

CULTURE

- ❖ **Supreme Court upholds Tamil Nadu law allowing jallikattu:**
- ❖ **CONTEXT:** A **five-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court has upheld the amendments made by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, allowing **Jallikattu, Kambala**, and bullock-cart races.
- The court **overturned the verdict of a two-judge Bench in ‘Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja’ (2014)**, which had banned practices such as Jallikattu, the traditional bull-taming sport of the Pongal harvest festival.
- The five-judge Bench noted that Jallikattu has been held in Tamil Nadu for at least a century, and “we will not disrupt the view of the legislature that it is part of the cultural heritage of the state”.
- **In the 2014 ‘Nagaraja’ judgment**, an SC Bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Pinaki Chandra Ghose had ruled that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 “over-shadows or overrides the so-called tradition and culture”.
- **What did the court hold?**
 - In its judgement, the top court held that the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is “not a piece of colourable legislation” and that it relates to Entry 17 of List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution which relates to the prevention of cruelty to animals. Adding that the 2017 amendment “minimises cruelty to animals in the concerned sports”, the court held that once it’s implemented and read with the rules, the sports will not come under the definition of cruelty defined in the 1960 Act.
 - The court held, “The Amendment having received Presidential assent, we do not think there is any flaw in the State action.”Jallikattu” as bovine sports have to be isolated from the manner in which they were earlier practised and organising the sports itself would be permissible, in terms of the Tamil Nadu Rules,”
 - Highlighting that Jallikattu has been going on in Tamil Nadu for the last few centuries and forms a part of its cultural heritage, as found by the “legislative exercise” conducted by the legislature, the court clarified that it did not want to disrupt the legislature’s view.
 - The court also said that the 2017 amendment **does not violate Articles 51-A (g) and 51-A (h)**, which impose duties on Indian citizens to protect the environment and develop a scientific temper, humanism, spirit of inquiry, and reform, respectively. Further, **it also held that the amendment didn’t violate Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution.**
- **How did the case reach SC, and who filed it?**
 - In this case, the Supreme Court overruled its 2014 ruling, where a two-judge Bench had essentially outlawed two common sports practised in the States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra popularly referred to as ‘Jallikattu’ and ‘Bullock Cart Race’ respectively.
 - The erstwhile ruling has also held that “bovine sports” were contrary to the provisions of Sections 3, 11(1)(a) and (m) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 which relate to the “duties of persons having charge of animals” and define animal cruelty respectively.
 - On January 7, 2016, a notification was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change prohibiting the “exhibition or training of bulls as performing animals”.
 - However, an exception was carved in the notification, which specified that bulls might still be trained as performing animals at events such as Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, according to the customs and culture of different communities.
 - It was also specified that this exception is subject to conditions such as reducing the pain and suffering of bulls utilised in such sports. However, two years later, a batch of petitions were filed challenging the exemption notification, relying on the 2014 ruling. Thus, the present batch of pleas was filed before the top court.
 - While the first of the pleas was filed by the Animal Welfare Board of India, during the course of the hearing, the Board changed its stance to support the stand of the State and Centre on grounds that the 1960 Act and State Amendments enacted in 2017 weren’t contrary to each other. The Board also said that it framed guidelines preventing the suffering of bovine species during such events.
- **Supreme Court’s 2014 verdict:**
 - This was **the ‘Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja’** case. An SC Bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Pinaki Chandra Ghose ruled that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 “over-shadows or overrides the so-called tradition and culture”, and advised Parliament to “elevate rights of animals to that of constitutional rights... so as to protect their dignity and honour”.
 - The judgment banned the practice of jallikattu and said, “Bulls are beaten, poked, prodded, harassed and jumped on by numerous people. They have their tails bitten and twisted and their eyes and noses filled with irritating chemicals.”
 - This came after the **Animal Welfare Board of India**, which is a statutory body under the Centre, and animal rights groups like **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)**, provided documentary evidence to the court suggesting that the jallikattu animals were physically and mentally tortured.
- **Under what circumstances did Tamil Nadu pass its law?**
 - **In 2017, Tamil Nadu amended the PCA Act to allow jallikattu in the state.** The amending Act sought to preserve the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu, and to ensure the survival and well-being of the native breeds of bulls.

- This came after the top court had, in its 2014 judgment, said bulls cannot be used as performing animals either for jallikattu events or bullock-cart races, and banned their use for these purposes across the country.
- While the initial petitions filed in the case of ‘Animal Welfare Board of India v. Union of India’ had sought a direction to the states to comply with the 2014 SC ruling in ‘Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja’, the passage of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act in 2017 led to a scenario where the petitions had to be modified to include the quashing of the 2017 Act among its prayers.
- Following this, an SC Bench comprising then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra and Justice Rohinton Nariman opined that the jallikattu issue involved substantial questions of interpretation of the Constitution, and referred the matter to the Constitution Bench.
- The Bench was tasked with deciding whether Tamil Nadu could preserve jallikattu as its cultural right under Article 29(1) of the Constitution, which states that “any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same”.

➤ **What did the other states do?**

- Following in the footsteps of Tamil Nadu, the Karnataka cabinet in January 2017 decided to amend the PCA Act, 1960, to pave the way for **kambala**, a sport involving a pair of buffaloes tied to the plough and anchored by one person. The buffaloes are made to run in parallel muddy tracks in a competition in which the fastest team wins.
- Acting on a PIL filed by PETA, the Karnataka High Court had passed an interim order banning all kambala races until the SC had decided the matter.
- Then, in July 2017, Maharashtra passed an amendment to the PCA Act, 1960, allowing “bullock cart races” involving bulls to conduct a race, “whether tied to cart with the help of wooden yoke or not (by whatever name called), with or without a cartman with a view to follow tradition and culture on such days”. However, in the same year, the Bombay High Court passed an interim order restraining the Maharashtra government from giving permission for bullock-cart races.

➤ **What is jallikattu?**

- Jallikattu, also known as eruthazhuvuthal, is a bull-taming sport traditionally played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival. The festival is a celebration of nature, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, of which cattle-worship is part. However, the practice of jallikattu has long been contested, with animal rights groups and the courts expressing concern over cruelty to animals and the bloody and dangerous nature of the sport that sometimes causes death and injuries to both the bulls and human participants.

➤ **Pongal and the culture of Jallikattu:**

- Pongal in Tamil Nadu is a celebration of nature, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. Similar harvest festivals of Makara Sankranti, Maghi, and Magh Bihu are observed in other parts of the country at the same time, in mid-January.
- In Tamil Nadu, the festival lasts for three or four days, and on the third day, Mattu Pongal, cattle are worshipped. The bull-taming events then start, especially in the southern districts of the state, when the elite Jallikattu breeds test the strength and skill of farm hands in especially constructed arenas.
- Contests in Avaniapuram, Peelamedu and Alanganallur, villages neighbouring Madurai, set the tone for the season, which continues until April.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

G-7 Hiroshima summit:

- **CONTEXT:** Leaders of seven of the world’s most powerful democracies will gather this weekend for the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, the location of the world’s first atomic attack at the end of World War II.
- Hiroshima, the choice of venue underscores a determination to put nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the top of the agenda of this year’s summit. A path to nuclear disarmament has appeared more difficult with Russia’s recent nuclear weapon threats in Ukraine, as well as nuclear and missile development by China and North Korea. Japan, which is protected by the US nuclear umbrella, has also faced criticism that its nuclear disarmament pledge is an empty promise. Kishida is trying to forge a realistic roadmap between the current harsh reality and the ideal of a world without nuclear weapons.

➤ **Who are participating?**

- This year, the leaders of Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Vietnam are invited, as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stresses the importance of reaching out to developing countries in the so-called Global South and US allies and partners.
- The invitations to leaders outside the G-7 are meant to extend cooperation to a broader range of countries.
- The G-7 countries’ share of global economic activity has shrunk to about 30% from roughly 50 per cent four decades ago.
- Developing economies such as China, India and Brazil have made huge gains, raising questions about the G-7’s relevance and its role in leading a world economy that’s increasingly reliant on growth in less wealthy nations.

- Leaders of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and the World Trade Organisation are also invited.
- **What are the top issues?**
- G-7 leaders are expected to strongly condemn Russia's war on Ukraine while pledging their continuing support for Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will join the session via the internet.
 - There will also be a focus on Beijing's escalating threats against Taiwan, the self-governing democratic island Beijing claims as its own, and ways to reduce Western democracies' economic and supply chain dependency on China.
 - To address the rise of Global South nations, including many former colonies of Western powers with varied views on and ties to Russia and China, the G-7 will offer these countries more support in health, food security and infrastructure to develop closer ties.
- **What else is happening?**
- In a closely watched event on the sidelines of the summit, Kishida will meet together with President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to discuss closer security cooperation, possibly including stronger nuclear deterrence.
 - Kishida and Yoon will pay their respects together at a Hiroshima memorial for Korean atomic bomb victims in a trust-building gesture as the two countries repair ties strained by disputes stemming from Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.
- **ABOUT G7:**
- It is **an intergovernmental organisation of seven countries** that are the **world's most industrialised and developed economies**.
 - **Present Members: France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, United States of America, Canada and Japan.**
 - ✓ All the **G7 countries** and **India** are a **part of G20**.
 - **Origin:** It traces its origin to an **informal meeting** of the Finance Ministers of France, West Germany, the US, Great Britain and Japan (**Group of Five**) in the wake of the **1973 oil crisis**.
 - ✓ **Canada** joined the group in **1976** and the **European Union (EU)** began **attending** the meetings from **1977**.
 - ✓ It was called the **G8** after the original seven were **joined by Russia in 1997** and it returned to being called **G7** when **Russia was expelled as a member in 2014** following the latter's **annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine**.
 - **Principles:** The group regards itself as "**a community of values**", with freedom and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, prosperity and sustainable development as its key principles.
 - ✓ It prides itself as a group of nations that steadfastly promote liberal democracy and enjoy economic prosperity, which they seek to institutionalise through multilateral cooperation.
 - It **meets annually** to **discuss issues of common interest** like international security, energy policy and global economic governance.
 - It **does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters** and the **decisions** taken by leaders during annual summits are **non-binding**.
 - As of 2022, G7 countries make up 10% of the world's population, 31% of global GDP, and 21% of global carbon dioxide emissions.
 - In response to mounting concern over money laundering, the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** on Money Laundering was established by the G-7 grouping in **Paris in 1989**.
 - The G7 countries are important players in global trade. The US and Germany in particular are major export nations. Both sold goods worth well over a trillion US dollars abroad in 2021.



PRELIMS

1. Sendai Framework

- **IN NEWS:** India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized a Risk Reduction Hub Event at the United Nations headquarters today during the High-level meeting of the midterm review of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 to discuss 'The Roles of States for Promoting Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction towards Resilient and Sustainable Future'.
- **About Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-30:**

- It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from March 14 to 18, 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan.
 - The present Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.
 - It aims to guide the multi hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.
 - It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.
- 2. Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme**
- **IN NEWS:** Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for revision in Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for various nutrients for Rabi Season and Kharif Season 2023.
 - Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates has been confirmed for various nutrients i.e. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S) for Rabi Season 2022-23 and for Kharif Season, 2023 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.
 - **About Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme:**
 - The Subsidy on P&K fertilizers is governed by NBS Scheme under the Department of Fertilizers since 2010.
 - Subsidy is fixed by an inter-ministerial committee taking into account the benchmark international prices of finished fertilisers as well as raw materials.
 - The subsidy is given to registered to P & K fertiliser manufacturers/importers which provides these fertilisers at subsidised rates to farmers.
 - Benefits:
 - ✓ It helps farmers in ensuring availability of essential nutrients at subsidized prices.
 - ✓ It rationalizes the subsidy on P&K fertilizers, ensuring effective and efficient utilization of government resources.
- 3. Operation Karuna**
- **IN NEWS:** India has extended a hand of friendship to the people of Myanmar affected by Cyclone Mocha.
 - Indian Navy ships carrying relief material reach Yangon under Operation Karuna.
 - Total of 4 Naval ships sent to Myanmar.
 - The ships are carrying emergency food items, tents, essential medicines, water pumps, portable generators, clothes, sanitary and hygiene items.
 - India continues to be the first responder in the Indian Ocean region.
- 4. Kiru Hydro-Electric Power Project**
- **IN NEWS:** The Central Bureau of Investigation recently searched 12 locations in Delhi and Rajasthan in connection with a case alleging corruption in the award of ₹2,200 crore civil works related to the Kiru hydro-electric power project.
 - **About Kiru Hydro-Electric Power Project:**
 - It is being developed over the Chenab River near the villages of Patharnakki and Kiru in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
 - It is located between Kirthai II hydroelectric project to its upstream and Kwar hydroelectric project to its downstream.
 - It is a 624MW run-of-river project.
 - The project is being developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP), a joint venture between National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC, 49%), Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC, 49%) and Power Trading Corporation (PTC, 2%).
 - Beneficiary States: J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Union territories of Chandigarh & Delhi.
- 5. South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE):**
- **IN NEWS:** South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), an international consortium of companies in deepwater pipeline projects, has sought the support of ministry of petroleum and others to develop an undersea gas pipeline from Gulf to India.
 - The proposed 2,000-km-long energy corridor connecting Middle East and India, a \$5 billion project, can lead to an annual saving of about ₹7,000 crore in comparison with similar quantity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) import.
 - The undersea transnational gas pipeline project Middle East-India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP) was initially conceived between Iran and India (Porbandar) about a decade ago but failed to take off due to western sanctions.
 - **About SAGE:**
 - It is promoted by the New Delhi based Siddho Mal Group, in Joint Venture with a UK-based Deepwater Technology Company.
 - SAGE is working with a Global Consortium of some of the most reputed companies in the field of Deepwater Pipelines, to create a Multi-Billion Dollar "Energy Corridor" that can transport gas from the Middle East to India, bypassing the land route through Pakistan.

- In quest for India's Energy Security, South Asia Gas Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. (SAGE) is undertaking a path-breaking project, to build the Deepest Underwater Transnational Gas Pipeline.
- Also known as "Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP)", this will be a Gas Highway that will connect the Gas Rich Gulf & Middle East regions to India, for the transportation of Natural Gas to secure India's Energy Needs.
- In addition, SAGE also plans to supply Natural Gas to Oman/ UAE on its Pipeline Route to India, and seeks to further build Cooperative Relations with the friendly Gulf and Middle East countries.

6. Kishtwar High Altitude National Park

➤ **IN NEWS:** Recently, the research team of the Department of Wildlife Protection has confirmed the presence of snow leopard in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park through camera trap photographs.

➤ **About Kishtwar High Altitude National Park:**

- It is located in the Kishtwar district of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The area was declared as a Kishtwar High Altitude National Park in 1980.
- It was majorly founded to protect the Snow Leopards that are now slowly vanishing from the nature.
- The area lies in the central crystalline belt of the great Himalayas and the tract is situated on the high altitudes i.e., sub-alpine and alpine zone.
- The National Park encompasses the catchment area of Kiber, Nanth and Kiyar Nallas, all of which drain south-west into Marwah River (locally called Mariv Sudir) which later joins Chenab.
- Flora: It has a variety of temperature conifer forests. These include Fir, Himalayan Yew, Deodar, Blue Pine, or Kail and Spruce. In the alpine regions of the park extensive alpine scrub and meadows are present.
- Fauna: The park is a renowned snow leopard reserve. Besides, it provides a habitat for Brown bear, Himalayan musk deer, Hangul, Ibex, Wild boar, Indian muntjac, Serow Capricornis, Himalayan Tahr, Bharal etc.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Explaining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) throw light on the benefits and potential challenges for India from joining the IPEF grouping.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is a modern regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific. The IPEF consist of fourteen participating member states, representing around 40% of the world's GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade. It seeks to strengthen economic partnerships among participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness and competitiveness in the region.

The IPEF has identified four broad pillars on which it intends to bolster cooperation and build synergies with member countries. They are:

- **Fair trade:** In the field of trade, the member countries will build high-standard, inclusive, free and fair-trade commitments and develop creative approaches in trade and technology policy to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- **Supply chain resilience:** The nations have resolved to make supply chains more resilient and integrated, with measures to mitigate the impact of disruptions and crisis by improving transparency, security, and sustainability.
- **Clean energy and decarbonization:** The members will accelerate the development of clean energy technologies and build resilience to climate impacts. The nations are looking at technology sharing and ways for easy access to finance for meeting the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.
- **Tax and anti-corruption:** The IPEF member countries intend to promote competition by enforcing robust tax, anti-money laundering, and anti-bribery regimes to curb tax evasion and corruption in the Indo-Pacific.

Significance of IPEF for India:

- **Strategic partnership with the USA:** For India, the US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is of strategic importance. India has described the grouping as born from a collective desire to make the Indo-Pacific an engine of global economic growth, calling for common and creative solutions to tackle economic challenges in the region.
- **Supply chain resilience:** Building resilient supply chains is one of the motives of the IPEF. India can consider members as alternative sources for its raw materials requirements. For e.g.: Malaysia could increase the supply of semiconductor chips, whereas Australia can be a source of minerals for the Indian industry.
- **Countering China:** As China is not a member of the IPEF, this gives the grouping a distinct geopolitical status and it can be used by India and other members to counter the challenges posed by an assertive China.
- **Economic engagement in the region:** IPEF will enhance India's economic engagement in the region, which was dented after India's withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The IPEF will help control the damage caused by the RCEP withdrawal as all the IPEF members except the USA and India are members of RCEP.

Challenges posed by IPEF for India:

- **Driven by US interests:** The IPEF is primarily a US-led initiative and, hence, mainly driven by its interests. Amongst US interests, e-commerce and digital trade are the most prominent. The US intends to pursue, through this framework, exacting rules for the digital economy, including cross-border data flows and data localisation. This is not in sync with India's position on digital economy issues. Further, the regulatory framework pertaining to e-commerce is still evolving in India.
- **Impact on the agriculture sector:** The IPEF can have deep implications for the agriculture sector in India, in terms of genetically modified seeds and food and surrendering policy space for regulating Big Tech.

- India's concerns with respect to the trade pillar: India decided to opt out of the trade pillar of IPEF due to its concerns regarding the possibility of binding conditionalities linking labour and environment to trade.
- More unilateral rather than consensus-based: Early assessment by many experts shows that the IPEF would result in a complete stranglehold over the economic systems of the participating countries, in a manner that is to the complete advantage of the U.S.

Therefore, given the inherent challenges and opportunities attached to the grouping The 3Ts of Trust, Transparency, and Timeliness are very important for the success of this initiative. Trust and transparency will be built only if members and particularly the US, accommodate each other's interests.

MCQs

- Recently a new species of flying gecko, Gekko Mizoramensis, was discovered. In which part of India has it been discovered?
 - Andaman Islands
 - Gulf of Kutch
 - Western Ghats
 - Mizoram**
- The Central Government recently introduced the Minimum Import Price (MIP) for apples in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Consider the following statements regarding Minimum Import Price (MIP):
 - It is a temporary measure to provide protection to domestic farmers from predatory pricing of imports.
 - Import of the commodity is not allowed below this price.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements regarding the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2023:
 - It is released by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
 - The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) around the world reached more than 71 million as per the report.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2**
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following statements regarding Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme
 - The NBS scheme is being implemented by the Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
 - Under the scheme, fertilisers are provided at subsidised rates based on the nutrients contained, namely Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S).
 - It does not include urea-based fertilisers.
 Select the correct statements using the codes below
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3**
- Operation Karuna is in news recently, it is linked to which of the following?
 - Evacuation of Indian from Sudan by MEA
 - Humanitarian support & assistance to Ukraine
 - Supply of relief material to cyclone hit Myanmar**
 - Debt assistance to Srilanka by RBI
- Consider the following statement regarding South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE):
 - It is a joint venture between New Delhi based Siddho Mal Group and UK-based Deepwater Technology Company.
 - SAGE is working with a Global Consortium of some of the most reputed companies in the field of Deepwater Pipelines, to create a Multi-Billion Dollar "Energy Corridor" that can transport gas from the Middle East to India.
- SAGE also plans to supply Natural Gas to Oman/ UAE on its Pipeline Route to India.

Select the correct statements using the codes below

 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3**
- A tribal council's recent order not to issue a Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate to any Khasi person who adopts the surname of her or his father has triggered a war of words. Consider the following statements regarding the Khasi people:
 - They form the largest community in the state of Meghalaya.
 - They are divided into several clans and follows a matrilineal society.
 - The traditional Khasi male dress is "Jymphong" or a longish sleeveless coat without collar, fastened by thongs in front.
 - In the Khasi society, it is only the youngest daughter or "Ka Khadduh" who is eligible to inherit the ancestral property.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4**
- Kishtwar High Altitude National Park is located in which of the following states?
 - Uttarakhand
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Sikkim
 - Jammu and Kashmir**
- Recently Amy Pope elected next Director General of the International Organization for Migration. Consider the following statements with reference to International Organization for Migration:
 - It is dedicated to promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.
 - It has a permanent observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.
 - India is not a member of International Organization for Migration.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 and 2 only**
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- A breach of privilege notice against a Rajya Sabha member was recently referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation by the Rajya Sabha Chairman. Consider the following statements regarding the Committee of Privileges:
 - It consists of 22 members in Lok Sabha and 15 members in Rajya Sabha.
 - In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - 1 only
 - 2 only**
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2