



**UPSC
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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GS I

1. States have unlimited right to tax mineral-rich lands: SC

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Rajya Sabha has passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 for making amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957.

Background:

- The MMDR Act, 1957 was **amended in 2015** to introduce **auction-based mineral concession allocation** for transparency, create **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** for the welfare of affected communities, establish **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** to promote exploration, and impose stricter penalties for illegal mining.
- The Act was further **amended in 2016 and 2020** to address specific emergent issues and was last **amended in 2021** to bring further reforms in the sector, such as, removing the distinction between captive and merchant mines, etc.
- Critical minerals have gained significance in view of India's commitment towards energy transition and achieving **Net-Zero emission by 2070**.

Key Provisions under the Bill:

Private Sector to Mine Atomic Minerals:-

- The Bill allows the **private sector to mine six out of 12 atomic minerals** such as **lithium, beryllium, niobium, titanium, tantalum and zirconium**.
- When it becomes an Act, Centre will have powers to auction mining lease and composite licence for critical minerals such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, nickel etc..

Auction for Exploration Licence :-

- The **exploration licence will be granted by the state government through competitive bidding**.
- The central government will prescribe details such as **manner of auction, terms and conditions, and bidding parameters for exploration licence through rules**.

Maximum Area in which Activities are Permitted :-

- The Bill allows activities under a **single exploration licence** in an area up to **1,000 square kilometres**.
- After the first three years, the licensee will be allowed to retain up to **25% of the originally authorised area**.



Status of Mining Sector in India :-

Backbone of Manufacturing:

- Mining industry plays a crucial role in the country's economy, serving as the **backbone for manufacturing and infrastructure sectors**.
- According to the **Ministry of Mines**, the total value of mineral production (excluding atomic and fuel minerals) during 2021-22 amounted to Rs 2,11,857 crore.

Scope:

- India ranks **4th globally in terms of iron ore production** and is the **world's 2nd largest coal producer as of 2021**.
- Combined Aluminium production (primary and secondary) in **India stood at 4.1 MT per annum in FY21 becoming the 2nd largest in the world**.
- In 2023, the mineral's demand is likely to increase by 3%, driven by expanded electrification and overall economic growth in India.

Issues in this Sector :-

- Contribution by the **mining sector to the GDP is only 1.75%**.
- **Tribal Communities:** Several tribal communities and **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** fall into the mining zones. Their residence is also threatened by an increase in mining. Their rehabilitation & compensation is another major issue.
- **Lack of investment in exploration and the upgradation of technology.** Still obsolete and low efficient technology is used.
- **Environmental Concern:** The reforms in the act unshackle the mining sector of India, as much it is beneficial for the development of the country. Mining is harmful from an environmental point of view.
- **Multiple clearances and Legal hurdles:** The mining sector ails from the requirement of multiple clearances, which makes the sector unviable/unprofitable. For example, Environmental/forest clearances. The mining sector is also susceptible to various legal pronouncements. For example, SC judgement on coal block allocation affected coal mining output.
- **Monopoly of PSUs:** Mining sector suffers from the problem of unproductive usage of assets, due to monopoly of PSUs. For example, coal India's monopoly in the coal sector.

Way Forward: The mining sector of India, holds immense potential to reduce import dependence and hurl industrial development. In this light faster administrative clearances need to be ensured and security challenges like Naxalism etc., in the mining belt need to be checked.



2. Over one lakh cusecs likely to be released from KRS dam; flood warning issued

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam across the Cauvery will be stepped up to over one lakh cusecs from the 70,000 cusecs at present.

Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Dam:

- It is a type of **gravity dam built on the river Kaveri** and its tributaries, **Hemavathi and Lakshmana Theertha**, in the district of Mandya in Karnataka.

Construction:

- The dam was named after **Maharaja Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV**, the then ruler of the princely state of Mysore, who played a significant role in initiating and funding the construction.
- The dam's primary objectives were to provide water for irrigation, generate hydroelectric power, and mitigate the impact of droughts in the region.
- The **construction began in 1911** and was completed in 1931.
- The dam was designed by **Sir M. Visvesvaraya**, a famous Indian engineer (often referred to as the 'architect of modern Mysore' or 'father of planning in India').

Features:

- It is 2,621 metres (8,600 feet) long and 40 metres (130 feet) high.
- The dam has **arch-type 177 iron sluices**, and some of them have automatic doors.
- The dam was among the first in the world to have automatic sluice gates.
- It was constructed using **traditional stone masonry and a lime-pozzolan mortar called surki**, which acted as the binder.
- **Brindavan Gardens**, an ornamental garden, is attached to the dam.

Usage:

- Apart from being the main source of water for irrigation in the most fertile Mysore and Mandya, the reservoir is the main source of drinking water for all of Mysore city and almost the whole of Bangalore city.
- It also ensures power supply to the **Shivanasamudra hydroelectric power station**.
- The water released from this dam flows into the state of Tamil Nadu and is stored in the **Mettur dam** in the Salem district.



3. Amravati as a Buddhist Site

Source: IE

Context: Recently, the Finance Minister announced Rs 15,000 crore in financial support for Andhra Pradesh to build its capital city, Amravati, and boost other development activities in the state.

What are the Key Facts About Amravati and Andhra Buddhism?

Historical Evolution:

- In the late 1700s, **Raja Vessareddy Nayudu** unknowingly discovered ancient limestone ruins in **Andhra's Dhanyakatakam village**, which he and the locals used for construction, leading to the renaming of the village to Amravati.
- The systematic destruction of the ruins continued until 1816, when **Colonel Colin Mackenzie's** intensive survey, despite causing further damage, led to the rediscovery of the grand Amravati Stupa.
- In 2015, the **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced the new capital, Amaravati**, inspired by the historic Buddhist site, aiming to develop it into a modern city akin to Singapore.

Amravati and Andhra Buddhism:

- Buddhism, which emerged in the **fifth century BCE** in the ancient kingdom of Magadh (present-day Bihar), made its way to Andhra Pradesh mainly through trade routes in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama**, who attained enlightenment and became known as the Buddha.
- The first significant evidence of Buddhism in Andhra Pradesh dates back to the **3rd century BCE** when Emperor Ashoka set up an inscription in the region, providing a major impetus to its spread.
- Monks from Andhra were present at the first Buddhist council held in 483 BCE at Rajgir, Bihar.

Significance of Amravati in Buddhism:

- Amravati is renowned for being the birthplace of Mahayana Buddhism, one of the major branches of Buddhism that emphasises the path of the Bodhisattva.
- Acharya Nagarjuna, a prominent Buddhist philosopher, lived in Amravati and developed the Madhyamika philosophy, focusing on the concept of emptiness and the middle way.
- From Amravati, Mahayana Buddhism spread across South Asia, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

What are the Key Features of the Amravati School of Art?

Features:

- During the **post-Mauryan period**, the Amravati school of art from the ancient Buddhist site of Amravati in Andhra Pradesh emerged as one of the three most significant styles of ancient Indian art, alongside the Mathura and Gandhara schools.

Key Characteristics of Amravati School of Art:

- **Major Centres:** Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda.
- **Patronage:** This school was patronised by Satvahana rulers.



- **Key Feature: Tribhanga posture**, i.e. the body with three bends was used excessively by Amaravati school in its sculptures.
- The sculptures from Amravati are noted for their high aesthetic quality and intricate detailing, primarily crafted from **palnad marble**, a special kind of limestone that allows fine and intricate carvings.
- The art often features narrative panels depicting scenes from the life of the **Buddha**, **Jataka tales**, and various Buddhist rituals and practices.
- A particular depiction of the Buddha from Amravati, with the **robe on the left shoulder and the other hand in abhaya** (gesture of fearlessness), became iconic and was replicated in other parts of South and Southeast Asia.

Global Dispersion of Amravati Art:

- Today, sculptures from the Amravati Stupa are scattered across the world, with significant collections in the **British Museum**, the **Art Institute of Chicago**, **Musee Guimet in Paris**, and the **Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York**.
- Indian museums such as the **Government Museum in Chennai** and the **National Museum in New Delhi** also house pieces of Amravati art.
- **Australia remains the only country to have returned a stolen Amravati-style sculpture.**



GS II

4. The Karnataka Bill is a symptom of a larger problem

Source: The Hindu

Context: Karnataka government has put on hold the “Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill, 2024,” mandating reservations for locals in the private sector after a huge backlash from the industry.

Karnataka’s Reservation for Locals in the Private Sector Bill:

- **Reservation Policy:** The Bill mandates a substantial reservation of 75% for 'local candidates' in non-management positions and 50% in management positions within private sector companies, industries, and enterprises in Karnataka.

Legal Challenges with Domicile-Based Reservations:

Balancing Equality and Affirmative Action:

- Domicile-based reservations present a legal challenge under India's Constitution.
- **Article 14** guarantees equality before the law, while **Articles 15** (Prohibition of Discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) and **Article 16** (Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment) allow for special provisions benefiting backward classes, without prejudice to non-domicile candidates.

Limit on the Quota:

- The Supreme Court ruling in the **Indra Sawhney case (1992)** established that total reservations, including domicile reservations, **should not surpass 50% of available seats or posts.**
- This limit applies to all categories of reservations, as emphasised in the judgement primarily addressing reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Arguments in Favour of the Private Sector Reservation Bill

- **Local Employment Generation:** The policy aims to increase job opportunities for local residents, reducing unemployment and ensuring economic benefits are retained within the state.
- **Economic Equity and Balanced Regional Development:** The policy aims to promote economic equity by addressing disparities in resource distribution within the state.
- Additionally, it supports balanced regional development by spreading economic opportunities across various areas, rather than concentrating them solely in a few urban centres.
- **Skill Development:** Mandatory training programs can enhance the skills of the local workforce, making them more competitive and better equipped to meet industry demands.



- **Social Stability:** Providing more job opportunities to locals can foster a stronger sense of belonging and reduce social tensions, promoting community harmony.
- **Talent Retention:** The policy can help retain skilled individuals within the state, preventing brain drain and ensuring their expertise contributes to the local economy.
- **Cultural Preservation:** The language proficiency requirement helps preserve and promote the local language and culture, fostering a stronger cultural identity.

Arguments Against the Private Sector Reservation Bill

- **Impact on Business Competitiveness:** The policy may limit companies' ability to hire the best talent, adversely affecting their efficiency and competitiveness.
- **Skill Shortages:** The local workforce may lack the necessary skills for specialised roles, leading to operational inefficiencies and increased training costs.
- **Investment Deterrence:** The local hiring restrictions could deter domestic and international investors, negatively impacting the state's economic development and job creation.
- **Legal and Administrative Burden:** Ensuring compliance with the policy could impose additional legal and administrative costs on companies.
- **Discrimination Concerns:** The policy has been criticised for potentially discriminating against non-local candidates, violating the principle of equal opportunity.
- **Economic Impact:** Domicile-based reservations may adversely affect a state's economic growth by deterring businesses and limiting job opportunities.
- Moreover, in regions experiencing significant inward migration, such policies could hinder national integration and economic mobility.
- **Social Tensions:** The policy could exacerbate social tensions between local and non-local residents, creating a divisive environment and undermining social cohesion.

5. What is behind Rwanda's election outcome?

Source: The Hindu

Context: On July 15, Rwanda held its fourth presidential election since the 1994 Tutsi genocide.

Rwanda:

- It is a landlocked country located south of the equator in east-central Africa.
- It is part of the Great Rift Valley region of Africa.
- Often referred to as the “land of a thousand hills”, Rwanda's landscape is mostly hilly and mountainous.
- **Borders:** Rwanda shares a border with the four nations of Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Capital:** Kigali



Population: It is one of the continent's most densely populated, with approximately a thousand people per square mile.

- The **Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups** make up most of the country's population.
- The majority of both groups **practise Christianity**.

Government: In 2003, Rwanda adopted a constitution mapping out a **presidential system of government**.

Major Mountain Ranges: Albertine Rift and Virunga.

Major Rivers:

- Two major African rivers, the **Nile and the Congo**, flow through Rwanda.
- Other major rivers are **Kagera, Nyabarongo, Ruzizi, Luhwa, and Akanyaru**.
- **80% of Rwanda's rivers drain into the Nile through Lake Victoria**, while the remaining 20% drain into the Congo via the **Rusizi River** which also has the lowest elevation in Rwanda at 950 m.

Lakes:

- Lakes are everywhere in Rwanda. **Lake Kivu**, located on the western border of the country with DRC, is the largest among them. It is one of the 20 deepest lakes in the world.
- Other notable lakes include **Burera, Cohana, Ruhondo, Muhazi, Rweru, and Ihema**.
- **Biodiversity:** It is one of the most ecologically diverse places in Africa.
- The continent's **Albertine Rift region**, which covers much of western Rwanda, is home to about a third of Africa's birds, 40 percent of its mammals, and 20 percent of the continent's amphibians and plants.

6. Jaishankar pushes for urgency in resolving stand-off at LAC

Source: The Hindu

Context: External Affairs Minister met his Chinese counterpart, with the two leaders highlighting the need to resolve the four-year-old military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with "purpose and urgency".

ASEAN-India Relations:

What is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations?

- It is a **regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation**.
- It was established in **August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand** with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)** by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand**.
- Its **chairmanship rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States**.

Members:



- ASEAN brings together ten Southeast Asian states – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – into one organisation.

How has Been the ASEAN-India Relations?

- The ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of a **sectoral partnership** in 1992.
- Both India and ASEAN aim to establish a rules-based security architecture for **peaceful development in the region**, in contrast to China's aggressive policies.

Areas of Cooperation:

Economic Cooperation:

- ASEAN is **India's 4th largest trading partner**.
- India signed an **FTA (Free Trade Agreement) in goods in 2009** and an FTA in services and investments in 2014 with ASEAN.
- India has a **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** with various countries of the ASEAN region which has resulted in concessional trade and a rise in investments.
- Commodity trade between India and ASEAN region has reached USD 98.39 billion in the period April 2021- February 2022.
- India's main trading ties are with **Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand**.

Financial Assistance:

- India provides financial assistance to the ASEAN nations through various mechanisms like **ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund, ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund and ASEAN-India Green Fund**.

Connectivity:

- India has been undertaking several connectivity projects like **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral (IMT) Highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Project**.
- India is also trying to establish a **Maritime Transportation Agreement** with ASEAN and also Plans for a Railway link between New Delhi in India to Hanoi in Vietnam.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation:

- Programmes to boost **People-to-People Interaction with ASEAN** are organised, such as inviting ASEAN students to India, Special Training Course for ASEAN diplomats, Exchange of Parliamentarians, etc.

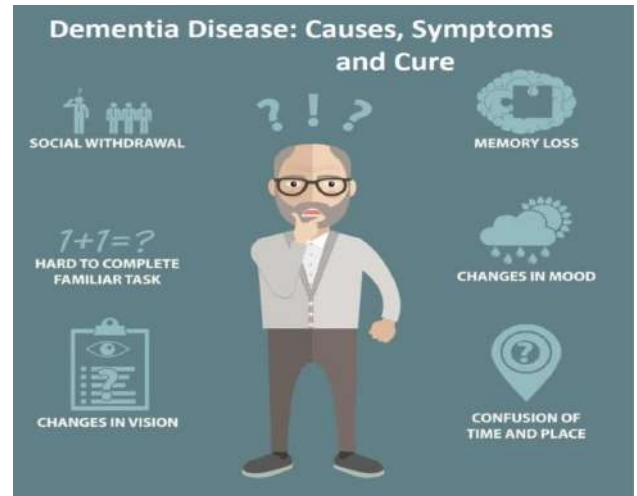
Defence Cooperation:

- **Joint Naval and Military exercises** are conducted between India and most ASEAN countries.
- The **Maiden Asean-India Maritime Exercise** will be held in 2023.
- **Watershed' Military Exercise** held in 2016.



What is the Significance of ASEAN for India?

- India needs a **close diplomatic relationship with ASEAN nations** both for economic and security reasons.
- Connectivity with the ASEAN nations can allow India to improve its presence in the region.
- These connectivity projects keep Northeast India at the centre, ensuring the economic growth of the northeastern states.
- **Improved trade ties with the ASEAN nations** would mean a counter to China's presence in the region and economic growth and development for India.



GS III

7. Addressing risk factors could reduce dementia cases by 40%: report

Source: The Hindu

Context: The steady decline in India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has led to an increase in the proportion of older adults. As of 2019, India is home to over 139 million people aged 60 and above, accounting for more than 10% of the population.

Issues Related to Elderly:

Dementia:

- It is a **syndrome – usually of a chronic or progressive nature –** that leads to deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from the usual consequences of biological ageing.
- It affects **memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgement.**
- However, the **consciousness is not affected.**
- 65% of total deaths due to **dementia are women**, and **disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)** due to dementia are roughly 60% higher in women than in men.

Symptoms:

- **Memory loss, Difficulties with thinking, Visual perception, Self-management, Problem solving or language and the ability to focus and pay attention.**
- **Personality changes, like depression, agitation, paranoia, and mood swings.**



Causes:

- When brain cells are **damaged then dementia** may occur. It can be caused by a **head injury, a stroke, a brain tumour** or due to **HIV infection**.

Treatment:

- There is currently **no treatment available to cure dementia**, though numerous new treatments are being investigated in various stages of clinical trials.

Global Scenario:

- Dementia is currently the **seventh leading cause of death** among all diseases and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide.
- More than 55 million people (8.1% of women and 5.4% of men over 65 years) are living with dementia.
- **WHO's Western Pacific Region has the highest number of people with dementia** (20.1 million), followed by the European Region (14.1 million).



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

8. Is the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill draconian?

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Maharashtra government introduced the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024, to address the growing threat of Naxalism in urban areas, particularly through Naxal-affiliated organisations.

Urban Naxalism

- Naxalism refers to **Left-wing extremism or Maoism** which seeks to overthrow the State through violent means.
- In India, it **originated from the 1967 uprising in Naxalbari (West Bengal)**.
- There is **no standard definition of urban Naxalism**. It generally refers to efforts to enlarge the presence of Naxalism in urban areas.
- Unlike rural Naxalism, **urban Naxalism is not centered around the use of violence against the State**.
- Urban naxals may act as recruiters, propagandists, and sources of funds for naxals and can provide logistics and safe refuge to armed Naxal cadres.
- Also, public support for urban Naxalism is insignificant as compared to rural naxalism.
- This is primarily because urban areas have better education, infrastructure, and the State's reach.

Key provisions of Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024

Purpose and Scope:

- The Maharashtra government has introduced the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024, to combat the increasing threat of Naxalism, especially in urban areas through Naxal-affiliated organizations.

Declaration of Unlawful Organisations

- The state can declare an organization as “unlawful”.
- An advisory board of three qualified individuals (current/former/qualified High Court judges) will review such decisions.

Definition of Unlawful Activities

- Activities threatening **public order, peace, and tranquility**.
- **Interference with law administration and public servants**.
- **Violence, vandalism, use of firearms, explosives, and disruption of transportation**.
- **Encouraging disobedience to law and institutions**.



- Collecting funds or goods for unlawful activities.
- All offences under this law will be cognizable and non-bailable, and will be investigated by a police officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector.

Punishments:

- **Members of Unlawful Organizations**–Imprisonment up to 3 years and fines up to Rs 3 lakh.
- **Non-members Contributing or Aiding Unlawful Organizations**–Imprisonment up to 2 years and fines up to Rs 2 lakh.
- **Management or Promotion of Unlawful Organizations**–Imprisonment up to 3 years and fines up to Rs 3 lakh.
- **Committing, Abetting, or Planning Unlawful Activities**–Imprisonment up to 7 years and fines up to Rs 5 lakh.
- **Seizure and Forfeiture**
 - If an organisation has been declared as unlawful, the District Magistrate or Commissioner of Police can notify and take possession of any place used for its activities.
 - Government can forfeit money and assets intended for unlawful organizations.

Legal Review

- An advisory board must review the declaration of unlawful organizations within six weeks and submit a report within three months.
- High court can review government actions through revision petitions.

9. India's illegal coal mining problem

Source: The Hindu

Context: Three labourers died of asphyxiation inside an illegal coal mine in Surendranagar district of Digging for low-grade coal in illegal mines found in several parts of the district. The coal is used to fuel factories in the State and elsewhere.

What is Illegal coal mining?

- Illegal mining is the extraction of precious metals without following the proper procedures to participate in legal mining activity.
- These procedures include permits and licences for exploration of the land, mining and transportation.

Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (1957):

- It is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to regulate the mining sector.
- It was amended in 2015 and 2016. This act forms the basic framework of mining regulation in India.
- This act is applicable to all minerals except minor minerals and atomic minerals.
- It details the process and conditions for acquiring a mining or prospecting licence in India.



- Mining minor minerals comes under the **preview of state governments**.
- **For mining and prospecting in forest land, prior permission is needed from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.**

Environment Impacts:

- Illegal miners create large mining pits that are not backfilled when they are finished, many people and animals die from these pits.
- Due to **run off from illegal mining activity** contaminated surface water and underground water with mud, Mercury and Cyanide.
- Deforestation occurs during illegal mining operations so mining operations have room to function.
- **Carbon emissions increase drastically due to the clear cutting of forests.**
- **Illegal mining causes soil erosion and degradation** which leads to barren lands.

Human Impacts:

- **Asphyxiation is caused due to lack of oxygen (or)** when you don't get enough oxygen to the body.
- Causes include **allergic reactions, drowning and foreign objects blocking your airway.**

Symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Loss of consciousness
- Inability to speak.

Special Note :

Mine gases: The air in mines can be contaminated by the presence of other gases such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulphide, methane, and excess of carbon dioxide

Asphyxiation:

- Asphyxiation is a **condition of deficient supply of oxygen** to the body which arises from abnormal breathing.
- Asphyxia causes **generalised hypoxia**, which affects primarily the tissues and organs.
- Asphyxia can **cause coma or death.**

Difference between Hypoxia and Anoxia:

- When **oxygen levels become alarmingly low** (less than 2-3 milligrams of oxygen per litre of water) the condition is called **Hypoxia.**
- When **oxygen levels are at zero**, the condition is called **Anoxia.**
- **Anoxia happens when the body or brain completely loses its oxygen supply.**



In Brief

10. Death Valley

Source: IE

Context: Badwater Basin in Death Valley received more than double its average annual precipitation.

Death Valley:

- It is a **desert valley** located in the **southeastern part of California, United States of America**.
- It is the **lowest, hottest, and driest portion** of the **North American continent**.
- It covers an area of **7,800 sq. km**. It is estimated that about **1,425 sq. km** of the floor of the valley is located below sea level.
- It is a **rift valley or a graben** that has been formed due to the sinking of a huge expanse of rock located between major block-faulted mountains running parallelly in the east and west.
- It **lies in the Great Basin to the east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, in the northern part of the Mojave Desert**.
- The Death Valley constitutes a major part of the **Death Valley National Park** as well as the **Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve**.
- It is bounded by the **Grapevine, Funeral, and the Black Mountains of the Amargosa Range** on the east and the **Panamint and the Cottonwood Mountains of the Panamint Range** on the west.
- The Valley features a diverse landscape that includes mountain peaks, canyons, sand dunes, salt flats, badlands, and volcanic craters.
- Located in the heart of the Death Valley National Park is an **endorheic basin** known as the **Badwater Basin, is the lowest area in North America**.
- **Highest point: Telescope Peak (3,366m)** located in **Panamint Range**.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Under the MMDR Act, which body is primarily responsible for granting mining leases for major minerals?

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- State Government
- Ministry of Mines answer with explanation

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Dam:

- The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is built across the Tungabhadra River.
- The reservoir created by the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is known as the KRS Lake.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

- G20
- ASEAN
- SCO
- SAARC

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Amaravati School of Art:

- The Amaravati School of Art flourished during the Satavahana period.
- The sculptures of the Amaravati School of Art predominantly depict scenes from the life of Buddha.

- The Amaravati School of Art is known for its use of white marble.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Private Member Bills:

- A Private Member Bill can only be introduced by a member of the ruling party in the legislature.
- Private Member Bills can be introduced in either house of Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q6. Which of the following countries share a boundary with Rwanda?

- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Democratic Republic of the Congo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

Q7. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Death Valley?

- Death Valley is located in California, USA.
- It is known for being one of the hottest places on Earth.



3. Death Valley is part of Yellowstone National Park.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding dementia:

- 1. Dementia is a specific disease with a well-defined cause and cure.
- 2. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding coal:

- 1. India is the largest producer of coal in the world.
- 2. Coal is primarily composed of carbon along with various other elements.
- 3. Anthracite coal has the highest carbon content among all types of coal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q10. What is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?

- A. The average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime
- B. The number of live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age in a year
- C. The average number of births per year per 1,000 people
- D. The number of live births per 1,000 population in a given year



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the primary responsibility for granting mining leases for major minerals lies with the State Governments. However, the Central Government retains the power to frame policy guidelines and ensure the regulation of the sector.

- **State Government:** The State Governments are the competent authorities to grant mining leases for major minerals. They are responsible for processing applications, issuing leases, and monitoring compliance with the conditions of the lease.
- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs:** This ministry deals with corporate governance and company law administration in India. It does not have a role in granting mining leases.
- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:** This ministry is responsible for environmental regulations, forest conservation, and climate change policies. It grants environmental clearances for mining projects but does not grant mining leases.
- **Ministry of Mines:** This ministry formulates and oversees policies related to the mining sector and provides guidance to the State Governments. While it has a significant role in policy-making and regulation, the actual granting of mining leases is done by the State Governments.

Thus, the State Government plays the central role in the actual granting of mining leases for major minerals under the MMDR Act.

2. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect: The Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is built across the Cauvery River, not the Tungabhadra River.
- **Statement 2:** Correct: The reservoir created by the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam is indeed known as the KRS Lake.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the five countries (Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand) with which ASEAN has existing FTAs.

4. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct: The Amaravati School of Art flourished during the Satavahana period (around the 2nd century BCE to the 3rd century CE).
- **Statement 2:** Correct: The sculptures of the Amaravati School of Art predominantly depict scenes from the life of Buddha, including Jataka tales (stories of Buddha's previous lives).
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect: The Amaravati School of Art is not known for its use of white marble; instead, it primarily used limestone. The use of white marble is more characteristic of the Gandhara School of Art.



5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect: A Private Member Bill can be introduced by any member of Parliament who is not a minister, which includes members of both the ruling party and the opposition.
- **Statement 2:** Correct: Private Member Bills can be introduced in either house of Parliament, i.e., the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

6. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Rwanda shares its boundaries with the following countries:

1. Uganda to the north
2. Tanzania to the east
3. Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west
4. Burundi to the south

Kenya does not share a boundary with Rwanda.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Correct:** Death Valley is located in California, USA.
- **Correct:** It is known for being one of the hottest places on Earth, with temperatures that can exceed 120°F (49°C) during summer.
- **Incorrect:** Death Valley is not part of Yellowstone National Park; it is located in Death Valley National Park, which is separate from Yellowstone.

8. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Incorrect:** Dementia is not a specific disease but rather a general term for a decline in cognitive function severe enough to interfere with daily life. It can be caused by various diseases and conditions, but it does not have a single well-defined cause or cure.
- **Correct:** Alzheimer's disease is indeed the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60–80% of cases.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Incorrect:** India is not the largest producer of coal in the world. China holds this title.
- **Correct:** Coal is primarily composed of carbon along with other elements such as hydrogen, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen.
- **Incorrect:** While anthracite coal has a high carbon content, it is incorrect to state that it has the highest carbon content among all types of coal without comparison to graphite, which is pure carbon. However, among the common types of coal (anthracite, bituminous, sub-bituminous, and lignite), anthracite does have the highest carbon content.

10. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime if she were to experience the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her reproductive years (usually considered to be ages 15 to 49).



MAINS PRACTISE QUESTION

Q. Despite India being one of the countries of Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. (250 Words)

Q. Assess the arguments for and against state-imposed domicile reservations in private employment in India. (250 Words)





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Mentorship**

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GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

www.upsmentorship.com

@mentorship.india

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

contact@mentorshipindia.com