



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Coal India eyes lithium in Chile

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Ministry of Mines, Government of India through the state-owned Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), has entered into a draft exploration and development agreement with Argentina miner CAYMAN for possible acquisition and development of five-odd lithium blocks.

Lithium:

- Lithium is an **alkali mineral**, also called ‘**white gold**’.
- It is **soft, silvery-white metal**, the **lightest metal** of the periodic table.

Major Properties:

- High Reactivity
- Low Density
- Excellent Electrochemical Properties

Occurrence and Top Producers:

- Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including **spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite**.
- It is extracted from these minerals and refined into lithium metal or its compounds.
- The **top producers of lithium** are **Australia, Chile, China, and Argentina**.
- In 2022, **Australia was the world leader in terms of lithium mine production**. Chile and China ranked second and third.
- Recently, a massive lithium deposit beneath **California’s Salton Sea (US)**, holding an estimated 18 million tons of lithium, was discovered.
- **Lithium triangle** made up of **Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia**—contains roughly **half the world's known lithium**.

Applications:

- **Batteries:** Lithium is a crucial component of rechargeable batteries used in smartphones, laptops, electric vehicles, and other electronics.
- **Glass and Ceramics:** Lithium compounds are used to strengthen glass and ceramics, making them more durable and heat-resistant.
- **Medicine:** Lithium is used as a mood stabiliser in the treatment of bipolar disorder.
- **Lubricants:** Lithium greases are used in high-pressure and high-temperature applications.

Lithium in India:

- 2023 saw a surge in lithium discoveries:
 - Massive reserves unearthed in **Salal-Haimna areas** of **Reasi district** of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - Additional reserves identified in **Koderma and Giridih regions** of **Jharkhand**.



However, India has put up lithium blocks for auction: one in J&K and another in Chhattisgarh, with most of its domestic requirements, across categories like EVs, lithium-ion battery making, and other energy storage solutions, being met completely through imports. Import bill is pegged at around ₹24,000 crore.

2. PM of Bangladesh flees, lands in India

Source: The Hindu

Context: In a significant political development, Bangladesh's Prime Minister resigned and fled the country after weeks of intense unrest. Her resignation ends a 15-year tenure and comes in response to nationwide protests that have resulted in over 300 deaths. This situation has created a political vacuum as the country prepares for the establishment of an interim government.

Protest Movement and Public Response:

- The "March to Dhaka" campaign, organised by the Students Against Discrimination, saw thousands defy a curfew to demand the PM's resignation.

Implications and Recommendations:

The sudden political shift in Bangladesh raises concerns about stability and governance in a nation already grappling with various challenges, including economic pressures and climate vulnerability. The following recommendations are suggested to address these issues:

- **Formation of a Stable Interim Government:**
 - The interim government should prioritise establishing law and order, ensuring fair representation, and facilitating free and fair elections.
 - Engagement with civil society and opposition parties is crucial for maintaining transparency and public trust.
- **International Support and Cooperation:**
 - Bangladesh should seek support from international organisations such as the United Nations and regional partners to stabilise the political situation and uphold democratic processes.
 - Collaborative efforts can also help address human rights concerns and provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the unrest.
- **Focus on Socio-Economic Development:**
 - The interim government should implement policies aimed at economic recovery and social welfare, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations.
 - Investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare can help strengthen the country's resilience and foster long-term growth.
- **Strengthening Democratic Institutions:**
 - Reforms to enhance the independence and effectiveness of democratic institutions are essential to prevent future political crises.
 - Encouraging political dialogue and reconciliation can pave the way for a more inclusive and stable political environment.



India and Bangladesh Relation:

- **Historical and Political Relations**
 - **Independence Support:** India played a crucial role in Bangladesh's liberation during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
 - **Treaties:** The 1972 India-Bangladesh Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Peace established formal diplomatic ties.
 - **Visits and Dialogue:** Regular high-level visits and dialogues, including annual bilateral summits, strengthen political ties.
- **Economic and Trade Relations**
 - **Trade:** Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia. Bilateral trade reached over \$18 billion in 2022-23.
 - **Connectivity Projects:** Infrastructure projects like the Maitree Express and Bandhan Express (rail links) and the Akhaura-Agartala rail link enhance connectivity.
 - **Energy Cooperation:** India exports electricity to Bangladesh; joint projects like the Rampal Power Plant are notable.
- **Water Sharing and Border Management**
 - **Water Sharing Agreements:** The 1996 Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and ongoing discussions on the Teesta River exemplify cooperation in water resources management.
 - **Border Security:** Both countries collaborate to combat cross-border crime, smuggling, and human trafficking through regular meetings and joint patrols.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties**
 - **Cultural Exchange:** Shared linguistic and cultural heritage; platforms like the International Mother Language Day celebrate common history.
 - **Tourism and Visa Policies:** Simplified visa procedures promote tourism; initiatives like the introduction of the 'Maitree Card' for easier border movement.
- **Challenges and Issues**
 - **Teesta River Dispute:** Ongoing negotiations to resolve water-sharing issues remain a sensitive topic.
 - **Rohingya Crisis:** India supports Bangladesh's efforts in managing the Rohingya refugee situation but navigates diplomatic challenges with Myanmar.
 - **Illegal Migration and Border Management:** Both countries strive to address challenges related to illegal immigration and border management.

Way Forward

- **Enhanced Connectivity:** Continued investment in infrastructure and connectivity projects to facilitate trade and people-to-people ties.
- **Sustainable Development:** Collaboration on sustainable development goals, including renewable energy projects and climate change initiatives.
- **Deepening Ties:** Strengthening institutional frameworks and dialogues to address bilateral issues and enhance strategic partnerships.



3.China's CMOC and other miners of Congolese copper seek LME listing

Source: The Hindu

Context: India is set to finalise a **government-to-government (G2G) memorandum** of understanding (MoU) with the **Democratic Republic of Congo** for access to critical minerals, particularly copper and cobalt. The international mining conference is going to be held in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This collaboration aims to allow India to explore and potentially commercially extract these minerals, essential for industries like electric vehicles and renewable energy.

Congo is a leading global supplier of cobalt and a significant copper producer, enhancing the strategic importance of this partnership.

Copper:

- Copper is a **good conductor of electricity** and is ductile.
- It is an **important metal used by the automobile and defence industries**.
- **Alloyed with iron and nickel to make stainless steel**.
- Alloyed with nickel to make '**morel metal**'.
- Alloyed with aluminium to make '**duralumin**'.
- When alloyed with zinc it is known as '**brass**' and with tin as '**bronze**'.
- Copper ore is found in ancient as well as in younger rock formations and occurs as veins and as bedded deposits.
- **Mining for copper is a costly and tedious affair** because most of the copper ores contain a small percentage of the metal.
- **India has low-grade copper ore** [less than 1% metal content] [international average 2.5%]
- **The major part of supply comes from the USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Japan and Mexico.**

Copper Reserves in India:

- Rajasthan (50%)
- Madhya Pradesh (24%)
- Jharkhand (19%)
- The rest 7 per cent in AP, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka etc.

Cobalt Reserves in India:

- Cobalt is a **silvery-white metal** that is used in a wide range of industrial applications, including the production of batteries, magnets, and alloys. It is also used in some catalysts and pigments.
- Cobalt is often found in association with other metals, such as copper and nickel. It is extracted as a by-product of mining and processing these metals.
- **India has significant cobalt resources, with the majority of them located in the state of Odisha.** However, there is currently no production of cobalt in India.
- The cobalt resources in India are estimated to be around 44.91 million tonnes.



- The majority of these resources are located in Odisha (Kendujhar, Jajpur), Nagaland (Tuensang), Jharkhand (Singhbhum), Rajasthan (Jhunjhunu), Madhya Pradesh (Jhabua, Hoshangabad).
- Cobalt is a key component of lithium-ion batteries, which are used in electric vehicles and other renewable energy technologies.

GS II

4. India's steel trade deficit swells to ₹6,704 crore in the first quarter of FY25

Source: The Hindu

Context: India is currently the world's 2nd largest steel producer after China. Various analyses show potential for a multi-fold increase in steel consumption by 2050. Production of steel in India is set to increase significantly over the next few decades, to meet the increasing domestic and international demand. Decarbonisation of the steel sector has a big role to play in emission of low-carbon India as an essential ingredient for the country's green future.

Current Scenario of India's Steel Sector:

- **Production Scenario:**
 - Steel is a key sector for the Indian economy (responsible for 2% of the country's GDP in FY 21-22).
 - India is the world's 2nd largest producer of crude steel and 2nd largest consumer of finished steel.
 - The National Steel Policy 2017 has set a target to reach 300 million tonnes (MT) of annual production by 2030 from the existing level of 120 MT.
 - As the economy grows, India's crude steel production is expected to increase to about 435 million tonnes (mt) by 2050.
- **Emission Scenario:** Direct emissions (excluding emissions from purchased electricity use) from iron and steel production stood at approximately 270 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) in 2018, comprising approximately 9% of total national greenhouse gas emissions. Steel contributes almost 1/3rd of direct industrial CO₂ emissions, or 10% of India's total energy infrastructure CO₂ emissions and about 11% of the country's total emissions.

The pollutants released from steel producing units are:

- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
- Oxides of Sulphur (SO_x)
- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)
- PM 2.5

Significance of Decarbonising Steel Sector:

- A greener steel industry can enable India to be a global green steel manufacturing hub.



- Decarbonisation of steel making will also lead to decarbonisation of allied industries such as cars, infrastructure and buildings.
- Decarbonising the steel sector is also important from the perspective of the emerging regulatory landscape internationally; due to the EU's upcoming **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, Indian steel exports to the EU could fall by as much as 58% without any additional effort to decarbonize steel sectors.

Challenges to Decarbonising the Steel Sector

- **Challenges in Hydrogen replacing Conventional Ways:**
 - There are **two basic steel production routes**: - **Blast Furnace (BF) route**, where coke is the primary fuel, and **Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) route**, where the fuel can be coal or natural gas.
 - **India presently produces around 90% of crude steel** through the BF and coal based DRI routes. While hydrogen has the potential to fully replace coal or gas in the DRI process, it is seen to have a limited role in being able to substitute coke in the BF route.
 - **Hydrogen-based steel-making remains uncompetitive for hydrogen prices** above \$1/kg, especially in absence of a carbon cost for emissions.
- **Challenges in Scaling up Net-Zero Technologies:**
 - **Cost:** Global estimates suggest that the investment for setting up DRI steel plants with upstream green hydrogen generation could reach Rs 3.2 Lakhs/tonne.
 - Additionally, the **cost of green hydrogen at Rs 300-400/kg is higher than the cost of grey hydrogen at Rs 160-220/kg.**
 - Similarly, **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)** plants also have a high capital cost.
 - **Supporting Infra:** There is an inadequate support network for the storage, production, and transportation of hydrogen.
 - **For CCS, there is a lack of data on the availability of potential geological storage sites** and their capacities.

Steps can be Taken to Decarbonise the Steel Sector:

- **Introducing CO₂ Pricing and Rapid Development of Hydrogen:**
 - **Introduction and calibration of CO₂ pricing in the next few years will encourage investments in low carbon technologies** and accelerate adoption of hydrogen-based steel-making.
 - It will also **accelerate investment in other green technologies in the steel value chain** such as green hydrogen and renewables-based electricity.
 - A carbon price of \$50 per tonne of emissions can make green steel competitive by 2030, even at a hydrogen price of \$2/kg, and can catalyse the shift from coal-based to hydrogen-based steel-making.
- **Encourage Green Steel Consumption in End-Use:**
 - The **government is encouraging the use of green steel**, it shall set up targets for embodied carbon in public and private construction, and in automotive uses.
 - This will support creation of a domestic green steel market for domestic steel-makers, who can initially tap export markets where green steel commands a premium.
 - **International regulations, such as the CBAM**, can provide further impetus to the private sector to accelerate the transition to green steel.
- **Investing in Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS):**
 - **CCUS is currently an expensive but an important lever for reducing emissions.**



- To make it a viable decarbonisation solution for the steel industry, **more R&D efforts are required to reduce capture costs**, besides creating hubs in steel producing centres like in Odisha and Jharkhand.

What are the Initiatives to Decarbonise India's Steel Sector?

- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** identifies a significant role for green hydrogen in decarbonising the steel sector to meet India's climate goals.
- The Ministry of Steel seeks to **reduce CO₂ in the steel industry through promotion of Green Steel** (manufacturing steel without using fossil fuels).
- This can be done by **using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification, or electricity** instead of the traditional carbon-intensive manufacturing route of coal-fired plants.
- **National Solar Mission launched by MNRE** in January 2010 promotes the use of solar energy and also helps reduce the emission of steel industry.
- Recently the government launched Kalyani Group's first green steel brand '**Kalyani FERRESTA**'.

GS III

5. Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers - June, 2024

Source: PIB

Context: The Labour Bureau, an attached office of the M/o Labour & Employment, has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country. The index for the months of June, 2024 is being released in this press release.

Definition: The CPI measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services over time. It reflects the cost of living and inflation levels in an economy.

Components: The CPI includes various categories such as food and beverages, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, education, and communication.

Types:

- **Headline CPI:** Includes all categories of goods and services.
- **Core CPI:** Excludes volatile items such as food and energy prices to provide a clearer view of long-term inflation trends.

Purpose:

- **Economic Indicator:** Used to gauge inflation and cost of living adjustments.
- **Policy Making:** Influences monetary policy decisions by central banks and can affect interest rates.

Calculation:

- CPI is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and services and averaging them.



- **The formula used is:**

$$\text{CPI} = \left(\frac{\text{Cost of Basket in Current Year}}{\text{Cost of Basket in Base Year}} \right) \times 100$$
$$\text{CPI} = \left(\frac{\text{Cost of Basket in Current Year}}{\text{Cost of Basket in Base Year}} \right) \times 100$$

Relevance:

- **Adjustments:** CPI data is used for adjusting salaries, pensions, and social security benefits to maintain purchasing power.
- **Economic Analysis:** Helps in assessing the real value of income and cost of living.

Recent Trends: Monitoring CPI trends can provide insights into economic conditions such as inflation or deflation, which impacts consumer purchasing power.

Countries: Most countries have their own CPI measurement systems. For instance, in India, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** releases CPI data monthly.

Impacts:

- **Investment Decisions:** CPI trends can affect investor confidence and decisions.
- **Cost of Living:** Directly impacts the cost of living for individuals and households.

Related Terms:

- **Inflation:** The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.
- **Deflation:** A decrease in the general price level of goods and services.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. Powering India's future

Source: The Hindu

Context: India is at a pivotal moment in its energy transition journey, with the government emphasising energy security and a shift towards clean energy. Recent measures announced in the Budget reflect this commitment, highlighting policies for **pumped hydro storage, nuclear energy, and energy efficiency**. The increasing power demand due to economic growth and climate change, as evidenced by record-breaking heat waves, poses significant challenges. Thus, India must strategically navigate its energy future to sustain its economic growth.

Achievements in Energy Sector:

- **Universal Electrification:**
 - The Saubhagya scheme has nearly achieved universal electrification, with the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) reporting approximately 97% of households electrified by 2020.
- **Renewable Energy Capacity:**
 - India has witnessed a five-fold increase in installed renewable energy (RE) capacity, making it the fourth-largest globally.
 - The government aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.
- **Reduction in Distribution Losses:**
 - Power distribution companies (discoms) have reduced aggregate losses to an all-time low of about 15% in 2022-23.

Challenges:

- **Decarbonization:**
 - Rapid decarbonization of the power system while ensuring affordable and reliable power supply remains a key challenge.
 - Peak demand is rising faster than annual electricity demand, exacerbated by climate change-induced weather extremes.
- **Renewable Energy Integration:**
 - Despite efforts, renewables contribute only 13% to India's power generation mix.
 - Balancing the energy mix by increasing the share of renewables and reducing reliance on coal is crucial.
- **Infrastructure and Investment:**
 - Developing infrastructure for renewable energy projects, including grid connectivity and land access, is essential.
 - Investment in diverse clean technologies and storage solutions is needed to meet growing energy demands.

Strategies for Energy Transition:

- **Increase Renewable Targets:**
 - Set ambitious targets for renewable energy and storage systems beyond 500 GW by 2030.
 - Focus on diversifying energy sources beyond solar, such as wind and bioenergy.



- **Accelerate Clean Energy Deployment:**
 - Learn from global leaders like China and the EU, which added substantial solar and wind capacities in 2023.
 - Promote faster deployment of clean resources and enhance state-level renewable energy potential.
- **Enhance Power Market Efficiency:**
 - Increase liquidity in power exchanges to stabilise prices and integrate renewables at scale.
 - Innovate bid designs to attract RE developers to sell power in the exchange.
- **Optimise Coal Utilisation:**
 - Maintain and optimise the coal fleet, ensuring timely upkeep and technical upgrades to support non-solar power needs.
 - State regulators should revise norms to incentivize flexible coal plant operations.
- **Digitalization and Smart Metering:**
 - Expand smart metering to accurately forecast demand and enhance discom efficiency.
 - Address consumer privacy and cyber security concerns to build trust in digital initiatives.

Way Forward:

India's energy future depends on its ability to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability. The government must focus on enhancing the power sector's flexibility and resilience. Investments in clean energy infrastructure and policy reforms will be key to achieving sustainable growth and job creation in the clean energy sector. Emphasising innovation and collaboration across states and sectors will accelerate India's transition towards a cleaner energy future.

7. The issue of institutional violence, addressing it

Source: The Hindu

Context: Institutional violence in India is a pervasive issue that transcends individual acts of violence and is deeply embedded within societal structures and institutions. It manifests in various forms, including gender-based violence, caste discrimination, and systemic barriers within the judicial and law enforcement systems. Addressing institutional violence requires a comprehensive understanding of its roots, impacts, and the urgent need for reformative measures.

Nature of Institutional Violence:

- **Gender-Based Violence:**
 - Despite being the world's largest democracy with a substantial female voter base, India grapples with high rates of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - Institutional barriers often prevent survivors from seeking justice, with many facing further victimisation from the very systems meant to protect them.
- **Caste-Based Discrimination:**
 - Institutional violence is compounded by caste hierarchies, with marginalised communities, particularly Dalit women, facing disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination.
 - Rural governance structures like male-dominated panchayats often perpetuate these inequities, making it difficult for victims to access justice.
- **Judicial and Law Enforcement Challenges:**



- The **judicial system's inefficiency**, exemplified by a backlog of 40 million cases, hinders timely justice, particularly **affecting survivors of gender-based violence**.
- A 2019 **J-PAL report** highlighted that 39% of police officers view gender violence complaints as often baseless, reflecting a systemic bias that discourages reporting.

Causes of Institutional Violence:

- **Societal Attitudes and Norms:**
 - Deep-rooted patriarchal norms and societal acceptance of violence perpetuate institutional violence.
 - There is a general reluctance to challenge these norms, both among officials and the general public.
- **Inadequate Legal and Support Systems:**
 - Although India has strong domestic violence laws, implementation is often ineffective due to bureaucratic inefficiency and lack of training.
 - Survivors face a hostile environment when seeking justice, with law enforcement often discouraging the filing of complaints.
- **Lack of Representation and Awareness:**
 - Marginalised communities lack representation in decision-making processes, leading to policies that do not address their specific needs.
 - There is a lack of awareness and sensitivity towards the trauma experienced by survivors, leading to inadequate support systems.

Strategies to Address Institutional Violence:

- **Reformative Legal Frameworks:**
 - Strengthen the **implementation of existing laws** by training officials to adopt trauma-informed approaches.
 - **Establish independent oversight bodies** to monitor the conduct of law enforcement and judicial processes.
- **Empowerment and Representation:**
 - **Increase the representation of women and marginalised communities in governance and law enforcement.**
 - **Encourage the formation of women-led organisations** that can advocate for survivors and hold institutions accountable.
- **Public Awareness and Education:**
 - **Launch nationwide campaigns to change societal attitudes** towards gender and caste-based violence.
 - **Educate citizens on their rights** and the importance of demanding accountability from institutions.
- **Institutional Reforms:**
 - **Implement measures to reduce the judicial backlog**, such as fast-track courts for gender-based violence cases.
 - **Train law enforcement and judicial personnel in gender-sensitive and trauma-informed practices.**
- **Data Collection and Monitoring:**
 - **Improve data collection** on incidents of institutional violence to better understand its scope and impact.
 - **Use data to inform policy decisions** and ensure that interventions are evidence-based and effective.



Conclusion:

Addressing institutional violence in India requires a multifaceted approach that involves legal reforms, societal change, and empowerment of marginalised communities. By holding institutions accountable and fostering a culture of respect and equality, India can move towards a society where all citizens feel safe and valued. The role of voters and political leaders is crucial in driving this change and ensuring that institutional violence is eradicated from all levels of society.



In Brief

8. Preamble dropped from several NCERT Class 3, 6 textbooks

Source: The Hindu

Context: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has dropped the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks issued this year.

The Preamble serves as the introduction or preface to the Constitution of India. It encapsulates the philosophy and fundamental values that guide the Indian state and society.

Keywords in the Preamble:

- **Sovereign:** India is independent and free from external control, with full authority over its internal and external affairs.
- **Socialist:** Reflects India's commitment to achieving social and economic equality, aiming to reduce inequalities in income and status.
- **Secular:** Denotes that the state has no official religion and treats all religions with equal respect.
- **Democratic:** Emphasises the government is elected by the people, for the people, and of the people.
- **Republic:** Indicates the head of state is elected and not a hereditary monarch.

Objectives of the Preamble:

- **Justice:** Social, economic, and political justice to ensure a fair society.
- **Liberty:** Assurance of freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship.
- **Equality:** Equal status and opportunity for all citizens.
- **Fraternity:** Promoting a sense of brotherhood among all citizens, ensuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation.

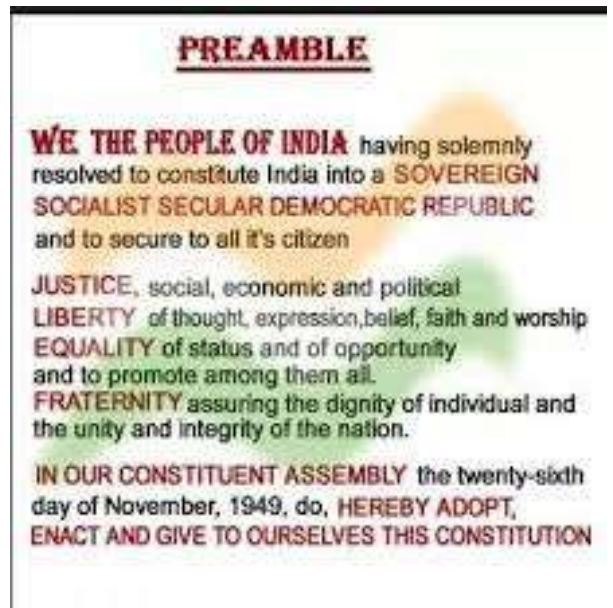
Historical Context:

- The Preamble was adopted on **November 26, 1949**, but it came into effect on **January 26, 1950**, marking Republic Day.

Nature of the Preamble:

- The Preamble is not enforceable in a court of law, but it is used as a guiding principle for interpreting the Constitution and its provisions.

Amendments:



- The Preamble was amended only once by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, which added the words "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" to the Preamble.

Supreme Court Judgments:

- **Berubari Union Case (1960):** The Supreme Court stated that the Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.
- **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):** Overruled the Berubari judgement, declaring the Preamble as an integral part of the Constitution and emphasising its significance in interpreting constitutional provisions.

9. Schemes for Aging people and divyangjans

Source: PIB

Context: National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities: Autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) is implementing the schemes for aging people and divyangjans.

Key Schemes:

- **Samarth (Respite Care Scheme):** Provides temporary care for persons with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, and multiple disabilities.
- **Gharaunda (Group Home for Adults Scheme):** Offers lifelong care and support through group homes for adults with disabilities.
- **Samarth-cum-Gharaunda (Residential Care Scheme):** Combines respite care and group home facilities, specifically targeting orphans, individuals from distressed families, and those from below-poverty-line households.

Implementation: These schemes are managed through **Registered Organizations (ROs)** across the country.

Coverage: The National Trust has established 40 centres for these schemes across India.

10. Thadou people

Source: The Hindu

Context: A section of the Thadou tribes represented by the Manipur-based Thadou Students' Association (TSA) has formed a global platform to look into critical issues facing the community, particularly in Manipur.

Thadou people:

- The Thadou are an **indigenous people** who live in the **hill country adjacent to the Imphal Valley in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur.**
- They are the **second largest in terms of population in Manipur**, next to Meitei, according to the Manipur Census 2011.



- They are also found in Assam, Nagaland, and Mizoram in India, and in Chin State and Sagaing Division in Burma/Myanmar.
- The Thadou language belongs to the **Tibeto-Burman family** of the **Sino-Tibetan languages**.
- Thadou subsistence activities include animal cultivation, hunting and fishing. Jhum (slash-and-burn) agriculture is predominant.
- Thadou settlements are located in forests. Sites on the tops of ridges or just below ridges are preferred.
- **Villages are not arranged according to an established urban plan, and there is no marking of the perimeter of a village.**
- Almost all Thadou claim to be **followers of Christianity**.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Preamble is considered a part of the Constitution and can be amended under Article 368.
2. The Preamble was amended by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, which added the words "Secular" and "Socialist."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Which of the following group of countries is collectively known as the "Lithium Triangle"?

- A. Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina
- B. Brazil, Peru, and Colombia
- C. Mexico, Venezuela, and Ecuador
- D. Australia, China, and India

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding cobalt:

1. Cobalt is primarily used in the production of lithium-ion batteries and is a critical component in electric vehicle batteries.
2. The majority of the world's cobalt reserves are found in Canada and Australia.
3. Cobalt is also used in the production of superalloys, which are essential for aerospace and industrial applications.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Gharaunda scheme:

1. The Gharaunda scheme is designed to provide group home support for adults with disabilities.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. The Gharaunda scheme is part of a larger initiative by the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q5. Which of the following statements about India-Bangladesh relations is true?

- A. India and Bangladesh share a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal, which has been resolved through the Maritime Boundary Agreement of 2014.
- B. The India-Bangladesh border is the longest international border that India shares with any country.
- C. India and Bangladesh have a bilateral agreement to manage the flow of the Ganges River, which was signed in 1996.
- D. India and Bangladesh do not have any agreements on cross-border river sharing.

Q6. Which of the following statements about anthracite, bituminous, and lignite coal is/are correct?

1. Anthracite coal is the lowest grade of coal and is characterised by high moisture content and low carbon content.
2. Bituminous coal is known for its relatively high carbon content and energy content, making it the most widely used type of coal for electricity generation.



3. Lignite coal is the highest grade of coal and is used primarily in steel production due to its high energy density.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

- 1. The CPI measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services, including food and energy.
- 2. The WPI includes the price changes at the wholesale level and excludes taxes and transportation costs.
- 3. CPI is often used to adjust wages and pensions, while WPI is used more to gauge inflation at the producer level.

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

Q8. Which of the following are the objectives of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. To secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity to all citizens
- 2. To promote international peace and security
- 3. To provide for a parliamentary system of government

Select the correct option:

- 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 inflation:

- 1. Inflation refers to a general increase in the price level of goods and services over a period of time.
- 2. High inflation always leads to a reduction in the purchasing power of money.

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. Which of the following states in India is known for having significant copper reserves?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Karnataka
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Jharkhand



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- The **Preamble is considered a part of the Constitution** and can be amended under **Article 368**.
 - **This statement is correct.** The Supreme Court, in the landmark case of *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)*, held that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution. However, it is not a source of power or a restriction on power granted in the Constitution, and it can be amended under Article 368, which deals with the amendment of the Constitution.
- The **Preamble was amended by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, which added the words "Secular" and "Socialist."**
 - **This statement is also correct.** The **42nd Amendment Act, 1976** is known as the "Mini-Constitution" due to its comprehensive nature in amending the Constitution. It added the words "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" to the Preamble, emphasising the objectives of the Indian state and the spirit of the Indian Constitution. Prior to this amendment, the Preamble read "Sovereign Democratic Republic," which was changed to "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic."

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Lithium Triangle:** The "Lithium Triangle" refers to the region in South America that encompasses parts of Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. This area is rich in lithium reserves, with the salt flats

of these countries containing approximately 54% of the world's known lithium reserves.

- **Bolivia:** Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat and is estimated to contain vast amounts of lithium.
- **Chile:** Chile has one of the largest and most productive lithium mines in the world, located in the Atacama Desert.
- **Argentina:** Argentina has several lithium mining projects in its northwestern region, contributing significantly to its economy.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. Cobalt is indeed a crucial element in lithium-ion batteries, which are used in electric vehicles and various electronic devices.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. The majority of the world's cobalt reserves are actually found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), not Canada and Australia. The DRC is the largest producer of cobalt globally.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. Cobalt is also used in the production of superalloys, which are used in aerospace engines and other high-temperature applications due to their strength and resistance to heat.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct. The Gharaunda scheme is indeed designed to provide group home support for adults with



disabilities, offering them lifelong care and support.

- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Gharaunda scheme is not implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It is managed by the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, and Multiple Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

5. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement A is correct.** The India-Bangladesh maritime boundary dispute was resolved through the Maritime Boundary Agreement of 2014, which was facilitated by the International Court of Justice.
- **Statement B is incorrect** because the India-Bangladesh border is not the longest international border that India shares; the India-China border holds that record.
- **Statement C is partially correct but misleading;** the Ganges Water Sharing Agreement, which was signed in 1996, is not a bilateral agreement solely for the Ganges but part of broader river sharing arrangements.
- **Statement D is incorrect** as India and Bangladesh do have agreements on cross-border river sharing, such as the Ganges Water Sharing Agreement.

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because anthracite coal is actually the highest grade of coal with the highest carbon content and the lowest moisture content. It is known for its high energy content and is used for heating.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Gharaunda scheme is part of the National Trust's initiatives, which include various schemes aimed at supporting persons with disabilities, such as the Samarth (Respite Care scheme) and Samarth-cum-Gharaunda (Residential Care scheme).

- **Statement 2 is correct.** Bituminous coal is intermediate in grade between anthracite and lignite and is widely used for electricity generation due to its relatively high carbon content and energy density.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because lignite is the lowest grade of coal with the lowest carbon content and energy density. It is used primarily for electricity generation, not steel production.

7. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 Correct:** The CPI measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services, including food and energy, to reflect changes in the cost of living.
- **Statement 2 Incorrect:** The WPI includes the price changes at the wholesale level, but it does not exclude taxes and transportation costs. The WPI reflects prices before they reach the consumer, which includes various costs.
- **Statement 3 Correct:** CPI is often used to adjust wages, pensions, and other contracts to maintain purchasing power, whereas WPI is used to gauge inflation at the wholesale or producer level, impacting production costs.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 Correct:** The Preamble aims to secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity to all citizens, which are



fundamental objectives outlined in the Preamble.

- **Statement 2 Correct:** Promoting international peace and security is also an objective of the Preamble, reflecting India's commitment to global peace.
- **Statement 3 Incorrect:** While the Preamble sets the goals and values of the Constitution, it does not specifically provide for a parliamentary system of government. The parliamentary system is detailed in the Constitution itself, not the Preamble.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 Correct:** Inflation is indeed characterised by a general increase in the price level of goods and services over time. This definition is accurate.

- **Statement 2 Incorrect:** While high inflation typically reduces the purchasing power of money, the relationship is not always straightforward. For example, if wages and income increase at a rate faster than inflation, the impact on purchasing power might be mitigated.

10. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Rajasthan is known for its significant copper reserves, particularly in the Khetri region. The state has substantial copper mining activities and is a major source of copper ore in India. While other states like Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh also have copper deposits, Rajasthan is particularly noted for its large reserves and mining operations.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1. Discuss the key challenges and strategies involved in India's transition towards a clean energy future. How can India balance economic growth with sustainable energy practices?

Q2. Discuss the nature and causes of institutional violence in India. Suggest effective strategies to address and mitigate its impact on marginalised communities.





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