



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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Indian Society

Ensuring a proper social safety net for the gig worker

Why in News?

Defining 'employment relation' in gig work is the key

Introduction

The rise in gig workers in India has highlighted the absence of social security. The Ministry of Labour is drafting legislation to extend benefits like health insurance and retirement savings, addressing their exclusion from traditional employer-employee protections.

Gig Workers

- These are individuals who work on a temporary, flexible basis, often for multiple clients or companies, performing tasks or providing services.
- They are typically independent contractors rather than traditional employees, which means they have more control over when, where, and how they work.

Issues in Social Security for Gig Workers

Issue	Explanation
Exclusion from Traditional Employment	Gig workers are not part of the employer-employee relationship, which limits their access to labor protections.
Lack of Institutional Social Security	The current system provides only limited benefits (e.g., cash maternity benefits) compared to formal workers.
Ambiguous Employment Relations	Gig workers are often labeled as "independent contractors," preventing them from accessing full labor rights.
Insufficient Wage and Safety Protections	Gig workers are not covered by minimum wage or occupational safety regulations.

Provisions of Proposed Legislation

- **Aggregator Contributions:** 1-2% of their revenue to a Social Security Fund for gig workers.

- **Health and Insurance Benefits**
- **Welfare Board**
- **Registration and Protections:** On the Labour Ministry's e-Shram portal to avail benefits, including life and accidental insurance.
- **Termination Safeguards:** Provide a 14-day notice before terminating workers, with valid reasons.

Labour Codes and Gig Workers

Labour Code	Gig Workers' Coverage
Social Security Code 2020	Gig workers are eligible for social security schemes, but not institutional protections.
Wage Code	Minimum wage protections do not extend to gig workers.
Industrial Relations Code 2020	Gig workers are excluded from dispute resolution mechanisms.
Occupational Safety Code 2020	Gig workers are not protected under occupational safety and health regulations.

Proposed Solutions and Challenges

- **Explicit Definition of Employment Relations:** Including gig workers under existing labor laws.
- **Welfare Board Limitations:** Welfare boards for gig workers need rethinking due to limited success.
- **Formalization:** By employment relationship, the formalization of gig workers can be accelerated, eliminating the need for separate legislation.

Conclusion

Excluding gig workers from traditional employment limits their social security. Recognizing aggregators as employers ensures wage protection, safety, and dispute resolution.

Question: Discuss the challenges faced by gig workers in India in accessing social security benefits. What steps can be taken to include gig workers in the existing labor framework?

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Social Justice

A blueprint for safeguarding children

Why in News?

A recent Supreme Court ruling reframes the watching and downloading of child porn as a serious crime, rather than an adult indulgence

Recent Judgement

Date	Event
January 2024	Madras High Court ruled that downloading or viewing child pornography is not a crime, quashing a case against an accused.
Recent Ruling	Supreme Court redefined "child pornography" to "Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM)," emphasizing the serious nature of the crime.

CSEAM : Includes child pornography, grooming, and any material that involves the sexual exploitation of minors.

It also encompasses the production, distribution, and possession of such materials.

Legal Framework in India

- **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** Provides a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000:** Contains provisions to prevent the dissemination of child pornography online.
- **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Sections related to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Implications of the Ruling

1. **Redefinition of Terminology:** The term CSEAM shifts the focus from adult indulgence to serious criminality, highlighting that searching for or downloading such material contributes to the demand-supply chain of child exploitation.
2. **Perpetual Nature of Abuse:** CSEAM creates a persistent cycle of victimization, as images circulate online, often without the victims' knowledge. Children may remain unaware that they have been exploited.

3. Proposed Measures

- **Explicit Definition of Cybercrime:** Indian laws should clearly define cybercrime to include CSEAM as a form of economic and organized crime.
- **Accountability for Social Media Platforms:** Intermediaries must report CSEAM to law enforcement agencies in real-time, as mandated by the Supreme Court.
- **Institutional Framework:** Establish a forensic lab with advanced technology to handle the rising reports of CSEAM.
- **National Database on Sexual Offenders:** Maintain records of individuals prosecuted for CSEAM, barring them from employment in child-related sectors.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

Feature	Description
Definition of a Child	Any person below the age of 18 years.
Gender-Neutral Nature	Recognizes that both genders can be victims of sexual abuse.
Confidentiality of Victim's Identity	Mandates confidentiality to protect the identity of child victims
Mandatory Reporting	Requires individuals to report any knowledge of child abuse.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's ruling strengthens protections against child sexual exploitation, committing to uphold children's rights.

Question: Discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's judgment on child sexual exploitation in India. How does this ruling align with international standards on child rights?

Source : [The Hindu](#)



Science

How did the Haber-Bosch process change the world?

Why in News?

The Haber-Bosch method boosted global food production through synthetic fertilizers, but environmentalists warn about the harmful effects of nitrogen fertilizers on ecosystems.

Introduction

The Haber-Bosch process, developed in the early 20th century, revolutionized agriculture by enabling the large-scale production of synthetic fertilizers. This innovation has played a pivotal role in significantly increasing global food production, addressing hunger, and transforming agricultural practices.

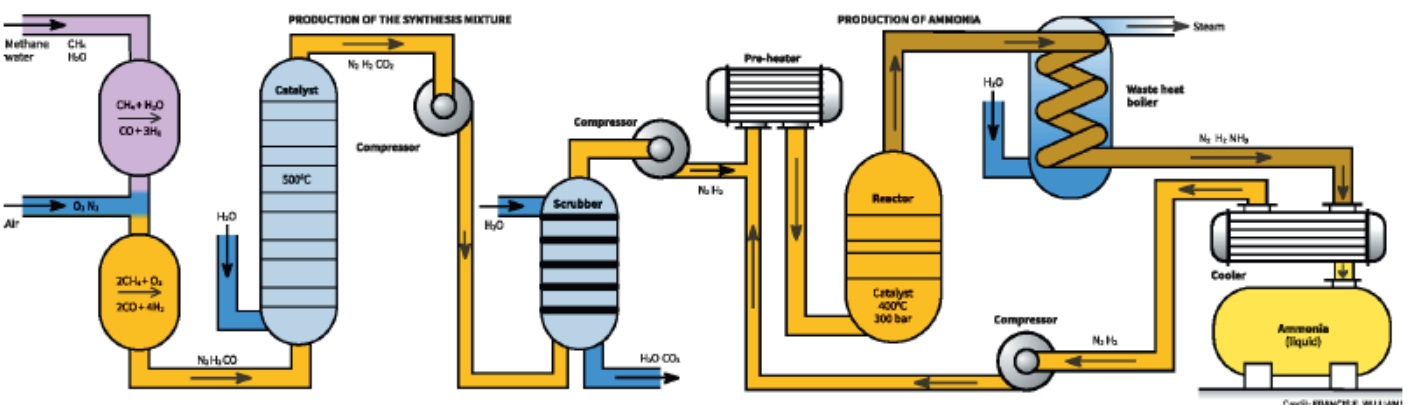
Haber-Bosch : The Haber-Bosch process is a method of synthesizing ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen under high pressure and temperature, using a catalyst.

Key Components of the Haber-Bosch Process

Component	Description
Raw Materials	Nitrogen (N ₂) from the atmosphere and hydrogen (H ₂) from natural gas
Reaction	N ₂ + 3H ₂ ⇌ 2NH ₃ (Ammonia)
Catalyst	Initially osmium and uranium; later iron oxides proved effective
Conditions	High pressure (200 atm) and high temperature (around 450°C)
Output	Approximately 100 million tonnes of ammonia produced annually

How ammonia is made on an industrial scale

Ammonia is made of nitrogen and hydrogen. Under extreme heat, the molecules separate and form a compound, but it is short-lived because of the heat. The German chemist Fritz Haber heated the N₂-H₂ combination to various temperatures in a platinum cylinder and applied pressure to create ammonia. This graphic demonstrates the Haber-Bosch process



Nitrogen in Nature

Natural Sources	Description
Lightning	Converts atmospheric nitrogen to nitrates via high energy
Biological Fixation	Certain bacteria (e.g., Rhizobia, Azotobacter) convert N_2 to reactive nitrogen
Soil Absorption	Plants absorb nitrogen primarily in the form of ammonium (NH_4^+) and nitrate (NO_3^-)

Impacts of the Haber-Bosch Process:

Aspect	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
Agriculture	Enabled mass production of synthetic fertilizers, contributing to the Green Revolution and global food security.	Excessive fertilizer use leads to nutrient imbalance, affecting plant quality.
Environment	Higher agricultural output reduced deforestation and land degradation by allowing intensive farming on existing land.	Runoff from nitrogen fertilizers leads to water pollution, eutrophication, and acid rain formation.
Human Health	Improved food production extended lifespans and reduced malnutrition.	Overuse of nitrogen fertilizers has been linked to respiratory issues and groundwater contamination, harming health.
Global Population	The process supports around 2 billion people, or one-third of the global population, by preventing food shortages.	Disparities in food distribution persist, with hunger and malnutrition existing even in surplus-producing regions.

Conclusion

The Haber-Bosch process was groundbreaking for food production but raises critical questions about sustainability and environmental impact. Future approaches must integrate technological advancements with political action and community engagement to ensure food security while

protecting ecological health.

Question: Discuss the impact of the Haber-Bosch process on global agriculture and food security. What are the associated environmental challenges?

Source: The Hindu



Studies zero in on biology TB bacteria use to evade immune response

Why in News?

Scientists are intrigued by whatever allows the bacteria to survive in a macrophage's hostile environment and are on the lookout for proteins that shield it

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant global health challenge, particularly in countries like India. With growing antimicrobial resistance, researchers are exploring the biology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) to develop new strategies to combat this pathogen, focusing on its unique survival mechanisms in hostile environments like human macrophages.

Key Insights

Feature	Details
Pathogen	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Mtb)
Genome Size	4.4 million base pairs (large genome compared to other respiratory bacteria)
Immune Evasion	Survives in macrophages, which are typically designed to destroy pathogens.
Mechanism	Mtb grows in tubercles (clusters surrounded by lipids) and can remain dormant for decades.
Key Enzymes	Cysteine synthase enzymes help Mtb survive oxidative stress in macrophages.

Survival Mechanisms of Mtb

Macrophage Evasion: Macrophages use oxidative stress and nutrient deprivation to kill pathogens. However, Mtb thrives in this environment by using its large genome to produce proteins that protect it. The bacteria remain protected in tubercles and can spread beyond the lungs, staying dormant for years without causing symptoms.

Enzymes: Cysteine Synthase

Researchers at CSIR-CCMB (India) identified three cysteine synthase enzymes that help Mtb survive oxidative stress: CysK2 and CysM.

Enzyme	Role in Survival
CysK2, CysM	Critical for cysteine production and oxidative stress survival
Inhibitors	Inhibit cysteine synthases, enhancing the potency of antibiotics like isoniazid.



Additional Research Avenues:

Researchers are also studying how Mtb:

- Modifies phosphate and carbon metabolism.
- Builds a strong cell wall to resist stress.
- Avoids triggering macrophage immune responses.
- Interferes with the epigenetic memory of macrophages, reducing their ability to respond to subsequent infections.

Facts and Data

- **TB Prevalence in India:** India contributes to about 27% of the global TB burden.
- **Antibiotic Resistance:** Multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is an emerging concern, reducing the effectiveness of first-line treatments.

- **Genomic Size Comparison:**

- **Mtb:** 4.4 million base pairs
- **Staphylococcus aureus:** 2.8 million base pairs

Conclusion:

The insights gained from studying Mtb's survival mechanisms, especially cysteine synthase enzymes, offer promising pathways for developing new TB treatments. By targeting these enzymes, researchers can potentially enhance the effectiveness of existing antibiotics and create new therapeutic strategies.

Question: Analyze the challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance in tuberculosis treatment and explore the role of cysteine synthase enzymes in overcoming this issue.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft will scour Jupiter moon for the ingredients for life

Why in News?

One of Jupiter's 95 known moons, Europa is almost the size of our own moon.

Introduction

NASA's Europa Clipper mission, launching on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, will explore Jupiter's moon Europa to determine if its subsurface ocean can support life, costing \$5.2 billion.

Europa Clipper Mission

Key Component	Details
Target	Jupiter's moon Europa
Mission Objective	Investigate Europa's subsurface ocean for potential habitability
Launch Vehicle	SpaceX Falcon Heavy
Launch Year	2024
Journey Time	5.5 years to reach Jupiter (arrival in 2030)
End of Mission	Planned crash into Ganymede in 2034
Radiation Protection	Electronics housed in dense aluminum-zinc vaults



Why Europa?

Europa's Attributes	Details
Size	Comparable to Earth's moon
Ice Thickness	15-24 km
Subsurface Ocean Depth	80-120 km
Surface Geysers	Hubble detected potential geysers
Radiation Exposure	High radiation from Jupiter's magnetosphere

Mission Goals and Challenges

- The Europa Clipper will not directly search for life but will assess whether Europa's environment could support life.
- Key instruments will include radar to penetrate the ice, cameras to map the moon, and sensors to analyze Europa's surface and atmosphere.
- The spacecraft faces significant challenges, primarily the high radiation around Jupiter, which could potentially harm its electronics.

Challenges

- **Radiation Exposure:** Europa's proximity to Jupiter subjects it to intense radiation.
- **Spacecraft Protection:** Clipper's electronics are shielded with thick

aluminum and zinc to withstand radiation.

Other Missions to Jupiter

Previous missions that have flown by or orbited Jupiter include:

- Pioneer 10 and 11 (1970s)
- Voyager 1 and 2 (1979) – Provided the first detailed images of Europa.
- Galileo (1990s) – Multiple flybys of Europa.
- Juno (currently orbiting Jupiter) – Additional insights into Europa.
- ESA's Juice Mission (launched 2023) – Set to arrive a year after Clipper.

Ocean Worlds Beyond Europa

Several other moons in the solar system are considered potential ocean worlds:

- **Ganymede:** Europa's larger sibling also believed to harbor a subsurface ocean.
- **Enceladus (Saturn's moon):** Known for its geysers, possibly ejecting material from an underground ocean.
- **Titan (Saturn's moon):** Another candidate for having a subterranean ocean.

Question: Discuss the significance of NASA's Europa Clipper mission in the context of space exploration and the search for extraterrestrial life.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Economy

Why nations fail or succeed: what this year's Economics Nobel winners worked on

Why in News?

Nobel laureates emphasize strong institutions for prosperity; societies with weak rule of law struggle. India's fit within this framework is crucial to examine.

Introduction

The 2024 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson for their research on how inclusive institutions foster prosperity, addressing why some nations thrive while others remain poor.

Institutional Framework and Economic Growth

Two types of institutional frameworks:

- Inclusive Institutions:** These systems encourage economic participation and growth by providing safeguards like democracy, law and order, and property rights. Countries with inclusive institutions tend to enjoy sustained economic growth because citizens have an incentive to invest in long-term prosperity.
- Extractive Institutions:** In contrast, extractive systems often feature autocratic governance, lack of accountability, and high levels of corruption. These setups deter long-term investments and lead to underdevelopment.

Colonial Strategy	Countries Affected
Extractive Institutions (High mortality, exploitation)	India, Congo, Latin America
Inclusive Institutions (Low mortality, settlement)	United States, Canada, Australia

India's Institutional Evolution

India's inclusive institutions, like its Constitution and judiciary, ensured democracy, yet economic growth lags behind China, raising questions about the role of institutions versus non-democratic models in development.

Key Insights from the Research

- Institutions Matter:** Countries with strong, inclusive institutions experience sustainable growth, while those with extractive institutions struggle.
- Colonial Impact:** The institutions set up during colonization have a lasting effect on the economic trajectory of nations.

- Current Global Trends:** Even today, institutions globally are weakening, with rising concerns over authoritarianism and democracy's declining appeal.

India's Development Path: The research suggests that India, with its inclusive institutions, has potential for sustained long-term growth if it can overcome current challenges in governance and inequality.

Question: How do inclusive and extractive institutions impact the long-term economic development of nations? Illustrate your answer with examples from colonial and post-colonial history.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



Surge in food prices drives September retail inflation to 9-month high of 5.49%

Why in News?

Food and beverages, which accounts for 45.86 per cent of the total weight of Consumer Price Index (Combined), registered an inflation rate of 8.36 per cent in September, up from 5.30 per cent in August.

Current Scenario : Retail inflation in India hit a 9-month high of 5.49% in September 2024, driven by a sharp increase in food prices, particularly perishables like fruits and vegetables.

This comes after a relatively lower inflation rate of 3.65% in August 2024.

Data was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), and inflation remains a significant concern for economic stability.

Indicator	August 2024 (%)	September 2024 (%)	Change
Retail Inflation	3.65	5.49	11.84
Food Inflation	5.66	9.24	13.58
Vegetables Inflation	10.71	35.99	125.28
Fruits Inflation	6.45	7.65	11.20
Core Inflation (Non-Food, Non-Fuel)	3.4	3.5	10.1

Food and Beverage Inflation: This category, which holds a 45.86% weight in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), registered an inflation rate of 8.36% in September, rising from 5.30% in August.

Vegetables and Fruits: Perishables like vegetables showed the steepest increase, with inflation soaring to a 14-month high of 35.99%, compared to 10.71% in August. Fruit inflation rose to 7.65% in September from 6.45% in August.

Other Categories

- **Cereals:** 6.8% inflation in September.
- **Pulses:** Inflation remained high at 9.8%.
- **Edible Oils:** Inflation rose to 2.47% after 19 months of deflation.

Global Factors Impacting Inflation

- Disruptions in global edible oil prices, uneven monsoons, and pre-harvest rainfall have exacerbated inflationary pressures.
- The Middle East conflict and China's economic stimulus have led to higher global commodity prices, which could impact India's inflation rates in the coming months.

Rural and Urban Inflation

Rural inflation increased to 5.87% from 4.16% in August.

Urban inflation saw a rise to 5.05% from 3.14%.

Conclusion

The rise in food prices, particularly perishables like vegetables and fruits, has driven India's retail inflation to a 9-month high in September. This could compel the RBI to adopt a cautious monetary stance, delaying any rate cuts. Factors such as global commodity prices and weather disruptions pose further risks to inflation stability, necessitating close monitoring in the months ahead.

Question: Examine the causes of the recent surge in retail inflation in India and its impact on monetary policy. What steps can be taken to ensure price stability?

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



International Relation

India decides to withdraw High Commissioner and other diplomats and officials from Canada

Why in News?

The government expelled six Canadian diplomats and asked them to leave India

What is Current Scenario ?

India's decision to withdraw its High Commissioner and expel Canadian diplomats in October 2024 marks a significant escalation in tensions between the two countries. This diplomatic spat stems from the Canadian government's accusations involving the killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Key Developments

- **India's Diplomatic Retaliation:** After the Canadian accusations, India expelled six Canadian diplomats, citing concerns over the safety of Indian diplomats in Canada.
- **Reciprocal Measures:** India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reiterated that the measures adhered to the principle of reciprocity in diplomatic relations.
- **Historical Context:** India and Canada have a long-standing relationship dating back to 1947, with both countries sharing a similar federal structure.

Geopolitical Implications

- **International Involvement:** The U.S.-led Five Eyes intelligence network has reportedly played a role in Canada's decision to accuse India, adding a global dimension to the crisis.

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance

- The Five Eyes is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network involving more than 20 agencies from five English-speaking nations: **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.** It focuses on both **surveillance and signals intelligence (SIGINT).**
- Classified intelligence shared among these nations is labeled as **'Secret-AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,'** which is where the name 'Five Eyes' originates.

Historical Background of the Alliance

- Founded in WWII when the U.S. and U.K. partnered to counter the Soviet threat during the Cold War. Both nations decided to collaborate in sharing signals intelligence, such as radio, satellite, and internet communications.
- In 1946, this collaboration was formalized through a signals intelligence cooperation agreement. Initially called the **British-U.S. Communication Intelligence Agreement (BRUSA)**, it is now known as the **UKUSA Agreement.** This treaty was signed between the **U.S. State-Army-Navy Communication Intelligence Board (STANCIB)** and the **London Signal Intelligence Board (SIGINT)** of the U.K. Its focus was solely on communication intelligence and allowed the unrestricted sharing of intelligence in six specific areas: **traffic collection, acquisition of communication documents and equipment, traffic analysis, cryptanalysis, decryption and translation, and gathering information on communication systems.**
- Later, the alliance expanded to include additional members, with **Canada joining in 1948,** followed by **Australia and New Zealand in 1956.**

Conclusion

India-Canada relations face heightened tensions due to diplomatic expulsions, diaspora issues, and political challenges impacting bilateral ties.

Question: Examine the evolving dynamics of India-Canada relations in light of recent diplomatic tensions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Sri Lanka to apply for BRICS membership and New Development Bank, says Foreign Minister

Why in News?

Colombo seeks support from BRICS leaders for membership, citing multilateralism goals

Overview

Sri Lanka's newly-appointed Foreign Minister, announced the country's intention to apply for membership in BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) and the New Development Bank (NDB). This decision reflects Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation aimed at achieving peace and development.

Aspect	Details
Membership Sought	BRICS and the New Development Bank
Reasons for Application	Pursuit of mutually beneficial cooperation Strengthened multilateralism within the UN Charter
Upcoming Summit	Outreach BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia (Oct 23-24, 2024)
Current BRICS Members	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, plus new members: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, UAE

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)

- BRICS is an international group of five major emerging economies—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Initially formed as BRIC in 2009, it became BRICS after the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.
- The group represents a significant global economic bloc with a focus on political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Objectives of BRICS

- **Economic Cooperation:** Strengthening economic ties and promoting sustainable development among member nations.
- **Political Cooperation:** Advocating for a multipolar world and reforming global institutions like the UN, IMF, and World Bank to reflect the current global order.
- **Developmental Goals:** Addressing development challenges in emerging economies, including poverty, inequality, and infrastructure deficits.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Enhancing people-to-people relations and promoting cultural interactions among member states.

BRICS Institutions and Initiatives

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** Established in 2014, the NDB finances infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):** A financial mechanism to provide liquidity support to BRICS countries during economic crises.

Importance of BRICS for India

- **Economic Benefits:** BRICS provides India access to large markets, promotes trade, and aids in infrastructure development.
- **Political Support:** India's participation strengthens its position in advocating for reforms in global institutions and promoting multilateralism.
- **Strategic Interests:** Collaborating on issues like counter-terrorism, energy security, climate change, and technology transfers.

Question: Evaluate the implications of BRICS expansion for global geopolitics.

Source: [The Telegraph Online](#)



Editorial, Opinions & Ideas

Israel's brutality in Gaza, India's pin-drop silence

Why in News?

New Delhi's response to the Gaza war is a reflection of the 'new India's' collective anti-colonial amnesia

Overview

- In October, 2024, the world marked one year of Israel's war on Gaza. This war has been catastrophic, with civilians, women, and children being the main victims. The conflict has prompted massive global protests, but India has remained largely silent.
- India's shift in foreign policy, particularly its muted response to the Gaza crisis, against the backdrop of historical solidarity with Palestine and growing ties with Israel.

Analysis of India's Shift in Stance

1. India's earlier strong pro-Palestinian stance was rooted in its own anti-colonial struggle and solidarity with liberation movements.

2. However, with growing geopolitical concerns, India's stance has evolved to favor Israel, particularly in the realms of defense, technology, and intelligence.
3. India's silence on the ongoing violence in Gaza highlights the influence of Hindu nationalism, which views the Palestinian cause through a religious lens, sidelining its anti-colonial context.
4. India's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by its elite, aligning with U.S. interests in the region, while distancing itself from historical alliances with the developing world.
5. This reflects a significant shift in how India engages with global conflicts and human rights issues.

Factors Influencing India's Foreign Policy Shift

Factor	Impact
Strategic Alignment with Israel	Israel provided military assistance during the Kargil War, strengthening bilateral ties.
Technological and Defense Ties	Deepening cooperation in military and intelligence sectors.
Hindutva Ideology	Frames the Palestinian issue as a religious (Muslim) concern.
U.S. Relations	India's focus on countering China with U.S. support overshadows its earlier anti-imperialist stance.
Media Narrative	Indian media mostly presents the conflict through the lens of counter-terrorism, downplaying colonial issues.

Conclusion

India's foreign policy shift towards Israel reveals changing strategic priorities influenced by geopolitical and ideological factors, moving away from its historical solidarity with Palestine and emphasizing defense ties with Israel and the U.S.

Question: "India's foreign policy towards Israel and Palestine has undergone a dramatic shift in recent years." Critically analyze this statement in light of the current Gaza conflict.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Daily Quiz

Q1. Which of the following countries are members of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network?

1. Australia
2. Japan
3. New Zealand
4. Canada
5. U.S
6. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1,2,3,4 and 6
- B. 1,3 4 and 5
- C. 3,4 5 and 6
- D. 1,4,5 and 6

Q2. The e-Shram portal in India primarily aims at which of the following?

- A. Formal sector employment registration
- B. International migration for gig worker records
- C. Agricultural worker registration
- D. Registration of informal workers, including gig workers

Q3. Which of the following terms has the Supreme Court of India urged to replace “child pornography”?

- A. Child Exploitation Material
- B. Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM)
- C. Child Abuse Content
- D. Child Exploitative Content

Q4. Which of the following enzymes is associated with the survival of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in the human body?

- A. Amylase
- B. Lipase
- C. Cysteine synthase
- D. Urease

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics:

1. The prize was awarded for the study of the impact of geography on economic growth.
2. Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson, were awarded for their work on the role of institutions in shaping prosperity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q6. Which of the following statements about NASA's Europa Clipper mission is/are correct?

1. The mission aims to search for life on Europa by examining its surface for microorganisms.
2. Europa Clipper will orbit Jupiter and conduct multiple flybys of its moon Europa.
3. The spacecraft is expected to arrive at Jupiter in 2030 and complete its mission by 2034.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q7. Consider the following statement:

1. Food and fuel prices are excluded from core inflation calculations.
2. Core inflation tends to be more stable compared to headline inflation.
3. Core inflation represents the overall inflation within a country's economy.

Which of the following statements are accurate?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the Haber-Bosch process:

1. It synthesizes ammonia from hydrogen and nitrogen under low pressure.
2. Osmium was the first catalyst used for the industrial production of ammonia.
3. This process is crucial for producing synthetic fertilizers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Q9. Consider the following statements:

- Statement-I:** Israel has established diplomatic relations with some Arab States.
- Statement-II :** The 'Arab Peace Initiative' mediated by Saudi Arabia was signed by Israel and Arab League.

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II is the correct explanation for Statement- I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement- II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Q10. Consider the the following statement regarding BRICS grouping:

- The countries in BRICS contribute significantly to the global GDP and trade volume.
- BRICS is recognized as a geopolitical entity that seeks to reform international institutions, challenge the current power structures, and represent the interests of developing nations on global platforms.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) was created by the BRICS nations, focusing on financing space exploration initiatives.

How many of the above statements are accurate?

- Only one
- Only two
- All are correct
- None of the above



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- The Five Eyes (FVEY) intelligence-sharing alliance consists of five member countries: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.
- These nations collaborate extensively in sharing intelligence, particularly in the domains of signals intelligence (SIGINT).

2. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- The e-Shram portal in India primarily aims at the registration of informal workers, including gig workers, platform workers, and other unorganized sector workers.
- It helps in creating a comprehensive database to ensure access to social security schemes and welfare benefits for these workers.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court of India has urged the replacement of the term "child pornography" with "Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM)".
- This term more accurately reflects the gravity of the offense, focusing on the exploitation and abuse involved rather than just the pornographic aspect.
- The goal is to shift the narrative towards safeguarding children from exploitation and ensuring stronger legal actions.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- The enzyme Cysteine synthase is associated with the survival of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in the human body.
- This enzyme plays a key role in the bacteria's defense against oxidative stress by aiding in the production of cysteine, which is crucial for the synthesis of mycothiol.
- Mycothiol helps protect the bacteria from the host's immune responses,

particularly the reactive oxygen species generated by immune cells.

5. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- The 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson for their work on the role of institutions in shaping economic prosperity.
- Their research highlighted how institutions, particularly those established during colonial times, have a lasting impact on economic outcomes, explaining why some nations are prosperous while others are not.
- This work demonstrates that countries with weak or exploitative institutions tend to struggle with development.

6. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

Statement 1 : Incorrect : While the mission does focus on assessing Europa's potential habitability and may indirectly provide insights into the existence of life, it does not specifically aim to search for microorganisms on the surface. Instead, it will study the moon's ice shell, subsurface ocean, and geological activity. The mission will employ various instruments to analyze the surface and analyze data, but it won't be directly searching for life forms.

Statement 2 : Correct : The Europa Clipper spacecraft will not enter orbit around Europa; instead, it will orbit Jupiter and perform numerous flybys of Europa. This approach allows for detailed examination of Europa's surface and subsurface without landing.

Statement 3 : Correct : The current timeline for the Europa Clipper mission anticipates its launch in 2024, with arrival at Jupiter expected around 2030. The mission is planned to last several years, concluding around 2034.

7. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

Statement 1 : Correct : Core inflation is designed to provide a clearer picture of the underlying inflation trend by removing the impact of food and energy prices. This helps policymakers focus on long-term trends rather



than short-term volatility caused by price swings in these categories.

Statement 2 : Correct : Since core inflation excludes the more volatile categories of food and fuel, it typically shows less fluctuation than headline inflation, which includes all items in the consumer price index (CPI). This stability makes core inflation a preferred measure for central banks when formulating monetary policy.

Statement 3 : Incorrect : Core inflation does not represent overall inflation because it specifically excludes food and energy prices. While it indicates the underlying trend, it does not encompass all price changes within the economy.

8. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

Statement 1 : Incorrect : The Haber-Bosch process synthesizes ammonia (NH_3) from hydrogen (H_2) and nitrogen (N_2) under high pressure, typically around 150-300 atmospheres. High temperatures (400-500°C) are also used to increase the reaction rate. Low pressure would not favor the production of ammonia, as higher pressure drives the reaction towards the formation of ammonia according to Le Chatelier's principle.

Statement 2 : Incorrect : The first catalyst used in the Haber-Bosch process was iron (Fe), often with various promoters like potassium and aluminum oxides to enhance activity. Osmium is a precious metal and was not used due to its high cost and rarity; it is not practical for industrial applications.

Statement 3 : Correct : The Haber-Bosch process is vital for the production of ammonia, which is a primary ingredient in many synthetic fertilizers, such as urea and ammonium nitrate. This process has significantly contributed to modern agriculture by enhancing food production through the availability of nitrogen fertilizers.

9. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. Egypt and Jordan are the only two Arab countries that have formal diplomatic relations with Israel, though some other Arab countries, like Saudi Arabia and Morocco, have reportedly had back-channel communications with it for years.

Statement 2: Incorrect. The Arab Peace Initiative is a comprehensive peace plan which was proposed in 2002 by then-Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The Initiative calls for an end to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and the normalization of relations between Israel and the entire Arab world, in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from the areas gained by Israel during the 1967 Six Day War and a "just settlement" to the issue of Palestinian refugees. The Arab League endorsed the plan in March 2002, and readopted it in March 2007. However, The Israeli government rejected the initiative immediately, calling it a "non-starter," though the Quartet on the Middle East endorsed the Initiative in 2003.

10. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

Statements 1 and 2 are accurate. The BRICS nations represent a significant share of global GDP and trade activity. Additionally, BRICS is recognized as a geopolitical entity that seeks to reform international institutions, challenge current power dynamics, and advocate for the interests of developing countries on the world stage.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The New Development Bank (NDB), often referred to as the BRICS Bank, was created by the BRICS member states. Its primary focus is on financing infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in emerging economies, serving as an alternative to traditional lending bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.





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