

09/04/2024

TOPICS COVERED

1. States being compelled to move court against Centre: Supreme Court (GS Paper II: Center state Relation)
2. A.P. tribal woman gives birth on road (GS Paper I: Society, GS Paper IV: Ethics)
3. Right against climate change a fundamental right, says SC (GS Paper II: Fundamental Rights)
4. Indian aviation, a case of air safety at a discount (GS Paper II: Regulatory Authority)
5. Promise or perish: On political parties and their manifestos (GS Paper II: Election)
6. Marching ahead with technology absorption (GS Paper III: Internal Security)

States being compelled to move court against Centre: Supreme Court (GS Paper II: Center state Relation)

- The Supreme Court has observed that several states are being forced to approach it regarding issues with the central government.
- Justice B.R. Gavai, leading the bench, cautioned the Union government against engaging in a confrontation with water-starved Karnataka over its request for drought relief.
- The court emphasized the need to avoid conflicts between the Union and the states.
- The Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, were addressed by Justice Gavai.
- Recently, Tamil Nadu accused the Centre of showing bias by delaying the release of disaster relief funds worth ₹38,000 crore to address cyclone and flood-related damages.
- Kerala filed a unique lawsuit directly in the Supreme Court, alleging arbitrary interference by the Centre in its net borrowing limits, leading to financial strain.

'Grave crisis'

- Karnataka has stated that its plea for financial relief from the Centre to address a significant humanitarian crisis has not received a response.
- The state requested ₹18,171.44 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) six months ago due to extensive crop damage, amounting to ₹35,162.05 crore.
- Severe drought conditions have impacted the majority of Karnataka's taluks, with 223 out of 236 taluks declared as drought-affected for the Kharif 2023 season.
- The state highlighted that the Centre is required to make a final decision on NDRF assistance within a month of receiving the Inter-Ministerial Central Team's report, but no action has been taken for the past six months.
- Karnataka's advocate, D.L. Chidananda, represented the state's case.
- The court has given two weeks for the Union government's law officers to provide instructions and respond to the situation.

A.P. tribal woman gives birth on road (GS Paper I: Society, GS Paper IV: Ethics)

- A 28-year-old woman named Killo Vasantha from a tribal hamlet in Andhra Pradesh gave birth to a baby on the roadside early on Monday.
- Vasantha, belonging to a tribal community in Cheedivalasa village, experienced labor pains around 4 a.m.
- Her family members called the emergency ambulance service (108) for assistance.
- Although the ambulance reached the nearest point, approximately one kilometer away from the village, it couldn't proceed further due to the absence of a motorable road leading to the village.
- Vasantha's husband, Bhaskara Rao, and some women from the village carried her along a dirt pathway toward the ambulance.
- Before reaching the ambulance, Vasantha gave birth to a baby girl on the roadside.
- She experienced heavy bleeding, prompting the ambulance staff to come on foot to provide medical assistance.
- The ambulance staff also assisted the villagers in moving Vasantha to the ambulance, after which she was transported to the Health Centre at Hukumpeta for further treatment.

'Funds siphoned off'

- CPI(M) district secretariat member K. Govinda Rao alleges that roads were not constructed in tribal hamlets despite drawing funds amounting to crores of rupees from schemes like MGNREGS.
- Funds have allegedly been siphoned off by unscrupulous contractors over the years.
- Rao criticizes politicians for making promises to lay roads before every general election but failing to fulfill them.

- Deputy Sarpanch Killo Nageswara Rao and villagers claim that a road was sanctioned in 2017 under MGNREGS, but work was halted midway despite funds being allocated.
- Earthmovers were brought in and work started but stopped before completion.
- Villagers demand the immediate completion of the road to ensure timely medical assistance for pregnant women and sick individuals.

Right against climate change a fundamental right, says SC (GS Paper II: Fundamental Rights)

- The Supreme Court has acknowledged a previously less-articulated right against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right in the Constitution.
- The Court observed that while the right to a clean environment has been recognized, the right against the adverse effects of climate change is equally important and interconnected.
- The recognition of this right is based on Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life) of the Indian Constitution.
- The judgment came in a case related to the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species, which faces threats due to power transmission lines intersecting its natural habitat and flight routes.
- An expert committee was constituted to examine the challenges faced by the species, with the case scheduled for further hearing in August.
- However, the Court unexpectedly released a judgment during the weekend, addressing climate change and its adversities, linking the right against climate change to Articles 21 and 14.
- Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasized that the rights to life and equality cannot be fully realized without a clean and stable environment.
- The Supreme Court emphasized that the right to health, which is a part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, is impacted by various factors related to climate change.
- These factors include air pollution, changes in diseases spread by vectors (such as mosquitoes), increasing temperatures, droughts, crop failures leading to food shortages, storms, and floods.
- The inability of disadvantaged communities to adapt to or deal with the effects of climate change violates their rights to life and equality.
- Poorer communities are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental degradation, particularly when it leads to food and water shortages.
- The judgment highlighted the interconnectedness between climate change and several human rights, including the right to health, indigenous rights, gender equality, and the right to development.
- It emphasized that the right to a healthy environment, free from the adverse effects of climate change, is considered a fundamental human right.

Indian aviation, a case of air safety at a discount (GS Paper II: Regulatory Authority)

With airline managements in India appearing to prioritise commercial needs over passenger safety, the Civil Aviation Ministry and the regulator need to act

- Union Minister for Civil Aviation and DGCA emphasize safety as a priority in India's aviation sector.
- Concerns raised regarding two safety issues:

1. Lack of Runway End Safety Area at Kozhikode's Karipur airport, despite recommendations after a 2020 air crash.
2. Delay in implementing revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) regulations to address pilot fatigue.



- Minister warned of curtailing runway operations at Karipur airport if safety measures not implemented by August 2023.
- Despite warnings, safety measures remain unaddressed, posing risks to passengers.
- Revised FDTL regulations introduced to enhance pilot rest periods and reduce fatigue-related risks.
- Implementation of FDTL regulations deferred indefinitely due to airline concerns about additional crew requirements and flight curtailments.
- Concerns raised about conflicting priorities: safety versus commercial interests in the aviation sector.
- Lack of action on safety issues suggests inadequate adherence to safety standards by authorities and airlines.
- Passenger safety compromised due to delays in addressing safety concerns.

Civil Aviation

- Civil aviation is the operation of aircraft for any purpose other than military or state-related activities. It encompasses a wide range of activities, both commercial and private.

Key Areas of Civil Aviation

- **Commercial Air Transport:** Includes scheduled airlines and charter services for passenger and cargo transportation.
- **General Aviation:** Encompasses all other non-commercial flying such as private aircraft, flight training, aerial photography, crop dusting, and air ambulance services.
- **Aerial Work:** Involves the use of aircraft for specialized tasks such as firefighting, construction, powerline inspection, and search and rescue.

Civil Aviation Authorities

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO): A United Nations specialized agency that works with member states to develop international standards and practices for safe and efficient air transport.



Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the statutory body that regulates all matters related to civil aviation in India.
- It is formed under the Aircraft Act of 1934 and is responsible for ensuring safety, efficiency, and compliance within the Indian aviation sector.



Key Responsibilities of the DGCA

- 1. Regulation and Safety:**
 - Issuing licenses and certifications for pilots, aircraft, maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers, and aerodromes.
 - Developing and enforcing safety standards and regulations.
 - Conducting safety audits and inspections on airlines, airports, and other aviation organizations.
 - Investigating aviation accidents and incidents to improve safety.
- 2. Airworthiness:**
 - Ensuring the continued airworthiness of all aircraft registered in India.
 - Approving aircraft designs, modifications, and maintenance programs.
- 3. Airspace Management:**
 - Managing India's airspace, including air traffic control and airspace planning.
- 4. Economic Regulation:**
 - Regulating airfares and routes to ensure fair competition.
 - **Protecting consumer rights of air passengers.**
- 5. International Cooperation:**
 - Representing India at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international bodies.
 - Developing bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries on aviation matters.

Important Roles of Civil Aviation

- **Economic Development:** Civil aviation fuels economic growth by facilitating trade, tourism, and business connections.
- **Connectivity:** Air transport provides essential connections between cities, regions, and countries, particularly for remote or inaccessible areas.

- **Emergency Response:** Aircraft play a crucial role in disaster relief, medical evacuations, and humanitarian aid missions.

Systems overseas

- **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) introduced Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS) as a mandatory requirement** due to safety concerns.
- Studies link **fatigue, sleep deprivation, and impaired reaction times** to aviation accidents and serious incidents.
- Countries like **Japan, Singapore, and the United Kingdom** prioritize fatigue management for flight crew.
- Pilots in these countries typically get **two days off every week to reset body clocks and recover from cumulative fatigue.**
- In contrast, there's a perception that pilots are overpaid for their work, despite demanding schedules and safety responsibilities.
- In the past, airlines have cited financial reasons to deny pilots salary increases, overlooking the demanding nature of their job.
- **Pilots advocate for fair working conditions, including adequate rest periods and time with family.**
- Highlighting disparities between pilots' and ground personnel's working conditions, pilots stress the need for regular time off to maintain well-being and safety.

The human factor is distant

- Airline rosters often overlook the human factor, disregarding pilots' well-being and fatigue.
- DGCA's regulations set limits on flight time and duty hours, but airlines may still push pilots to operate near these limits.
- Minimum crew requirements set by DGCA for scheduled transport flights may be lower than what's recommended for fatigue management.
- DGCA may not monitor crew numbers based on fatigue management requirements, potentially prioritizing industry growth over safety concerns.
- **Financial stress can have detrimental effects on pilots' mental health and decision-making, as seen in past aviation accidents.**
- Examples include the **Silkair crash in 1997 and the Egyptair crash in 1999**, where financial issues were linked to pilot suicide.
- **Recent reports suggest financial pressure on pilots, such as Vistara copilots facing income cuts with the airline's merger with Air India.**
- The focus on financial pressures raises concerns about pilots' ability to concentrate on flight safety.
- **Airlines should view copilots as future captains** and invest in their well-being and development.
- **Human resource departments** in airlines need to prioritize pilots' welfare to ensure long-term growth and safety.
- Blaming pilots for seeking better opportunities elsewhere overlooks the importance of humane policies in aviation.

- **Transparency and ethical practices are essential** in aviation governance, especially in light of recent controversies like the electoral bond issue.

Some solutions

- India faces a shortage of pilots, which can be addressed by adopting **ICAO Annex 1 Standard**.
- This standard allows **recognition of foreign licenses, encouraging experienced Indian pilots working abroad to return**.
- DGCA currently requires active pilots to conduct mandatory checks, but retired pilots abroad could fulfill this role, freeing up trained pilots for active duty.
- **Outdated rules (that were drafted in 1937) and corrupt systems hinder Indian aviation progress, necessitating modernization and transparency.**
- The Tatas, in their merger of four airlines, must prioritize the **human factor in aviation and focus on transparency and brand loyalty.**
- Excuses like "Air Traffic Control delays" for flight disruptions won't suffice, **transparency and brand loyalty are key to success in aviation.**

Promise or perish: On political parties and their manifestos (GS Paper II: Election)

Parties need to offer more than welfare schemes in their manifesto

- Manifestos offer a structured view of a political party's vision and policies ahead of elections.
- The Congress party's 2024 manifesto, titled Nyay Patra (Document for Justice), aims to revive the party's political standing against the BJP's ideological dominance.
- It presents **25 guarantees focusing on social justice, economy, and upholding constitutional institutions.**
- A significant promise is the **removal of the 50% cap on reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes (OBC), along with conducting a nationwide caste census.**
- Other promises include **ensuring bail as the rule and jail as the exception in criminal laws, reviewing laws affecting privacy and individual choice, and regulating the media and internet freedom.**
- Welfare schemes proposed include **unconditional cash transfers, legal rights to minimum support price (MSP) and health insurance, apprenticeship stipends, and educational loan waivers.**
- However, questions remain about the novelty and credibility of these promises compared to the BJP's vision and the Congress's governance track record.
- The **manifesto is criticized for lacking imagination and failing to offer distinct policies beyond standard welfare schemes.**

Perverse intent: On the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

The CAA suffers from a narrow definition of persecution and arbitrariness

- Offering citizenship to persecuted migrants is a humane act by any nation-state.
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) limits this measure to migrants from certain neighboring nations and restricts it to cases of "religious persecution", excluding Muslims, atheists, and agnostics.
- Critics argue that the CAA goes against the ethos of the Indian Constitution by focusing solely on religious persecution.
- Persecution can occur for various reasons beyond religion, such as linguistic discrimination.
- The Rohingya crisis illustrates how Muslims also face severe discrimination and persecution.
- The CAA's rules do not require foreign applicants to renounce citizenship of their native countries, raising concerns about dual citizenship.
- India is not a signatory to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, but the CAA could violate its provisions if it were.
- Critics argue that the CAA's arbitrary and selective norms for providing citizenship to migrants should be declared unconstitutional and revoked by the Supreme Court of India.

Marching ahead with technology absorption (GS Paper III: Internal Security)

The Indian military is moving in the right direction, but the challenge lies in sustaining technology absorption with a nuanced understanding of the requirements

- The Indian Army is focusing on technology absorption in 2024 to stay ahead in warfare.
- This initiative falls under the umbrella of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance).
- Technology absorption will mainly involve disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, drones, sensors, robotics, space tech, and hypersonic weapons.
- Nations like the US and China have made significant advancements in disruptive technologies.
- Absorption includes acquiring, adapting, and integrating technologies into existing structures.
- Time-tested weapon platforms and tactics will still be relevant alongside new technologies.
- Integration of new technologies with existing systems is crucial for practical use.
- Simply replacing existing systems with new ones may not be the best approach.

Complimenting legacy systems

- Simply acquiring new technologies doesn't guarantee success in warfare; how they're employed is crucial.
- While new technologies may make battlefields more lethal, their actual impact may not always match the potential.
- Recent wars like **Russia-Ukraine and Armenia-Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)** show that realized lethality isn't vastly different from past conflicts.



- The Russian army's traditional methodologies have contributed to its advantage over Ukraine in the ongoing conflict.
- Consolidating traditional defense lines and having a strong military industrial base are also significant factors in determining success in warfare.
- India's focus on disruptive technologies (DTs) and indigenous defense upgrades is a positive step for its military strategy.

Adapting to new conditions is crucial

- In wars, technical countermeasures are used to quickly neutralize the effectiveness of new technology-based weapons.
- The most crucial adaptations in warfare are often operational and tactical, focusing on how militaries fight rather than just on technological advancements.
- Tactics developed over a century ago, like dispersion, cover, and concealment, are still essential for reducing exposure to enemy fire.
- Weapon platforms such as tanks need to adapt to become more survivable by changing tactics and integrating different capabilities.
- Tanks may need to operate widely dispersed on the battlefield and be accompanied by electronic warfare units to detect and jam enemy aerial platforms.
- Infantry units must also operate dispersedly and require strong junior leadership to lead them effectively in modern high-tech battles.

Planning ahead

- Instead of replacing conventional platforms with digital solutions, future planning should prioritize integrating technology into existing systems.

- **Acknowledging vulnerabilities and understanding the gap between** current capabilities and desired outcomes is crucial.
- **It's essential to understand the latest technologies, their potential, and how they can be effectively utilized.**
- **Technology absorption should occur at all levels, not just at the top, to ensure true transformation.**
- **Macro-level aspects like organizational restructuring, human resource management, and decentralization of specialist roles are vital for successful absorption.**
- Other considerations include **civil-military fusion, data integrity policies, and procurement strategies tailored to disruptive technologies.**
- The Indian military is making progress in this direction, but sustaining it requires a nuanced understanding of requirements and lessons from recent wars.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

Question: Assess the importance of adapting operational and tactical approaches in modern warfare, considering the rapid advancements in technology. (150 Words/10 Marks)

ANSWER APPROACH

- Introduce with India's focused efforts in technology absorption.
- Then bring the Technology's Potential and Limitations:
- Further discuss the significance of Complementing Legacy Systems
- Then discuss the Importance of Operational and Tactical Adaptation:
- Further discuss the Planning for Effective Absorption
- Finally Conclude by Underscore India's positive trajectory, but emphasize the need for a nuanced and sustained approach in technology absorption.

ANSWER

Adapting operational and tactical approaches in modern warfare is paramount, given the rapid advancements in technology. India's focused efforts on technology absorption under the Atmanirbharta initiative signify the recognition of this importance. While disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, drones, and hypersonic weapons offer immense potential, their limitations underscore the need to complement legacy systems.

- Recent conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine and Armenia-Azerbaijan clashes, have highlighted that battlefield lethality is not solely determined by advanced weaponry but also by the effective employment of traditional methodologies.
- Operational and tactical adaptations play a crucial role in optimizing the use of new technologies and ensuring battlefield success. For instance, tactics like dispersion, cover, and concealment remain indispensable for reducing vulnerability to enemy fire.
- Moreover, adapting weapon platforms like tanks to become more survivable through changes in tactics and integration of different capabilities is essential.
- Infantry units also need to operate dispersedly, requiring strong leadership and coordination in modern high-tech battles.
- In planning for effective technology absorption, it is vital to prioritize integrating technology into existing systems rather than replacing conventional platforms entirely.

- Understanding the latest technologies and their potential, along with acknowledging vulnerabilities, is crucial.
- Additionally, absorption should occur at all levels of the military hierarchy to ensure true transformation.

While India is making strides in technology absorption, sustaining this momentum necessitates a nuanced understanding of requirements and lessons learned from recent conflicts. Emphasizing operational and tactical adaptations alongside technological advancements will be pivotal in maintaining India's strategic edge in modern warfare.

A new methodology with some issues

While the methodology for the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey is more refined now, the survey needs to address some methodological challenges

- The National Sample Survey (NSS) Office released key results of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 in late February.
- Results include estimates of average household monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) for rural and urban areas, distribution by food and non-food categories, and variation in MPCE among households with different standards of living.
- Trends in MPCE composition since 1999-2000 were also provided.
- State-level estimates only include average MPCE for each State and Union Territory (UT) in rural and urban areas.
- This release fills a data gap of over a decade and is crucial for compiling poverty estimates.
- While the methodology is improved, challenges remain, requiring ongoing refinement to ensure comparability with earlier data from 1972-73 to 2011-12.

Changes and implications

- The new Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) includes updated item coverage to reflect current consumption behavior.
- One significant change is the division of the questionnaire into three parts: food items, consumables and services, and durable goods.
- These three questionnaires are randomly used during three separate monthly visits to selected households.
- Previously, a single questionnaire was used during one visit, leading to long interviews and respondent fatigue.
- The change aims to prevent under-reporting of consumption expenditure, especially for items like durable goods placed towards the end of the questionnaire.
- While this change improves the reliability of average MPCE estimates, it makes it difficult to compare current estimates with past data due to potential under-reporting in previous surveys.

- The method of stratification for sampling in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) has changed.
- Previously, each district was considered a basic stratum for rural and urban areas in the 2011-12 survey. Now, each State/UT is considered the basic stratum.
- In the new method, every district doesn't necessarily get represented in both rural and urban samples.
- The stratification of households has also changed, with households in selected villages/urban blocks classified into three groups based on possession criteria.
- In rural areas, the possession of land determines the group, while in urban areas, possession of non-commercial four-wheeler cars on the survey date is the criterion.
- The total sample consists of 18 households with proportional representation from the three groups.
- However, in states where the proportion of urban households owning four-wheelers is low, ensuring an adequate number of affluent households in the sample may be challenging.
- In the 2011-12 survey, stratification was based on the average MPCE of households, with the top 10%, middle 60%, and bottom 30% forming the three strata, and a specific number of households allotted to each.

Methodological issues

- The splitting of the questionnaire and multiple visits to sample households have made it challenging to compare current estimates of household consumption expenditure (MPCE) with past ones.
- To address this issue, a traditional approach of one schedule with a single household visit can be replicated in an independent random sample of households.
- This replication can be conducted in at least one of the panels where fieldwork is yet to begin.
- The HCES for a year consists of 10 panels, each covering consecutive three months, with an equal number of sample villages/urban blocks in each panel.
- Implementing this add-on module will allow the generation of two independent estimates of average MPCE based on the current and traditional approaches.
- Comparing these estimates will help understand the extent of divergence between the two and build a comparable series.
- To ensure adequate representation of affluent households, a frame of such households based on administrative data can be developed.
- A random sample of households drawn from this frame can then be surveyed to inquire about consumption expenditure.
- This database, along with those from the HCES, will help derive an improved distribution of households by their average MPCE.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTION:

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship in India:
The concept of dual citizenship is recognized by the Indian Constitution.

A person of Indian origin living abroad can acquire Indian citizenship through registration. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 2: With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

It provides a path to citizenship for non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

It relaxes the residency requirement for naturalization for specified religious groups.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 3: Which of the following grounds can lead to the loss of Indian citizenship?

Renunciation

Deprivation by the central government

Acquiring citizenship of another country

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

Question 4: Which of the following is NOT a core functional area of the DGCA?

- (a) Regulation of Air Transport Services
- (b) Personnel Licensing
- (c) Construction of new airports
- (d) Air Safety

Question 5: Consider the following:

Issuance of a pilot's license.

Certification of an airline's maintenance procedures.

Investigation of a serious air accident.

Which of the above functions come under the purview of the DGCA?

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

Question 6:

The term "Airworthiness Directive" issued by the DGCA refers to:

- (a) Mandatory instructions for airlines regarding safety-related modifications or inspections.
- (b) Guidelines on passenger rights and compensation schemes.
- (c) Rules for registering a new aircraft in India.
- (d) Environmental regulations for the aviation sector.

Question 7: Which of the following celestial bodies is directly involved in a total solar eclipse?

Earth

Moon

Sun

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Question 8: Consider the following statements about a total solar eclipse:
 It can only occur during a new moon phase.
 The period of totality (complete blockage of the Sun) can last for several hours.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Question 9: The darkest part of the Moon's shadow during a total solar eclipse is called the:

- (a) Penumbra
- (b) Corona
- (c) Umbra
- (d) Chromosphere

Question 1: Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship in India:

The concept of dual citizenship is recognized by the Indian Constitution.

A person of Indian origin living abroad can acquire Indian citizenship through registration. Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect. India does not allow dual citizenship. If an Indian citizen acquires the citizenship of another country, they automatically lose their Indian citizenship.

Statement 2 is correct. Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) residing outside India can acquire Indian citizenship through registration if they meet certain eligibility criteria.

Question 2: With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

It provides a path to citizenship for non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

It relaxes the residency requirement for naturalization for specified religious groups.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation: The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 has been a subject of debate. Its key provisions include:

Statement :1 is correct: The Act provides a path to Indian citizenship for religiously persecuted minorities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.

Statement : 2 is correct: The Act reduces the residency requirement for naturalization from 11 years to 5 years for the specified religious groups from these countries.

Question 3: Which of the following grounds can lead to the loss of Indian citizenship?

Renunciation
 Deprivation by the central government

Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation: The Citizenship Act, 1955 lays out three ways an Indian citizen can lose their citizenship:

<p>Acquiring citizenship of another country (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3</p>	<p>Renunciation: Voluntary relinquishment of citizenship. Deprivation: The central government can forcibly revoke citizenship if it was acquired through fraud or misrepresentation, or if the citizen engages in acts against the country's interests</p>
<p>Question 4: Which of the following is NOT a core functional area of the DGCA? (a) Regulation of Air Transport Services (b) Personnel Licensing (c) Construction of new airports (d) Air Safety</p>	<p>Answer: (c) Construction of new airports Explanation: While the DGCA plays a role in providing approvals and clearances related to airports, the actual construction and development of new airports fall under the purview of entities like the Airports Authority of India (AAI) or private developers.</p>
<p>Question 5: Consider the following: Issuance of a pilot's license. Certification of an airline's maintenance procedures. Investigation of a serious air accident. Which of the above functions come under the purview of the DGCA? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3</p>	<p>Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3 Explanation: Personnel Licensing: The DGCA is responsible for issuing licenses to pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, and other aviation professionals. Airworthiness: The DGCA ensures that airlines and other operators maintain their aircraft in a safe and airworthy condition. Air Safety: Investigating accidents and incidents is a critical part of the DGCA's role in upholding aviation safety.</p>
<p>Question 6: The term "Airworthiness Directive" issued by the DGCA refers to: (a) Mandatory instructions for airlines regarding safety-related modifications or inspections. (b) Guidelines on passenger rights and compensation schemes. (c) Rules for registering a new aircraft in India. (d) Environmental regulations for the aviation sector.</p>	<p>Answer: (a) Mandatory instructions for airlines regarding safety-related modifications or inspections. Explanation: Airworthiness Directives (ADs) are binding orders issued by the DGCA to address known safety issues or potential hazards with specific aircraft types, engines, or components. Airlines must comply with ADs to maintain the airworthiness of their fleet.</p>
<p>Question 7: Which of the following celestial bodies is directly involved in a total solar eclipse? Earth Moon Sun (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, and 3</p>	<p>Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3 Explanation: A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes directly between the Earth and the Sun, casting a shadow on Earth and completely blocking the Sun's light for a brief period.</p>
<p>Question 8: Consider the following statements about a total solar eclipse: It can only occur during a new moon phase.</p>	<p>Answer: (a) 1 only Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. A solar eclipse requires a specific alignment where the Moon is</p>

<p>The period of totality (complete blockage of the Sun) can last for several hours. Which of the above statements is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p>positioned between the Earth and Sun, which is only possible during a new moon. Statement 2 is incorrect. The period of totality in a total solar eclipse is relatively short, typically lasting a few minutes at most.</p>
<p>Question 9: The darkest part of the Moon's shadow during a total solar eclipse is called the: (a) Penumbra (b) Corona (c) Umbra (d) Chromosphere</p>	<p>Answer: (c) Umbra Explanation: The Moon's shadow during an eclipse has two parts: Umbra: The central, darkest cone of the shadow where the Sun is completely blocked. Penumbra: The lighter, outer part of the shadow where the Sun is only partially obscured.</p>

PatrioticIAS