



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 19-06-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report

1. SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
2. China and the US together possess almost 90 % of all nuclear weapons.
3. India possesses more nuclear weapons than Pakistan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All Three
- d. None of the above

Answer : b



Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an independent organization dedicated to research in conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.
- **It was established in 1966 by the Swedish Parliament.**
- **Vision and Mission** - SIPRI envisions a world where sources of insecurity are understood and conflicts are prevented or resolved, aiming to sustain peace through its research and policy recommendations.
- **Funding** - SIPRI receives a significant portion of its funding from an annual grant from the Swedish Government. It also seeks financial support from other organizations to support its research activities.
- **Organizational Structure** - SIPRI is governed by a Governing Board and led by a Director and Deputy Director. It has a research staff collegium, support staff, and hosts guest researchers and interns from around the world.
- **International Reach and Collaboration** - Located in Stockholm, SIPRI serves as a hub for international cooperation among researchers.
- It collaborates with other research centres, intergovernmental organizations like the UN and EU, and hosts delegations and visiting researchers.
- **Research and Communication** - SIPRI's research covers a wide range of global security issues and is disseminated through various channels including publications, seminars, conferences, and a monthly newsletter. It aims to influence policy decisions and promote transparency in global security affairs.
- **Statutes** - SIPRI operates under guiding principles set out in its statutes, adopted by the Swedish Government, which define its objectives and operational framework.
- **Key findings of the SIPRI Report**
- **Nuclear-Armed Nations and Modernization** - Nine countries continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals: US, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel.
- Several of these nations deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.

- India and Pakistan - **India had 172 "stored" nuclear warheads as of January 2023 which is more than Pakistan, that possessed 170 nuclear warheads in the same period.**
- Both countries expanded their nuclear arsenals slightly in 2023 and they continued developing new types of nuclear delivery systems.
- **India's Strategic Focus** - India appears to be placing increasing emphasis on longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets throughout China, in addition to its deterrence strategy focused on Pakistan.
- **Operational Alert Status** - Approximately 2,100 deployed nuclear warheads were on high operational alert on ballistic missiles.
- The majority of these were held by Russia and the US.
- China is reported to have placed some warheads on high operational alert for the first time.
- **Russia and US Dominance - Russia and the US collectively possess nearly 90% of all nuclear weapons worldwide.**
- Russia increased its deployed warheads by approximately 36 compared to January 2023.
- **China's Nuclear Arsenal** - China's nuclear stockpile remains significantly smaller than those of Russia and the US, reflecting its strategic approach.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh and the Narmada River passes through it.
2. It has Savanna ecosystem due to shallow topsoil.
3. Chaturbhuj Nala rock shelters is located within sanctuary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All Three
- d. None of the above



Answer : b

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in western Madhya Pradesh is set to become the second home for cheetahs in India, after the Kuno National Park.

- Gandhi Sagar is a wildlife sanctuary located at eastern Madhya Pradesh.
- This region is known as a Nimar region which touches its border with Rajasthan thus more or less known as a dry region thus vegetation is also not so dry and we will find many rocky patches during safari drive.
- The forest of this sanctuary is part of Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forest thus here we will find trees like Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu, Palash and so on.
- It is **part of World famous Chaturbhuj Nala rock shelters** are also part of same Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary.
- **It has Savanna ecosystem (dry deciduous trees and shrubs) due to shallow topsoil.**
- This forest is also of archeological and religious importance due to presence of rock painting sites and famous temple like Chaturbhujnath temple etc.
- This sanctuary is spread over the area surrounding to Gandhi Sagar dam backwater.
- It sits atop a flat rocky plateau, with the **Chambal River cutting the sanctuary into two almost equal halves.**
- Due to the rocky terrain and exposed sheetrock, the topsoil is shallow.
- This is behind Gandhi Sagar's savanna ecosystem comprising open grasslands interspersed with dry deciduous trees and shrubs.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to the Post Office Act, 2023

1. It aims to establish a straightforward legislative framework to ensure that citizen-centred services and government benefits reach everyone.
2. No penal provisions have been prescribed in the Act.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer : c

The Post Office Act, 2023

The Post Office Act 2023 recently came into effect.

- The Act aims to create a simple legislative framework, for the delivery of citizen-centric services and the benefits of government schemes up to the last mile, enhancing ease of living.
- The Bill replaces the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 and regulates India Post, a departmental undertaking of the central government.
- The exclusive privilege of collecting, processing, and delivering of letters granted to the Post Office previously, has been discontinued.
- No penal provisions have been prescribed in the Act.
- The government will not have exclusive privilege over conveying letters. Services to be provided by India Post will be prescribed under Rules.
- It provides a framework for prescribing standards for the addressing of the items, addressing of the items, address identifiers, and usage of postcodes.
- The Director General of Postal Services will be appointed to head India Post.

4) Kafala System, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. A legal framework that defines the relationship between migrant workers and their employers in Middle East.
- b. A cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL) that regulates combatants and mercenaries.
- c. A system to bring transparency in the healthcare claims ecosystem.
- d. A system to treat sickle cell disease in children.

Answer : a

Kafala System

The recent tragedy in Mangaf, Kuwait, which resulted in the death of 49 migrant workers, highlights the deep-rooted issues within the Kafala system.

- The kafala system is a legal framework that has for decades defined the relationship between migrant workers and their employers in Jordan, Lebanon, and all Arab Gulf states except Iraq.
- It places significant power in the hands of employers and the state, while treating migrant workers as temporary and dispensable.
- Despite immediate actions and promises made by Kuwaiti officials following the fire, these measures often fail to address the underlying causes of such tragedies.
- The state's response includes holding company officials criminally liable, suspending municipal officials, and providing compensation to the families of the deceased.
- However, these actions typically focus on immediate accountability rather than implementing systemic changes that could prevent future incidents.

- The living conditions of migrant workers, often characterized by overcrowded, unsafe and unhygienic accommodations, are a direct result of the Kafala system.
- The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed these vulnerabilities, with discriminatory lockdown practices and mass deportations exacerbating the plight of migrant workers.
- Despite having some standards for workers' accommodation, enforcement is lax, and the focus remains on segregating 'bachelors' rather than ensuring decent living conditions.

5) Who among the following is the chairman of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)?

- Defence Secretary
- Chief of Defence Staff
- Minister of Defence
- Prime Minister

Answer : c

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- The DAC is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- **The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.**
- The members of the DAC include:
 - Minister of Defence
 - Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) (when appointed)
 - Chief of Army Staff (COAS)
 - Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)
 - Chief of Air Staff (CAS)
 - Defence Secretary
 - Secretary Dept. of Defence Production and Supplies
 - Secretary, Defence Research and Development
 - Secretary, Defence Finance
 - Vice Chief of Defence Staff (when appointed)/CISC
 - Special Secretary (Acquisition)
- **Deputy Chief of defence staff** is the **Member Secretary** of the council.
- **Functions:**
 - Give 'in principle' approval to Capital acquisitions in the Long Term Perspective Plan (LTPP) covering a 15-year time span at the beginning of a Five Year Plan period.
 - Give 'in principle' acceptance of necessity for each Capital acquisition project to be included in the upcoming Five Year Plan, at least 9 months before the start of the first year of that plan.
 - This involves identifying:
 - 'Buy' Projects (outright purchase)
 - 'Buy and Make' Projects (purchase followed by licensed production/indigenous development)
 - 'Make' Projects (indigenous production and R&D)
 - Monitor the progress of major projects based on feedback from the Defence Procurement Board.