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1 No Confidence motion (Source: *Indian Express*)

When members of the house (legislative or parliament) loses confidence upon persons holding certain post, to decide whether they can continue in the post a **no-confidence motion** is held.

Constitutional Provisions

- Article 75(3) states that the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to Lok Sabha.
- Any Lok Sabha MP with the support of 50 MP's can introduce no-confidence motion.
- A motion expressing want of confidence in the Council of Ministers can be made only with the consent of the Speaker.
- A no-confidence motion can be moved against the Council of Ministers and not against an individual Minister.
- Lok Sabha's Rule 198 mentions the procedure for a motion of no-confidence.

Do you Know ?

- The first no confidence motion in Lok Sabha was moved by Acharya J B Kripalani in 1963. The motion did not pass.
- The first no-confidence motion which led to resignation of union government was moved by Y B Chavan in 1979 which led to fall of Morarji Desai government.

Fact Source

Motions: Motions in the House are formal, substantive proposals introduced by members or ministers to initiate debate, express opinions, or force decisions on public interest matters.

- **Examples of Motions** include *Adjournment motion, Motion of Thanks, Privilege motion, Closure motion* etc.



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2 Northern lights (Source: *The Hindu*)

Aurora borealis or northern lights in the northern counterpart of **Aurora australis**(Southern Lights).



What is this optical phenomenon ?

- When charged particles from the sun (solar flares) come into contact with Earth's magnetic shield, they release energy in the atmosphere.
- Usually the optical phenomenon is seen in high-latitude regions.
- The colours are decided by the chemical composition of Earth's atmosphere.
- The frequency and intensity of auroras are linked to solar activity, such as coronal mass ejections.
- Satellite operations, GPS, and power grids can be impacted.

Impact

PYQ (Mains) - CSE 2024, 15 Marks

- What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?



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3 Net Zero (Source: PIB)

Net zero or carbon neutral refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere.

What you need to know ?

- The Paris agreement in 2015 added a complementary goal towards net-zero.
- IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C in 2018 highlighted the need for net zero.

Why we need to focus ?

- The IPCC's Special Report Global Warming of 1.5°C makes it clear that it is necessary to achieve a global balance between emissions and removals by 2050 in order to cap the rise in global temperatures below 1.5°C.

What is greenwashing ?

- It is the deceptive marketing practice of portraying a company, product, or policy as more environmentally friendly than it actually is to boost public image and sales.
- It includes promoting net-zero, carbon-neutral goals without a credible, actionable plan.



What India is doing to achieve Net Zero ?

- India has aimed at reducing net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to zero by 2070.
- Promotion and adoption of green and clean electricity.
- Integration of Mission LiFE.
- Adoption of BS VI norms in vehicles.
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plant .
- Identification of degraded land through Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, published by Space Applications Centre .
- Ministry of environment has launched National Clean Air Programme(NCAP) and PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP.



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4 Photorealistic AI Content (Source: *The Hindu*)

It is native to freshwater habitats from south-eastern Iran to the Indian subcontinent. It refers to photos, videos and audios generated by Artificial Intelligence which has very close resemblance to real world photos or recordings.

Such content are perceived as indistinguishable from a natural person or a real-world event.

Why in News ?

- Ministry of IT has brought changes to IT Act, 2021 making it mandatory for photorealistic AI-generated contents to be prominently labelled.
- The amended act has also reduced the time given from 24-36 hours earlier to just 2-3 hours to remove certain categories of unlawful content.
- The rules also mandates social media firms to seek full disclosures from users about uploaded content.
- Failure to comply with new provisions can result in loss of safe harbour for social media firms. This means that firms will lose legal immunity for third-party content upload for failing to comply with revised IT rules 2021.
- States can designate more than one officer who are authorised to issue takedown orders.



When IT Act was in the news previously, UPSC has asked a specific question. So please be prepared in this area for both GS II and GS III.

PYQ – CSE 2013, 10 Marks

- Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.



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5 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (Source: *PIB*)

The scheme launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship aims to make youth employable by providing them industry-relevant, free short-term training.

Provisions of the scheme

- National Skill Development Corporation is the implementing agency.
- The Speaker can be removed from office by a resolution passed by the House through a simple majority. The core mandate of the scheme is skilling 1 crore youth of the country and presently after 10 years of the scheme nearly 1.6 crore has been skilled.
- Nearly 45% of PMKVY trainees are women, with strong participation from SC, ST, and OBC groups.
- PMKVY supports training in manufacturing, IT, healthcare, and retail, while also preparing workers for emerging fields like AI, drones, and IoT.

6 Exchange Traded Fund (Source: *Hindu Business Line*)

- An Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) is a type of investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to individual stocks, which pools money to invest in a diversified portfolio of assets like stocks, bonds, or commodities.
- The trading value of an ETF depends on the net asset value of the underlying assets that it represents.
- They are regulated by SEBI in both NSE and BSE.

What makes them important ?

- Gold and silver exchange-traded funds are increasing their asset base due to strong inflows into gold and silver .