



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26 September 2024



SOURCES



Table of Contents

1. Delhi Sees Poor AQI for the First Time Since June.....	2
2. India and China Make 'Progress' on Pending LAC Issues in Eastern Ladakh.....	3
3. What is Clause 6 of Assam Accord, which Himanta said the state government will implement? 4	4
4. Justice is Key to Tackling the Climate Crisis: Insights from a New Study.....	5
5. India to launch its first mission to Venus in 2028: Everything you need to know.....	6
6. Project Cheetah: Two Years In – Current Status and Challenges.....	7
7. All about Neom, the controversial Saudi project that promises a desert utopia.....	8
8. Clean energy: Hit by China's predatory pricing, India 'exploring ties with West'.....	9
9. China's warning shots with minerals that run the world.....	10
10. How Global Warming Affects Forecasting.....	11
Daily Quiz.....	12
Solutions	15



GS I

1. Delhi Sees Poor AQI for the First Time Since June

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: AQI indexes,

Context: Delhi's air quality has dropped to 'poor' status with an AQI of 235, primarily due to transportation and stubble burning.

Air Quality and Weather Forecast:

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded Delhi's AQI at 235, the worst for September, 2024 in nine years.
- The last 'poor' AQI reading was AQI 211, and the city experienced a 'very poor' AQI of 306 on June, 2024.
- Light rain and a cloudy sky are forecasted to improve air quality, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) forecasts.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

- While the AQI has fallen to the poor category (201-300), restrictions under GRAP are not yet being implemented. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is monitoring the situation closely.
- Pollution levels are expected to decline further due to the upcoming rains.

Stubble Burning and Its Impact:

- Paddy stubble burning has begun in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, with 166 cases reported so far. Punjab has reported 93 cases, while Haryana has reported 70, the highest since 2020.
- Experts warn that the real spike in stubble burning, which significantly contributes to Delhi's pollution.

Temperature and Weather Conditions:

- Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 37.3°C, 3°C above the seasonal average, with a minimum of 26.8°C.
- Humidity stood at 60%, while temperatures are expected to drop to around 34°C.

Conclusion:

- The return of poor air quality in Delhi, exacerbated by transportation emissions and stubble burning in surrounding states, underscores the ongoing challenge of managing urban pollution.
- As monsoon withdrawal approaches, temporary relief through rain is expected, but long-term solutions like stubble management and better enforcement of environmental regulations remain critical to sustaining cleaner air in the capital.



GS II

2. India and China Make 'Progress' on Pending LAC Issues in Eastern Ladakh

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: Geographical Mapping

Mains: India-China Issues, Political Context Of India-China Issues

Context : India and China are progressing in resolving their border standoff in Ladakh, aiming to return to pre-April 2020 positions.

Diplomatic Talks and Military Engagements:

- India and China have been engaging in the 31st Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) and the upcoming 22nd Corps Commanders' meeting.
- Talks aim to reduce differences and establish disengagement frameworks.

Confidence-Building Measures:

- Held meetings on the ground to avoid clashes and build trust.
- While troops remain on alert, there is a concerted effort to avoid confrontations and ensure smooth redeployment once final disengagement agreements are reached.

Border Infrastructure and Military Expansion:

- India is advancing border infrastructure and raising military divisions, like the 72 Division, to enhance preparedness along the LAC.

Arunachal Pradesh and Buffer Zones:

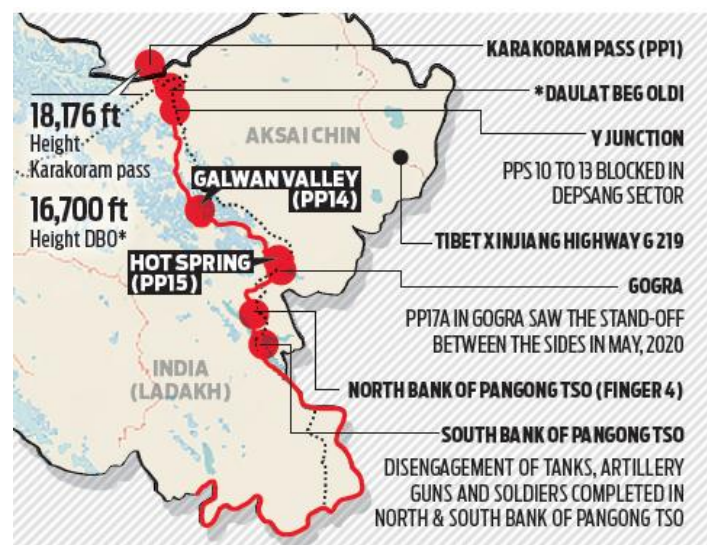
- Focused on resolving access issues to blocked patrolling points, creating cautious optimism for restoring normalcy and re-establishing operational capabilities.

India-China Bilateral Relations:

- 75% of the disengagement issues have been sorted, but militarization remains a concern.
- There is a need for urgent and complete disengagement to stabilize bilateral ties.

Conclusion:

- India and China's ongoing efforts indicate cautious progress toward de-escalating border tensions, emphasising diplomacy, military readiness, and infrastructure development for stability.



3. What is Clause 6 of Assam Accord, which Himanta said the state government will implement?

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: Assam Accord, Clause 6, Justice Biplab Sarma Committee, AASU

Mains: Assamese Identity Safeguards, Constitutional and Legislative Provisions, Implementation Challenges of Assam Accord

Context: The 1985 Assam Accord aimed to address migrant influx issues, with Clause 6 promising safeguards for Assamese cultural and social identity through constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures.

What is Clause 6?

- Clause 6 of the Assam Accord mandates that safeguards be provided to preserve the linguistic, cultural, and social identity of Assamese people.
- Protections through Constitutional amendments, legislation, and administrative policies.

Justice Biplab Sarma Committee Report (2020):

- A 14-member committee makes recommendations on how to implement Clause 6.
- Report defines "Assamese people" as Indigenous Tribals, other Indigenous Communities of Assam, Indian citizens residing in Assam before January 1, 1951, and their descendants.
- Recommendations include reservations in government jobs, legislative bodies, and land ownership exclusively for Assamese people.

Current Status of Implementation:

- The Assam government plans to implement 52 out of 67 recommendations by April 2025.
- Of these, 40 fall within the state government's domain, while 12 require the Centre's concurrence.

Recommendations to be implemented include:

- **Land Rights:** Establish revenue circles where only Assamese people can own land.
- **Language Protection:** Keep Assamese as the official language across the state.
- **Cultural Safeguards:** Preserve and promote Assamese culture and indigenous languages through various programs.

Unimplemented Recommendations:

- Inner Line Permit (ILP) system for controlling entry into Assam.
- 80-100% reservation of seats in Parliament, state legislature, and local bodies for Assamese people.
- Upper House for Assam reserved entirely for Assamese people.

These require Constitutional amendments and are within the exclusive domain of the Centre.

Challenges:

- All Assam Students' Union (AASU), have raised concerns about the delayed implementation of critical aspects of the report.



Assam Accord

The Government of India and the leaders of the Assam agitation signed a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) in New Delhi on August 15, 1985. The accord was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Union Home Secretary R.D. Pradhan, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, P.P. Trivedi and the leaders of the agitation Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, Bhriku Kumar Phukan and Biraj Sharma, bringing an end to the Assam Agitation.



GS III

4. Justice is Key to Tackling the Climate Crisis: Insights from a New Study

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: Climate Justice, Environmental Inequality, Sustainable Consumption, Over-Consumption

Mains: Climate Crisis Solutions, Resource Inequality, Economic and Social Reforms for Sustainability

Context: The study highlights the urgent need for equitable resource distribution, linking planetary safety and justice, with marginalised populations suffering from wealthy over-consumption.

Over-Consumption Shrinking the "Safe and Just Space":

- Everyone's basic needs can be met without causing significant harm to the planet.
- Over-consumption by the wealthiest minority is shrinking this space.
- Marginalized populations in India face severe impacts from environmental degradation, suffering pollution-related diseases and water shortages.

Inequality in Emissions and Resource Use:

- The wealthiest 10% consume equal energy as the poorest 80% and cause over half of emissions, worsening climate inequity for the poorest.

Global Economic Growth and the Climate Crisis:

- Focus on continuous growth, worsening environmental pressures and destabilizing the planet.
- Without systemic changes the planet is expected to exceed its climate boundaries by 2050, even with minimum living standards for all.

Need for Economic and Social Reforms:

- Fundamental rethinking of economic models, advocating for fair access to natural resources and sustainable consumption patterns, especially among the wealthy.
- Solutions such as circular economies and ecosystem-based approaches but require a shift in production and consumption patterns, even in countries like India.

Conclusion:

- The climate crisis cannot be addressed without tackling the deep inequalities in resource use & to achieve a "Safe and Just" world, it is crucial to rethink economic growth models and ensure equitable access to Earth's resources.



5. India to launch its first mission to Venus in 2028: Everything you need to know

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: ISRO, Venus Mission, Space Exploration, Aero-braking

Mains: India's Space Missions, Interplanetary Exploration, Space Technology

Context: India's Union Cabinet approved ISRO's first Venus mission, launching in March 2028, to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, following the successful Mars Orbiter Mission in 2013.

Importance of Studying Venus:

- Venus, often referred to as Earth's twin due to its similar size, mass, and density, may provide critical insights into Earth's evolution.
- Venus has an extremely high surface temperature (~462°C), a dense carbon dioxide atmosphere (96.5%), and sulphuric acid clouds
- The planet's atmosphere and slow rotation (one Venus day equals 243 Earth days) create extreme conditions

Mission Timeline and Scientific Goals:

- Initially planned for 2023, the mission has now been rescheduled for 2028.
- The spacecraft will carry scientific payloads weighing around 100 kg to study the planet's surface, atmosphere, ionosphere, and interactions with the Sun.
- ISRO will use an Earth-to-Venus trajectory to reach Venus in approximately 140 days, employing aero-braking to lower the spacecraft's orbit for scientific observations.

What is Aero-braking?:

- Aero-braking is a technique where the spacecraft is gradually slowed down by skimming through the upper atmosphere of Venus. This reduces its orbit, saving fuel.
- The spacecraft will be placed in a highly elliptical orbit, which will be lowered over six months to around 300 km to 600 km from Venus's surface, allowing optimal conditions for scientific experiments.

Scientific Payloads and Experiments:

- The mission will include instruments like a Synthetic Aperture Radar (L and S band) for imaging the surface and a thermal camera to study heat patterns.
- Investigation on interplanetary dust particles, high-energy particles ionizing Venus's atmosphere, and the planet's atmospheric composition and thermal state.

Global Interest in Venus:

- India joins the US, Russia, Japan, and the European Space Agency (ESA), who have previously launched missions to Venus.
- The US plans two upcoming missions i.e. DaVinci (2029) and Veritas (2031) while ESA has scheduled the EnVision mission for 2030.

Conclusion:

- India's first Venus mission signifies a major milestone for ISRO, aiming to provide insights into planetary evolution, atmospheric dynamics, and greenhouse effects.



6. Project Cheetah: Two Years In – Current Status and Challenges

Source: The Indian Express

Context: Launched in September 2022, Project Cheetah aims to reintroduce African cheetahs in India, restoring ecosystems. After two years, marginal successes exist, but sustainability remain uncertain.

Current Status of Project Cheetah:

- The project saw the translocation of 20 African cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa in two batches to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- Despite initial acclimatisation, only 24 cheetahs (12 adults and 12 cubs) survive as of now, with a mortality rate of 40% among translocated adults and 29% among cubs.
- 8 cheetahs have died due to causes like mating-related injuries and tick infestations from radio collars. The next batch of 6-8 cheetahs will be moved to Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

Challenges in Releasing Cheetahs into the Wild:

- Setbacks to the death of a cheetah in August 2024, have led to all cheetahs being confined to enclosures.
- Concerns arise about cheetahs adapting to the wild after over a year in enclosures, contradicting the government's recommended acclimatization period.

Prey Deficiency and Habitat Issues:

- Chital density in Kuno National Park has declined from 23.43 to 17.5 per sq km since 2021, creating a prey deficit insufficient to support 91 leopards and 12 cheetahs.

Landscape and Future Conservation Efforts:

- Cheetahs released into the wild have shown wide-ranging movements, sometimes crossing state boundaries or entering human habitations.
- Going forward, the focus is on developing an interstate landscape conservation strategy across the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar region, which spans several districts in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. This will require large-scale habitat restoration, improved prey management, and interstate coordination.

Conclusion:

- Project Cheetah faces challenges like prey deficiency and delayed releases, necessitating management improvements for stabilising cheetah populations and restoring degraded ecosystems in the long term.



7.All about Neom, the controversial Saudi project that promises a desert utopia

Source: The Indian Express

Context: Neom, a megacity project under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aims to diversify the economy and reduce oil dependence. However, it faces controversies like human rights abuses and slow progress.

What is Neom?

- Part of Vision 2030: Neom was envisioned to be a key part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan to diversify its economy by investing in industries beyond oil.
- Location : Tabuk province, estimated to cost \$500 billion, but the cost has ballooned to \$1.5 trillion. The project is expected to be completed by 2039.

Five Regions:

1. **The Line:** A 170 km long city designed to house millions in vertically layered buildings powered by renewable energy.
2. **Oxagon:** An octagonal industrial hub with a port and residential areas.
3. **Trojena:** A mountainous area set to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games with ski resorts.
4. **Magna:** A luxury coastal destination promoting sustainable tourism.
5. **Sindalah:** A luxury island rivaling international yachting destinations, slated to open in 2024.

Controversies Surrounding Neom:

- **Displacement of Indigenous Tribes:** The Huwaitat tribe faces forced evictions in Saudi Arabia, with security forces accused of lethal force, prompting UN condemnation of the actions.
- **Sluggish Progress:** Initial plans for 1.5 million residents in The Line reduced to 300,000, with only 1.4 km completed.
- **Leadership and Workplace Issues:** Reports reveal toxic work environments at Neom, highlighting racism and misconduct, including insensitive comments by executive Wayne Borg about worker deaths and South Asian employees.
- **Surveillance Concerns:** Neom plans to create "cognitive cities" that rely on real-time data collection, raising concerns about surveillance and privacy violations.

Conclusion:

Neom's vision of sustainable urban living faces serious challenges, including forced evictions, labour issues, and ethical concerns, raising human rights and sustainability questions.



8. Clean energy: Hit by China's predatory pricing, India 'exploring ties with West'

Source: The Indian Express

Context: India's solar manufacturing faces challenges from China's predatory pricing, prompting partnerships with Western nations and consideration of new policies to protect domestic industries.

Impact of Chinese Predatory Pricing:

- **Challenges for Domestic Manufacturing:**
 - China's aggressive solar price cuts hinder India's clean energy manufacturing under the PLI scheme, leading to insufficient anti-dumping measures and prompting collaborations with Western nations like Germany.
- **US Recommendations:**
 - The US advised India to "expand and protect" its clean energy sector, highlighting global market challenges

China's Trade Surplus and Market Saturation:

- The Economic Survey 2023-24 reports weakened domestic demand in China, increasing its trade surplus and aggressive entry into India's solar sector while blocking India's access to solar equipment.

Government Safeguards:

- **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM):** India reinstated the ALMM order to restrict solar projects from using imported modules, protecting domestic investments in solar PV manufacturing, and expanding to solar cells by April 2026.
- **PLI Incentives:** The PLI scheme for high-efficiency PV modules, with a budget of Rs 24,000 crore, incentivizes solar cell production.

Critical Minerals and US-India Collaboration:

- India seeks a critical minerals agreement with the US, similar to the US-Japan accord.
- It ensures compliance with the Inflation Reduction Act and boosts investment in essential materials.

Joining the Minerals Security Network in Global Cooperation on Critical Minerals:

- India recently joined the US-led Minerals Security Network, a coalition of 14 countries and the EU.
- Securing the supply chain for critical minerals like graphite, copper, lithium, and silicon

Conclusion:

- India's clean energy sector confronts challenges from China's pricing, prompting Western alliances and strengthened policies for sustainable growth in manufacturing and critical minerals.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

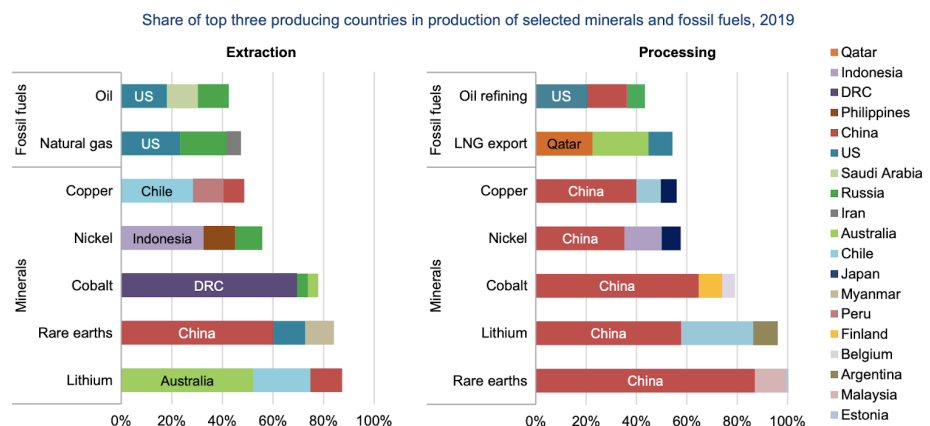
9. China's warning shots with minerals that run the world

Source: The Hindu

Context: China's export restrictions on antimony, vital for defence, reflect its strategy to leverage its critical minerals monopoly, using them as geopolitical tools amid strained West relations.

China's Mineral Export Controls

- August 2023 Restrictions:** China imposed restrictions on exporting critical minerals like antimony, citing national security. Antimony is essential for defense applications, indicating China's strategy to control the global supply of critical minerals.
- China's Dominance in Critical Minerals:** China dominates 60% of global rare earth production, 60% of critical minerals production, and 80% of processing capacity, giving it significant influence over industries reliant on these materials, including defense, high-tech, and clean energy.



Past Incidents of Coercion:

- 2010 Japan Incident:** China halted rare earth exports to Japan after a maritime dispute, highlighting risks of dependence on Chinese resources.
- 2023 Export Curbs on Gallium and Germanium:** In retaliation to U.S. export controls, China restricted gallium and germanium exports, critical for solar cells and computer chips, and synthetic graphite, impacting EV batteries and nuclear reactors.

Weaponization of Mineral Resources:

- China's export minerals as a geopolitical weapon.
- Restrictions on critical minerals, particularly for dual-use applications in military technology, indicate a trend likely to intensify amid worsening relations with the West.

India's Strategic Vulnerability:

- India, along with other Quad nations, relies heavily on Chinese imports of minerals like lithium and cobalt.
- With FY23 mineral import costs at ₹34,000 crore, India must diversify its supply chains and collaborate with allies to reduce dependence on China.

China's Ambitious Goals: China plans to enhance its critical minerals market position through increased exploration and production over the next five years, reinforcing its global dominance.

Conclusion:

China's export restrictions on critical minerals enhance its geopolitical leverage, highlighting India's vulnerability and the urgent need for diversification in mineral sourcing to ensure national security.



In Brief

10. How Global Warming Affects Forecasting

Source: The Hindu

Context: The article highlights meteorologists' challenges in predicting weather patterns amid global warming, stressing the need to reassess forecasting models due to extreme events.

Record Warming:

- The world is experiencing unprecedented temperatures, with estimates suggesting a crossing of the 1.5°C warming threshold above pre-industrial levels.
- This has led to extreme weather patterns including heatwaves, floods, and wildfires.

Model Limitations:

- Current climate models are unable to reliably reproduce past monsoon trends and face uncertainties in forecasting future climate events.
- They have struggled with predicting the impacts of natural climate modes like El Niño and La Niña.

Unexpected Weather Patterns:

- Meteorologists correctly predicted the emergence of the 2023 El Niño but were surprised by the extreme levels of warming.
- Predictions for monsoons and hurricanes have also proven inaccurate, indicating significant unpredictability.

Learning from Extremes:

- The article emphasizes the importance of learning from recent extreme weather events to improve forecasting.
- Predictions may become increasingly difficult due to the accelerated effects of global warming.

Future Projections:

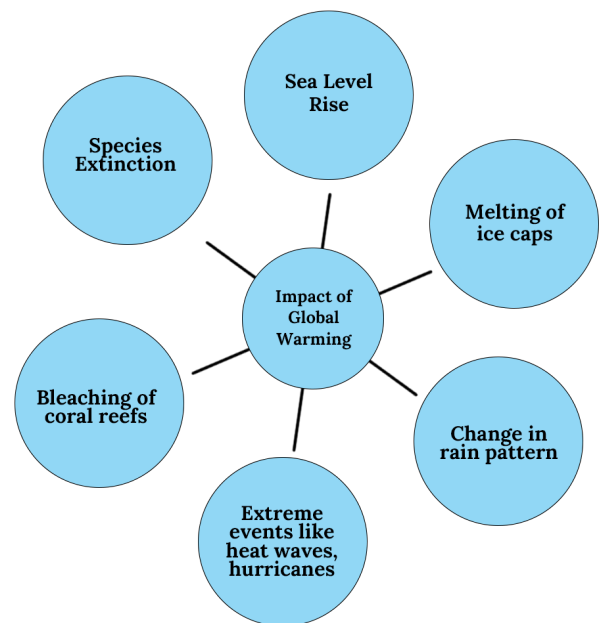
- Current models project climate scenarios based on emission levels and socio-economic factors, but uncertainties grow significantly beyond a couple of decades.
- There is a critical need to address the response of natural modes to ongoing warming.

Importance of Adaptation:

- As prediction capabilities evolve, there's an emphasis on the necessity for actionable early warning systems and refining models using advanced technologies like AI and machine learning.

Conclusion

The article emphasises the need for better weather predictions, highlighting current model limitations to develop reliable forecasts amid ongoing global warming challenges.



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the recent air quality situation in Delhi:

1. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) has reached 'poor' status for the first time since June 2024, with an AQI reading of 235.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded this as the worst AQI for September in the last nine years.
3. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions are automatically implemented whenever the AQI falls into the 'poor' category.
4. Stubble burning in neighboring states is identified as a significant contributor to the deteriorating air quality in Delhi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the progress made by India and China on pending issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh:

1. **Statement 1:** India and China are engaging in diplomatic talks and military meetings to address their border standoff, aiming to revert to positions before April 2020.
2. **Statement 2:** While both countries are making progress in disengagement, India is simultaneously enhancing its military capabilities and infrastructure along the LAC, indicating a dual approach to managing border security and diplomatic relations.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is independent of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.

- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

Q3. Consider the following statement regarding Clause 6 of the Assam Accord:

1. Clause 6 of the Assam Accord mandates safeguards for the cultural, linguistic, and social identity of Assamese people through constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures.
2. The Justice Biplab Sarma Committee defined "Assamese people" to include Indigenous Tribals, other Indigenous Communities of Assam, and Indian citizens residing in Assam before January 1, 1951, along with their descendants.
3. Recommendations from the committee include providing reservations in government jobs, legislative bodies, and land ownership exclusively for Assamese people.
4. The Assam government plans to implement 52 out of 67 committee recommendations by April 2025, with some requiring the Centre's concurrence for implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the relationship between justice and climate action based on the recent study:

1. **Statement 1:** The study emphasizes that over-consumption by the wealthiest minority is shrinking the "safe and just space," which is crucial for meeting everyone's basic needs without causing significant harm to the planet.
2. **Statement 2:** The study argues that global economic growth is essential for resolving the climate crisis, suggesting



that continued growth will lead to a sustainable future for all.

Which of the following is correct?

- Both statements are correct.
- Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.
- Both statements are incorrect.

Q5. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding India's first mission to Venus:

- Assertion (A):** India is set to launch its first mission to Venus in March 2028 to study the planet's atmosphere and surface.
- Reason (R):** The mission aims to employ advanced techniques like aero-braking to effectively reduce the spacecraft's orbit for optimal scientific observations.

Which of the following is correct?

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct reason for A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct reason for A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the current status and challenges of Project Cheetah after two years:

- Statement 1:** Launched in September 2022, Project Cheetah successfully reintroduced African cheetahs in India, with a survival rate of 60% among translocated cheetahs as of now.
- Statement 2:** The project faces significant challenges, including a high mortality rate among cheetahs, prey deficiency in Kuno National Park, and concerns about cheetahs adapting to the wild after extended periods in enclosures.

Which of the following is correct?

- Both statements are correct.
- Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.
- Both statements are incorrect.

D. Both statements are incorrect.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Neom, the Saudi megacity project:

- Neom is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan, aimed at diversifying the economy and reducing dependence on oil.
- The project consists of five distinct regions, including The Line, Oxagon, and Trojena, with plans for a luxury island named Sindalah.
- Neom has been widely praised for its ambitious goals and sustainable urban living without facing any controversies.
- Reports indicate that the Huwaitat tribe is facing displacement due to the Neom project, leading to international condemnation of human rights abuses.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q8. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding India's clean energy sector:

- Assertion (A):** India is exploring partnerships with Western nations to combat the challenges posed by China's predatory pricing in the solar manufacturing sector.
- Reason (R):** India has completely banned the import of all solar panels from China, which has led to a surge in domestic solar manufacturing.

Which of the following is correct?

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct reason for A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct reason for A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding the impact of global warming on weather forecasting:

- Statement 1:** The world is experiencing unprecedented temperatures, with estimates indicating that we have crossed



the 1.5°C warming threshold above pre-industrial levels, leading to extreme weather patterns such as heatwaves and floods.

2. **Statement 2:** Current climate models face significant limitations in accurately predicting weather patterns, including past monsoon trends and the impacts of climate modes like El Niño and La Niña, highlighting the need for improved forecasting methodologies.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are correct.
- B. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- C. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.
- D. Both statements are incorrect.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding China's export restrictions on critical minerals:

- 1. In August 2023, China imposed restrictions on the export of antimony, citing national security concerns due to its significance in defense applications.
- 2. China holds a monopoly over 80% of the global processing capacity for critical minerals, thereby exerting substantial influence over industries dependent on these materials.
- 3. China's export restrictions are solely a reaction to strained relations with Western nations and do not reflect its long-term strategic interests.
- 4. India's heavy reliance on imports of minerals like lithium and cobalt from China poses significant strategic vulnerabilities for the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Delhi's AQI indeed dropped to 'poor' status with a reading of 235, marking the first occurrence of such air quality since June 2024.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The CPCB confirmed that this AQI of 235 is the worst recorded for September in the past nine years, highlighting the deteriorating air quality conditions.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are implemented based on AQI levels, they are not automatically enacted when the AQI enters the 'poor' category. The situation is monitored by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which assesses the need for restrictions based on various factors.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Stubble burning has been reported as a significant contributor to the rising pollution levels in Delhi, with 166 cases noted in the neighboring states, thereby worsening the air quality crisis.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 accurately** reflects the current diplomatic and military engagement between India and China as they work through the 31st Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) and prepare for the 22nd Corps Commanders' meeting. The goal of reverting to pre-April 2020

positions underscores a desire for stability and a return to status quo ante along the LAC.

- **Statement 2 complements Statement 1** by indicating that while diplomatic progress is being made, India is not neglecting its security concerns. The emphasis on enhancing military capabilities and infrastructure, including the establishment of new military divisions, demonstrates a proactive approach to safeguard national interests alongside ongoing diplomatic negotiations.

3. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Clause 6 explicitly aims to ensure that the Assamese people receive safeguards for their linguistic, cultural, and social identity through constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Justice Biplab Sarma Committee, established to recommend the implementation of Clause 6, defines "Assamese people" as including Indigenous Tribals, other Indigenous Communities, and Indian citizens residing in Assam prior to January 1, 1951, along with their descendants.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The committee's recommendations include reservations for Assamese people in government jobs, legislative bodies, and land ownership, emphasizing the need for affirmative action to protect the rights and identity of the Assamese.



- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Assam government has committed to implementing 52 of the 67 recommendations from the committee by April 2025, although some of these recommendations require the Centre's concurrence, which adds a layer of complexity to the implementation

4. **Correct Answer is B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 accurately** reflects the study's findings, which indicate that the over-consumption by the wealthiest minority is indeed shrinking the "safe and just space" necessary for sustainable living. The study highlights the urgent need for equitable resource distribution to address the adverse effects of environmental degradation on marginalized populations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** because the study critiques the focus on continuous economic growth as a solution to the climate crisis. Instead, it advocates for systemic changes and rethinking of economic models to address the inequalities in resource use, emphasizing that merely pursuing growth exacerbates environmental pressures and does not lead to a sustainable future.

5. **Correct Answer is A**

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true** because the Indian Union Cabinet has approved ISRO's mission to Venus, with a planned launch in March 2028. The mission is designed to explore the planet's atmosphere and surface characteristics.

- **Reason (R) is also true.** The mission will indeed utilize aero-braking, a technique that allows the spacecraft to slow down by skimming through the upper atmosphere of Venus. This method is significant for the mission as it helps in reducing fuel consumption while allowing the spacecraft to enter a stable orbit around the planet.
- **The reason (R) directly supports the assertion (A)** by explaining one of the mission's advanced strategies aimed at achieving its scientific goals. Therefore, both statements are correct, and R accurately explains why A is true.

6. **Correct Answer is C**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because, although the project aimed to successfully reintroduce African cheetahs, the current survival rate is only 24 cheetahs (12 adults and 12 cubs) out of 20 translocated, indicating a mortality rate of 40% among adults and 29% among cubs, rather than a 60% survival rate.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as it accurately highlights the significant challenges faced by Project Cheetah. These challenges include a high mortality rate among the cheetahs, a decline in prey density in Kuno National Park, and doubts regarding the cheetahs' adaptation to the wild after being confined for over a year.

7. **Correct Answer is A**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct** : Neom is indeed a key part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan, which aims to



diversify the economy by investing in sectors beyond oil.

- **Statement 2: Correct** : The project features five distinct regions: The Line, an innovative urban environment; Oxagon, an industrial hub; Trojena, a site for the upcoming Asian Winter Games; and Sindalah, a luxury island.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect** : Neom has faced significant controversies, including human rights concerns related to the displacement of indigenous tribes and reports of workplace issues, contradicting the notion of it being without controversies.
- **Statement 4: Correct** : Reports have highlighted the displacement of the Huwaitat tribe, with allegations of forced evictions and the use of lethal force by security forces, leading to UN condemnation.

8. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true.** India is indeed exploring ties with Western nations, particularly in response to challenges posed by China's aggressive pricing strategies, which undermine domestic solar manufacturing efforts. Collaborations are being sought to enhance the country's clean energy capabilities.
- **Reason (R) is false.** While India is taking measures to protect its solar manufacturing sector, it has not imposed a complete ban on importing solar panels from China. Instead, India has reinstated the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) and is considering new policies, including the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)

scheme, to support domestic production while still allowing imports under certain conditions.

9. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 accurately** describes the current climate situation, noting that the world is indeed experiencing unprecedented warming, having likely crossed the critical 1.5°C threshold. This increase in temperature is associated with various extreme weather events, including heatwaves, floods, and wildfires, which have become more frequent and severe.
- **Statement 2 correctly** identifies the challenges faced by current climate models in predicting weather patterns. These models have shown limitations in reproducing past climate trends, including monsoon patterns, and have struggled to accurately forecast future events and the effects of climate phenomena like El Niño and La Niña. This highlights the urgent need for advancements in forecasting methodologies to adapt to the complexities introduced by global warming.

10. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct** : China indeed imposed restrictions on exporting antimony in August 2023, emphasizing national security, particularly due to its importance in defense-related applications.
- **Statement 2: Correct** : China controls approximately 80% of the global processing capacity for critical minerals, alongside significant production shares,



granting it considerable power over industries that rely on these resources, such as defense and clean energy.

- **Statement 3: Incorrect** : While the export restrictions are related to strained relations with the West, they also align with China's long-term strategic goal of leveraging its dominance in critical minerals as a geopolitical tool, indicating a broader strategy

beyond mere reactionary measures.

- **Statement 4: Correct** : India's reliance on imports of critical minerals from China, such as lithium and cobalt, represents a significant strategic vulnerability, necessitating diversification of supply chains to ensure national security.





GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

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

www.upsmentorship.com

contact@mentorshipindia.com

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