

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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2. Significant human rights abuses in India, says U.S. report - The Hindu
3. After the anti-Naxal operation: Time to heal, not conquer, The Indian Express
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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Govt. should act on FMCG firms using 'misleading' ads: SC - The Hindu

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity

News:

- The Supreme Court said the **Centre should "activate itself" against Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies** if they employ "misleading advertisements" about their products to target credulous consumers

Key highlights

- The misleading advertisements of FMCGs take the public for a ride, particularly families, affecting their health.
- The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry has asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to investigate the allegations against the leading FMCG.

Contempt case

- The court was hearing a contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved, its co-founder and yoga guru Baba Ramdev and his associate Acharya Balkrishna for continuing to advertise their ayurvedic drugs in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act despite an undertaking given to the Supreme Court.

Fast-moving consumer goods

- These are products that sell quickly and are generally sold at lower prices than slower-moving goods.
- These goods include food, drinks, toothpaste, household cleaning products, and other items that expire or are consumed in less than three years.

Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

- It is a legislative framework **to control the advertisement of drugs and prohibit claims of magical qualities in remedies.**
- It encompasses various forms of advertisements, including written, oral, and visual mediums.
- Under the Act, the term "drug" refers to medicines intended for human or animal use, substances for diagnosis or treatment of diseases, and articles affecting the body's functions.
- Other than articles meant for consumption, the definition for "magic remedy" under this Act also extends to talismans, mantras, and charms that allegedly possess miraculous powers for healing or influencing bodily functions.
- It imposes strict regulations on the publication of advertisements related to drugs.
- It prohibits advertisements that give false impressions, **make false claims, or are otherwise misleading.**
- Violations of these provisions can result in penalties, including imprisonment or fines, upon conviction.
- The term "advertisement," under the Act, extends to all notices, labels, wrappers, and oral announcements.

Prelims Takeaway

- Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

2. Significant human rights abuses in India, says U.S. report - The Hindu

Relevance: Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency and Accountability.

News:

- The U.S. State Department released its **2023 Human Rights Report (HRR)**, a country-wise compilation of human rights practices.
- It has flagged "**credible reports**" of more than a dozen different kinds of human rights abuses in India.

Prelims Takeaway

- UDHR
- NHRC

Key Highlights:

- The report highlighted “the outbreak of ethnic conflict between the **Kuki and Meitei ethnic groups**.
- The report included extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest or detention, torture to coerce confessions, repeated **Internet shutdowns**.
- The country registered **813** cases of **extrajudicial killings** between 2016-2022, with the most reported in **Chhattisgarh**, followed by Uttar Pradesh.

UDHR

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights:**The **30 rights and freedoms** include civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy and economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education, etc.
- **India** took an active part in the **drafting of the UDHR**.
- The **UDHR is not a treaty**, so it does not directly create legal obligations for countries.
- The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the so-called **International Bill of Human Rights**.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

- Independent statutory body established to protect and promote human rights in India.
- It is responsible for **reviewing and addressing human rights** violations and making recommendations for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- NHRC was established under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- It is an embodiment of India’s concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. After the anti-Naxal operation: Time to heal, not conquer, The Indian Express

Relevance: Linkages between Development and Spread of Extremism.

News :

- Security forces dealt a decisive blow to the Maoists in Chhattisgarh- Maharashtra border.
- A joint force of the **BSF and district reserve guard** killed 29 of them, including three senior commanders.

Prelims Takeaway

- LWE
- SAMADHAN

Key Highlights:

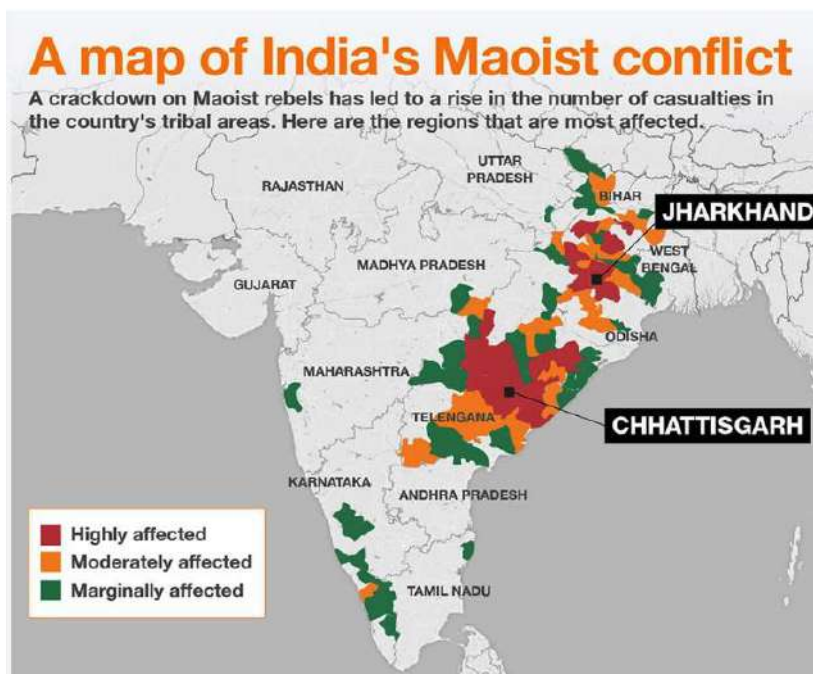
- This was the highest number of casualties that the Maoists have suffered in a single operation in Bastar.
- The Maoist movement had reached its peak in 2010 when 223 districts across 20 states were affected by violence to some degree.
- Violence and the resultant deaths have **declined by 73 percent** from a high in 2010.

Left Wing Extremism:

- Left-wing extremism (LWE), also known as left-wing terrorism refers to political ideologies and groups that advocate for societal and political change through revolutionary means.
- The LWE movement in India originated in a 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal.
- The 2006 **D Bandopadhyay Committee** identified governance gaps and **Social discrimination** against tribals in economic, political, and cultural spheres as the primary causes of Naxalism's proliferation.
- The **failure of land reforms** and land redistribution after independence is another cause for rise in Extremism.
- **Forced Displacements** by projects of mining, irrigation and power projects without adequate arrangements for rehabilitation.
- Non-regularisation of traditional land rights under FRA, 2006, rejections of land grants to tribals.

Government Initiatives:

- **'National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism 2015:** comprehensive approach that involves various facets of governance, security, and development.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:** The Act plays a crucial role in protecting children affected by LWE.
- **Solution SAMADHAN:** It is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels.


GS III

4. Govt plans to boost exports of 20 items, including bananas and mangoes, as agri exports slip 9%- The Indian express

Relevance: Transport and Marketing of Agricultural Produce and Issues and Related Constraints; E-technology in the aid of farmers.

News:

- India's agricultural exports slipped nearly 9 per cent in 1st Quarter of FY24 to \$43.7 billion due to the Red Sea crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war, along with domestic restrictions.
- The government has begun formulating plans to boost exports of 20 items, including bananas, mangoes, potatoes, and baby corn.

Key Highlights:

- India's share is about 2.5 per cent in global exports, and the aim is to increase it to about 4-5 per cent, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) is working to develop **sea protocols** for ginger, pineapple, mangoes, and oranges to promote shipments.

APEDA:

- Statutory body established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament in 1985.
- Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Functions of APEDA:

- Sets **standards and specifications** for the scheduled products.

Prelims Takeaway

- APEDA
- Ministry of Commerce

- **Registration of exporters** of the scheduled products Improves **packaging and marketing** of the Scheduled products.
- Carrying out an **inspection of products** to ensure the quality of products.
- **Development of industries** relating to the scheduled products and undertaking surveys & studies.
- Examples of scheduled products: Fruits, Vegetable, Meat, Poultry Dairy Products, Confectionery, Biscuits, Bakery Products, Honey, Jaggery, etc.

Policies to promote export:

- **Foreign Trade Policy, 2023:** It was launched with the aim of India's exports to 2 trillion dollars by 2030.
- Incentive to Remission
- **Export promotion** through collaboration
- Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives recognition of **new towns** through the **Towns of Export Excellence** Scheme and exporters through **Status Holder Scheme**.

5. How is India planning to boost EV production? - The Hindu

Relevance: Government policies and intervention.

News:

- The Union government recently approved a policy to promote India as a manufacturing hub for Electric Vehicles (EVs) the minimum investment cap of which has been set at ₹4,150 crore.

Prelims Takeaway

- Electric vehicle
- EV policy

Highlights:

- The **policy broadly clears the path for global EV makers** to foray into the **Indian markets**.
- The main goal of this policy is to **enable transitioning to localised production** in a commercially viable manner and **plan as per local market conditions and demand**.
- The most significant provision is the **reduction of import duty on electric vehicles** imported as a Completely Built Unit (CBU) with a minimum cost
- This is provided the maker sets up a manufacturing unit **within three years**.
 - The policy also stipulates that a total duty of **₹6,484 crore** or an amount proportional to the investment made (whichever is lower) would be waived on the total number of EVs imported.
- Another important aspect of the scheme is **localisation targets**.
 - Manufacturers have **three years** to set up their manufacturing facilities in India.
 - They are expected to attain **25% localisation** by the third year of incentivised operation and **50%** by the fifth year.
- If the **localisation targets are not achieved**, and if the **minimum investment criteria as defined under the scheme is not met**, the bank guarantees of the manufacturers would be **revoked**.
- **Most Indian players** are leading in the segments below ₹29 lakh as of now, and hence this policy benefit (from 15% import duty) will likely be for Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)
 - catering to consumers in the higher end of the market.
 - This is mainly due to **lack of proper charging infrastructure, range anxiety, and limited number of products** in the affordable range due to limited localisation

Benefits of EV policy:

- Promotes make in India initiative through indigenous manufacturing.
- Steers innovation and new technology in EV production.
- Reduction in crude oil imports thus lessening the burden on trade deficits.
- Mitigating air pollution for a sustainable future.
- Positive impact on the health of the citizens.

6. 'April Flash PMI signals quickening in combined economic output' - The Hindu

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

News:

- Combined output from India's manufacturing and services sectors may have grown at the fastest pace in almost 14 years this month
- the services activity rising to a three-month high, as per the HSBC Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

Prelims Takeaway

- Purchasing Managers Index
- Sovereign Credit Ratings

Purchasing Managers Index

- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about **changes in their perception** about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- **Purpose:** To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- It is **calculated separately** for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a **composite index** is also constructed.
- It does not capture **informal sector activity**.
- The PMI is a number from **0 to 100**.
 - A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
 - A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Significance of PMI

- It is considered a **good leading indicator** of economic activity.
 - It is usually released at the start of every month.
- Central banks of many countries also use the index to **help make decisions on interest rates**.
- It also gives an **indication of corporate earnings** and is closely watched by investors as well as the bond markets.
- A good reading of index **enhances the attractiveness of an economy** vis-a-vis another competing economy.

7. NABARD unveils strategy to mobilise green financing - The Hindu

Relevance: Effects of Liberalization on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

News:

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the occasion of Earth Day unveiled its **Climate Strategy 2030** document which aims to address India's need for green financing.
- India requires approximately **\$170 billion** annually to reach a cumulative total of over \$2.5 trillion by 2030, the current green finance inflows are critically insufficient.

Prelims Takeaway

- Nabard
- Green credit

Key Highlights:

- 2019-20, India garnered about \$49 billion in green financing, merely a fraction of what is needed.
- the majority of funds earmarked for mitigation, only **\$5 billion was allocated** towards adaptation and resilience.
- the minimal private sector engagement in these areas due to challenges in **bankability and commercial viability**.

NABARD Climate Strategy 2030:

- NABARD's **Climate Strategy 2030** is structured around four key pillars which include
 - accelerating green lending across sectors,
 - playing a broader market-making role,
 - internal green transformation and
 - strategic resource mobilization.

NABARD:

- It came into existence by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act **1981**.
- Based on **B. Sivaramman Committee**, NABARD replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- NABARD implements **rural development projects** of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, commercial banks (CBs).
- **EShakti**: “EShakti” is a project developed by NABARD for the digitization of all members of the **Self Help Group (SHG)** in India.
- **Kisan Credit Card Scheme**: designed by NABARD to enable farmers to meet their credit requirements for agriculture and allied activities.
- **Tribal Development Programme**: The Integrated Tribal Development Programme is implemented by NABARD, aiming to provide sustainable livelihoods to tribal families of the country.

Functions of Nabard:

- **Supervises Small Banks**: In credit flow.
- **Sustainable Growth**: Natural Resource Management Programmes involving diverse fields like Watershed Development, Tribal Development, and Farm Innovation.
- **Support Rural Innovation**: It has managed to attract funds for Rural Innovation, unconventional Agricultural practices
- **Monitoring and Evaluating a Project**: It has the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the project or activity taking place in a rural area.
- **Rural Infrastructure Fund**: Provides funds for Rural Infrastructure development.
- **Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF)**: Using the facilities of NABARD, loans for requirements for scientific warehousing infrastructure for agricultural commodities in the country.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. Insuring the future- The Hindu

Relevance: Issues related to health, human resources

Context :

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), has asked insurance providers to enable a wide demographic of citizens to benefit from health insurance.

Highlights:

- IRDAI has significantly directed insurance companies to make health insurance available to senior citizens, as those above 65 are currently barred from issuing new policies for themselves.
- This announcement clearly acknowledges demographic changes underway in India.
- Though India's population figures have not been officially accounted for since 2011
 - estimates from the UN Population Fund and experts suggest that India's is nearly level with China and may have surpassed it sometime in 2023.
- The India Ageing Report, 2023, which draws from UN projections, estimates that India's cohort of those above 60 will increase from about 10% of the population (149 million in 2022) to 30% (347 million) by 2050.
 - Several of the most developed countries already have their senior demographic (65-plus) ranging from 16% to 28%.
 - In many of these countries, there is no entry barrier to health insurance policies.
- Much has been made of the next two decades being critical to India's future, on the reasoning that this is the time that India must reap its 'demographic dividend'.
 - This is premised on a large proportion of the workforce moving out of agriculture and inevitably followed by a breakdown of the traditional care-giving structure for the aged.
 - Thus, broadening the eligibility of health insurance should be accompanied by a massive upgradation of affordable health care.

Challenges faced by elderly in health care:

- **Affordability issue**: expensive nature of specialist care bars senior citizens from accessing health care.
- **Dependency**: disability and lack of awareness regarding health care facilities force them to take help from others.
- **Digital divide**: many government programs and services are shifting online, which is becoming a challenge for senior citizens to access them.
- **Neglect & abuse**: according to the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI), 2020, atleast 5% of India's elderly population stated they experienced ill treatment.

Demographic dividend

- The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure:
 - mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older).
- India with a large number of young population is experiencing demographic dividend.
- According to the UN Population Statistics database, India is set to add another 183 million people to the working age group (aged 15-64 years) between 2020 and 2050.
- To reap the benefits of demographic dividend in economic growth there must be inclusive policies for all the citizens.

9. Towards a less poor and more equal country - The Hindu

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Context :

- In March, World Inequality Lab, a global research centre focused on inequality and public policies, published a working paper titled, 'Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj'

Key highlights	Human development
<p>Income and wealth inequality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2022-23, the report states, 22.6% of India's national income went to just the top 1% in the country, the highest in the last 100 years. • And just the top 0.1% of the population earned nearly 10% of the national income in India. • The share of wealth among the top 10% increased from 45% in 1961 to 65% in 2022-23. • India's wealth inequality is not as extreme as Brazil and South Africa where the top 10% hold 85.6% and 79.7% of the national wealth, respectively. • However, its wealth concentration increased threefold between 1961 and 2023. • Additionally, as India's income inequality is among the highest in the world, even higher than South Africa, Brazil and the U.S., it will only add to the wealth inequality. • inequality began increasing with the beginnings of liberalisation in the 1980s, and faster after the 1991 economic reforms in India. • Here, we would like to emphasise that the twin objectives of high economic growth and reduction of inequality can only be achieved with improvements in human development and poverty reduction. • At the national level, the States that sustained high growth over three decades (over 7% GSDP per year) were relatively advanced in human development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These include Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka in the south; Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west; and Punjab and Delhi in the north. • States that are relatively backward in the Human Development Index ranking include Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. • These States were only able to register a growth rate of less than 5% per annum post-liberalisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-2024 ranked India 134 out of 193 countries. • India is now the fifth largest economy but it still ranks lower than Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in human development. • Its economic growth has not translated into growth in human development. • The poor should not have to wait for the benefits of economic growth to trickle down; human development should be given priority in promoting inclusive growth. • As per the HDR 2023-2024, India's score comes down by 31.1% if we account for economic inequality. • The extent of economic inequality is such that it cannot be overcome by the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provides a few kilogrammes of free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries. • Sops without jobs cannot be the basis for sustained and inclusive growth. • As the paper says, "It is unclear how long such inequality levels can sustain without major social and political upheaval".

10. An overview of the PMAY-U scheme - The Hindu

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 :

- As the current Union government completes two terms, one of its flagship programmes was Housing For All (HfA) by 2022, both in urban and rural areas, planned under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) scheme in 2015.

What is the PMAY scheme?

- The declared objectives of the scheme included :
 - rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation
 - promotion of affordable housing for the weaker sections through Credit Linked Subsidy Schemes (CLSS)
 - affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors
 - subsidy for Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC).

How has the scheme panned out?

- Even though two more years have passed since the supposed completion of the scheme, HfA remains a distant reality.
- In August 2022, the government approved the continuation of the PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U) up to December 31, 2024
 - for the completion of already sanctioned houses till March 31, 2022.
- According to a study by the ICRIER, urban housing shortage increased by 54%, from 1.88 crore in 2012 to 2.9 crore in 2018.
- This means that the vertical that is supposed to meet the largest demand, called in-situ slum redevelopment (ISSR), has failed.
- According to a PIB press release, under the ISSR, which is the most pressing need in cities, only 2,10,552 houses have been sanctioned for eligible beneficiaries.

What ailed the PMAY?

- The scheme is euphoric in the participation of the private sector in bridging the gap of public investments in social housing.
- Land was also a major issue.
- Land registered under airports, railways, forests, etc., was impossible for ISSR. Moreover, plans for ISSR were drawn up by consultants, without any role from the community.
- Another major hurdle is the dichotomy existing between the city's master plans and PMAY-U.
- Most of the cities' plans are now being dictated by big consultants who favour large capital-intensive technological solutions.
- Take for example, the transit-oriented development models being advocated by the Delhi Development Authority in its 2041 master plan.
- It does not speak about social housing and states that this must come from market forces. In such a scenario, almost all verticals of PMAY fail.
- The architecture of PMAY does not address the landless and the poor. Around 62% of the houses sanctioned come under the BLC vertical where the government's role is limited to just cost sharing with the beneficiaries.
- CLSS beneficiaries are supposed to be 21%. In both the above, the government has a limited role with just the provision for providing interest subsidy, whereas land is owned by the beneficiaries.
- Slum-dwelling families that are to be rehabilitated under ISSR make up just about 2.5% of the total beneficiaries.
- While the PMAY is a centrally sponsored scheme both the Union and the State governments are supposed to financially contribute to it.
- It is worth noting that the Centre's contribution to the overall investment expenditure under this scheme is just about 25%, or ₹2.03 lakh crore.
- The bulk of the money is shelled out by the beneficiary households themselves, that is 60% or ₹4.95 lakh crore.



Mentorship
India

Quick Look

1. Headline inflation

- Headline inflation is the raw inflation figure reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - that is released monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- The CPI calculates the cost to purchase a fixed basket of goods to determine how much inflation is occurring in the broad economy.
- The CPI uses a base year and indexes the current year's prices, according to the base year's values.

2. Core Inflation

- Core inflation removes the CPI components that can exhibit large amounts of volatility from month to month
 - which can cause unwanted distortion to the headline figure.
- The most commonly removed factors are those relating to the costs of food and energy.
- Food prices can be affected by factors outside of those attributed to the economy
 - such as environmental shifts that cause issues in the growth of crops.
- Energy costs, such as oil production, can be affected by forces outside of traditional supply and demand, such as political dissent.

3. Konda Reddi Tribe

- Konda Reddis is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting the banks of the river Godavari and also in the hilly forest tracts of Godavari and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Their mother tongue is Telugu, with a unique accent.
- The Konda Reddy tribe is divided into exogamous septs for regulating matrimonial relations.
- Like other Telugu-speaking people, their surnames are prefixed to individual names.
- Generally, each sept is exogamous, but certain septs are considered as brother septs and marriage alliances with brother septs (agnate relations) are prohibited

4. Onyx Missile

- The P-800 Onyx, a supersonic medium-range cruise missile, is designed to combat surface ship groups, as well as to destroy ground targets in conditions of strong fire and electronic countermeasures.
- Also known as Russian Brahmos, it can reach speeds of over 3,000 km/h, making it extremely difficult to intercept.
- Additionally, the missile operates at an altitude of 10-15 meters above land or water, further enhancing its stealth capabilities.
- The missile has a range of up to 300 kilometers in its default trajectory and a range of 120 km in a low-altitude trajectory.

5. Madagascar

- Located off the coast of East Africa in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is the second-largest island country in the world.
- It covers an area of 592,800 sq. kilometers.
- The country can be divided into three parallel longitudinal physiographic regions.
- The coastal strip in the east, the central plateau and the western regions of low plateaus and plains.
- The Tsaratanana Massif region at the northern end of the island is home to Madagascar's highest point, Maromokotro, at 2,876 m.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements

Statement I: There is no law related to advertisement of drug in India

Statement II: Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act is a legislative framework to control the claims of magical qualities in remedies from drugs.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

Q2. Other than the Fundamental Rights, which of the following parts of the Constitution of India reflect the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)?

1. Preamble
2. Directive Principles of State Policy
3. Fundamental Duties

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?:

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Q3. Consider the following statements about Naxalism

1. They Advocate Socio-political Change through Reformative Method
2. The Greyhounds is an elite anti-Maoist force in Jharkhand
3. CoBRA is a special Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Q4. Consider the following statements about APEDA:

Statement I: APEDA is responsible for exports promotion of Agriculture from India.

Statement II: Ministry of Agriculture looks over the working and responsibility of APEDA

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Electric Vehicles (EVs)

1. In India, Passenger vehicles have seen significant penetration in comparison to two or three wheelers.
2. Through a new EV policy the government is trying to enable transitioning to localised production in a commercially viable manner.
3. EVs remarkably show Zero tailpipe emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. With reference to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements

1. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors.
2. It also captures the informal sector activity.
3. It aims at providing information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

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

Q7. Consider the following statements about Green Credit:

Statement 1: MOEFCC has launched Climate Strategy 2030 to address climate financing

Statement 2: These are loans granted to support Sustainable Environmental projects

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

Q8. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. The Human Development Report : The United Nations Development Programme
- 2. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) : Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe,
- 3. World Development Report : World Bank

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding demographic dividend

- 1. It occurs when the share of the working age population is higher than the non working age population.
- 2. India due to higher burden of elderly population doesn't have demographic dividend
- 3. Japan was one of the countries which reaped the benefits of demographic dividend.

Which 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 the Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)

- 1. CLSS is a government initiative aimed at providing interest subsidy to individuals belonging to economically weaker sections for housing loans.
- 2. The scheme operates under the Ministry of Finance to facilitate affordable housing for all.
- 3. The primary focus of CLSS is to promote the construction and purchase of new houses.

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

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954

- It is a legislative framework **to control the advertisement of drugs and prohibit claims of magical qualities in remedies.**
- It encompasses various forms of advertisements, including written, oral, and visual mediums.
- Under the Act, the term “drug” refers to medicines intended for human or animal use, substances for diagnosis or treatment of diseases, and articles affecting the body’s functions.

Answer 2 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- Preamble has inscribed the principles of Equality, Justice and Liberty **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Directive Principles of State Policy directs the government towards creating an Egalitarian and Just Society. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Fundamental Duties talk about respecting humankind and creating Fraternity within the Society. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 3 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- Naxalism: They Advocate Socio-political Change through **Revolutionary Method. Hence Statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- The Greyhounds is an elite anti-Maoist force in Andhra Pradesh. **Hence Statement 2 is Incorrect.**
- CoBRA is a special Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- APEDA is responsible for Agricultural exports from India **Statement 1 is correct.**
- **APEDA is an Independent body under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce that looks over the working and responsibility of APEDA. Statement 2 is Incorrect.**
- Development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export by way of providing financial assistance or otherwise for undertaking surveys and feasibility studies, participation in enquiry capital through joint ventures and other reliefs and subsidy schemes;

Answer 5 Option B is correct.

Explanation:

- In India, Penetration in the two-and three-wheeler segment has been significant, passenger vehicles have seen only a 2.2% contribution thus far. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The main goal of the new EV policy is to enable transitioning to localised production in a commercially viable manner and plan as per local market conditions and demand. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Driving an electric vehicle can help in reducing carbon footprint as it has zero tailpipe emissions. **Statement 3 is correct**

Answer 6 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Purchasing Managers Index is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- Purpose: To provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is also constructed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It does not capture informal sector activity. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The PMI is a number from 0 to 100.
- A print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.
- A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Answer 7 Option D is Correct

Explanation:

NABARD has launched Climate Strategy 2030, **Hence Statement-I is Incorrect**
These are loans granted to support Sustainable Environmental projects **Hence Statement-II is correct**

Answer 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Human Development Report (HDR) is an annual Human Development Index report published by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool that attempts to measure and track hunger globally as well as by region and by country, prepared by European NGOs of Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. The GHI is calculated annually, and its results appear in a report issued in October each year.
- The World Development Report is an annual report published since 1978 by the World Bank. Each WDR provides in-depth analysis of a specific aspect of economic development. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 9 Option B is correct.

Explanation:

- The demographic dividend is the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older). **Statement 1 is correct.**
- India with a large number of young population is experiencing demographic dividend. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

- Japan was among the first major economies to experience rapid growth due to changing population dynamics. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 10 Option B is correct

Explanation

- CLSS is a government initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, not the Ministry of Finance. It aims to provide interest subsidy to individuals belonging to economically weaker sections (EWS), Low-Income Group (LIG), and Middle-Income Group (MIG) for housing loans. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The scheme operates under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, not the Ministry of Finance. It is designed to promote affordable housing for all. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- The primary focus of CLSS is to promote the construction and purchase of new houses by providing interest subsidies on housing loans to eligible beneficiaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**



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