

PRELIMS MANTRA – 2 (13/02/2025)

- **Representation of the People Act, 1951:**
 - **Section 8(3):** It provides for the disqualification of a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years. Such a person is disqualified from contesting elections for a further period of six years from the date of release.
 - **Section 8(1):** It stipulates that a person convicted under criminal laws for heinous crimes like rape; the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) act for preaching or practice of untouchability; UAPA for unlawful association; Prevention of Corruption Act etc., will be disqualified irrespective of the period of their sentence and six years after release.
 - **In Lily Thomas (2013), Supreme Court struck down section 8(4) of RP Act, 1951,** that allowed a sitting legislator to continue as a member even after being convicted if they filed an appeal, as unconstitutional and against political justice. After this judgment, a sitting legislator is disqualified immediately after sentencing for a conviction.
- **Bond yield and stock markets have an inverse relationship.** This is because both vie for investor funds, aspiring to outdo the other by offering more returns. Therefore, when U.S. bond yield rises, foreign investors transit from Indian equities to U.S. bonds.
- **Adani Group** is setting up a solar plant and building the **world's largest renewable energy park at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat.**
- The **128th Amendment to the Constitution** was introduced and passed in the Rajya Sabha on September 21, 2023, after which the **Women's Reservation Act was enacted and notified. Article 334A (1) prescribes delimitation of constituencies as a prerequisite.** The Act is proposed to be implemented following the first Census that would be conducted after the enactment of the Bill.
- **Indian Navy** is planning to induct **medium-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft C-295 indigenously manufactured by TATA Advanced System Ltd.**
- India is keen to procure six additional **P-8Is aircrafts from U.S.** The **P-8I, which can hunt submarines lurking in the deep oceans,** is the primary platform for the Indian Navy for long-range surveillance.
- **Marseille, a port city in France:** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was arrested in London in March 1910, on charges of anti-state acts and abetment of Nashik magistrate A M T Jackson's murder. While being brought to India for trial onboard the commercial ship SS Morea, Savarkar tried to escape from custody in Marseille.

Unique rivers of the world

- **Peru's Shanay-timpishka,** also known as the world's only **'Boiling River,'** is a rare thermal river in the Amazon Rainforest that reaches temperatures up to 100°C. The rainwater is heated as it descends into the crust, and it subsequently rises back to the surface through fault-fed hot springs (**Geothermal energy**). This area is inhabited by an **Asháninka community.** It is a tributary of the Pachitea River, which subsequently **flows into the Ucayali River, the main headstream of the Amazon River.**
- The **Hamza** and the Amazon are the two main drainage systems for the Amazon Basin. Discovery of Hamza was announced in 2011. **Hamza flows at depths of 4km below Amazon.** Both the Amazon and Hamza flow from west to east and are around the same length, at 6,000km. But whereas the Amazon ranges from 1km to 100km in width, the Hamza ranges from 200km to 400km. **Amazon flows much faster than the Hamza,** however, draining a greater volume of water. Its water has a high salt content.
- When a strong incoming tide pushes up the river against its current creating a fast-moving wave, is called a **tidal bore. Qiantang River in China** is particularly famous for its large tidal bore, which locals refer to as the **"Silver Dragon"** due to its appearance. This occurs because the shape of Hangzhou Bay funnels the incoming tide, creating a powerful wave that surges up the river.
- **Daldykan River in Russia's Krasnoyarsk Krai** is a tributary of the Ambarnaya River. It's only 29 km long has become **infamous for its blood-red colour because of nickel** dumped by a smelting facility nearby.
- **Caño Cristales is often called "the river of five colours" or the "liquid rainbow" in Columbia.** A rare, endemic plant called **macarenia clavigera** lines its rocky riverbed. During the rainy season, water level rises and just the right amount of sunlight reaches the river's floor, the **plant erupts in a vibrant spectrum of purples, fuchsias, pinks, yellows and greens that blanket the riverbed.**

Green Credit Programme (GCP):

- It was launched by the Indian PM on the sidelines of COP 28 in Dubai, UAE.
- It is an initiative within the government's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement.
- It introduces a market-based approach to incentivise 8 identified environmental activities.
- It encourages voluntary environmental actions by individuals, organizations, and companies.
- Implementing agency: Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)
- It allows for the exchange of credits to meet compensatory afforestation (CA) requirements.
- The actual afforestation will be carried out by State Forest departments.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

- Launched by PM on February 13, 2024, it aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels & vision to supply solar power to **one crore households by March 2027.**

- The scheme offers a subsidy of up to 40%, making renewable energy more affordable and accessible.
- Households will have access to collateral-free, low-interest loans at around 7% interest for the installation of residential rooftop solar (RTS) systems up to 3 kW.
- Under the "**Model Solar Village**" component of the scheme, the focus is on establishing one Model Solar Village per district throughout India. State/UT Renewable Energy Development Agency, under the supervision of the District Level Committee (DLC), will oversee the implementation.

PRACTICE MCQS

Q.1 Consider the following statements about the Green Credits Programme:

1. It is an initiative within the government's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement.
2. It encourages voluntary environmental actions by individuals, organizations, and companies towards protecting the environment.
3. Forest Survey of India is the implementing agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Q2. Consider the following statements about PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

1. It aims to install rooftop solar panels and supply solar power to one crore households by March 2025.
2. It offers a subsidy of up to 40% to eligible households to install rooftop solar panels.
3. Model Solar Village is one of the components under this scheme.

How many of the given statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Q3. The world's largest renewable energy park is being set up in which of the following places?

- a) Kutch, Gujarat
- b) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- c) Cochin, Kerala
- d) Panjim, Goa

Answer: A

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Representation of the People Act, 1951:

1. A person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years is disqualified from contesting elections for a further period of six years from the date of release.
2. A sitting legislator is disqualified immediately after sentencing for a conviction under criminal laws for heinous crimes.

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

Q5. Discovery of this river was announced in 2011. It flows at depths of 4km below Amazon River. Both the Amazon and this river flow from west to east and are around the same length, at 6,000km. But whereas the Amazon ranges from 1km to 100km in width, this river ranges from 200km to 400km.

Which of the following rivers is described in the above paragraph?

- a) Ucayali River
- b) Hamza River
- c) Ambarneya River
- d) Shanay-timpishka River

Answer: B