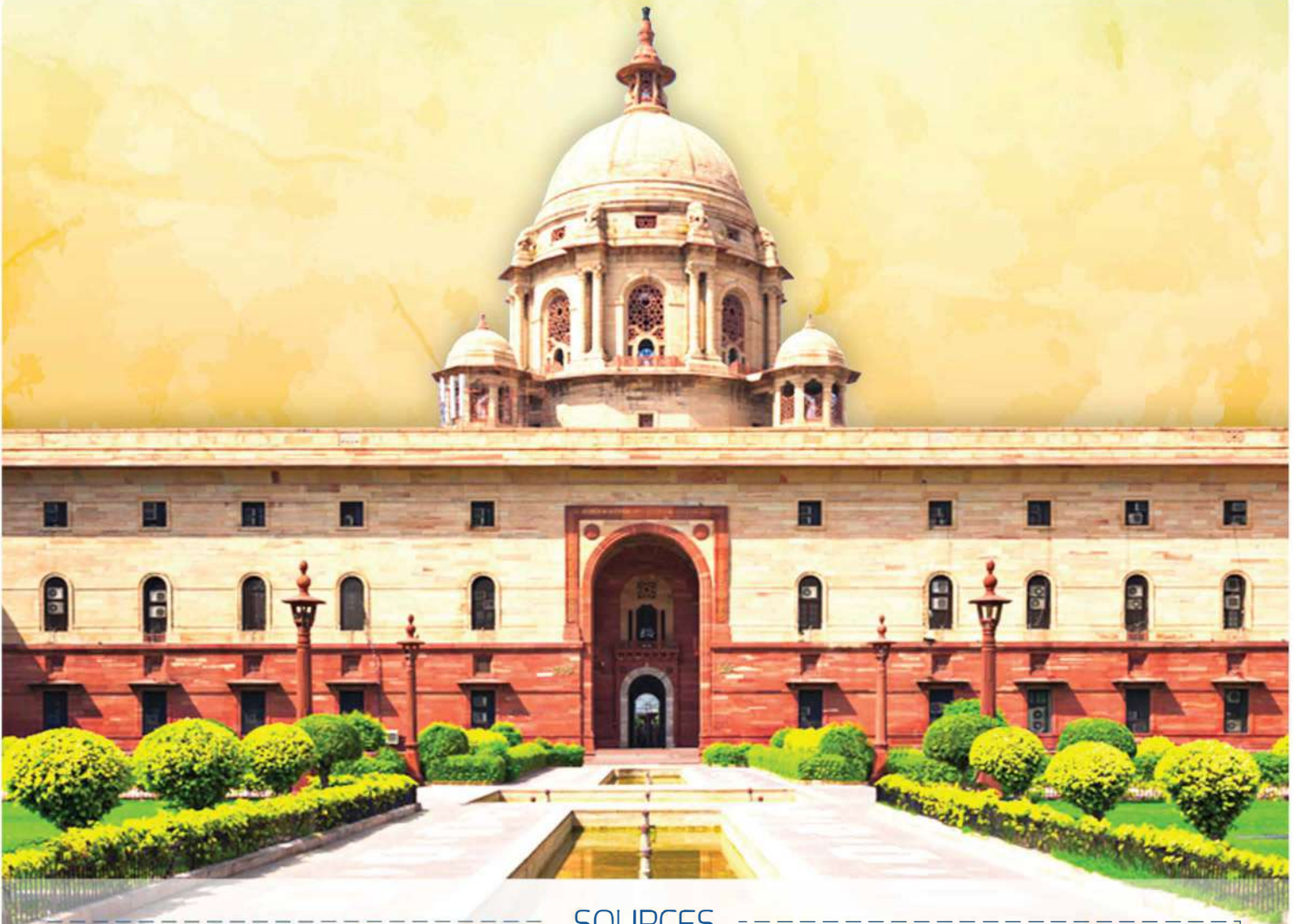




**UPSC
Mentorship**
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Doyen of dance Yamini Krishnamurthy passes away

Source: The Hindu

Context: Ms. Krishnamurthy is credited with popularising Bharatanatyam in north India, as early as in the 1960s, when she chose Delhi as her home.

Bharatnatyam:

- **Origin:**
 - Bharatanatyam is one of the oldest (considered to be over 2000 years old) and most popular forms of classical dance that originated in Tanjore district in Tamil Nadu, India.
 - Bharatnatyam is one among the eight classical dances of India.
 - The origin of this dance can be traced to the sage Bharata Muni's Natyashastra.
 - The Abhinaya Darpana by Nandikesvara is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance.
 - The style was kept alive by the devadasis, the young girls 'gifted' by their parents to the temples and married to the gods.
- **Features:**
 - Bharatnatyam dance is known to be **ekaharya**, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance.
 - The dance involves **transitional movements of the leg, hip and arm**. Expressive eye movements and hand gestures are used to convey emotions. It encompasses Bhav, Rag, Ras and Taal.
 - This form of dance is **slow and moving**, but at times fast and fluid and hence is also called **Fire Dance**.
 - The **accompanying orchestra** consists of a vocalist, a mridangam player, violinist or veena player, a flautist and a cymbal player.
 - The person who conducts the dance recitation is the **Nattuvanar**.



2. Millets are answer to water scarcity, climate change: PM

Source: The Hindu

Context: Acknowledging the seriousness of the nutrition challenge, the PM said: “In today’s time, along with water shortage and climate change, nutrition is a big challenge. India also has its solution.”

What is Millet?

- It is a collective term referring to a number of **small-seeded annual grasses** that are cultivated as **grain crops**, primarily on marginal lands in dry areas in **temperate, subtropical and tropical regions**.
- Some of the common millets available in India are **Ragi (Finger millet), Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet)**.
- The **earliest evidence for these grains has been found in Indus civilization** and was one of the first plants **domesticated for food**.
- It is grown in about 131 countries and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa.
- **India is the largest producer of millet in the world.**
- It accounts for **20% of global production and 80% of Asia’s production.**

Why are Millets Considered Important ‘Nutri-Cereals’?

- **Climate Resilient Staple Food Crops:** Millets are **drought-resistant, require less water and can grow in poor soil conditions**. This makes them a suitable food crop for areas with unpredictable weather patterns and water scarcity.
- **Rich in nutrients:** Millets are a **good source of fibre, protein, vitamins, and minerals**.
- **Gluten-free:** Millets are **naturally gluten-free**, making them suitable for people with celiac disease or gluten intolerance.
- **Adaptable:** Millets can be grown in a variety of soils and climates, making them a **versatile crop** option for farmers.
- **Sustainable:** Millets are often grown using traditional farming methods, which are more sustainable and environmentally friendly than modern, industrial farming practices.

What are the Constraints to Increased Millet Cultivation and Consumption?

- **Decline in the Area Under Millet Cultivation:**
 - Millets were earlier cultivated in an area of 35 million hectares of land. But it is **now being grown in only 15 million hectares**.
 - The **reasons for a shift in land use include low yields, time-consuming and laborious tasks** in the processing of millets which are undertaken by women.
 - Additionally, **very little was marketed, and a tiny share of grain was processed into value-added products**.
- **Low Productivity of Millets:** Over the last decade, the **production of sorghum (jowar) has fallen, the production of pearl millet (bajra) has stagnated, and the production of other millets, including finger millet (ragi), has stagnated or declined.**



- **Lack of Awareness:** Many people in India are not aware of the health benefits of millets, leading to low demand.
- **High Cost:** Millets are often **priced higher than traditional cereals**, making them less accessible to low-income consumers.
- **Limited Availability:** Millets are **not widely available in traditional and modern (e-commerce) retail markets**, making it difficult for consumers to purchase them.
- **Perceived Taste:** Some people believe that millets have a **bland or unpleasant taste**, which discourages them from consuming them.
- **Agricultural Challenges:** The cultivation of millets is often associated with **low yields and low profitability**, which can discourage farmers from growing them.
- **Competition from Rice and Wheat:** **Rice and wheat are staple foods** in India and are widely available, making it difficult for millets to compete in the market.
- **Lack of Government Support:** India has not provided enough support to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets, which has limited their growth.

What should be the Way Forward?

- **Adequate Public Support:**
 - **Small farmers in hilly regions and dryland plains who are among the poorest households in rural India** will cultivate millets only if it gives them good returns.
 - Adequate public support can make **millet cultivation profitable, ensure supply for the PDS, and, ultimately, provide nutritional benefits to a wide section of the population.**
- **Awareness and Education:** Lack of awareness about millets and their health benefits can be addressed through education and promotion.
- **Availability and Accessibility:** Improving the availability of millets in markets and making them more accessible to consumers can **encourage consumption.**
- **Affordability:** Millets are often more expensive than other staple grains, making them less accessible to **low-income consumers.** Addressing affordability through government subsidies or market interventions can increase consumption.
- **Changing Perception:** The perception of millets as a poor man's food needs to be changed through marketing and promotion.
- **Processing and Value-added Products:** Improving processing techniques and increasing the availability of value-added millet-based products can make them more appealing to consumers.
- **Collaboration:** Collaboration between farmers, processors, and marketers can help increase the supply and demand of millets.

GS II

3. Stalked by polio, Gaza faces another siege

Source: The Hindu

Context: In the third week of July, Israel's Health Ministry said it had found poliovirus particles in the sewage flowing out of Gaza.



Gaza Strip:

- **Location:** The Gaza Strip is a coastal Palestinian region along the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Israel and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Together with the West Bank, it forms the State of Palestine, with Israel situated between the two territories.
- **Governance:** Hamas, a politico-military entity, has administered the Gaza Strip since its electoral victory in 2006.
- **Control:** While Israel maintains authority over Gaza's airspace and coastline, it has also implemented limitations on goods entering the territory. Additionally, Egypt manages its border with Gaza.



Poliovirus:

- The poliovirus is an **obligate human pathogen**, meaning it can replicate only inside cells of the human body. This virus has no other known animal reservoirs.
- According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Global Polio Surveillance Action Plan (GPSAP) 2022–2024, "The capacity to consistently detect and respond to poliovirus detection is ultimately dependent on existing within- country capacity — and fragile states, especially those with ongoing conflict, are especially vulnerable."

Polio:

- Polio (poliomyelitis) is a **highly infectious viral disease** that enters the body through the mouth, multiplying in the intestine before invading the nervous system.
- It **mainly affects children under 5 years of age**.
- The incubation period for poliovirus is usually **7–10 days**, but it can range from **4–35 days**.
- Initial symptoms of poliovirus infection include **fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs**.
- Up to **90%** of those infected with poliovirus experience no or mild symptoms, often going unrecognised.
- Cases due to wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350 000 cases in more than 125 endemic countries, to just 2 endemic countries Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **India received polio-free certification by the WHO in 2014**, after three years of zero cases.



GS III

4. MGNREGS: States fall behind in paying unemployment aid

Source: The Hindu

Context: Going against one of the key objectives of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), only ₹90,000 was released by various States in 2023-24 as “unemployment allowance”, which is provided to workers in case of unmet work demand. The corresponding figure was ₹7.8 lakh in 2022-23.

Compensation in MGNREGA:

- Under **Section 7(1) of the MGNREGA, 2005**, “If a person applying for employment under the scheme is not employed within 15 days, he shall be entitled to a **daily unemployment allowance.**”
- The law states that this allowance shall be **one-fourth of the wage rate for the first 30 days** of the financial year and half of the wage rate for the remainder.
- **Low disbursement of unemployment allowance is one of the chronic problems** in implementation of the Act.
- In 2022-23 and 2023-24, only six States paid the allowance.



MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005**.
- It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that **guarantees the "right to work" to rural citizens of India**.
- Under this, the government assures a **minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household**.
- The **main objective** of the MGNREGA is to **provide employment to rural citizens** and improve their economic conditions.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant:
 - Citizen of India
 - 18 years of age at the time of application
 - Rural Household
 - Willing to do unskilled work

Challenges faced by the workers of MGNREGA:

- **Delay in Wage Payments:**



- undermines the program's effectiveness.
- Do not receive their wages on time, affecting their financial stability and discouraging participation.
- **Insufficient Funding:**
 - Leading to rationing of work and underfunding of projects.
 - Restricts the scope and impact of the scheme.
- **Corruption and Mismanagement:**
 - Misappropriation of funds, ghost beneficiaries, and fake job cards.
 - Lack of transparency and accountability
- **Inadequate Planning and Implementation:**
 - Unproductive or low-quality work.
 - Selection of projects sometimes does not align with local needs and priorities.
- **Political Interference:**
 - Leading to favouritism and biased resource allocation.
- **Lack of Skilled Manpower:**
 - Shortage of skilled personnel.
 - Resulting in poor supervision and project execution.
- **Gender Disparity:**
 - Gender disparity in wages and work distribution remains an issue.
 - Women often receive fewer opportunities and lower wages compared to men.

Way forward: Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from both the government and civil society to enhance the efficiency and reach of MGNREGA, ensuring that it continues to provide meaningful employment and contribute to rural development.

5. Election overhang

Source: The Hindu

Context: Production in India's eight core infrastructure sectors remained largely dampened by the impact of a slowdown in state spending on public works, when the general election ended in the early part of the month leading to the formation of a new government at the Centre. The heatwaves that had impacted a wide range of economic activity in the country's northern and western parts in May, extended into the further months, adding to the overall slowdown in industrial production. Inflation remains a concern as price pressures broaden beyond food.

Inflation: It is the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises, eroding purchasing power. It indicates how much more expensive the relevant set of goods and/or services has become over a certain period, typically a year.

Parameters	Wholesale Price Index	Consumer Price Index
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Definition and Purpose:	WPI measures the average change in the prices of goods at the wholesale level, before they reach the retail market. It is used to track price movements in the supply chain and is a key indicator of inflation at the wholesale stage. WPI is not inclusive of services and focuses solely on goods.	CPI measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services over time. It reflects the cost of living and is a key indicator of inflation at the consumer level. CPI includes both goods and services.
Scope and Coverage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses primarily on the prices of goods at the wholesale level. It covers goods such as primary articles, fuel and power, and manufactured products. • Does not account for services and is more relevant for producers and traders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a broader range of items including goods and services consumed by households. It covers categories such as food and beverages, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, and education. • Provides a better representation of the cost of living for consumers.
Composition and Weightage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives higher weightage to manufactured goods, which make up a significant portion of the index. • Does not include services and tends to give less weight to food and primary articles compared to CPI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives higher weightage to food, housing, and transportation, reflecting their importance in household expenditure. • Includes services, which are a significant part of consumer expenses.
Base Year and Revision:	The base year for WPI in India is revised periodically to reflect changes in the economy. The current base year is 2011-12.	The base year for CPI is also revised periodically. The current base year is 2012.

Index of Core Industries (ICI)

- ICI is a production volume index which is released on a **monthly** basis.



- The index measures combined and individual performance of production in selected **eight core industries**.
- The **base year** of the ICI has been revised to **2011-12 from 2004-05**.
- Institutions involved
 - The **Office of Economic Adviser**, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal.
 - Trade under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** is mandated with releasing the Index.

Eight Core Industries of the Index

- **The eight core industries are:** Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilisers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.
- **Weight carried by individual industries are:** Coal (weight: 10.33%), Crude Oil (weight: 8.98%), Natural Gas (weight: 6.88%), Petroleum Refinery (weight: 28.04%), Fertilisers (weight: 2.63%), Steel production (weight: 17.92%), Cement production (weight: 5.37%), Electricity generation (weight: 19.85%)

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- The IIP number measures the industrial production for the period under review, usually a month, as against the reference period.
- There is a lag of six weeks in the publication of the IIP index data after the reference month ends.
- It is **currently calculated using 2011-2012 as the base year**.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. Balancing competition and sustainability

Source: The Hindu

Context: In the modern economic landscape, markets have transformed from rudimentary barter systems into sophisticated digital ecosystems that drive global commerce. The forces of supply and demand remain central to determining prices and shaping consumer behaviour.

Introduction:

- **Market Evolution:** Markets have transformed from barter systems to sophisticated digital platforms.
- **Role of Supply and Demand:** Prices and consumer preferences are mainly driven by supply and demand forces.
- **Impact of Climate Change:** Climate change disrupts supply, creating imbalances that affect demand and the overall economy.

Recent Developments

- **SEBI Framework (2023):**
 - **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR):** Requires companies to assess the environmental impact of their entire value chain.
 - **Goals:** Increase transparency, prevent greenwashing, and ensure sustainability benefits are distributed throughout the value chain.
- **Global Competition Authorities:**
 - **Concerns:** Scepticism about integrating sustainability due to fears of potential collusion among competitors.
 - **Encouragement:** Authorities should promote cooperative sustainability efforts and assess collaborations with clear sustainability objectives.

International Approaches:

- **Japan's Anti-Monopoly Act:**
 - **Guidelines:** Facilitate horizontal collaborations for a "green society."
 - **Impact:** Most environmental sustainability activities are unlikely to hinder competition and can have pro-competitive effects.
- **European Commission:**
 - **Revised Guidelines:** Includes a section on sustainability agreements.
 - **Focus:** Ensure that agreements do not severely restrict competition, addressing climate change, reducing pollution, and promoting innovation.

India's Context:

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI):**
 - **Current Status:** CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur indicates a focus on incorporating sustainability policies.
 - **Pandemic Advisory:** Recognized the need for information sharing during COVID-19 to ensure fair distribution and has built-in safeguards for necessary collaborations.



- **Potential Future Actions:**
 - **Guidance and Exemptions:** Consider releasing advisories for collaborations on sustainable goals or green technologies.
 - **Section 49(3) of Competition Act, 2002:** Promote competition advocacy and awareness, including sustainability policies.
- **Previous Recommendations:**
 - **TRAI (2011):** Suggested integrating sustainability practices into the National Telecom Policy for an environmentally friendly telecom sector.

International Examples:

- **UK Competition and Markets Authority:**
 - **Market Study:** Evaluates competition in the electric vehicle charging sector, focusing on innovation, choice, and quality improvements.

Way Forward:

- **Integrating Sustainability into Competition Policy:**
 - **Guidelines:** Develop clear guidelines on sustainability agreements and exemptions to facilitate green innovations.
 - **Assessments:** Include sustainability considerations in market assessments and cooperative efforts.
- **Encouraging Collaborative Efforts:**
 - **Policy Adjustments:** Adjust competition policies to support joint sustainability initiatives while safeguarding against anti-competitive practices.
 - **International Collaboration:** Learn from global examples and integrate successful practices into national policies.
- **Promoting Innovation and Green Technology:**
 - **Support for Green Technologies:** Encourage the adoption of newer technologies that reduce resource consumption and foster innovation through sustainability policies.
 - **Sector-Wide Adoption:** Ensure that all economic sectors contribute to achieving net-zero emissions and greener production methods.
- **Public and Private Sector Cooperation:**
 - **Partnerships:** Strengthen collaborations between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainability goals.
 - **Transparency:** Enhance transparency and accountability in reporting sustainability efforts and outcomes.

By adopting these measures, India can better align its competition policies with sustainability objectives, ensuring that economic growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.



In Brief

7. Environment Ministry nod soon for Sileru hydel project

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is all set to grant environmental clearance to the 1,350-MW Pumped Storage Hydropower Project (PSHP) at Upper Sileru in Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh.

Sileru hydel project:

- **Location:**Upper Sileru Project is situated in the midst of Chintapalli agency in Visakhapatnam District. It is about 160 KM from Narsipatnam road railway station and 220 KM from Visakhapatnam.
- **River:**Water is drawn from a weir constructed across Sileru River at Guntawada 9 miles downstream of Balimela Reservoir.Sileru River is a tributary of Sabari River in southern India. It originates in Andhra Pradesh and also flows through Odisha before merging with Sabari.
- Sabari river crosses the border into Andhra Pradesh to merge with Godavari river.



8. After 61 years, four-ringed butterfly resurfaces in India

Source: The Hindu

Context: A four-ringed butterfly belonging to a family with most members in China has resurfaced in India after 61 years in Namdapha National Park, a new study said.

Namdapha National Park:

- Namdapha is in fact the name of a river originating in the park and it meets the Noa-Dihing river.
- The Noa-Dihing river, is a tributary of the Brahmaputra and flows in a North-South direction in the middle of the National Park.

Location:

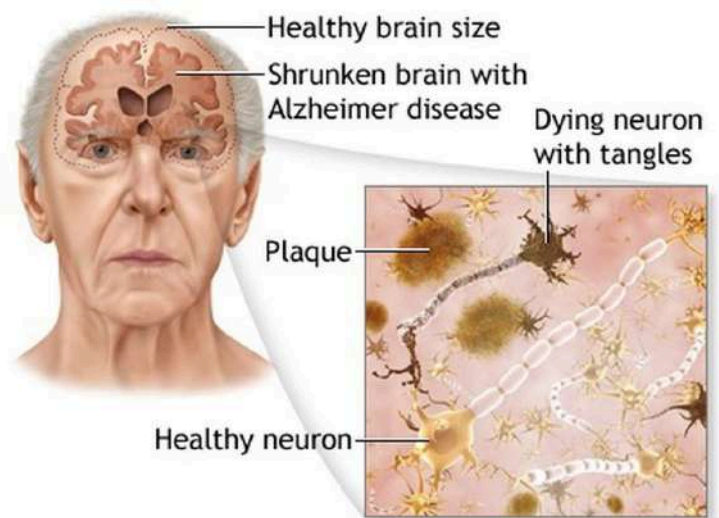
- It is located in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and it covers 1,985 sq km.



- It lies in close proximity to the Indo-Myanmar-China trijunction.
- The park is located between the Dapha bum range of the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai range.
- It is the fourth largest national park in India.
- The first three are Hemis National Park in Ladakh, Desert National Park in Rajasthan, and Gangotri National Park in Uttarakhand.
- It was established as a national park in 1983, and it was declared as a Tiger Reserve in the same year of 1983 in the same year.

Biodiversity:

- It is also a part of biodiversity hotspot.
- It is only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*), Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*), Snow Leopard (*Panthera Uncia*) and Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*).
- It is also famous for Critically Endangered species like the Namdapha flying squirrel, a species that was last spotted in 1981.
- Hoolock Gibbons, the only 'ape' species found in India is found in this National Park.
- **Vegetation:** The vegetation is characteristic of tropical evergreen forests (Tropical Rain Forests).



9. What is new Alzheimer's blood test

Source: The Hindu

Context: Researchers have discovered a drug named Lecanemab that reduces cognitive decline in patients with early Alzheimer's, making it one of the first neuroprotective treatments for the disease.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

- It is a **neurological disorder** which causes brain cells to degenerate and die. This leads to **loss of memory**, problems with words in speaking or writing, poor judgement, changes in mood and personality, confusion with time or place, etc.
- **At the first stage, these symptoms are mild** but they become more severe with time.
- Alzheimer's is the **most common cause of dementia** among older adults.
- Alzheimer's disease is thought to be caused by the **abnormal build-up of proteins in and around brain cells**. One of the proteins involved is called amyloid, deposits of which form plaques around brain cells and the other protein is called tau.
- Alzheimer's is an **incurable disease**, as the **death of brain cells cannot be reversed**.
- Women have a higher risk of having Alzheimer's disease than men.

Treatment: There is currently **no known cure** for Alzheimer's disease.

10.39% TB cases found during T.N. TB survey had no symptoms

Source: The Hindu

Context: All the 94 people with TB, who were initially picked up based on chest X-ray abnormalities and subjected to sputum examination, were found to be bacteriologically positive, thus confirming TB disease.

Tuberculosis:

- TB is caused by a **bacterium** called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, belonging to the *Mycobacteriaceae* family consisting of about 200 members.
- In humans, TB **most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB)**, but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).
- TB is a **very ancient disease** and has been documented to have existed in Egypt as early as 3000 BC.
- TB is a **treatable and curable disease**.

Transmission:

- TB is spread from **person to person through the air**.
- When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.

BCG Vaccine:

- BCG was **developed by two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin**, by modifying a strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* (that causes TB in cattle).
- It was **first used in humans in 1921**.
- In India, BCG was **first introduced in a limited scale in 1948** and became a part of the National TB Control Programme in 1962.
- In addition to its primary use as a vaccine against TB, it **protects against respiratory and bacterial infections of the newborns, and other mycobacterial diseases like Leprosy and Buruli's ulcer**.
- It is also used as an immunotherapy agent in cancer of the urinary bladder and malignant melanoma.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Bharatanatyam:

1. Bharatanatyam originated in the state of Tamil Nadu and is one of the oldest classical dance forms in India.
2. The dance form is traditionally performed exclusively by male dancers in temples and royal courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

1. MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
2. The act was enacted in 2005 and is applicable to all districts across India, except those with a 100% urban population.
3. Under MGNREGA, the wage payments are made only through cash transactions to ensure timely payment to workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the differences between the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI):

1. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the changes in prices at the wholesale level, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices at

the retail level for goods and services consumed by households.

2. The WPI includes the prices of services, while the CPI only includes the prices of goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Which of the following statements about inflation is correct?

- A. Inflation is always caused by an increase in government spending.
- B. Inflation decreases the purchasing power of money, meaning consumers can buy more goods and services with the same amount of money.
- C. Inflation is the rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises, leading to a decrease in the purchasing power of currency.
- D. Inflation only affects luxury goods and does not impact essential goods and services.

Q5. Which of the following is not listed as one of the classical dances of India?

- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Kathak
- C. Kuchipudi
- D. Bhangra

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding polio:

1. Polio is caused by a bacterium that primarily affects children under the age of five.
2. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched in 1988 and has significantly reduced polio cases worldwide.
3. The oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains inactivated viruses and is given as an injection.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7.In which state is the Sileru Hydel Project located?

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

Q8.Consider the following statements regarding tuberculosis (TB):

1. Tuberculosis is caused by a virus and primarily affects the lungs but can also impact other parts of the body.
2. The BCG (Bacillus Calmette–Guérin) vaccine is used to protect against tuberculosis and is commonly administered to infants in many countries.
3. Tuberculosis is a communicable disease that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q9.Consider the following statements regarding millets:

1. Millets are primarily grown in regions with high rainfall and are known for their high water requirements.
2. Millets are considered highly nutritious and are rich in proteins, fibre, and essential minerals such as iron, magnesium, and calcium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q10.Consider the following statements regarding Alzheimer's disease:

1. Alzheimer's disease is a type of dementia that primarily affects memory and cognitive functions.
2. The disease is caused by a single gene mutation and is entirely hereditary.
3. Early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease often include difficulty in performing familiar tasks, disorientation, and changes in mood or behaviour.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Bharatanatyam did originate in Tamil Nadu and is indeed one of the oldest classical dance forms in India, with a rich history dating back over 2,000 years.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Bharatanatyam was traditionally performed by Devadasis, who were female temple dancers. Today, it is performed by both male and female dancers, not exclusively by men.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labor. This is a key feature of the program aimed at providing social security to rural households.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The act was enacted in 2005 and is applicable to all districts of India except those that are entirely urban. Initially, it was implemented in a phased manner but now covers the entire country.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Under MGNREGA, wage payments are typically made through direct bank transfers or post office accounts to ensure transparency and reduce the scope of corruption. Cash transactions are not the standard method of payment.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The WPI measures price changes at the wholesale level, capturing the prices of goods traded between businesses, whereas the CPI measures the price changes at the retail level for goods and services consumed by

households. CPI reflects the cost of living more accurately from a consumer perspective.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The WPI primarily includes prices of goods at the wholesale level and does not cover services. In contrast, the CPI includes both goods and services that are consumed by households, such as education, healthcare, and transportation services.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Option A is incorrect.** While increased government spending can contribute to inflation, it is not the sole cause. Inflation can result from various factors, including demand-pull inflation, cost-push inflation, and monetary policies.
- **Option B is incorrect.** Inflation decreases the purchasing power of money, meaning that consumers can buy fewer goods and services with the same amount of money.
- **Option C is correct.** Inflation is defined as the rate at which the general price level of goods and services increases over time, leading to a reduction in the purchasing power of money.
- **Option D is incorrect.** Inflation affects the prices of both essential and luxury goods and services, impacting the overall cost of living.

5. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- **Option A:** Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form from Tamil Nadu, known for its fixed upper torso, bent legs, intricate footwork, and sophisticated vocabulary of hand gestures and facial expressions.
- **Option B:** Kathak is a classical dance form from Northern India, characterised by its intricate footwork, spins, and expressive gestures and movements.



- **Option C:** Kuchipudi is a classical dance-drama performance art from Andhra Pradesh, known for its graceful movements and strong narrative character.
- **Option D:** Bhangra is a traditional folk dance originating from the Punjab region. It is not classified as one of the classical dances of India, as it is primarily a folk dance form known for its lively and energetic style.

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Polio is caused by a virus, not a bacterium. It primarily affects children under the age of five and can lead to permanent paralysis.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was indeed launched in 1988 and has been instrumental in reducing polio cases worldwide by more than 99%.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains live attenuated (weakened) viruses and is administered orally, not as an injection. The inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) is given as an injection and contains inactivated (killed) viruses.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

The Sileru Hydel Project is located in Andhra Pradesh. It is a major hydroelectric power project in the region, contributing significantly to the state's power supply.

8. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, not a virus. While TB primarily affects the lungs, it can also impact other parts of the body, such as the kidneys, spine, and brain.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) vaccine is used to

protect against tuberculosis, particularly severe forms such as TB meningitis in children. It is commonly administered to infants in many countries, especially where TB is prevalent.

- **Statement 3 is correct.** Tuberculosis is a communicable disease that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, releasing droplets containing the bacteria.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Millets are typically grown in arid and semi-arid regions with low rainfall and are known for their drought-resistant qualities. They require less water compared to many other crops.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Millets are indeed highly nutritious, rich in proteins, fiber, and essential minerals such as iron, magnesium, and calcium, making them a valuable component of a balanced diet.

10. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that primarily affects memory, thinking, and cognitive functions, leading to a decline in the ability to perform everyday activities.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** While genetics can play a role in Alzheimer's disease, it is not caused by a single gene mutation. There are both genetic and environmental factors involved, and the disease is not entirely hereditary. Some forms of Alzheimer's have a genetic component, but most cases are sporadic with multiple risk factors.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease often include difficulty in performing familiar tasks, disorientation to time and place, and changes in mood or behaviour.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. What are the challenges in India's efforts to revive the cultivation and consumption of millets? (250 Words)





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