



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12 September 2024



SOURCES



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## GS I

# 1. Poor AQI in Delhi this May: Authorities Fail to Invoke Emergency Measures, NGT Seeks Report

Source: The Indian Express, Page-03

Prelims: AQI Report

Mains: Significance and Background of NGT

**Context:** Delhi faced six days of poor air quality with an AQI above 200. Despite this, authorities did not implement Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-1), leading the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to seek an explanation from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

### Failure to Invoke GRAP-1:

- The AQI crossed the threshold for poor air quality (201-300 range), which, by law, should have triggered emergency measures under GRAP-1. However, these measures were not implemented.

### NGT Intervention:

- The NGT took suo motu cognizance based on an article published in October 2023 and directed the CAQM to submit a report explaining the lapse.

### CAQM's Response:

- The CAQM's report cited a "widely varying trend of AQI" and the absence of a definitive pattern of air quality deterioration, typically observed in winter, as reasons for not activating GRAP-1.

### Background and Significance:

- Historical Precedent:** The report noted that GRAP measures had historically been invoked only during winter, starting in 2017. This year, the AQI fluctuation in May did not follow the typical gradual decline, leading to a delay in emergency actions.
- Anti-Pollution Measures:** CAQM claimed it intensified measures to combat dust pollution, including deploying anti-smog guns, increasing water sprinklers, and enforcing construction dust control.

### Conclusion:

- The failure to invoke GRAP-1 despite Delhi's poor AQI has raised concerns over the timely implementation of emergency measures.
- The NGT's intervention reflects the urgency in addressing air quality issues beyond just seasonal trends.
- The CAQM is expected to provide clarity on its decision-making process in the upcoming hearing.

Pollutant	Time	2005 levels	New 2021 levels
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b> Particulate matter <2.5 microns	Annual	10	5
	24-hour	25	15
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b> Particulate matter <10 microns	Annual	20	15
	24-hour	50	45
<b>O<sub>3</sub></b> Ozone	Peak season	-	60
	8-hour	100	100
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b> Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	40	10
	24-hour	-	25
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b> Sulfur dioxide	24-hour	20	40
<b>CO</b> Carbon monoxide	24-hour	-	4



## GS II

# 2. Cabinet Clears Health Insurance Cover of Rs 5 Lakh for All Aged 70 Years and Above

Source: The Indian Express, Page-03

**Prelims:** Govt. Scheme like AB PM-JAY, CGHS or ECHS Budget Allocation

**Mains:** Objective, Significance, Challenges of AB PM-JAY

**Context:** Extension of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to cover all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, regardless of income.

### Expansion of AB PM-JAY:

- **Universal Coverage for Senior Citizens:** All individuals aged 70 and above will receive Rs 5 lakh in annual health coverage, irrespective of income.
- **Additional Top-Up for Existing Beneficiaries:** Senior citizens already covered under AB PM-JAY will receive an additional Rs 5 lakh in coverage.
- **Choice Between Schemes:** Those enrolled in other public health schemes like Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), or private insurance can opt for AB PM-JAY or continue with their existing scheme.
- **No Budget Allocation:** It did not receive a significant budget allocation. The initial outlay is Rs 3,437 crore, with room for expansion based on demand.

### Background and Significance:

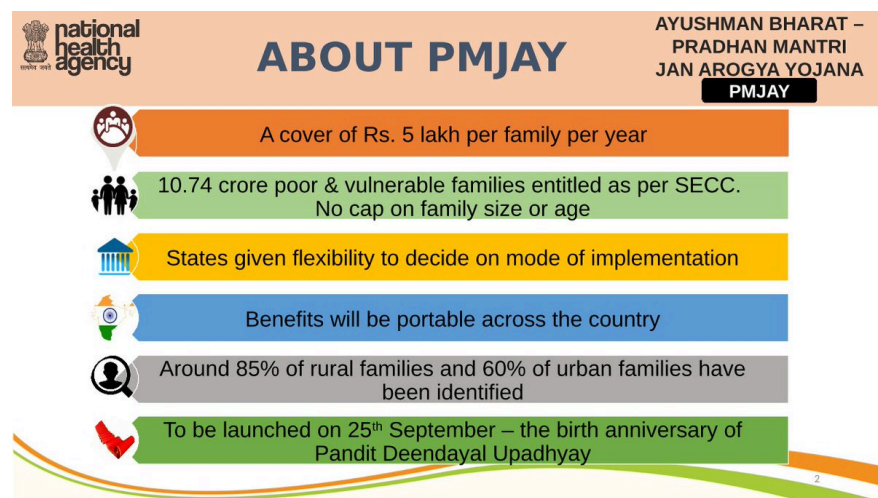
- **Largest Insurance Scheme:** Ayushman Bharat covers over 40% of India's poorest population, and this expansion targets the vulnerable senior citizens.
- **Nuclear Family Context:** With India's transition to nuclear families, ensuring healthcare security for the elderly is becoming critical.

### Implementation Challenges:

- **Funding and State Contributions:** States will foot 40% of the bill, with the Centre covering 90% of the cost for hilly and northeastern regions.
- **Rising Healthcare Costs:** Official data shows that senior citizens account for a significant share of hospital admissions, with cardiology leading the list of treatments under PM-JAY.

### Conclusion:

- The Cabinet's decision to extend the health insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat to all citizens aged 70 years and above is a significant step in addressing the healthcare needs of India's aging population.
- It aligns with the government's broader objective of universal health coverage, ensuring social security for the elderly.



## 3. Effectuation of Fundamental Duties a Continuing Task: Attorney General to SC

Source: The Indian Express, Page-02

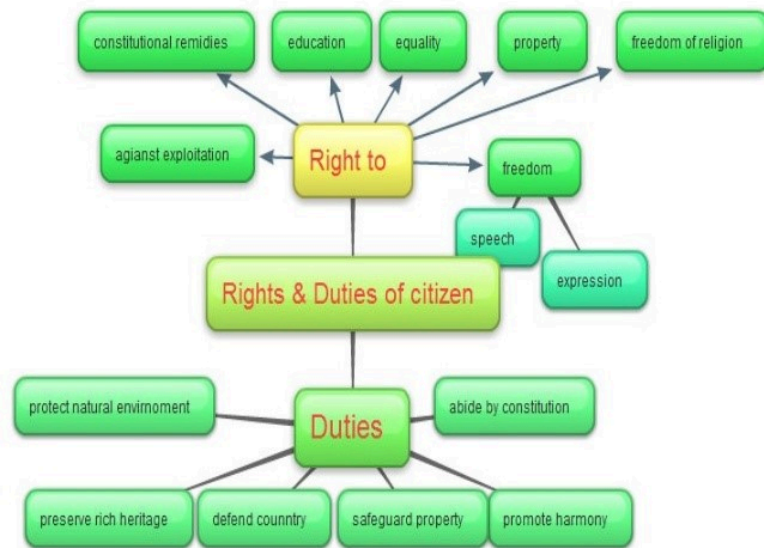
Prelims: Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties

Mains: Role Of Judiciary

Context: The Supreme Court examined a plea for the Centre to establish laws ensuring adherence to constitutional fundamental duties. The Attorney General noted that this requires ongoing legislation and oversight.

Highlight regarding case:

- **Role of Judiciary:** Attorney emphasized that courts highlight the importance of fundamental duties & they should avoid directing the legislature on lawmaking and be cautious about intervening in legislative matters.
- **Continuing Task:** Effectuating fundamental duties requires continuous legislative efforts, schemes, and supervision from both Central and state ministries, particularly in education and culture.
- **Non-Justiciable Duties:** Fundamental duties, enshrined in Article 51-A, are non-justiciable, meaning they cannot be enforced by law. Their realization depends on the executive, not the judiciary.



Background and Significance:

- **Historical Context:** In 1998, the Centre constituted a committee to promote the teaching of fundamental duties, highlighting their significance in the functioning of a democratic society.
- **Citizen Responsibilities:** Fundamental duties remind citizens that while they enjoy fundamental rights, they also have responsibilities towards the nation, reflecting the balance between rights and duties.

Plea's Main Demands:

- **Guidelines for Adherence:** The plea sought directions for the formulation of schemes to incentivize citizens to adhere to fundamental duties.
- **Link with Fundamental Rights:** Non-adherence to fundamental duties impacts the exercise of rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19, and 21, making it crucial to ensure compliance.

Conclusion:

- The Attorney General's statement emphasized that realizing fundamental duties requires sustained legislative and executive action, with the judiciary playing a supportive but limited role.
- The case is a reminder of the ongoing task of ensuring that fundamental duties are not just ideals but part of citizens' everyday responsibilities. The Supreme Court adjourned the case for further hearing.



## 4. Niti Aayog Group Pitches for New Act to Tackle Public Health Crisis

Source: The Indian Express, Page-08

Prelims: NITI Aayog, PHEMA and PPER

Mains: Objective Significance of Health and Management

Context : Niti Aayog proposed a new Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA) to address public health crises effectively, as outlined in their report "Future Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Framework for Action."

Proposal from NITI Aayog :

- **Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA):**
  - The proposed act would enable national and state health agencies to quickly address crises and establish specialised cadres for emergency management.
- **Holistic Approach to Health Management:**
  - The act includes prevention, control, and disaster response, ensuring that public health agencies are prepared for rapid action.

**Recommendations for Pandemic Preparedness:**

- **Empowered Group of Secretaries (PPER):** This body would be Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and oversee the implementation of the act and coordinate responses across various health agencies and departments.
- **First Responder Workforce:** The act would enable the trained workforce that would be ready to respond immediately to public health emergencies, minimising response delays and enhancing readiness during peacetime.

**Background and Significance:**

- **Formed in 2023 :** The expert group, established in June 2023, evaluated India's preparedness for future pandemics and health crises post-COVID-19, aiming to enhance response mechanisms and build long-term resilience.

**Conclusion:**

- The introduction of PHEMA could significantly improve India's ability to manage public health emergencies by ensuring rapid response and coordination across government agencies.
- With a trained workforce and empowered public health bodies, the act promises a proactive and holistic approach to safeguarding public health.



## GS III

# 5. 40% of Amazon Rainforest Critical to Climate Remains Unprotected

Source: The Indian Express, Page-17

Prelims: Geographical Mapping of Amazon RainForest

Mains: Concern regarding Global Warming & GreenHouse Effect, Carbon Storage and Global Climate Impact

Context: New data shows that nearly 40% of key Amazon rainforest areas, vital for combating climate change, are unprotected. This underscores the urgent need to safeguard these carbon-rich regions to mitigate climate impact.

Themes:

Importance of the Amazon for Climate Stability:

- The Amazon rainforest plays a critical role in **combating global warming** by acting as a carbon sink, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- However, if deforestation through logging or fires destroys significant areas of the rainforest, the stored carbon would be released, contributing to **climate-warming greenhouse gases**.

Unprotected Critical Areas:

- 40% of the peak carbon areas in the Amazon remain unprotected.
- Located primarily in southwestern Peru and northeastern Brazil, Suriname and French Guiana, contain the densest trees and the most continuous canopy cover.

Current Protection Status:

- Currently, 61% of the peak carbon areas are designated as protected lands or indigenous reserves, & 39% lack such protections.
- In Brazil, Suriname, and French Guiana, only 51% of critical areas are preserved, while Peru protects a larger proportion but earmarked for logging, further risking deforestation.

Satellite Data and Research Insights:

- **Advanced Imaging Technology** based on Planet Satellite used laser imaging to produce a three-dimensional view of the forest with machine-learning models to analyse the aboveground vegetation.

Carbon Storage in the Amazon:

- A recent MAAP (**Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project**) analysis found the Amazon stores 71.5 billion tonnes of carbon, nearly double 2022's global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Though the rainforest has historically absorbed more carbon than it releases, it may be approaching a tipping point, risking becoming a carbon source.

Why This Matters:

- **Global Climate Impact:**

### Amazon RainForest

- The world's largest freshwater tropical forest area.
- Mainly in Brazil but also Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.
- The largest concentration of crocodiles in the world
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves**
- **Tropical forests are closed-canopy forests**
- Temperatures are uniformly high - between 20°C and 35°C
- Bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, the combination of climate change and deforestation increases the drying effect of dead trees that fuel forest fires.



- The Amazon's shift from absorbing to emitting carbon could have severe global climate effects. As climate change impacts worsen, the Amazon remains critical for mitigation.
- **Urgency for Protection:**
  - To protect the Amazon's pristine areas which highlight the carbon-rich regions needing immediate protection to prevent worsening the climate crisis.

**Conclusion:**

- Protecting the unprotected portions of the Amazon is crucial for global climate stability.
- If deforestation continues unchecked, the rainforest's role as a carbon sink could be reversed, leading to catastrophic consequences for the planet.
- The data underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to protect these vital areas.

## 6. Airborne Germs Found 10,000 Feet Above Earth May Aid Disease Spread

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Prelims:** Factual about Kawasaki Disease, Geographical Location where Disease born

**Mains:** Significance and impact on Air borne disease and Kawasaki Disease

**Context:** A recent study over Japan found hundreds of airborne bacterial and fungal species at 10,000 feet, suggesting they could spread diseases globally.

**Discovery of Airborne Microbes:**

- Japan researchers identified 266 fungal species and 305 bacterial species of microbes which are human pathogens.
- They had likely travelled over 1,200 miles, potentially hitching a ride on dust grains and other particles carried by winds from northeast China.

**Potential Disease Spread via Winds:**

- Possibility of wind playing a role in disease transmission.
- One-third of the identified bacteria and fungi were classified as potential human pathogens, indicating that they might cause infections if they reach human populations.

**Connection to Kawasaki Disease:**

- Impact same as Kawasaki Disease i.e. fever, rashes, and heart complications.
- Wind patterns from China seemed to coincide with surges of Kawasaki disease in Japan and California, prompting further exploration of airborne particles and microbes.

**Study Methodology:** Researchers collected samples from the troposphere which filters airborne particles

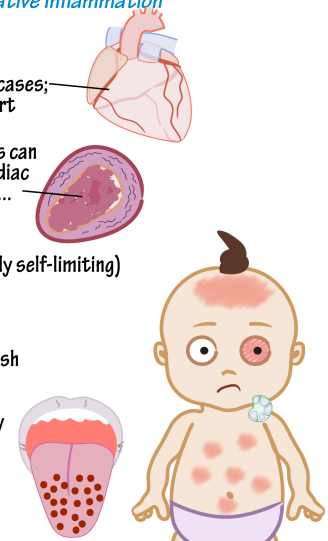
**Surprising Findings:**

- The samples included both living and dead organisms, such as fungal spores and bacteria and they remained alive and grew into colonies.
- Additionally, high levels of hafnium, likely from Chinese mines, were detected.

**Implications for Disease Research:**

**Kawasaki Disease**  
(aka, Mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome)  
*Proliferative Inflammation*

- ✓ Medium muscular arteries
  - Coronary arteries ~20% cases; Key cause of acquired heart disease in children.
  - Large coronary aneurysms can be fatal: myocarditis, cardiac tamponade, thrombosis...
- ✓ Acute, febrile illness (usually self-limiting)
  - Fever
  - Conjunctivitis
  - Erythematous macular rash
  - Edema and desquamation
  - Cervical lymphadenopathy
  - Red throat
  - Strawberry tongue; dry lips w/ fissures





- **Pathogen Risks:** Many bacteria in the air samples thrive in polluted soil or agricultural settings. Some are human pathogens, raising concerns about their potential to cause disease at high altitudes.
- **Further Research Required:** Researchers are testing airborne microbes on human lung cells to assess health impacts. While the findings don't directly link airborne pathogens to diseases like Kawasaki, they underscore the need for further investigation into windborne disease spread.

**Conclusion:**

- The study's findings suggest that high-altitude winds could carry pathogens over long distances, potentially aiding the spread of diseases.
- While more research is needed to confirm whether these airborne germs can cause outbreaks, the presence of potential human pathogens in the atmosphere underscores the need for further study into this unexplored environmental space.
- The implications for global public health, particularly in understanding the role of wind in disease transmission, could be significant.

## 7. Centre Pushes Banks to Fund Green Energy Projects

**Source:** The Hindu, Page-12

**Prelims:** Factual about Green Energy Project

**Mains:** Objective and Significance of Project, Banking and Finance

**Context:** The MNRE is urging banks to allocate loans to renewable energy projects, aiding India's ₹30 trillion goal for 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

**Discussion regarding Green Energy Project:**

**Nudging Banks for Renewable Energy Investments:**

- The Indian government, via the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is urging public and private banks to allocate loans to green energy projects, supporting India's goal of 500 GW renewable energy by 2030.

**Re-Invest Summit & Promissory Notes:**

- At the Re-Invest Summit in Gandhinagar, banks will present "shapath patras" (promissory notes) outlining loan commitments to the renewable sector, with developers, manufacturers, and private equity investors also pledging support.

**Major Highlights:**

- **₹30 Trillion Funding Target:**
  - India's renewable energy ambition requires a ₹30 trillion investment to install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.
  - This includes investments in solar, wind, and other clean energy sources.
- **No Specific Loan Targets Yet:**
  - The government is encouraging banks to boost green energy financing without setting specific targets.
  - The aim is to attract voluntary commitments through firm pledges from industry and finance.

**Conclusion:**

- India's push towards renewable energy financing is gaining momentum with MNRE seeking concrete commitments from banks and financial institutions.
- The Re-Invest Summit will serve as a platform to consolidate these efforts, and the government's initiative aims to mobilise the financial support needed to achieve the country's 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity target by 2030.



## 8. India's Sickle Cell Challenge

**Source:** The Hindu, Page-07

**Prelims:** About National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023)

**Mains:** Challenges and Way forward regarding SCD

**Context:** In 2023, the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission launched to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047, primarily targeting affected tribal regions in states like Odisha, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh.

### India's Sickle Cell Burden:

- India bears the second-largest burden of sickle cell disease globally, with over one million people affected.
- The disease is caused by a genetic mutation that leads to crescent-shaped red blood cells, resulting in severe health complications, including anaemia, recurrent infections, and organ damage.
- Life expectancy for those affected is typically around 40 years.

### Social Stigma and Challenges:

- People with SCD face social stigma, often being ostracized or considered "genetically inferior."
- In some regions, the disease is attributed to superstitions like "God's curse" or "black magic."

### Government Initiatives:

- This Mission has focused on large-scale screening and increased access to Hydroxyurea, a key treatment drug included in the essential medicines list.

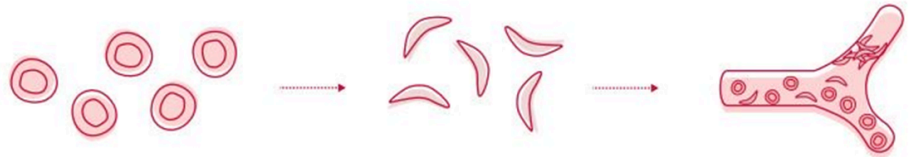
### Major Challenges:

- **Low Treatment Access:**
  - Only 18% of affected individuals receive consistent treatment due to high dropout rates at various stages: screening, diagnosis, and treatment adherence.
  - Stigma and mistrust of public health systems, especially in tribal areas, hinder diagnosis.
- **Treatment Gaps:**
  - While hydroxyurea is effective, there are supply chain issues, forcing patients to travel long distances to access medicines.

### Way Ahead:

- **Reducing Stigma and Building Trust:**
  - Targeted awareness campaigns, modeled on India's successes in tackling polio and HIV
- **Expanding Newborn Screening:**
  - Newborn screening can be a low-cost and high-impact strategy, particularly in regions where the disease is prevalent.
- **Improving Access to Medicines:**
  - Medications and adherence support should be provided at local health centers, while district-level interdisciplinary centers of excellence can handle complex cases.

### What is Sickle Cell Disease?



#### SCD is a blood disorder

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an **inherited blood disorder** that affects red blood cells. Normal red blood cells are round and flexible, which lets them travel through small blood vessels to deliver oxygen to all parts of the body.

#### Causing misshapen blood cells

SCD causes red blood cells to **form into a crescent shape**, like a sickle.

#### Creating painful complications

The sickle-shaped red blood cells break apart easily, clump together, and stick to the walls of blood vessels, **blocking the flow of blood**, which can cause a range of serious health issues.



- **Vaccination and Healthcare in Tribal Areas:**
  - A catch-up vaccination program for SCD patients in tribal healthcare systems. Adequate funding and support are required.
- **Research and Innovation:**
  - **Philanthropists and civil society** can collaborate with the government to continue research on SCD in India to develop new treatments.

**Conclusion:**

- India's fight against sickle cell disease requires a multi-faceted approach that includes awareness, early screening, accessible treatment, and ongoing research.
- The National Mission has set a strong foundation, but continued collaboration between the government, healthcare institutions, and civil society will be crucial to achieve the goal of eliminating SCD by 2047.



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 9. Why Manipur's Crisis Reflects Deeper National Issues

Source: The Indian Express, Page-12

Prelims: Geographical Mapping

Mains: Political and Governance Concern, CAA and NRC's Positive and Negative Impacts

Context: The ongoing crisis in Manipur, highlighting how it exposes the broader failures of governance, state authority, and the current nationalist ideology in India.

Themes:

Neglect of Governance:

- For over a year, Manipur has been gripped by ethnic clashes, but the central government has responded with inaction, neither restoring law and order nor attempting to broker peace.
- This non-response aligns with a broader pattern of governance, where crises like the CAA-NRC protests, farmers' protests, and infrastructure failures have been met with repression and a focus on perception management rather than meaningful intervention.

Distortion of State Power:

- The idea of state power has been distorted under the current regime.
- Despite claims of concern for national security and sovereignty, Manipur represents a failure of the Indian state to ensure peace and security.
- The state's response has been superficial, focused on rhetoric rather than real action, as seen in the labeling of protestors and the avoidance of addressing core issues like the Ladakh protests and Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Hindutva Ideology and Its Limitations:

- Government's reluctance to prioritize Manipur is its Hindutva-driven nationalism, which conflates religion with the nation.
- This ideology excludes non-Hindus, particularly in the Northeast, where religious and ethnic diversity challenges the Hindutva narrative.
- The belief in a conspiracy to convert Hindus, especially to Christianity, fosters divisions and tensions, exacerbating existing conflicts between communities.

Broader Implications:

- **Weakening of the Indian State:**
  - The government's emphasis on a Hindu-majority nation undermines the principles of diversity and coexistence.
  - The state becomes a tool for the majority community, deepening mistrust and eroding the social fabric.
  - This failure to build trust among communities has made Manipur a symbol of the regime's inability to manage pluralism effectively.



- **Failure of the Nationalist Vision:**

- The ongoing unrest in Manipur underscores the limitations of the Hindutva ideology in governing a diverse nation.
- The government's identification with a single community and its narrow definition of nationalism have become obstacles to fostering harmony and trust among different groups, not just in Manipur but across India.

**Conclusion:**

- Manipur's crisis is a reflection of the broader failures of governance and state authority in India.
- The current regime's narrow vision of nationhood, rooted in Hindutva, has created deeper social and political divisions, making it difficult to resolve conflicts and ensure peace.
- The situation in Manipur serves as a stark reminder of these challenges and the urgent need for a more inclusive and responsive approach to governance.

## 10. Making India a Start-up Nation: Encouraging Student Entrepreneurship

**Source:** The Indian Express, Page-13

**Prelims:** GDP, Economic Growth in Entrepreneurship

**Mains:** Objective and significance of 3E Model

**Context:** The article discusses how promoting entrepreneurship among students can drive India's economic growth by transforming higher education to boost job creation and GDP.

**Economic Growth through Key Initiatives:**

- In the last decade, India's economy has grown due to three key developments:
  - **UPI**, which expanded digital payments;
  - **Telecom revolution**, which provided affordable data;
  - **Pandemic**, which boosted e-commerce and startups. However, to sustain this growth, the article advocates for creating a long-term roadmap that integrates key sub-systems like education, entrepreneurship, and employment (the 3E model).

**Current Start-up Ecosystem:**

- India boasts the third-largest startup ecosystem, with over 1.4 lakh DPIIT-registered startups.
- Government policies, especially capital expenditure and internet penetration, have been instrumental in this growth.
- Over 80 crore internet users provide startups with a vast potential market.
- Despite this progress, the article highlights that India still has significant room to grow, especially in comparison to nations like the US and UK, where startups contribute a larger share of GDP.

**Role of Higher Education:**

- With over 4.3 crore students enrolled in higher education institutions (HEIs), India has immense potential to develop an entrepreneurial culture.
- Only 2% of students in top institutions like IIT Bombay opt for entrepreneurship after graduation.
- By increasing this to just 5%, India could add 5 lakh new entrepreneurs annually.
- Even with a 90% failure rate, 50,000 startups could survive, creating 5.5 lakh direct jobs and 55 lakh indirect jobs every year.

**Solutions and Recommendations:**

**Rethinking HEI Metrics:**

- Higher education institutions(HEIs) should be evaluated not only on student job placements but also on the number of student-led ventures they support.



- This requires enhanced academia-industry linkages for mentorship, funding, and turning research into viable businesses.

**Boosting R&D:**

- India's R&D is 0.7% of GDP, with HEIs at 10%. Boosting R&D, like the US model, could add \$1 trillion and 4 million jobs.

**Creating a Synergistic Model:**

- The article advocates an integrated approach where education, entrepreneurship, and employment work together to drive rapid economic growth, enabling India to achieve exponential progress during the **Amrit Kaal** by its 100th year of independence.

**Conclusion:**

- For India to realize its goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, fostering student entrepreneurship is crucial.
- By encouraging innovation and improving the academia-industry interface, India can create jobs, drive economic growth, and compete with leading global economies.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):**

1. GRAP is implemented across all Indian states to manage air quality.
2. GRAP mandates specific emergency measures when the AQI reaches a certain threshold.
3. GRAP measures are typically invoked during the winter season due to higher pollution levels.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY):**

- **Statement 1:** The Cabinet's decision to extend Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above provides Rs 5 lakh in annual health coverage regardless of income.
- **Statement 2:** This extension aligns with the government's broader objective of ensuring universal health coverage, addressing the healthcare needs of the elderly population.

**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.

**Q3. In the context of the Supreme Court's examination of the plea for the Centre to**

**establish laws ensuring adherence to Fundamental Duties, what role did the Attorney General emphasize for the judiciary?**

1. Directing the legislature to enact specific laws related to Fundamental Duties.
2. Supporting but not intervening in legislative matters concerning Fundamental Duties.
3. Creating new frameworks to enforce Fundamental Duties through judicial orders.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q4. Which of the following are key features of the proposed Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA) as suggested by Niti Aayog?**

1. Establishment of specialized cadres for emergency management at both national and state levels.
2. Creation of a new constitutional body to oversee public health emergency responses.
3. A holistic approach that includes prevention, control, and disaster response.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the protection status of the Amazon rainforest:**

1. Approximately 40% of critical carbon-rich areas in the Amazon rainforest remain unprotected.



- All the peak carbon areas in the Amazon are currently under protection as designated lands or indigenous reserves.
- Advanced imaging technology has been used to assess the carbon storage and vegetation in the Amazon rainforest.
- The Amazon rainforest stores nearly 71.5 billion tonnes of carbon, which is about double the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q6. Which of the following statements about the recent study on airborne germs is NOT accurate?**

- The study identified 266 fungal species and 305 bacterial species of microbes, some of which are human pathogens.
- The airborne microbes were found to have traveled over 1,200 miles, likely hitching a ride on dust particles from northeast China.
- High levels of hafnium detected in the samples are believed to be from mining activities in Japan.
- Wind patterns from China have been observed to coincide with surges in Kawasaki disease in Japan and California.

**Q7. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the Indian government's strategy to promote green energy financing?**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is setting mandatory loan targets for banks to fund renewable energy projects.
- At the Re-Invest Summit, banks will commit to renewable energy financing through formal promissory notes known as "shapath patras."
- India aims to achieve a 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 with a specified investment target of ₹30 trillion.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only

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

**Q8. Consider the following statements regarding India's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:**

- India has the highest burden of sickle cell disease in the world, with over one million affected individuals.
- The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047, focusing on major tribal regions in Odisha, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Hydroxyurea, a key treatment for sickle cell disease, is consistently accessible to all affected individuals in India.
- Social stigma and misinformation about sickle cell disease hinder effective treatment and diagnosis in affected regions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q9. Which of the following statements about the crisis in Manipur is NOT accurate?**

- The central government's inaction in response to the ethnic clashes in Manipur aligns with its broader pattern of addressing crises through repression and perception management.
- The current regime's approach to national security in Manipur is characterized by meaningful intervention and effective peace-brokering efforts.
- The Hindutva-driven nationalism of the government has contributed to the exclusion of non-Hindus in the Northeast, exacerbating ethnic and religious tensions.
- Manipur's ongoing unrest highlights the limitations of the Hindutva ideology in effectively governing a diverse nation like India.





**Q10. Which of the following statements about promoting student entrepreneurship in India is NOT accurate?**

- A. The 3E model integrates education, entrepreneurship, and employment to create a roadmap for sustaining economic growth.
- B. India's startup ecosystem is the largest in the world, surpassing that of the US and the UK in terms of the number of startups and their contribution to GDP.
- C. Increasing the percentage of students pursuing entrepreneurship from 2% to 5% could lead to the creation of 50,000 surviving startups and 5.5 lakh direct jobs annually.
- D. Higher education institutions (HEIs) should be evaluated not only on student placements but also on their support for student-led ventures, requiring better academia-industry linkages.



## Solutions

1. **Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** GRAP is not implemented across all Indian states but is primarily focused on Delhi-NCR and some neighboring regions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** GRAP requires emergency measures when AQI crosses certain thresholds.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** GRAP is typically invoked during the winter season due to higher pollution levels in Delhi during that period.

2. **Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- The expansion of AB PM-JAY to include all individuals aged 70 years and above ensures that this vulnerable age group is provided with financial protection against healthcare costs,
- It aligns with the government's goal of achieving universal health coverage and social security for the elderly.

3. **Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Attorney General emphasized that the judiciary should avoid directing the legislature on lawmaking.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The judiciary should play a supportive role but not intervene directly in legislative matters.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The judiciary does not create frameworks for enforcement but rather emphasizes the ongoing

role of legislative and executive actions.

4. **Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PHEMA aims to establish specialized cadres for emergency management.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The act does not propose the creation of a new constitutional body but focuses on existing health agencies.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The act is designed to take a holistic approach, including prevention, control, and disaster response.

5. **Correct Answer is A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** New data shows that nearly 40% of critical carbon-rich areas in the Amazon remain unprotected, highlighting the urgent need for conservation efforts.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** Currently, 39% of the peak carbon areas are unprotected, which means not all these areas are under protection.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** Advanced imaging technology, including Planet Satellite's laser imaging and machine-learning models, has been utilized to analyze the Amazon's vegetation and carbon storage.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect.** The Amazon rainforest stores 71.5 billion tonnes of carbon, which is significant, but stating it is "nearly double" 2022's global CO<sub>2</sub>



emissions is misleading without context, as the exact comparison might vary.

**6. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

The study found high levels of hafnium, but it was likely from Chinese mines, not Japanese ones.

**7. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The MNRE is encouraging banks to fund green energy projects but is not setting specific loan targets.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Re-Invest Summit will see banks presenting "shapath patras" as part of their commitments to renewable energy financing.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The goal is to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity with an investment target of ₹30 trillion.

**8. Correct Answer is C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** India bears the second-largest burden of sickle cell disease globally, not the highest.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease by 2047, targeting regions such as Odisha, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Hydroxyurea is not consistently accessible to all affected individuals due to supply chain issues and treatment gaps.
- **Statement 4 is correct.** Social stigma and misinformation about sickle cell disease contribute to challenges in diagnosis and treatment in affected regions.

**9. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- The study highlights that the government's response has been superficial and focused on rhetoric rather than actual intervention or peace-brokering.
- The other statements accurately reflect the issues of governance, state power distortion, and the impact of Hindutva ideology on the situation in Manipur.

**10. Correct Answer is B**

**Explanation:**

- While India has a large startup ecosystem, it is not the largest in the world, and its contribution to GDP is still comparatively smaller than in countries like the US and the UK.
- The other statements accurately reflect the 3E model's objectives, potential job creation through increased student entrepreneurship, and the need for enhanced support for student-led ventures in higher education.





## GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

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

[www.upsmentorship.com](http://www.upsmentorship.com)

[contact@mentorshipindia.com](mailto:contact@mentorshipindia.com)

[@mentorship.india](https://www.instagram.com/mentorship.india)