



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 27-08-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, sometimes seen in the news recently, is situated in?

- a. India
- b. Poland
- c. North Korea
- d. Afghanistan

Answer : b

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.

- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument dedicated to the memory of Polish soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country.
- It is **located at Piłsudski Square, Warsaw of Poland** and is a significant symbol of national remembrance and honour in Poland.
- The idea of building the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw was launched in 1923.
- It is a place of honour and respect.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tribute to the tomb underscores the deep respect and solidarity shared between India and Poland.
- To know more about India-Poland Bilateral Relationship [click here](#).
- The countries that have honoured their fallen soldiers by building Tomb of the Unknown Soldier include:
 - Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, **United States**.
 - National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada.
 - Hall of Memory, Australia.
 - Monument to the Unknown Hero on Avala Mountain, Serbia.
 - Libingan ng mga Bayani, Philippines and
 - Chile, Ukraine, Britain, Italy and Greece.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to Rail Force One

1. It aims to integrate stations with nearby cities and improve station structures to make stations more accessible to people with disabilities.
2. It aims to provide insurance to all rail passengers in India.

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 : d

Rail Force One

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently arrived in Ukraine's capital Kyiv from neighbouring Poland by Rail Force One.

- **Rail Force One is a train that is run by the state-owned Ukrainian Railways or Ukrzaliznytsia**, is painted blue and yellow, the colours of Ukraine's flag.
- The train has several luxury compartments and was previously used to ferry wealthy tourists to the peninsula on the Black Sea.
- The train's 10-hour, begins at Przemysl Główny station in Poland, located around 400 km southeast of Warsaw, close to the country's border with Ukraine, and ends at Kyiv.
- The first foreign dignitaries to travel to Kyiv by the train were the prime ministers of Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, who visited in 2022.
- This train represents 'Iron diplomacy' to refer to the world leaders' train trips.
- According to a CNN report, *Ukrzaliznytsia is the 6th largest railway passenger transporter in the world and 7th for freight.*

3) Consider the following statements with respect to Van Allen Belts

1. It is a two belts radiation formed by the high energy radiation particles trapped by the earth's magnetosphere.
2. The inner belt is made up of high-energy particles that originate from the Sun and the outer belt results from interactions of cosmic rays with Earth's atmosphere.
3. The 'Artemis I mission' was a significant initiative of NASA to understand the impacts to life beyond the Van Allen Belts.

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

Van Allen Belts

SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission will be the first non-government mission to perform a spacewalk in the hazardous Van Allen Belts.

- The Van Allen Belts consist of charged particles locked in place by Earth's magnetosphere, which includes its magnetic field.
- They were discovered by American physicist James Van Allen in 1958.
- It is two belts radiation namely inner belt and outer belt and **situated beyond the beyond low-Earth orbit.**
- **The outer belt is made up of billions of high-energy particles that originate from the Sun and the inner belt results from interactions of cosmic rays with Earth's atmosphere.**
- The Van Allen Belts range from about 680 kilometres above Earth's surface to what some estimates suggest is about 40,000 kilometres from the surface of the planet.
- And there's a gap between the first and second belt.
- The inner "proton" zone is centred at about 3,000 kilometres from Earth's surface and the

outer "electron" zone is centred about 15-20,000 kilometres from Earth's surface.

- **The Artemis I mission** - An *initiative by NASA* to understand the impacts to life beyond the Van Allen Belts by flying model organisms around the Moon and back.
- This research could help identify which crops to grow on the Moon, alternative sources of fuel.
- It also aids to ensure crew health during long periods of exposure to the harsh conditions of space beyond the protective layers of the Van Allen Belts. ❌

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

- a. A marine monitoring and surveillance robot developed by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).
- b. First mission by a private space agency to probe the far side of the moon.
- c. Platform designed to map and inform conservation decisions around the world.
- d. A new cryptocurrency backed by China to support steel trade.

Answer : c

MARXAN

A recent study using MARXAN have found that the population of Sunda clouded leopards have reduced in the Borneo's wildlife of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

- Marxan is a planning platform designed to map and inform conservation decisions around the world.
- It is the **world's first cloud-hosted, free and open-source spatial conservation platform.**
- It is developed by the **Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Microsoft** in collaboration with European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the University of Queensland.
- It is a flagship application of the Planetary Computer, a Microsoft's comprehensive compendium of international ecosystem data.
- Marxan uses mathematics, economics and ecology to analyse spatial data and identify cost-efficient priority areas for conservation action.
- It became the world's leading decision-support tool for conservation, assisting governments, scientists and nongovernmental organizations in land and seascape planning.
- Maps of the distribution of biodiversity, human activities, traditional land uses and socio-economic data can be brought into a common collaborative and shared workspace.
- The **Nature Conservancy** is a global environmental non-profit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive.

5) Consider the following Agreements:

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
2. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement
3. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
4. Memorandum of Intent for Defence Innovation Cooperation
5. Cultural Property Agreement

Which of the above mentioned agreements are signed between India and United States?

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

Answer : c

Agreements between USA and India

India and the US have recently signed a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers, the latest in a series of bilateral military agreements.

- India and United States enjoy a comprehensive global strategic partnership covering almost all areas of human endeavour.
- The partnership is driven by shared democratic values, convergence of interests on a range of issues, and vibrant people-to-people contacts.
- **USA is India's largest trading partner** with bilateral trade in goods and services crossing USD 191 billion in 2022.
- Important **defence agreements** between India and USA are:
 - Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP) Agreement,
 - General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA),
 - Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016),
 - Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018),
 - Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the GSOMIA (2019),
 - Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020) and
 - Memorandum of Intent for Defence Innovation Cooperation (2018).
- The **India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X)** is a network of universities, incubators, corporates, think tanks, and private investment stakeholders was launched in June 2023.
- Other agreements between India and United States include:
 - 123 Agreement (Agreement for Co-operation between two concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy),
 - **Cultural Property Agreement**,
 - Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI), 2012 to promote industrial cooperation and defence trade between the two countries and
 - Migration and mobility agreement (2020)
 - To facilitate the mobility of workers, students, academics, researchers, business people, and artists, based on the needs of each country's labour markets.
- Important **bilateral exercises** between India and United States include:
 - Yudh Abhyas (Army), Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Malabar (Navy), Cope India (Air Force) and Tiger Triumph (tri-services).
 - Red Flag, RIMPAC, CUTLASS Express, Sea Dragon and Milan are some multilateral exercises in which the two countries participate.
- **Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)** - Is a preferential regional trade agreement formerly known as the **Bangkok Agreement**.
- It aims to promote economic development of its members through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization to regional trade expansion and economic cooperation.
- **United States is not a member of it** and members include Japan, China, Singapore, Philippines, **India** and Indonesia.