

MANTHAN

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CL Educate Limited, A – 45, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, New Delhi – 110044

Contact No. 011-41280800 / 1100

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1. The Nobel Peace Prize 2024

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese grassroots movement comprising survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, known as the Hibakusha.
- This organization has played a pivotal role in advocating for a world free from nuclear weapons, a mission fueled by the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors.
- Nihon Hidankyo has worked relentlessly to ensure that the horrors of nuclear warfare are never repeated, with the collective experience of the Hibakusha forming the cornerstone of its advocacy.
- The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 killed an estimated 120,000 people. In the aftermath, many more succumbed to burns, radiation sickness, and other injuries, resulting in further untold suffering.
- The Hibakusha, who survived these tragic events, have since become powerful advocates for nuclear disarmament.
- Through their personal stories of loss, devastation, and survival, they have contributed to a growing international movement that recognizes the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.
- This movement has led to the establishment of a global norm, referred to as the “nuclear taboo,” which considers the use of nuclear weapons morally unacceptable.
- The testimony of the Hibakusha is unique and irreplaceable in the broader discourse on nuclear disarmament.
- By sharing their personal experiences, they have created educational campaigns and delivered urgent warnings about the dangers posed by nuclear weapons.
- Their stories provide a human dimension to the incomprehensible suffering caused by nuclear warfare, offering a profound reminder of the destructive power of these weapons.
- Nihon Hidankyo has mobilized this narrative to fuel a wider opposition to nuclear weapons, generating international support for the nuclear taboo.
- The survivors, despite enduring lifelong physical and emotional pain, have chosen to use their traumatic experiences to champion peace and foster a world where nuclear weapons are never used again.
- Founded in 1956, Nihon Hidankyo was formed by local Hibakusha associations and victims of nuclear tests in the Pacific, becoming Japan’s largest and most influential Hibakusha organization.
- In awarding the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo, the Norwegian Nobel Committee honors not only the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also the broader movement for nuclear disarmament.
- This prize acknowledges the suffering endured by the Hibakusha and their determination to use their painful memories to build a more peaceful world. The Committee’s decision aligns with Alfred Nobel’s vision of recognizing individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to the betterment of humanity.
- Nihon Hidankyo joins a distinguished group of past Nobel laureates who have championed nuclear disarmament and arms control, reinforcing the global commitment to a future without nuclear weapons.

The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five original Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, in 1895. It is awarded annually by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, based in Oslo,

Norway, to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to peace. Here are key details about the prize:

1. Purpose of the Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize aims to recognize achievements in:

- Promoting fraternity between nations.
- Advancing the disarmament and arms control agenda.
- Creating and maintaining peaceful congresses or negotiations.
- Improving human rights and humanitarian work.

2. Nomination Process

- Nominations are submitted by a wide range of eligible nominators, including national politicians, university professors, previous laureates, and members of international courts.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee, composed of five members appointed by the Norwegian Parliament, is responsible for evaluating nominations and selecting the winner.
- Nominations must be submitted by January 31 of each year.

3. Selection Criteria

- The committee bases its selection on the achievements made in the previous year, but ongoing work or lasting contributions can also be considered. It can recognize both individuals and organizations.
- Over the years, laureates have included political leaders, activists, organizations like the International Red Cross, and international bodies like the United Nations.

4. Announcement and Award Ceremony

- The Nobel Peace Prize is typically announced in early October each year.
- The award ceremony is held on December 10 in Oslo City Hall, commemorating the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.
- The laureate receives a medal, a diploma, and a cash award (the amount varies but is often around 10 million Swedish kronor).

5. Notable Laureates

Some of the most prominent Nobel Peace Prize winners include:

- Martin Luther King Jr. (1964) for his civil rights activism.
- Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk (1993) for their roles in ending apartheid in South Africa.
- Malala Yousafzai (2014) for her advocacy of girls' education.
- The United Nations (UN) and UN bodies like UNHCR and WFP for their humanitarian efforts.
- Mother Teresa (1979) for her work in helping the poor.

6. Controversies

The Peace Prize has sometimes sparked controversy due to the political nature of certain choices, such as the selection of Barack Obama (2009) early in his presidency or the awarding of the prize to Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres, and Yitzhak Rabin (1994) despite ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

7. Nobel Peace Prize 2023

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian human rights advocate, for her courageous fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her efforts to promote human rights and freedom.

List of Indians who have either won or been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

1. Mahatma Gandhi (Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times between 1937-1948)

- Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most well-known figures associated with non-violence, and despite being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times, he never won the award. Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha (non-violent resistance) became the backbone of India's independence movement against British rule. His belief in peaceful methods to resolve conflicts and his campaigns for civil rights in South Africa and India inspired global movements for peace. The Nobel Committee has expressed regret on multiple occasions for not awarding Gandhi the Peace Prize.

2. Sri Aurobindo

- Sri Aurobindo, the Indian poet, philosopher, nationalist and developer of Integral yoga, was nominated unsuccessfully for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1943 and for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. On 1 December 1999, the Norwegian Nobel Committee confirmed that Mahatma Gandhi was nominated unsuccessfully for the Peace Prize five times (from 1937 to 1939, in 1947 and a few days before he was assassinated in January 1948). In 2006, Geir Lundestad, the Secretary of Norwegian Nobel Committee, cited it as "the greatest omission in our 106-year history". Two of the Nobel laureates (Tagore and Raman) were citizens of British India at the time they were awarded while two also were of foreign origin (Ross and Kipling). Three of the laureates were citizens of the Republic of India (Mother Teresa, Amartya Sen, and Satyarthi) and four were Indian by birth (Khorana, Chandrasekhar, Ramakrishnan, and Banerjee) but subsequently non-citizens of India.

3. Mother Teresa (Nobel Peace Prize, 1979)

- Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work in alleviating the plight of the poor, sick, and dying in the slums of Kolkata (Calcutta), India. Born in Albania and later naturalized as an Indian citizen, she founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. Her life's work exemplified compassion and humanitarian service, reaching out to the most marginalized sections of society, irrespective of religion or nationality. The Nobel Committee recognized her for bringing global attention to the fight against poverty and suffering.

4. Kailash Satyarthi (Nobel Peace Prize, 2014)

- Kailash Satyarthi is an Indian child rights activist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, which he shared with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan. Satyarthi has dedicated his life to ending child labor and advocating for children's education and rights. He founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) in 1980, which has rescued thousands of children from conditions of slavery, trafficking, and exploitative labor. His work has led to global awareness and international policies concerning child labor.

5. The 14th Dalai Lama (Nobel Peace Prize, 1989)

- Although not an Indian by nationality, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, has lived in India since fleeing Tibet in 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet. The Dalai Lama's commitment to peace, compassion, and inter-religious harmony, as well as his leadership of the Tibetan government-in-exile based in Dharamshala, India, has made him a globally respected figure in peace and human rights advocacy.

6. Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize, 1985 and 1987)

- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Frontier Gandhi, was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and was known for his advocacy of non-violence. Although of Pashtun origin and primarily associated with the North-West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan), he had significant connections with India's freedom movement. Khan led the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement, promoting peace and resistance to British colonial rule without violence. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice but did not win.

7. Arun Manilal Gandhi (Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize, 2016)

- Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016. A social-political activist, Arun has worked on promoting non-violence globally, continuing his grandfather's legacy. He has been involved in various humanitarian efforts, including projects to address poverty and racial inequality, mainly in the United States and India.

8. Jawaharlal Nehru (Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize in 1950)

- Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for his efforts in promoting international peace and cooperation. Nehru's vision of a post-colonial world order, his leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement, and his advocacy for peace and disarmament made him a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. However, the award was not given to him.

9. Vinoba Bhave (Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize in 1964)

- A spiritual leader and social reformer who led the **Bhoodan Movement** (land gift movement) aimed at redistributing land to the landless, Vinoba Bhave was highly regarded for his commitment to non-violence and social justice. He was believed to have been considered for the Nobel Peace Prize, although he did not receive it.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

- Nihon Hidankyo is a Japanese grassroots movement comprising survivors of the atomic bombings of _____ and _____.
- The survivors of the atomic bombings are known as _____, and they have become powerful advocates for nuclear disarmament.
- The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 killed an estimated _____ people.
- Nihon Hidankyo was founded in _____ and has become Japan's largest Hibakusha organization.
- The motto of Nihon Hidankyo is "_____."
- The term "_____" refers to the global norm that considers the use of nuclear weapons morally unacceptable.
- The testimony of the Hibakusha provides a _____ dimension to the incomprehensible suffering caused by nuclear warfare.
- Nihon Hidankyo has sent annual delegations to the _____ to highlight the urgent need for nuclear disarmament.
- The Nobel Committee awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize to Nihon Hidankyo for its role in advocating for a world free from _____.
- The organization has consistently called for the abolition of nuclear weapons, highlighting their incompatibility with _____ survival.

2. Nobel Prize in Literature 2024

- Han Kang, acclaimed South Korean author, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024.

- The Swedish Academy recognized her for her profound and poetic prose that delves into historical traumas and explores the delicate nature of human existence.
- This prestigious accolade marks a significant milestone, making Han Kang the first South Korean writer to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Han Kang gained international recognition primarily through her novel “The Vegetarian,” originally published in South Korea in 2007 and translated into English in 2015.
- The novel portrays the surreal journey of a woman who believes she is transforming into a plant, sparked by her decision to stop consuming meat. This work earned Han Kang the Booker International Prize in 2016, further solidifying her global literary stature.
- Born into a family with a literary background in Gwangju, South Korea, Han Kang began her literary career in 1993 with the publication of poems in a magazine. Two years later, she released a collection of short stories, establishing herself as a prominent voice in South Korean literature.
- Throughout her career, Han Kang has garnered numerous awards in her home country, including the Today’s Young Artist Award and the Yi Sang Literary Prize, underscoring her influence and contribution to contemporary literature.

Nobel Prize in Literature

- The Nobel Prize in Literature is one of the prestigious awards established by the will of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor, engineer, and industrialist, most known for inventing dynamite. The prize has been awarded annually since 1901 by the Swedish Academy, based in Stockholm, Sweden, to an author, regardless of nationality, who has produced “in the field of literature the most distinguished work in an idealistic direction.” This wording, from Nobel’s will, has been subject to broad interpretation over the years, leading to the prize being awarded for various forms of literary works, including novels, poems, essays, plays, and sometimes non-traditional formats like song lyrics.

Awarding Body

- The Swedish Academy selects the Nobel Laureate in Literature. The academy consists of 18 members, often referred to as “De Aderton” (The Eighteen). Its members are experts in literature and linguistics.

Nomination and Selection

- Nominations are submitted by qualified individuals and institutions (e.g., academicians, professors of literature, past laureates, etc.).
- The Nobel Committee for literature reviews the nominations and selects the shortlist.
- The Swedish Academy then deliberates and votes on the final laureate.
- All nomination records are sealed for 50 years, adding an air of secrecy around the selection process.

Prize Components

- A gold medal, featuring Alfred Nobel’s image.
- A diploma, individually designed by a prominent Swedish artist.
- A monetary award, which varies each year depending on the Nobel Foundation’s financial situation (in 2023, the prize was set at SEK 11 million, approximately USD 1 million).

Criteria and Interpretation

- Nobel’s phrase “idealistic direction” has led to wide-ranging interpretations, including awards for works that address human rights, democracy, and peace, as well as purely artistic achievements.

- Over the years, laureates have come from all over the world, contributing to diverse literary traditions and languages.

Controversies and Criticisms

- There have been several controversies regarding the Nobel Prize in Literature, including criticisms of the political motivations behind certain selections or the exclusion of notable authors (like Leo Tolstoy, James Joyce, and Virginia Woolf).
- The 2016 award to American songwriter Bob Dylan sparked debates about what constitutes literature.
- In 2018, the prize was not awarded due to a scandal involving sexual misconduct allegations against a member connected to the academy. It was postponed and later awarded alongside the 2019 prize.
- In April 2018, three members of the academy board resigned in response to a sexual-misconduct investigation involving author Jean-Claude Arnault, who is married to board member Katarina Frostenson. Arnault was accused by at least 18 women of sexual assault and harassment. He and his wife were also accused of leaking the names of prize recipients on at least seven occasions so friends could profit from bets. He denied all accusations, although he was later convicted of rape and sentenced to two years and six months in prison. After the postponement of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, the New Academy was formed as non-profit organization in 2018, not affiliated with either the Nobel Foundation or the Swedish Academy. The New Academy Prize in Literature was established in 2018 in lieu of the Nobel Prize in Literature, which was not awarded in 2018 and instead postponed until 2019. The winner was announced on 12 October 2018. The New Academy was dissolved in December 2018. The New Academy Prize in Literature was awarded to Maryse Conde.

Recent Nobel Laureates in Literature

- **2023:** Jon Fosse (Norway), “for his innovative plays and prose, which give voice to the unsayable.”
- **2022:** Annie Ernaux (France), for her autobiographical and socially reflective works that explore memory and personal experiences.
- **2021:** Abdulrazak Gurnah (Tanzania), for his work focused on colonialism, displacement, and refugee experiences.
- **2020:** Louise Glück (USA), celebrated for her emotionally resonant poetry.
- **2019:** Peter Handke (Austria), for his influential work in drama and prose, despite controversy surrounding his political views.

Notable Past Laureates

- Gabriel García Márquez (1982, Colombia) for his “magical realism.”
- Toni Morrison (1993, USA) for her novels of Black American life and identity.
- Pablo Neruda (1971, Chile) for his passionate poetry.
- William Faulkner (1949, USA) for his contributions to Southern American literature.
- Rabindranath Tagore (1913, India) was the first non-European laureate, honored for his profound and sensitive work in poetry and prose.

Gender Representation

- Out of more than 120 laureates, only 17 women have won the Nobel Prize in Literature, with Selma Lagerlöf (1909, Sweden) being the first woman to win.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature remains a testament to the global significance of literature in shaping, questioning, and reflecting society across cultures and time.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. Han Kang, a South Korean author, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in the year _____.
2. Han Kang gained international recognition with her novel titled “_____,” which was originally published in South Korea in 2007.
3. In 2016, Han Kang’s novel “The Vegetarian” won the _____ International Prize.
4. Han Kang’s Nobel Prize was awarded for her “profound and poetic prose” that delves into _____ traumas and explores the delicate nature of human existence.
5. The Swedish Academy consists of 18 members, also referred to as “_____,” responsible for selecting the Nobel laureate in literature.
6. The Nobel Prize in Literature includes a monetary award, which in 2023 was set at SEK _____ million.
7. The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded annually since _____ by the Swedish Academy.
8. In addition to a monetary prize, Nobel laureates in literature receive a gold medal and a _____, individually designed by a prominent Swedish artist.
9. The 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature, awarded to _____, sparked debates about what constitutes literature.
10. _____ was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, awarded in 1913 for his work in poetry and prose.

3. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2024

- The 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel has been awarded jointly to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson for their groundbreaking studies on how institutions are formed and their impact on a country’s prosperity.
- Their research emphasizes that societal institutions—rules, laws, and governance—are key to determining a country’s economic success or failure.
- The laureates demonstrated that the colonial legacy has had a lasting influence on modern economic disparities.
- They analyzed how European colonizers established either extractive institutions, designed to exploit local populations, or inclusive institutions, which encouraged long-term economic growth.
- Their findings reveal that former colonies with inclusive institutions have generally prospered, while those with extractive institutions often remain trapped in poverty.
- The team provided concrete evidence through a comparative analysis of Nogales, a city split between the USA and Mexico. Despite geographic and cultural similarities, vastly different institutions have resulted in higher living standards in Nogales, Arizona, compared to Nogales, Sonora.
- Their work also explores the concept of “reversal of fortune,” highlighting how places that were once the richest have become the poorest due to the types of institutions introduced during colonization.

- Moreover, they uncovered that settler mortality rates during colonization played a crucial role in shaping institutions, with higher settler mortality linked to more exploitative systems.
- This prize acknowledges their influential contribution to understanding how societies can escape institutional traps and improve their economic standing by fostering inclusive political and economic systems.
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, often referred to as the Nobel Prize in Economics, is not one of the original Nobel Prizes established by Alfred Nobel's will in 1895. Instead, it was founded in 1968 by Sweden's central bank, the Sveriges Riksbank, in honor of its 300th anniversary. Although not technically a Nobel Prize, it is administered and awarded alongside the Nobel Prizes by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The prize is awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of economics.

History and Origins

Established:

- 1968 by the Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank).

First Awarded:

- 1969.
- **Purpose:** To honor outstanding achievements in the field of economics, particularly in areas such as economic theory, empirical studies, or economic policy.

Selection Process:

Nominations:

- Candidates for the prize are nominated by economists, academicians, and other qualified individuals or organizations worldwide.

Selection Body:

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is responsible for the selection process. A specialized Economic Sciences Prize Committee evaluates the nominations and prepares a recommendation.

Criteria:

- Winners are chosen based on their contributions to advancing the field of economics, either through theoretical innovations, groundbreaking empirical research, or applied economic policies that have had significant real-world impacts.

Award Details:

Prize Money:

- The prize comes with a cash award, which has varied over the years. In 2023, the amount was 10 million Swedish kronor (SEK), equivalent to around \$900,000 USD.

Medal and Diploma:

- Like other Nobel Prizes, laureates receive a gold medal and a diploma, recognizing their achievements.

Presentation:

- The prize is awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, during the same ceremony as the Nobel Prizes on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

Significant Laureates and Contributions

Over the years, many renowned economists have been awarded this prestigious prize for their contributions. Some notable winners include:

Paul Samuelson (1970): For his foundational work in modern economic theory, including welfare economics and general equilibrium theory.

Milton Friedman (1976): For his research on consumption analysis, monetary history, and his theory of monetarism, which had a significant influence on global economic policy.

Amartya Sen (1998): For his work in welfare economics and his contributions to the understanding of poverty, inequality, and human development.

Elinor Ostrom (2009): The first woman to win the prize, recognized for her analysis of economic governance, particularly the management of common resources.

Controversies

- While the prize is widely respected, it has also sparked debates, mainly due to the perception that economics, unlike the natural sciences, is more subjective and less precise. Some critics argue that awarding a “Nobel” for economics might not align with Alfred Nobel’s original intent, which focused on scientific discoveries that benefited humanity.
- Additionally, the ideological leanings of some laureates have occasionally sparked controversy. For example, Milton Friedman’s award stirred debates due to his association with neoliberal economic policies and their global influence.

Nobel Prize in Economics and Policy Influence

- Many winners of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize have had substantial impacts on economic policy worldwide. For example, Joseph Stiglitz (2001) is known for his critique of globalization and market liberalization, while Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, and Michael Kremer (2019) were awarded for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty, influencing development economics.

Recent Winners

- **2023:** Claudia Goldin, for her research on the historical development of women’s participation in the labor market and its impact on gender inequality.
- **2022:** Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond, and Philip H. Dybvig for research on banks and financial crises, helping to shape modern understanding of financial stability.
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019 was awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences has grown into one of the most prestigious awards in economics, recognizing contributions that have transformed economic thought and policy. Although it was not part of Alfred Nobel’s original vision, its establishment by the Sveriges Riksbank in 1968 has aligned it with the same principles of recognizing excellence in fields that impact humanity.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded jointly to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson for their groundbreaking studies on how _____ are formed and their impact on a country’s prosperity.
2. The laureates demonstrated that the _____ legacy has had a lasting influence on modern economic disparities.
3. Their research analyzed how European colonizers established either _____ institutions, designed to exploit local populations, or _____ institutions, which encouraged long-term economic growth.
4. The comparative analysis of Nogales, a city split between the USA and Mexico, revealed how vastly different _____ led to higher living standards in Nogales, Arizona, compared to Nogales, Sonora.

5. One key concept explored by the laureates is the “_____ of fortune,” where places that were once the richest have become the poorest due to the types of institutions introduced during colonization.
6. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, often referred to as the _____ Prize in Economics, was established in _____ by Sweden’s central bank.
7. The prize is awarded annually by the _____, which is responsible for the selection process of the laureates.
8. The prize includes a _____, which in 2023 was valued at 10 million Swedish kronor (SEK), approximately \$900,000 USD.
9. One of the most famous past laureates of the prize is _____, who was awarded in 1976 for his research on consumption analysis, monetary history, and the theory of monetarism.
10. The prize is awarded each year in Stockholm, Sweden, during the same ceremony as the Nobel Prizes, which takes place on _____, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel’s death.

4. Trachoma-Free India

- Clear eyesight is one of life’s most precious gifts, essential for daily activities, education, and overall well-being.
- However, several diseases, such as trachoma, pose serious threats to eyesight, potentially leading to irreversible blindness if left untreated.
- Trachoma, a highly contagious bacterial infection, has been a major cause of preventable blindness worldwide.
- According to WHO estimated 150 million people worldwide are affected by Trachoma and 6 million of them are blind or at risk of visually disabling complications. Among them the infective stages of trachoma are usually found in children.
- In a significant public health achievement, India has been officially declared free from trachoma by the World Health Organization (WHO). This milestone comes after years of dedicated efforts by the government to protect the vision of millions, emphasizing the importance of healthy eyesight for every individual.

What is Trachoma?

- Trachoma is a devastating eye disease caused by infection with the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.
- The primary source of trachoma infection is the eye secretions of infected individuals, it can be transmitted through several routes, including:
 - Close physical contact, such as playing together or sharing a bed, especially among mothers and affected children.
 - Sharing towels, handkerchiefs, pillows, and other personal items.
 - Houseflies, which can carry the infection.
 - Coughing and sneezing.
- Environmental risk factors that promote the transmission of trachoma include:
 - Poor hygiene practices.
 - Overcrowded living conditions.
 - Water scarcity.
 - Inadequate sanitation facilities.

- Addressing these risk factors is crucial to breaking the cycle of transmission and preventing the further spread of the disease.

Children are more vulnerable to trachoma

- As children experience repeated infections, scarring can occur on the inner surface of their upper eyelids. This scarring leads to a painful condition known as trachomatous trichiasis, where the eyelid margin turns inward, causing the eyelashes to constantly rub against the eyeball, but the hazards don't end there. If left untreated, this condition can lead to visual impairment. Research shows that individuals may need to endure more than 150 infections over their lifetime to develop severe complications associated with blinding trachoma.

India's Victory Against Trachoma

- During the 1950s and 1960s trachoma was a significant public health concern in India. States like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and the Nicobar Islands were heavily impacted, with over 50% of their populations affected during that period.
- By 1971, trachoma was responsible for 5% of all blindness cases in the country. In response to this pressing issue, India implemented a series of measures aimed at eradicating the problem.

Initiatives to Combat Trachoma

Surgical Treatment:

- Addressing the blinding stage of the disease, known as trachomatous trichiasis

Antibiotic Distribution: Clearing existing infections

Facial Cleanliness:

- Promoting Recognizing the urgent need to combat the trachoma health crisis, India implemented several key interventions under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI). A pivotal moment in this effort was the adoption of the WHO SAFE strategy, which aimed not only to treat existing cases but also to prevent future infections through improved hygiene practices. Have a look to the various steps taken by India over the time to combat trachoma:

Launch of the National Trachoma Control Program:

- In 1963, the Government of India, with support from WHO and UNICEF, launched the National Trachoma Control Program. This initiative laid the groundwork for comprehensive hygiene to reduce transmission

Environmental Improvements:

- Enhancing access to water and sanitation.

Integration into National Programs:

- In 1976, trachoma control efforts were integrated into the broader NPCBVI framework, ensuring sustained focus and resources for elimination activities.

Significant Progress:

- In 2005, trachoma accounted for 4% of all blindness cases in India. Remarkably, by 2018, this figure declined to just 0.008%. The success of these efforts was validated through a series of impact assessments, pre-validation, and trichiasis-only surveys, confirming that elimination targets were met in all previously endemic regions.
- Through these continuous efforts, India has made significant strides toward eradicating trachoma. By 2017, India was declared free from infective trachoma. This announcement came during the release of the National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17) by the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J.P. Nadda. The survey findings were promising, indicating that active trachoma infections had

been eliminated among children in all surveyed districts, with an overall prevalence of only 0.7%—well below the World Health Organization’s (WHO) elimination threshold of 5%.

- Despite this remarkable progress, the commitment to public health did not end there. From 2019 to 2024, India continued its vigilant surveillance for trachoma cases across all districts to ensure that the infection did not re-emerge. This ongoing monitoring is crucial for maintaining the hard-won status of being trachoma-free, demonstrating India’s dedication to safeguarding the eye health of its citizens and preventing avoidable blindness.

WHO Applauds India’s Effective Measures Against Trachoma

- WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised India’s commitment to alleviating the suffering caused by trachoma, emphasizing the vital collaboration among the government, healthcare professionals, and international partners that made this milestone possible.
- India now stands alongside Nepal, Myanmar, and 19 other countries that have also successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health issue. However, the disease continues to be a challenge in 39 other nations, affecting approximately 1.9 million people globally and leading to irreversible blindness in many cases.

Conclusion

- India’s journey to becoming trachoma-free showcases the strength of teamwork in public health and community support. By adopting the WHO SAFE strategy the country has successfully lowered the rates of this serious eye disease.
- The cooperation among government bodies, healthcare workers, and international partners has been key to this success.
- As India joins other nations that have eradicated trachoma as a public health issue, it highlights the need for ongoing efforts, consistent public health programs, and a dedication to ensuring that future generations can enjoy good eyesight.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. _____ is a highly contagious bacterial infection that can lead to irreversible blindness if left untreated.
2. According to WHO, an estimated _____ million people worldwide are affected by Trachoma, with _____ million at risk of blindness.
3. Trachoma is caused by the bacterium _____, which primarily spreads through contact with infected eye secretions.
4. _____ is a painful condition caused by scarring on the inner surface of the upper eyelid due to repeated trachoma infections.
5. In the 1950s and 1960s, states like _____, _____, and _____ were heavily impacted by trachoma in India.
6. India launched the National Trachoma Control Program in _____ with support from WHO and UNICEF.
7. The key strategy adopted by India for controlling trachoma is the WHO _____ strategy, which includes surgical treatment, antibiotic distribution, and promoting facial cleanliness.
8. By 2018, the prevalence of trachoma in India had decreased to just _____ %, well below the WHO elimination threshold of _____ %.

9. India was declared free from infective trachoma in _____ following the release of the National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17).
10. WHO Director-General _____ Ghebreyesus praised India's efforts for successfully eliminating trachoma as a public health issue.

5. India's Renewable Energy Capacity Hits 200 GW Milestone: Renewable energy now constitutes 46.3% of total capacity

- India has reached a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey, with the country's total renewable energy capacity crossing the 200 GW (gigawatt) mark as of October 10, 2024.
- According to the Central Electricity Authority, the total renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity now stands at 201.45 GW.
- This achievement underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future.
- This milestone reflects the result of years of dedicated efforts to harness India's natural resources. From sprawling solar parks to wind farms and hydroelectric projects, the country has steadily built a diverse renewable energy base.
- These initiatives have not only reduced reliance on fossil fuels but also strengthened the nation's energy security.
- When factoring in the 8,180 MW (megawatt) of nuclear capacity, the total non-fossil fuel-based power now accounts for almost half of the country's installed electricity generation capacity, signalling a strong move toward clean energy leadership on the global stage.

Overview of India's Renewable Energy Landscape

- India's total electricity generation capacity has reached 452.69 GW, with renewable energy contributing a significant portion of the overall power mix.
- As of October 2024, renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity stands at 201.45 GW, accounting for 46.3 percent of the country's total installed capacity.
- This marks a major shift in India's energy landscape, reflecting the country's growing reliance on cleaner, non-fossil fuel-based energy sources.
- A variety of renewable energy resources contribute to this impressive figure. Solar power leads the way with 90.76 GW, playing a crucial role in India's efforts to harness its abundant sunlight.
- Wind power follows closely with 47.36 GW, driven by the vast potential of the coastal and inland wind corridors across the country.
- Hydroelectric power is another key contributor, with large hydro projects generating 46.92 GW and small hydro power adding 5.07 GW, offering a reliable and sustainable source of energy from India's rivers and water systems.
- Biopower, including biomass and biogas energy, adds another 11.32 GW to the renewable energy mix.
- These bioenergy projects are vital for utilizing agricultural waste and other organic materials to generate power, further diversifying India's clean energy sources.

- Together, these renewable resources are helping the country reduce its dependence on traditional fossil fuels, while driving progress toward a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

Leading States in Renewable Energy Capacity

- Several states in India have emerged as leaders in renewable energy capacity, contributing significantly to the nation's progress.
- Rajasthan tops the list with an impressive 29.98 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, benefiting from its vast land and abundant sunlight.
- Following closely is Gujarat, which boasts a capacity of 29.52 GW, driven by its strong focus on solar and wind energy projects.
- Tamil Nadu ranks third with 23.70 GW, leveraging its favourable wind patterns to generate substantial energy.
- Karnataka rounds out the top four with a capacity of 22.37 GW, supported by a mix of solar and wind initiatives.
- Together, these states play a crucial role in advancing India's renewable energy goals and establishing a more sustainable energy future.

Key Schemes and Programmes

- The Government of India has implemented a range of measures and initiatives aimed at promoting and accelerating renewable energy capacity across the nation, with an ambitious target of achieving 500 GW of installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.
- Key programs include the National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, and PLI schemes for solar PV modules.
- These efforts reflect the government's commitment to fostering a sustainable energy future while addressing the challenges posed by climate change and energy security. Here are some other ongoing key initiatives:
- Notification of a trajectory for renewable energy power bids of 50 GW per annum by Renewable Energy Implementation Agencies (REIAs) from FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.
- Foreign Direct Investment permitted up to 100 percent under the automatic route to attract investments.
- Waiver of Inter-State Transmission System charges for solar and wind power projects commissioned by June 30, 2025; green hydrogen projects until December 2030; and offshore wind projects until December 2032.
- Announced Renewable Purchase Obligation trajectory until 2029-30, including separate RPO for Decentralized Renewable Energy.
- A Project Development Cell has been established to attract and facilitate investments in the renewable sector.
- Standard Bidding Guidelines issued for tariff-based competitive bidding for procurement of power from grid-connected solar, wind, and wind-solar projects.
- Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Parks are being set up to provide land and transmission for large-scale renewable energy projects.
- Cabinet approval for a Viability Gap Funding scheme for offshore wind energy projects, facilitating the installation and commissioning of 1 GW of offshore wind energy capacity along the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- Issued Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, for net-metering up to 500 kilowatts or the electrical sanctioned load, whichever is lower.

- The “National Repowering and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects, 2023” has been released.
- “Strategy for Establishment of Offshore Wind Energy Projects” outlines a bidding trajectory of 37 GW by 2030.
- Offshore Wind Energy Lease Rules, 2023, notified to regulate the grant of leases for offshore wind energy development.
- Procedure for Uniform Renewable Energy Tariff (URET) has been established.
- Standard & Labelling (S&L) programs for Solar Photovoltaic modules and grid-connected solar inverters have been launched.
- A transmission plan has been prepared to augment transmission infrastructure until 2030.
- The Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules have been notified.
- Green Energy Open Access Rules 2022 have been issued to promote renewable energy.
- Launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) to facilitate the sale of renewable energy power through exchanges.
- Orders issued to ensure that power is dispatched against Letters of Credit or advance payment for timely payments to renewable energy generators.
- India’s renewable energy journey has reached a significant milestone, marked by the impressive achievement of over 200 GW of installed capacity.
- This accomplishment is a testament to the nation’s commitment to a sustainable energy future, driven by a diverse array of renewable sources, including solar, wind, hydro, and bioenergy.
- The proactive initiatives such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, and the PLI schemes for solar PV modules underscore the government’s strategic focus on enhancing energy generation capacity while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- With ambitious targets set for the future, including a goal of 500 GW from non-fossil sources by 2030, India is well-positioned to emerge as a global leader in renewable energy, contributing to environmental sustainability and energy security.
- These ongoing efforts reflect a holistic approach to building a greener economy, ensuring that India not only meets its energy needs but also addresses the pressing challenges of climate change and resource conservation.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. As of October 10, 2024, India’s total renewable energy-based electricity generation capacity stands at _____ GW.
2. India’s renewable energy generation now accounts for _____ percent of the country’s total installed electricity generation capacity.
3. _____ is the leading renewable energy source in India, with a capacity of 90.76 GW.
4. The state of _____ tops the list of renewable energy capacity in India, with an installed capacity of 29.98 GW.
5. India has set an ambitious target of achieving _____ GW of installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.
6. The Government of India’s _____ Mission aims to promote the use of green hydrogen as part of the renewable energy transition.

7. The Government of India has implemented a waiver of Inter-State Transmission System charges for solar and wind power projects commissioned by _____.
8. India's renewable energy capacity is primarily made up of solar, wind, hydro, and _____ energy sources.
9. As part of its renewable energy initiatives, India has launched the Green _____ Market (GTAM) to facilitate the sale of renewable energy power through exchanges.
10. The National Repowering and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects was released in the year _____.

6. Centre sets up AI hubs for research on health, agriculture, sustainable cities

- The Indian government has recently announced the establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in artificial intelligence (AI), with a focus on healthcare, agriculture, and sustainable cities.
- These CoEs aim to drive innovation and provide solutions to critical challenges, fostering a new generation of job and wealth creators. The healthcare CoE will be led by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi, while the IIT in Ropar, Punjab, will lead the agriculture CoE.
- The CoE for sustainable cities will be managed by IIT Kanpur. These centers will collaborate with industries and start-ups to ensure practical and impactful outcomes.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan highlighted that these AI CoEs would serve as solution providers for global challenges, contributing significantly to India's position in the global AI landscape.
- With a financial outlay of ₹990 crore over five years (2023-2024 to 2027-2028), the CoEs are set to play a key role in the country's innovation ecosystem.
- The Union Budget of 2023-24 had proposed this initiative, and to oversee its implementation, an industry-heavy apex committee was formed, co-chaired by Sridhar Vembu.
- Pradhan expressed hope that these CoEs would not only advance AI but also contribute to public policy globally.
- He commended the efforts of the panel led by Dr. Vembu, who emphasized that these centers would foster start-up ecosystems, create jobs, and enhance India's contribution to the global public good.
- The CoEs will focus on multidisciplinary research, promoting collaboration among various resources and institutions to achieve optimal results.
- Dr. Vembu also underscored the significance of the CoEs in improving the health of villages, cities, and the overall population.
- The centers will work towards creating new companies, nurturing talent, and generating opportunities for India's growing talent pool.
- In parallel, the NITI Aayog, the government's think tank, has initiated a project to map India's 'just transition' framework, a concept related to the shift from fossil fuel-based jobs, particularly in coal mining, to renewable energy sector jobs.

- This move aligns with the commitment made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget to develop a national policy document outlining energy transition pathways for India.
- The focus is on balancing employment, growth, and environmental sustainability.
- Anshu Bharadwaj from NITI Aayog explained that the organization is developing a modeling framework based on inputs from nine working groups to understand the implications of this transition for India.
- The country's coal sector currently accounts for approximately 75% of the nation's electricity, and a large proportion of India's thermal power plants are under 20 years old.
- By 2030, a third of these plants will be due for retirement, and by 2040, nearly two-thirds of them will need to be decommissioned.
- To compensate for this decline in coal power, India plans to significantly ramp up its use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind.
- The goal is to add 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity by 2030, surpassing India's current total installed power capacity.
- The cost of implementing a 'just transition' for India over the next 30 years is expected to exceed one trillion dollars, according to iFOREST (India Forest and Research).
- The transition will involve phasing out coal mining and power plants by 2050, rehabilitating large areas of coal-mining land, and converting thermal power plants to renewable energy sources.
- Additionally, it will include providing transition support for approximately 5.9 million workers who currently depend on the coal industry for their livelihoods.
- This transition poses a significant challenge, but it is also seen as an essential step towards achieving India's environmental sustainability goals and ensuring a smoother economic shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- The 'just transition' framework will focus on providing social, economic, and environmental support to the workers and communities impacted by the phasing out of coal-based industries.
- In conclusion, the establishment of the AI CoEs and the implementation of the 'just transition' framework reflect India's commitment to becoming a leader in both technological innovation and sustainable energy.
- These initiatives aim to position India at the forefront of addressing global challenges, while also ensuring that the transition to a greener, more sustainable economy benefits all sectors of society, including the workforce in traditional industries.

NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) is a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim of driving economic growth and fostering cooperative federalism. It was formed on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission, and serves as a platform for the Indian government to engage with states on policy formulation and implementation.
- Key Objectives and Functions:
- Policy Formulation:
- NITI Aayog designs long-term and strategic policies for economic development. It aims to provide critical directional and policy inputs to the central and state governments.
- Fostering Cooperative Federalism:

- The institution emphasizes a collaborative approach where states and the Centre work together on issues of national importance. It facilitates the active participation of states in policy planning.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
- It monitors and evaluates the implementation of government programs and initiatives. This helps in improving governance and addressing issues that may arise during implementation.
- **Think Tank Role:**
- NITI Aayog functions as a knowledge and innovation hub, researching global and domestic best practices and promoting their adoption across various sectors.
- **Advocating Reforms:**

It is instrumental in advocating and driving key structural reforms, especially in the areas of economic liberalization, technological innovation, and social development.

- **Structure:**

Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India serves as the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.

Vice Chairperson: Appointed by the Prime Minister, the Vice Chairperson is responsible for day-to-day operations. **Suman K. Bery** is the Vice Chairperson.

Governing Council: This council comprises the Chief Ministers of all Indian states and Union Territories (UTs) with legislatures, along with the Lieutenant Governors of other UTs. It plays a key role in fostering cooperative federalism.

Full-Time Members: NITI Aayog has full-time members who are experts from various fields, such as economics, governance, and technology.

Special Invitees: Eminent professionals, industry leaders, and academics are sometimes invited to participate in the meetings of NITI Aayog.

CEO: The Chief Executive Officer oversees administrative and operational tasks. As of 2024, BVR Subrahmanyam holds the position of CEO.

Major Initiatives and Reports

Aspirational Districts Programme

- Focuses on the development of India's most underdeveloped districts by improving health, education, agriculture, and basic infrastructure.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- AIM promotes a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through various programs like Atal Tinkering Labs (for school-level innovation) and Atal Incubation Centres (for start-up support).

Health Sector Reforms

- NITI Aayog works closely with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement health reforms and promote initiatives like Ayushman Bharat (National Health Protection Scheme).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- NITI Aayog is responsible for monitoring India's progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, providing regular reports on various parameters.

India Innovation Index

- NITI Aayog ranks Indian states and union territories based on their innovation performance, encouraging competition and improvement.

National Energy Policy and Electric Mobility

- The think tank has played a key role in shaping policies for India's transition towards clean energy and electric vehicles.

NITI Aayog's Role in Economic Reforms

- NITI Aayog plays a significant role in suggesting reforms in various sectors like agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and digital economy. It provides guidance to both central and state governments in the adoption of best practices for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- In summary, NITI Aayog is a vital institution that drives India's policy planning and implementation, focusing on economic growth, innovation, and inclusive development while promoting cooperative federalism.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The Indian government has announced the establishment of three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in artificial intelligence (AI), focusing on healthcare, agriculture, and _____ cities.
2. The healthcare CoE will be led by _____ and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
3. The agriculture CoE will be managed by IIT _____.
4. The CoE for sustainable cities will be overseen by _____.
5. With a financial outlay of ₹990 crore over _____ years, the AI CoEs aim to drive innovation and provide solutions to critical challenges.
6. An industry-heavy apex committee, co-chaired by _____, will oversee the implementation of these CoEs.
7. The AI CoEs are expected to foster start-up ecosystems, create jobs, and enhance India's contribution to the _____ landscape.
8. NITI Aayog has initiated a project to map India's 'just transition' framework, focusing on shifting from fossil fuel-based jobs to _____ sector jobs.
9. India plans to add _____ GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity by 2030 to compensate for the decline in coal power.
10. The 'just transition' framework aims to provide social, economic, and environmental support to approximately _____ workers impacted by the phasing out of coal-based industries.

7. Nile nations agree on water-sharing without Egypt's nod

- A regional partnership of 10 countries said an agreement on the equitable use of water resources from the Nile River basin has come into force despite the notable opposition of Egypt.
- The legal status of the "cooperative framework" was formally confirmed by the African Union after South Sudan joined the treaty.

- Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania have ratified the accord. Egypt and Sudan declined to sign, while Congo abstained. Kenya has not yet deposited its ratification documents with the African Union.
- The accord, which came into force, “is a testament to our collective determination to harness the Nile River for the benefit of all, ensuring its equitable and sustainable use for generations to come,” the Nile Basin Initiative said in its statement. “This is a moment to congratulate the governments and people of the Nile riparian countries, and all partners and stakeholders, for their patience, resolve, and dedication to this cause.”
- The lack of ratification by Egypt and Sudan — desert nations that have raised concern over any attempts to diminish their shares of Nile water — means the accord will prove controversial.
- Tensions in the region have increased, stemming in part from Ethiopia’s construction of a \$4 billion dam on the Blue Nile, a key tributary of the Nile River.
- Egypt fears the dam will have a devastating effect on water and irrigation supplies downstream unless Ethiopia takes its needs into account.

Nile Basin Initiative

- The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership among the Nile riparian states that “seeks to develop the river in a cooperative manner, share substantial socioeconomic benefits, and promote regional peace and security”.
- The NBI began with a dialogue among the riparian states that resulted in a shared vision objective “to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources.”
- It was formally launched in February 1999 by the water ministers of nine countries that share the river: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as Eritrea as an observer.
- From its beginning the Nile Basin Initiative has been supported by the World Bank and by other external partners.
- The World Bank has a mandate to support the work of the NBI, as lead development partner and as administrator of the multi-donor Nile Basin Trust Fund.
- One of the partners is the “Nile Basin Discourse”, which describes itself as “a civil society network of organisations seeking to achieve positive influence over the development of projects and programmes under the Nile Basin Initiative”.
- In May 2010, five upstream states signed a Cooperative Framework Agreement to seek more water from the River Nile — a move strongly opposed by Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania were original signatories with Burundi signing in February 2011.
- The DRC is also expected to sign, while Egypt and Sudan are not expected to do so.
- The NBI Secretariat (Nile-SEC) is the executive and technical arm of the NBI, an institution jointly owned by all the 10 Member States. based in Entebbe – Uganda and is responsible for the overall corporate direction as well as the lead center for two programs: Basin Cooperation and Water Resource Management.
- The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an intergovernmental partnership of 10 Nile Basin countries, namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Eritrea participates as an observer.

- For the first time in the Basin’s history, an all-inclusive basin-wide institution was established, on 22nd February, 1999, to provide a forum for consultation and coordination among the Basin States for the sustainable management and development of the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits.

Facilitating Basin Cooperation

- The Basin Cooperation core function actively provides the first and only all-inclusive and neutral regional platform for Member States to discuss with trust and confidence, how to collectively take care of and jointly use the shared Nile Basin water and related resources.
- This is in order to maximize win-win benefits for current and future generations and minimize risks and costs.

Water Resources Management

- Under this core function, Nile-SEC strengthens Member States’ institutional and technical capacities and provides shared knowledge bases to support decision making and action at local levels.
- This includes generating basin wide science based information and making available to Member States, analytic tools, the necessary policy instruments and early warning systems as key pre-requisites for safeguarding and managing the shared Nile Basin water resources in a sustainable manner.
- The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, is one of the two investment programs of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the other being the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP) headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia known as Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO).
- NELSAP-CU was established in December 1999 by the Council of Ministers for Water Affairs in the Nile River Basin, with a mission to “contribute to the eradication of poverty, promote economic growth, and reverse environmental degradation in the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) region, within the overall NBI’s shared Vision of sustainable socioeconomic development and the equitable use of and benefit from Nile Basin water resources”.
- NELSAP-CU is governed and reports to the Council of Water Ministers from 10 Nile Basin membership states of Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- Within its mandate, NELSAP-CU facilitates jointly agreed transformative in-country projects with regional impact/significance and trans-boundary cooperative investment projects related to the common use of the Nile Basin water resources.
- It also builds regional capacity of countries and provides a platform for implementation coordination of trans– boundary investment projects.
- NELSAP-CU renders support to national initiatives and focuses on two investment areas of:

Power development and trade, and Natural resources management and development

- NELSAP-CU has prepared a number of cooperative in country and regional trans-boundary projects, which are at various levels of preparation and implementation.
- NELSAP-CU has mobilized finances for pre-investment and investment projects cumulatively totaling to USD 1.050 billion (pre-investment USD 557.107 million and for investment projects USD 493.018 million).
- Since 2014, NELSAP-CU has gained regional experience, strengthened its capacity and emerged as a reliable regional institution for facilitating key in country and regional investment projects in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region and beyond.

- Its key institutional strength lies in project pre-investment feasibility studies, regional projects coordination support, regional strategic analysis, environmental aspects, social economic development, stakeholders' engagement and development communication, financial and procurement management as well as results based monitoring and evaluation.
- NELSAP-CU, in delivering on its mandate, is supported bilaterally and multilaterally by different development partners including, but not limited to, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Governments of Norway (NORAD), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Government of The Netherlands, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), GIZ (Germany), French Development Agency (AFD), European Union(EU) and KfW (Germany).

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was formally launched in _____ by the water ministers of nine countries that share the Nile River.
2. The Cooperative Framework Agreement was signed in May _____ by five upstream states seeking more water from the River Nile.
3. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is an intergovernmental partnership of _____ Nile Basin countries.
4. The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) is headquartered in _____.
5. Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and _____ have ratified the agreement on the equitable use of Nile water resources.
6. The NBI's Secretariat (Nile-SEC) is responsible for the overall corporate direction and is based in _____.
7. The Cooperative Framework Agreement was opposed by _____ and _____, two downstream countries concerned about their water shares.
8. One of NELSAP-CU's key areas of investment is _____ development and trade.
9. The Nile Basin Initiative was supported by the _____ Bank from its beginning.
10. The NBI aims to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of Nile Basin water resources for the benefit of _____ generations.

8. Belagavi celebrated centenary of historic 1924 session of Congress helmed by Mahatma Gandhi

- This Independence Day, Belagavi (formerly Belgaum) is celebrating the centenary of the historic 1924 Congress session held in the city.

- This session, which is significant for its association with Mahatma Gandhi, remains the only Congress session chaired by the Mahatma himself.
- To mark this important milestone, various celebrations are being planned by different groups, including the Karnataka government, the Congress, and a group of Gandhians.
- The 39th All-India Congress session took place over three days in December 1924 in a field on the outskirts of Belagavi, along what is now Congress Road. The venue, Veera Soudha, stands as a testament to this historical event.
- The session is remembered for motivating the youth to actively engage in the freedom struggle and is considered a turning point in the Indian independence movement.
- It was attended by several prominent leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Maulana Azad, and Gangadharrao Deshpande.
- To commemorate the centenary, the Karnataka government has established a consultative committee that includes freedom fighters and activists to guide the celebrations.
- A budget of ₹2 crore has been allocated for the event, with additional funds to be sought through CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) contributions.
- A grand event is planned to be organized by the government, with prominent figures participating.
- The celebrations are aimed at recognizing the significance of the Congress session and spreading the Gandhian values of non-violence, self-reliance, and secularism.
- In addition to the government's plans, a group of Gandhians has come together to organize a unique "Charaka Marathon" as a tribute to Gandhi's teachings.
- The marathon will involve at least 100 participants working on the traditional spinning wheel (charaka) for 12 hours.
- This event aims to spread the Gandhian principles of sustainability, economic self-reliance, and empowerment, especially among the youth. Gandhians believe that these values, which were central to the Mahatma's vision for India, can inspire the younger generation to lead lives rooted in ethical and self-sustaining practices. Workshops on how to use the charaka will be conducted in the lead-up to the event.
- One of the key figures in the Gandhians' initiative, Dr. Kulkarni, emphasized the importance of spreading Gandhian ideals in the current era.
- He stressed that the centenary celebrations should focus not just on the historical importance of the session but also on reviving Gandhi's ideals in today's context, especially in the face of challenges like fake news and online misinformation.
- The sub-committee working on these celebrations, including Vaibhav Lokur and others, plans to digitize records, photographs, and books related to the 1924 session.
- These materials will be made available as e-books and shared with schools and colleges to encourage young people to engage with this vital period in India's history.
- Meanwhile, the Congress party has formed its own 70-member committee, led by KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar, to organize a grand rally in Belagavi.
- The rally will commemorate the 39th Congress session and recall the speeches and resolutions that were passed during the event.
- National leaders are expected to address the rally, which will aim to highlight the role of the Congress in the freedom struggle and reinforce the importance of Gandhian principles.

- Mahatma Gandhi's connection with Belagavi spans several visits during the Indian independence movement.
- His first visit was in 1916, when he came alongside Balagangadhar Tilak to boost the freedom movement in the region.
- Despite requests from local leaders not to visit, Gandhi insisted on coming, emphasizing that nothing could stop him except death. He visited Belagavi multiple times, in 1916, 1920, and 1924, staying in the city during key Congress sessions.
- Gandhi also visited Belagavi in 1927 and 1934, often staying with local activists and leaders.
- In honor of the 1924 Congress session, the state government built Veerasoudha, a Gandhi memorial, at Tilakwadi in Belagavi.
- This memorial stands as a reminder of the pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence and continues to host commemorative events, such as the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, which took place this year at Veerasoudha.
- The memorial and the events surrounding it aim to keep the memory of Gandhi's visit and his involvement in the Indian freedom movement alive.
- In conclusion, Belagavi's centenary celebrations of the 1924 Congress session reflect a broader effort to honor the contributions of Gandhi and other leaders to India's independence.
- Whether through the government's grand event, the Congress party's rally, or the Gandhians' Charaka Marathon, these celebrations seek to rekindle the Gandhian values of self-reliance, sustainability, and secularism among today's youth while remembering the pivotal role the 1924 session played in shaping the Indian freedom movement.

The 1924 Belgaum Congress Session holds a special place in the history of the Indian National Congress (INC) for several reasons.

1. Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi:

This session, which is significant for its association with Mahatma Gandhi, remains the only Congress session chaired by the Mahatma himself.

2. Impact of Non-Cooperation Movement:

The session occurred during the aftermath of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), which had been launched by Mahatma Gandhi.

The movement had been a major success but was later suspended in 1922 following the Chauri Chaura incident. The session reflected the INC's ideological shift in dealing with British rule.

3. Endorsement of Constitutional Reforms:

The session was a platform for constitutional reforms within India. It supported the idea of gradual constitutional changes and reforms within the existing framework of the British system, marking a shift from the earlier stance of complete non-cooperation and rejection of the colonial system.

4. Debates on Swaraj and Autonomy:

The session saw heated debates on the concept of Swaraj (self-rule). While the INC was still largely focused on seeking autonomy under the British Empire, the idea of full independence began to gain traction during this period, although it wasn't fully embraced at that time.

5. Formation of a Committee for Constitutional Reform:

A Constitutional Reforms Committee was formed, led by Motilal Nehru, which worked towards drafting a Purna Swaraj (complete self-rule) document.

This committee played an important role in shaping the future direction of the INC's policies and helped develop the Nehru Report in 1928.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The 1924 Congress session in Belagavi was the only one chaired by _____.
2. The 1924 Congress session is considered significant for its association with _____ and its impact on the Indian freedom movement.
3. The 39th All-India Congress session in 1924 was held in _____ (city) at the venue called _____.
4. A major focus of the 1924 session was to motivate the _____ to actively engage in the Indian freedom struggle.
5. The 1924 Congress session marked a shift in the INC's stance from complete non-cooperation to endorsing gradual _____ within the British system.
6. One of the key debates during the 1924 session was on the concept of _____ (self-rule), which later evolved into the idea of full independence.
7. The Karnataka government established a consultative committee to guide the centenary celebrations, which includes _____ (role) of freedom fighters and activists.
8. A key event organized by a group of Gandhians to commemorate the centenary is the _____ Marathon, where participants will work on the traditional spinning wheel for 12 hours.
9. The memorial built in Belagavi to honor the 1924 Congress session is called _____ and is located at _____.
10. The Constitutional Reforms Committee formed during the 1924 session was led by _____ and played a significant role in drafting the _____ (document) in 1928.

9. India ranks 105th in Global Hunger Index 2024, labelled as 'serious'

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI), a tool used by international humanitarian agencies to measure and track hunger levels with GHI scores based on under-nourishment and child mortality indicators across 127 countries, has ranked India 105th, which places it under the "serious" category of the analysis.
- The 2024 report, now in its 19th edition, is published this week by Irish humanitarian organisation Concern Worldwide and German aid agency Welthungerhilfe to highlight that hunger levels will remain high in many of the world's poorest countries for several decades in the absence of more progress in measures to tackle the issue.
- India is among 42 countries that fall within the "serious" category, alongside Pakistan and Afghanistan, with other South Asian neighbours such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka showing better GHI scores to be listed under the "moderate" category.
- "With a score of 27.3 in the 2024 Global Hunger Index, India has a level of hunger that is serious," reads the index entry.

- India's GHI Score is based on the values of four component indicators: 13.7% of the population is undernourished, 35.5% of children under five are stunted with 18.7% of them being wasted, and 2.9 per cent of children die before their fifth birthday, the report notes.
- For the purpose of the index, undernourishment is defined as the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake, stunted as the share of children under age five who have low height for their age to reflect "chronic" undernutrition, wasting as the share of children under five who have low weight for their height due to "acute" undernutrition, and mortality refers to the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.
- Based on the values of these four indicators, a GHI score is calculated for each country on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- Based on its analysis, the report concludes the chances of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 are looking very unlikely.
- "Despite the international community's repeated emphasis on the importance of the right to adequate food, there remains a troubling disparity between the standards established and the reality that in many parts of the world the right to food is being blatantly disregarded," the report concludes.
- Globally, around 733 million people face hunger each day due to a lack of access to a sufficient amount of food, while about 2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- Some of the African nations are on the extreme ends of the GHI spectrum under the "alarming" category, with wars in Gaza and Sudan being highlighted as having led to exceptional food crises.
- Conflict and civil strife are also generating food crises elsewhere, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali and Syria, it added.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool used to track and measure hunger levels across the world. It provides a comprehensive assessment of hunger in countries, considering factors such as undernutrition, child mortality, and access to food.

Some unique features of the Global Hunger Index include:

1. Multidimensional Approach:

- The GHI combines several indicators to measure hunger, going beyond just food availability to address broader social and economic factors. It uses four key indicators:
- **Undernourishment:** The percentage of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient.
- **Child Wasting:** The percentage of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, indicating acute malnutrition.
- **Child Stunting:** The percentage of children under five who are too short for their age, reflecting chronic malnutrition.
- **Child Mortality:** The mortality rate of children under the age of five, an indicator of the impact of hunger and malnutrition on overall health.

2. Country-Specific Data:

- The GHI provides country-level data, allowing for comparisons across nations. It uses publicly available data from international organizations, such as the United Nations, World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO), to generate the index.

3. Ranking and Score:

- Countries are ranked based on their GHI scores on a scale from 0 (no hunger) to 100 (extreme hunger). The higher the score, the more severe the hunger situation in that country. The scores are categorized as:
 - Low hunger
 - Moderate hunger
 - Serious hunger
 - Alarming hunger
 - Extremely alarming hunger

4. Focus on Hunger and Nutrition:

- While many indices only focus on food availability, the GHI emphasizes the importance of nutrition and health outcomes. It assesses how hunger impacts vulnerable populations, particularly children, through indicators like wasting and stunting.

5. Trends and Historical Data:

- The GHI allows tracking of progress and setbacks in global hunger over time. It presents historical data to show long-term trends and helps to understand how global hunger has evolved in response to policy changes, humanitarian efforts, and economic conditions.

6. Geographical Disparities:

- The GHI highlights regional disparities, showing how hunger and malnutrition vary not only between countries but also within regions. It often reveals stark contrasts between urban and rural areas or between different socio-economic groups.

7. Policy Advocacy Tool:

- The GHI serves as a tool for policy advocacy, encouraging governments and international organizations to address hunger through targeted policies and programs. It also serves as a framework for tracking the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending hunger (SDG 2).

8. Regular Updates:

- The GHI is published annually, ensuring that it reflects the most recent data and trends related to global hunger. It also helps in monitoring the progress toward international goals, such as those set by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9. Interaction with Other Indices:

- The GHI is often analyzed alongside other human development indices such as the Human Development Index (HDI), World Hunger Index, and Global Poverty Index to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between hunger, poverty, and development.

10. Global Focus, Local Impact:

- While the GHI provides a global perspective, it also highlights the local impacts of hunger, making it relevant for local governments and civil society organizations to design and implement region-specific hunger reduction strategies.
- By incorporating multiple dimensions of hunger and malnutrition, the Global Hunger Index offers a holistic understanding of global food insecurity, driving meaningful action for progress in addressing hunger worldwide.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranks countries based on four key indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child _____.

2. According to the 2024 GHI, India has a score of _____, placing it in the “serious” hunger category.
3. The GHI categorizes countries based on their hunger severity, with scores ranging from 0 (no hunger) to _____ (extreme hunger).
4. The four components that the GHI measures include undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child _____.
5. In the 2024 report, _____ is the country with the highest GHI score, which is classified under the “alarming” category due to the ongoing conflict.
6. The GHI uses data from international organizations such as the _____ (WHO) and the World Bank to generate its rankings.
7. According to the 2024 report, _____ countries, including India, fall under the “serious” hunger category in the Global Hunger Index.
8. The Global Hunger Index is published annually by the Irish humanitarian organization _____ and the German aid agency Welthungerhilfe
9. The GHI assesses the impact of hunger on children through the indicators of wasting, stunting, and _____ mortality.
10. According to the 2024 Global Hunger Index report, _____ million people globally face hunger due to lack of access to sufficient food.

10. How India-Canada relations soured

- In an escalation of the ongoing diplomatic row between India and Canada over what the latter describes as a “campaign of violence” against Sikh separatists on Canadian soil, Ottawa expelled Indian high commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma, alongside five other Indian diplomats.
- It is the latest development in a dispute initially triggered by the murder of a Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada in June 2023.
- In a tit-for-tat move, India’s foreign ministry said New Delhi would expel six Canadian diplomats – including the acting high commissioner – and gave them time to leave the country.
- But diplomatic tensions between India and Canada started before Nijjar’s killing.

February 2018: Controversy over Trudeau’s India dinner

- During his visit to India, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attended a formal dinner hosted by the Canadian High Commissioner in New Delhi, aimed at improving strained diplomatic and trade relations.
- The tensions were primarily due to India’s concerns over perceived Canadian support for Sikh separatism, specifically the Khalistan movement.
- Khalistan is a proposed Sikh state, a movement that gained traction in the 1970s and 1980s and has recently seen renewed support among Sikh communities abroad, especially in Canada, home to a large Sikh population.
- The controversy at the dinner stemmed from the presence of Jaspal Singh Atwal, a former member of the International Sikh Youth Federation, a group listed as a terrorist organization in Canada. Atwal had been convicted for a 1986 assassination attempt on an Indian cabinet minister.

- Days earlier, he had attended another event related to Trudeau's visit and was photographed with Trudeau's then-wife, Sophie.
- After backlash from India, Trudeau withdrew Atwal's invitation, stating it was a mistake. Atwal later apologized, clarifying that he no longer supports the idea of an independent Sikh nation.

Khalistan factor in Canadian politics

- Canada is home to the second-largest Sikh population in the world, after India. In terms of their population, they form more than 2 percent of the total population of Canada, with nearly 8,00,000 people. They are also the fastest-growing and fourth-largest religious community in Canada. Over the years, Canada has seen several phases of Sikh migration. They have now developed into a robust and economically flourishing community.
- Earlier in the 1980s, Canada had provided sanctuary to several dreaded terrorists, including Jagjit Singh Chauhan and Talwinder Singh Parmar, among others. Presently, several 'designated terrorists' like Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla of Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) are residing in Canada. While Canada's actions during the 1980s were guided by Cold War dynamics, its present actions are influenced purely by vote bank politics.
- In the 2019 Canadian federal election, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party got 157 votes, 13 short of a majority. Hence, they had to form a coalition government with the 'New Democratic Party' led by Jagmeet Singh Dhaliwal, a pro-Khalistan leader. The Trudeau-led government is under political compulsion to not antagonize their coalition partners.

December 2020: Trudeau angers India with comments about farmers' protests

- In late 2020, Indian farmers protested new agricultural laws, fearing harm to their livelihoods, leading to clashes with police who used tear gas and water cannons.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau voiced concern during an event marking Guru Nanak's birth anniversary, emphasizing Canada's support for peaceful protests.
- In response, India's Ministry of External Affairs criticized Trudeau's remarks as uninformed and unwarranted, asserting that they interfered in India's internal democratic matters.

June 2023: The killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

- Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, Canada, on June 18, 2023. Nijjar, labeled a "terrorist" by the Indian government in 2020, had been organizing a referendum for an independent Sikh state in India.
- His death followed rising tensions, including India's foreign minister S Jaishankar's criticism of a June 8 parade in Brampton, Ontario, which depicted the 1984 assassination of former Indian PM Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards after she ordered a military operation at a Sikh temple.

September 2023: Trade negotiations paused, G20 tensions

- In September 2024, Canada unexpectedly paused trade negotiations with India, citing a need to reassess the situation.
- Tensions between the two nations were highlighted during the G20 summit in New Delhi, where Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi avoided a bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- On September 15, Canada postponed a planned trade mission to India, without specifying reasons.
- Days later, Ottawa expelled an Indian diplomat while accusing Indian government agents of involvement in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- India retaliated by expelling a Canadian diplomat, citing concerns about Canadian diplomats' interference in its internal matters.

- On September 21, India suspended visa operations in Canada, citing security threats. These visa services were reinstated in late October.

October 2023: Canada pulls 41 diplomats out of India

- On October 19, Canada withdrew 41 diplomats from India after the Indian government threatened to revoke their diplomatic immunity and security protection for their relatives.
- India's foreign ministry cited the need for parity in diplomatic presence due to the higher number of Canadian diplomats in India and their alleged interference in India's internal affairs.
- Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly condemned India's threat as a violation of international law but affirmed that Canada would continue to engage with India.

May 2024: Three men are arrested and charged with Nijjar's death

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrested four Indian nationals in connection with the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- Kamalpreet Singh, Karanpreet Singh, Karan Brar, and Amandeep Singh, all in their early 20s, face charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Amandeep Singh was already in Canadian police custody for unrelated firearms charges.
- The case has been adjourned multiple times, with the latest delay on October 1, 2024, as the Canadian government continues to disclose documents.
- The investigation remains ongoing, with authorities seeking others potentially involved in the homicide.

October 2024: Canada expels six Indian diplomats

- Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly stated that the RCMP has gathered substantial evidence identifying six individuals of interest in the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau added that evidence implicates Indian government agents in activities threatening public safety in Canada, including information gathering, coercion, and involvement in violent acts. However, the details remain limited.
- India has strongly rejected these accusations, calling them "absurd" and expelling several Canadian diplomats. India also criticized the Trudeau government for allegedly supporting violent extremists who target Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada.

Know more about Canada

- Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area. Its border with the United States is the world's longest international land border. Charles III (Charles Philip Arthur George) is King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms. Its capital is Ottawa, and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. Justin Pierre James Trudeau is serving as the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since 2015. Canada is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy in the Westminster tradition. The country's head of government is the prime minister, who holds office by virtue of their ability to command the confidence of the elected House of Commons and is "called upon" by the governor general, representing the monarch of Canada, the head of state. The country is a Commonwealth realm and is officially bilingual (English and French) in the federal jurisdiction.
- Canada is home to one of the largest overseas communities of Indian origin, which number approximately 1.4 million out of an overall Canadian population of 40 million. About 770,000 people reported Sikhism as their religion in the 2021 census. Canada has the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab. India has often complained to Canada's governments about the activities of

Sikh hardliners among the Indian diaspora who, it says, are trying to revive the insurgency. India-Canada relations have previously been tested by events such as the bombing of an Air India aircraft in 1985 by a Canada-based Khalistani separatist group.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the Blank:

1. The ongoing diplomatic row between India and Canada was triggered by the murder of Sikh separatist leader _____ in Canada in June 2023.
2. In response to Canada's expulsion of Indian diplomats, India expelled _____ Canadian diplomats, including the acting high commissioner.
3. The controversy over Prime Minister Trudeau's dinner in _____ in 2018 involved a former member of a Sikh separatist group, Jaspal Singh Atwal.
4. In 2020, the Indian government assigned _____ "terrorist" status due to his involvement in separatist activities.
5. The Khalistan movement seeks to establish an independent Sikh state, and it has gained significant support among the Sikh diaspora in _____.
6. On June 18, 2023, Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh temple in _____, Canada.
7. In December 2020, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed concern over the Indian government's handling of the _____ protests.
8. After the expulsion of an Indian diplomat by Canada in September 2023, India retaliated by expelling a _____ Canadian diplomat.
9. In October 2023, Canada recalled _____ of its diplomats from India after India threatened to revoke their diplomatic immunity.