

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

1. Freebie politics will take a toll on economy: Dhankhar -The Hindu
2. Cases of human trafficking victims being forced to commit cybercrimes on the rise -The Hindu
3. Cauvery basin lost nearly 12,850 sq. km of green cover' -The Hindu
4. Switzerland, Norway Ministers arriving for dialogue on trade -The Hindu
5. Renaming Ayushman Bharat health facilities may cost Punjab ₹1,800 cr. -The Hindu
6. J&K parties anxious ahead of Supreme Court verdict on Article 370 -The Hindu
7. Key COP document calls for progress in adapting to climate change by 2030 -The Hindu
8. Railways withdraws emergency cashless treatment scheme -The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Subsidies vs welfare -Indian Express
2. What does a special package mean for PVTGs Indian Express

Quick Look

1. Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE)
2. Syphilis
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
4. Goldilocks Effect
5. Banni Grassland
6. Green Rising Initiative

Important News Articles

GS II

1. Freebie politics will take a toll on economy: Dhankhar -The Hindu

Relevance: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

News:

- Vice President of India address on **Human Rights Day on the occasion of 75th anniversary** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 19

Key Points

- He emphasizes that '**Amrit Kaal**' has become our '**Gaurav Kaal**' -- primarily due to the blossoming of human rights and values.
- He said that empowerment of pockets by **fiscal grant only increases dependence**.
- The politics of so called freebies for which we see a mad race distort expenditure priorities

Amnesty International in its India 2022 report

- It noted that arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions, unlawful attacks using digital technologies as major concerns **faced by minority groups, human rights defenders, dissenters and critics of the Union government**.

National Human Rights Commission

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India **was established in 1993**.
- The statute under which it is established is **the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- The Act provides for the **establishment of State Human Rights Commissions**.
- Human Rights as Incorporated in Indian Laws:
- The Indian Constitution incorporated several provisions of **human rights in the Indian Constitution**.
- Part III of Fundamental Rights** from Article 14 to 32.
- Articles 14 to 18 of the Constitution** guarantee the right to equality to every citizen of India.
- Article 19** deals with freedom of speech and expression and **Article 21** provides **Right to life and liberty**.

2. Cases of human trafficking victims being forced to commit cybercrimes on the rise -The Hindu

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

News:

- Interpol's Operation Storm Makers II** reveals expansion of **human trafficking-fueled fraud schemes**
- Indian enforcement agencies** actively participate in the **international exercise**

Prelims Takeaway

- Interpol Operation'

Key Points

Types of Fraud Schemes Uncovered

- Fake cryptocurrency investments**, fraudulent work-from-home offers, lottery, and online gambling scams
- Operation results in 281 arrests globally** on charges including human trafficking, passport forgery, corruption, telecommunications fraud, and sexual exploitation

Indian Case Highlights Cyber Fraud in Human Trafficking

- Telangana police register a **case of human trafficking linked to cyber fraud**
- Victim forced to participate in online fraud** schemes in southeast Asia under inhuman conditions

Global Scope and UN Human Rights Office Report

- Growing trend previously **highlighted by Interpol in southeast Asia**
- UN report underscores **serious violations faced by victims, ranging from threats to safety to torture and human rights abuses**
- Scam syndicates generate** billions of dollars in annual revenues

- **Majority of victims are men**, but women and adolescents are also targeted
- **Observations on specific cases**, such as Ugandans taken to Dubai and Myanmar for fraud operations
- **Interpol Operation's Impact on Rescues**
- **Operation leads to the rescue of victims globally**, including a 13-year-old boy from Bangladesh in India
- Collaboration between **Interpol National Central Bureaus and law enforcement agencies** in 27 countries.

3. Cauvery basin lost nearly 12,850 sq. km of green cover' -The Hindu

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

News:

- Recent paper by scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru **highlights loss of natural vegetation in the Cauvery basin from 1965 to 2016**

Prelims Takeaway

- Cauvery river

Key Points

Extent of Loss and State-wise Distribution

- Nearly 12,850 sq. km of land in the **Cauvery basin lost natural vegetation**
- **Karnataka accounts for three-fourths of the lost cover**, while Tamil Nadu's share is around one-fifth

Reduction in Vegetation Cover

- Natural vegetation cover **decreased by around 46% over the 50-year period**
- **Reduction in dense vegetation by 35%** (6,123 sq. km) and degraded vegetation by 63% (6,727 sq. km)

Adverse Changes in Specific Areas

- **Adverse impact on forest cover in Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**
 - Example: Bannerghatta National Park faced anthropogenic pressure, resulting in a decrease in moist deciduous forest area
- **Increase in irrigated area in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**, leading to higher water demand
- **Dominant activity in 73.5% of the catchment:** agriculture and horticulture

Identified Problems in the Basin

- **"Inappropriate" cropping patterns**, inefficient water use, multi-season water-intensive crops
- **"Unsustainable" mining of river sand** and decline in community participation in watershed management

Recommendations for Remedial Action

- **Integrated management of the catchment** with a system of natural resources
- **Restrictions on large-scale water-intensive cash crops**, monoculture, and groundwater over-exploitation
- **Enrichment of the catchment with native species**, promotion of organic farming
- **Setting up effluent treatment plants** and ensuring zero discharge from industries

4. Switzerland, Norway Ministers arriving for dialogue on trade -The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

News:

- The Trade Ministers from **Switzerland and Norway** visit India.
- This development with **Nordic countries** is in the background of many economic developments on bilateral, regional and global groupings.

EFTA and India

- India-EFTA negotiations may find a breakthrough.

Prelims Takeaway

- Early Harvest Agreement
- BTIA
- CEPA
- EFTA

- The four-nation grouping i.e. **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland** has already signed 30 free trade agreements (FTAs) with other countries.
- It has ongoing negotiations with India, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Kosovo and the South American MERCOSUR.

India and Switzerland

- There is a quest for **TEPA** and **Bilateral Investment Treaty** between India and Switzerland
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met with President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset on the sidelines of the **CoP28 Climate Summit** in Dubai on December 1.

Key issues of Talks

- cutting down **trade tariffs**
- **mobility** of services
- opening **market access** for companies on both sides.
- **High tariffs** of India.
- **high-value-added products** as machine tools, advanced chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Swiss chocolate, Norwegian and Icelandic fish.
- **Rules of Origin**
- Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (**BTIA**) with European Union.

Other Pending Economic Issues of India

- **Early Harvest Agreement** with Australia is not finalized.
- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (**CEPA**) with Canada is till pending.
- **Market access** for U.K. legal and financial service firms to India.

5. Renaming Ayushman Bharat health facilities may cost Punjab ₹1,800 cr. -The Hindu

Relevance: Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure
News :

- Punjab has renamed Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres as 'AAP clinics'.
- This has led to federal tussle between Centre and States.

Prelims Takeaway

- Ayushman Bharat Program

Cost of Tussle to Punjab

- The Union government has withheld **National Health Mission** grants to the State to the tune of **₹621 crore**.
- The Union government will withhold more than **₹1,800 crore** under a separate scheme to provide **capital investment assistance** to States unless Punjab is prepared to comply with its branding rules.
- The Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme (**CSS**), meaning that it is funded by both **Centre and State** in a **60:40 ratio**.

Branding violations

- The Punjab government had provided an "**undertaking**" on **July 5, 2023**, regarding full compliance with CSS branding guidelines.
- However, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reported a "**violation**" of these guidelines with respect to the Ayushman Bharat centres.
- The Punjab Government was expected to send the report on it by September 2023 but this never happened.

Capital Investment Proposals

- These proposals were given by the Centre Government to the **Punjab Government**.
- The scheme offers State governments a **50-year interest-free loan** up to ₹1.3 lakh crore during **2023-24** in a bid to provide a boost capital spending by States.

6. J&K parties anxious ahead of Supreme Court verdict on Article 370 -The Hindu

Relevance: Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure

News :

- The verdict on abrogation of **Article 370** is going to be announced soon.
- The verdict is being seen as a link to the establishment of **Constitutional Identity**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 370

Developments before the Judgment

- Kashmir netizens face action over social media posts ahead of Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370
- There are previous SC judgments that "Article 370 has attained finality".
- There is apprehension of house arrest of leaders of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Th Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), also expressed hope for a "favorable judgment".

Article 370

- Article 370 was incorporated into the Indian constitution as a '**temporary provision**.'
- It **exempted** Jammu & Kashmir from certain constitutional provisions, granting the state the authority to formulate its own constitution.
- It placed restrictions on the legislative powers of the Indian Parliament.
- **N Gopalaswami Ayyangar** played a pivotal role in introducing Article 370 into the draft constitution as **Article 306 A**.
- Under Article 370, the Constituent Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir was given the authority to recommend which articles of the Indian Constitution should be applicable to the state.
- This provision allowed for a **tailored approach** in integrating constitutional elements.
- Under the Article, the Jammu & Kashmir Constituent Assembly, empowered to recommend constitutional applicability, was dissolved after drafting the state's constitution.
- **Clause 3 of Article 370** grants the President of India the authority to amend its provisions and scope.

GS III

7. Key COP document calls for progress in adapting to climate change by 2030 -The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

News :

- By **2025**, all countries must have in place a detailed plan to adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change in their countries.
- This must **demonstrate progress** in implementing such a plan by **2030**.

Prelims Takeaway

- National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) document

- The **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** document is expected to be part of the agreement when the **UN's COP-28** climate summit concludes in Dubai.
- Much of the focus at the **annual talks** is on
 - 'mitigation',
 - getting countries to commit to time-bound plans to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change,
 - emphasis on the Global Stocktake process.

Adaptation Approach

- This approach to push countries to take the steps necessary to cope with the current and future impacts of a changing climate.
- Global temperatures have already risen **1.1 degrees C** since pre-industrial times
- They need to be brought in their wake and accelerated in **climate-related disasters**.

- 'Adaptation' refers to the **adjustments** in ecological, social or economic systems that countries must make in response to these, and other anticipated climate effects.
 - These actions are **country-specific**.
- They can **range from**
 - Building flood defences,
 - Setting up early warning systems for cyclones,
 - Switching to drought-resistant crops,
 - Redesigning communication systems
 - Business operations
 - Government policies

COP Talks

- At COP 21 in Paris, negotiators decided that the GGA was necessary to get all countries on board a **common framework** for adaptation.
- **Eight workshops** were held after the last COP in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt where quantitative targets were decided.
 - To adverse impacts of climate change by at least 50% by 2030
 - By at least 90% by 2050"
 - Achieving 100% coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services and response systems by 2027"

The cost of adaptation

- Just as billions and trillions of dollars are needed for mitigation,
- adaptation too is expected to require developed countries to invest trillions of dollars in developing countries and island states,
- developing countries and island states, are most at risk from climate hazards.
- Only a fraction of what is required has made its way to where it is required.

Financing of Indian Efforts on Climate Change

- India had formally conveyed to the **United Nations** that it was meeting most of its adaptation expenses with its own money.
- "The total adaptation relevant expenditure was **5.6% of the GDP in 2021-2022**, growing from a share of **3.7% in 2015-16**.
- There is a significant gap in adaptation resources which cannot be met only through governmental resources.
- Significant contributions need to be channelized through **bilateral and multilateral public finance** and private investments

India's Expression of Disappointment

- There are no clearly defined targets, no clear definition of a framework, lots of very general exhortations, no outcome targets
- The developed countries do not do anything for the adaptation agenda for developing countries and this is disappointing.
- Out of \$1.27 trillion in climate finance flows in 2021-22, only \$63 billion is allocated for adaptation.
- This is out of the framework of the the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change

8. Railways withdraws emergency cashless treatment scheme -The Hindu

Relevance: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

News :

- The Indian Railways has withdrawn the Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE).
- It was a medical facility which benefitted a few lakh **servicing** and **retired** employees and their **dependent** family members across the country.

Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE) Scheme of Railways

- A pilot project for providing cashless treatment during emergencies in **private Railway-empanelled hospitals** was initially launched in metro cities in 2016.

Prelims Takeaway

- Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency

- It covered the serving and retired employees and their dependent family members to avail treatment in private hospitals during emergencies.
- The scheme provided necessary treatment in emergencies and raised the bill directly to the Railways.

Withdrawal of Scheme and After Effects.

- The Railway Board reviewed the implementation of the scheme and **after a careful deliberation** decided to withdraw the CTSE with immediate effect.
- It was also decided that no refund would be issued to **CTSE-card holder** for the amount that was deposited for subscription to the scheme.
- It was felt that a large number of **retired beneficiaries** lived in the newly-developed suburbs of various cities across India.
- These suburbs were often far away from the established **railway health institutions**.
- In this scenario, precious time was lost in the travel to the Railway hospitals in case of emergency.
- There was **no need for any referral** from the local railway medical authorities.
- The treatment to serving and retired employees and their dependent family members was **still available** but with the reference of the railway medical officer



Mentorship
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Subsidies vs welfare -Indian Express

Relevance: Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Context:

- There was a flurry of promises being made during elections, some of them were putting a real challenge to the state's fiscal health.

<p style="text-align: center;">The ground Reality of price controls and Subsidies in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urea has been sold to farmers at Rs 5,628 per tonne since November 2012. Fertiliser companies haven't also been allowed to charge more than Rs 27,000/tonne for di-ammonium phosphate since April 2022. Wheat and rice were being issued to public distribution system beneficiaries at Rs 2 and Rs 3 per kg respectively since July 2013 under the National Food Security Act The total subsidy spending on the three Fs – food, fertiliser and fuel – has gone up from Rs 228,341 crore to Rs 530,959 crore between 2019-20 and 2022-23. The real spike has, thus, happened post the pandemic. <p style="text-align: center;">State governments subsidies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It isn't only the Centre. States, too, have substantially stepped-up transfer payments through schemes rolled out in the last 2-3 years or less. Madhya Pradesh has budgeted Rs 8,000 crore in 2023-24 for the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana and Rs 3,230 crore for the Kisan Kalyan Yojana <p style="text-align: center;">Significance of Subsidies in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies play a significant role in the Indian economy, serving various purposes: 	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies on food, fuel, fertilizers, and public transportation keep prices low, enabling access for low-income households and ensuring their basic needs are met. Subsidies support education, healthcare, and rural development programs, improving access and quality of life for vulnerable groups. Agricultural subsidies provide income support to farmers, mitigating risk and ensuring food security. <p style="text-align: center;">Economic Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies can incentivize the growth of strategic sectors like agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure, driving economic development. Subsidies can encourage investment and create jobs in targeted sectors, contributing to economic growth. Subsidies can address market inefficiencies, such as negative externalities, and promote efficient resource allocation.
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Drawbacks of Subsidies in India

<p style="text-align: center;">Fiscal Burden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies can strain public finances, leading to higher fiscal deficits and reduced spending on other essential areas like healthcare and education. Subsidies can distort market prices, leading to inefficient resource allocation and potentially promoting unsustainable production or consumption patterns. Many subsidies may not reach the intended beneficiaries, leading to waste and misallocation of resources. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Market Distortions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidies can create unfair advantages for certain industries, hindering competition and innovation. Subsidized goods and services may be consumed beyond optimal levels, leading to waste and environmental damage. Dependence on subsidies can create disincentives for efficiency and innovation in subsidized sectors. Subsidies can be vulnerable to political manipulation, often benefiting powerful lobbies and special interests rather than the intended beneficiaries. Subsidy programs can be difficult to reform or remove due to vested interests and political resistance.
<p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsustainable subsidies, like those on fossil fuels, can incentivize environmentally damaging activities and hinder the transition to clean energy. Subsidies can encourage the overuse of resources, leading to environmental degradation and depletion. 	

Conclusion:

- Centre states can't ignore the fiscal costs of transfer payments.
- They come at the expense of spending on public services which yield results over the medium and long term.

2. What does a special package mean for PVTGs Indian Express

Relevance: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Context:

- Tribal Affairs Ministry told the Rajya Sabha that the **population of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) was not in decline**, citing information provided by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI)
- **State-wise Census data from last year** indicates a nearly 40% decline in PVTG populations in nine States and UTs

<p>Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is defined by the government as tribal communities that show Declining or stagnant population, pre-agrarian technology, economic backwardness, low literacy • Presence in 18 States and UTs, with 75 communities identified • Highest concentration in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Gujarat <p>Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet approval of ₹24,000 crore initiative to address development needs of PVTGs • Aimed at providing basic facilities such as roads, power, homes, mobile connectivity, etc. 	<p>Implementation and Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation through nine ministries • Allocation: ₹24,104 crore, with central and state government shares • More than ₹19,000 crore allocated for building homes and roads <p>Targets and Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development goals include pucca homes, connecting roads, piped water, mobile medical units, anganwadi centers, multipurpose centers, vocational training centers, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, <p>Challenges and Lack of Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of current and accurate data on PVTG populations • Challenges in assessing needs of 22,000 PVTG villages • Ministry of Tribal Affairs Budget Estimates for 2023-24 show ₹256.14 crore allocated for PVTG development • Lack of recent Census data on PVTGs; last available data is from 2001
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Recommendations and NAC Report

- **National Advisory Council (NAC) report in 2013** recommended a specific Census for PVTG communities
- Absence of recent socio-economic data on PVTGs poses a challenge to effective implementation.

Quick Look

1. Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE)

- CISCE is a privately held national-level board of school education in India that supervises and controls the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE).
- It was established in 1958. Over 2,100 schools in India and abroad are affiliated to the CISCE.
- It has been designed to deliver an examination in the course of general education through the medium of English, in accordance with the recommendations of the New Education Policy 1986.
- CISCE conducts three examinations, namely
 - The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE –Class X)
 - The Indian School Certificate (ISC - Class XII)
 - The Certificate in Vocational Education (CVE - Year 12).
- The subject choices and syllabuses prescribed for these examinations are varied and aimed at nurturing the unique gifts of individual pupils.
- It does not allow a private student to appear for the exam, who has not been studying in an ICSE affiliated school.

2. Syphilis

- It is a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).
- It is caused by the bacteria, *Treponema pallidum*.
- After the infection happens, syphilis bacteria can stay in the body for many years without causing symptoms. But the infection can become active again.
- Syphilis spreads from person to person through direct contact with these sores.
- It can also be passed to a baby during pregnancy, childbirth and sometimes through breastfeeding.
- Syphilis develops in stages. The symptoms vary with each stage and are often painless.

3. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- It is a registered society under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
- Its objective is to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in the river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the river Ganga.
- It acted as the implementation arm of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)
 - Which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from 2016, consequent to the constitution of the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred to as National Ganga Council).

4. Goldilocks Effect

- The Goldilocks Effect, or the Goldilocks Principle, is the premise that people are inclined to seek 'just the right' amount of something.
- People prefer something that is neither too extreme nor too moderate but falls within an optimal or desirable range, fitting their specific needs or preferences.
- The concept is derived from the children's story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, where Goldilocks preferred the porridge, chair and bed that were neither too hot nor too cold, too big nor too small, but just right.

- It has a place in several fields and disciplines. It applies to elements of psychology, hard sciences, economics, marketing and engineering, and each one has its own twist on how the principle is applied.

5. Banni Grassland

- It is located along the northern border of Kachchh district in Gujarat
- It is one of the largest grasslands in the Indian subcontinent with an area of over 2500 sq. km.
- Many factors have served to shape Banni over time, including the damming of rivers, the introduction and spread of the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* tree
- The Banni is also home to 22 ethnic groups, the majority of whom are pastoralists, spread across 48 settlements in 19 Panchayats, with a population of close to 40,000 people.
- It is home to great biological diversity, having 37 grass species, 275 bird species, and domesticated animals like Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Horses and Camel, as well as wildlife.
- The Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary which spans over an area of 380 sq. km and the recently notified 227 Sq. km Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve are part of the Banni Grasslands.
- The vegetation here mainly comprises *Prosopis Juliflora*, *Cressa critica*, *Cyperus spp*, *Sporobolus*, *Dichanthium*, and *Aristida*.

6. Green Rising Initiative

- This initiative focuses on engaging youth for impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level, aligning with the global effort to address the severe impacts of climate change.
- The global "Green Rising" initiative and the "Green Rising India Alliance" marks a collaborative effort involving UNICEF, Generation Unlimited, and a diverse network of public, private, and youth partners.
- The main goal is to mobilize millions of young people worldwide, encouraging their active participation in green initiatives addressing and adapting to the severe impacts of climate change on their communities.
- Through the YuWaah campaign in India, the focus is on engaging youth to drive impactful environmental actions at the grassroots level.



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Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding "Amrit Kaal":

1. It refers to a historical period that marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. It is a term used to denote a phase of significant economic and social reforms in post-independence India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding a recent Interpol Operation:

1. The Interpol operation targeted human trafficking-fueled fraud schemes
2. The operation primarily focused on combating cybercrime, specifically targeting cryptocurrency investments and online gambling scams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the Godavari River:

1. Godavari is the longest river solely located within the Indian subcontinent.
2. The Godavari River basin covers parts of both peninsular India and the Himalayan region.
3. The Polavaram Project, an important river project, is located on the Godavari River.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q4. Which among the following statements is correct with respect to the 'Early Harvest Agreement' ?

- A. It is a scheme to promote agricultural cooperation between two countries.
- B. It is a sub-scheme of the Second Green Revolution.
- C. It is a mutual student exchange agreement between two countries.
- D. It is a precursor to a free trade agreement (FTA) between two trading partners.

Q5. With reference to Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, consider the following statements

1. It is the world's largest health insurance scheme.
2. It offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per person per family
3. It covers primary , secondary and tertiary care.
4. Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data is basis of the entitlement of the scheme.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q6. With reference to Article 370 , before abrogation of it major provisions in 2019, consider the following statements

1. It was incorporated into the Indian constitution as a 'temporary provision.
2. It granted the state the authority to formulate its own constitution.
3. N Gopalaswami Ayyangar played a pivotal role in introducing Article 370 into the draft constitution as Article 306 A.
4. It granted the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir the authority to amend its provisions and scope.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q7. With reference to the Global Goal on Adaptations , consider the following statements

Statement-1-It is a part of Paris Talks of UNFCCC.

Statement-2-It contains no quantitative target so far.

Which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

Q8. With reference to the Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency of Indian Railways, consider the following statements

1. It covered only government hospitals.
2. The serving and retired employees and their dependent family members were covered under the scheme.
3. There was no need for any referral from the local railway medical authorities to take the benefit of the scheme.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three

D. None

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding subsidies:

1. Subsidies are financial assistance provided by the government to businesses and individuals to promote specific economic activities.
2. Subsidies can lead to market distortions and inefficiencies by artificially lowering the prices of goods and services.
3. In the context of agriculture, a subsidy on fertilizers is an example of a direct subsidy.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):

1. PVTGs are defined by the government as tribal communities that exhibit declining or stagnant populations
2. There are approximately 100 PVTGs spread across various states and union territories in India.
3. The Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan is a national initiative specifically aimed at addressing the development needs of PVTGs.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Amrit Kaal does not specifically refer to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the provided article context, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar mentioned "Amrit Kaal," but it is not directly linked to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect**
- Amrit Kaal is not commonly used to denote a specific phase of economic and social reforms in post-independence India. It seems to be a term used in the context of positive developments and advancements in various aspects, but not exclusively tied to a specific historical period. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**

Ans. 2 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The Interpol operation, known as "Operation Storm Makers II," indeed targeted human trafficking-fueled fraud schemes. It resulted in the arrest of 281 individuals across different countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- While the operation did target fraud schemes, including fake cryptocurrency investments and online gambling scams, it was not exclusively focused on combating cybercrime. The operation had a broader scope, addressing various forms of fraud associated with human trafficking. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**

Ans.3 Option A is correct

Explanation

- True: Godavari is indeed the longest river that is entirely located within the Indian subcontinent. It flows predominantly eastwards across the Deccan Plateau. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Godavari River basin is primarily situated in peninsular India, and it does not cover parts of the Himalayan region. The basin extends across states such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The Polavaram Project is a significant river project located on the Godavari River. It is a multipurpose irrigation project in Andhra

Pradesh and is considered one of the national projects of India. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

Ans. 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Early harvest scheme is a precursor to a free trade agreement (FTA) between two trading partners.
- This is to help the two trading countries to identify certain products for tariff liberalization pending the conclusion of FTA negotiation.
- It is primarily a confidence building measure between two trading partners

Ans. 5 Option B is correct

Explanation

Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY

- PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- **It covers** secondary care and tertiary care. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- It covers Health Benefit Packages covering surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

Ans. 6 Option C is correct

Explanation

Article 370

- Article 370 was incorporated into the Indian constitution as a 'temporary provision.' **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It exempted Jammu & Kashmir from certain constitutional provisions, granting the state the authority to formulate its own constitution. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It placed restrictions on the legislative powers of the Indian Parliament.
- N Gopalaswami Ayyangar played a pivotal role in introducing Article 370 into the draft constitution as Article 306 A. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

- Clause 3 of Article 370 grants the President of India the authority to amend its provisions and scope. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**

Ans. 7 Option A is correct

Explanation

Global Goal on Adaptation

- At COP 21 in Paris, negotiators decided that the GGA was necessary to get all countries on board a common framework for adaptation. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Eight workshops were held after the last COP in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt where quantitative targets were decided.
- to adverse impacts of climate change by at least 50% by 2030
- by at least 90% by 2050"
- achieving 100% coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services and response systems by 2027. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans. 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergency of Indian Railways

- A pilot project for providing cashless treatment during emergencies in private Railway-empanelled hospitals was initially launched in metro cities in 2016. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It covered the serving and retired employees and their dependent family members to avail treatment in private hospitals during emergencies. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme provided necessary treatment in emergencies and raised the bill directly to the Railways.
- There was no need for any referral from the local railway medical authorities to take the benefit of the scheme. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Subsidies are indeed financial assistance or benefits provided by the government to

businesses, industries, or individuals to support or promote certain economic activities. These can include sectors such as agriculture, energy, education, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- Subsidies, while intended to benefit specific sectors or groups, can lead to market distortions. When the government artificially lowers the prices of goods and services through subsidies, it may disrupt the natural market equilibrium, potentially leading to inefficiencies, overproduction, or resource misallocation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- A subsidy on fertilizers is an example of a direct subsidy, particularly in the context of agriculture. Direct subsidies involve providing financial assistance directly to producers or consumers of a particular product or service. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Ans. 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- PVTGs are precisely defined by the government as tribal communities facing various challenges, including declining or stagnant populations, reliance on pre-agrarian technology, economic backwardness, and low literacy levels. These characteristics make them particularly vulnerable and in need of special attention. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- There are approximately 75 PVTGs, not 100, spread across various states and union territories in India. The exact number may vary, but the provided information is not accurate. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan is indeed a national initiative aimed at addressing the development needs of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). It focuses on providing basic facilities like roads, power, homes, mobile connectivity, etc., to these vulnerable communities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

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