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SOURCES



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GS I

1. Why global models went wrong with their La Niña predictions and what its delay means

Source: The Indian Express

Context: Global weather models predicted the onset of La Niña by July 2024, a critical climate phenomenon that affects global and regional weather patterns. However, the delay in La Niña's onset disrupted expectations, especially concerning India's monsoon season.

La Niña and Its Impact:

- **Definition:** La Niña is part of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), characterised by cooler sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, which typically enhances rainfall in India during the monsoon.
- **Significance for India:** La Niña generally boosts southwest monsoon activity in India. In 2023, India experienced one of the longest La Niña phases (2020–2023), followed by an El Niño event in 2023–24.

Prediction Misses and Their Reasons:

- **Initial Forecasts:** Leading global agencies like NOAA and BoM had predicted the onset of La Niña by July 2024. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had also projected La Niña-driven rainfall enhancement for August–September.
- **Missed Onset:** The primary reason for incorrect predictions was the weak intensity of the La Niña phase. Weak ENSO phases are harder to detect, and inter-seasonal atmospheric variability, such as the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO), further complicated the models.

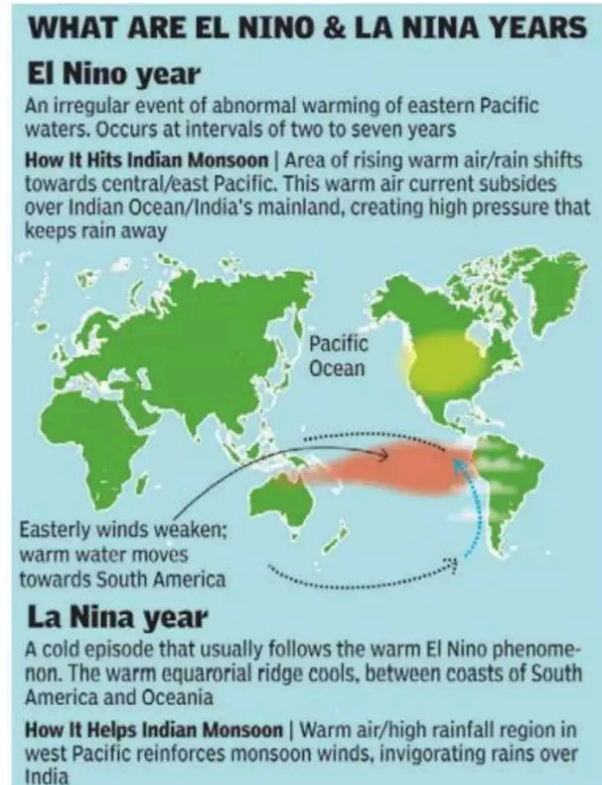
Impact on India's Monsoon:

- **Southwest Monsoon:** Despite La Niña's delayed onset, India recorded 16% surplus rainfall in August, with IMD forecasting 109% "above normal" rain in September. The delay means La Niña will not play a direct role in the ongoing monsoon.
- **Regional Variations:** While central and southern India received above-normal rainfall, eastern and northeastern regions faced deficits.

Future Outlook:

- **Northeast Monsoon:** La Niña's delayed onset could influence the northeast monsoon (October–December), which primarily affects Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.
- **Cyclone Activity:** La Niña could intensify cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, potentially increasing storm frequency and intensity.

Conclusion:



- The delayed onset of La Niña has not adversely affected India's southwest monsoon but may influence future weather patterns, particularly the northeast monsoon and cyclone development.

2.China on Alert for Super Typhoon Yagi: What You Need to Know

Source: The Hindu

Context: Super Typhoon Yagi, Asia's strongest storm of 2024, made landfall on Hainan, China, causing mass evacuations and widespread disruptions across southern China, with impacts expected to extend to Vietnam and Laos.

Typhoon Yagi Overview:

- **Strength and Impact:** Yagi, with sustained winds of 245 km/h (152 mph) (Category 4), is the world's second most powerful storm of 2024, after Hurricane Beryl in the Atlantic. It is the most severe typhoon in the Pacific region this year.
- **Landfall:** The typhoon hit Wenchang city in Hainan i.e.the Qiongzhou Strait, between Hainan and Guangdong.

Regional Impact:

- **Hainan:** Authorities warn of severe flooding and storm surges, with Haikou, Hainan's capital, likely to experience the storm's maximum impact.
- **Guangdong:** Storm surges are expected in southern Xuwen County.
- **Vietnam and Laos:** Yagi is projected to weaken but still cause significant rainfall and wind damage as it moves westward.

Historical Context and Climate Change:

- **Most Intense in 55 Years:** Yagi is the most intense storm in the South China Sea since 1969, with air pressure dropping to 915 millibars. Its strength is attributed to climate change, which is leading to stronger typhoons.
- **Previous Typhoons:** Hainan is familiar with severe typhoons, such as **Typhoon Rammasun in 2014**, which caused significant fatalities and economic damage.

Conclusion:

- As Super Typhoon Yagi continues to impact southern China and neighbouring countries, authorities remain on high alert to mitigate the damage caused by this powerful storm.



GS II

3. Judges' Elevation Should Not Be an Individual Decision: SC Orders Collective Action by HC Collegium

Source: **The Indian Express**

Context: The Supreme Court ruled that a High Court Chief Justice cannot make individual decisions regarding the reconsideration of judicial elevations, stressing the necessity of "collective consultation" by the High Court Collegium.

Key Points:

- **Collective Decision Making Required:** The Supreme Court clarified that judicial elevations cannot be decided solely by the Chief Justice of a High Court. Instead, it must be a collective decision involving all members of the High Court Collegium — the Chief Justice and the two senior most judges.
- **Judicial Review Scope:** While the court emphasised the importance of collaboration, it also noted that it is not reviewing the "suitability" of candidates for elevation but focusing on the lack of joint deliberation, which vitiated the process.

The Supreme Court's Ruling:

- **Procedural Lapses:** The Supreme Court bench addressed the "suitability" of the petitioners, was procedurally and substantively flawed. The court emphasised the need for collective deliberation by the High Court Collegium.
- **Clarification on SC Collegium Role:** The court reaffirmed that the Supreme Court Collegium does not act in appeal over the High Court Collegium's decisions. The process is participatory, and the Chief Justice of a High Court cannot act independently when reconsidering recommendations for judicial appointments.

Judicial Review vs. Suitability : Clarification of Scope:

- The court reiterated that while the "suitability" of candidates remains beyond judicial scrutiny, procedural aspects like collective consultation are reviewable.

Confidentiality vs. Transparency : Balanced Approach:

- The court highlighted the delicate balance between maintaining confidentiality and ensuring transparency in the appointment process.

Conclusion:

- This ruling reinforces the principle that judicial elevations must be decided through a collaborative process by the entire collegium.
- The decision ensures that the process of appointing judges remains fair, transparent, and free from arbitrary decision-making.

4. Quad Leaders Scheduled to Meet in U.S. on September 21

Source: **The Hindu**



Context: Indian Prime Minister is set to host the leaders of the U.S., Japan, and Australia for a special Quad Summit in the U.S. on September 21, 2024 ahead of major UN meetings.

Key Details:

Meeting Location and Date: The Quad leaders' summit is scheduled for September 21, with the venue still under discussion. Possible locations include New York or Rehoboth Beach in Delaware.

Participants:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi (India)
- President Joe Biden (U.S.)
- Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (Japan)
- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (Australia)

Background:

- **Venue Uncertainty:** The final decision on the summit venue remains pending. Delaware is considered an option, but New York is also a strong possibility. The choice may be influenced by ongoing U.S. election campaigns.
- **India's Turn to Host:** This summit marks the first time India will host the Quad leaders since the Quad was upgraded to a leadership level in 2021. The decision for India to host was negotiated over the past year.

Agenda:

- **The summit agenda includes:**
 - Maritime Security
 - Critical and Emerging Technologies
 - Cybersecurity
 - Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
 - Health Security
 - Climate Change
 - Counterterrorism
 - Infrastructure and Connectivity
 - Addressing the Debt Crisis through Sustainable and Transparent Financing

Future Implications:

- **Leadership Changes:** With President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida expected to leave office soon, it is uncertain if the summit will result in concrete decisions or if major agreements will be deferred to the next Quad Summit scheduled for 2025 in the U.S.

What Is The Quad?

The Quad, officially the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), is not a formal alliance. It is an informal strategic forum comprising four maritime democracies:

India, Japan, Australia and the United States



PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Maritime security, addressing climate change, combating Covid-19 pandemic, among others.

The Quad is also seen as an attempt to counter the growing might of China



GS III

5. Night-Time Light Pollution Linked to Increased Alzheimer's Risk: What a New Study Says

Source: The Indian Express

Context: A new study by researchers from Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, has identified a link between night-time light pollution and an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, adding to the growing list of environmental factors contributing to the disease.

Alzheimer's Disease and Its Impact:

- Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia, affecting cognitive functioning through the formation of plaques and tangles in the brain.
- Early symptoms include forgetfulness, confusion, and difficulty in performing routine tasks. As of 2023, over 55 million people globally suffer from dementia, with Alzheimer's accounting for around 75% of cases.
- In India, estimates suggest that between 3 to 9 million individuals are affected.

The Study and Its Findings:

- **Objective:** The study aimed to explore the relationship between light pollution and Alzheimer's risk, using satellite data on light pollution and Medicare reports on the prevalence of the disease in the US.
- **Key Findings:**
 - While established risk factors like diabetes and hypertension had a stronger correlation with Alzheimer's, light pollution showed a higher association than alcohol abuse, kidney disease, depression, and obesity.
 - The link was particularly pronounced in early-onset Alzheimer's (below 65 years). Disruption of circadian rhythms due to artificial light exposure was identified as a possible cause, increasing susceptibility to Alzheimer's.

Light Pollution and Its Broader Impacts:

- **Global Prevalence:** Around 80% of the world's population is exposed to light pollution. While often seen as benign or even beneficial (for safety), research shows significant negative effects on human health and the environment.
- **Policy Implications:** The study adds to a growing body of research on the harmful effects of light pollution, urging policymakers to address this overlooked environmental hazard.

Conclusion:

- The study highlights the need for further research on the relationship between environmental factors like light pollution and Alzheimer's, as well as the importance of policy intervention to mitigate health risks associated with artificial lighting.



6. India Risks Becoming 'EV Colony' for China, GTRI Warns

Source: Business Standard

Context: The GTRI warns that India might become a "EV colony" of China unless it strengthens its own EV sector and reduces reliance on imports and heavy incentives.

Electricity Generation & Dependency on Imports:

- India generates 80% of its electricity from fossil fuels, primarily coal, and faces frequent power cuts. Additionally, the country heavily relies on imports, particularly from China, for crucial EV components such as batteries and critical minerals.

China's Influence:

- As the global EV market undergoes shifts, China, facing restrictions from major markets like the US, EU, and Canada, is increasingly looking towards India as a potential market.
- This could lead India to rely heavily on Chinese imports, furthering the risk of becoming an "EV colony."

Strategic Advice from GTRI:

- **Natural Growth:**
 - GTRI suggests that India should allow its domestic EV sector to evolve naturally without relying heavily on subsidies and incentives.
 - This approach would help India avoid dependence on China for EV components and position itself as a leader in the global EV landscape.
- **Next-Gen EV Leadership:**
 - To carve out its path, India should focus on advanced battery technologies, battery recycling infrastructure, and clean energy sources to power EV charging stations.
 - This forward-looking approach could help India capture leadership in the next phase of EV development.

Global Market Shift:

- **China's Pivot:** With access to developed markets restricted, China may shift its focus to India, but 70-80% of EV parts would still come from China.
- **Dumping Risk:** China's excess EVs could flood the Indian market, exacerbating dependency.

Industry Perspectives:

- **Structural Changes in the EV Sector:** Global trends, such as subsidies and the availability of critical minerals like lithium and cobalt, driving the growth of the EV industry. However, these macroeconomic factors may also influence the trajectory of India's EV market in the coming years.

Conclusion:

- India's EV sector faces critical challenges that need to be addressed to avoid becoming overly reliant on Chinese imports. By allowing organic growth and investing in next-generation technologies, India can secure its own position in the global EV market.



7. Assembly Polls Ahead, Centre Steps in to Rescue Maharashtra Farmers as Soybean Prices Fall Below MSP

Source: The Indian Express

Context: With the fall in soybean prices below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Union government plans to procure a significant portion of Maharashtra's production, which is crucial as the state approaches Assembly elections.

Government Intervention:

Procurement Plan: The Union government will procure 13 lakh metric tonnes of soybean from Maharashtra, which is a significant soybean-producing state. This intervention is aimed at addressing the price drop below MSP, which is impacting farmers' livelihoods, particularly in the Marathwada region.

Procurement Details:

- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - The procurement will be executed by two government cooperatives: the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** and the **National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Limited (NCCF)**, under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**.
- **Extended Procurement:** Besides Maharashtra, the Centre has also approved the procurement of soybean from Telangana and Karnataka.

Procurement Scheme:

- **PSS Operations:** The Centre advised major soybean producing states—Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan to implement PSS operations if soybean prices remained below MSP.

Additional Measures:

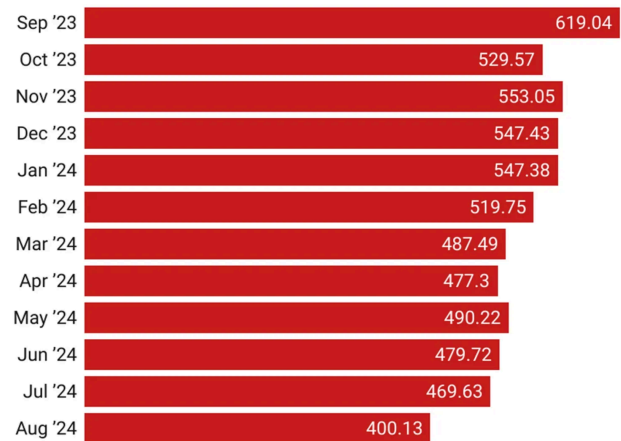
- **Duty Adjustments:**
 - Recommending an increase in duties on soybean oil to address the decline in domestic prices.
 - This follows a previous reduction in import duties and cess on crude and refined soybean oil, which is set to remain in effect until March 2025.

Conclusion:

- The Centre's intervention to procure soybean at MSP is a critical step to support Maharashtra's farmers amid falling prices.
- This action highlights the intersection of agricultural policy and political strategy as the state approaches its Assembly elections.

Declining soyabean prices

Global monthly average price in US\$ per metric tonne



Source: World Bank Pink Sheet, September 2024 • Created with Datarapper



8. Centre Approves New Treatment Regimen for Multidrug-Resistant TB

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Union Health Ministry has approved a new treatment regimen for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in India, marking a significant advancement in the fight against the disease.

New Regimen Introduction:

- Introduction of the BPaLM regimen for MDR-TB under the National TB Elimination Programme.
- This regimen is a more effective treatment compared to previous methods.

Treatment Details:

- **Components of BPaLM Regimen:** The BPaLM regimen includes:
 - Pretomanid: A new anti-TB drug
 - Bedaquiline
 - Linezolid
 - Moxifloxacin (optional)
- **Approval Status:** Pretomanid has been approved and licensed for use in India by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Advantages:

- **Effectiveness and Duration:** The BPaLM regimen can cure drug-resistant TB in just six months, offering a higher success rate and reduced treatment duration.
- **Patient Benefit:** Approximately 75,000 drug-resistant TB patients in India will now benefit from this new regimen, which promises a more manageable and efficient treatment process.

National Goal:

- **TB Elimination Efforts:** India is working towards eliminating tuberculosis by 2025, which is five years ahead of the global target set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The introduction of the BPaLM regimen aligns with these efforts to combat TB more effectively.

Conclusion:

- The approval of the BPaLM regimen represents a significant advancement in the treatment of MDR-TB, promising a shorter, more effective therapy for patients.
- This move is part of India's broader strategy to achieve its ambitious goal of TB elimination by 2025.

The new era

What does the introduction of the new treatment regimen mean for India's 75,000 drug-resistant TB patients?

❶ It has been proven to be safe, more effective and a quicker treatment option than the previous MDR-TB treatment procedure

❷ It brings down treatment time to around six months from the earlier duration of 18 to 24 months

❸ It has been found to be cheaper for both health systems and patients



The regimen consists of four drugs – Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin

9. NTCA letter on relocation from tiger zones draws anger or strong opposition from various organisations and activists

Source: The Hindu



Context: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has issued a directive to 19 states urging them to expedite the relocation of residents from core tiger zones, sparking criticism from various organisations and activists.

Directive: The NTCA's letter, dated June 19, 2024, requests states to "prioritize" the removal of villagers from core tiger zones due to slow progress in relocation.

Core Zone Definition: Core zones are designated areas within tiger reserves where human activities such as hunting and collecting forest produce are strictly prohibited. Residents are expected to be relocated to ensure these zones remain "inviolable" for tiger conservation.

Current Status: India has 55 tiger reserves in India and across 19 states there are 53 tiger reserves in core zones. Since Project Tiger's inception in 1973, 257 villages and 25,007 families have been relocated.

Criticism:

- **Protest Letters:** Several organisations have protested against the NTCA's directive, alleging violations of multiple laws:
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act
 - Forest Rights Act
 - Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (LARR)
 - Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- **Concerns:** Critics argue that the NTCA's push for relocation may lead to legal conflicts and pressure on state governments to undertake relocations in ways that could infringe upon the rights of Scheduled Tribes and other forest-dwelling communities.

Conclusion:

- The NTCA's recent directive to expedite the relocation of villagers from core tiger zones has sparked significant controversy.
- While aimed at enhancing tiger conservation, the implementation of this directive faces criticism for potentially infringing upon the rights of indigenous communities and conflicting with existing laws.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

10. Why We Must Talk About Caste

Source: The Indian Express

Context: Avoiding discussions on caste only entrenches the existing distribution of cultural and economic wealth, highlighting that caste discrimination is deeply embedded in both visible and invisible forms across Indian society.

Key Points:

- **Myth of Caste-Free Society:** Some in Indian society believe that avoiding discussions on caste can diminish its impact, a view often seen in elite public schools where caste is thought to be "forgotten" if not addressed.

Caste Discrimination: Formal and Informal

- **Visible and Invisible Discrimination:**
 - Caste based discrimination operates on both formal (institutional) and informal (everyday attitudes) levels.
 - It influences self-worth, career opportunities, and access to resources. The invisible biases, such as attitudes towards specific castes, often go unnoticed but reinforce existing hierarchies.

Cultural Wealth and Caste Attitudes:

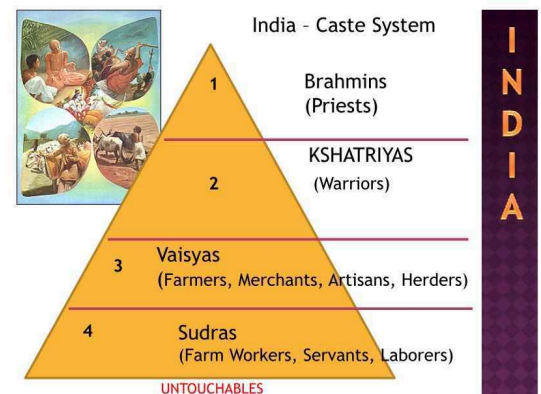
- **Cultural Inheritance of Caste:**
 - Cultural wealth, passed down through upper-caste families, plays a significant role in perpetuating caste hierarchies.
 - Conversations in private spaces—like households and clubs often reveal deeply entrenched caste biases, with certain castes perceived as "genetically" superior or inherently "violent."
- **Colonial Legacy:** Some caste stereotypes, like those linked to so-called criminal tribes, have colonial origins. However, these views persist today, shaping how caste is perceived and reinforcing informal discrimination.

The Role of Power and Privilege:

- **Merit vs. Inheritance:** Caste hierarchy creates an illusion of "merit" for privileged castes, while others are seen as lacking the same capabilities. This notion of merit, deeply embedded in cultural wealth, often goes unchallenged and supports both formal and informal exclusion.

Conclusion:

Simply avoiding discussions about caste will not dismantle the system; it only reinforces the status quo. To address caste discrimination meaningfully, society must confront both the visible and invisible forms of bias that perpetuate inequality.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following is a significant impact of La Niña on India's climate?

- Reduced rainfall during the southwest monsoon
- Increased cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal
- Enhanced drought conditions in central India
- Weaker northeast monsoon

Q2. Assertion (A): Super Typhoon Yagi is considered the most intense storm in the South China Sea in over 55 years.

Reason (R): Climate change is causing stronger typhoons in the Pacific region due to rising sea surface temperatures and atmospheric instability.

Options:

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

Q3. Assertion (A): The Supreme Court emphasised that the Chief Justice of a High Court must act in consultation with two senior-most judges of the High Court Collegium while deciding judicial elevations.

Reason (R): The Supreme Court Collegium can act in appeal over the High Court Collegium's decisions to ensure proper appointments.

Options:

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

Q4. Evaluate the potential impact of the Quad Summit's agenda on global geopolitical

dynamics. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the anticipated outcomes?

- Enhanced cooperation on critical and emerging technologies among Quad countries is expected to drive technological advancements and counterbalance China's technological influence.
- Increased emphasis on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief could strengthen the Quad's role in global disaster response frameworks.
- Discussions on addressing the debt crisis through sustainable and transparent financing may lead to collaborative initiatives to support economically vulnerable countries, altering global financial aid paradigms.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the recent study on night-time light pollution and Alzheimer's disease:

- The study found that night-time light pollution has a stronger association with Alzheimer's disease than established risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Light pollution is shown to have a more significant impact on early-onset Alzheimer's compared to other factors like alcohol abuse and obesity.
- The study indicates that light pollution disrupts circadian rhythms, which may contribute to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.
- Around 80% of the world's population is exposed to light pollution, which has been identified as a minor health concern in recent studies.

Which of the above statements are correct?



- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3 only

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the concerns flagged by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) about India's electric vehicle (EV) sector:

1. GTRI warns that India risks becoming an "EV colony" for China due to heavy reliance on Chinese imports for crucial EV components.
2. India generates a significant portion of its electricity from renewable sources, which supports its EV sector.
3. GTRI advises that India should rely on heavy subsidies and incentives to foster its domestic EV sector and reduce dependence on Chinese imports.
4. To avoid becoming an "EV colony," GTRI recommends that India focus on next-generation battery technologies and clean energy sources for EV charging.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Q7. Assertion (A): The Union government's decision to procure 13 lakh metric tonnes of soybean from Maharashtra is aimed at supporting farmers as the state approaches Assembly elections.

Reason (R): The procurement is being executed by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Limited (NCCF) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS).

Options:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

- 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.

Q8. Which of the following is NOT a component of the newly approved BPALM regimen for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)?

- A. Pretomanid
- B. Rifampicin
- C. Linezolid
- D. Moxifloxacin

Q9. Assertion (A): The NTCA's directive to relocate villagers from core tiger zones has been heavily criticised by various organisations and activists.

Reason (R): The criticism is due to the NTCA's directive being perceived as increasing tiger populations in these areas.

Options:

- 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.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding the discussion of caste discrimination in Indian society:

1. The belief that avoiding discussions on caste can reduce its impact is prevalent among some elite public schools in India, where caste is considered to be "forgotten" if not discussed.
2. Caste discrimination is only visible through formal institutional mechanisms



and does not affect informal everyday attitudes.

3. Cultural wealth passed down through upper-caste families contributes to the perpetuation of caste hierarchies, while some caste stereotypes have colonial origins.

4. The concept of merit, as shaped by the caste hierarchy, often goes unchallenged and supports exclusion based on inherited privilege rather than actual capabilities.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

La Niña and India's Climate:

- La Niña is a phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, marked by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. In contrast to El Niño, La Niña tends to have a more positive impact on the Indian monsoon.
- **Cyclonic Activity:** La Niña conditions also tend to increase cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Cooler Pacific waters influence atmospheric circulations, leading to favourable conditions for cyclone formation in the Indian Ocean.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A):** Super Typhoon Yagi is the most intense storm in the South China Sea since 1969, making it the strongest in over 55 years. The storm's wind speeds and pressure readings support this.
- **Reason (R):** Rising sea surface temperatures and increased atmospheric instability, due to climate change, are recognized as factors that intensify tropical storms. Climate change has led to more powerful typhoons, which provides the correct explanation for the increased intensity of Yagi.

3. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **(A is true) :** The Supreme Court emphasised collective decision-making in the High Court Collegium.
- **(R is false) :** However, the Supreme Court Collegium does not act in appeal over High Court decisions; it ensures procedural integrity, not re-assessment of appointments

4. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

The Quad Summit's agenda, including technology cooperation, disaster relief, and debt crisis management, is likely to impact global geopolitical dynamics significantly.

5. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement1 : Correct:** The study found that while established risk factors like diabetes and hypertension have a stronger correlation with Alzheimer's, light pollution shows a higher association than other factors such as alcohol abuse, kidney disease, depression, and obesity.
- **Statement2 : Correct:** The study highlights that the association of light pollution with Alzheimer's disease is particularly pronounced in early-onset cases (below 65 years), which suggests a stronger impact compared to other risk factors.
- **Statement 3 : Correct:** The study identifies disruption of circadian



rhythms due to exposure to artificial light as a possible cause for increased susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease.

- **Statement 4 : Incorrect:** The study emphasises the significant negative effects of light pollution on human health and the environment, contrary to the statement suggesting it is a minor concern

6. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct:** GTRI is concerned that India could become an "EV colony" for China due to its reliance on Chinese imports for key EV components.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect:** India's reliance on fossil fuels for about 80% of its electricity challenges the EV sector and does not support the idea that renewable sources benefit the sector.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect:** GTRI advises against heavy reliance on subsidies for the EV sector and suggests allowing it to grow organically to reduce dependence on Chinese imports.
- **Statement 4: Correct:** GTRI recommends focusing on next-generation battery technologies and clean energy for EV charging to lead in the global EV market and avoid reliance on Chinese imports.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion is correct :** The government's decision to procure soybean is indeed aimed at supporting farmers and is strategically timed with the upcoming Assembly elections.
- **Reason is also correct and correct explanation :** The procurement

will be carried out by NAFED and NCCF under the PSS, which directly supports the assertion.

8. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- Rifampicin is not a component of the BPaLM regimen.
- The regimen includes Pretomanid, Bedaquiline, Linezolid, and Moxifloxacin.
- Rifampicin is a drug used in the treatment of drug-sensitive TB but is not part of the BPaLM regimen for MDR-TB.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- The NTCA's directive has indeed been criticised by various organisations and activists (A is true).
- However, the criticism is primarily due to perceived legal violations and potential infringement on the rights of forest-dwelling communities, not because of an increase in tiger populations (R is true, but not the correct explanation of A).

10. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 : Correct:** Avoiding caste discussions in elite public schools can make caste issues seem minimised.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect:** Caste discrimination affects self-worth and opportunities through both formal and informal biases.
- **Statement 3 : Correct:** Caste hierarchies are maintained by cultural inheritance and colonial-era stereotypes, particularly about criminal tribes.
- **Statement 4 : Correct:** The notion of "merit," influenced by caste, reinforces exclusion based on inherited privilege.





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