



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. The road to 2047 for Indian agriculture

Source: The Hindu

Context: India aims to become a developed nation by 2047, requiring a sixfold increase in per capita Gross National Income (GNI). This calls for a major focus on comprehensive agricultural development.

- **Goal for 2047:** India aims to become a developed nation by significantly increasing its per capita Gross National Income (GNI), which requires six times the current level.
- **Agriculture Transformation:** Key to this goal is transforming agriculture through sustainable practices like precision farming, genetically modified crops, and advanced irrigation techniques.
- **Current Initiatives:**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):** Promotes water-use efficiency with an allocation of ₹93,068 crore for 2021-26, covering 78 lakh hectares.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** Provides financial aid for crop losses, with 49.5 crore farmers enrolled and claims over ₹1.45 lakh crore.
 - **Electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM):** Integrates markets electronically; 1,361 mandis linked by September 2023, benefiting 1.76 million farmers with trade worth ₹2.88 lakh crore.
- **Challenges:**
 - **Economic Disparity:** Agriculture employs 46% of the workforce but contributes only 18% to GDP, with a growth rate of 0.7% compared to the overall GDP growth of 7.6%.
 - **Population Growth:** Expected to reach 1.5 billion by 2030, increasing food demand by about 2.85% annually.
- **Initiatives to Support Farmers:**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):** Provides ₹6,000 annually to over 11.8 crore farmers.
 - **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:** Distributes over 23 crore cards to optimize soil nutrient use.
 - **International Year of Millets (2023):** Promotes nutritious coarse grains.
 - **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:** ₹1 lakh crore fund supporting over 38,326 projects, improving farmer incomes by 20%-25%.
 - **SVAMITVA Initiative:** Issues over 1.6 crore property cards, improving land security and credit access.
- **Strategic Planning:**
 - **Future Demand:** Anticipated food grain demand in 2047-48 is 402-437 million tonnes, with expected production exceeding demand by 10%-13%.
 - **Investments Needed:** Significant investment in agricultural research, infrastructure, and policy support is crucial.
 - **2024-25 Budget:** Includes ₹20 lakh crore for agricultural credit and the launch of the Agriculture Accelerator Fund to boost innovation and growth.



2. Keeping an Empire Alive

Source: Indian Express

Context: Reporter explores Hampi, the historic heart of the Vijayanagara Empire, to examine the challenges in preserving this vast and significant site.

Key Points: Conservation and Challenges at Hampi

- **Overview of Hampi:**
 - Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of India's largest heritage sites, covering approximately 250 sq km and featuring around 1,600 monuments.
 - It was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, known for its grandeur, and has been a site of ongoing archaeological interest since the 18th century.
- **Recent Incident:**
 - In 2024, the saalu mantapa pavilion at the Virupaksha Temple collapsed due to heavy rainfall, raising concerns about the site's conservation.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
 - Conservation of Hampi involves multiple stakeholders: the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Karnataka Department of Archaeology, and local administrations.
 - The ASI and Karnataka government have been involved in excavations and conservation since the 1970s, with significant discoveries such as the paan-supari bazaar.
- **Historical Context:**
 - Hampi was ransacked in 1565 by the Deccan Sultanates, leading to widespread destruction.
 - Rediscovery began in the late 18th century with British explorers and early restorations.
- **Challenges in Excavation:**
 - Excavations have been described as haphazard, with significant portions of the site still covered by debris and vegetation.
 - Systematic excavation and documentation have been criticised for lacking a comprehensive approach.
- **World Heritage Status:**
 - Hampi was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, leading to intensified conservation efforts and stricter regulations.
 - In 1999, Hampi was briefly placed on the 'World Heritage in Danger List' due to a proposed bridge construction.
- **Impact on Local Communities:**
 - The World Heritage status led to regulations that affected local livelihoods, including the removal of markets and commercial activities.
 - Efforts were made to relocate and rehabilitate affected residents, but challenges remain in balancing heritage conservation with community needs.
- **Current Issues and Recommendations:**
 - Critics argue for more organic conservation methods that include community engagement and address environmental concerns.
 - Emphasis is needed on improving sanitation, green mobility, and architectural guidelines to sustain both the site and its local population.
- **Visitor Experience:**
 - Hampi's monuments are preserved but often in isolation, with areas like the former bazaars now quiet and devoid of the bustling activity that once characterised them.



GS II

3. Not taking sides

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Prime Minister's recent visit to Kyiv, following a trip to Moscow, aimed to balance India's position on the Russia-Ukraine war.

- **India's Position:** India has **maintained a neutral stance on the conflict**, abstaining from critical UN resolutions, ignoring Western sanctions, and not supporting Ukraine's requests for G-20 inclusion or high-level participation in peace summits.
- **Significance of Visit:** This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since its independence in 1991, indicating a potential shift or balance in India's policy.
- **Visit Details:** During the visit, discussions focused on the conflict, and agreements were signed on agriculture, culture, medical products, and community development. No significant advancements on strategic partnerships or Ukraine's other requests were made.
- **Broader Implications:** The visit raises questions about India's role in conflict resolution and its potential involvement in upcoming peace initiatives.
- **Current Role:** India has been involved in peace dialogues more symbolically than substantively and has not shown a strong interest in leading or significantly influencing peace efforts.

4. Not all insults can be ruled as offences under SC/ST law

Source: The Hindu

Context: Supreme Court Ruling: Not all insults or intimidatory comments aimed at Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) individuals are offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

- **Case Overview:** The court granted anticipatory bail to the editor of a YouTube channel accused of derogatory comments against a Kerala MLA from the SC community.
- **Key Judgment Points:**
 - **Intentionality:** The 1989 Act applies only if the insult or intimidation is specifically due to the victim's SC/ST status.
 - **Caste Identity:** Insults must be directly linked to the victim's SC/ST identity for the Act to be invoked.
 - **Evidence Requirement:** The case must show that the victim's SC/ST identity was the primary reason for the insult or intimidation.



5. India lends Ukraine a Shoulder

Source: Indian Express

Context: In a historic first, Prime Minister met the Ukrainian President in Kyiv and emphasised India's stand for peace in the country's ongoing conflict with Russia.

Key Points: Indian Prime Minister's Visit to Ukraine

- **Historical Visit:**
 - First visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since its independence in 1991.
 - Meeting held with the Ukrainian President in Kyiv.
- **Diplomatic Stance:**
 - Emphasis on India's commitment to peace and dialogue to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
 - Offered assistance in peace efforts while maintaining a neutral stance.
- **Ukraine's Response:**
 - Desire expressed for India to fully support Ukraine instead of a neutral "balancing act."
 - Urged India to leverage its influence to address Russian actions.
- **Key Actions and Statements:**
 - Floral tributes paid at a Mahatma Gandhi statue in Kyiv.
 - Four agreements signed covering agriculture, medicine, culture, and humanitarian assistance.
 - Presented medical supplies for emergency care to the Ukrainian government.
- **Energy Trade Discussion:**
 - Discussion included India's energy trade with Russia.
- **Previous Interactions:**
 - Visit followed a trip to Moscow where the conflict was discussed with the Russian President.
 - Criticism from Ukraine over the Moscow visit, particularly related to a Russian attack on a children's hospital.
- **Previous Meeting:**
 - In June, a meeting was held at the G7 summit to reaffirm support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- **India's Balancing Act:**
 - Continued trade relations with Russia, including discounted crude oil imports, despite Western sanctions.
 - Provided essential medicines and support to Ukraine during the conflict.

GS III

6.Space sector contributed Rs.20,000 crore to India's GDP over the last decade

Source: The Hindu

Context: India's space sector has contributed about \$24 billion (₹20,000 crore) to the GDP over the past decade.



- The sector has directly supported 96,000 jobs in both public and private sectors.
- For every dollar generated by the space sector, there was a multiplier effect of \$2.54 on the Indian economy.
- The space sector's productivity is 2.5 times higher than the broader industrial workforce.
- These findings were presented at National Space Day, marking the first anniversary of Chandrayaan-3's successful landing.
- The study, initiated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), assessed the space sector's socio-economic impact from 2014 to 2023.
- It was conducted by Indian firms econONE and Novaspace, based on interviews with 56 organisations in both sectors.

7.No immediate need to collaborate with China on space: ISRO

Source: The Hindu

Context: India is open to collaborating with China on space research if needed but currently sees no immediate need for such engagement.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

- **Establishment and Origin:**
 - **INCOSPAR:** Established in 1962 under the Department of Atomic Energy, led by Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.
 - **ISRO:** Founded on August 15, 1969, in Bengaluru to replace INCOSPAR and expand space technology applications.
- **Objectives:**
 - Develop and apply space technology for national needs.
 - Focus areas include communication, television broadcasting, and meteorological services.
- **Key Centres:**
 - **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram:** Launch vehicle development.
 - **U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru:** Satellite design and development.
 - **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota:** Satellite integration and launching.
 - **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala and Bengaluru:** Development of liquid stages and cryogenic stages.
 - **Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad:** Sensors for communication and remote sensing.
 - **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad:** Remote sensing satellite data processing.
- **Launch Vehicles:**
 - **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):** Versatile and reliable for multiple mission profiles.
 - **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV):** Used for launching heavier payloads.
 - **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III (LVM3):** For heavier payloads and future missions.
- **Satellites:**
 - **Experimental Satellites:**
 - **Aryabhata (1975):** First Indian satellite.
 - **Rohini Satellite RS-1:** First experimental flight for SLV3.



- **Communication Satellites:**
 - **INSAT System:** Revolutionised communication in India.
 - **GSAT Series:** Provides telecommunication and broadcasting services.
- **Earth Observation Satellites:**
 - **Bhaskara-I (1979):** First remote sensing satellite.
 - **IRS-1A (1988):** First in a series of remote sensing satellites.
 - **Other satellites:** Oceansat, CARTOSAT series, RISAT, EOS Series.
- **Navigation Satellites:**
 - **GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):** Satellite-based navigation over India.
 - **NavIC:** Indigenous regional navigation system providing accurate positioning.
- **Small Satellites:**
 - Examples include **YOUTHSAT** and **Microsat**.
- **Space Explorations:**
 - **ASTROSAT (2015):** First dedicated astronomy mission.
 - **Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan, 2013):** India's first interplanetary mission to Mars.
 - **Chandrayaan-3:** Lander-rover mission to the moon.
 - **Aditya L1:** First solar mission.
- **Upcoming Missions:**
 - **Gaganyaan:** India's first manned space mission.
 - **X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat):** To study X-ray polarimetry.
 - **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR):** Earth observation satellite.
 - **SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment):** Focuses on space docking technologies.

8. Inflation will gradually glide towards 4% target, but this would take several quarters: MPC member

Source: Indian Express

Context: Growth for 2024-25 and 2025-26 is projected around 7%, below the economy's potential growth rate.

Key Points from the Interview

- **Inflation Outlook:**
 - Retail inflation was at 3.5% in July.
 - Inflation is expected to trend towards the 4% target over several quarters, with potential transient spikes due to food inflation.
- **Monetary Policy and Inflation Target:**
 - The 4% inflation target is a statutory mandate and is considered non-negotiable.
 - Adjustments to the target, such as excluding food inflation from CPI, are under government jurisdiction, not the Monetary Policy Committee's.
- **Measurement and Precision:**
 - The 2% tolerance band around the inflation target addresses measurement errors and forecasting difficulties.
- **Interest Rate Decisions:**



- A 25 basis point cut in the repo rate was supported in August 2024.
- Further rate cuts will be contingent on inflation and growth outcomes in the upcoming months.
- **Impact of Global Trends:**
 - U.S. Federal Reserve interest rate decisions are not expected to significantly impact India's monetary policy due to India's monetary autonomy and modest current account deficit.
- **Growth Forecast:**
 - GDP growth is projected around 7% for 2024-25 and 2025-26, below the potential growth rate of 8%.
- **Factors for Achieving Potential Growth:**
 - Key policy measures include digitalization, tax reforms, and infrastructure investment.
 - Demographic changes are increasing the labor force.
 - Reduction in real interest rates is needed to stimulate private sector investment.
- **Private Capital Investment:**
 - Demand uncertainty and restrictive monetary policy are limiting private capital investment.
 - Lower real interest rates are necessary to encourage investment despite high capacity utilization.

9. PM Wani revival: Trai proposes reduction in high Internet costs by telcos

Source: Indian Express

Context: Trai reports that annual tariffs for a 100 Mbps Internet leased line are 40 to 80 times higher than those for a 100 Mbps FTTH broadband connection.

- **Trai's Proposal:**
 - Trai proposed reducing broadband connection rates charged by telcos and ISPs to Public Data Offices (PDOs) under the PM Wani programme.
 - The proposal is part of the draft telecommunication tariff (70th Amendment) Order, 2024.
- **Current Issue:**
 - **High bandwidth costs** for PDOs make the PM Wani programme economically unviable.
 - **Internet leased lines are charged up to Rs 8 lakh annually**, compared to Rs 300-400 per month for personal broadband connections.
 - **Annual tariffs for Internet leased lines are 40 to 80 times higher** than retail broadband for 100 Mbps connections.
- **Impact on PM Wani:**
 - PM Wani aims to democratise broadband access via public Wi-Fi hotspots.
 - Deployment has been below targets: 207,642 hotspots vs. 5 million target by 2020 and 10 million by 2025.
- **Costs and Usage:**
 - Data sachets under PM Wani are priced at Rs 5-10 per day.
 - Average daily data usage per Wi-Fi hotspot has decreased from 1 GB to a few MBs.
- **Regulatory Focus:**
 - Trai's draft order proposes aligning tariffs for PDOs with retail broadband rates.
 - A review of this arrangement will be conducted after two years based on implementation experience.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

10. The annual accusation of board exam mark inflation

Source: The Hindu

Context: In India, school boards are often accused of inflating marks for classes 10 and 12, as evidenced by high pass percentages and a large proportion of students scoring above 60%.

Accusations of Mark Inflation and Compression:

- Indian school boards are often accused of inflating marks and compressing the distribution of grades in classes 10 and 12.
- High pass percentages and a large proportion of students scoring above 60% suggest these practices.
- Such practices undermine the credibility of the education system and affect students' preparedness for higher education and job markets.

Board Examination Statistics (2023):

- **Class 10:** 85% pass rate; 61% scored above 60%.
- **Class 12:** 82% pass rate; 56% scored above 60%.
- Wide variation in the percentage of students scoring above 60% across different states.

Challenges in Measuring Academic Performance:

- No standard scale to compare academic performance across different boards.
- National-level entrance tests (e.g., NEET, JEE) and NAS do not serve as reliable benchmarks due to their elimination-focused nature and limited sample sizes.

Need for Standardization and Transparency:

- The examination system needs greater transparency in question paper setting, marking, and result publication.
- Automated and standardized processes should be introduced for setting and evaluating papers.
- Students should have access to their answer scripts and a straightforward revaluation process.
- Marksheets should include both actual marks and standardized scores to ensure comparability and reduce inflation.

Recommendations:

- Implement transparent and standardized assessment systems.
- Ensure transparency in question setting, marking, and publication of results.
- Publish both actual and standardized scores to improve comparability and credibility.

11. How not to tax multinational corporations

Source: Indian Express

Context: Recent RBI actions aim to increase control over rupee volatility through various regulatory measures.

RBI's Currency Management and Regulatory Measures: Key Points

- Prohibiting Speculative Trades:



- In 2023, the RBI mandated that users must establish a valid underlying exposure for currency trades on exchanges.
- This regulation has led to an 80% drop in trading volumes and restricted speculative trading.
- Critics argue this move damages market liquidity and drives trading to offshore markets.
- **Regulating Offshore Trading Platforms:**
 - The RBI proposed regulating offshore electronic trading platforms (ETPs) that deal in rupee-linked derivatives.
 - The proposal seeks to control offshore non-deliverable forwards (NDF) markets, which are significantly larger than the onshore market.
 - The RBI aims to oversee these platforms despite jurisdictional challenges.
- **Instructions to Banks:**
 - The RBI instructed banks to avoid adding to their trading positions against the rupee during its depreciation.
 - Banks were also advised to settle trade payments with the UAE directly in rupees, reducing dollar dependence.
 - Such measures aim to mitigate rupee depreciation and lower the impact of dollar outflows.
- **Debate on Regulatory Measures:**
 - Expanding regulatory powers may introduce uncertainty and increase business costs.
 - Regulations should address market failures, not just volatility, which is a natural market response.
 - The RBI's actions may have long-term effects on market incentives and operational costs.
- **Overall Recommendation:**
 - The RBI should focus on facilitating onshore trading and avoiding excessive regulatory measures that could harm market efficiency and business environment.

In Brief

12. Implement school safety guidelines, Centre tells States

Source: The Hindu

Context: Following protests over alleged sexual assault at a school in Badlapur, the Union Education Ministry directed all States and Union Territories to implement its safety guidelines for schools.

- The guidelines, issued in 2021 under the **Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**, aim to ensure the safety and security of children in schools.
- The guidelines mandate accountability for school management, including principals and teachers, across government, government-aided, and private schools.
- Key areas covered include preventive education, reporting procedures, legal provisions, support and counselling, and creating a safe environment.
- States and Union Territories are encouraged to adapt and notify these guidelines as needed.
- The guidelines emphasise a "**Zero Tolerance Policy**" against negligence by individuals or management.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which river flows near the historical site of Hampi?

- A. Ganges
- B. Yamuna
- C. Krishna
- D. Godavari

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. The RBI is responsible for issuing currency notes and managing foreign exchange reserves in India.
2. The RBI directly regulates the stock exchanges and capital markets in India.

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 statement about inflation:

Assertion (A): Inflation targeting is used by central banks to stabilize the economy by controlling price levels.

Reason (R): By setting an explicit inflation target, central banks can influence expectations, which helps in anchoring inflation and stabilizing economic growth.

Choose the correct option:

- A. Both Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason is the correct explanation for the Assertion.
- B. Both Assertion and Reason are correct, but the Reason is not the correct explanation for the Assertion.
- C. Assertion is correct, but the Reason is incorrect.
- D. Both Assertion and Reason are incorrect.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding PM Wani:

Statement 1: The PM Wani (Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) scheme was launched in 2020 to expand public Wi-Fi access across India.

Statement 2: As of July 2024, the number of PM Wani Wi-Fi hotspots deployed in India has exceeded the target set by the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018.

Choose the correct option:

- A. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct.
- B. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are incorrect.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 1 is incorrect, but Statement 2 is correct.

Q5. Which of the following countries does NOT share a border with Ukraine?

- A. Poland
- B. Romania
- C. Belarus
- D. Austria

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding National Income:

1. National Income includes the value of all goods and services produced within a country's borders, regardless of who owns the production resources.
2. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices is calculated by adding Net Indirect Taxes to the Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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



Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

1. ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) was India's first interplanetary mission and successfully entered Mars' orbit in 2014.
2. The Chandrayaan-2 mission included an orbiter, a lander, and a rover, but the lander Vikram failed to make a soft landing on the Moon.
3. The PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) is the most powerful rocket developed by ISRO and is primarily used for launching satellites into geostationary orbits.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. The MPC is responsible for deciding the benchmark interest rates to control inflation and stimulate economic growth, with a target inflation rate set by the government.
2. The MPC's decisions are based solely on the recommendations of the RBI Governor, and its resolutions are implemented by the RBI without any external oversight.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only statement 2 is correct.
- C. Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- D. Neither statement 1 nor statement 2 is correct.

Q9. Which of the following statements accurately describes provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012?

1. The POCSO Act mandates that the age of consent for sexual activities is 16 years, with no exceptions.
2. The Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of offences under the Act and ensures that trials are completed within one year from the date of filing the charges.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Only statement 2 is correct.
- C. Both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- D. Neither statement 1 nor statement 2 is correct.

10. Which of the following sites is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- A. The Great Wall of China
- B. The Grand Canyon
- C. The Sahara Desert
- D. The Alps



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is C

Explanation: Hampi is situated on the banks of the Krishna River, which is one of the major rivers in India. The Krishna River flows through the southern part of the Indian subcontinent, and its proximity to Hampi contributed to the area's prosperity during the Vijayanagara Empire, as it provided vital water resources and facilitated trade.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The RBI is indeed responsible for issuing currency notes and managing foreign exchange reserves in India. This is one of its primary functions to ensure monetary stability and manage the country's foreign exchange reserves.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The RBI does not directly regulate the stock exchanges and capital markets. This responsibility falls under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The RBI's role is primarily focused on monetary policy, banking regulation, and financial stability.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is correct:** Inflation targeting is indeed a strategy used by central banks to manage the economy by controlling inflation. It involves setting a specific target for the inflation rate and using monetary policy tools to achieve it.
- **Reason (R) is correct:** Setting an explicit inflation target helps in shaping public expectations about future inflation. This, in turn, can help stabilize inflationary pressures and support consistent economic growth by providing a clear monetary policy framework.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The PM Wani scheme was indeed launched in 2020 with the aim of increasing public Wi-Fi access across India through local public data offices (PDOs).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** As of July 2024, the number of PM Wani Wi-Fi hotspots deployed is 207,642, which is below the target of 5 million hotspots set by the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 for 2020, and the subsequent target of 10 million by December 2025.

5. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- Poland shares a western border with Ukraine.
- Romania shares a southwestern border with Ukraine.
- Belarus shares a northern border with Ukraine.
- Austria does not share a border with Ukraine. It is located to the west of Ukraine, separated by several other countries including Slovakia and Hungary.

6. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** National Income typically measures the total income earned by a country's residents, including income from abroad and excluding income earned by foreigners within the country. It is often adjusted from Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to account for net income from abroad.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices is indeed calculated by adding Net Indirect Taxes (i.e., indirect taxes minus subsidies) to the Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices.



7. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) was India's first interplanetary mission and successfully entered Mars' orbit in 2014, marking a significant achievement for the organisation.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The Chandrayaan-2 mission included an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan). While the orbiter successfully continues its mission, the Vikram lander failed to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) is not the most powerful rocket developed by ISRO; it is known for its versatility and reliability in launching satellites into polar orbits. The GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) and its variant GSLV Mk III are designed for launching satellites into geostationary orbits and are more powerful than PSLV.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The MPC of the RBI is responsible for setting the benchmark interest rates to manage inflation and support economic growth. The MPC's inflation target is set by the government, and the committee aims to achieve this target while considering economic conditions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The decisions of the MPC are not based solely on the recommendations of the RBI Governor. The MPC consists of six members, including the RBI Governor, who decide on monetary policy based on a majority

vote. Additionally, the MPC's decisions are subject to public accountability and are communicated to the public, with the aim of transparency and clarity in monetary policy.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The POCSO Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years, and it criminalises sexual activities with children irrespective of consent. The age of consent is not applicable under this Act as it strictly prohibits any sexual activity with minors.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The POCSO Act provides for the establishment of Special Courts to expedite the trial process for cases involving sexual offences against children. It mandates that these trials should be completed as quickly as possible, ideally within one year from the date of filing the charges, to ensure timely justice for the victims.

10. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **The Great Wall of China** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is recognized for its historical significance and architectural marvel as one of the most impressive constructions in human history.
- **The Grand Canyon** is a natural landmark in the United States, but it is a National Park rather than a World Heritage Site. However, it is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site as of 1979.
- **The Sahara Desert** and **The Alps** are significant geographical features but are not designated as World Heritage Sites.



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q1.How can India achieve its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 through sustainable agricultural practices and strategic initiatives?

Q2.Discuss the implications of mark inflation and mark compression in Indian school board examinations. How can transparency and standardisation improve the credibility of the examination system?





**UPSC
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