

THE PALA CIVIL TIMES

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P2. NATIONAL



Delhi HC upholds curbs on Telegram amid NEET row.- Platform-wide restrictions under Section 69A of the IT Act can be justified in addressing public-order concerns.

P3. NATIONAL



T.N. Assembly unanimously opposes dam at Mokedatu : raising issues of inter-State water sharing, federalism, environmental concerns and compliance with tribunal and Supreme Court decisions

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Four glacial lakes in Arunachal have expanded in a decade : increased concerns over Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, highlighting the need for scientific monitoring, early warning systems and climate-resilient disaster management.

P7. ECONOMICS



Jio eyes satellite communications - Low Earth Orbit satellite constellations are emerging as a key tool for universal connectivity, digital inclusion and strategic communication infrastructure.

Editor's Note

In today's edition of the Pala Civil Times, we examine how the seemingly ordinary elements around us are quietly shaping our future. Consider water, the most fundamental requirement for life. Yet, in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem, expanding glacial lakes are emerging as potential hazards, raising concerns over Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and disaster preparedness. The same resource becomes a source of political and legal contestation when scarcity enters the picture, as reflected in the continuing dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the proposed Mokedatu project on the Cauvery. Communication, another essential aspect of modern life, is undergoing rapid transformation. Reliance Jio's plans to deploy Low Earth Orbit satellite connectivity promise to bridge the digital divide by extending internet access to remote and underserved regions. At the same time, communication platforms can also create new challenges, as seen in the temporary blocking of Telegram amid concerns over the circulation of NEET-related misinformation and paper-leak claims. In our decoded editorials, we explore two issues that cut across governance, rights, and technology: the Supreme Court's recognition of the right to walk safely on demarcated footpaths, and the growing global debate on regulating Artificial Intelligence through transparent and accountable frameworks. As you read through today's topics, try to view them not as isolated events, but as examples of how natural resources, technology, infrastructure, and governance continue to shape our lives—one issue at a time.

Editorials Decoded

The Indian EXPRESS

US diktat on AI makes case for global regulation



The emerging U.S.–Iran rapprochement could reshape West Asian geopolitics by reducing regional tensions, enhancing energy security, and creating new strategic and economic opportunities for India.

THE HINDU

Right of Way



The Supreme Court's recognition of the right to walk on safe and well-maintained footpaths as a fundamental right reflects the expanding scope of constitutional freedoms and equitable access to public spaces.

Delhi HC upholds curbs on Telegram amid NEET row

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) blocked Telegram in India from June 16 to June 22, 2026, following a request from the National Testing Agency (NTA) in connection with the NEET-UG re-examination. The original examination held on May 3 was cancelled due to allegations of paper leaks and irregularities. According to the NTA, numerous Telegram channels were claiming to sell examination papers and were being used to communicate with students, parents and intermediaries involved in fraudulent activities. The government also directed Telegram to disable its message-editing feature in India until June 30.

Statutory Basis for the Blocking Order

The blocking order was issued under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which empowers the Central Government to block access to information when it is considered necessary or expedient on specified grounds, including public order. Section 2(1)(v) of the Act defines "information" broadly to include data, codes, computer programmes, software and databases. The procedure is governed by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. The Delhi High Court upheld the government's interpretation that the term "information" is wide enough to include the architecture of an application or platform itself and not merely the content hosted on it.



Why a Platform-Wide Ban Was Upheld

The Central Government argued that channel-specific takedowns had repeatedly failed because mirror channels, backup channels and automated bots continued to reappear. The Court accepted the government's position that narrower interventions had proven ineffective and therefore a temporary platform-wide restriction was justified. Applying the **proportionality principles** laid down in the Supreme Court judgment in **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, the Court held that the temporary block was necessary and constituted the least restrictive measure available for achieving the stated objective of protecting the integrity of the examination process.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Social Justice; GS III : Indian Economy

Concerns and Criticisms

Technology policy experts questioned whether sufficient technical material was available before the Court to assess alternatives to a complete platform restriction. Concerns were also raised about whether blocking one platform would effectively address exam fraud if those involved could migrate to other digital platforms. Critics further argued that such restrictions affect economic and civil freedoms because many businesses and individuals rely on messaging platforms for communication, customer engagement and commercial activities. The temporary nature of the ban also raised questions about how authorities would respond if similar issues emerged in the future.

Present Position and Broader Implications

The Delhi High Court's decision is significant because it is among the first judicial rulings to explicitly hold that an application's software and architecture can fall within the scope of "information" under Section 69A of the IT Act. The judgment therefore extends beyond Telegram and may influence future debates on platform-wide restrictions, digital governance and the scope of governmental powers under India's information technology framework. The case also highlights the continuing challenge of balancing public-order concerns and examination integrity with the impact of digital restrictions on communication and online economic activity.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (Answer in 150 words) (GS IV – 2025)

Q. Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (GS II – 2013)

T.N. Assembly unanimously opposes dam at Mekedatu

The Mekedatu project has emerged as the latest flashpoint in the long-standing Cauvery river dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The proposed project involves the construction of a balancing reservoir by Karnataka at Mekedatu, near the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers. Tamil Nadu has opposed the project through a unanimous Assembly resolution, arguing that it violates the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) Award of 2007 and the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment.

Statutory Basis for the Blocking Order

The Indian Constitution creates a shared framework for water governance. **Entry 17 of the State List** empowers States to legislate on **water supplies, irrigation, canals, drainage, water storage and water power**, subject to **Entry 56 of the Union List**, which authorises Parliament to regulate and develop **inter-State rivers and river valleys** in the public interest. Article 262 empowers Parliament to provide for the adjudication of disputes relating to inter-State rivers and to exclude the jurisdiction of courts in such matters. Pursuant to this provision, **Parliament enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**, under which *water disputes between States can be referred to specialised tribunals such as the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal*.

Statutory Basis for the Blocking Order

The proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir is planned near Ramanagara district of Karnataka, about 1.5 km from Mekedatu, at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers, approximately 4 km from the Tamil Nadu border and 100 km from Bengaluru. Karnataka's proposal envisages a reservoir with a storage capacity of 67.16 TMC ft, intended to supply 4.75 TMC ft of drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding areas while generating **400 MW of hydroelectric power**. However, the project remains contentious as it requires approvals from the Union government and affects forest land and wildlife habitats, including an elephant corridor, besides raising concerns regarding compliance with existing Cauvery water-sharing arrangements.



Lessons for Inter-State Water Governance

The Mekedatu controversy demonstrates both the importance and the limitations of existing mechanisms for resolving inter-State river disputes. While constitutional provisions, tribunals and specialised institutions provide a structured framework for adjudication and implementation, recurring disputes indicate continuing challenges in achieving consensus among riparian States. Effective river basin governance requires respect for adjudicatory decisions, cooperative federalism, scientific water management, environmental safeguards and stronger institutional coordination between States and the Union government to ensure equitable and sustainable utilisation of shared water resources.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (GS II – 2013)

RELEVANCE

GS II : Indian Polity - Centre state relations

CLIMATE

Four glacial lakes in Arunachal have expanded in a decade: study

A recent satellite-based assessment of five high-risk glacial lakes in the **Mago Chu basin** of **Arunachal Pradesh** found that four lakes have expanded over the last decade, indicating continued glacial retreat and increased meltwater accumulation. While lake expansion does not automatically imply an imminent disaster, it raises concerns regarding Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), which can cause severe loss of life, infrastructure damage and downstream flooding in fragile Himalayan ecosystems.

Glacial Lake Expansion and Scientific Assessment

The assessment, conducted using ICEYE, PlanetScope and LISS-IV satellite imagery, examined glacial lakes classified by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as high-risk or very high-risk. Among them, **Sanhapo Lake recorded the most significant expansion**, growing from about 78 hectares in 2019 to nearly 89 hectares in 2026. Lake expansion is often linked to glacier retreat and increasing meltwater storage, but the level of risk depends on moraine stability, lake volume, surrounding topography, and the possibility of avalanches, landslides or rockfalls entering the lake. The **2023 South Lhonak Lake disaster in Sikkim**, which triggered devastating floods and destroyed the **Chungthang hydropower project**, highlighted the destructive potential of GLOFs in the Himalayan region.



Causes, Risks and Climate Change Linkages

Glacial lakes often form behind natural moraine dams created by glacial debris. Rising temperatures and accelerated glacier melting increase the volume of water stored in these lakes, making them potentially unstable. A sudden breach of a moraine dam or displacement of water caused by avalanches, landslides, icefalls or rockfalls can trigger a GLOF. The expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes is therefore increasingly viewed as a visible manifestation of climate change in the Indian subcontinent. Besides threatening downstream settlements, GLOFs pose risks to hydropower projects, transport networks, water infrastructure and local livelihoods.

RELEVANCE

GS I : Important Geophysical phenomena; Physical Geography; GS III : Disaster Management

Monitoring, Early Warning Systems and Institutional Mechanisms

The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) has prepared glacial lake inventories for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, while the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** regularly monitors **902 glacial lakes and water bodies**. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), through its Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CoDRR), has identified high-risk glacial lakes for field assessment and mitigation planning. Technology-driven early warning systems such as Mission Mausam, the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)-based Integrated Alert System, Disaster Grade Cell Broadcasting System, and specialised monitoring networks involving IMD, CWC, INCOIS, DGRE and other agencies are responsible for constant monitoring of the region.

From Hazard Identification to Risk Reduction

While scientific capabilities for identifying and monitoring glacial hazards have improved considerably, translating risk assessments into effective mitigation remains the key challenge. Recognising this, the Government has approved the **National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP)** for **Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand** with the objectives of reducing loss of life, strengthening early warning systems, enhancing local institutional capacities and integrating scientific as well as indigenous knowledge into disaster management.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? (GS I – 2020)

Q. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. (GS I – 2016)

US diktat on AI makes case for global regulation (Indian Express : 20-06-2026)

The recent U.S. directive requiring Anthropic to suspend foreign access to its frontier AI models, **Fable 5 and Mythos 5**, has triggered concerns about whether a single government or private company should possess the authority to restrict access to critical AI technologies. The episode highlights the broader challenge of governing increasingly powerful and borderless AI systems in a transparent, accountable and internationally acceptable manner.

Frontier AI Models and the Question of Access Control

The U.S. government directed Anthropic to restrict access to certain advanced AI models, reportedly citing national security concerns. However, according to Anthropic, no specific details regarding those concerns were publicly disclosed. The incident has intensified debates over who should control access to frontier AI systems. The controversy demonstrates the absence of a clearly defined and transparent framework governing access to advanced AI capabilities.



Need for Regulation, Safety Testing and Independent Oversight

The episode has strengthened calls for stronger AI regulation and oversight mechanisms. Proposals include mandatory technical testing, safety audits and independent third-party evaluation of frontier AI models before deployment. Such mechanisms seek to ensure that advanced AI systems meet acceptable safety standards and that decisions regarding their release, restriction or withdrawal are guided by objective criteria rather than opaque governmental or corporate considerations. The broader issue is the creation of credible regulatory institutions capable of balancing innovation, safety and public interest.

Global Governance Challenges and India's Stake

AI technologies operate across national boundaries, making unilateral regulation increasingly difficult. Issues related to access, safety, accountability and deployment of frontier AI models cannot be effectively resolved by individual countries acting alone. Instead, they require an inclusive global governance architecture based on international cooperation, broad consensus and participation by all stakeholders. India occupies a significant position in this debate because of its **large AI user base, expanding digital economy and the substantial volumes of data** that contribute to the development and performance of global AI systems. Consequently, India has a strong interest in shaping future international AI governance framework

Towards Inclusive and Accountable AI Governance

The debate triggered by restrictions on access to frontier AI models reflects a larger transition from discussions of AI innovation to questions of AI governance. As AI becomes a strategic technology with economic, social and security implications, transparent regulatory frameworks, independent safety assessments and globally accepted governance mechanisms will become increasingly important. The long-term challenge is to create institutions that promote innovation while ensuring accountability, fairness, public safety and equitable access to advanced AI capabilities across nations.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct?

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 only (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2 and 4

RELEVANCE

GS II : International Relations; GS III : Science and Technology

Right of Way (The Hindu : 20-06-2026)

In *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan* (2026), the Supreme Court declared that the freedom to walk on well-demarcated and properly maintained footpaths is a fundamental right that takes priority over the privilege of movement by motorised vehicles. The judgment arose from a case involving the death of a five-year-old child who was crushed by a truck while walking to school with his father. The Court used the case to examine the status of pedestrians and the importance of footpaths in public life.

Constitutional Basis of the Right to Walk

The Court observed that the Constitution guarantees walking as a fundamental right through the provision that "all citizens shall have the right to move freely throughout the territory of India." It further held that walking is not merely physical movement but also embodies the freedoms of speech and expression, peaceful assembly, and association under Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), and 19(1)(c). According to the judgment, walking has historically served as a means of resistance, discovery, public mobilisation and social interaction, including during India's freedom struggle.



Significance of Footpaths

The Court rejected the view that footpaths exist only to prevent accidents involving pedestrians and vehicles. Instead, it held that footpaths possess an independent identity and purpose by enabling the public to exercise the freedom to walk and access urban spaces. The judgment stated that the presence of broad and safe footpaths reflects civilisational advancement, promotes equitable access to common spaces and improves the quality and beauty of cities and towns. It further declared that the right to walk on comfortable and safe footpaths should receive priority over motorised transportation.

Challenges & Responsibility of Duty-Bearers

The Court noted that rapid urbanisation and the dominance of motorised transportation have pushed pedestrians to the margins of public infrastructure. Encroachments, garbage accumulation and pavement trade have reduced the availability and quality of footpaths. It observed that movement by vehicles has increasingly been prioritised at the expense of pedestrians. The judgment identified urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats as the principal duty-bearers responsible for managing and protecting footpaths, which it described as material resources held in trust for the public.

Way Forward

The Supreme Court stated that merely declaring a fundamental right is insufficient and recommended the creation of a statutory framework to implement and protect the right to walk. Referring to **Article 39(b)**, which requires material resources of the community to be distributed for the common good, the Court emphasised the need to balance the interests of pedestrians and motor vehicle users. It recommended that Parliament and State legislatures enact a law identifying duty-bearers, establishing standards for pedestrian infrastructure and creating a full-time regulatory body to plan, enforce and implement the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India – Comment. (GS I – Indian Society – 2025)

Q. "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. (GS II – Indian Polity – 2023)

Q. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulation on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of Indian Constitution and Judgement(s) of the Apex court in this regard. (GS II – Indian Polity – 2015)

RELEVANCE

GS II : Indian Polity - Fundamental Rights

Jio eyes satellite communications

India's digital connectivity ambitions are expanding beyond terrestrial telecom networks to satellite-based broadband services. Reliance Jio's announcement regarding the evaluation of an indigenous Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation reflects the growing importance of satellite communications in bridging connectivity gaps in remote villages, islands, mountainous regions and border areas. The development also highlights India's increasing focus on space-based communication infrastructure as a driver of digital inclusion, technological self-reliance and economic growth.

LEO Satellite Constellations

LEO satellites operate at altitudes of approximately 160–2,000 km above the Earth's surface, making them significantly closer to Earth than traditional Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites located at about 36,000 km. Their proximity enables lower latency and faster broadband services, making them particularly suitable for internet and mobile connectivity. In Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite communication, satellites function similarly to terrestrial Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs), allowing smartphones to connect directly to satellites when conventional mobile towers are unavailable. The satellite then relays the signal either through inter-satellite links or ground infrastructure, enabling communication in geographically challenging regions where terrestrial networks are difficult or uneconomical to deploy.



Jio's Satellite Communication Strategy and Emerging Competition

Jio plans to build an end-to-end satellite broadband ecosystem by developing ground station infrastructure within India and evaluating a sovereign LEO satellite constellation. Simultaneously, it intends to lease capacity from existing global satellite operators to accelerate service delivery. This places Jio alongside major global satellite broadband providers such as SpaceX's Starlink, Amazon's Project Kuiper and Eutelsat's OneWeb. The initiative reflects the strategic importance of satellite communications for expanding broadband access and strengthening India's technological capabilities in a rapidly evolving global sector.

RELEVANCE

GS III : Indian Economy

Socio-Economic and Technological Significance

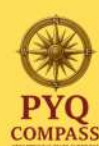
Satellite communication can significantly enhance connectivity in remote and underserved regions, thereby supporting digital inclusion, education, healthcare, governance, disaster response and economic activity. It can improve communication links in border areas, island territories, mountainous regions and disaster-prone locations where terrestrial infrastructure remains limited. The initiative also complements India's broader space and digital ambitions by strengthening domestic capabilities in satellite infrastructure, communication technologies and space-based services. The integration of satellite broadband with expanding 5G networks can further support emerging technologies, enterprise applications and future digital services.

Way Forward

By combining indigenous satellite development, ground infrastructure, strategic partnerships and advanced communication technologies, India is moving towards a more resilient and inclusive communication ecosystem capable of supporting long-term socio-economic development and technological self-reliance.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used? (2018)

1. Mobile phone operations
2. Banking operations
3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct? (2026)

1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

Ans : a

Statement 1 is correct. REEs are essential in producing specialized components such as microchips, sensors, and high performance magnets that are widely used in advanced technologies.

Statement 2 is incorrect. China holds the largest share in global REE mining; however, countries such as the United States or Australia generally rank next, rather than India.

Statement 3 is correct. The mission was introduced to enhance domestic exploration, support overseas acquisitions, and reduce dependence on imports of strategic minerals.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Rare Earth Elements actually comprise 17 metallic elements, including the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.

Q.) In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used? (2018)

1. Mobile phone operations
2. Banking operations
3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans : d

Statement 1 is correct. Mobile phone operations GPS technology is integral to mobile phone operations, especially for navigation, location-based services, and emergency response systems. Many apps and services rely on GPS for accurate positioning and tracking.

Statement 2 is correct. Banking operations GPS technology plays a role in banking operations by providing time synchronization for secure transactions. Many financial systems depend on precise timestamps from GPS for coordinating transactions across the globe, ensuring security and efficiency.

Statement 3 is correct. Controlling the power grids GPS technology is used in power grids for time stamping and synchronizing grid operations. This is essential for monitoring, load balancing, and preventing power outages by ensuring that grid components operate in harmony.

Practice Questions and answers

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's 2026 judgment on the right to walk on demarcated footpaths:

1. The Court held that walking embodies not only the freedom of movement but also the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association.
2. The Court identified urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats as important duty-bearers responsible for managing footpaths held in trust for the public.
3. The Court invoked Article 39(b) to emphasize that common resources such as land used for road infrastructure should be designed keeping in view the interests of both pedestrians and motor vehicle users.
4. The Court held that the declaration of the right to walk was sufficient and no additional statutory framework was required for its enforcement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is Correct – The Court held that walking is more than physical movement and also serves as a means of expression, peaceful assembly and association. It cited the role of walking in public mobilisation, political participation and even the freedom struggle.

Statement 2 is Correct – The judgment identified urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats as the primary duty-bearers responsible for maintaining footpaths, which are held in trust for the benefit of the public.

Statement 3 is Correct – Referring to Article 39(b), the Court observed that community resources must be managed for the common good. Accordingly, road infrastructure should be designed by balancing the interests of pedestrians and motor vehicle users rather than serving only the latter.

Statement 4 is Incorrect – The Court stated that merely declaring the right to walk is insufficient and recommended a dedicated statutory framework along with a regulatory mechanism to identify duty-bearers and ensure effective implementation of the right.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. A closure report is filed when the investigating agency finds no sufficient evidence connecting the accused to the alleged offence.
2. A closure report filed under Section 169 CrPC is treated as a report under Section 173 CrPC.
3. The Supreme Court has held that further investigation after filing a final report can be conducted without informing the Magistrate.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is Correct – A closure report is filed by the investigating agency when, after conducting an investigation, it finds no sufficient evidence or reasonable grounds to connect the accused with the alleged offence.

Statement 2 is Correct – A closure report submitted under Section 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 is treated as a report under Section 173 CrPC, which deals with the police report submitted upon completion of investigation.

Statement 3 is Incorrect – Although Section 173(8) CrPC does not expressly require prior permission of the Magistrate for further investigation, the Supreme Court in Vinay Tyagi v. Irshad Ali (2013) and subsequent judgments has held that obtaining the court's leave is a necessary legal requirement before conducting further investigation.

Practice Questions and answers

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Low Earth Orbit satellites generally operate between 160 km and 2,000 km above Earth.
2. LEO satellites provide lower latency than geostationary satellites.
3. Direct-to-Device satellite communication allows mobile phones to connect directly to satellites.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Statement 1: Correct Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites generally operate at altitudes between 160 km and 2,000 km above the Earth's surface, making them the closest category of communication satellites to Earth.

Statement 2: Correct Because LEO satellites are much closer to Earth than geostationary satellites, they provide lower latency and faster communication speeds, making them well suited for broadband and mobile connectivity.

Statement 3: Correct Under Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite communication, mobile phones can connect directly to LEO satellites when terrestrial mobile networks are unavailable, enabling connectivity in remote, maritime, mountainous, or disaster-affected areas.

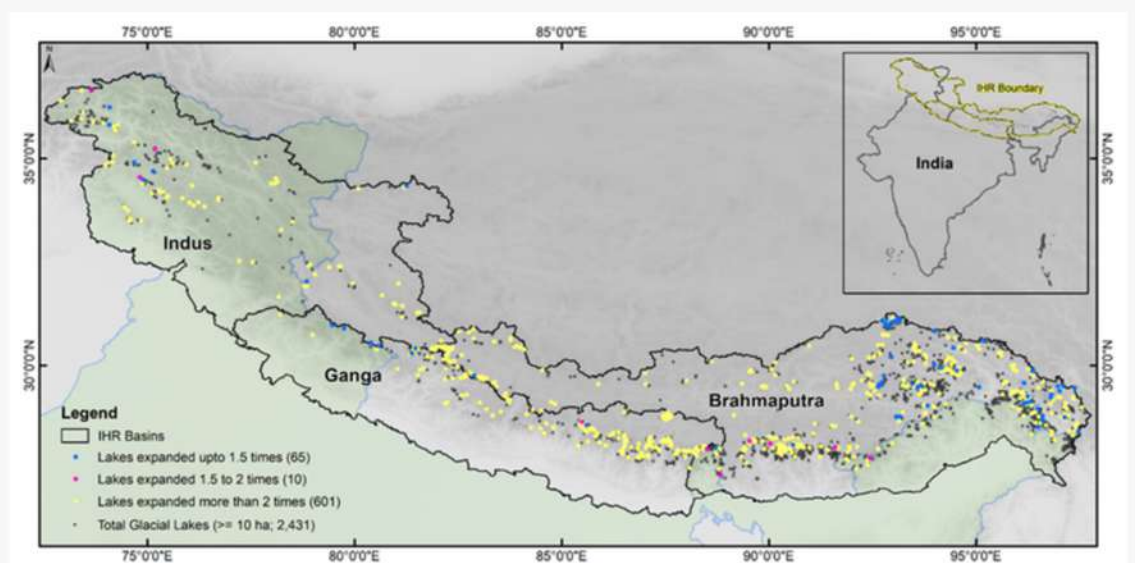
Therefore, all three statements are correct. Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3.

Q. The National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP) is being implemented in which of the following states?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Sikkim
4. Uttarakhand

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4



Answer: (d)

The National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP) has been approved for implementation in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand, which are among India's most GLOF-vulnerable Himalayan states. The project aims to reduce loss of life and infrastructure damage through glacial lake monitoring, risk assessment, early warning systems, community participation, and scientific mitigation measures. It forms an important component of India's disaster risk reduction strategy in response to increasing glacier-related hazards associated with climate change.