



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11 September 2024



SOURCES



Table of Contents

1. Hindu Kush Himalayas biosphere at risk: Facts on the 3,500 km mountain range.....	2
2. India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.....	3
3. International Literacy Day 2024.....	4
4. India's Parliamentary Committee System: Unveiling its origin, significance and challenges. 4	4
5. Centre relaxes norms under PMAY-Gramin.....	6
6. Montelukast: overused and dangerous.....	7
7. PM Modi convenes first meeting of National Research Fund board.....	8
8. SpaceX mission launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk in orbit.....	9
9. Capitalism: crises, critics and India's journey.....	9
10. Access to electricity in rural areas had differential benefits, says study.....	11
Daily Quiz.....	12
Solutions.....	15



GS I

1. Hindu Kush Himalayas biosphere at risk: Facts on the 3,500 km mountain range

Source: India Today

Context: The article highlights the urgent need for action to preserve the Hindu Kush Himalayas, based on recent findings by global experts about the region's deteriorating biosphere.

Hindu Kush Himalayas:

Geography:

- **Extent:** The Hindu Kush Himalayas extend over 3,500 kilometres across eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan.
- **Structure:**
 - **Hindu Kush:** A central Asian mountain system, approximately 800 km long and 240 km wide, forming the western section of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (HKH).
 - **Highest Peak:** Tirich Mir (7,708 metres) in Chitral, Pakistan.
 - **Sections:** Divided into Eastern, Central, and Western Hindu Kush (Bābā Mountains).
 - **Climate:** Inner valleys experience desert conditions with minimal rainfall.

Biodiversity:

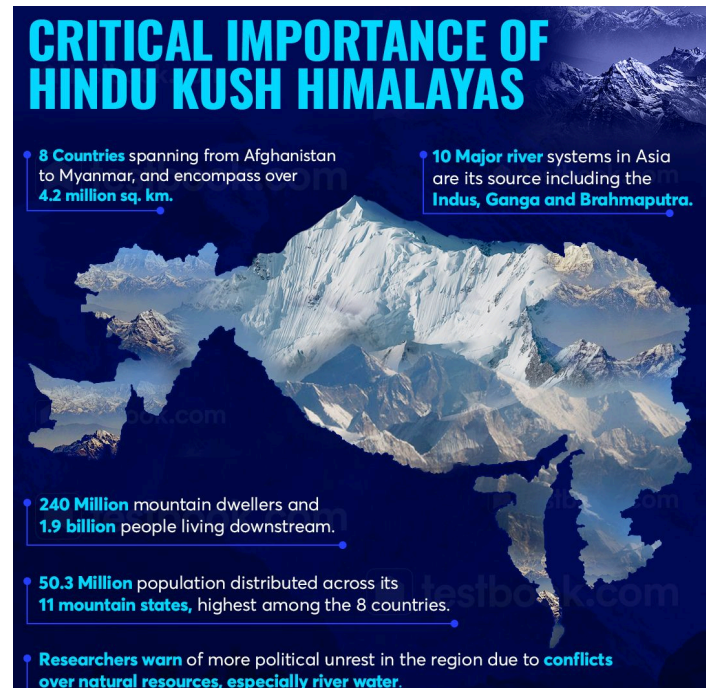
- **Significance:** Recognized as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.
- **Population Impact:** Home to over 240 million people, with 1.7 billion people living in downstream river basins. Agricultural and water resources from these rivers impact up to three billion people.
- **River Systems:** Glaciers in the region feed at least 10 major rivers crucial for agriculture, drinking water, and hydroelectric power.

Geology and Climate:

- **Seismic Activity:** The region is part of the world's most seismically active intermediate-depth earthquake zone.
- **Climatic Zones:**
 - **Eastern Hindu Kush:** Receives rain and snow during summer (July–September).
 - **Central and Western Hindu Kush:** Borders the Mediterranean climatic zone with hot, dry summers and cold winters.

Conservation Need:

- **Biodiversity:** The region includes four of the world's 36 global biodiversity hotspots, two global 200 ecoregions, 575 protected areas, and 335 important bird areas.
- **Warning:** ICIMOD warned that reversing the crisis may be "almost too late," emphasising the need for increased investment and efforts to preserve the region's biodiversity.



GS II

2. India has a four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

Context: India has outlined a four-point principle to resolve the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, emphasising peaceful solutions, dialogue, and the inclusion of Russia in the peace process.

India's Four Point Principle:

- **Call for Peace:** India believes the current time should be used to push for peace rather than continue the conflict.
- **No Military Solutions:** India asserts that the war cannot be resolved on the battlefield, and military engagements will not lead to sustainable solutions.
- **Russia's Inclusion in Peace Talks:** Any successful peace process must include Russia at the negotiation table, as it is a critical party to the conflict.
- **India's Engagement in Resolution Efforts:** India is actively involved in diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution, with continuous discussions and visits by Indian officials to both Russia and Ukraine.

Background and Significance:

- **India's Neutral Stance:** Maintained a balanced position in the Russia-Ukraine war, refraining from taking sides and urging peaceful dialogue.
- **National Security Advisor's Visit to Russia:** Trying to mediate and resolve the conflict.

Diplomatic Context:

- **Bilateral Meeting with Germany:** Discussion on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and other global issues like the Gaza conflict and UN reforms.
- **Germany's Position:** Germany has urged India and others to enhance peace efforts, despite differences in their positions on the conflict.

Broader Diplomatic and Economic Discussions:

- **Ties with China:** India is not closed to business with China but is cautious about the sectors and terms of engagement & ongoing military standoff between the two countries.
- **India-Germany Relations:** Expanding the migration and mobility partnership, military cooperation (with upcoming joint naval exercises in Goa), and enhancing bilateral trade and investment between the two nations.

Conclusion:

- India's four-point principle reflects its diplomatic approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, emphasising dialogue and inclusiveness while maintaining its neutral stance.
- This policy is crucial for India's global positioning and its strategic partnerships, including with Germany.



3. International Literacy Day 2024

Source: PIB

Context: Recently, the Vice-President of India emphasised the transformative power of literacy at the International Literacy Day (ILD) 2024 celebrations held in New Delhi, urging a nationwide commitment to enhance education and celebrate linguistic diversity.

- The Vice-President praised the National Education Policy, 2020 for its potential to empower youth and recognize linguistic diversity.
- During the event, the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) DTH Channel was introduced to reach learners in remote areas, bridging literacy gaps.
- The roots of ILD trace back to the 1965 World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy in Tehran, Iran, which sparked the idea of a day dedicated to promoting literacy globally.
 - UNESCO officially declared 8th September as International Literacy Day during its 14th General Conference in 1967, and the world celebrated this special day for the first time that year, marking the beginning of a significant global observance.



ILD 2024 Theme: “Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace.”

- **Key Initiatives Related to Literacy in India:**
 - New India Literacy Programme, Saakshar Bharat, and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

4. India’s Parliamentary Committee System: Unveiling its origin, significance and challenges

Source: The Indian Express

Context: The article discusses India’s Parliamentary Committee system, tracing its origin, key features, significance, and challenges, while examining the role committees play in legislative processes and executive accountability.

Evolution of the Parliamentary Committee System:

- **Historical Origins:** The first parliamentary committee in India, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), was established in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919 (Montford Reforms).
- **Post-Independence Evolution:** After the first Lok Sabha was elected in 1952, advisory committees were abolished, and parliamentary committees like the PAC and Estimates Committee came under direct Lok Sabha control.

Key Features:

Standing and Ad Hoc Committees:

- Committees in India are of two kinds – standing (permanent, annual renewal) and ad hoc (created for specific purposes).
- Standing committees work on a continuous basis, and ad hoc committees, such as select committees, disband after completing their tasks.

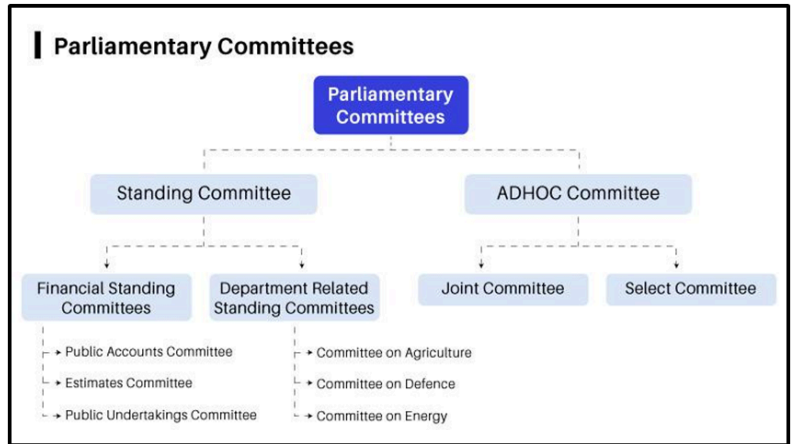
Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs):



- The 1990s saw the significant expansion of the committee system, with the establishment of DRSCs covering various sectors. In 2004, the number of DRSCs was increased to 24.

Importance of Parliamentary Committees:

- **Detailed Examination:** Committees let MPs explore legislative issues in depth, address the limitations of large bodies, facilitate cross-party dialogue, and incorporate external expertise.
- **Cross-chamber Interaction:** The system facilitates cooperation between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members, enhancing legislative scrutiny and executive accountability.
- **Checks and Balances:** Committees strengthen the checks and balances system, as seen in the Consumer Protection Act 2019 and National Medical Commission Act 2019, where committee recommendations were instrumental in shaping the final legislation.



Challenges to the Committee System:

- **Short Tenure:** Most committees have a tenure of just one year.
- **Low Attendance and Expertise:** Many committees face issues like absenteeism, inadequate resources, and lack of specialised knowledge among members.

Declining Referrals to Committees:

- **Trend of Bypassing Committees:**
 - In recent years, fewer bills have been referred to parliamentary committees for scrutiny.
 - Key legislations such as the Chief Election Commissioner Bill 2023 and the abrogation of Article 370 were passed without committee review.

Conclusion:

- India's Parliamentary Committees play a crucial role in legislative processes, but reforms such as longer tenures, improved expertise, and regular bill referrals are necessary to address current challenges.

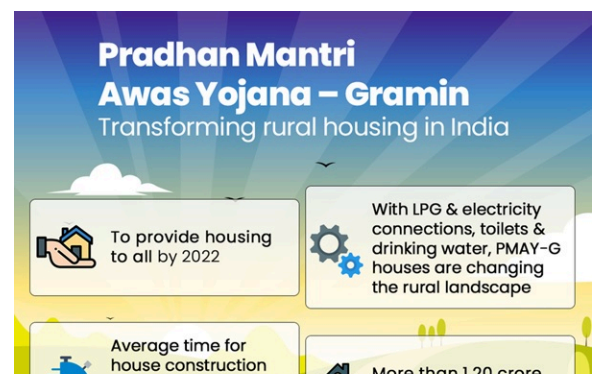
5. Centre relaxes norms under PMAY-Gramin

Source: The Indian Express, Page-07

Context: Recent relaxation in eligibility criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), highlighting the new inclusions and exclusions, and the scheme's impact on rural housing.

Recent Relaxation in Eligibility Criteria:

- **New Criteria:** The Centre has updated the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) eligibility criteria, now allowing families with:
 - Monthly income up to Rs 15,000



- Ownership of two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, or landline phones
- **Continued Exclusions:** Households with the following will still be automatically excluded:
 - Motorised three/four-wheelers
 - Mechanised agricultural equipment (three/four-wheeler)
 - Kisan Credit Card with a credit limit of Rs 50,000 or more
 - Government employees
 - Non-agricultural enterprises registered with the Government
 - Income tax or professional tax payers
 - Land ownership of 2.5 acres or more of irrigated land

Scheme Overview:

- **Objective:**
 - The revision is part of the Centre's broader goal to construct 2 crore additional houses under PMAY-G by 2028-29.
 - This target is in addition to the existing goal of 2.95 crore rural houses under the 'Housing for All' programme, with 2.65 crore already completed.
- **Current Status:** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for the new eligibility norms.

Financial Assistance:

- **Funding:** Beneficiaries receive up to Rs 1.2 lakh in plain areas and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly, difficult, and tribal areas under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP).
- **Cost Sharing:**
 - Plain areas i.e. Centre and states share costs in a 60:40 ratio.
 - Northeastern states, two Himalayan states, and UT of J&K: 90:10 ratio.
 - Other UTs, including Ladakh: Centre bears 100% of the cost.

Upcoming Developments:

- **Instalment Release:** Ministry is scheduled to release an instalment of Rs 2,745 crore to PMAY-G beneficiaries in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- Acceptance letters to targeted beneficiaries for the financial year 2024-25 is also given.



GS III

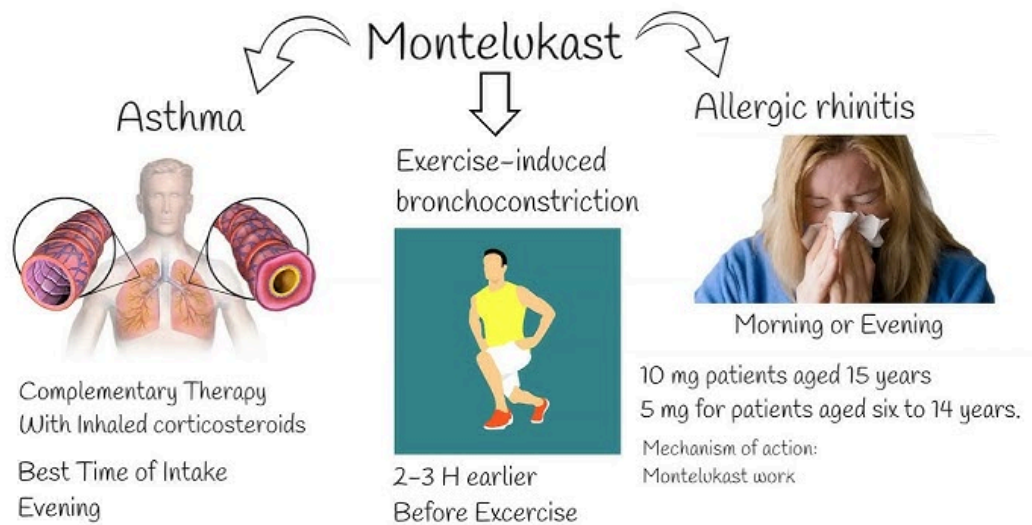
6. Montelukast: overused and dangerous

Source: The Hindu, Page-07

Context: Montelukast, a drug initially approved to control asthma and allergic rhinitis, is overused and often prescribed irrationally in India, leading to potential neuropsychiatric adverse effects.

Montelukast:

- **Black Box Warning:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) added a 'black box warning' to montelukast due to reports of serious neuropsychiatric side effects, including aggression, nightmares, and suicide risk.
- **Overprescription in India:** Despite global warnings, the drug is widely prescribed in India without regulation, including over the counter sales and use in irrational drug combinations.



Adverse Effects:

- **Neuropsychiatric Risks:** Studies by the University of Oxford (2022), linked anxiety, insomnia, cognitive impairment, and severe mental health issues.
- **Misuse with Antihistamines:** The drug is unscientifically combined with antihistamines in India, increasing the risk of adverse effects and driving up costs.

Background and Significance:

- **First-line Therapy Alternatives:** In India, montelukast is used due to misconceptions about inhalers and their effects.

Regulatory Concerns:

- **Need for Regulation:** Unregulated sale of montelukast, prevent irrational prescriptions, and raise awareness among both doctors and patients.

Conclusion:

- Montelukast's overdose in India poses significant health risks, especially neuropsychiatric effects, which need to be addressed through stricter regulations and awareness campaigns.



7.PM Modi convenes first meeting of National Research Fund board

Source: The Hindu, Page-12

Context: First meeting of the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), emphasising removing barriers in the research ecosystem and foster localized, innovative solutions for global challenges.

First Meeting of ANRF Board: Setting targets on finding localised solutions for global problems.

'Hub and Spoke' Model: A new mentorship initiative with nascent research capabilities with top-tier institutions, fostering growth and collaboration.

Strategic Interventions:

- **India's Global Positioning:** Discussions included positioning India as a global leader in key research sectors and aligning R&D efforts with national priorities.
- **Inclusive Growth and Capacity Building:** The ANRF aims to promote inclusive growth, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and bridge the gap between academic research and industrial applications through translational research.

Background and Financial Aspects:

- **ANRF's Role:**
 - Established as a funding body to galvanize science and engineering research in India.
 - ANRF is designed to be a step up from existing funding structures, encouraging state universities and private industry to participate actively in R&D funding.
- **Funding Corpus:**
 - ANRF aims to build a ₹50,000 crore corpus, with ₹36,000 crore from non-government sources. ₹2,000 crore has been allocated in the Union Budget 2024-2025.

Governing Board:

- 15-Member Board including the Ministry of Science and Technology, CEO of Symphony Technology Group.

Conclusion:

- The ANRF marks a significant step toward bolstering India's research ecosystem by fostering collaboration between academia and industry, promoting innovation, and addressing global challenges with localized, India-centric solutions.

8. SpaceX mission launches all-civilian crew for first private spacewalk in orbit

Source: The Hindu, Page-14



Context: SpaceX launch the Polaris Dawn mission, marking the first-ever spacewalk by an all-civilian crew and aiming to fly deeper into space than any manned mission in over 50 years.

Polaris Dawn Mission:

- **SpaceX's Daring Mission:** A multi-day orbital expedition with a four-member civilian crew, led by Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman.
- **Historic Spacewalk:** The mission includes the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts, using newly developed SpaceX EVA suits designed for enhanced mobility and safety.

Key Highlights:

- **Record-Breaking Altitude:** The mission aims to reach a peak altitude of 1,400 km, flying deeper into space than any other manned mission in recent history.
- **Zero Gravity Experience:** Shortly after liftoff, the crew experienced zero-gravity as the Dragon capsule separated successfully from the main engine.

Technical Features:

- **Van Allen Radiation Belt:** On the first day, the craft will briefly pass through the Van Allen radiation belt, a region of high-energy charged particles that poses potential health risks over long exposures.

Delays and Challenges:

- **Multiple Delays:** Due to technical issues with the tower and weather constraints, requiring favourable conditions for both liftoff and splashdown.

Background:

- **SpaceX's Innovation:** The Polaris Dawn mission is part of SpaceX's broader effort to commercialise space exploration, expanding access to space beyond professional astronauts.

Conclusion:

- The Polaris Dawn mission represents a milestone in private space exploration, combining civilian participation, innovative technology, and a bold push towards deeper space exploration.
- It highlights the growing role of private companies in advancing space travel and research.

9. Capitalism: crises, critics and India's journey

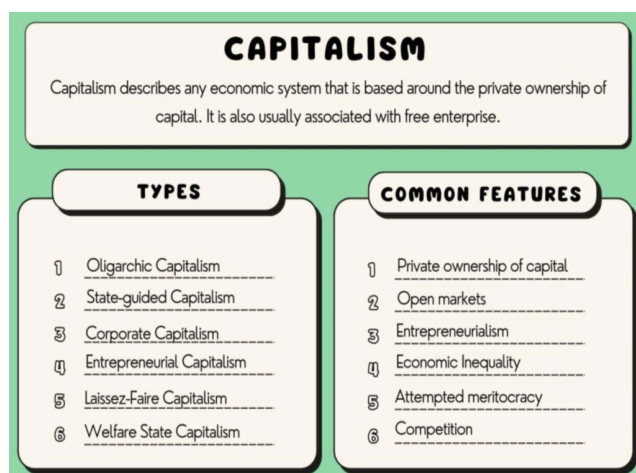
Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: Capitalism, Indian Economic Reforms, Marxist Critique of Capitalism

Context: The article explores the history and evolution of capitalism, its global crises, critics, India's journey since economic liberalisation, emphasising the creation of a new middle class the long-term implications of capitalist reforms.

Evolution of Capitalism:

- **Historical Origins:** Traced back to 17th-century England's enclosure movement, which led to the 'primitive accumulation of capital' as theorised by Marx.
- **Private Property and Profit Motive:** capitalism privileged private property, central to its growth and development, reinforced by thinkers like John Locke.



and
and

Karl

Early



Key Features of Capitalism:

- **Technological and Industrial Advancements:** The Industrial Revolution in England and modern technological innovations underscore capitalism's productive potential.

Marxist Critique:

- **Class Conflict:** Capitalism fosters inequality through class antagonism between the bourgeoisie and proletariat, leading to worker alienation.
- **Exploitation through Colonialism:** Marxist-inspired theories argue that capitalism spread globally via colonialism, exploiting resources in peripheral economies for metropolitan gains.

Crises of Capitalism:

- Overproduction and Economic Depressions like the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- Keynesian and Monetarist Phases during post-World War II until the 1970s when monetarism, associated with Milton Friedman, emerged, prioritising inflation control over full employment.

India's Capitalist Journey:

- **Post-Liberalization Transformation:** India's 1991 economic liberalisation marked a shift towards capitalism, resulting in rapid urbanisation, rising middle-class, and a thriving IT sector.
- **Middle-Class Emergence:** Significant emerging market, moving beyond the 'Hindu rate of growth' under socialist policies.

Conclusion:

- India's capitalist transformation over the last three decades has reshaped its economy and society.
- However, the long-term outcomes of this shift remain uncertain, with debates around inequality, growth, and sustainability continuing for years to come.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

10. Access to electricity in rural areas had differential benefits, says study

Source: The Hindu, Page-12

Prelims: Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana, Rural Development, Economic Impact of Electrification

Context: A recent study reveals that access to electricity under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY) disproportionately benefited larger villages compared to smaller ones.

Disproportionate Benefits: Villages with fewer people experienced limited economic gains, whereas villages with more people experienced significant economic improvements.

Per-Capita Expenditure Increase: In villages of around 2,000 people, per-capita expenditure doubled after full electrification, increasing by approximately ₹1,428 a month. In contrast, villages with fewer than 300 people saw negligible change.

Economic Impact:

- Small villages of around 300 people saw no significant economic return from electrification, with less than a 27% chance of benefits exceeding costs after 20 years.
- Larger villages with 1,000 people saw a modest 13% return, just surpassing the cost-effectiveness benchmark, while villages with 2,000 people had a 33% return, significantly exceeding the benchmark.

Background and Significance:


- **RGGVY:** Launched in 2005 to provide and improve electricity access to approximately four lakh villages across India, RGGVY aimed to boost rural development.
- **Impact on Small Villages:** Despite nationwide electrification, small and remote villages remain economically stagnant, with electrification offering little benefit to these communities.

Policy Implications:

- **Alternative Solutions for Small Villages:** Researchers suggest investing in solar home systems or minigrids for smaller, remote villages, as extending the national grid may not yield economic benefits in these areas.

Conclusion:

- The study underscores the need for tailored electrification strategies in rural India.
- While larger villages benefited from grid electrification, smaller hamlets saw little improvement, necessitating alternative approaches such as solar systems for cost-effectiveness and economic upliftment.



Rural Electrification Corporation Limited

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)

RGGVY – Implementation Framework

◆ For effective and expeditious implementation, REC has prepared-

- Guidelines for project formulation
- Guidelines for procurement
- Tripartite / Quadripartite agreements
- MOUs with CPSUs for providing services to states
- Specifications of equipment / material
- Construction standards
- Franchisee guidelines
- 3rd party quality monitoring guidelines



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following statements about the Hindu Kush Himalayas is NOT accurate?

- A. The Hindu Kush Himalayas extend over 3,500 kilometres across eight countries.
- B. Tirich Mir, the highest peak in the Hindu Kush, is located in Nepal.
- C. The region is known for its high seismic activity and is part of the world's most seismically active intermediate-depth earthquake zone.
- D. The Hindu Kush Himalayas receive significant rainfall and snow, particularly in the Eastern section.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding India's four-point principle to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict:

- 1. India advocates for using the current period to push for peace rather than continuing the conflict.
- 2. India believes that the conflict can be resolved through military engagements on the battlefield.
- 3. India asserts that any successful peace process must include Russia in the negotiations, as it is a critical party to the conflict.
- 4. India is not actively involved in diplomatic efforts but maintains a neutral stance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q3. Which of the following statements about International Literacy Day (ILD) 2024 is NOT accurate?

- A. The Vice-President of India highlighted the role of literacy in enhancing education and celebrating linguistic diversity at the ILD 2024 celebrations.
- B. The roots of International Literacy Day trace back to the 1965 World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy in Tehran, Iran.
- C. UNESCO officially declared 8th September as International Literacy Day during its 14th General Conference in 1967.

- D. The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) DTH Channel was introduced to support literacy efforts in urban areas.

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding India's Parliamentary Committee system:

Statement 1: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was established in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919, and was the first parliamentary committee in India.

Statement 2: The expansion of the committee system in the 1990s led to the establishment of 24 Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs), which play a significant role in detailed examination of legislative issues and cross-chamber interaction.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

Q5. Which of the following statements regarding the recent relaxation in eligibility criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is/are correct?

- 1. Families with a monthly income of up to Rs 15,000 are now eligible under PMAY-G.
- 2. Households owning motorised three/four-wheelers are included under the revised eligibility criteria.
- 3. The scheme provides up to Rs 1.2 lakh in plain areas and up to Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly, difficult, and tribal areas.
- 4. The cost-sharing ratio for PMAY-G is 90:10 for plain areas in the northeastern states and Himalayan states.



Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the overuse and dangers of Montelukast in India:

1. Montelukast has been issued a 'black box warning' by the U.S. FDA due to reports of serious neuropsychiatric side effects, including aggression and suicide risk.
2. Montelukast is strictly regulated in India, and its sale is only allowed with a prescription.
3. The drug is often combined with antihistamines in India, which increases the risk of adverse effects and raises treatment costs.
4. In India, misconceptions about inhalers have led to the widespread use of Montelukast as a first-line therapy for asthma.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):

Statement 1: The ANRF aims to build a ₹50,000 crore funding corpus, with a significant portion coming from non-government sources, and ₹2,000 crore has already been allocated in the Union Budget 2024-2025.

Statement 2: The 'Hub and Spoke' model introduced by ANRF is a strategic mentorship initiative designed to connect institutions with nascent research capabilities to top-tier institutions, fostering localised and global innovation.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1.

- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

Q8. With reference to the Polaris Dawn mission, recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. The Polaris Dawn mission will be the first mission to conduct a spacewalk entirely by a civilian crew.
2. The mission aims to surpass the altitude reached by any manned mission in the last 50 years.
3. The Van Allen Radiation Belt is a region of low-energy particles that poses no significant risks to human health during space travel.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the evolution of capitalism and India's journey:

1. The origins of capitalism can be traced back to 17th-century England's enclosure movement, which led to the 'primitive accumulation of capital.'
2. According to Marxist theory, capitalism spread globally through colonialism, exploiting resources in peripheral economies for metropolitan gains.
3. India's economic liberalisation in 1991 marked a shift towards capitalism, leading to rapid urbanisation and the emergence of a new middle class.
4. Capitalism prioritises government control over private property and discourages profit motive to ensure economic equality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Q10. With reference to the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY), consider the following statements:

1. The primary aim of the RGGVY was to provide and improve electricity access to rural areas across India.
2. The program equally benefited all villages, irrespective of their size or population.

3. Small and remote villages saw significant economic benefits from electrification under RGGVY.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Solutions

1. **Correct Answer is B**

Explanation:

This is NOT accurate. Tirich Mir, the highest peak in the Hindu Kush range, is located in Chitral, Pakistan, not Nepal.

2. **Correct Answer is B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** India does advocate for using the current period to push for peace rather than continuing the conflict.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** India asserts that the conflict cannot be resolved through military means and that a sustainable solution requires more than battlefield victories.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** India believes that any successful peace process must include Russia at the negotiation table.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** India is actively involved in diplomatic efforts, including visits by Indian officials to both Russia and Ukraine, while maintaining a neutral stance.

3. **Correct Answer is D**

Explanation:

This statement is incorrect because the ULLAS DTH (Direct-To-Home) Channel was specifically introduced to address literacy gaps in remote and rural areas, not urban areas.

Purpose of ULLAS:

- The ULLAS DTH Channel aims to provide educational content and resources to regions that are often underserved and difficult to reach.
- By targeting remote areas, the initiative helps bridge the digital and educational divide, ensuring that learners in less accessible locations have access to quality educational resources and lifelong learning opportunities.

Context:

- The introduction of the ULLAS DTH Channel aligns with the broader goal of enhancing literacy and education in areas where traditional educational infrastructure may be limited.
- Urban areas typically have better access to educational resources and technology, making the focus on remote regions a strategic move to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities in literacy.

4. **Correct Answer is B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** as it accurately reflects that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was the first parliamentary committee in India, established under the Government of India Act, 1919.
- **Statement 2 is also correct.** The expansion of the committee system in the 1990s led to the establishment of 24 Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs) that enhance the legislative scrutiny and executive accountability. However, Statement 2 is not a direct explanation of Statement 1, as it addresses a different aspect of the committee system's development rather than explaining the establishment of the PAC.

5. **Correct Answer is A**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct** :The eligibility criteria under PMAY-G now include families with a monthly income up to ₹15,000, expanding the scheme's reach to benefit more rural households.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect** : Households owning motorised three/four-wheelers remain excluded from PMAY-G eligibility to focus on those with greater housing needs.



- **Statement 3: Correct :** Beneficiaries receive ₹1.2 lakh in plain areas and ₹1.3 lakh in hilly, difficult, and tribal areas, reflecting the varying costs of construction.
- **Statement 4: Incorrect:** The cost-sharing ratio is 60:40 (Centre) in plain areas, 90:10 for northeastern states, two Himalayan states, and J&K, and 100% Centre-funded for UTs like Ladakh.

6. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The U.S. FDA has added a 'black box warning' to Montelukast due to serious neuropsychiatric side effects, including aggression, nightmares, and suicide risk.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Montelukast is not strictly regulated in India, and it is often sold over the counter without a prescription.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Montelukast is combined with antihistamines in India, leading to increased risks of adverse effects and higher costs.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Misconceptions about inhalers in India have led to Montelukast being used as a first-line therapy for asthma, despite safer alternatives.

7. Correct Answer is

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct** as the ANRF targets building a ₹50,000 crore funding corpus, with ₹36,000 crore coming from non-government sources, and ₹2,000 crore already allocated in the Union Budget 2024-2025.
- **Statement 2 is also correct.** The 'Hub and Spoke' model focuses on connecting institutions with nascent research capabilities to top-tier institutions to encourage

collaboration and innovation. However, this is not directly linked to the funding corpus mentioned in Statement 1, so it is not the correct explanation.

8. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Polaris Dawn mission, led by SpaceX, marks the first time a spacewalk will be conducted by an all-civilian crew. This makes it a significant milestone in private space exploration.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission aims to reach a peak altitude of 1,400 km, which is higher than any manned mission in the last 50 years, setting a new record for human space travel in recent history.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Van Allen Radiation Belt is a region of high-energy charged particles, not low-energy. Extended exposure to this region poses significant health risks to astronauts due to radiation, which is a key concern for any space mission passing through it.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The origins of capitalism are traced back to 17th-century England's enclosure movement, which led to the 'primitive accumulation of capital,' as theorised by Karl Marx.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Marxist theory posits that capitalism spread globally through colonialism, exploiting peripheral economies for the benefit of metropolitan nations.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** India's 1991 economic liberalisation marked a shift towards capitalism, resulting in rapid urbanisation, the rise of the middle class, and growth in sectors like IT.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect.** Capitalism prioritises private



property and the profit motive, not government control, as central features of its development and growth.

10. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY), launched in 2005, aimed to provide and improve electricity access to rural areas in India. Its goal was to promote rural development by ensuring reliable power supply to villages.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to the study, the benefits of electrification under RGGVY were not distributed equally. Larger villages, with more people, experienced more significant economic gains compared to smaller villages.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The study highlighted that small and remote villages, particularly those with fewer than 300 people, saw negligible economic returns from electrification, indicating limited benefits.





**UPSC
Mentorship**

A Unit of Mentorship India



कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत



Power To Empower



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

www.upsmentorship.com

@mentorship.india

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

contact@mentorshipindia.com