AVIATION SECTOR

❖ **Go First files for voluntary insolvency: What led to the crisis?**

CONTEXT: The airline has filed for bankruptcy, which could have ripples across the domestic aviation sector — raising passenger fares and triggering a rush among competitors to grab Go First's market share.

- Cash-strapped no-frills carrier Go Airlines (India) Ltd (Go First), said that it was filing for voluntary insolvency proceedings with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), blaming engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney (P&W) for its financial situation. The Wadia Group airline has been struggling for some time now, with half its fleet of aircraft grounded due to snags in their P&W engines, and other financial problems.
- However, its decision to go on its own to the NCLT, the adjudicating authority for insolvency resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, came as a shock for employees, passengers, and the sector.
- Industry insiders believe this could spell the end of Go First (formerly GoAir) in its current avatar, a development with likely ramifications for India's highly competitive aviation landscape. Go First is the first Indian carrier since Jet Airways to go to the NCLT under the IBC. The tribunal will hear the airline's plea on Thursday.

❖ **What has Go First said?**

- The airline said it was "forced to apply to the NCLT" after "the ever-increasing number of failing engines supplied by Pratt & Whitney's International Aero Engines" led to the grounding of 25 aircraft, or half its fleet of Airbus A320neo planes, and major financial stress.
- Go First said P&W — which is the exclusive supplier of engines for A320neos — had failed to meet contractual obligations and refused to comply with an arbitration award from the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). It added that more likely engine failures over the next three-four months, would have made its operations "unviable".
- Go First has been hit by engine snags since January 2020. It has claimed that the percentage of its grounded aircraft due to P&W's "faulty engines" had grown from 7% in December 2019 to 31% in December 2020, and to 50% in December 2022. This, while incurring 100% of operational costs, has set it back by Rs 10,800 crore in lost revenues and additional expenses, Go First has said.
- According to the airline, SIAC had directed P&W to dispatch at least 10 serviceable spare leased engines by April 27, and 10 spare leased engines per month until December. Had P&W complied, the airline could have returned to full operations by August or September, leading to its "financial rehabilitation and survival", Go First has said.
- How has Pratt & Whitney responded?
  - The engine manufacturer denied Go First's allegations, and said the airline has a "lengthy history of missing its financial obligations" to P&W. But P&W did not mention this in its brief official statement. It denied Go First's allegation that it was not complying with SIAC's directions. Go First has also filed an emergency petition in a US court seeking enforcement of the SIAC award.
- Which creditors have exposure to Go First, and how much?
  - Go First has told NCLT that it owes Rs 6,521 crore to financial creditors, While the carrier had not defaulted on its dues until April 30, it has informed the NCLT that given its current financial position, defaults are "imminent".
  - Go First had also borrowed Rs 1,292 crore under the government's Emergency Credit Scheme. Its total liabilities to all creditors — including dues to banks, financial institutions, vendors, and aircraft lessors — are Rs 11,463 crore.
- What does this mean for Go First's competitors?
  - Although Go First was already operating a truncated fleet due to widespread groundings and was continuously bleeding market share, its absence from the skies could create an opportunity for other domestic carriers.
  - Go First has cancelled flights until May 5; it is also not taking new bookings until May 15. With the matter now with the NCLT, the disruption is expected to be prolonged.
  - In March, Go First's domestic market share (by passengers carried) was 6.9%; for the Jan-Mar quarter, it was 7.8%, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data show. For Jan-Mar, Go First was the third largest domestic airline by market share. It carried almost 9 lakh fliers in March; more than 29 lakh in Jan-Mar.
  - India's overall domestic passenger count for March and Jan-Mar were 1.29 crore and 3.75 crore respectively. Go First had an impressive passenger load factor (PLF, or capacity utilisation) of more than 90% during Jan-Mar.
  - In this year's approved summer schedule (Mar 26 to Oct 28) for Indian carriers, Go First was to operate 1,538 flights per week, 10.7% more than the preceding winter schedule.

❖ **<u>About National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT):</u>**

- The National Company Law Tribunal or NCLT is a quasi-judicial body in India adjudicating issues concerning companies in the country. It was formed on June 1, 2016, as per the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 (Section 408) by the Indian government.
- All proceedings under the Companies Act such as arbitration, arrangements, compromise, reconstruction, and winding up of the company will be disposed of by the Tribunal.
- The NCLT is also the Adjudicating Authority for insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The NCLT has the authority to dispose of cases pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as well as, those pending under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

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- Also to take up those cases pending before the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. It can also take up cases relating to the oppression and mismanagement of a company.

❖ **About Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) is India's bankruptcy law, which aims to unify the existing framework by establishing a single insolvency and bankruptcy law.
- Insolvency is a condition in which a debtor is unable to pay his/her debts. Bankruptcy is a legal process that involves an insolvent person or company that is unable to pay its debts.
- It establishes clearer and faster insolvency procedures to assist creditors, such as banks, in recovering debts and avoiding bad loans, which are a major drag on the economy.
- It is an all-encompassing insolvency code that applies to all businesses, partnerships, and individuals (other than financial firms).
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016:**
  - ✓ The code repealed all previous legislation and established a standardised framework for resolving insolvency and bankruptcy cases.
  - ✓ It enables creditors to analyse a debtor's viability as a business decision. Furthermore, creditors might either agree to the plan for its resurrection or propose a quick liquidation.
  - ✓ The Code establishes a new legal structure. This framework aided in the formalisation and liquidation of an insolvency resolution process that was time-bound. The framework consists of the following elements:
  - o Insolvency Professionals
  - o Insolvency Professional Agencies
  - o Adjudicating authorities: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is the deciding authority for corporations and limited liability firms. Individuals and partnership firms have their debts adjudicated by the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT).
  - ✓ The goal of the code is to **address insolvencies in a timely way**; the evaluation and viability determination must be done **within 180 days.**
    - ✓ The Company is subject to a **180-day moratorium (which can be extended up to 270 days)**. The resolution time frame for startups and small businesses is 90 days, which can be extended by 45 days.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment)bill, 2021**
  - ✓ **The Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process (PIRP)/'pre-packs'** was proposed as an insolvency resolution mechanism for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
  - ✓ **Aim**: PIRP process in the Code will address the issues faced by MSMEs due to the impact of the pandemic and the unique nature of their business, duly recognizing their importance in the economy.

CLIMATE

❖ **Why the recent rain is no relief?**

❖ **CONTEXT: Despite the recent showers, this year is widely expected to be hotter and drier. Though the IMD has forecast a normal monsoon, the development of El Nino, which is known to suppress monsoon rainfall over India, is happening faster than expected.**

➢ The first two days of May have been unusually wet. Except the northeastern states, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, the entire country has received plenty of rain, with some areas in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh getting as much as 10 to 15 times the expected rainfall.

➢ This exceptional spell of rainfall was the result of a number of relatively local weather phenomena over different parts of the country coming together at the same time. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this spell is expected to get over by Thursday. But the unusual rainfall is also a reminder of the increasing uncertainties in weather patterns becoming evident not just in India but across the world.

➢ Globally, the month of March this year was the second warmest March ever since the beginning of records in the mid-1800s. And an analysis in Carbon Brief, a climate change focused online publication in the UK, said the year 2023 was shaping up to become one of the top four warmest years on record, citing the rapid development of the El Nino event, which has an overall warming impact on the planet.

❖ **How much is India warming up?**

➢ The increase in temperatures evident all over the world is being experienced in India too, though at a slightly lower level than the global average.

➢ The year 2022, for example, was 1.15 degree Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times (the average temperature of 1850-1900 period) and was the fifth or sixth warmest year on record. In India, average temperature in 2022 was 0.64 degree Celsius higher than normal (average of 1981-2010 period). The difference from the pre-industrial temperatures is not clear, but the warming over India is known to be lower than the global average.

➢ The most comprehensive assessment of India's climate, done by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2020, had shown that average annual mean temperatures in India had risen by about 0.7 degree Celsius from 1900. That is significantly less than the global rise in temperatures, which has exceeded one degree Celsius for several years now. By the end of the century, the warming over India is likely to be in the range of 2.4 to 4.4 degree Celsius from the current levels in different emission scenarios.

➢ The warming over the seas around India has been much higher. Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Indian Ocean have risen by almost one degree Celsius between 1950 and 2015, this assessment said, and were projected to increase even further.

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❖ **What about the different states in India?**

➢ The warming over India is not uniform across regions. Some states have become much hotter than others. Last week, the IMD released state-level warming trends for the first time. Data from 29 states showed that temperatures in Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Kerala had increased at the rate of more than 1 degree Celsius per 100 years in the last 120 years (see box). Most of the northeastern states — Mizoram, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura — have seen their temperatures climb at the rate of more than 0.7 degree Celsius per 100 years.

➢ However, the eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha have experienced the least warming. Bihar's temperature has been nearly flat, registering a rise of just 0.02 degree Celsius over 100 years. Uttar Pradesh, with a warming of 0.13 degree Celsius, is also in the same bracket.

➢ Goa has seen the maximum increasing trend in annual rainfall. Its rainfall has increased at the rate of 21 mm over a 100 year period. It is followed by Gujarat and Tripura. Rainfall has decreased in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Manipur.

➢ Last year, several states in India saw temperature records being broken. The year 2022 was the warmest year on record for Sikkim, while it was the second warmest for Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Punjab. Interestingly, at least two states — Karnataka and Telangana — were cooler than normal in 2022, though only marginally.

TABLE 2

HOW WARM WAS 2022 FOR STATES (SINCE 1901)

Warmest year on record	Sikkim
Second Warmest	Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab
Third Warmest	Assam, Manipur
Fourth Warmest	Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura
Fifth Warmest	Odisha

TABLE 3

LONG-TERM WARMING

Himachal Pradesh	1.5
Goa	1.44
Kerala	1.05
Mizoram	0.83
Uttarakhand	0.8
Assam	0.72
Chhattisgarh	0.7
Sikkim	0.7
Manipur	0.68
Tamil Nadu	0.67

(Temp rise per 100 years between 1901 and 2022)

TABLE 4

DEATHS CAUSED BY EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Lightning	1,608
Floods and Heavy Rains	917
Cyclones	6
Snowfall	33
Gale	8
Heat Wave	30
Cold Wave	1
Dust Storm	22
Thunderstorm	32

Total 2,657

Based on data from 29 states

➢ Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab saw the maximum rise in temperatures last year, compared to their normal. In Uttarakhand, average annual mean temperature in 2022 was 1.17 degree Celsius higher than the average for 1981-2010 period.

❖ **Which weather event kills most people?**

➢ For the first time, the IMD also presented data on deaths caused by extreme weather events. While heatwaves have attracted a lot of attention, lightning strikes have been killing a far greater number of people in India.

➢ More than 60 per cent of deaths caused by weather events in India in 2022 (1,608 out of 2,657 recorded deaths) were due to lightning strikes. Floods and extreme rainfall events claimed 937 lives. These numbers are only indicative and could be much larger, since the IMD and the state governments relied on media reports to compile the list of casualties.

❖ **<u>About EL-Nino:</u>**

- El Nino means 'little boy' or 'Christ child' in Spanish. The phenomenon was thus named because it was first recognised by South American fishermen in the early part of the 17th century. The events, i.e., warm waters in the Pacific Ocean, tended to occur in December, hence, the name was chosen.
- El Nino refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific. It is associated with high pressure in the western Pacific. El Nino adversely impacts the Indian monsoons and hence, agriculture in India.

➢ **How El Nino affects India?**

In a normal monsoon year (without El Nino), the pressure distribution is as follows:

- The coast of Peru in South America has a higher pressure than the region near northern Australia and South East Asia.
- The Indian Ocean is warmer than the adjoining oceans and so, has relatively lower pressure. Hence, moisture-laden winds move from near the western Pacific to the Indian Ocean.
- The pressure on the landmass of India is lower than on the Indian Ocean, and so, the moisture-laden winds move further from the ocean to the lands.
- If this normal pressure distribution is affected for some reason, the monsoons are affected.

➢ **What happens because of El Nino?**

✓ The cool surface water off the Peruvian coast goes warm because of El Nino. When the water is warm, the normal trade winds get lost or reverse their direction. Hence, the flow of moisture-laden winds is directed towards the coast of Peru from the western Pacific (the region near northern Australia and South East Asia). This causes heavy rains in Peru during the El Nino years robbing the Indian subcontinent of its normal monsoon rains. The larger the temperature and pressure difference, the larger the rainfall shortage in India.

✓ Since 1950, out of the 13 droughts that India faced, 10 have been during El Nino years and one in a La Nina year. This is because in general, an El Nino means lesser than average rains for India. Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on the monsoons and because of this, lesser rainfall during the monsoons generally translates to below-average crop yields.

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PRELIMS

1. CU-Chayan Portal:

In NEWS: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched CU– Chayan, a unified faculty recruitment portal for Central universities. The UGC has developed this portal to create an enabling environment for both universities and the applicants.

Significance

- ✓ The portal would cater to the needs of all the stakeholders in the teachers' recruitment process.
- ✓ The portal will provide a common platform for listing of vacancies, advertisements and jobs across all Central Universities.
- ✓ The portal makes the recruitment process completely online starting from application to screening, with alerts to all the users of the portal.

2. NEUROTOXIC GAS:

IN NEWS: Ludhiana gas leak have claimed 11 lives. Authorities hint the death is due to inhalation of neurotoxic gas.

ABOUT NEUROTOXIC GAS:

- ✓ Neuro-toxicity occurs when the exposure to natural or manmade toxic substances (neurotoxicants) alters the normal activity of the nervous system that includes brain, spinal cord, and nerves.
- ✓ Nerve cells, or neurons, communicate with each other through a series of electrical and chemical signals and are at the greatest risk of damage from neurotoxins because of their high metabolic rate.
- ✓ Neuro-toxic substances can damage nerve cell function by modifying the structure of the cell membrane, which controls the passage of ions into and out of the neuron. As a result, the electrical activity of the neuron may change. Furthermore, neurotoxins can prevent neurotransmitters from being released or taken up by other neurons, thereby preventing their production or release. Neurotransmitters are responsible for signal transmission between neurons.

3. Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

IN NEWS: The central government has given its approval for the implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Union Territory of Ladakh with a sanctioned cost of Rs 687.05 crore.**Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)**

Aim:

- ✓ To help DISCOMs improve their operational efficiencies and financial sustainability.
- ✓ It is done by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs to strengthen supply infrastructure based on:
  - Meeting pre-qualifying criteria
  - Achieving basic minimum benchmarks.

Budget:

- ✓ The scheme has an outlay of Rs 3,03,758 Crore over 5 years i.e. FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.
- ✓ The outlay includes an estimated Government Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs 97,631 Crore.

Goal:

- ✓ Reduction of AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% by 2024-25.
- ✓ Reduction of ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25.
- ✓ Improvement in the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers through a financially sustainable and operationally efficient distribution sector.

Components:

- ✓ **Part A** – Financial support for Prepaid Smart Metering & System Metering and up-gradation of the Distribution Infrastructure.
- ✓ **Part B** – Training & Capacity Building and other Enabling & Supporting Activities.

Nodal Agencies:

- ✓ **REC and Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** have been nominated as nodal agencies for facilitating the implementation of the scheme.

Significance

- ✓ The world's largest electrical energy **smart metering programm**e aims to switch 250 million typical meters with **smart ones** that won't solely assist scale back energy theft but additionally guarantee dependable electrical energy provide.
- ✓ The reforms are additionally aimed toward **bettering the reliability and high quality of energy provided.**
- ✓ It allows close to real-time gathering and switching of power utilisation data.
- ✓ It will allow **reductions in the AT&C losses**, **improve financial health**,**incentivise energy conservation** & ensure better billing cycle.

Issues

- ✓ **Lack of communication** by some put in smart metres,
- ✓ Extreme time taken in integrating **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)** with the legacy billing software program of state-owned distribution corporations (discoms).
- ✓ **Interoperability issues of headend system (HES)** with a number of metre producers, stalling computerised acquisition of metre information.

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- ✓ **Connections and disconnections are performed manually** and never mechanically, defeating the target of avoiding human intervention.
- ✓ The programme is dealing with a **scarcity of chips**.
- ✓ **Cybersecurity risks** & data privacy.

Way Ahead

- ✓ A smart meter structure minimises human intervention in billing and assortment, and reduces theft by figuring out loss pockets.
- ✓ The RDSS seems to be paving the way for this change in the power sector.
- ✓ There is a need to adopt a systemic deployment strategy for smart metering infrastructure.
- ✓ Concerted efforts are required to steer the power sector into a new era of financial sustainability and operational efficiency.

4. Gum Arabic

In NEWS: Sudan's eruption into conflict has affected the supplies of gum Arabic across the world.

About Gum arabic:

- ✓ It is a natural gum derived from the hardened sap of two species of the Acacia tree – Senegalia Senegal and Vachellia seyal.
- ✓ The gum is harvested commercially from wild trees, mostly in Sudan (80%) and throughout the Sahel (from Senegal to Somalia).
- ✓ Gum Arabic first found its way to Europe via Arabic ports, hence the name.
- ✓ It is soluble in water, edible and used primarily in the food industry and soft-drink industry as a stabiliser.
- ✓ It is also used in printing, paints, glues, cosmetics, and viscosity control in inks and textile industries.

5. World Press Freedom Index 2023

IN NEWS: India slips in World Press Freedom Index, ranks 161 out of 180 countries. The Indian government does not agree with the country rankings of the World Press Freedom Index.

About:

- ✓ It has been published every year since 2002 by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders.
- ✓ Based in Paris, RSF is an independent NGO with consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF).
- ✓ OIF is a 54 french speaking nations collective.
- ✓ The Index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. However, it is not an indicator on the quality of journalism.

Outcomes:

- ✓ India has gone from "problematic" to "very bad", with the country slipping 11 ranks in the World Press Freedom Index, an analysis released by Reporters Without Borders, an organisation that evaluates the environment for journalism across countries.
- ✓ The relative rankings of some countries -- Pakistan rose up seven ranks, and was placed at 150 , and Afghanistan was ranked 152nd.
- ✓ Norway ranked 1st on the Index, seventh year in a row.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Nuclear power could be the answer to India's energy needs and climate targets. However, it comes with associated risks and concerns. Critically Evaluate.

Nuclear power is an efficient way of boiling water to create steam and this steam is used to turn turbines, which creates electricity. India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and in the future, it is set to see a substantial increase in power demand. Nuclear Power has a huge potential to provide the country with a clean and environment-friendly source of energy and ensure long-term energy security in a sustainable manner. At the same time, it can also help in meeting the climate target of achieving net zero emissions by 2070. However, there are inherent risks and concerns attached to the use of nuclear power.

Benefits of using nuclear power as a source of energy:

- Clean energy source: nuclear power can make an important contribution to the quicker expansion of low-carbon electricity supply in the sustainable development Scenario. It can also contribute to the air quality targets as it does not generate any pollution. Nuclear energy is also considered to be greener as compared to traditional power sources.
- Growing energy demands: On account of factors such as population rise, increased urbanization, GDP growth, increase in manufacturing, etc the energy demands in India have been growing. Further, India's energy consumption is projected to be rising by 156% between 2017 and 2040. Therefore, nuclear energy can help in meeting growing energy demands.
- Reduced dependency on coal: The huge amounts of CO2 produced by coal-fired power plants mean that the electricity and heat sector is the most carbon-polluting sector in India. Nuclear energy can provide the country with clean baseload power and reduce dependence on coal and traditional sources of energy in the long run.
- More efficient than other sources: nuclear power plants need much less fuel than thermal power plants. A single pellet of uranium weighing six grams contains the same amount of energy as 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas, 149 pounds of oil or one ton of coal. Nuclear has a much higher energy output compared to its fuel intake.
- Job creation: India is planning to increase the nuclear power capacity from the existing 6780 MW to 22480 MW by the year 2031. This will lead to the setting up of new nuclear plants as well as the creation of new jobs. The proposed Jaitapur project in Maharashtra is projected to create 50,000 jobs.

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Risks and concerns associated with nuclear power:

- Risk of nuclear disaster: nuclear power plants carry with them the risk of disaster caused due to meltdown of reactors. For e.g., Chornobyl nuclear accident was caused due to flawed reactor design and Fukushima nuclear disaster was a result of the earthquake and Tsunami.
- Radioactive waste: This waste mainly composed of unconverted uranium along with intermediate products such as plutonium and curium, stays radioactive for extremely long periods, presenting a major problem with respect to their storage.
- Long-time lag between planning and operation: The setting up of nuclear power plants process includes identification of a site, obtaining a site permit, purchasing or leasing the land, obtaining a construction permit, etc. This causes delays in making plants operational.
- Concerns with respect to uranium procurement: While nuclear energy may not emit any harmful gases during its energy production processes, the way this industry procures uranium does have negative impacts. Mining the substance entails powerful blasts that bring radioactive material to the earth's surface, contaminating the surrounding environment, the air, land and water.
- Health concerns: Generating electricity from nuclear power is accompanied by ionising radiation, an invisible toxin, which is hazardous in any amount. Cancer and genetic damage can be caused by radiation leading to health hazards for workers as well as the general public.

Conclusion:

India's nuclear power could provide a reliable solution to power demand as against wind and solar that is not available around the clock. This could further lead to a reduction in India's contribution to global Green House Gases (GHG) and meeting climate targets. Given the benefits associated with nuclear energy, the inherent challenges must be addressed in a holistic manner.

MCQs

1. Considered the following statement regarding international firefighters day.
   1) INTERNATIONAL Firefighter Day, Every year on May 4th,
   2) The main reason people celebrate this day is to honour the work, heroism, and sacrifices done by professional firefighters all across the world
   Which of the above statement is/ are NOT correct?
   (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
   (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
2. Recently Special 301 report is in news it is released by?
   a) World intellectual property organization
   b) World bank
   c) United states trade representatives.
   d) OECD
3. With reference to "Gum Arabic" consider the following statements:
   1.It is an indigenous variety of dates found in the Saudi Arabia.
   2.It is used in the food industry and soft-drink industry as a stabilizer.
   3.There is no alternative to gum arabic in fizzy drinks.
   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 3
   (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
4. Considered the following statement regarding WORLD PRESS FREEDOM index.
   1. India in World Press Freedom Index, ranks 161 out of 180 countries. However top in south Asia region.
   2. released by Reporters Without Borders.
   3. Norway ranked 1st on the Index, seventh year in a row.
   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) Only 3 (b) 1 and 3
   (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
5. Considered the following statement regarding Bluebugging.
   1) It is a type of malicious attack.
   2) Bluebugging attacks exploiting by wifi- enabled devices.
   3) It can targeted speakers, smartwatches and phones.
   Which of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) Only 1 (b) **1 and 3**
   (c) 2 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
6. Recently,the place knoen as Depsang plains was in news. It is located in which of the following states/UTs ?
   (a) Arunachal Pradesh. (b) Nagaland
   (c) **Ladakh** **(d)** Assam
7. In case of De- dollarization which of the statement is not correct?
   a) It refers to the replacement of the U.S dollar by other currencies as the global reserve currency.
   b) Currently,Chinese yuan is seen as the primary alternative to the U.S dollar.
   c) Euro and Indian rupee is best supplement to U.S dollar.
   d) Now most Global acceptabillty is U.S dollar.
8. State of world population report 2023 is released by which organization?
   a) World economic forum.
   b) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
   c) United Nations Development Programme
   d) Non of the above.
9. Famous basohil painting get GI tagging belong to which state/ UTs?
   (a) **Jamu and Kashir** (b) Uttarakhand
   (c) Assam (d) Gujurat
10. Sberbank has launched it's own AI chat-bot named Giga chat to compete with open AI's chat GPT , Sberbank is a company of which country?
    (a) **RUSSIA** (b) JAPAN
    (c) USA (d) CHINA

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