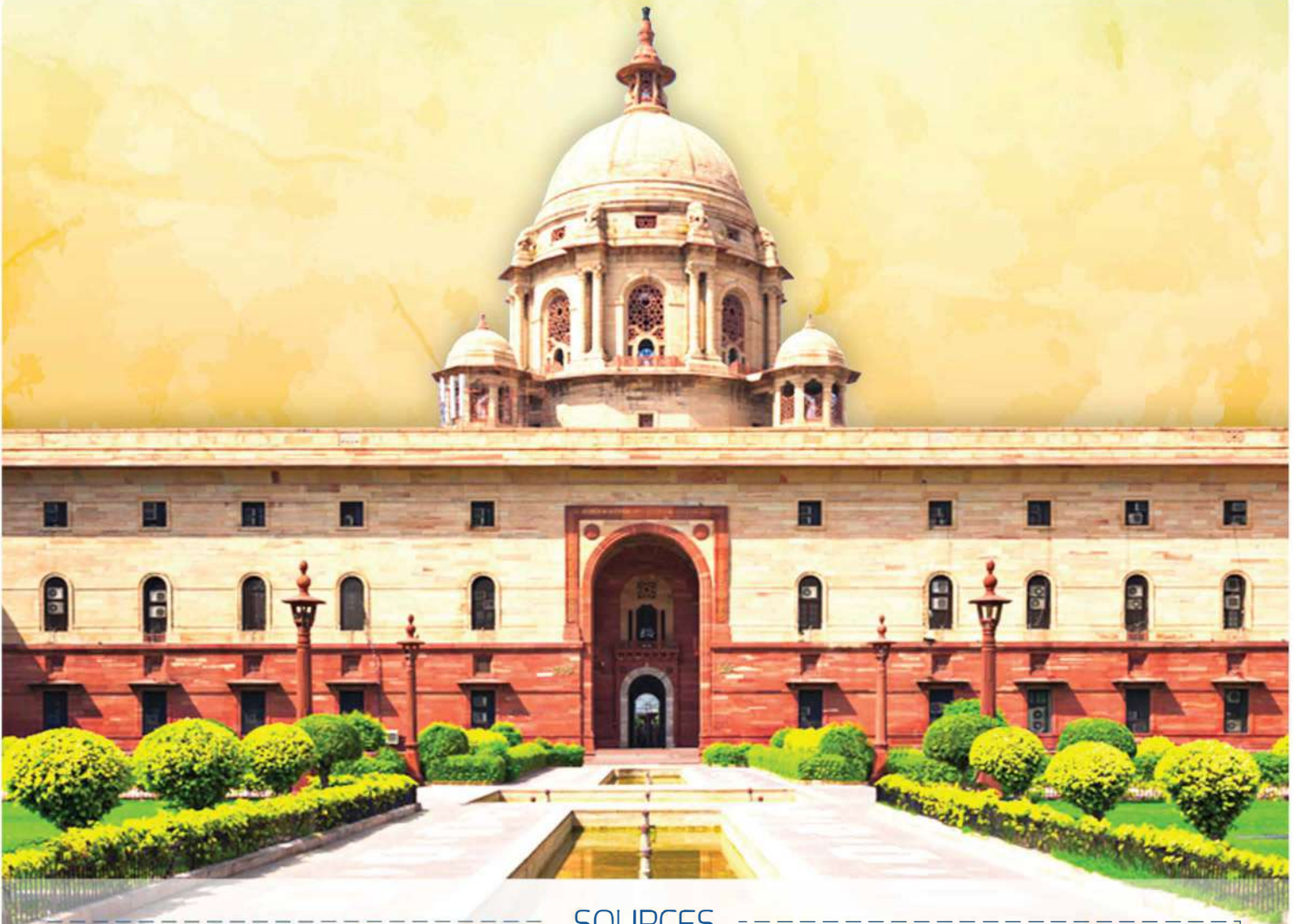




**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21 August 2024



SOURCES



## Table of Contents

1. On the ethanol blending program.....	2
2. Uttarakhand Launches India's First Gross Environment Product.....	3
3. After backlash, Union government cancels lateral recruitment.....	3
4. India, Malaysia upgrade strategic partnership, discuss entry to BRICS.....	4
5. India, Japan conduct '2+2' dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific.....	5
6. What is Slow Loris?.....	6
7. A ground plan for sustainable mass employment.....	7
8. Sikkim landslide damages building of NHPC project.....	9
9. Trade, defence, cultural ties to be in focus during PM's visit to Poland.....	9
10. Shiveluch volcano erupts after 7.0 magnitude earthquake strikes off eastern Russian coast.....	10
Daily Quiz.....	11
Solutions.....	13



## GS I

### 1. On the ethanol blending program

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** India is on its way to achieve its target of blending 20% of petrol with ethanol by 2025-26, going by the milestones on blending percentages crossed so far and the increase in ethanol production capacity.

**Ethanol:**

A renewable and biodegradable fuel produced from agricultural crops.

**Ethanol Blending Program (EBP):** Government initiative to promote ethanol blending in petrol.

**Ethanol Blending and Production in India: Key Highlights**

- **Target Achievement:** India aims to blend 20% ethanol with petrol by 2025-26. Current blending levels are around 13-15%, up from 8% in 2021.
- **Production Capacity:** Ethanol production capacity has surged to 1,380 crore litres, exceeding the target, with significant contributions from both sugarcane and food grains.
- **First-Generation Ethanol:** Predominantly produced from foodgrains and sugarcane. There are concerns about food security and the impact of increased maize imports on food prices.
- **Diversification Needed:** Emphasis should shift to second-generation (2G) and third-generation (3G) ethanol, which utilise non-food biomass and reduce food security concerns.
- **Government Measures:** Initiatives like interest subvention programs for distilleries and long-term contracts with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have boosted ethanol capacity.
- **Impact on Sugarcane:** Sugarcane-based ethanol production faces restrictions due to fears of depleting sugar stocks, with current production split between B-heavy and C-heavy molasses.
- **Water Usage:** Expanding sugarcane cultivation for ethanol requires significant water resources, potentially impacting food-grain irrigation.
- **Maize Utilisation:** Increased maize use for ethanol has led to higher imports and price concerns for its primary uses, including poultry feed and starch.
- **Fuel Efficiency:** Ethanol blends may reduce vehicle fuel efficiency by approximately 6% in non-compatible engines, though the government is promoting E20 compliance.
- **State Variations:** Ethanol production and usage vary across states, influenced by local policies, market conditions, and water availability.
- **Economic and Environmental Benefits:** Ethanol blending is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease foreign exchange outflow, and support rural economies.

**Benefits of Ethanol Blending:**

- Reduces fossil fuel dependence.
- Protects the environment.
- Supports farmers and rural communities.
- Enhances energy security.
- Generates economic benefits.

**Challenges of Ethanol Blending:**

- Feedstock availability and cost.
- Conflict with food security.
- Conversion efficiency and yield.
- Infrastructure and distribution.



**Conclusion:**

Ethanol blending offers significant benefits, including reduced reliance on fossil fuels, environmental protection, support for farmers and rural economies, enhanced energy security, and economic growth. However, it also presents challenges such as feedstock availability, potential impacts on food security, conversion efficiency, infrastructure needs, and vehicle compatibility. Balancing these factors is crucial to maximising the benefits while addressing the challenges effectively.

## 2. Uttarakhand Launches India's First Gross Environment Product

**Source:** Times of India

**Context:** Recently, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to assign monetary values to its natural resources, including air, water, forest, and soil and termed it as the Gross Environment Product (GEP).

**GEP (Green Economic Product):**

- **Definition:** Part of Green GDP, GEP measures the value of ecosystem services that contribute to human welfare and sustainable development, including provisioning, regulating, and cultural services.
- **Relation to Green GDP:** Green GDP incorporates environmental factors like biodiversity loss and climate change costs, alongside traditional GDP metrics.
- **Index Details:** The GEP Index tracks the impact of both man-made conservation (e.g., amrit sarovars) and natural processes (e.g., rainfall). It shows a 0.9% increase in environmental products from 2020–2022.

## GS II

## 3. After backlash, Union government cancels lateral recruitment

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** The UPSC has announced the recruitment of 45 joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries through a lateral entry scheme. This move has faced criticism from opposition parties, who argue it undermines reservation rights for OBCs, SCs, and STs.



### Lateral Entry Scheme:

- **Definition:** Lateral entry involves **appointing individuals from outside the government to mid-level and senior positions** to bring in domain-specific expertise and fresh perspectives.
- **Tenure:** Appointments are on a **3-year contract, extendable to a maximum of 5 years.**
- **Origin:** Introduced in **2004-09**, endorsed by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2005), and recommended by NITI Aayog (2017).
- **Eligibility:** Open to individuals with domain expertise from private sector, state governments, autonomous bodies, or public sector undertakings.
- **Reservation:** Lateral entries are excluded from reservation policies due to the **"13-point roster"** system, as each position is treated as a **"Single Post."**
- **Recruitments:** Since 2018, 63 individuals have been appointed; 57 are currently serving.
- **ARC Recommendations:**
  - **First ARC (1966):** Focused on professionalising civil services.
  - **Second ARC (2005):** Recommended lateral entry for specialised knowledge and skills, emphasising a transparent selection process.
- **Arguments in Favour:**
  - **Specialised Skills:** Addresses expertise gaps in areas like technology and finance.
  - **Innovation:** Brings diverse experiences to improve governance.
  - **Filling Gaps:** Helps mitigate the shortage of IAS officers.
- **Criticisms:**
  - **Short Tenure:** 3-year term may be insufficient for effective acclimatisation.
  - **Objectivity:** Potential conflicts of interest and impartiality issues.
  - **Morale:** Could affect the morale of permanent officers.
- **Way Forward:**
  - **Transparency:** Ensure a merit-based, transparent selection process.
  - **International Example:** UK's Fast Stream program recruits for specialised skills.

## 4. India, Malaysia upgrade strategic partnership, discuss entry to BRICS

Source: The Hindu

Context: India and Malaysia decided to upgrade ties to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership"

### BRICS Overview:

- **Definition:** BRICS is a group of emerging economies including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Summits:** The BRICS Leaders' Summit is held annually. The 15th summit was in South Africa (2023), and Russia will host the 16th in October 2024.
- **Formation:** Formed informally in 2006 during the G8 Outreach Summit. The inaugural BRIC summit occurred in 2009 in Russia, with South Africa joining in 2010.
- **Significance:**
  - **Population:** Approximately 3.5 billion people (45% of global population).



- **Economy:** Over USD 28.5 trillion in combined GDP (28% of global economy).
- **Oil:** Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE contribute to 44% of global crude oil production.
- **Geopolitical Importance:**
  - **Energy:** Boosts access to major energy reserves, with increased energy cooperation.
  - **Russia:** Diversifies its energy markets within BRICS.
  - **Strategic Locations:** Inclusion of Egypt and Ethiopia enhances influence over key maritime trade routes in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

## 5. India, Japan conduct '2+2' dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** The India-Japan partnership, framed within a free and open Indo-Pacific, is deepening as highlighted by the recent "2+2" dialogue in Delhi, underscoring its strategic importance amid regional uncertainties.

**India-Japan Partnership: Strategic Evolution and Objectives:**

- **Strategic Transformation:**
  - Over the last decade, the relationship between India and Japan has evolved into a special strategic and global partnership.
  - This development is driven by a shared need for reliable allies in a world characterised by geopolitical volatility and uncertainty.
- **Shared Objectives and Cooperation:**
  - Both countries are focused on supporting each other's strategic goals, enhancing mutual understanding, and strengthening their respective positions.
  - Their partnership includes working together with other nations that share common democratic values and interests.
- **Defence and Security Collaboration:**
  - Defense cooperation plays a crucial role in this partnership, aligning with India's broader vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.
  - Enhancing defense capabilities and expanding future collaborative efforts with Japan are essential components of this strategic vision.
- **Commitment to Democratic Values:** The partnership is underpinned by a commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law, which forms the bedrock of their collaborative efforts and strategic alignment.
- **Strategic Goals and Future Outlook:**
  - The India-Japan partnership is poised to continue growing, addressing emerging regional challenges and aligning their strategies in the Indo-Pacific.
  - The partnership underscores the importance of strategic alliances and shared values in managing global and regional issues effectively.



## GS III

### 6. What is Slow Loris?

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Villagers in Shimla Bagan, located in the Shantipur area on the Indo-Bhutan border in Chirang District, Assam, have reported the sighting of a rare species of the endangered primate Slow Loris.

**Slow Loris:**

- **Habitat:** Exclusively found in South and Southeast Asia; arboreal (tree-dwelling).
- **Venom:** Only venomous primates; venom is created by combining oil secreted from a patch under their arm with saliva.
- **Species:** Nine species including Bengal, Philippine, and Sumatran slow lorises.
- **Size:** 20 to 37 cm (10 to 15 inches) long.
- **Features:** Large eyes for night vision, compact bodies, short snouts, dense fur.
- **Behaviour:** Nocturnal, slow movements, uses specialised tooth comb for grooming and extracting gum.
- **Conservation:** Bengal slow loris is listed as Endangered and protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 7. A ground plan for sustainable mass employment

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** In response to rising unemployment and job quality concerns, the Indian government has unveiled several major employment schemes with a significant budget to boost job creation and skill development.

**Creating a Sustainable Framework for Mass Employment with Dignity:**

- The pursuit of sustainable mass employment in India necessitates a **multifaceted approach that goes beyond mere job creation.**
- The recent budget announcement of **significant employment-related schemes**, with a ₹2 lakh crore outlay over five years, aims to **provide job opportunities and enhance skills** for 4.1 crore youth.
- However, **achieving mass employment with dignity requires addressing systemic issues and implementing effective strategies** across various sectors.

**Understanding the Challenges:**

- India's employment landscape is marred by **low wage levels, inadequate skill development, and a lack of dignified job opportunities.**
- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey 2019-20** highlights that earning ₹25,000 a month places an individual in the top 10% of wage earners, reflecting a broader issue of low wage rates and limited upward mobility.
- **Short-duration skill programs** often result in low long-term placements due to inadequate wages and a mismatch between skills and job market demands.
- Additionally, the **disparity in human development indicators across states underscores the need for a more comprehensive approach.**
- States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, with robust education and health systems, exhibit higher per capita consumption and better human development outcomes. In contrast, states like Odisha, despite efforts in short-duration skilling, struggle due to limited vocational and higher education opportunities.

**Key Policy Initiatives:**

- **Decentralised Community Action:** Initiatives should begin at the grassroots level by engaging local communities through gram sabhas and urban samitis to identify skilling needs. Involving local professionals can ensure evidence-based and effective implementation of skill development programs.
- **Convergence of Developmental Initiatives:** Integrating education, health, nutrition, and employment through local governance and women's collectives can improve accountability, quality outcomes, and overall human development.
- **Vocational Education and Employability:** Adding vocational courses to undergraduate programs and standardising healthcare training to international benchmarks can enhance employability and ensure quality in the healthcare sector.





- **Support for Women-Led Enterprises:** Streamlining access to working capital loans for women-led and first-generation enterprises can help scale up small businesses. Leveraging technology to create comprehensive credit histories and improve access to financing is crucial.
- **Community-Based Childcare:** Establishing community cadres of trained caregivers to run crèches can support working women and ensure child care services are available. This approach will enable women to participate in the workforce without concerns about childcare.
- **Enhanced Skilling Infrastructure:** Investing in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics as hubs for skill development is essential. Ensuring these institutions are well-equipped and managed can provide a solid foundation for vocational training and upskilling.
- **Enterprise Skills in Schools:** Integrating technology and enterprise skills into high school curricula will prepare students for the job market, with professional collaboration enhancing practical and entrepreneurial skills.
- **Co-Sharing Apprenticeship Models:** Collaborating with industry to develop apprenticeships will enhance skilling relevance and boost employment opportunities by ensuring industry involvement.
- **Skill Accreditation Programs:** Establishing a universal skill accreditation program for training institutions can enhance the credibility and quality of vocational training. Joint sponsorship by the state and industry for skill programs can ensure better alignment with market needs.
- **Utilisation of MGNREGA Funds:** Allocating a significant portion of MGNREGA funds for skill development and livelihood security in high-deprivation areas can improve the quality of employment and income security for vulnerable populations.

#### **Conclusion:**

Creating a sustainable employment framework in India requires a holistic approach that integrates community involvement, improved vocational education, and targeted support for enterprises and women. By focusing on these areas and ensuring alignment with market needs, India can achieve mass employment with dignity and foster long-term economic stability and growth.



## In Brief

### 8. Sikkim landslide damages building of NHPC project

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** A landslide recently damaged six houses and an NHPC building at the Teesta-V hydropower station in Gangtok, Sikkim.

**Teesta-V Hydropower Station:**

- **Location:** Gangtok district, Sikkim, on the Teesta River basin.
- **Capacity:** 510 MW.
- **Type:** Run-of-river project with an 88.6-meter high concrete gravity dam.
- **Operational Since:** 2008.
- **Developer:** National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

**Teesta River:**

- **Region:** Flows through Sikkim, West Bengal (India), and Rangpur (Bangladesh).
- **Tributary of:** Brahmaputra River.
- **Course:** Rises in Sikkim, flows south, and changes course to eastward towards the Jamuna River.
- **Major Tributaries:**
  - **Left-bank:** Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola, Rangpo Chhu.
  - **Right-bank:** Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu, Rangit River.

### 9. Trade, defence, cultural ties to be in focus during PM's visit to Poland

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Members of the Indian community in Warsaw have expressed excitement over the Indian Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Poland, which will be the first visit by an Indian PM to Poland in 45 years.

**Poland: Key Facts**

- **Location:** Central Europe
- **Borders:** Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia
- **Landscapes:** Baltic Sea beaches, central lowlands, Carpathian and Sudeten Mountains
- **History:**
  - **1795:** Poland divided among Russia, Prussia, and Austria
  - **1918:** Poland restored
  - **1939:** WWII began with German-Soviet invasion
  - **Post-WWII:** Communist satellite state of the Soviet Union
  - **1989:** Transition to democracy
- **Capital:** Warsaw



- **Official Language:** Polish
- **Major Mountain Ranges:** Carpathians, Sudeten
- **Major Rivers:** Vistula, Oder
- **Government:** Parliamentary republic; Prime Minister (head of government), President (head of state)
- **Membership:** NATO, EU

## 10. Shiveluch volcano erupts after 7.0 magnitude earthquake strikes off eastern Russian coast

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupted after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of the country recently.

**Shiveluch Volcano:**

- **Location:** 280 miles from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.
- **Type:** Stratovolcano, characterized by steep slopes and alternating layers of ash, lava, and volcanic rock.
- **Height:** Summit reaches 3,283 meters (10,771 feet).
- **Activity:** One of Kamchatka's largest and most active volcanoes, with over 60 significant eruptions in the past 10,000 years. Continuous eruption since August 1999 with notable explosive events, including in 2007.
- **Features:** Numerous lava domes on its flanks.

**Kamchatka Peninsula:**

- **Location:** Far eastern Russia, between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean/Bering Sea.
- **Geothermal Activity:** One of the world's most active regions with around 30 active volcanoes.
- **Size:** Approximately 1,200 km long and 480 km wide, covering about 370,000 square km.
- **Climate:** Severe winters, cool summers.
- **Regional Capital:** Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.
- **Additional:** The Kuril Islands extend from the southern tip of the peninsula towards Japan's Hokkaido Island.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Which of the following is a major challenge in achieving higher ethanol blending in India?**

- A. Limited availability of feedstock
- B. Lack of government support
- C. High cost of ethanol production
- D. Resistance from oil marketing companies

**Q2. Which of the following statements regarding the Lateral Entry Scheme in India is/are correct?**

- 1. The Lateral Entry Scheme allows individuals from outside the government to be appointed directly to senior positions for a fixed term, with an option to extend up to 5 years.
- 2. The Lateral Entry Scheme mandates that appointments be made following the reservation policies applicable to civil service positions.
- 3. The concept of lateral entry was first introduced under the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2005), and it has been supported by NITI Aayog since 2017.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

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

**Q3. Which of the following statements about BRICS is/are correct?**

- 1. BRICS includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- 2. The 16th BRICS Leaders' Summit will be hosted by Brazil in October 2024.
- 3. The BRICS group was formally established in 2009 with the inclusion of South Africa.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 only

**Q4. Which of the following best describes the significance of the "2+2" dialogue between India and Japan?**

- A. It highlights the economic partnership and trade agreements between the two countries.
- B. It reflects the strategic and defense cooperation aimed at enhancing security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- C. It focuses on cultural exchanges and diplomatic relations outside the defense sector.
- D. It addresses the environmental and climate change initiatives between the two countries.

**Q5. Which of the following statements about the Teesta River is/are correct?**

- 1. The Teesta River originally flowed southward to empty directly into the Ganges River but later changed its course to join the Jamuna River (Brahmaputra) in Bangladesh.
- 2. The Teesta River forms a natural boundary between the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and has major left-bank tributaries including Rangit River and Zemu Chhu.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

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



**Q6. Which of the following statements about slow lorises is/are correct?**

1. Slow lorises are the world's only venomous primates and use their venom primarily to hunt insects.
2. The Bengal slow loris is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and is found across India.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

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

**Q7. Shiveluch Volcano, recently in the news, is located in which region?**

- A. Iceland
- B. Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia
- C. Mount Fuji, Japan
- D. Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

**Q8. Which of the following statements about Green Economic Product (GEP) is correct?**

- A. GEP is a measure of only the economic output from manufacturing industries.
- B. GEP includes the value of ecosystem services such as provisioning, regulating, and cultural services.
- C. GEP is synonymous with traditional GDP and does not account for environmental factors.
- D. GEP exclusively tracks man-made conservation efforts without considering natural processes.

**Q9. Which of the following groups of countries is part of the BRICS bloc?**

- A. Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- B. Brazil, Russia, India, China, Japan
- C. Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, China, South Africa
- D. Brazil, Mexico, India, China, South Africa

**Q10. Which of the following statements about the Brahmaputra River are correct?**

1. The Brahmaputra River is a transboundary river that flows through China, India, and Bangladesh.
2. It originates in the Tibetan Plateau and is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.
3. The Brahmaputra River forms the boundary between India and Bhutan in its upper reaches.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

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



## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

Achieving higher ethanol blending in India faces several challenges, with limited availability of feedstock being a major one. Here's why:

- **Limited Availability of Feedstock:** Ethanol is primarily produced from feedstocks such as sugarcane, maize, and other agricultural products. In India, the availability of these feedstocks can be inconsistent due to climatic conditions, agricultural practices, and competition with other uses. This limitation impacts the overall production capacity of ethanol, making it a significant challenge for achieving higher blending targets.
- **Lack of Government Support:** While the government has implemented various policies to promote ethanol blending, including subsidies and incentives, the real challenge often lies in the practical aspects of feedstock availability and infrastructure.
- **High Cost of Ethanol Production:** The cost of producing ethanol can be high, but it is closely linked to feedstock prices and availability. If feedstock is scarce, costs can rise, but the fundamental challenge remains the availability of the raw material.
- **Resistance from Oil Marketing Companies:** Oil marketing companies may have concerns about blending ethanol due to potential impacts on fuel quality and infrastructure. However, this resistance is typically not as significant as the issue of feedstock availability.

### 2. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is correct.** The Lateral Entry Scheme involves appointing individuals from outside the government to mid-level and senior positions on a 3-year contract, which can be extended to a maximum of 5 years.
- **Statement 2: This is incorrect.** Lateral entries are not subject to reservation policies due to the "13-point roster" system, which treats these positions as "Single Posts," thus bypassing reservation guidelines.
- **Statement 3: This is correct.** The concept of lateral entry was introduced and recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2005) and has been supported by NITI Aayog in its recommendations since 2017.

### 3. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: This is correct.** BRICS is indeed a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **Statement 2: This is incorrect.** The 16th BRICS Leaders' Summit will be hosted by Russia, not Brazil, in October 2024.
- **Statement 3: This is correct.** The BRICS group was formally established with the first BRIC summit in 2009, and South Africa joined in 2010, making it BRICS.

### 4. Correct Answer is B

**Explanation:** The "2+2" dialogue between India and Japan focuses on strategic and defense cooperation, emphasising their joint efforts to enhance security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This dialogue involves discussions on defense strategies, security concerns, and collaborative measures to address regional challenges, distinguishing it from economic, cultural, or environmental topics.



**5. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Teesta River originally flowed southward to empty into the upper Padma River (Ganges) but changed its course around 1787 to flow eastward, joining the Jamuna River (Brahmaputra) in Bangladesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the Teesta River does form a boundary between Sikkim and West Bengal, the major left-bank tributaries include Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola, and Rangpo Chhu. Rangit River and Zemu Chhu are right-bank tributaries.

**6. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Slow lorises are indeed the only venomous primates and use their venom primarily for defence and to kill small prey.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the Bengal slow loris is listed as Endangered, it is not found across all of India but is confined to the northeast of the country.

**7. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:** Shiveluch Volcano is situated on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, known for its high volcanic activity.

**8. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

Green Economic Product (GEP) is a component of Green GDP and focuses on the value provided by ecosystems that contribute to human welfare and

sustainable development. This includes a range of ecosystem services such as provisioning (e.g., water, food), regulating (e.g., climate regulation), and cultural (e.g., recreational benefits). Unlike traditional GDP, which does not account for environmental factors, GEP integrates these environmental aspects into economic measures. The other options are incorrect because:

- GEP is not limited to the economic output from manufacturing industries; it encompasses broader ecosystem services.
- GEP is not synonymous with traditional GDP; it incorporates environmental factors and ecosystem services.
- GEP considers both man-made conservation efforts and natural processes, not just one or the other.

**9. Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:** BRICS is an acronym for the group of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This grouping aims to enhance cooperation and collaboration among these countries in various domains including economic, political, and cultural exchanges.

**10. Correct Answer is D**

**Explanation:**

- The Brahmaputra River does indeed flow through China (where it is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo), India, and Bangladesh, making it a transboundary river.
- It originates from the Tibetan Plateau in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo.
- In its upper reaches, the Brahmaputra River forms a boundary between India and Bhutan.



**MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION**

**Q1.**What is the Lateral Entry Scheme of the Government into Civil Services? What are its merits and demerits and its implications? (15 Marks 250 Words)







**UPSC  
Mentorship**

A Unit of Mentorship India



कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



Power To Empower



75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

## GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

[www.upsmentorship.com](http://www.upsmentorship.com)

@mentorship.india

C - 103, Second Floor, Sector-2  
Noida - 201301

[contact@mentorshipindia.com](mailto:contact@mentorshipindia.com)