



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 28-11-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Chemical Council

1. It is a pre-independent, apex national body organisation which is dedicated to the growth of the Indian Chemical Industry.
2. It is the national authority responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in India.
3. It was conferred with 'Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-the Hague Award', 2024.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 2 and 3 only

Answer : c



Indian Chemical Council

The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) was recently conferred with Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-the Hague Award, 2024.

- Indian Chemical Council (ICC) is the *apex national body representing all branches of the Chemical Industry in India* such as Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Plastics & Petrochemicals & Petroleum Refineries, Dye-stuffs and Dye-intermediates and so on.
- The Indian Chemical Council is dedicated to the growth of the Indian Chemical Industry.
- **It was established in 1938 (pre-independent organisation).**
- ICC represents *more than 80% of Indian chemical Industry* which is valued at USD 220 billion.
- The ICC is well represented by senior executives from a wide range of global and local chemical companies.
- **The ICC Annual Awards** given under various categories are prized by the industry and recognize outstanding achievement by the company or persons among their peers in the industry.
- **National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)** is the national authority responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in India. (**Statement 2 is correct**)
- **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** - Is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
- There are 193 Member States that oversees the global endeavour to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons.
- **India is a signatory to CWC convention.**
- The **Nobel Prize for Peace for the year 2013** was awarded this organisation.
- The OPCW-The Hague Award Fund was created using the nearly 900,000 euros monetary

prize accompanying the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the OPCW.

- **The 2024 OPCW The Hague Award was conferred upon the Indian Chemical Council (ICC).**
- The fund is supplemented by contributions from the City of The Hague.
- **National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)** – It was established under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.
- It was set up to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.
- NACWC is an office in the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.
- **NACWC is the national authority responsible for implementing the Convention in India.**

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Network Readiness Index, 2024 (NRI 2024)

1. It ranks a total of 133 economies that collectively account for 95% of global gross domestic product (GDP).
2. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
3. India is placed at 49th rank in the NRI, 2024.

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

Network Readiness Index, 2024 (NRI 2024)

- The Network Readiness Index 2024 ranks a total of 133 economies that collectively account for 95% of global gross domestic product (GDP).
- The report is **published by the Portulans Institute**, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC. **(Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- The index is based on their performances in 4 different pillars covering a total of 54 variables. The 4 pillars are:
 1. Technology
 2. People
 3. Governance
 4. Impact
- In NRI 2024, the **United States and Singapore** have maintained their lead positions at **1st and 2nd place**, respectively.

Top 3 Countries by region

Africa	Arab States	Asia & Pacific	CIS	Europe	The Americas
1. Mauritius (60)	1. United Arab Emirates (28)	1. Singapore (2)	1. Russian Federation (41)	1. Finland (3)	1. United States (1)
2. Seychelles (71)	2. Saudi Arabia (35)	2. Korea, Rep. (5)	2. Kazakhstan (61)	2. Sweden (4)	2. Canada (11)
3. South Africa (72)	3. Qatar (38)	3. Japan (12)	3. Armenia (66)	3. Netherlands (6)	3. Brazil (44)

- These rankings highlight the ongoing leadership of high-income economies while also acknowledging progress among emerging markets in network readiness.
- **India – India is placed at 49th rank in the NRI, 2024.**
- India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024.
- India leads in several indicators that include AI talent concentration, ICT services exports,

- Building Internet subscriptions, International Internet bandwidth and Domestic market scale.
- India has ranked 2nd in the group of lower-middle-income countries after Vietnam.

3) Consider the following statements with respect to the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund

1. It is mandated to support universal service through promoting access and delivery of telecommunication service in underserved rural, remote and urban areas.
2. The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 provided the statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
3. It is headed by the Administrator who is appointed by the Union Government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : c

Digital Bharat Nidhi

- Digital Bharat Nidhi which was formerly known as Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- The concept of 'Universal Service Obligation' was **introduced by Rowland Hill** in 1837 with his postal reforms.
- The postal reforms included uniform rates across the United Kingdoms (UK) and prepayment by sender via postage stamps.
- Universal Service was the key objective of the Universal Postal Union.
- In India, the **New Telecom Policy, 1999** provided that the *resources for meeting the Universal Service Obligation (USO)* would be raised through a 'Universal Access Levy' (UAL).
- The Universal Service Support Policy for provision of telecom facilities in rural and remote areas of the country came into effect from 2002.
- **The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 provided statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, was passed by the parliament in December 2003.
- The rules for administration of the fund known as Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 were notified on 26.03.2004.
- As per the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (as amended in 2003 and 2006), the fund is to be utilised exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.
- As per **'The Telecommunications Act, 2023' the Universal Service Obligation Fund, has become the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**.
- The Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund is **headed by the Administrator**, USO Fund who is appointed by the Central Government, for the administration of the fund.
- It is an *attached office of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications*.
- BharatNet project is one of the flagship schemes of the Government of India, was launched to provide broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats in the country.
- In order to achieve objectives of DBN, it covers various schemes and projects including BharatNet, 4G Saturation Project and Provision of Mobile Service in uncovered areas of Aspirational Districts.
- It also include schemes in Mobile Services in Left Wing Extremist Areas, Mobile Services in Himalayan and Border areas, mobile Services in Islands and so on.

4) Consider the following statements with respect to India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

1. It is the only payments bank set up under Department of Posts.
2. Services such as Virtual Debit Card and bill and utility payments can be availed under the bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : c

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was setup under the Department of Post, Ministry of Communication with *100% equity owned by Government of India*.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is the **only payments bank set up under Department of Posts**.
- IPPB was launched as a pilot project on 30 January 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh), with the objective of being present across India by the FY 2018-2019.
- IPPB has expanded its strength across India covering post offices, through a network one Branch and 649 Banking outlets manned by Business Correspondents, working on a hub and spoke model.
- The services offered by the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) are:

DEPOSITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Savings Account•Current Account
MONEY TRANSFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Simple & Secure•Instant & 24x7
DIRECT BENEFITS TRANSFERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•MGNREGA•Scholarships•Social welfare benefits and other Government subsidies
THIRD PARTY PRODUCTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Loans•Insurance•Investments•Post Office Savings schemes
ENTERPRISE AND MERCHANT PAYMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Mobile and DTH recharge•Electricity, water & gas bills•Donations & insurance premiums
BILL & UTILITY PAYMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Postal products•Digital Payment of e-commerce delivery(CoD)•Small merchants/kirana stores/unorganized retail•Offline payments•Cash Management Services

5) E-Daakhil Portal, sometimes seen in the news recently, is associated with?

- a. A platform designed to streamline the consumer grievance redressal process.
- b. A transformative approach involves promoting internships at the school and college levels within institutions.
- c. To improve groundwater regulation, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage.
- d. A platform for every citizen to conveniently report drug-related matters 24x7.

Answer : a

E-Daakhil Portal

E-Daakhil portal has recently operational in every state and union territory of India.

- The e-Daakhil portal was first **launched on by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission** in September 2020.
- The portal was introduced as inexpensive, speedy and hassle-free mechanism for filing consumer complaints.
- E-Daakhil is an innovative online platform designed to streamline the consumer grievance redressal process, providing an efficient and convenient way for consumers
- It serves as a consumer forum, dispensing the need to travel and be physically present to file their grievances.
- Since its inception, E-Daakhil has been a game-changer in promoting consumer rights and ensuring timely justice.
- E-Daakhil was recently across all states and union territories of India by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

