



## Daily Current Affairs

**GEO IAS**

SOURCES



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2. 'Don't take strong services exports story for granted'- The Hindu
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## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. G-7 Ministers agree to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2030s- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

##### Prelims Takeaway

- G7
- COP-28

**News:**

- G-7 Energy Ministers have agreed a time frame for phasing out **coal-fired power plants**, as the UN warned “excuses” for failing to take bold actions on climate change were “not acceptable”.

**Key Highlights:**

- The Group of Seven agreement is the first big political session since the world pledged at the UN’s COP-28 climate summit to transition away from coal, oil and gas.
- Its timeline is consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach, in line with countries’ net zero pathway.

**G7 Grouping:**

- An **informal grouping** of seven industrialised democracies consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It was established to discuss and cooperate on issues of **mutual interest**, such as global economic governance, international security, and **energy policy**.
- The G7 operates **without a formal charter or secretariat**, and its presidency rotates among member countries each year.
- The G7 originated after the **1973 oil crisis**, which led to a global economic recession and highlighted the need for greater international economic cooperation.

**G7 & India**

- As India is one of the world’s largest economies India has an interest in engaging with the G7 to promote its economic and strategic interests.
  - **Economic:** The G7 countries are **major trading partners** for India, and closer economic cooperation could help **India to expand its markets** and improve its economic growth.
  - **Technology:** India can benefit from the G7’s technological assistance, particularly in the areas of renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and digital technology.
  - **Climate change:** Cooperation with G7 could help India to reduce its emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
  - **International relations:** engagement with the G7 could help it to promote its strategic interests and enhance its global standing.
- At the 49th G7 summit in 2023, the Prime Minister of India unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima, Japan.

#### 2. Don’t take strong services exports story for granted’- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Effects of Liberalization on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

##### Prelims Takeaway

- Services Sector
- FDI

**News:**

- Goldman Sachs projects \$800 billion of exports by 2030, but flags concerns about challenges such as the lack of skilled talent and the resource stress in key hubs like the **water crisis in Bengaluru**

**Key Highlights:**

- The forecast says **services exports would reach 11%** of GDP by 2030, from 9.7% in 2023.
- If commodity prices and goods trade balances did not move much, this would help limit the **current account deficit to an average of 1%** GDP between 2024 and 2030.



- Despite resilient growth in IT services and the opportunity from Global Capability Centres, services export growth should not be taken for granted,
- In terms of domestic constraints, training technology graduates as fit for the job market has been cited as a challenge
- Growth in these sectors is putting pressure on the natural resources of Bengaluru, which has the largest share of IT” firms, facing a **water crisis**.

### Services Sector:

- Ranging from communications to transport, finance, education, tourism, the services sector has become the backbone of the Indian economy
- The services account for around **55 percent** of total size of the economy, about **38 per cent of total exports and two-thirds of total FDI inflows into India**.
- Services sector has been the **largest recipient of FDI in India** with inflow of US\$ 83.14 billion between April 2000 and June 2020.
- India’s market share for services exports increased from 3.5% in 2019 and 4% in 2020 and 2021, according to the WTO.
- Over the past six years, **start-ups in India** have increased significantly, with the services sector accounting for the majority of these.
- By 2030, it is expected that India’s software services sector would be worth \$1 trillion.

### India’s rise in the services sector:

- Factors contributing to India’s rise in Service Sector:
  - **Economic Reforms in 1991:** The reforms of the 1990s have been associated with the expansion of India’s service industry
  - **Technology Hub:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is seeking to increase the digital economy’s contribution to GDP to 20% during the following five years.
  - **Skilled Manpower:** India has become a centre for global outsourcing because of a sizable pool of competent IT workers.
  - **Ecosystem:** The government’s decision to introduce “Start-up India” intends to build an open ecosystem for businesspeople and encourage innovation.
  - **Outsourcing:** The service industry flourished as corporations outsourced their communication, advertising, computer support, and banking operations to India from abroad, particularly from industrialised nations.

### Difficulties India’s services sector face

- **Trade Restrictions:** Foreign countries’ restrictions on the migration of service professionals hinder the services sector.
- **Infrastructure:** Services industries like tourism and hospitality are constrained in their potential by a lack of infrastructure (such as transportation, connectivity, and communication).
- **Finance:** Many small service companies struggle to find reasonable financing to expand their operations.

## 3. Court’s nudge on hospital charges, a reform opportunity- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

### Context:

- The Supreme Court of India, directed the central government to find ways to regulate the rates of hospital procedures in the private sector.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It invoked Rule 9 of the **Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010**,
  - Which states clinical establishments shall charge the rates, procedures and services within the range of rates determined and issued by the Central Government from time to time, in consultation with State Governments”.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- NPPA

- The Court ruled the Central Government Health Scheme rates are an interim measure if the government failed to find ways to regulate rates.

#### Benchmark for pricing

- In an unregulated market-driven scenario, health-care providers focus on profit through higher prices and overprovision of care
- **Standard treatment guidelines**, or STGs, can help establish relevant clinical needs, the nature and extent of care, and the costs of total inputs required.
- In India, over half the total health expenditure is **Out Of Pocket**. The other half comes from a multitude of publicly and privately pooled resources..

#### Weak implementation

- **Only 11 States and seven Union Territories** have notified the Clinical Establishment Act, and its implementation remains weak, with little or no evidence about the impact on affordability, care quality, and provider behaviour.
- Similar constraints have hampered the adoption of the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's (NPPA)** decision to cap the prices of stents and implants and directives that mandate doctors to prescribe generic medicines.

#### Limited Data-

- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** and the Department of Health Research have made significant strides in developing STGs for common conditions and adopting a comprehensive costing framework.
- Efforts are also ongoing to create an Indian version of **Diagnostics-Related Groups (DRGs)**.
- Although the insurance industry initiated STGs for hospitals in 2010, progress was hindered by a lack of representative and accurate costing data
- This judgement is an opportunity to create effective processes to solve a major health system problem.
- Rate standardisation policies must be feasible, easily implementable, and follow established price discovery practices.
- Future efforts must build on previous and ongoing **health financing reforms**, address anticipated challenges, and ensure broader stakeholder participation.

## 4. NCW says 'no information' on the political affiliation of its Chairperson, Members - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.

#### News:

- Replying to a query under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**, the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has said it has no information on whether its Chairperson and Members are members of any political party.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- NCW
- RTI

#### Highlights:

- The query stated that NCW had the responsibility to evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and State governments.
  - It further said that this being the mandate, the Chairperson or Member should not be a member of any political party, at least for the term of office to uphold the principle of neutrality and serving without any fear or favour.
- No information available would only lead to larger questions on transparency and accountability directly, casting aspersions on the decisions and whether they were serving without political bias.

#### NCW:

- NCW is a statutory body set up under the NCW Act, 1990, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The Chairperson and Members of the Commission are nominated by the government of India.
- Functions of the commission include:

- Reviewing the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women ;
- recommending remedial legislative measures ;
- facilitating redressal of grievances and
- advising the Government on all policy matters affecting women.
- NCW also make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil
- Furthermore, the Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in the Act, have all the powers of a civil court.

## GS III

### 5. Warming of Indian Ocean set to accelerate: study - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important Geophysical Phenomena

**News:**

- An analysis by scientists at IITM Pune has found out that the tropical Indian Ocean will likely be in a near-permanent heatwave state.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Marine Heatwaves
- Zetta- Joules

**Highlights:**

- The **Indian Ocean has become warmer by 1.2 degrees Celsius** from 1950 to 2020, and climate models expect it to heat up a further 1.7 degrees Celsius to 3.8 degrees Celsius from 2020 to 2100.
- When measured from surface to a depth of 2,000 metres, the heat content of the Indian ocean is currently increasing at the rate of 4.5 zetta-joules per decade, and is predicted to increase at a rate of 16–22 zetta-joules per decade in the future.
- Mostly attributable to global warming, this phenomenon will accelerate coral bleaching, seagrass destruction, and loss of kelp forests, affecting the fisheries sector adversely.

**Marine Heatwaves:**

- Marine heatwaves are unusual periods during which the sea surface heats up for several days to several months, over large areas.
- Although the increase in ocean surface temperatures is the main indicator, they can also extend to the deep sea.
- Furthermore, earlier being extreme, localised and temporary climatic events, they are now becoming increasingly intense, frequent, long-lasting and spatially widespread.
- According to the IPCC, the frequency of marine heatwaves has doubled since the 1980s.

**Causes of Marine Heat waves:**

- Climate change is accelerating and causing hotter marine heatwaves to develop.
- According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 90% of the extra heat generated from global warming has been absorbed by the oceans.
  - As a result, any naturally occurring marine heatwaves will now be more severe as the global average sea temperature continues to increase.
- Climate change is also increasing the frequency of atmospheric conditions that slow winds down
  - Wind speeds play a crucial role in regulating the temperature of the oceans.
  - They churn up the sea, encouraging the mixing of cooler deep water with the warmer water at the surface.
  - This is less likely to occur if wind speeds drop or disappear altogether.



## 6. Increasing global uncertainties may impact exports, says FIEO - The Hindu

**Relevance:** Government Policies and Interventions

**News:**

- The escalating **geopolitical tensions are likely to impact global demand** which may have implications for India's exports, said FIEO.

**Highlights:**

- The uncertainties caused by the continuing war between Russia and Ukraine impacted India's outbound shipments in 2023-24, which recorded a dip of 3.11% to \$437 billion. Imports too slid by more than 8% to \$677.24 billion.
- Due to demand slowdown, offtake of goods will be low so foreign buyers will also take a longer period to make payments.
  - This requires funds for a longer period.
  - Exporters also need interest subvention support

**FIEO:**

- Apex body of the Government recognised Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and Export Development Authorities in India.
- Set up in 1965 by **the Ministry of Commerce**, Govt. of India to focus the efforts of all stakeholders engaged in promotion of trade from the country.
- Provides the crucial interface between the International Trading community of India with the Central and State Governments, Financial Institutions, Ports, Railways, Surface Transport and all engaged in Export Trade Facilitation.
- Directly and indirectly serves the interests of over 200,000 exporters from every Industry and Service sector in the country.

**Interest equalisation scheme:**

- Government of India had announced the **Interest Equalisation Scheme** on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit to eligible exporters.
  - This scheme was started in 2015 and was initially valid for 5 years.
  - The Scheme has been continued thereafter, including one year extension during COVID, and with further extensions and fund allocations.
- The scheme helps exporters from identified sectors and MSME-manufacturer exporters to avail competitive rates on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit.
- Currently the Scheme provides an interest equalisation benefit at the rate of 2%.
- The Scheme was not fund limited and extended the benefit without any limit to all exporters.
- The Scheme has now been made fund limited, and benefit to individual exporters has been capped at Rs 10 Cr per annum per IEC (Import Export Code).
  - In addition, the banks that lend to exporters at an average rate of more than Repo + 4% would be debarred under the Scheme

### Prelims Takeaway

- FIEO
- Interest equalisation scheme.

## 7. Mission ISHAN, India's push for 'one nation, one airspace', will benefit airlines & passengers alike- The Print

**Relevance:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

**News:**

- India has kickstarted the process of **unifying its four airspace regions** into one spanning the entire nation in order to streamline and enhance air traffic management.

**Key highlights**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI), the public entity responsible for air traffic management (ATM) services, last month invited expressions of interest (EoI)

### Prelims Takeaway

- AAI

- The move is expected to benefit not just the airlines through more seamless operations and increased flight handling capacity
  - but also passengers by reducing congestion and flying times.
- This airspace is controlled through four flight information regions (FIRs) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, and a sub-flight information region at Guwahati.
- “A single continuum FIR would yield a lot of benefits in terms of safety, efficiency, user satisfaction, reduced carbon footprint and optimum manpower utilisation
- The AAI emphasised that the consolidation of FIRs into continuous airspace centred in Nagpur is designed to refine and bolster ATM operations in the area.
- For the implementation of ISHAN, a thorough study of current and projected air traffic growth, and the challenges related to the management of increased air traffic,

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 8. The paradox of thrift: does a rise in savings cause a fall in investment- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

**Context:**

- Keynesian economists argue that **a rise in individuals' savings**, by reducing the amount of money that is spent on final goods and services, can in effect cause a **significant fall in overall savings and investment of the economy**.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The increased saving would lead to lower demand for goods, by which capitalist won't increase production and investments.
- The paradox of savings, also known as the **paradox of thrift**,
- This theory criticises the general belief that a rise in individuals' savings rates will cause a rise in the overall savings in the economy.
- So even though savings may be good for an individual household, it is believed that it **may not be good for the wider economy**.
- The idea is part of the **under-consumption theories** of the business cycle which attribute economic downturns to **weak consumption and high savings**.

#### Origins of the theory

- The concept was popularised by British economist **John Maynard Keynes** in his 1936 book The General Theory of Employment.
- Keynesian economists believe that **higher savings is bad for the wider economy**, and that boosting consumer spending is the way to grow an economy.
- They argue that savings are invested by capitalists with the ultimate aim of selling their output in the form of final goods and services to consumers.
- So, **if consumers fail to spend enough money** on the output that capitalists bring to the market to sell, it can cause losses to capitalists and discourage further investment.
- So, Keynesian economists argue that a rise in individuals' savings, by reducing the amount of money that is spent on final goods and services, can in effect cause a significant fall in overall savings and investment.

#### Criticisms of the idea

- Critics of the idea argue that saving more is not bad for the economy and that a fall in consumer spending does not actually cause a fall in investment.
- In fact, they argue that a fall in consumer spending leads to a rise in savings and investment.
- This is simply because any money that people don't spend on consumer goods or hoard under their beds has to go towards their savings, which in turn gets invested.
- A rise in savings, they further note, causes an **increase in entrepreneurial demand** from capitalists for various factors of production.
- So, lower consumer demand for final goods and services gets offset by higher demand for factors of production, and hence there is no drop in aggregate demand in the economy as a result of higher savings.
- Secondly, critics argue that a drop in consumer spending will simply cause a change in the way **capitalists allocate their savings** across time.
- In other words, these economists note that there won't be any adverse consequences due to lower consumer spending.
- Put another way, the critics argue that capitalists in a free economy will effectively **reallocate higher savings** in accordance with the greater preference that consumers show for goods in the distant future than in the near future.



## 9. How the rupee has 'strengthened- Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment

**Context:**

- The strength or weakness of the rupee is a function of its exchange rate with not just the US dollar, but also with other global currencies.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The strength or weakness of the rupee is, hence, a function of its exchange rate with not just the US dollar, but also with other global currencies.
- In this case, it would be against a basket of currencies of the country's most important trading partners – what's called the rupee's "effective exchange rate" or EER.
- The EER is measured by an index similar to the consumer price index (CPI).
- The CPI is the weighted average retail price of a representative consumer basket of goods and services for a given month or year, relative to a fixed base period.
- The EER is an index of the weighted average of the rupee's exchange rates vis-à-vis the currencies of India's major trading partners.
- The currency weights are derived from the share of the individual countries to India's total foreign trade, just as the weights for each commodity in the CPI are based on their relative importance in the overall consumption basket.

### There are two measures of EER.

- The first is the Nominal EER or NEER.
- The Reserve Bank of India has constructed NEER indices of the rupee against a basket of six and also of 40 currencies.
- The former is a trade-weighted average rate at which the rupee is exchangeable with a basic currency basket, comprising the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese yuan, the British pound, the Japanese yen and the Hong Kong dollar.
- The latter index covers a bigger basket of 40 currencies of countries that account for about 88% of India's annual trade flows.
- The NEER indices are with reference to a base year value of 100 for 2015-16:
- Increases indicate the rupee's effective appreciation against these currencies and decreases point to overall exchange rate depreciation.
- The NEER is a summary index that captures movements in the external value of the rupee against a basket of global currencies.
- However, the NEER does not factor in inflation, which reflects changes in the internal value of the rupee.
- The REER is basically the NEER that is adjusted for the inflation differentials between the home country and its trading partners.
- If one assumes that the rupee was "fairly" valued in 2015-16, when the EER indices were set to 100, any value above 100 signifies overvaluation.
- The rupee is, to that extent, overvalued today in terms of its REER.
- Any increase in REER means that the costs of products being exported from India are rising more than the prices of imports into the country.
- That translates into a loss of trade competitiveness – which may not be quite a good thing in the long run.

## 10. Do one religion have more children than others - Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment

**Context:**

- Census data on religious groups is now 13 years old, and no reliable updated figures about religious groups is available.

### Growth of India's Muslim population

- The population of Muslims was 17.22 crore in the Census of 2011, which was 14.2% of India's population of 121.08 crore at the time.
- The population of Muslims in the previous Census (2001) was 13.81 crore, which was 13.43% of the population of India (102.8 crore) at the time.
- The population of Muslims increased by 24.69% between 2001 and 2011.
- This was the slowest increase in the population of Muslims in India's history.
- Between 1991 and 2001, India's Muslim population increased by 29.49%.

### Average household size among religious groups

- According to data from the National Sample Survey 68th round (July 2011-June 2012), the average household size of major religious groups was as follows:
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for Muslims is the lowest amongst all religious groups.
- It is also the only religious group whose LFPR and WPR is falling, as per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- The Unemployment Rate (UR) among Muslims is, however, lower than the All-India number.
- Labour force participation rate is defined as the section of working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.
- People who are still undergoing studies, housewives and persons above the age of 64 are not reckoned in the labour force.
- National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

### The Unemployment Rate

- The unemployed are people of working age who are without work, are available for work, and have taken specific steps to find work.
- The uniform application of this definition results in estimates of unemployment rates
  - that are more internationally comparable than estimates based on national definitions of unemployment

### The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate)
  - in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
  - to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.
- Female participation in labour force has remained lower than male participation as women account for
  - most of the unpaid work, and when women are employed in paid work, they are overrepresented in the informal sector and among the poor.
- They also face significant wage differentials vis-à-vis their male counterparts. It has been observed that LFPR is the lowest for urban females

Religion	Household size
Hindu	4.3
Islam	5
Christianity	3.9
Sikhism	4.7
Others	4.1
All	4.3

*Source: Employment and unemployment situation among major religious groups in India, NSS 68th round*

	All India Male	All India Female	All India Person	Muslim Male	Muslim Female	Muslim Person
Labour Force Participation Rate	58.1	30.5	44.5	47.7	14.2	32.5
Worker Population Ratio	56.1	29.6	43.1	46.6	13.8	31.7
Unemployment rate	3.4	2.8	3.2	2.3	2.6	2.4

*Source: Annual Report, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) July 2022-June 2023*





## Quick Look

### 1. Chang'e-6

- The Chang'e 6 mission is a planned lander designed to return samples from the lunar south pole.
- The mission aims to land on the Moon, collect samples from the lunar surface, and return them to Earth. This process will contribute crucial data to unravel the Moon's geological mysteries.
- Representing the first attempt to retrieve samples from the far side of the Moon, Chang'e 6 is set to bring back up to two kilograms of lunar samples, adopting a configuration similar to the successful Chang'e 5 mission.
- The mission involves international collaboration, with payloads from the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French space agency CNES.

### 2. G7

- The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany (West), Japan and Italy.
- These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.
- US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan are the current members of this group.
- It can be said that the members of this group are the most developed and the advanced economies of the world.
- The European Union is also represented within the G7.

### 3. An anticyclone

- It is a weather phenomenon defined as a large-scale circulation of winds around a central region of high atmospheric pressure.
- It is clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere as viewed from above (opposite to a cyclone).
- The persistence of the anticyclones over the Indian ocean and the Indian subcontinent is not an unusual phenomenon.
- During the pre-monsoon season, the upper-level Indian Easterly Jet (IEJ) at around the 10 degrees N latitude and a strong westerly jet at around 30 degrees N can together generate an anticyclonic pattern.

### 4. Bambi Bucket

- It is a specialized aerial firefighting tool being used since the 1980s.
- It is essentially a lightweight collapsible container that releases water from underneath a helicopter to targeted areas using a pilot-controlled valve.
- It can be quickly and easily filled from various sources, including lakes and swimming pools, allowing firefighters to swiftly refill it and return to the target area.
- It is available in a variety of sizes and models, with capacities ranging from 270 to 9,840 litres.

### 5. Green Taxonomy:

- A green taxonomy is a framework for defining what can be called environmentally sustainable investments.
- It is a classification system that defines which economic activities and assets are “green” or environmentally sustainable.
- It is a useful instrument and has several complementary purposes:
  - help prevent greenwashing;
  - help investors make informed investment decisions; and
  - channel investment toward sustainable or green economic activities and assets

## Prelims Track Question

**Q1 Consider the following Statements regarding G7:**

1. It was the informal gathering of finance ministers of 5 countries - the U.S.A, U.K, West Germany, Japan, and Canada.
2. Apart from the 7 member countries, the European Union (EU) is also a "non-enumerated" member
3. Presidency rotates annually among the member countries, with each country hosting the summit and setting the agenda for the year.

**Which of the following given statements is/are correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q2 Which of the following statements accurately represents the significance of the services sector in India**

1. The services sector in India accounts for approximately 55% of the total GDP, 38% of total exports, and has been the largest recipient of FDI inflows.
2. Start-ups in India have predominantly emerged in the manufacturing sector, with limited representation from the services sector.
3. By 2030, it is expected that India's software services sector would be worth \$1 billion

**Which of the following given statements is/are correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q3 Consider the following statements about National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:**

1. It is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Enforces the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
3. It monitor the availability of drugs and identifies shortages if any.

**Which of the following given statements is/are correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q4 Consider the following statements regarding National commission for women**

1. It is a statutory body established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. The Chairperson and Members of the Commission are nominated by the President.
3. The Commission shall, while investigating any matter, have all the powers of a criminal court.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q5 Consider the following statements regarding Marine Heatwaves:**

1. The Indian Ocean has become warmer by 1.2 degrees Celsius and climate models expect it to heat up a further in next decades.
2. According to the IPCC, the frequency of marine heatwaves has doubled since the 1980s.
3. They indicate unusual periods during which the sea surface heats up for several days to several months, over small areas.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Interest equalisation scheme:**

1. This scheme was started in 2023 and is valid for 5 years.
2. The Scheme provides an interest equalisation benefit at the rate of 10%.
3. The Scheme has now been made fund limited.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q.7 Mission ISHAN is related to which of the following**

- A. One nation one election
- B. One nation one card
- C. One nation, one airspace
- D. None of the above

**Q.8 Consider the following question regarding Keynesian Economics:**

1. He propounded his theory in the aftermath of World War 1
2. Emphasises the role of government intervention through fiscal policies to stabilise economic fluctuations.
3. The government should increase spending to stimulate demand and boost economic activity

**Which of the following given statements is/are correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q.9. Which of the following is a key indicator used to measure unemployment in a country?**

- A. Consumer Price Index (CPI)

B. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

C. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

D. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

**Q.10. Consider the following statements about The India Employment Report 2024**

1. Unemployed youth with higher education has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022
2. The country is also facing the challenge of a substantial gender and skill gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation.
3. There are widespread livelihood insecurities, the report added, with only a small percentage being covered with social protection measures, precisely in the non-agriculture, organised sector.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None



## Prelims Track Answer

**Answer 1 Option B is correct.**

**Explanation:**

- 1973: It was the informal gathering of finance ministers of 5 countries - the **U.S.A, U.K, West Germany, Japan, and France**.
- 1975: First G6 Summit was held in France, with the participation of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom.
- **1976: Canada joined the G6**, making it the G7. **Statement 1 is INcorrect.**
- Apart from the 7 member countries, the European Union (EU) has also participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a “non-enumerated” member. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Presidency: It rotates annually among the member countries, with each country hosting the summit and setting the agenda for the year. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 2 Option A is correct**

**Explanation:**

- The services sector in India accounts for approximately 55% of the total GDP, 38% of total exports, and has been the largest recipient of FDI inflows. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Start-ups in India have predominantly emerged in the **service sector**, causing a boost to the country's GDP growth. **Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- By 2030, it is expected that India's software services sector would be worth **\$1 trillion**, not billion. **Statement 3 is INcorrect.**

**Answer 3 Option B is Correct**

**Explanation:**

**National Pharmaceutical pricing authority:**

- It was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**. **Statement 1 is INcorrect**
- Functions
- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it. **Statement 2 is correct**
- To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.

- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.

**Statement 3 is correct**

**Answer 4 Option A is correct.**

**Explanation:**

- NCW is a statutory body set up under the NCW Act, 1990, by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Chairperson and Members of the Commission are nominated by the government of India. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in the Act, have all the powers of a civil court. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Answer 5 Option B is correct.**

**Explanation:**

- Marine heatwaves are unusual periods during which the sea surface heats up for several days to several months, over large areas. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The Indian Ocean has become warmer by 1.2 degrees Celsius from 1950 to 2020, and climate models expect it to heat up a further 1.7 degrees Celsius to 3.8 degrees Celsius from 2020 to 2100. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the IPCC, the frequency of marine heatwaves has doubled since the 1980s. **Statement 2 is correct.**

**Answer 6 Option A is correct**

**Explanation:**

- Government of India had announced the Interest Equalisation Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit to eligible exporters.
- This scheme was started in 2015 and was initially valid for 5 years. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Scheme has been continued thereafter, including one year extension during COVID, and with further extensions and fund allocations.
- The scheme helps exporters from identified sectors and MSME manufacturer exporters to avail competitive rates on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit.
- Currently the Scheme provides an interest equalisation benefit at the rate of 2%. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

- The Scheme was not fund limited and extended the benefit without any limit to all exporters.
- The Scheme has now been made fund limited, and benefit to individual exporters has been capped at Rs 10 Cr per annum per IEC (Import Export Code). **Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 7 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- Mission ISHAN, India's push for 'one nation, one airspace', will benefit airlines & passengers
- India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation in order to streamline and enhance air traffic management. **Hence option C is correct**

### Answer 8 Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

- In an effort to comprehend the Great Depression, British economist John Maynard Keynes developed it in the 1930s **Statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- Keynesian Economics, introduced by John Maynard Keynes, emphasizes the importance of government intervention, particularly through fiscal policies such as taxation and government spending, to stabilize economic fluctuations. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- This theory suggests that during economic downturns, the government should increase spending to stimulate demand and boost economic activity, while during periods of inflation or economic expansion, the government should reduce spending to prevent overheating of the economy. **Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 9 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is a key indicator used to measure unemployment. It represents the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment. **Hence option C is correct**

### Answer 10 Option C is correct

#### Explanation

- The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022,
- Labour from agriculture was mainly absorbed by the construction and services sectors.
- Also, almost 90% of workers remain engaged in informal work, while the share of regular work, which steadily increased after 2000, declined after 2018.
- There are widespread livelihood insecurities, the report added, with only a small percentage being covered with social protection measures, precisely in the non-agriculture, organised sector.
- While India's large young workforce is a demographic dividend, the report noted that they don't appear to have the skills to deliver
- — with 75% of youth unable to send emails with attachments, 60% unable to copy and paste files, and 90% unable to put a mathematical formula into a spreadsheet.
- The country is also facing the challenge of a substantial gender gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation. **Hence all the Statements are correct**





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