



**UPSC
Mentorship**
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS II

1. Stay invested

Source: The Hindu, Page 6

Prelims: Chabahar Port, INSTC

Mains: Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India

News: By signing a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port, India has taken its infrastructure and trade partnership with the Islamic Republic to the next level despite tensions in West Asia.

In Detail

- Investment and Credit Facility
 - India to invest \$120 million in Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port.
 - Additional credit facility of \$250 million offered by India for related projects.
- Challenges from the U.S. Sanctions
 - The U.S. warns entities about potential risks of sanctions when dealing with Iran.
 - American sanctions previously delayed the Chabahar project.
 - U.S. sanctions were reimposed in 2018 after withdrawal from the nuclear deal, raising concerns over India's involvement.
- Project Background
 - Project conceived in 2003 but delayed due to U.S. and UN sanctions on Iran.
 - India signed a memorandum of understanding in 2015 after sanctions eased.
 - Contract executed in 2016 during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Iran.
 - India secured a carve-out from U.S. sanctions to operate the port.
- Strategic Importance of Chabahar Port
 - Provides alternative trade routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
 - Expected to connect to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), enhancing trade with Europe via Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia.
 - Alternative to the Suez Canal route, potentially reducing time and costs of intercontinental trade.
 - Positioned 200 km from Pakistan's Gwadar port, giving India strategic advantage in Central Asia.
- Geopolitical Considerations
 - U.S. opposition due to its hostile stance towards Iran.
 - Change in U.S. interests after troops withdrawal from Afghanistan and shift in focus to containing Iran.
 - India advised to maintain its investment in Chabahar, focusing on trade and connectivity with Central Asia for sustained growth.
- Conclusion
 - India should remain committed to the Chabahar port project despite U.S. policy shifts.
 - Continued investment is crucial for India's geopolitical influence and economic connectivity in Central Asia.



2. What happens during remand hearings? This is what a study suggests

Source: IE, Page 14

Prelims: About Article 22

Mains: Separation of Powers between various organs Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions.

News: Journalist Prabir Purkayastha was released due to violations of due process in his arrest and detention. Purkayastha was denied legal counsel and was not informed of the grounds of his arrest, violating Article 22(1) of the Constitution.

Key Points

Role of the Magistrate

- The Supreme Court's judgement highlights the importance of constitutional rights during the first production and remand stages in the criminal legal process.
- The magistrate's role is crucial in ensuring statutory and constitutional safeguards, not just a procedural formality.
- Article 22(2) mandates that every arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.

Findings from Project 39A Study at NLU Delhi

- Many magistrates do not fully enforce constitutional protections during first production and remand.
- Compliance tends to be superficial, with required documents often completed inside the courtroom.
- The study observed that magistrates rarely interact with the accused to verify the information in the documents.

Key Observations

- Arrest Memo and Medico-Legal Certificates are crucial but often not comprehensive or accurate.
- Meaningful interaction between magistrates and accused is necessary to protect constitutional rights.
- Violations are often ignored or corrected in paperwork without considering their impact on the accused.

Legal Representation Issues

- Most production hearings occur without legal representation for the accused.
- Remand lawyers, who are supposed to provide defence at the pretrial stage, are often absent or ineffective.
- The accused's right to private counsel is sometimes bypassed by appointing remand counsel.

Structural Barriers

Article 22

Protection from Arbitrary Arrest and Detention

1 Right to be informed the ground of arrest. Right to consult a legal practitioner

2 To be produced before a magistrate with in 24hrs.

3 The above two are not applicable to enemy alien and preventive detention

4 Not more than 3 months of preventive detention. Can be extended beyond 3 months by Advisory board but not more than that prescribed by law of Parliament (clause 7).

5 Right to be informed and to be represented.

6 5 is not valid if it goes against public interest



- First production and remand proceedings are not given adequate time or importance in magistrates' daily workload.
- These proceedings are often scheduled randomly and not listed in the court's schedule, undermining their significance.
- Lack of public records and reliance on police communication causes confusion and compromises the rights of the accused.

GS III

3. The happy, hopeful coffee farmers of Karnataka

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Prelims: About Coffee Plantation in India

Mains: Major Crops - Cropping Patterns in various parts of the country

News: The soaring prices of coffee beans, driven by a global shortage in crop production, have provided a ray of hope for growers in Karnataka, which produces most of India's coffee.

Reasons and Impact

- **Rising Coffee Prices:** Global shortage in crop production has led to soaring coffee bean prices.
- **Impact on Karnataka:** Karnataka, India's largest coffee-producing state, benefits from these high prices.

Current Situation

- **Price Highs:** Coffee prices are at a 15-year peak.
- **Production Figures:** India's coffee production is expected to slightly increase to 3.54 lakh tonnes from 3.52 lakh tonnes last year.
- **Global Context:** Low production in Brazil, the top coffee exporter, has driven up global demand and prices.

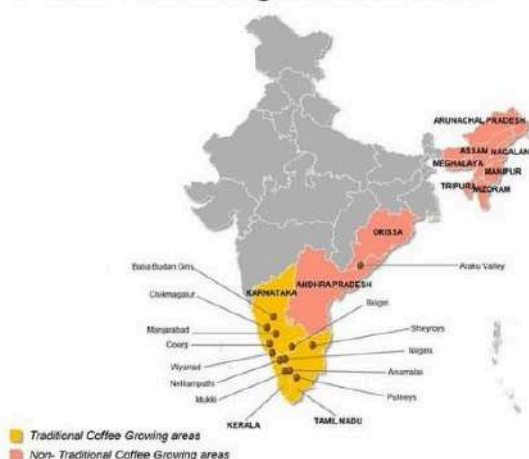
Historical Context

- **1990s Boom:** Significant price increase since 1942 noted in the 1990s.
- **Economic Shifts:** Introduction of free-sale quota (FSQ) in 1992 allowed growers to sell directly, leading to increased investments in housing and amenities by planters.

Challenges Faced by Growers

- **Arabica vs. Robusta:** Arabica growers, mainly in Hassan and Chikmagalur, have not benefited as much as Robusta growers from the price surge.
- **Financial Constraints:** Growers must sell produce before March to meet financial commitments and maintain credit ratings.

Coffee Producing Areas of India



- **Increased Costs:** Rising input costs and labour expenses challenge profitability.
- **Lack of Insurance:** Coffee plantations are not covered under crop insurance; drought and flood compensations are minimal.

Issues Pertain

- **Climate Impact:** Frequent droughts, floods, and landslides have affected yields.
- **Economic Diversification:** Some growers have shifted to more profitable ventures like real estate, tourism, and other crops (areca nut, black pepper, avocado).
- **Elephant Menace:** Man-elephant conflicts, particularly in Kodagu, have resulted in deaths and damage to coffee plants.
- **Worker Safety:** Plantation workers are at risk, with several fatalities reported due to elephant attacks.

Conclusion

- **Struggles and Hope:** Despite the current high prices providing some relief, the long-term challenges and risks persist for coffee growers in Karnataka.

4. Creditors realised only 4% of claims under IBC process

Source: The Hindu, Page 11

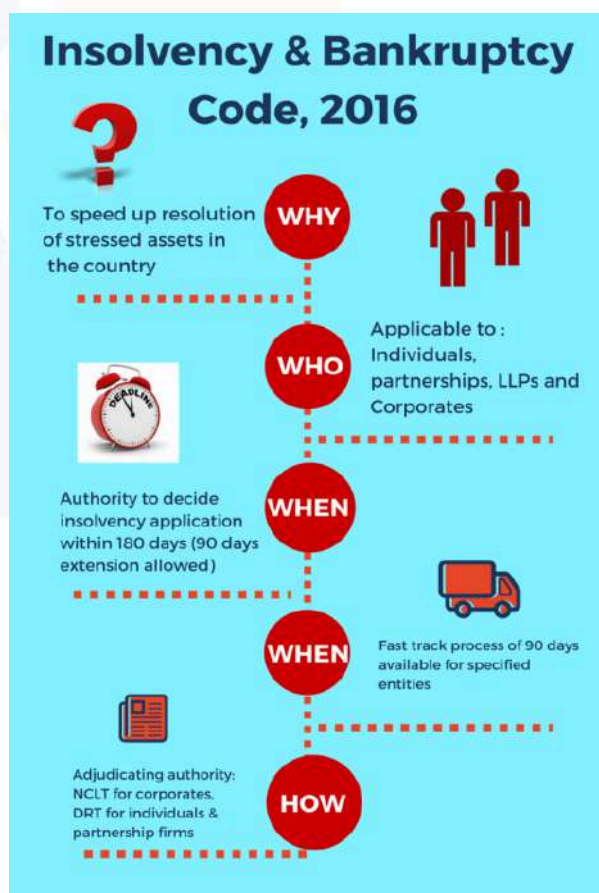
Prelims: NCLT, IBC 2026

Mains: Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

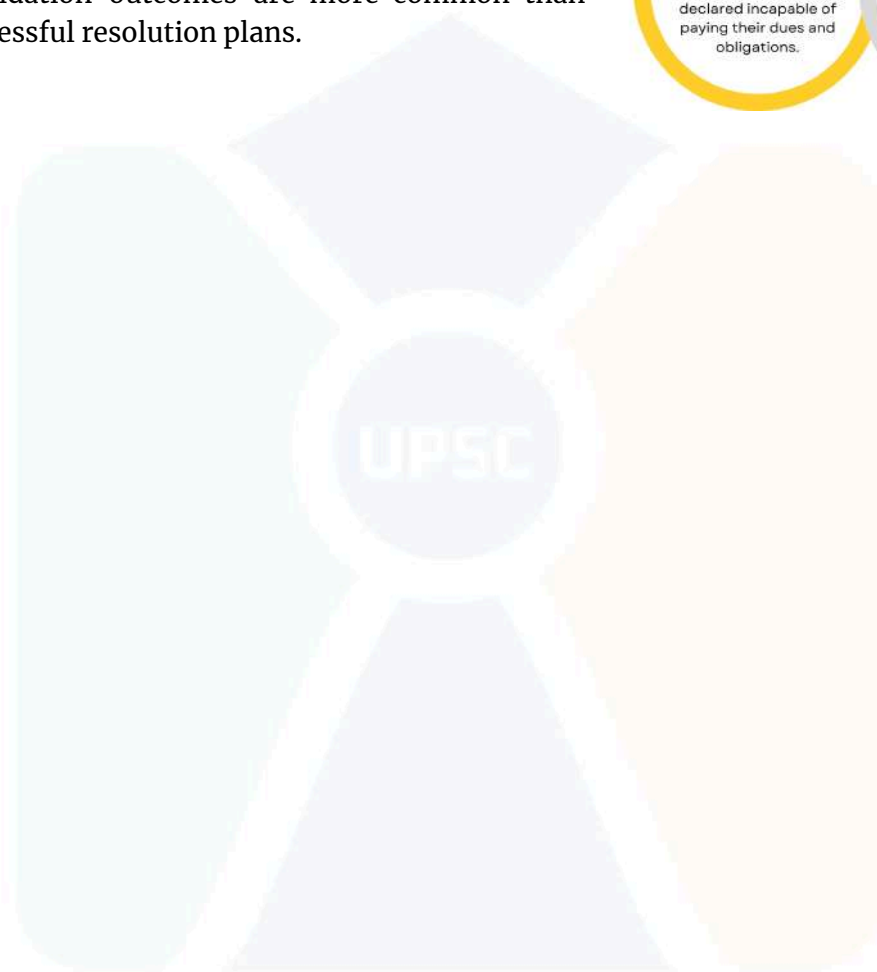
News: Only 17% yielded a resolution plan with the remaining cases withdrawn post National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admission as on March 31, and liquidation for 960 corporate debtors were completed where creditors realised only 4% of their total admitted claims under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), ICRA said in a study.

In Detail

- **Resolution Plan Approvals:**
 - NCLT approved a record 269 resolution plans under the IBC in FY24, up from 189 in FY23.
 - Creditor claims resolved were ₹1.7 lakh crore in FY24, up from ₹1.5 lakh crore in FY23.
 - Lenders' haircut increased to 73% from 64%.
- **Duration of Resolution Process:**



- Average duration to close Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) rose to 843 days in FY24.
- Delays in the resolution process are a concern.
- **Liquidation vs. Resolution Plans:**
 - The number of CIRPs closed through liquidation orders continues to exceed those yielding a resolution plan.
 - Liquidation outcomes are more common than successful resolution plans.



Editorials, Opinions and Ideas

5. Hurdles On Path To Green

Source: IE, Page 10

The Article discusses the need of the Government to play a critical role for technology transitions to achieve climate goals. It is important for your General Studies Paper III understanding.

Context

- The recent heatwave underscores the risks of climate change.
- 2023 was the warmest year on record, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.
- Sectors like power and industry are major carbon emitters, with India being the third-largest emitter globally.

Government Initiatives

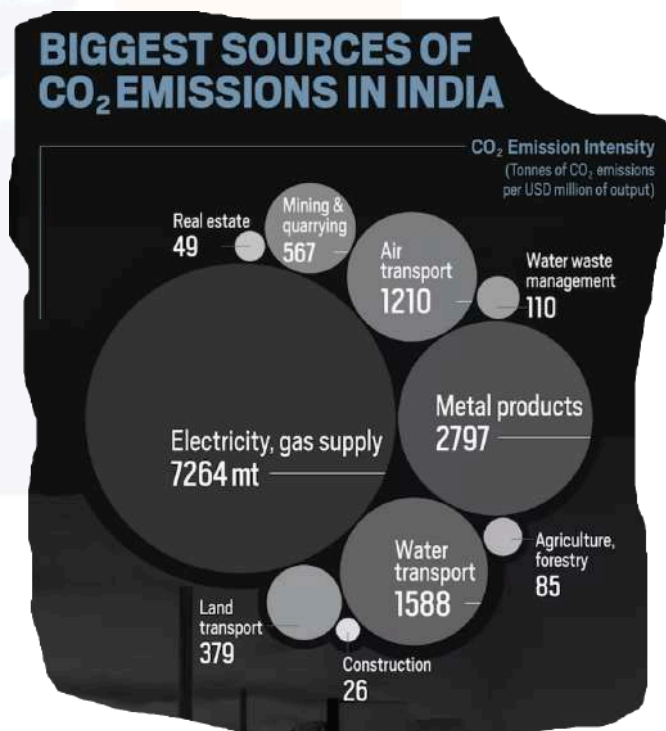
- Renewable Energy (RE) Support:
 - Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar modules.
 - Viability gap funding for offshore wind and battery storage.
 - Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission:
 - Promotes the use of green hydrogen in refining, chemicals, fertilisers, and transport.
- Legislative and Financial Measures:
 - Amendments to the Energy Conservation Bill.
 - Issuance of green bonds.

Challenges and Risks in Green Transformation

- Transition risks include policy, regulatory, technology, market, reputation, and legal challenges.
- Technological risk is the most immediate challenge for entities adopting green technology.

Sector Specific Requirements

- Fossil fuel-based power Sector
 - Fossil fuel-based power is a major carbon emitter, necessitating a shift to non-fossil power sources.



- India aims to achieve 50% non-fossil power by 2030.
- Investment requirements:
 - Rs 11-12 lakh crore for RE power by 2030.
 - Rs 5-6 lakh crore for transmission infrastructure and storage.
- Importance of round-the-clock RE supply through hybrid projects and energy storage systems.
- Cement Sector
 - Highly resource and energy-intensive.
 - Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) needed to reduce emissions.
 - Niti Aayog estimates a need for two million tonnes per annum CCUS capacity by 2030.
- Steel Industry:
 - Predominantly uses coal due to abundant virgin iron ore and lack of domestic scrap.
 - Aims to reduce carbon footprint by 25-30% by 2030 through technological interventions.

Government Support and Future Policy Directions

- Green Hydrogen Mission involves significant investment (Rs 8-9 lakh crore).
- Indian entities are initiating pilot projects for green hydrogen and ammonia production.
- Voluntary steps by high-carbon emitting sectors are critical.
- Government support needed for accelerated technology transition.
- Potential support measures: policy interventions, subsidies, duty exemptions, tax benefits.
- Post-election policy agenda may include further measures for green technology adoption.



InBrief

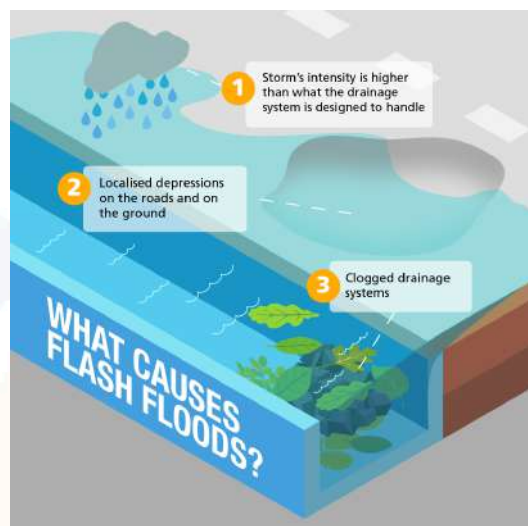
6. 17-year-old dies in flash flood at Courtallam Falls in T.N.

Source: The Hindu, Page 2

News: A 17-year-old boy was washed away in flash floods at the Old Courtallam Falls in Tamil Nadu.

About Courtallam Fall

- Courtallam Falls, also known as Kutralam Falls, is situated in the Western Ghats in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, India. It lies at an elevation of approximately 160 meters above sea level.
- Courtallam is famous for its nine waterfalls, with the Main Falls (Peraruvi) being the most prominent.
- Courtallam has a rich cultural history, with several temples in the vicinity, including the Kutralanathar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.



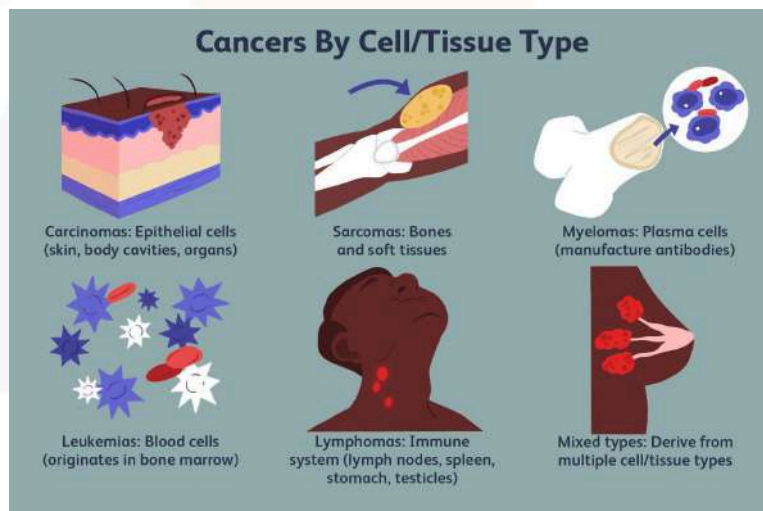
7. Zydus, MSN partner to make, market cancer drug for U.S.

Source: The Hindu, Page 11

News: Drugmakers Zydus Lifesciences and Hyderabad-based MSN Laboratories have entered into an exclusive licensing and supply agreement for Cabozantinib Tablets, a generic version of cancer drug Cabometyx.

About Cancer

- Cancer is a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.
- Cancer can start almost anywhere in the human body, which is made up of trillions of cells.
- Lung cancer was the most commonly occurring cancer worldwide with 2.5 million new cases accounting for 12.4% of the total new cases.
- Over 35 million new cancer cases are predicted in 2050, a 77% increase from the estimated 20 million cases in 2022.



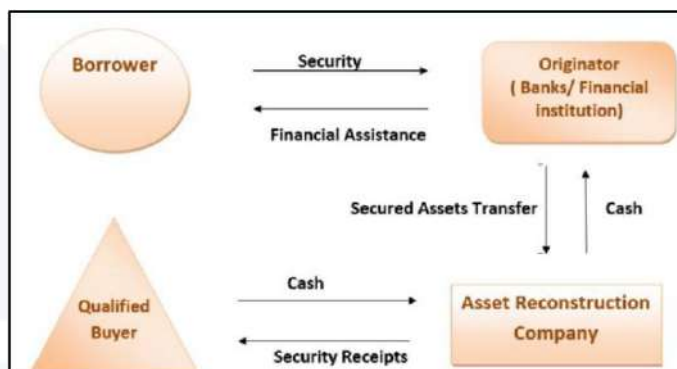
8. RBI Deputy Governors flag supervisory concerns at asset reconstruction firms

Source: The Hindu, Page 11

News: Amid various allegations of their indulgence in unethical practices, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked top bosses of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to focus on governance and adhere to ethical conduct.

About Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)

- An Asset Reconstruction Company is a specialised financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.
- They are registered under the RBI and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).



9. Endangered Iberian lynx population doubles in 3 years

Source: The Hindu, Page 13

News: The number of endangered Iberian lynx in the wild in Spain and Portugal has nearly doubled since 2020.

About Iberian Lynx

- The Iberian lynx is one of the four extant species within the medium-sized wild cat genus Lynx.
- It is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.



10. Why Are Orcas Sinking Boats?

Source: IE, Page 14

News: Scientists have observed unusual change in behaviour of Orcas where they are attacking boats, posing threat to humans.

About Orcas

- Orcas are found across the world and are also known as “killer whales”.
- It is the largest member of the Delphinidae family, or dolphins.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature assesses the orca's conservation status as data deficient.



Daily Quiz

1. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is an important initiative aimed at enhancing trade connectivity. In the context of the above statement, consider the following statements:

1. The INSTC aims to connect India with Europe through Iran and Russia.
2. The primary mode of transportation for INSTC is via roadways.
3. INSTC is expected to significantly reduce the time and cost of cargo transport between India and Europe.
4. Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan are among the member countries of INSTC.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. All are correct

2. Consider the following statements regarding Article 22 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 22 provides protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.
2. It applies to both citizens and non-citizens of India.
3. Article 22 explicitly allows preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of the state.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements about coffee production in India:

1. India is the world's largest producer of coffee.
2. Karnataka is the leading producer of coffee in India.
3. Most of India's coffee production is consumed domestically.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. All are correct
- D. All are incorrect

4. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) aims to facilitate a time-bound resolution of financial distress for:

- A. Individual debtors only
- B. Corporate debtors only
- C. Financial institutions only
- D. Both individual and corporate debtors

5. Consider the following statements about Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technology:

1. CCUS involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and storing them permanently underground.
2. The captured carbon dioxide can be utilised for enhanced oil recovery or converted into fuels and chemicals.
3. CCUS technology is currently a mature and commercially viable solution for large-scale emission reduction.

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



6. Recently in the news, Courtallam Fall is located in which state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

7. Sometimes mentioned in the news, Cabozantinib drug is used for treatment of which of the following conditions?

- A. Cancer
- B. Rabies
- C. Diabetes
- D. Tuberculosis

8. "It is a specialised financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets." Choose the correct options for the above definition.

- A. Asset Reconstruction Company
- B. Investment Banking Company
- C. Credit Rating Agency
- D. Non-Performing Asset Resolution Company

9. Recently in the news, 'Iberian lynx' is endemic to which of the following regions?

- A. Latin America
- B. Northeastern Africa
- C. Southwestern Europe
- D. Eastern Asia

10. Recently in the news, "Orcas" belongs to which of the following families?

- A. Platanistidae
- B. Pontoporiidae
- C. Delphinidae
- D. Iniidae

Solutions

Answer 1: C

Solution 1:

- Statement 1 is correct: The INSTC aims to connect India with Europe through Iran and Russia, providing a shorter and more efficient trade route.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The primary modes of transportation for INSTC are multimodal, including rail, road, and maritime transport.
- Statement 3 is correct: INSTC is expected to reduce the time and cost of cargo transport between India and Europe significantly.
- Statement 4 is correct: Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan are indeed among the member countries of INSTC,

contributing to the corridor's connectivity and network.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 2: B

Solution 2:

- Statement 1 is correct: Article 22 does provide protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.
- Statement 2 is correct: It applies to both citizens and non-citizens of India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 22 does allow preventive detention, but it does not explicitly specify the reasons; these are elaborated in laws made by the Parliament such as the NSA.

Hence, Option B is correct.



Answer 3: A

Solution 3:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: India is the sixth-largest producer of coffee in the world.
- Statement 2 is correct: Karnataka produced around 3.33 lakh tons of coffee during 2021-22, accounting for over 55% of India's total coffee production.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Approximately 65% to 70% of the coffee produced in India is exported and remaining coffee is consumed domestically.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 4: D

Solution 4:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) applies to both individual and corporate debtors facing financial difficulties. This provision allows for a faster and more efficient process to resolve insolvency and revive businesses or recover debts.

Hence, Option D is correct.

Answer 5:

Solution 5: A

- Statement 1 is correct. Capturing and storing CO₂ underground is a core aspect of CCUS.
- Statement 2 is correct. CO₂ utilisation for various purposes is a potential benefit of CCUS.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. CCUS is a developing technology with challenges in cost-effectiveness and scalability.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 6: D

Solution 6:

- Courtallam Falls, also known as Kutralam Falls, is situated in the Western Ghats in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, India. It lies at an elevation of approximately 160 meters above sea level.

Hence, Option D is correct.

Answer 7: A

Solution 7:

- Recently, Drugmakers Zydus Lifesciences and Hyderabad-based MSN Laboratories have entered into an exclusive licensing and supply agreement for Cabozantinib Tablets, a generic version of cancer drug Cabometyx.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 8: A

Solution 8:

- An Asset Reconstruction Company is a specialised financial institution that buys the NPAs or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 9: C

Solution 9:

- The Iberian lynx is one of the four extant species within the medium-sized wild cat genus Lynx.
- It is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 10: C

Solution 10:

- Orcas are found across the world and are also known as "killer whales".
- It is the largest member of the Delphinidae family, or dolphins. Hence, Option C is correct.





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