



**Most Trusted Learning Platform**



# Practice Question

Sept 2023

Consider the following statements regarding NARI SHAKTI VANDAN CONSTITUTION (106TH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023:

1. It provides for the reservation of one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. ✗
2. This reservation don't extend to the seats reserved for SCs and STs in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

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 ✓

# Practice Question

Consider the following statements with respect to Vishwakarma Scheme

- ~~x~~ 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ~~f~~ 2. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill Development
- ~~?~~ 3. It provides for access to collateral-free credit, skill training as well as modern tools for artisans

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

# Practice Question

How many of the following are members of Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance:

1. Australia ✓
2. Japan ✗
3. United Kingdom ✓
4. France ✗

⑤

✓ US  
✓ UK  
✓ AUS  
✓ NZ  
✓ Canada

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. All four

## Practice Question

Which of the following agencies releases the Global Innovation Index? 9

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. World Bank
- c. United Nation Development Program
- d. None

WIPO → World Intellectual Property org

# Practice Question

Abraham Accords is an agreement between Israel and how many of the following countries?

1. UAE ✓
2. Bahrain
3. Sudan
4. Morocco

## Code

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. All four ✓

# Fast Track Court Extended

- Context: Cabinet gives nod for extension of fast-track special courts scheme
- Establishment
- After the passage of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 2018 in the aftermath of the "Nirbhaya" gangrape case in Delhi, the Centre had decided to set up 1,023 fast-track special courts (FTSCs),
- 389 courts deal exclusively with cases related to violations of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in 31 States and Union Territories.
- A government functionary had earlier said despite the Centre's efforts, only 754 of the 1,023 courts were operational.

Nov 23

Crime against  
women  
Crime against  
children

# Fast Track Court Extended <sup>2023</sup>

- Though the scheme ended on March 31 this year, the Law Ministry has obtained permission to ensure that the funds continue.
- The Cabinet gave its nod to extend the scheme by three more years.
- Each FTSC was conceived to try between 65 and 165 cases per annum. The annual expenditure to run one such court was pegged at ₹75 lakh with one judicial officer and seven support staff.

2026

→ Gram Nyayalayas  
→ family courts  
→ AIS

## Central Information Commission (CIC) and RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019

- The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 amended the Right to Information Act, 2005. The RTI Act, 2005 specified the tenure, terms of service and salaries of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) at the central and state levels, in the parent law.
- The RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019 removed these provisions and stated that the central government will notify the term and quantum of salary through rules

# Central Information Commission (CIC) and RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019

Provision	RTI Act, 2005 ✓	<u>RTI Rules, 2019</u>
Term	The CIC and ICs (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years. ✓	The <u>CIC and ICs</u> (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of <u>three years</u> .
Salary	The salary of the <u>CIC and ICs</u> (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners (Rs 2,50,000 per month) ✓ Similarly, the salary of the <u>CIC and ICs</u> (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the <u>Election Commissioners</u> (Rs 2,50,000 per month) and the Chief Secretary to the state government (Rs 2,25,000 per month), respectively.	The CIC and ICs (at the central level) shall receive a pay of Rs. <u>2,50,000</u> and Rs. <u>2,25,000</u> per month, respectively.  CICs and ICs (at the state level) shall receive a pay of Rs. <u>2,25,000</u> per month.

## Central Information Commission (CIC) and RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019

- Central Information Commission:
- The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary
- Appointment: On the recommendation of three-membered body
- (i) The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (ii) The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
- (iii) A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister

## Central Information Commission (CIC) and RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019

- Section 12(5) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
- Section 12(6) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.
- It is an appellate body, hence it doesn't hear the complaints in first instance
- The CIC does not have jurisdiction over a State Information Commission nor a complaint or appeal can be filed in this Commission against an order of a State Information Commission.

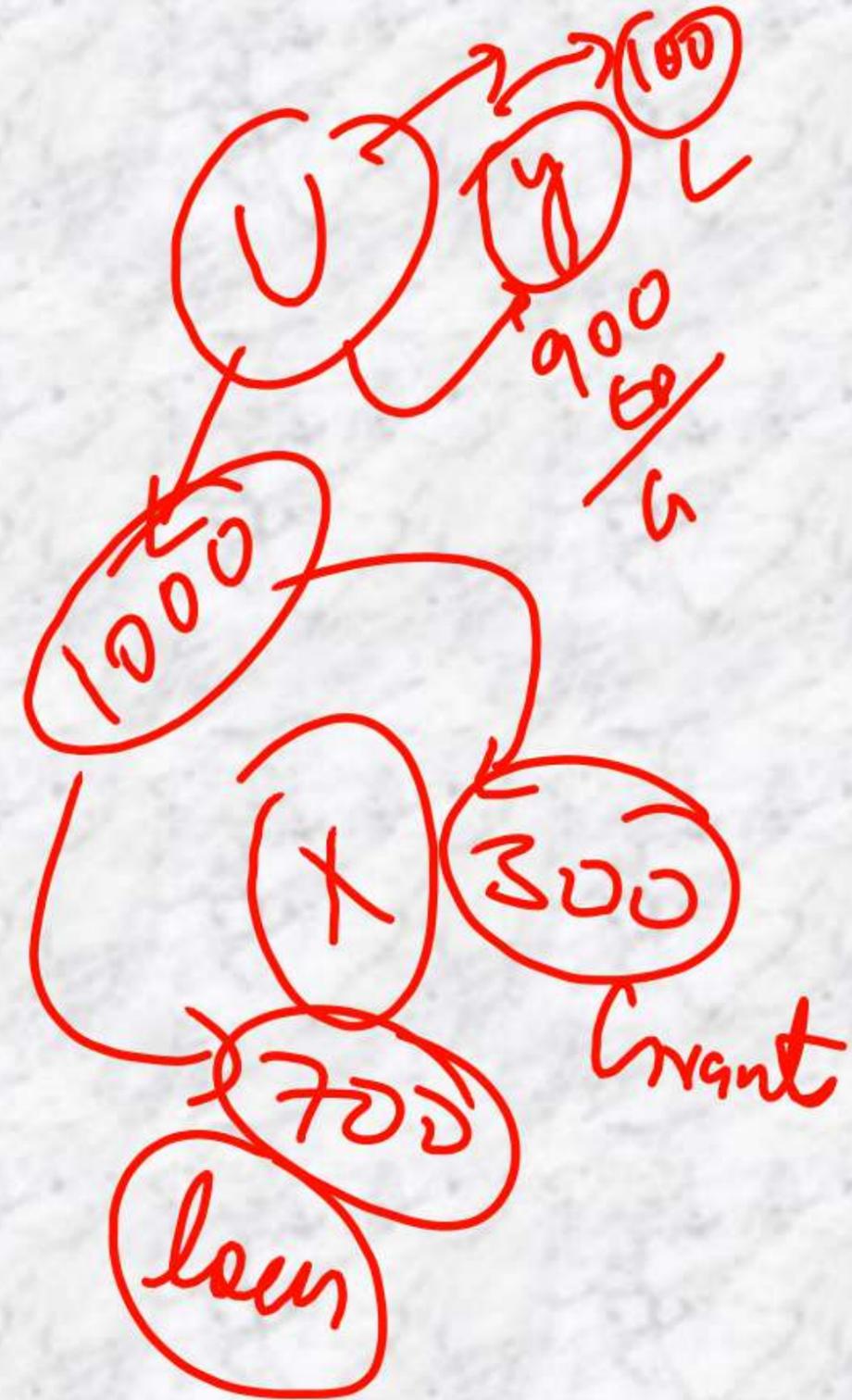
## SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

- It is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages.
- The SCS was introduced in 1969 on the recommendation of the Fifth Finance Commission (FC).
- Five factors such as
  - (i) hilly and difficult terrain ✓
  - (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population ✓
  - (iii) strategic location along international borders
  - (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and
  - (v) non-viable nature of state finances, are considered before granting SCS

## SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS

42

- In 1969, three States — Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland — were granted the SCS.
- Subsequently, eight more States including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand were given the SCS by the erstwhile National Development Council.
- SCS is used for deciding the loan-grant ratio that is applicable for the Normal Central Assistance (NCA) provided to the States.
- Special Category Status results in the Normal Central Assistance and Assistance for Externally Aided Projects (EAP) being calculated as 90% grant and 10% loan.
- Non-Special Category Status results in the Normal Central Assistance being calculated as 30% grant and 70% loan.



# INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY

- What is IPEF?
- IPEF is a US-led effort aimed at advancing Indo-Pacific economic ties, identifying rules and conventions, notably in emerging industries such as the digital economy, and ensuring sustainable and stable distribution networks.
- The economic framework broadly rests on four pillars: trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy and decarbonisation, and taxes and anti-corruption measures.
- **Trade; Supply Chains; Clean Economy; and Fair Economy**
- It intends to “advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness” in these economies.
- It would focus on: setting the rules of the road for the digital economy, ensuring secure and resilient supply chains, helping make the kinds of major investments necessary in clean energy infrastructure and the clean energy transition, to raising standards for transparency, fair taxation, and anti-corruption”.

# RCEP

Full Flight  
Trade  
Services  
Investment  
Digital

# IPEF

Trade  
Supply  
Clean Energy  
In Economy

## INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY

- IPEF is not a free trade agreement, and not even any other kind of “same old, same old” trade agreement, but one that will offer flexibility. The negotiations will be along four main “pillars”. According to an “insight” paper by the US Congressional Research Service in February, countries would have to sign up to all components within a pillar, but do not have to participate in all pillars.
- 14 Countries are members including US, India, Japan and others

## White phosphorus munitions

- White Phosphorus, also known as Yellow Phosphorus, is a waxy solid with an appearance that ranges from white to yellow, accompanied by a distinct garlic-like odour.
- White phosphorus is a pyrophoric that ignites when exposed to oxygen, producing thick, light smoke as well as intense 815-degree Celsius heat.
- Pyrophoric substances are those which ignite spontaneously or very quickly (under five minutes) when in contact with air.
- Once ignited, it continues to burn until fully oxidized or deprived of oxygen.
- Upon exposure, white phosphorus can cause severe burns, often down to the bone.
- The burns are excruciatingly painful, difficult to heal, and susceptible to infections.

## White phosphorus munitions

- Particles of white phosphorus that remain lodged the body can reignite if in contact with air.
- Its combustion results in the production of dense, white, and highly irritating smoke, which contains mixture of phosphorus oxides, making it a substance of particular interest in various applications.
- **Applications**
  - Primarily used as a smokescreen. It creates a visual obscurant to conceal troop movements on the ground.
  - It can interfere with infrared optics and weapons tracking systems. This disruption protects forces from guided missile attacks.
  - It can be used in incendiary devices such as grenades and artillery shells, which can result in persistent and intense fires, effective against people, equipment, and structures.

## White phosphorus munitions

- Legal status:
- White phosphorus munitions are not under a blanket ban, though their use is regulated under the International Humanitarian Laws.
- It is not considered a chemical weapon because its operational utility is primarily due to heat and smoke, rather than toxicity.
- Thus, its use is governed by the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), specifically Protocol III, which deals with incendiary weapons.



## National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- Context: Recently, the Supreme Court found that the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) bench acted in wilful defiance of its orders in a case related to Finolex Cables.
- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016. ✓
- NCLAT also handles appeals against orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the National Financial Reporting Authority
- NCLAT has two benches throughout India one at New Delhi and another at Chennai.
- Its decisions can be appealed to the Supreme Court

## National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- The NCLAT consists of a chairperson, three judicial members, and two technical members. The appellate tribunal can consist of no more than 11 members in total.
- All members must be at least 50 years old. For judicial members, applicants should have been a judge of a high court or a district judge for at least five years or have a minimum of ten years of experience.
- At the same time, technical members require at least 15 years of experience as a chartered accountant, cost accountant or company secretary.

## Penny Drop Verification

- **Context: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has made 'penny drop' verification mandatory for the withdrawal of funds by subscribers of the National Pension System (NPS) for the timely transfer of money**
- **The penny drop process enables instant account verification, ensuring the money reaches the intended account.**
- **It involves transferring a small amount of money or a penny to the subscriber's bank account as a test before crediting the entire amount.**
- **This process validates the subscriber's permanent retirement account number (PRAN) and name, enabling the bank to transfer the funds to the correct beneficiary.**
- **Businesses can use penny drop verification to verify customer details by comparing the beneficiary name returned from the bank against the identity details provided in the application form**

## UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- It was launched in the year 2004 to strengthen cultural activities, goods, services and international cooperation for sustainable development.
- It aims to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
- The list is updated once every 2 years
- All UNESCO's member states and associate members are eligible to be considered while updating the list.
- With the latest additions, the creative cities network now counts 350 cities in more than one hundred countries, representing seven creative fields

## UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- The 7 categories for recognition under UCCN are as follows-
- Crafts and Folk Arts, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Music, Media Arts, Literature
- 2015: Jaipur (Craft & Folks) & Varanasi (Music)
- 2017: Chennai (Music)
- 2019: Hyderabad (Gastronomy), Mumbai (Film)
- 2021: Sri Nagar (Crafts & Folk Arts)
- 2023: Gwalior (Music), Kozhikode (Literature)

8

## Reference Fuel Production

- Reference fuels (Gasoline and Diesel) are premium high-value products, used for calibration and testing of vehicles by Auto OEMs and organizations involved in testing and certification in the automotive field.
- Specification requirements of Reference Fuels are more stringent than commercial gasoline and diesel.
- The demand of Reference Fuels in India is currently met by importing from other countries
- Fuel retailers like IOC sell petrol and diesel of primarily two kinds - regular and premium, through their fuel station network.
- The biggest difference between the normal and premium fuel lies in the octane number. The regular fuel has an octane number of 87, but premium fuel has an octane number of 91.
- Reference grade fuel comes with a 97-octane number.

## Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

- In order to protect the migratory species throughout their range countries, a Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), has been in force, under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme
- Also referred to as the Bonn Convention
- It provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats and brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range.
- The convention complements and co-operates with a number of other international organizations, NGOs and partners in the media as well as in the corporate sector

## Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

- India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983 (132 Parties total). The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention
- The important migratory birds in India include Amur Falcons, Bar headed Gheese, Black necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpbacked Whales, etc.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.

# CITES

- Formally called: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- It is also known as Washington Convention
- It is an international agreement between governments.
- Participation is voluntary
- It is legally binding on the Parties, but it does not take the place of national laws.
- Parties : 184
- Meeting Every 2 years COP
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is designated nodal agency for CITES related enforcement.

# CITES

- Aims to protect endangered plants and animals.
- It classifies plants and animals according to three categories, or appendices, based on how threatened:
- 1. Appendix I: It lists species that are in danger of extinction. Commercial trade prohibited. Permits are required for import and export, and trade for commercial purposes is prohibited. The Asiatic lion and tigers
- 2. Appendix II: They are those that are not threatened with extinction but that might suffer a serious decline. Their trade is regulated by permit.
- 3. Appendix III: They are protected in at least one country that is a CITES member state
- Every two to three years, CITES parties meet at what's called the Conference of the Parties (or "CoP") to evaluate how the convention is being enforced.



# KHAN GLOBAL STUDIES

Most Trusted Learning Platform

**THANKS FOR WATCHING**

