low latency, and affordable solutions
- To revolutionise communication by providing speeds nearly 100 times faster than 5G
- To open up exciting possibilities for the development of novel communication application
- Recognizing the rapidly evolving nature of the telecom sector and the importance of staying ahead of technological obsolescence, the Department of Telecommunications launched the Bharat 6G Alliance.

2. Chandrayaan-3 Launch Date and Time

- India's lunar mission Chandrayaan 3 was launched on July 14, at 2:35 P.M. from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota announced by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- India's lunar spacecraft is set to achieve a remarkable feat by landing at the moon's South Pole, a location where the presence of water molecules was discovered during India's inaugural moon mission in 2008. This groundbreaking revelation had captivated the global audience at the time
- India is striving to become the fourth country to accomplish a gentle touchdown on the Moon, following the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Israel. Out of these nations, all except Israel were able to successfully achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface. If Chandrayaan-3 accomplishes a successful soft landing on the Moon, India will join this exclusive group as the fourth nation to reach this significant milestone.

3. Elena Introduces India's First NavIC

- In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC).
- The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railway, land survey, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.

4. ESA launches 'Euclid Space Telescope' to review solar system bodies

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has recently launched the Euclid Space Telescope, a specially designed instrument aimed at revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. This state-of-the-art telescope will enable scientists to create a detailed three-dimensional map of billions of galaxies spread across a vast area of 10 billion light-years.
- The primary objective of the Euclid Space Telescope is to construct the most accurate three-dimensional map of the universe to date. Over its projected six-year mission, it will observe billions of galaxies spanning an immense area of 10 billion light-years.

5. Elon Musk Reveals xAI to Challenge OpenAI

- SpaceX founder, Elon Musk, the well-known billionaire entrepreneur recognized for his accomplishments in electric vehicles, space exploration, and social media, has introduced his highly anticipated artificial intelligence startup, xAI.
- The primary objective of the company is to disrupt the dominance of major technology corporations in the AI industry, with a particular focus on developing an alternative to OpenAI's ChatGPT.
- Musk registered a new company called X.AI Corp, based in Nevada, with himself as the sole director. This move indicates Musk's dedication to exploring AI technology further. Musk previously hinted at the launch of TruthGPT, an AI model focused on seeking maximum truth, aiming to rival Google's Bard and Microsoft's Bing AI, both designed to understand the universe's intricacies.

6. **Twitter replaces iconic bird logo with 'X'**

- Elon Musk, owner of Twitter launched the new logo of Twitter 'X' by replacing the iconic bird logo. The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app".
- Twitter official account-@Twitter has also been changed in the rebrand and is now named 'X', showing just the new logo as a profile picture and a bio reading "What's happening?!"
- Mobile apps still appear to feature the blue bird though it is likely this will change once they are updated.

7. **CERT--In cautions against ransomware 'Akira' attack**

- A new Internet ransomware virus called 'Akira' has surfaced in cyberspace, designed to steal crucial personal information and encrypt data, thereby coercing individuals into paying ransom money.
- This ransomware operates by targeting both Windows and Linux-based systems. Initially, the group gains unauthorized access to victims' environments, particularly through VPN services lacking multi-factor authentication. Once inside, they proceed to steal sensitive information from the victims.
- After extracting the data, the ransomware executes a two-pronged attack. Firstly, it encrypts the victim's files, effectively blocking their access to their own data and system. To coerce the victim into paying the ransom, the attackers engage in double extortion tactics.

8. **Gaganyaan Human spaceflight mission: ISRO successfully tested service module propulsion system**

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully tested Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission on 19th July at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- It involves sending a crew of three members to a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth, with a planned landing in Indian Sea Waters.
- Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission has been successfully tested by ISRO on 19th July. It send a crew of three members to a 400 km orbit for a three-day mission

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and bringing them back safely to Earth with a planned landing in Indian Sea Waters.

9. ISRO to launch PSLV-C56 with six co-passenger satellites

- ISRO to launch PSLV-C56 with six co-passenger satellite on 30th July at 6:30 AM from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organization has announced the launching of PSLV-C56 which will carry Singapore's DS-SAR satellite with 6 co-passengers satellites on 30th July at 6:30 AM from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

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DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Lt Gen M U Nair appointed as new National Cybersecurity Coordinator

- The government has named Lt Gen M U Nair as the newly appointed National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC). Lt Gen Nair, who took on the role of the 28th Signal Officer-in-Chief in July 2022, brings a wealth of experience and expertise in the areas of cyber warfare, signal intelligence, and communication and information technology.
- His appointment follows the footsteps of his predecessor, Lt Gen Rajesh Pant, a seasoned veteran from the Corps of Signals of the Indian Army, who previously served as the NCSC chief. Lt Gen Nair now becomes the third individual to hold the position of cyber security chief, succeeding Lt Gen Pant and the inaugural chief, Gulshan Rai.

2. JAPAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE 2023 (JIMEX 23)

- The Harbour Phase will focus on professional, sports, and social interactions between the participating units. It provides an excellent opportunity for personnel from both navies to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen their bonds.
- Following the Harbour Phase, the exercise will transition to the sea phase, where the two navies will jointly hone their warfighting skills and enhance interoperability. This phase will witness complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface, and air domains.

3. India-US Joint Operation 'Broader Sword' Halts Illegal Drug Shipments via International Mail System

- India and the United States recently joined forces in Operation Broader Sword, a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS).
- The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.

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- Under Operation Broader Sword, law enforcement agencies from both countries, including India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), worked together to target and halt the smuggling of dangerous and unauthorized pharmaceuticals, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors through International Mail Facilities (IMF).

4. India-Mongolia joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant - 2023"

- A group of 43 Indian Army personnel departed for Mongolia today to take part in the 15th edition of the joint military exercise called "NOMADIC ELEPHANT-23." The exercise is set to occur in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from July 17th to July 31st, 2023. NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event between India and Mongolia, held alternately in both countries.

5. J&K: Operation Trinetra II to neutralise hiding terrorists continue

- Jammu-Kashmir continues Operation Trinetra-II in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil on 17th July to neutralize hiding terrorists.
- A joint search and cordon operation of the army and the police named Operation Trinetra II to track down the terrorists hiding in Jammu-Kashmir's border of district Poonch.
- Operation Trinetra-II has been launched on 17th July afternoon in Sindarah and Maidana of Surankote tehsil which led to an immense gunfight with hiding terrorists.

6. The Indian Navy Quiz "G20 THINQ"

- The Indian Navy has launched the second edition of "G20 THINQ" with the aim of uniting young individuals from diverse regions and geographies, fostering lasting friendships among them
- The second edition of "G20 THINQ" has been launched by the Indian Navy and the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA), with the support of the G20 Secretariat. Its purpose is to unite youth from diverse regions and geographies, fostering lasting friendships with the spirit of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' - World is One Family.

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- The Quiz has been designed as a national and international competition and offers a distinctive and enriching experience for students studying in Classes IX to XII and their equivalents.
- 7. Australia's largest bilateral military exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 begins**
- Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with United States, Exercise Talisman Sabre, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra. Now in its tenth edition, 2023 is the largest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of its geographical area and the number of participating partners.
 - The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and develop strong relationships between participating military forces.
- 8. 85th CRPF Raising Day Observed on 27 July 2023**
- A parade will be held at the CRPF's headquarters in Delhi.
 - A wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the National Police Memorial in Delhi.
 - A blood donation camp will be organized at all CRPF camps across the country.
 - A number of cultural events will be organized, including a music concert and a dance performance.
 - The 85th Raising Day of the CRPF is a proud moment for the force and for the nation. The CRPF has played a vital role in protecting the nation, and it continues to be a symbol of strength and resilience.

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. **Renowned children's writer and performance poet, Michael Rosen**, aged 77, has been honored with the esteemed PEN Pinter Prize 2023.
2. **Rajindar Singh Dhatt Receives Points of Light Award**
 - Rajindar Singh Dhatt, the driving force behind the "Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association" has been honored with the prestigious Points of Light award for his exceptional service and relentless efforts to bring together British Indian war veterans. Dhatt demonstrated his dedication to serving his country by joining the British Indian Army during the Second World War.
3. **Britian Gave Environmental award to Indian Conservationists**
 - King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom recently presented the prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists. The award ceremony recognized filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves, the creative mind behind the Oscar-winning documentary "The Elephant Whisperers," and the Real Elephant Collective
4. **India's mining major, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), was honored with two prestigious awards at the ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards 2023** held in Kolkata. The company received the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' in recognition of its significant contributions to the mining sector and its exemplary human resources practices.
5. **President of India to present the "Bhoomi Samman" 2023**

On July 18, 2023, the President of India will bestow the prestigious "Bhoomi Samman" awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards will be presented to 9 State Secretaries and 68 District Collectors, along with their teams, who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in implementing the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) - a crucial component of governance.

6. **The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRL) has received the SKOCH Award under the theme “State of Governance India 2047”** in Gold category for its outstanding efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory.
7. **Honorary doctorate to be conferred on Communist leader N. Sankaraiah**
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has announced that veteran communist leader N. Sankaraiah will receive an Honorary Doctorate from Madurai Kamaraj University.
8. **SJVN bags 1st Prize in Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by MoP**
SJVN Limited has been honored with the 1st Prize in the Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2023 by the Ministry of Power. NL Sharma, the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN, received the award from Pankaj Agarwal, the Secretary of the Ministry of Power, during a ceremony held in New Delhi.
9. **Prof Thalappil Pradeep wins the prestigious International Eni Award**
Prof. Thalappil Pradeep from the Department of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras has been honored with the prestigious ‘Eni Award,’ a highly regarded global recognition for scientific research in the fields of energy and environment. Established in 2007, this is the 15th edition of the Eni Award.

SPORTS NEWS

1. Max Verstappen, the reigning Formula One champion, continued his impressive performance by securing a commanding victory at the Austrian Grand Prix 2023.
2. **132nd Durand Cup tournament to be organized in Kolkata**
 - The 132nd edition of the Durand Cup, India's oldest football tournament is scheduled to commence at Kolkata from 03 August to 03 September 2023.
3. **Lallianzuala Chhangte wins AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award for 2022 - 23**
 - Indian football team midfielder Lallianzuala Chhangte was named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23 while Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.
4. **Cricketer Ajit Agarkar appointed chairman of Senior Men's Selection Committee**
 - The Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI) has appointed Ajit Agarkar as the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee.
5. **Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal announces retirement**
 - Bangladesh one-day captain Tamim Iqbal announced his shock retirement from international cricket, three months before the team begins its ODI World Cup campaign in India.
6. **Netherlands men team wins second FIH Hockey Pro League title**
 - Netherlands men team finish their season four campaign on 35 points, making them champions of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season. With this win, Netherlands become the first team in the men's competition to win a second title, successfully defending their first title, won in the competition last year.

K A R A T **JUDICIAL TIMES**

7. Max Verstappen Claims Victory at British Grand Prix 2023

- Max Verstappen reeled off his sixth straight wins British Grand Prix with Lando Norris for McLaren in second. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton completed the Silverstone podium.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ'S

1. Utah Mountains, which were seen in the news for Watermelon Snow, is situated in which country?
 - a) Russia
 - b) Ukraine
 - c) USA
 - d) Indonesia
2. 'Kharchi Puja' is observed in which state/UT?
 - a) Tripura
 - b) Assam
 - c) West Bengal
 - d) Odisha
3. Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft is associated with which space agency?
 - a) ISRO
 - b) NASA
 - c) CAN
 - d) JAXA
4. Which state/UT is implementing the 'Anna Bhagya scheme'?
 - a) Karnataka
 - b) Telangana
 - c) Goa
 - d) Rajasthan
5. Which Union Ministry announced '5G & Beyond Hackathon 2023'?
 - a) Ministry of Communication
 - b) Ministry of Science and Technology
 - c) Ministry of MSME
 - d) Ministry of External Affairs
6. Which country announced USD 74 million assistance package to Ukraine?
 - a) Indonesia
 - b) Australia
 - c) New Zealand

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- d) USA
7. Pinanga subterranean, which city has ability to flower and fruit below ground, belongs to which plant species?
- a) Palm
 - b) Mango
 - c) Coconut
 - d) Potato
8. What is Aspartame, which was mentioned by the World Health Organisation (WHO)?
- a) Sugar Substitute
 - b) Human Enzyme
 - c) Anti AIDS Drug
 - d) Bird Disease
9. What is a country's disparity between the exports and imports of goods and services called?
- a) Budget Deficit
 - b) Current Account Deficit
 - c) Gross Domestic Product
 - d) Gross National Product
10. When is the International Day of Parliamentarism observed by the United Nations?
- a) June 30
 - b) July 1
 - c) July 5
 - d) July 10
11. Researchers from which country have developed a new tool called the Data Carbon Ladder?
- a) India
 - b) Brazil
 - c) UK
 - d) USA
12. As per a recent report, how many children and adolescents lose their lives due to infectious diseases annually?

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- a) Three Million
 - b) Five Million
 - c) Ten Million
 - d) Fifteen Million
13. Which institution released a consultation paper on Consolidated Cyber Security and Cyber Resilience Framework (CSCRF)?
- a) NITI Aayog
 - b) SEBI
 - c) RBI
 - d) NASSCOM
14. 'Mission Vatsalya' which was seen in the news, is associated with which Union Ministry?
- a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 - b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - c) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - d) Ministry of MSME
15. Where was the 7th edition of SALVEX between the Indian Navy and the US Navy held recently?
- a) Visakhapatnam
 - b) Kochi
 - c) Andaman and Nicobar
 - d) Lakshadweep
16. When is the World Kiswahili Language Day celebrated every year by the UN?
- a) July 1
 - b) July 5
 - c) July 7
 - d) July 15
17. Compton-Belkovich is a volcanic complex on the far side of which celestial body?
- a) Earth
 - b) Moon
 - c) Sun
 - d) Venus

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18. Which institution released the report titled 'Twenty Years of Child Trafficking Data'?
- a) IOM
 - b) NITI Aayog
 - c) UNDP
 - d) UNICEF
19. Edgars Rinkēvičs, who was seen in the news recently, is the President of which country?
- a) Italy
 - b) Germany
 - c) Latvia
 - d) Belarus
20. Justine Henin, who was seen in the news, was a famous sportsperson playing which sports?
- a) Football
 - b) Tennis
 - c) Basket Ball
 - d) Cricket
21. Which institution has been working on 'Internationalisation of rupee'?
- a) NITI Aayog
 - b) RBI
 - c) SEBI
 - d) NPCI
22. Where was the "AI for Good global summit" held?
- a) Geneva
 - b) New Delhi
 - c) Los Angeles
 - d) Perth
23. Which body released the report titled 'Uncovering the Invisible: Successes and Challenges for Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe'?
- a) LIFE SWiPE project
 - b) ESA
 - c) UNEP

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- d) FAO
24. Compton-Belkovich is a volcanic complex on the far side of which celestial body?
- Earth
 - Moon
 - Sun
 - Venus
25. Which institution released the report titled 'Twenty Years of Child Trafficking Data'?
- IOM
 - NITI Aayog
 - UNDP
 - UNICEF
26. Which Union Ministry achieved a Guinness World Record for 'largest display of Lambani items'?
- Ministry of MSME
 - Ministry of Culture
 - Ministry of External Affairs
 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
27. How many people were lifted out of poverty in India from 2005-06 to 2019-21, as per the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?
- 215 million
 - 315 million
 - 415 million
 - 515 million
28. Which country announced a national emergency, in response to a sharp increase in Guillain-Barré syndrome cases?
- China
 - North Korea
 - Peru
 - Chile
29. Which Indian company has collaborated with Spain's Navantia for Indian Navy's P75 (I) Submarine Program Bid?

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- a) Larsen and Toubro
 - b) HAL
 - c) DRDO
 - d) BHEL
30. What is the peculiarity of the LTT9779b exo-planet recently discovered?
- a) It is the most reflective planet
 - b) It is the farthest planet
 - c) It is the biggest planet
 - d) It is the heaviest planet
31. Which institution has developed the book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence'?
- a) NABARD
 - b) FCI
 - c) FAO
 - d) FSSAI
32. Mines and Minerals Act was enacted in which year in India?
- a) 1882
 - b) 1902
 - c) 1942
 - d) 1957
33. Which city is the host of 'MEIDAM 2023' Exhibition?
- a) New York
 - b) New Delhi
 - c) Dubai
 - d) Berlin
34. Nomadic Elephant is a military exercise between India and which country?
- a) Bangladesh
 - b) Mongolia
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) France
35. Which state/UT introduced the 'School boat' service?
- a) Assam
 - b) Tripura

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- c) West Bengal
 - d) Karnataka
36. Which country is hosting the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023?
- a) India
 - b) Japan
 - c) USA
 - d) New Zealand
37. ISRO is jointly developing a nuclear-powered engine along with which institution?
- a) BARC
 - b) DRDO
 - c) HAL
 - d) BHEL
38. Which Tennis player won the Wimbledon men's single title in 2023?
- a) Novak Djokovic
 - b) Rafael Nadal
 - c) Carlos Alcaraz
 - d) Stephano Tsitsipas
39. Which country has handed over 105 antiquities to India?
- a) UK
 - b) USA
 - c) Australia
 - d) France
40. 'Tankai method', which was seen in the news, is associated with which process?
- a) Afforestation
 - b) Ship building
 - c) Map making
 - d) Painting
41. 'Price Stabilisation Fund' is associated with which Union Ministry?
- a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
 - b) Ministry of Finance
 - c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - d) Ministry of MSME

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42. Magellanic penguins prevalently breed in which country?
- a) India
 - b) Argentina
 - c) South Africa
 - d) Australia
43. Which Indian becomes fifth highest run-scorer in international cricket, after surpassing South Africa's Jacques Kallis?
- a) Ravindra Jadeja
 - b) Rohit Sharma
 - c) Virat Kohli
 - d) Shubman Gill
44. Which position was bagged by the Indian shooters as a team in the Junior World Championship?
- a) First
 - b) Second
 - c) Third
 - d) Fifth
45. What is the name of the internet ransomware virus, regarding which CERT-In issued an advisory?
- a) Agata
 - b) Akira
 - c) Aira
 - d) Alima
46. Leon Marchand, who was seen in the news, is associated with which sports?
- a) Tennis
 - b) Swimming
 - c) Cricket
 - d) Shooting
47. Which state has unveiled its dedicated Semiconductor Policy (2022-2027)?
- a) Telangana
 - b) Gujarat
 - c) Odisha
 - d) West Bengal

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48. The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023, seeks to propose to set up which entity?
- a) National Dental Commission
 - b) Union Dental Authority
 - c) Dental Colleges Regulatory Authority
 - d) Dentists Regulatory Authority
49. X-59, also known as the 'Son of Concorde, is an experimental supersonic aircraft of which country?
- a) Russia
 - b) China
 - c) USA
 - d) UAE
50. 'Worldcoin project', which was seen in the news, is associated with which field?
- a) Sports
 - b) Cryptocurrency
 - c) Defence
 - d) Gender Equality
51. What was the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in June 2023 in India?
- a) 1.61 crore
 - b) 1.61 lakh crore
 - c) 1.61 billion
 - d) 1.61 trillion
52. What was the total external debt of India at the end of March 2023?
- a) \$624.1 billion
 - b) \$624.7 billion
 - c) \$619.1 billion
 - d) \$619.7 billion
53. What was the central government's fiscal deficit as a percentage of the annual target at the end of May 2023?
- a) 11.8%
 - b) 12.3%
 - c) 13.9%
 - d) 15.3%

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54. What is the estimated fiscal deficit at March-end 2024, as per the Budget?
- Rs 2.1 lakh crore
 - Rs 6.25 lakh crore
 - Rs 1.1 lakh crore
 - Rs 17.86 lakh crore
55. What is the average monthly gross GST collection for the first quarter of FY22, FY23, and FY24?
- 1.10 lakh crore, 1.51 lakh crore, and 1.69 lakh crore, respectively
 - 1.69 lakh crore, 1.51 lakh crore, and 1.10 lakh crore, respectively
 - 1.51 lakh crore, 1.69 lakh crore, and 1.10 lakh crore, respectively
 - 1.10 lakh crore, 1.10 lakh crore, and 1.10 lakh crore, respectively
56. From where will Chandrayaan-3 be launched?
- Chandipur, India
 - Sriharikota, India
 - Thumba, India
 - Bengaluru, India
57. What did Chandrayaan-1 discover on the Moon's surface?
- Presence of water molecules
 - Alien life forms
 - Helium-3 fuel reserves
 - Lunar volcanoes
58. Which currency-denominated debt constituted the largest component of India's external debt?
- Indian rupee
 - US dollar
 - Euro
 - Yen
59. World Sports Journalist Day is celebrated worldwide on July 2nd each year. Is there a specific theme for World Sports Journalist Day 2023?
- Yes, the theme is "Celebrating Sports Excellence"
 - Yes, the theme is "Empowering Sports Journalists"
 - Yes, the theme is "Inspiring Sports Media Professionals"
 - No, there is no specific theme for this year

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60. Who has been granted an extension as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organization (WTO)?
- Brajendra Navnit
 - Ramesh Sharma
 - Deepa Patel
 - Rajesh Kumar
61. Who has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India for a three-year term?
- R. Venkataramani
 - KM Nataraj
 - Tushar Mehta
 - Balbir Singh
62. What is the name given to the full moon in July 2023?
- Thunder Moon
 - Berry Moon
 - Salmon Moon
 - Feather Moulting Moon
63. Ajit Pawar is currently serving as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Which party does Ajit Pawar belong to?
- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
 - Indian National Congress (INC)
 - Shiv Sena
 - Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
64. Which Ministry announced a reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for electronic items?
- Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
65. What does fiscal deficit represent?
- Total government revenue
 - Total government expenditure
 - Difference between total expenditure and revenue
 - Borrowings by the government

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66. Which services received an extension of GST exemption to encourage startups during the meeting?
- Satellite Launch Services
 - Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs)
 - Services Provided by Directors
 - Food and Beverages in Cinema Halls
67. Which of the following statements about Majorana zero modes is true?
- Majorana zero modes are particles that have separate antiparticles.
 - Majorana zero modes are formed by combining three Majorana particles.
 - Majorana zero modes possess unique properties and are their own antiparticles.
 - Majorana zero modes are exclusively used in classical computing.
68. What was the retail inflation rate in India in June?
- 4.31%
 - 4.49%
 - 4.81%
 - 5.66%
69. What was the growth rate of industrial production in May?
- 4.5%
 - 5.2%
 - 19.7%
 - 20.7%
70. What is a qubit in quantum computing?
- A basic unit of information in classical computing.
 - A particle that exists in a single quantum state.
 - A binary state that can be 0 or 1.
 - A multidimensional state that can represent complex information.
71. What does the latest update of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) reveal about India's progress in poverty reduction?
- India has lifted 415 million people out of poverty in 15 years.
 - India has achieved a significant milestone in poverty reduction.
 - India's poverty incidence has dropped to 16.4% in 2019/2021.
 - All of the above.

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72. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures poverty in which of the following aspects?
- Education, health, and income.
 - Education, health, and living standards.
 - Income, housing, and employment.
 - Housing, education, and healthcare.
73. What was the recent judgment by the Telangana High Court regarding the Telangana Eunuchs Act?
- The Act was upheld as constitutional and valid.
 - The Act was declared discriminatory and unconstitutional.
 - The Act was amended to provide better protections for the transgender community.
 - The Act was expanded to include additional provisions for transgender rights.
74. Who is Max Life Insurance Company Limited a joint venture between?
- Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited
 - State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
 - ICICI Bank and Punjab National Bank
 - HDFC Life Insurance and Bajaj Allianz
75. Which fundamental rights were cited as violated by the Telangana Eunuchs Act, according to the High Court's judgment?
- Right to Education and Right to Healthcare
 - Right to Equality and Right to Freedom of Expression
 - Right to Privacy and Right to Dignity
 - Right to Property and Right to Religion
76. Which organization recently revoked intellectual property protection granted to PepsiCO India Holdings Pvt ltd. for a potato variety developed by them?
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)
 - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
 - Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal
77. Which tribunal can hear appeals related to the registration of plant varieties under the PPVFRA?
- Plant Varieties Protection Appellate Tribunal
 - National Green Tribunal

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- c) Central Administrative Tribunal
 - d) National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
78. Who is the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India (as of July 2023)?
- a) Rajiv Kumar
 - b) Amitabh Kant
 - c) Vikram Dev Dutt
 - d) Ramesh Abhishek
79. The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet recently approved the construction of two thermal power projects in Sonbhadra. What is the capacity of each power plant?
- a) 500MW
 - b) 800MW
 - c) 1000MW
 - d) 1200MW
80. Who is the Chairman & Managing Director(as of July 2023) of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)?
- a) Gurdeep Singh
 - b) R.K. Singh
 - c) Anil Kumar Jha
 - d) Prakash Javadekar
81. What was the total value of India's forex reserves after the biggest weekly jump in four months?
- a) \$605.28 billion
 - b) \$612.96 billion
 - c) \$609.02 billion
 - d) \$617.76 billion
82. Which component of India's forex reserves witnessed the highest increase during the reported period?
- a) Gold reserves
 - b) SDRs (Special Drawing Rights)
 - c) Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)
 - d) IMF Reserve Position

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83. What does the new legislation signed by Vladimir Putin in Russia prohibit?
- Public endorsement of “nontraditional sexual relations” among minors
 - Medical interventions for congenital anomalies
 - Changing gender in official documents or public records
 - All of the above
84. What features of the WhatsApp Business App will be covered in the workshops conducted by CAIT under the partnership with Meta?
- Instagram Stories and Reels
 - Messenger Rooms and Video Calling
 - Marketplace and Shop sections
 - Catalogue, Quick Replies, and Click to WhatsApp Ad
85. How many Indian languages will the ‘WhatsApp Se Wyapaar’ program cover in its localized digitalization activities?
- 5
 - 7
 - 9
 - 11
86. In which year did NongHyup Bank enter the Indian market?
- 2008
 - 2010
 - 2012
 - 2016
87. What does the inclusion of NongHyup Bank in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 signify for India-South Korea relations?
- It imposes restrictions on financial transactions between India and South Korea.
 - It fosters increased collaboration and investment opportunities between the two nations.
 - It allows NongHyup Bank to operate as an independent bank without any regulatory oversight.
 - It establishes NongHyup Bank as the central bank for both India and South Korea.
88. How many Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants with integrated “water ATM machines” does the Delhi government plan to install as part of its ambitious plan?
- 100

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- b) 250
- c) 500
- d) 750

89. How will the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board benefit gig workers in the state?

- a) By providing gig workers with access to all government welfare schemes.
- b) By ensuring gig workers receive regular deductions of welfare fees from aggregators.
- c) By granting gig workers decision-making power in the functioning of the board.
- d) By offering gig workers free registration with all the state's aggregators.

90. When is Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated in India?

- a) July 15th
- b) July 20th
- c) July 22nd
- d) July 26th

91. Which organization has become the first Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG)?

- a) Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)
- b) Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
- c) Government of Japan
- d) Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)

92. What is the Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI) launched by Japan?

- a) An initiative to promote sustainable energy projects in India.
- b) A financial aid program for Asian countries to achieve net-zero emissions.
- c) A government-led effort to reduce energy consumption in the Asia-Pacific region.
- d) An initiative to help countries in the Asia-Pacific region achieve net-zero emissions.

93. What is the title of the book released by Ranjit Pratap on the occasion of Rayala Corporation's Diamond Jubilee?

- a) "The Journey of Success: Fifty Years in Business"
- b) "Adaptability and Resilience: My Corporate Story"
- c) "As the Wheel Turns: A Captivating Account of My Remarkable Journey"
- d) "Entrepreneurial Aspirations: Lessons from a Business Tycoon"

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94. What does STAR-C stand for in the context of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative?
- Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre
 - Solar Transmission and Application Readiness Centre
 - Sustainable Technology and Renewable Energy Centre
 - Solar Transition and Adoption Resource Centre
95. Which organizations are jointly implementing the STAR-C project under the International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative?
- United Nations and World Bank
 - International Solar Alliance and World Trade Organization
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Bank
 - International Solar Alliance and United Nations Industrial Development Organization
96. Which Indian city recently joined the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)?
- Mumbai
 - Bengaluru
 - Chennai
 - Delhi
97. Which international alliance was recently launched by India to conserve major big cat species on Earth?
- International Tiger Alliance (ITA)
 - Global Lion and Leopard Coalition (GLLC)
 - International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)
 - Worldwide Cheetah and Jaguar Consortium (WCJC)
98. Which countries will the IBCA aim to reach out to, covering the natural habitats of big cats?
- 70 range countries
 - 85 range countries
 - 97 range countries
 - 112 range countries
99. According to SBI Research economists, when is India projected to become the third-largest economy in the world?
- FY26

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K A R A T **JUDICIAL TIMES**

- b) FY27
- c) FY28
- d) FY29

100. According to SBI projections, which states are expected to cross the \$500 billion mark each by FY28, contributing to nearly a fourth of India's total GDP?

- a) Maharashtra and Gujarat
- b) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

KARAT

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ANSWER KEY

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	A	26.	B	51.	B	76.	A
2.	C	27.	C	52.	B	77.	A
3.	B	28.	C	53.	A	78.	C
4.	A	29.	A	54.	D	79.	B
5.	A	30.	A	55.	A	80.	A
6.	B	31.	D	56.	B	81.	C
7.	A	32.	D	57.	A	82.	C
8.	A	33.	C	58.	B	83.	D
9.	B	34.	B	59.	D	84.	D
10.	A	35.	B	60.	A	85.	D
11.	C	36.	A	61.	C	86.	D
12.	A	37.	A	62.	A	87.	B
13.	B	38.	C	63.	D	88.	C
14.	A	39.	B	64.	B	89.	B
15.	B	40.	B	65.	C	90.	D
16.	C	41.	A	66.	A	91.	A
17.	B	42.	B	67.	C	92.	D
18.	A	43.	C	68.	C	93.	C
19.	C	44.	B	69.	B	94.	A
20.	B	45.	B	70.	D	95.	D
21.	B	46.	B	71.	D	96.	B
22.	A	47.	B	72.	B	97.	D
23.	A	48.	A	73.	B	98.	C
24.	B	49.	C	74.	A	99.	C
25.	A	50.	B	75.	C	100.	D

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TRANSLATIONS : HINDI

1. 1890 के दशक में, प्रयोगशालाओं में अनुसंधान के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले जानवरों के कल्याण और उपचार के लिए सार्वजनिक चिंता के परिणामस्वरूप जनता और अनुसंधान वैज्ञानिकों के बीच बहस बढ़ी। वर्ष 1896 और 1900 के बीच, कोलंबिया जिले में पशु अनुसंधान को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कानून बनाने के तीन प्रयास किए गए (फिरडोसियन, 2011)। वैज्ञानिकों ने तर्क दिया कि जानवरों पर शोध महत्वपूर्ण है और अतीत में किए गए मानव अनुसंधान जैसे टस्केगी सिफलिस अध्ययन, गर्भवती महिलाओं पर विकिरण प्रयोग आदि के लिए एक आवश्यक विकल्प है। 1876 से पहले, जानवरों पर शोध पर कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं लगाया गया था। 1876 में, यूरोप में ब्रिटिश संसद द्वारा पशु क्रूरता अधिनियम लागू किया गया था (फ़र्डोसियन, 2011)। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में पशु अनुसंधान पर लगाया गया पहला प्रतिबंध 1966 का प्रयोगशाला पशु कल्याण अधिनियम (फ़र्डोसियन, 2011) था।
2. सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने चेरी/मिलर (नंबर 2)¹ के सत्रावसान मामले में कानून के शासन और संसदीय संप्रभुता के संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों की वकालत करने के अपने "संवैधानिक कर्तव्य"² को बरकरार रखा। अदालत का रुख वेस्टमिंस्टर दृष्टिकोण के साथ विज्ञापन समीकरण में है, यह मानते हुए कि "ब्रिटेन का संविधान कई संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों पर आधारित है जो सुनिश्चित करता है कि संसद 'वरिष्ठ भागीदार' है। वे सिद्धांत, संहिताबद्ध न होने और विधायी हस्तक्षेप के अधीन होने के बावजूद, फिर भी मौलिक हैं और अदालत में लागू होने में सक्षम हैं।

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3. द्वेष सिद्धांत को प्रकृति में केवल "अनुमोदनात्मक" के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है। हालाँकि, गलत तरीके से निर्देशित आचरण से किसी विशेष हित को होने वाले नुकसान के किसी भी स्तर के संबंध में आपराधिक दायित्व को मंजूरी देकर, आनुपातिकता सिद्धांत में अनुमेय के साथ-साथ प्रतिबंधात्मक तत्व भी प्रतीत होते हैं। दोनों सिद्धांत किसी हित को होने वाले किसी भी नुकसान के लिए आपराधिक दायित्व की अनुमति देते हैं, जो कि इरादे या पूर्वानुमान से परे है। हालाँकि, आनुपातिकता सिद्धांत, द्वेष सिद्धांत के विपरीत, दायित्व के इस रूप को उन अवसरों तक सीमित करता है जिनमें होने वाला नुकसान इच्छित नुकसान से अधिक नहीं था। इन दोनों सिद्धांतों को लेबलिंग सिद्धांत द्वारा समर्थित किया गया है, जो होर्डर के अनुसार एक और छिपे हुए सिद्धांत का गठन कर सकता है।
4. पृथक कॉर्पोरेट व्यक्तित्व का सिद्धांत आधुनिक कंपनी कानून की आधारशिला है। इसकी स्थापना निगमित कंपनी की अवधारणा पर की गई है, न कि केवल अपने शेयरधारकों से स्वतंत्र कानूनी अस्तित्व वाली एक इकाई के रूप में, बल्कि एक ऐसी वस्तु के रूप में जो उनसे शुद्ध और खाली हो जाती है।
5. न्यायिक समीक्षा वह विधि है जिसके द्वारा संसद द्वारा कार्यपालिका को दी गई विवेकाधीन शक्तियों की निगरानी न्यायपालिका द्वारा की जाती है। इसका प्रभाव संसद को सर्वोच्च कानून-निर्माता के रूप में संरक्षित करना है, इस प्रकार यह संसदीय सर्वोच्चता के सिद्धांत को रेखांकित करता है, जो एक संवैधानिक

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तथ्य के रूप में संरक्षित है। हालाँकि, यह माना जाता है कि पूर्ण संसदीय सर्वोच्चता न्यायाधीशों के हस्तक्षेप को उचित ठहराएगी, जो कुछ लोगों का तर्क है कि यह असंवैधानिक है। फिर भी, प्रशासनिक त्रुटि और दुरुपयोग की रोकथाम के पक्ष में सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों की अदालतों की निगरानी उचित है, और इसकी समीक्षा सार के बजाय प्रक्रिया के प्रश्नों तक सीमित है।

KARAT JUDICIAL TIMES

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TRANSLATIONS : ENGLISH

1. In 1890's, debates between the public and research scientists grew as a result of public concern for the welfare and treatment of animals used for research in laboratories. Between the years 1896 and 1900, there were three attempts to generate laws to govern animal research in the District of Columbia (Ferdowsian, 2011). Scientists argued that research on animals is important and is a necessary alternative to human research done in the past, such as, the Tuskegee syphilis study, radiation experiments on pregnant women etc. Before 1876, there were no restrictions placed on animal research. In 1876, the Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted by the British Parliament in Europe (Ferdowsian, 2011). The first restrictions placed on animal research in the United States was the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (Ferdowsian, 2011).
2. The Supreme Court in the prorogation case of *Cherry/Miller (No 2)* upheld its "constitutional duty" to advocate the constitutional principles of the Rule of Law and Parliamentary Sovereignty. The court's stance is in ad equation with the Westminster vision, recognizing that "the UK constitution is based on a number of constitutional principles that ensure that Parliament is 'the senior partner'. Those principles, despite not codified and subject to legislative interference, are nonetheless fundamental and capable of being enforced in court".
3. The malice principle can be classified as being only "permissive" in nature. However, by sanctioning criminal liability in respect of any level of harm caused to a particular interest, derived from the wrongfully directed conduct, the proportionality principle appears to have permissive as well as restrictive elements. Both principles permit criminal liability for any harm caused to an interest, which goes beyond what was intended or foreseen. However, the proportionality principle, in contrast to the malice principle, restricts this form of liability to occasions in which the harm caused was not disproportionate to the intended harm. Both these principles have been supported by the labelling principle, which may constitute a further hidden principle in accordance with Horder.
4. The doctrine of separate corporate personality is the cornerstone of modern company law. It is founded on a conception of the incorporated company not simply as an

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entity with an independent legal existence from its shareholders but as an object which is cleansed and emptied of them

5. Judicial review is the method by which the discretionary powers given by Parliament to the executive are overseen by the Judiciary. This has the effect of preserving Parliament as the supreme law-maker, thus underpinning the doctrine of Parliamentary supremacy, which is protected as a constitutional fact. However, it is assumed that absolute Parliamentary supremacy will justify an interference by the judges, which some argue is unconstitutional. Yet, the courts' supervision of public authorities is justified in favour of the prevention of administrative error and abuse, and limits its review to questions of procedure rather than substance.

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LIST OF IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1 st Amendment Act	1951	Added 9th Schedule to protect the land reforms and the laws related to it from judicial review.
7 th Amendment Act	1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the linguistic basis, the states had been reorganized into 14 States and 6 UTs. - Extended the jurisdiction of the high court to UTs. - Establishment of a common high court for 2 or more states.
9 th Amendment Act	1960	Facilitated the cession of the Indian territory of Berubari Union (located in WB) to Pakistan as provided in the Indo-Pakistan Agreement (1958) .
10 th Amendment Act	1961	Incorporated Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the Indian Union.
12 th Amendment Act	1962	Incorporated Goa, Daman, and Diu in the Indian Union.
13 th Amendment Act	1962	Provide status of state to Nagaland and made special provisions for it.
14 th Amendment Act	1962	Incorporated Puducherry in the Indian Union.
24 th Amendment Act	1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affirmed the power of parliament to amend any part of the constitution including fundamental rights. - President must give his assent to a constitutional Amendment Bill.
25 th Amendment Act	1971	Curtailed the fundamental right to property.
26 th Amendment Act	1971	Abolished the titles and special privileges of former rulers of princely states.
31 st Amendment Act	1972	Increased the number of Lok Sabha seats from 525 to 545 .
36 th Amendment Act	1975	Sikkim became the full-fledged state of the Indian Union and 10th schedule was omitted.
42 nd Amendment Act	1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added Fundamental Duties by the citizen contained in Part-IV A. - Added 3 new words - Socialist, Secular, and Integrity. - Made the constitutional amendments beyond the judicial scrutiny. - National emergency can be proclaimed in any part of the territory of India. - The President is constitutionally bounded by the advice of the Council of Ministers. - It provided supremacy of parliament and gave primacy to DPSP over Fundamental Rights.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extended the one-time duration of the President's rule in a state from 6 months to 1 year. - Added Part XIV A which includes tribunal for administrative and other matters. - The term of Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies increased to 6 years from 5 years. - The power of judicial review and writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the High Court had been curtailed. - Also called "Mini Constitution"
43 rd Amendment Act	1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restored the power of judicial review and writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and High Court. - The special power of the Parliament to make laws to deal with the anti-national activities had been taken away.
44 th Amendment Act	1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removed the "Right to Property" from the list of Fundamental Rights. - The fundamental rights guaranteed by Article 20 and 21 cannot be suspended during a national emergency. - The term 'internal disturbance' had been replaced by the by 'Armed Rebellion'. - The term of Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies had been restored to 5 years.
52 nd Amendment Act	1985	Anti-Defection Law and added 10th schedule containing detail of this law.
58 th Amendment Act	1987	Translation of the Constitution in Hindi.
61 st Amendment Act	1989	Reducing the voting age from 21 to 18 years.
65 th Amendment Act	1990	Accorded statutory status to the commission for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and designated them as National Commission for the SC's and the ST's.
73 rd Amendment Act	1992	Added new Part - IX entitled as ' the Panchayats ' and a new 11 th Schedule which granted Constitutional status and protection to the Panchayati raj institutions.
74 th Amendment Act	1992	Added new Part - IX-A entitled as ' the Municipalities ' and a new 12 th Schedule which granted Constitutional status and protection to the urban local bodies.
86 th Amendment Act	2002	Article 21 A was added which made ' Education ' a fundamental Right for children in the age-group of 6-14 years.
88 th Amendment	2003	A provision for service tax was made under Article 268-A.

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Act		
89 th Amendment Act	2003	National Commission for SC's and ST's into 2 separate bodies - National Commission for SC's (Article 338) - National Commission for ST's (Article 338-A).
91 st Amendment Act	2003	Amended the Anti-Defection Law to strengthen it and made provisions to limit the size of the council of ministers.
92 nd Amendment Act	2003	4 new languages - Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali added in the Eighth Schedule which increased the constitutionally recognized number to 22.
93 rd Amendment Act	2005	Reserve seats OBC's in governmental as well as educational institutions.
99 th Amendment Act	2014	Formation of National Judicial Appointment Commission. However, it was declared unconstitutional and void in 2015 by the Supreme Court.
100 th Amendment Act	2015	Swapping of territories between India and Bangladesh.
101 st Amendment Act	2016	Goods and Service Tax introduced.
102 nd Amendment Act	2018	Constitutional Status to the National Commission for Backward Classes
103 rd Amendment Act	2019	10% reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society in Government jobs and admission in educational institutions
104 th Amendment Act	2020	It extends the reservation of seats for the SC's and ST's in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by a period of 10 years. - Officially it is known as ' Constitution Act, 2019 '

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MCQ'S

1. The celebrated Novel 'The Godfather' was authored by
 - a) John Milton
 - b) Victor Hugo
 - c) Mario Puzo
 - d) Harold Robbins
2. Name the Continents that form a mirror image of each other____
 - a) North America and South America
 - b) Asia and Africa
 - c) Africa and South America
 - d) Europe and Asia
3. The concept of Judicial Review in our constitution has been taken from the Constitution of
 - a) England
 - b) USA
 - c) Canada
 - d) Australia
4. The energy released by 1 gram of glucose is.
 - a) 6 kcal
 - b) 4 kcal
 - c) 5 kcal
 - d) 3kcal
5. At which place will you find maximum sunlight in December?
 - a) Kanya Kumari
 - b) Pune
 - c) Kolkata
 - d) Lek

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6. Which places is said to be the cathedral city of India?
- a) Benaras
 - b) Kancheepuram
 - c) Madurai
 - d) Bhubaneswar
7. FFC stands for
- a) Foreign Finance Corporation
 - b) Film Finance Corporation
 - c) Federation of Football Council
 - d) None
8. Pulitzer prize is awarded for outstanding work in the field of
- a) Science and Technology
 - b) Literature and Journalism
 - c) International Understanding
 - d) Environmental Studies
9. Who first imposed Jizya Tax in India?
- a) Allaudin khilji
 - b) Aurangzeb
 - c) Mohammad Bin Qasim
 - d) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
10. Who founded in Pataliputra
- a) Udayin
 - b) Ashoka
 - c) Bimbisar
 - d) Mahapadmananda
11. The busiest sea route is
- a) The Mediterranean Red-Sea Route
 - b) The South Atlantic Route
 - c) The North Atlantic Route

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- d) The Pacific Route
12. Which one of the following cities will never get the vertical rays of the sun?
- a) Srinagar
 - b) Thiruvananthapuram
 - c) Kolkata
 - d) Mumbai
13. At which particular place on earth are days and nights of equal length always?
- a) Prime Meridian
 - b) Poles
 - c) Equator
 - d) No where
14. Bone deformities occur due to the excess intake of
- a) Phosphorus
 - b) Potassium
 - c) Fatty acid
 - d) Fluorine
15. Sikkim was made an integral part of India under the
- a) 36th Amendment
 - b) 39th Amendment
 - c) 40th Amendment
 - d) 42 Amendment
16. Among the following Union Territories of India, which one has the largest size
- a) Puducherry
 - b) Lakshadweep
 - c) Daman and diu
 - d) Chandigarh
17. Out of the following remains excavated in indus valley, which one indicates the commercial and economic development

KARAT JUDICIAL TIMES

- a) Pottery
- b) Seals
- c) Boats
- d) Houses

18. The Indus Valley Civilization specialized in

- a) Town Planning
- b) Architecture
- c) Craftsmanship
- d) All of these

19. Which is the largest fishing ground in the world?

- a) Japan sea
- b) North sea
- c) North-East-Pacific
- d) Newfoundland water

20. Which commission made the recommendations which formed the basis for the Punjab Reorganisation Act which created the states Punjab and Haryana

- a) Dhar Commission
- b) Dass Commission
- c) Shah Commission
- d) Mahajan Commission

21. The highest average salinity amongst the following seas is reported from

- a) Dead Sea
- b) Red Sea
- c) Black Sea
- d) Migration Sea

22. Who said, "Inflation is unjust but deflation is inexpedient. Of the two, deflation is worse"?

- a) J.M Keynes
- b) Amartya Sen

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- c) J.G Gurlay
- d) J.N Bhagwati

23. Where was electricity supply first introduced in India

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Darjeeling
- d) Chennai

24. The most important small scale industry in india is the

- a) Textile Industry
- b) Paper Industry
- c) Handloom Industry
- d) Jute industry

25. Who is known as the ' Saint of the gutters '

- a) B.R. Ambedkar
- b) Mother Teresa
- c) Mahatma Gandhi
- d) Baba Amte

26. The famous Rock Garden is located in which city?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Shimla
- c) Lucknow
- d) Chandigarh

27. When formaldehyde and potassium hydroxide are heated, we get

- a) Acetylene
- b) Methyl alcohol
- c) Methane
- d) Ethyl formate

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28. 'Madhubani', a style of folk paintings, is popular in which of the following states in India?
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Rajasthan
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Bihar
29. Between which of the following was the ancient town of Takshasila located?
- Indus and Jhelum
 - Jhelum and Chenab
 - Chenab and Ravi
 - Ravi and Beas
30. Cobalt - 60 is commonly used in radiation therapy because it emits.
- Alpha - rays
 - Beta rays
 - Gamma rays
 - X - rays
31. The Ajanta painting belongs to which period?
- Harappan period
 - Gupta period
 - Buddhist period
 - Mauryan period
32. What does airbag, used for safety of car driver, contain?
- Sodium bicarbonate
 - Sodium azide
 - Sodium nitrite
 - Sodium peroxide
33. Name the blood cells in which nucleus is absent
- Lymphocytes
 - Blood Platelets

K A R A T JUDICIAL TIMES

- c) Monocytes
- d) Eosinophils

34. Which of the following is used in pencils?

- a) Silicon
- b) Phosphorous
- c) Graphite
- d) Charcoal

35. Tansen Samman has been instituted by the Government of

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

36. The biggest public sector undertaking in the country is

- a) Iron and steel Plants
- b) Roadways
- c) Railways
- d) Airways

37. Which of the following places is famous for Chikankari work, which is a traditional art of embroidery?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Lucknow
- c) Mysore
- d) Jaipur

38. Who among the following is not a recipient of Bharat Ratna

- a) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- c) Mrs. Indira Gandhi
- d) Lal Bahadur Shastri

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39. The smallest unit in a digital system is a.....
- a) Bit
 - b) Byte
 - c) Character
 - d) Kilobyte
40. Who is known as Man of Blood and Iron?
- a) Napoleon
 - b) Bismarck
 - c) Ho Chi Minh
 - d) Sir Walter Scott
41. The first Census in India during the British period was held during the tenure of
- a) Lord Dufferin
 - b) Lord Lytton
 - c) Lord Mayo
 - d) Lord Ripon
42. Which of the following parts of the sun is easily visible only during a total solar eclipse?
- a) core
 - b) photosphere
 - c) sunspots
 - d) corona
43. The smallest Union Territory of India is
- a) Lakshadweep
 - b) Pondicherry
 - c) Daman and Diu
 - d) Dadar and Nagar Haveli
44. The title Sparrow is given to
- a) Sardar Vallabhai patel
 - b) Rajinder Singh
 - c) Nelson Mandela

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d) Porus

45. Which of the following official documents is related with India

- a) White paper
- b) Green Paper
- c) Yellow Book
- d) Blue Book

46. The enzyme that converts glucose to ethyl alcohol is

- a) Maltase
- b) Zymase
- c) Diastase
- d) Invertase

47. Where did Lord Buddha breathe his last

- a) Rajgir
- b) Bodh Gaya
- c) Sarnath
- d) Kushinagar

48. The book 'India of our Dreams' was written by ___ ?

- a) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- b) M.V. Kamath
- c) Dr. C. Subramanian
- d) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

49. G-15 is an economic grouping of

- a) First World Nations
- b) Second World Nations
- c) Third World Nations
- d) Fourth World Nations

50. The climate of India is mainly tropical because

- a) of the location of the Himalayas in the north

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- b) major part of India lies within the tropics
- c) of the overpowering influence of India Ocean
- d) of the seasonal influence of jet streams

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ANSWER KEY

Q.	Ans.	Q.	Ans.
1.	C	26.	D
2.	C	27.	B
3.	B	28.	D
4.	B	29.	A
5.	A	30.	C
6.	D	31.	B
7.	D	32.	B
8.	B	33.	B
9.	B	34.	C
10.	A	35.	D
11.	C	36.	C
12.	A	37.	A
13.	C	38.	B
14.	D	39.	A
15.	A	40.	B
16.	A	41.	C
17.	B	42.	D
18.	A	43.	A
19.	B	44.	B
20.	C	45.	A
21.	A	46.	B
22.	A	47.	D
23.	C	48.	B
24.	C	49.	C
25.	B	50.	A

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CASE STUDY

1. *Supriya Jain v. State of Haryana*, 2023 (SC) 494

Facts:

In terms of section 162, Cr. PC, no statement made by a person to a police officer in the course of any investigation under Chapter XII of the Cr. PC, which is reduced to writing, is required to be signed by the person making the statement and that section 180 of the IPC gets attracted only if a statement is refused to be signed which a public servant is legally competent to require the person making the statement to sign.", the bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta observed.

Law applied:

Section 180 IPC reads as follows: Whoever refuses to sign any statement made by him, when required to sign that statement by a public servant legally competent to require that he shall sign that statement, shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

Held:

The Supreme Court has held that Section 180 of Indian Penal Code is not attracted if a person refuses to sign the statement made to a police officer in course of an investigation. In terms of section 162, Cr. PC, no statement made by a person to a police officer in the course of any investigation under Chapter XII of the Cr. PC, which is reduced to writing, is required to be signed by the person making the statement and that section 180 of the IPC gets attracted only if a statement is refused to be signed which a public servant is legally competent to require the person making the statement to sign.

2. Irfan @ Naka v. State of Uttar Pradesh, 2023 (SC) 698

Facts:

Irfan, alias Naka was convicted and sentenced to die by an additional sessions judge in UP's Bijnore under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, which is the maximum punishment prescribed in the said provision. The allegation was that Irfan, driven by a family feud, set his brothers and his son on fire and locked them in a room, trapping the victims inside. Their shrieks for help alerted other family members and neighbours, who managed to open the door, extinguish the fire, and rescue the trio. The victims were rushed to the hospital in critical condition but they eventually succumbed to their injuries.

Relying primarily on the dying declarations of two of the victims, the sessions court pronounced Irfan guilty. His conviction and sentence of death penalty were later upheld by the Allahabad High Court in 2018 after junking his arguments questioning the veracity of the dying declarations.

Then the matter travelled to the Supreme Court in appeal. In May 2022, the top court stayed the execution of the sentence imposed on Irfan. Besides this, the court also noted that an assessment of the convict's conduct would help final submissions and accordingly, sought reports from the probation officer and the jail administration. In the interest of justice, it also directed a psychological evaluation of the appellant, besides seeking an independent report from an associate of Project 39-A of Delhi's National Law University who was granted access to the death row convict. The Justice Gavi-led bench reserved its verdict last month after hearing the submissions made by Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the convict, and UP Additional Advocate General Ardhendumauli Kumar Prashad for the state government. Yesterday, it acquitted the death row prisoner and ordered his immediate release.

Issues:

1. Whether the person making the statement was in expectation of death?
2. Whether the dying declaration was made at the earliest opportunity? "Rule of First Opportunity"

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3. Whether there is any reasonable suspicion to believe the dying declaration was put in the mouth of the dying person?

Law applied:

Section 32 - Great caution must be exercised while placing reliance on dying declarations even as the law attaches a presumption of truthfulness to such statements - No hard and fast rule for determining when a dying declaration should be accepted - Duty of the court is to decide this question in the facts and surrounding circumstances of the case and be fully convinced of the truthfulness of the declarations - Held, dying declarations not sufficient evidence in present case - Appeal allowed.

Held:

On overall assessment of the materials on record, we have reached to the conclusion that neither the two dying declarations inspire any confidence nor does the oral evidence of the [two eyewitnesses] inspire any confidence. Had the dying declarations stood corroborated by the oral evidence, then probably, it would have been altogether a different scenario. However, the two dying declarations are not consistent or rather contradictory to the oral evidence on record."

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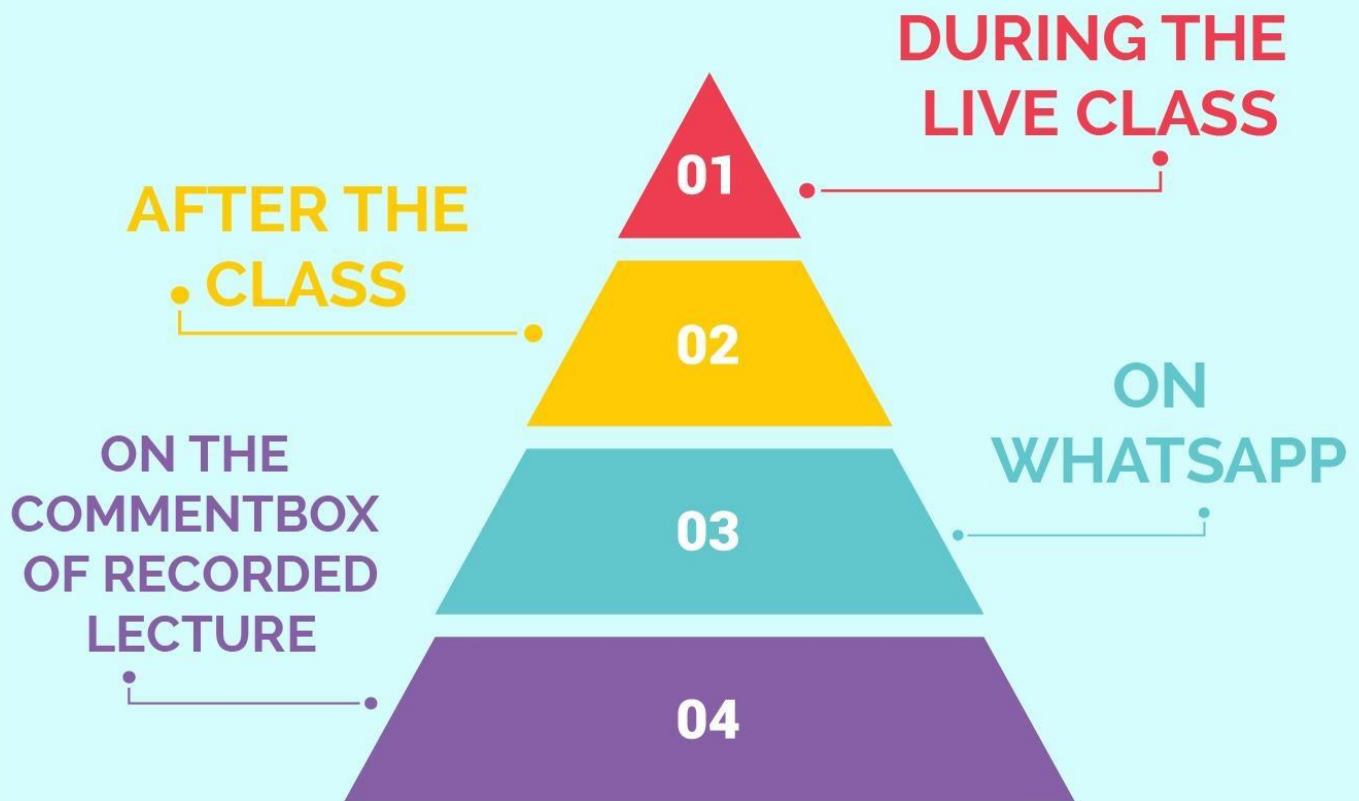
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