



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



Table of Contents

1. 'Proposed EU Carbon Border Adjustment Tax is protectionist'	2
2. Lalu demands Nitish's resignation after Centre says no to special status.....	4
3. Economy likely to grow by 6.5% to 7% this year: Survey.....	5
4. Cleanest pigs ever are raised to grow organs for humans.....	6
5. MGNREGA job demand no indicator of distress.....	8
6. Climate Change: Need to move away from 'excessive preoccupation' with meeting global temperature target, says Economic Survey.....	10
7. Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).....	12
8. ISRO conducts experimental flight of Air Breathing Propulsion System.....	13
9. Fungi- Mushroom.....	14
10. Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty.....	14
Daily Quiz	18
Solutions	21



GS I

1. 'Proposed EU Carbon Border Adjustment Tax is protectionist'

Source: The Hindu

Context: The European Union (EU) has announced that its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will be introduced in its transitional phase from October 2023, which will levy a carbon tax on imports of products made from the processes which are not Environmentally sustainable or non-Green.

CBAM will translate into a 20-35 % tax on select imports into the EU starting 1st January 2026.

CBAM:

- CBAM is part of the "Fit for 55 in 2030 package", which is the EU's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with the European Climate Law.
- The CBAM is a policy tool aimed at reducing Carbon Emissions by ensuring that imported goods are subject to the same carbon costs as products produced within the EU.
- **Implementation:** The CBAM will be implemented by requiring importers to declare the quantity of goods imported into the EU and their embedded Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis.
- **Objectives:** CBAM will ensure its climate objectives are not undermined by carbon-intensive imports and spur cleaner production in the rest of the world.

Significance:

- It can encourage non-EU countries to adopt more stringent environmental regulations, which would reduce global carbon emissions. It can prevent carbon leakage by discouraging companies from relocating to countries with weaker environmental regulations.
- The revenue generated from CBAM will be used to support EU climate policies, which can be learned by other countries to support Green Energy.

How can it Impact India?

- **Impact India's Export:**
 - It will have an adverse impact on India's exports of metals such as Iron, Steel and aluminium products to the EU, because these will face extra scrutiny under the mechanism.
 - India's major exports to the EU, such as iron ore and steel, face a significant threat due to the carbon levies ranging from 19.8% to 52.7%.
- **Carbon Intensity and Higher Tariffs:**
 - The carbon intensity of Indian products is significantly higher than that of the EU and many other countries because coal dominates the overall energy consumption.
 - The proportion of coal-fired power in India is close to 75%, which is much higher than the EU (15%) and the global average (36%).



- Therefore, direct and indirect emissions from iron and steel and aluminium are a major concern for India as higher emissions would translate to higher carbon tariffs to be paid to the EU.
- **Risk to Export Competitiveness:**
 - It will initially affect a few sectors but may expand to other sectors in the future, such as refined petroleum products, organic chemicals, pharma medicaments, and textiles, which are among the top 20 goods imported from India by the EU.
 - Since India has no domestic carbon pricing scheme in place, this poses a greater risk to export competitiveness, as other countries with a carbon pricing system in place might have to pay less carbon tax or get exemptions.

Measures can India Take to Mitigate the Impact of CBAM:

- **Decarbonization Principle:**
 - On the domestic front, the government has schemes like National Steel Policy, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to increase India's production capacity, but carbon efficiency has been out of the objectives of such schemes.
 - The government can complement these schemes with a Decarbonization Principle.
 - Decarbonization refers to the process of reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), from human activities such as transportation, power generation, manufacturing, and agriculture.
- **Transfer of Clean Technologies:**
 - India should negotiate with the EU to transfer clean technologies and financing mechanisms to aid in making India's production sector more carbon efficient.
 - One way to finance this is to propose to the EU to set aside a portion of their CBAM revenue for supporting India's climate commitments.
 - Besides, India should also begin preparing for the new system just as China and Russia are doing by establishing a Carbon Trading System.
- **Take on EU's Tax Framework:**
 - India, as the leader of the G-20 2023, should use its position to advocate for other countries and urge them to oppose the EU's carbon tax framework.
 - India should not only focus on its own interests but also consider the negative impact that the CBAM will have on poorer countries that heavily rely on mineral resources.



GS II

2. Lalu demands Nitish's resignation after Centre says no to special status

Source: The Hindu

Context: RJD chief, Congress State president target Chief Minister after Union Finance Ministry, in a written response to JD(U) MP, says that 'the case for special category status for Bihar is not made out'

Special Category Status:

To be able to get the status, states have to fulfil the following requirements (based on **Gadgil formula**):

- They need to have hilly and difficult terrain.
- They need to have low population density and /or a sizable share of the tribal population.
- They must be in a strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries.
- They must be economically and infrastructurally backward.
- They must have a non-viable nature of state finances.

Evolution of the idea of SCS:

- It was introduced in **1969** on the **recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission** (chaired by **Mahavir Tyagi**) to benefit certain backward states.
- At that time, this was provided to **Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland**.
- The **idea of SCS was first formalised in April 1969** when the **Gadgil formula** of fund allocation was cleared by the National Development Council (NDC).

Which states have the SCS?

- Currently, **11 states** have the SCS in the country including **Assam, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Telangana**.
- Telangana, the newest state of India, is accorded the status as it was carved out of another state - Andhra Pradesh, which hit the state's finances.
- Along with AP and Bihar, Odisha is another state demanding SCS

What benefits do states with SCS enjoy?

- Benefits to these states included getting **Central assistance** of as much as **90%** in the form of grants and **10%** loan for centrally sponsored schemes.
- For Non-SCS, the Normal Central Assistance was calculated as **30%** grant and **70%** loan.
- SCSs were also provided **Special Plan Assistance** for projects of special importance to the state.
- Further, unspent funds do not lapse at the end of the financial year.



- They also get **tax concessions** although many tax benefits have now been subsumed under the goods and services tax regime.

Why Bihar and Andhra Pradesh Demanding SCS and its Feasibility?

- **Bihar:**
 - Bihar has been asking for it ever since the **mineral-rich Jharkhand** was carved out of it back in 2000.
 - Bihar has been **ranked as the poorest state in India**, according to the Centre's **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report**.
 - It is estimated to have **nearly 52% of its population**, without having proper access to requisite health, education and living standards.
 - While the state meets most of the criteria for the SCS, it does not fulfil the criteria of hilly terrain and geographically difficult areas.
- **Andhra Pradesh:**
 - **After its bifurcation in 2014**, the then UPA government at the Centre had promised to grant SCS to AP to compensate for the loss of revenue and of Hyderabad, where much of the development was concentrated.
 - **Today's AP is essentially an agrarian state, with low economic buoyancy, leading to huge revenue disabilities.**
 - SCS would mean higher grants-in-aid to the state government from the Centre. To illustrate, per capita grants to SCSs is Rs 5,573 crore per year, whereas AP receives only Rs 3,428 crore.

Feasibility:

- According to the **14th Finance Commission**, the SCS was a burden on the Centre's resources and this has been used by the central government to reject SCS to more states.
- In order to plug the resource gap without extending SCS, **tax devolution to states has been raised to 42% as recommended by the 14th FC and has been maintained by the 15th FC (41%).**
- However, with the **16th FC** already set up and working on the formula for tax devolution between the Centre and states for the five-year period starting April 1, 2026, granting special category status to these two states may be a simpler task.

GS III

3. Economy likely to grow by 6.5% to 7% this year: Survey

Source: The Hindu



Context: The document, released on the eve of Budget, says that the economy has broadly caught up with pre-COVID growth trends; it stresses the need to address inequality, unemployment as policy priority.

What is the Economic Survey?

- The Economic Survey of India is presented by the Government of India before the Union Budget.
- It is an essential annual report that reviews the economy's development over the past year along with the performance of major development programs, and highlights the government's policy initiatives.

When Will the Economic Survey 2024 Be Released?

- The Economic Survey 2024 was released on July 22, 2024. It was released a day before the release of the Union Budget 2024-25.
- This timing allows for a detailed assessment of the previous fiscal year's economic data and the incorporation of recent economic developments.

Key areas likely to be covered include:

- **GDP Growth:** Analysis of the GDP growth rate and its drivers, including sectoral contributions from agriculture, industry, and services.
- **Fiscal Policy:** Examination of government revenue and expenditure, fiscal deficit, and debt sustainability.
- **Monetary Policy:** Overview of inflation trends, interest rates, and monetary policy stance.
- **External Sector:** Analysis of trade balance, foreign exchange reserves, and external debt.
- **Employment and Social Indicators:** Assessment of employment trends, poverty, healthcare, and education.
- **Reforms and Policy Initiatives:** The Economic Survey 2024 will review major economic reforms and policy initiatives undertaken by the government over the past year.

4. Cleanest pigs ever are raised to grow organs for humans

Source: The Hindu

Context: Recently, US Surgeons said it's the first time a pig kidney has been transplanted into a living person.

First Attempt for Xenotransplantation:

- Xenotransplantation involving the heart was first tried in humans in the 1980s.
- An American baby, known as Baby Fae, who was born with a congenital heart defect, and who received a **baboon heart** in 1984.
- Modified Pig Heart (January 2022 – University of Maryland): Doctors used a **genetically modified pig heart** for a patient with no other options.



Xenotransplantation:

- A Transplantation Process: Xenotransplantation is the process of transplanting organs from one species to another, particularly from animals to humans.
- It is any procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation or infusion into a human recipient of either: Live cells, tissues, or organs from a non-human animal source.
- Human body fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had ex-vivo contact with live non-human animal cells, tissues or organs.
- **Ex-vivo contact:** It refers to a medical procedure in which an organ, cells, or tissue are taken from a living body for a treatment or procedure, and then returned to the living body.

Need for Xenotransplantation:

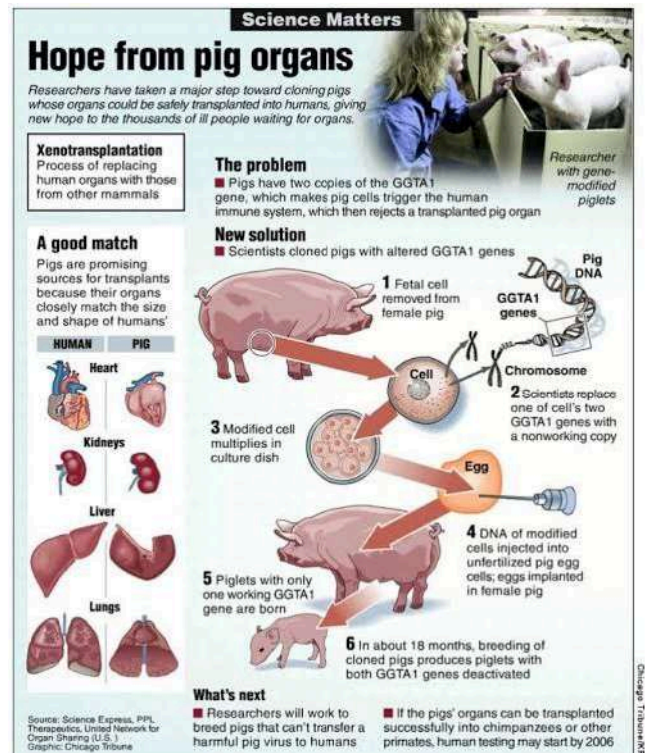
- Xenotransplantation is seen as an alternative to the clinical transplantation of human organs whose demand around the world is increasing.
- The recent advancements, including genetic modifications in pigs to render their organs more compatible with humans, have revitalised hopes of addressing the critical shortage of donated organs.

Reason to Choose Pigs (*Sus scrofa domestica*) for Transplantation:

- **Easy to Raise:** They offer advantages over primates for organ procurements, because they are easier to raise and achieve adult human size in six months.
- **Similar Physiology & Anatomy:** The pig's anatomical and physiological parameters are similar to that of humans and the breeding of pigs in farms is widespread and cost-effective.
- **Matched with the Need:** Many varieties of pig breeds are farmed, which provides an opportunity for the size of the harvested organs to be matched with the specific needs of the human recipient.

Ethical Issues in Xenotransplantation:

- **Animal Rights:** Critics from the animal rights movement argue that xenotransplantation disregards the rights of animals. They assert that animals have intrinsic rights that should not be violated for human benefit.
- **Anthropocentrism and Moral Responsibility:** Xenotransplantation often reflects an anthropocentric view, where humans prioritize their needs over animals. This philosophy raises ethical concerns and is seen as a contributing factor to ecological crises.



- **Medical Implications:** Xenotransplants pose substantial risks due to the potential for organ rejection and unknown consequences.
- **Religious Conflicts:** Transplanting pig organs may create ethical conflicts for individuals whose religious principles prohibit interactions with pigs, potentially limiting their medical options.

5. MGNREGA job demand no indicator of distress

Source: The Hindu

Context: Laying the groundwork for revisiting the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as a poverty alleviation tool, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran noted in the Economic Survey that demand under the scheme was not a “real indicator” of rural distress.

MGNREGA:

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural development.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- **Legal Right to Work:** Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- **At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.**
- **Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages** specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948.**
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:** The most important part of MGNREGA’s design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an ‘unemployment allowance’ must be given. This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.



Issues Associated with Implementation of Scheme:

- **Delay and Insufficiency in Funds Dispersal:** Most states have failed to disburse wages within 15 days as mandated by MGNREGA. In addition, workers are not compensated for a delay in payment of wages. This has turned the scheme into a supply-based programme and subsequently, workers had begun to lose interest in working under it.
- There is ample evidence by now, including an admission by the Ministry of Finance, that delays in wage payments are a consequence of insufficient funds.



- **Caste Based Segregation:** There were significant variations in delays by caste. While 46% of payments to SC (Scheduled Caste) workers and 37% for ST (Scheduled Tribes) workers were completed in the mandated seven-day period, it was a dismal 26% for non-SC/ST workers.
- The negative impact of caste-based segregation was felt acutely in poorer States such as Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- **Ineffective Role of PRI:** With very little autonomy, gram panchayats are not able to implement this act in an effective and efficient manner.
- **Large Number of Incomplete works:** There has been a delay in the completion of works under MGNREGA and inspection of projects has been irregular. Also, there is an issue of quality of work and asset creation under MGNREGA.

Way Forward:

- **Must Ensure Work is Provided:**
 - The government must ensure that work is provided notwithstanding the demand.
 - The government should expand the scheme and focus on value addition and multiply community asset works.
- **Strengthening the Scheme:** There is a need for better coordination between various government departments and the mechanism to allot and measure the work
- **Gender Wage Gap:** Some discrepancies in the payouts need to be addressed, too. Women in the sector, on an average, earn 22.24% less than their male counterparts.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

6. Climate Change: Need to move away from ‘excessive preoccupation’ with meeting global temperature target, says Economic Survey

Source: IE

The government of India articulated a radically different position on climate change (at a time when it is becoming increasingly clear that the 1.5°C target would be missed) in the Economic Survey (ES) 2023-24 presented in the Parliament.

What is the Global Temperature Target?

- According to the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries must make efforts to ensure that the rise in global average annual temperature is contained –
 - Within 2°C from the pre-industrial times (average of 1850-1900 period), and
 - Preferably within 1.5°C.
- Every country has to prepare and implement an action plan that contributes towards meeting this target.

Why is India Challenging Global Climate Change Discourse?

- Inequity of the global climate change architecture: India has consistently criticised the inequity of the global climate change architecture and the indifference of developed countries in their climate efforts.
- A single global temperature (1.5 or 2°C thresholds) target: The global temperature target fails to reflect the intricate connections between climate, ecological integrity, and human well-being.
- Alternate energy solutions had their own set of problems: For example, critical minerals (required for batteries) were being mined in the most underdeveloped parts of the world, adversely affecting regional ecological health.

Suggestions in the Economic Survey for the Climate Problem:

- A more sustainable approach to addressing the climate problem would involve changing lifestyle choices and minimising waste and overconsumption rather than switching to an alternate energy source.
- A more balanced approach suggests that the best insurance against climate change is to implement shorter-term policies aimed at improving people's quality of life.

What is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

- These are tariffs that will apply on energy-intensive goods imported into the EU.
- Its goal is to ensure that
 - Local producers of iron, steel, and aluminium (which use a significant amount of fossil fuel) do not face a competitive disadvantage when compared to



- Producers of similar goods made in developing nations whose industries have more lenient emission standards for fossil fuels.
- The CBAM system is expected to come into force on January 1, 2026.

Why India Criticises CBAM?

- CBAM is in contravention to the Paris Agreement: These taxes are in contravention to the spirit of the Paris Agreement that recognised Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).
- India is adversely affected by CBAM:
 - In 2022, 27% of India's exports of iron, steel and aluminium products worth \$8.2 billion went to the EU.
 - To achieve net zero by 2070, India needs \$28 billion annually until that year.
 - India's climate action has been largely financed through domestic resources and the flow of international finance has been very limited.
 - Hence, CBAM will affect India's financial resources for climate change adaptation.



In Brief

7. Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)

As a sub-scheme under the Central Sector Scheme “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)”, the Ministry of MSME launched “MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative” (MSME-TEAM Initiative).

MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative (MSME-TEAM Initiative):

- It aims at assisting five lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to onboard the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, through awareness workshops which will include hand-holding assistance for onboarding onto ONDC.
- It aims to provide financial assistance to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) through Seller Network Participants, for catalogue preparation, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design.
- Of the total five lakh MSEs to be benefited, two and a half lakh MSEs would be women owned
- The objective of the Initiative is to provide assistance to MSEs all across the country.
 - However, awareness workshops will be conducted preferably in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and MSME Clusters, for greater outreach, especially among women and SC/ST owned MSMEs.
- The MSME TEAM Initiative, being a sub-scheme, is for a period of three years upto March 2027.
- However, MSMEs can continue to onboard onto ONDC, which is an open network.

Key Facts about RAMP Scheme:

- It is a World Bank-assisted program that aims to improve the performance of MSMEs in India.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched on 30 July, 2022, by the Ministry of MSME.
- The RAMP scheme has a number of objectives, including:
 - Improving access to markets and credit for MSMEs
 - Strengthening institutions and governance at the central and state levels
 - Improving center-state linkages and partnerships
 - Addressing issues of delayed payments
 - Greening of MSMEs
- The National MSME Council has been set up by the Ministry to work as an administrative and functional body of the RAMP Programme.
- Sub schemes under RAMP:
 - MSME GIFT Scheme: MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation Scheme intends to help MSMEs adopt green technology with interest subvention and credit guarantee support.
 - MSE SPICE Scheme: The MSE Scheme for Promotion and Investment in Circular Economy aims to support circular economy projects, which will be done through credit subsidy and will lead to realising the dream of MSME sector towards zero emissions by 2070.
 - MSE ODR Scheme: The MSE Scheme on Online Dispute Resolution for Delayed Payments is a first of its kind scheme to synergise legal support with modern IT tools and Artificial Intelligence to address the incidences of delayed payments for Micro and Small Enterprises.

What is ONDC?



- It is a network based on open protocol and will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking, and travel, among others, to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application.
- Specifically, ONDC is a set of protocols and specifications that allow different e-commerce platforms to connect and interoperate with each other.
- The platform aims to create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies, and support MSMEs and small traders by helping them get on online platforms.
- It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It seeks to democratise digital or electronic commerce, moving it from a platform-centric model to an open-network.
- It enables sellers and buyers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network, regardless of what platform or application they use.
- Through ONDC, merchants will be able to save their data to build credit history and reach consumers.

8. ISRO conducts experimental flight of Air Breathing Propulsion System

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology.

Air Breathing Propulsion System:

- In this system the rocket will carry its fuel, but will not carry an on-board oxidiser.
- Instead, this system will utilize atmospheric oxygen as an oxidiser to burn the fuel. This makes rockets significantly lighter and more efficient.
- However, such air-breathing technologies can be used only within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere, where there is an adequate supply of oxygen.
- Such technologies might be feasible in the denser layers of Earth's atmosphere (up to 70 kilometres altitude), and thereafter the rocket must switch to another stage that has both fuel and an on-board oxidizer.

Types of air-breathing propulsion

- **Ramjet:** It is an air breathing propulsion engine operating on the principle of supersonic combustion. It has the absence of any rotator and relies solely on the forward motion of the engine to compress incoming air.
- **Scramjet:** It is an upgraded version of the Ramjet and generates thrust through supersonic air flow and combustion. It moves at hypersonic speed and performs best at high speeds, greater than Mach 5.



- In 2023, India became the fourth country to successfully demonstrate the flight testing of a Scramjet Engine.
 - **Dual-Mode Ramjet (DMRJ):** It is a jet engine where a ramjet transforms into a scramjet over Mach 4-8 range and it can efficiently operate both in subsonic and supersonic combustor modes.

9. Fungi- Mushroom

Recently, a study showed that the ingestion of psilocybin, the hallucinogenic compound present in magic mushrooms, results in a temporary reset of extensive neuron networks in the brain responsible for regulating an individual's perception of time and self.

- Mushrooms are fungi that typically have a stem, a cap, and gills.
- They are classified as fungi because they lack chlorophyll and cannot produce their food through photosynthesis.
- The fungi constitute a unique kingdom of heterotrophic organisms.
- They are a diverse group of eukaryotic microorganisms or macroscopic organisms that belong to their biological kingdom, distinct from plants, animals, and bacteria.
- Except for unicellular yeasts, fungi are filamentous.
- Fungi have beneficial applications such as yeast in baking and brewing, antibiotic production like penicillin, and culinary uses.
- Fungi prefer to grow in warm and humid places.
- Reproduction in fungi can take place by vegetative means (fragmentation, fission and budding), asexual reproduction (by spores) and sexual reproduction.
- Fungi play a crucial role in preserving the equilibrium of our ecosystem through several key functions like Decomposition, Symbiosis, and Soil enrichment.

10. Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty

India is hosting the 46th World Heritage Committee Meeting for the first time from 21 to 31 July 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This session will examine 27 nominations, including India's Moidams – The Mound – Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty under the Cultural Property category.

Key Points

Event	Details
Host Country	India
Location	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



Dates	21-31 July 2024
Committee Session	46th
Total Nominations	27
Categories	19 Cultural, 4 Natural, 2 Mixed sites, 2 Boundary Modifications
Indian Nomination	Moidams – The Mound – Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty

Moidams – The Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty

Aspect	Details
Cultural Context	Tai-Ahom clan from China, capital in Brahmaputra River Valley (12th-18th century CE)
Significant Site	Choraideo
Burial Tradition	Moidams, vaulted mounds for royal burials
Materials Used	Wood, stone, burnt bricks
Architectural Features	Vaulted chambers, centrally raised platforms, personal belongings buried with the deceased
Cultural Significance	Reflects Tai-Ahom beliefs, unique royal burial practices

Historical Context

- **Tai-Ahom Clan:** Migrated from China, established various capitals in the Brahmaputra Valley.
- **Choraideo:** First capital under Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha, sacred burial site.
- **Moidams:** Vaulted mounds constructed for royal burials, reflecting divine status of kings.
- **Materials and Techniques:** Evolution from wood to stone and burnt bricks over 600 years.

Architectural Features

Feature	Details
Vaulted Chambers	Often double-storied, accessed through arched passages
Burial Platform	Centrally raised, accompanied by personal belongings



Construction Materials	Bricks, earth, vegetation
Landscape	Transformed into undulating hillocks resembling celestial mountains

Cultural Significance

- **Outstanding Universal Value:** Reflects Tai-Ahom beliefs about life, death, and afterlife.
- **Largest Cluster:** Choraideo has the largest and most significant concentration of Moidams.
- **Preservation:** Efforts by Archaeological Survey of India and Assam State Department of Archaeology.

Conservation Efforts

- **Challenges:** Vandalism by treasure seekers in the early 20th century.
- **Restoration:** Successful efforts to restore and preserve the site.
- **Legal Protection:** Protected under national and state laws.

Comparisons with Similar Properties

- **Similarities:** Compared to royal tombs in ancient China and pyramids of Egyptian pharaohs.
- **Unique Aspects:** Choraideo stands out in the Tai-Ahom cultural region for its scale and significance.

World Heritage Committee Meeting

- **Host Country:** India
- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- **Dates:** 21-31 July 2024

Moidams - Burial System

- **Cultural Context:** Tai-Ahom clan from China
- **Significant Site:** Choraideo
- **Architectural Features:** Vaulted chambers, centrally raised platforms

Key Takeaways

- **Cultural Heritage:** Understanding the significance of the Moidams provides insights into India's rich cultural heritage.
- **Architectural Techniques:** Knowledge of ancient construction techniques and materials.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Awareness of the efforts to preserve India's historical sites.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

1. MGNREGA aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
2. The Act mandates that at least 50% of the works in terms of cost should be implemented by Gram Panchayats.

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 xenotransplantation:

1. Xenotransplantation refers to the transplantation of living cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another.
2. One of the primary challenges of xenotransplantation is the risk of rejection due to immune system incompatibility.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Article 370 of the Indian Constitution granted special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reason (R): Article 370 allowed Jammu and Kashmir to have its own Constitution and limited the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

1. The CBAM is a policy initiative by the European Union to reduce carbon emissions by imposing tariffs on imported goods based on their carbon content.
2. The primary aim of CBAM is to prevent carbon leakage, which occurs when companies move production to countries with less stringent climate policies.
3. CBAM applies uniformly to all countries, including those within the European Union.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Union Budget and related Articles of the Constitution:



1. The presentation of the Union Budget in the Indian Parliament is mandated by Article 112 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The Consolidated Fund of India is mentioned in Article 266 of the Indian Constitution.
3. The Finance Bill, which is introduced along with the Union Budget, is covered under Article 110 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q7. Which of the following statements are true about fungi?

1. Fungi constitute a unique kingdom of heterotrophic organisms.
2. Fungi belong to the same biological kingdom as plants.
3. Except for unicellular yeasts, fungi are filamentous.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q8. Consider the following statements about the MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative (MSME-TEAM Initiative):

Q6. Consider the following statements about the Moidams – the Mound-Burial system of the Ahom Dynasty:

1. The Tai-Ahom clan migrated from China and established their capital in various parts of the Brahmaputra River Valley.
2. Choraideo was the first capital of the Tai-Ahoms under Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha.
3. The Moidams are characterized by single-storied vaulted chambers accessed through arched passages.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

1. The MSME-TEAM Initiative aims to assist five lakh MSMEs to onboard the ONDC platform.
2. It provides financial assistance to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) for catalogue preparation, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design.
3. The initiative focuses exclusively on MSMEs in Tier 1 cities.

Which of the above statements 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 about the Air Breathing Propulsion System:



1. The system carries its fuel but not an on-board oxidizer.
2. The system utilizes atmospheric oxygen as an oxidizer to burn the fuel.
3. The system can be used in the vacuum of space.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 10. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Temperature Target as per the 2015 Paris Agreement:

1. The rise in global average annual temperature must be contained within 2°C from pre-industrial times.
2. The preferred limit for the rise in global temperature is 1.5°C from pre-industrial times.
3. The reference period for pre-industrial times is the average of 1850-1900.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



Solutions

1. Correct answer is C

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. MGNREGA is designed to provide at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, thereby enhancing livelihood security in rural areas.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Act mandates that at least 50% of the works in terms of cost should be implemented by Gram Panchayats to ensure local level decision-making and participation.

2. Correct answer is C

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Xenotransplantation refers to the transplantation of living cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another.
- Statement 2 is correct. One of the primary challenges of xenotransplantation is the risk of rejection due to immune system incompatibility, as the recipient's immune system may recognize the transplanted cells, tissues, or organs as foreign and mount an immune response against them.

3. Correct answer is C

Explanation:

- Assertion (A) is correct. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution granted special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Reason (R) is also correct. Article 370 allowed Jammu and Kashmir to have its own Constitution and limited the Indian Parliament's legislative powers in the state, requiring the state's concurrence for applying central laws to the state.

4. Correct answer is A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The CBAM is indeed a policy initiative by the European Union designed to reduce carbon emissions by imposing tariffs on imported goods based on their carbon content.
- Statement 2 is correct. The primary aim of the CBAM is to prevent carbon leakage, where companies might relocate production to countries with less stringent climate regulations to avoid costs associated with carbon emissions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. CBAM does not apply to countries within the European Union; it targets imports from countries outside the EU that do not have equivalent carbon pricing mechanisms.

5. Correct answer is B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 112 of the Indian Constitution mandates the presentation of the Union Budget in the Indian Parliament.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Consolidated Fund of India is mentioned in Article 266 of the Indian Constitution.



- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Finance Bill is introduced under Article 117 of the Indian Constitution, not Article 110. Article 110 deals with Money Bills.

6. Correct answer is : A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The Tai-Ahom clan migrated from China and established their capital in various parts of the Brahmaputra River Valley.
- Statement 2 is correct. Choraideo was the first capital of the Tai-Ahoms under Chau-lung Siu-ka-pha.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Moidams are characterized by double-storied vaulted chambers accessed through arched passages.

7. Correct Answer is : B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Fungi constitute a unique kingdom of heterotrophic organisms.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Fungi belong to their own biological kingdom, distinct from plants, animals, and bacteria.
- Statement 3 is correct. Except for unicellular yeasts, fungi are filamentous.

8. Correct Answer is : A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The MSME-TEAM Initiative aims to assist five lakh MSMEs to onboard the ONDC platform.

- Statement 2 is correct. It provides financial assistance to MSEs for catalogue preparation, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The initiative focuses on conducting awareness workshops preferably in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and MSME clusters.

9. Correct Answer is : A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The system carries its fuel but not an on-board oxidizer.
- Statement 2 is correct. The system utilizes atmospheric oxygen as an oxidizer to burn the fuel.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The system cannot be used in the vacuum of space; it can only be used within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere where there is an adequate supply of oxygen.

10. Correct Answer is : D

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The rise in global average annual temperature must be contained within 2°C from pre-industrial times.
- Statement 2 is correct. The preferred limit for the rise in global temperature is 1.5°C from pre-industrial times.

Statement 3 is correct. The reference period for pre-industrial times is the average of 1850-1900.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

1. What is the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ? Discuss its Potential impact on Indian Exports and suggest measures that India can take to mitigate this impact.





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