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SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Nepal map on currency note to have Indian areas, EAM speaks out-The Indian Express

Relevance: India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

News:

- Nepal announced the printing of a new Rs 100 currency note with a map that shows the contentious territories of **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani**.

Key Highlights:

- A sharp response from India with the External Affairs Minister saying that Nepal's move will not change the situation or the reality on the ground.
- Relations between India and Nepal saw a slide after Delhi's inauguration of a new road in May 2020 from Dharchula to Lipulekh on the **Mansarovar Yatra route**.
- A Constitution amendment Bill was passed by Nepal's parliament to legitimise the country's map with the addition of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.
- The passage of the Bill and the new map led to a **temporary breakdown of communication** between the two countries.
- The cabinet decision will be sent to the **Rastra Bank**, Nepal's central bank, which may take up to a year to get the new note printed.

Prelims Takeaway

- India-Nepal Ties
- Kalapani

2. T.N. moves top court, accuses Kerala of obstructing work on Mullaperiyar dam- The Hindu

Relevance: Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure

News:

- Tamil Nadu has accused Kerala in the Supreme Court of "crying foul" about the safety of the over 125-year-old Mullaperiyar dam while at the same time "wilfully obstructing" work essential to maintain the structure.

Key Highlights:

- It contended that Kerala has managed to delay even routine annual maintenance works,
- Tamil Nadu has sought the court to direct Kerala to allow Tamil Nadu to conduct the remaining works.
- In 2021, the Kerala government had made a strong pitch in the Supreme Court to decommission the "deteriorated" Mullaperiyar dam operated by Tamil Nadu, and build a new one.
- Phenomena like climate change, erratic and heavy rainfall and floods had made the spectre of catastrophe real and near.
- The State had also referred to the Uttarakhand flood of February 2021, mainly attributed to climate change in the environs of the Nanda Devi National Park.
- The suggestion for a new dam dates back to 1979.

Prelims Takeaway

- Western Ghats Rivers
- Inter State River Dispute

GS III

3. NCLT logs 43% rise in debt resolution cases, says IBBI- The Hindu

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

News:

Prelims Takeaway

- IBC,2016
- ARC

- The Insolvency Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) declared 2023-24 as a landmark year,
- The National Company Law Tribunal achieved a 43% increase in resolutions.

Key Highlights:

- The regulator is also working on **prepackaged insolvency** for large corporate cases, which is only allowed in MSME cases as of now.
- In the last seven years, resolution of **₹3.5 lakh crore** was achieved
- 27,000 applications worth ₹10 lakh crore were withdrawn, making the IBC a powerful tool for debt resolution
- In 2023-24, around 12 amendments and 86 interventions have been made in the IBBI within a single year.
- This portrays that market requirements are being responded to bridge the gaps.
- The IBBI is expected to submit a report to the government over the next two to three months for **“mediation”** in the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.

IBBI:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established as a **regulating authority** under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. It is a statutory body.

NCLT:

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is an **quasi judicial body** under Companies Act, 2013 under IBC that has jurisdiction over companies and other limited liability entities.

4. Over 1/3rd anti-dumping duties levied in cases with sole or two producers since FY22-The Indian Express

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

News:

- Over one-third of anti-dumping duties imposed by the Finance Ministry in the last three financial years covered goods mostly from the chemical industry.

Key Highlights:

- Of the 46 anti-dumping duties levied in the latest three fiscals, 60 per cent targeted goods originating only in China.
- The Finance Ministry (CBIC) levied an anti-dumping duty in 86 per cent of the cases recommended by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in FY24, a sharp rise from 42 per cent in the previous two fiscals.
- The **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**, India's trade watchdog under the Commerce Ministry, recommends an anti-dumping duty.
- The impact of anti-dumping duties on users, who benefit from cheap imports of raw materials, is a major consideration in the Finance Ministry's decision to accept or reject recommendations by DGTR
- **Dumping** is an unfair trade practice that occurs when goods are exported from one country to another at a price lower than their normal value.
- DGTR investigates cases of anti-dumping brought forward by industry players and recommends a duty

Prelims Takeaway

- Anti-Dumping Duties
- WTO

5. Maharashtra gears up for tiger translocation to Sahyadri reserve-The Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

News:

- Maharashtra forest department is gearing up for translocation of a few tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to Sahyadri.

Prelims Takeaway

- NTCA
- Tiger Reserves of India

Key Highlights:

- Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is the lone tiger reserve in the state's western region.
- The translocation is part of a long-term plan to revive the population of the big cats in the northern Western Ghats forests.
- The **Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR)** is one of only five tiger reserves in the country with zero tigers within the reserve
- The other four reserves with zero Tiger population are
 - Kaval in Telangana,
 - Kamlang in Arunachal Pradesh,
 - Dampa in Mizoram and
 - Satkosia in Odisha
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had cleared the translocation plan in October 2023.
- In the initial phase, a male tiger or a pair of male and female tigers would be translocated from TATR to STR.

6. Evaluation of bids for Navy's mega submarine deal underway- The Indian Express

Relevance: Security Challenges and their Management in Border Areas

News:

- The German government is expected to take up a stake in submarine manufacturer, the TKMS (Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems), and discussions are on.

Key Highlights:

- The design was offered by the TKMS for Project-75I
- The Navy, detailing the specifications, states that the first submarine should have indigenous content (IC) of 45% which should go up to 60% for the sixth and last submarine.
- To qualify for P-75I is the operationally proven **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** system.

Project 75-(I):

- Project-75 (I) envisages the indigenous construction of six **Kalvari Class Diesel-Electric Attack submarines**.
- The important improvement of Project-75(I), is a fuel-cell-based AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) system.
- The AIP technology enables submarines to stay submerged for up to two weeks.

Project 75:

- Project-75, **the precursor to Project-75-(I)**, was initiated in 1997.
- In 1999, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) approved a plan to construct a total of 24 submarines over a 30-year span
- However, only six submarines of Kalvari Class - INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela, INS Vagir, and INSVagsheer could be authorised for operational status

Prelims Takeaway

- Defence Acquisition Council
- Air Propulsion System

7. India has stringent norms for pesticide residues limit: Centre - The Hindu

Relevance: Food Processing and Related Industries in India- Scope' and Significance, Location, Upstream and Downstream Requirements, Supply Chain Management.

News:

- Government has rejected reports that suggested that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) allows high level of residues in spices and herbs.

Highlights:

- The government asserted that India has one of the **most stringent norms for pesticides residues** in food items.

Prelims Takeaway

- Maximum Residue Limits
- FSSAI

- The clarification comes amid a ban imposed by the Hong Kong food regulator on certain **spice mixes of two leading Indian brands MDH and Everest** on alleged presence of pesticide ethylene oxide in their samples.
- FSSAI is currently collecting samples of branded spices, including that of MDH and Everest, sold in the domestic markets to ensure they comply with its quality norms.
 - **It does not regulate the quality of exported spices.**
- In a statement, the Union Health Ministry clarified that maximum residue limits are different for various food products based on risk assessment.
- India has one of the most stringent standards of **Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)** in the world.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. The battle for water in Bengaluru - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

News: Acute water shortage in Bengaluru has caused sparking conversations

Highlights:

- The city's residents have been **grappling with disrupted water supplies**, exorbitant tanker prices and stringent usage restrictions.
- The crisis is **solely not** a consequence of **mismanagement** but rather a complex **interplay of geographical challenges** and **unplanned urbanisation**.

Reasons:

- Situated 900 metres above sea level without any natural freshwater sources, **Bengaluru has historically relied on lakes and tanks to meet its water needs.**
- Regrettably, only a fraction of the water bodies remain today. **Groundwater is rapidly depleting due to over-extraction and inadequate replenishment.**
 - **Water from the Cauvery only fulfils ~50% Bengaluru's water requirements.**
- The remaining 50% currently comes from **groundwater** which is depleting very quickly.
- **Erratic rainfall patterns** exacerbated by climate change have further strained the city's water resources.

Solutions:

- To avert a nationwide water catastrophe projected by 2030, we must adopt a multifaceted approach encompassing immediate and long-term strategies.

Immediate measures:

- Municipalities could foster a culture of water conservation by running campaigns
- These can be supported by technology such as smart water meters, engineering solutions like water aerators to empower citizens to reduce consumption effectively and curtail wastage at the household level.

Medium term solutions:

- Medium-term structural solutions like **rainwater harvesting and wastewater treatment** must be implemented on a broader scale.
- With proper collection and management led by **percolation pits and tech-led innovations on rainwater harvesting and storm drain management**
- **Enhancing wastewater treatment facilities and promoting the reuse of treated water**
- **Encouraging** the use of **tertiary treated water.**
- Leveraging **innovative wastewater treatment solutions** like Indra Water.
- Regular maintenance of pipelines and their management.
- Using technology to address issues within water and sewer pipelines.

Long term solutions:

- Reduce reliance on distant water sources.
 - The Cauvery water, comes from a reservoir that is 90 km away and the city spends ₹3 crores on just electricity per day to pump the water up.

Way Forward:

- Bengaluru's plight must serve as a **wake-up call** for all Indian cities
- **Collaborative efforts** involving local bodies, administrations, startups, research institutions, are essential to address this looming threat.
- **Sustainable urban planning and measures** on lake conservation and borewell management is imperative for resilience.

9. The clean energy transition has become messy - Indian Express

Relevance: Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests

News: The geopolitics tensions have created a fragmented market in the petroleum industry.

Uncertainty in oil prices - a challenge

- It has **never been easy to predict the change of oil prices**.
- This is because they are **influenced by the non-fundamentals of geopolitics, exchange rates**.
- The direction of change earlier however, was easier to foretell because it was driven by the **fundamentals of demand and supply**.
- Now, these **fundamentals have also been tossed**.
- As a result, policymakers in import-dependent countries like India face a question on **how to manage the consequential uncertainties**.

International oil market - volatility

- Western sanctions on **Venezuela, Iran and Russia** have fragmented the petroleum market.
 - **Venezuela has the largest reserves of oil in the world**. The US has reimposed **sanctions** on the country for breach of the government's commitment to hold "free and fair elections".
- Russia's petroleum industry has been **degraded by sanctions, drone attacks, financial constraints and poor technology**.
- If at all Russian oil was taken off the market, the price would **ratchet up sharply**.
- The **Middle East** is facing a witch's brew of **warfare, racism and radicalism** but also houses **55 percent of the world's petroleum reserves**.
- The **AI industry** will need enormous amounts of electricity for its data centres, cloud storage facilities and crypto mining.
 - Aside from these, analysts should **consider net zero carbon emission commitments**
 - **AI industry's demand for electricity** as two additional non-fundamental factors that will bear on the international oil market.

Lessons for India:

- India being oil import dependent economy **need to hedge against volatility** by-
- Building up strategic oil reserves
- Increasing the share of natural gas in the energy basket
- Investing in smart infrastructure
- Intensifying R&D on clean energy
- Encouraging public-private partnerships and scale up renewables.

10. Why youth unemployment is India's biggest challenge - Indian Express

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

Context:

Recently released **India Employment Report 2024** by the **Institute for Human Development (IHD)** and the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, has attracted widespread attention. However, some of its findings have been misunderstood or misinterpreted.

About the Report:

- Based on the data of the **Employment and Unemployment Surveys (EUS)** and **Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS)**, conducted by NSSO.

- Compares data of four years i.e. 2000, 2012, 2019, and 2022 and captures the **changes over the past 22 years**.

Key Highlights of the Report.

- **Employment quality:** As per **Employment Condition Index**, has **improved** in all states.
 - **Issue:** Despite an **improvement in employment conditions** over time, jobs **largely remain informal** and of lower productivity.
 - Over **90 per cent employment is informal**, and 83 per cent are in the informal sector — it was close to 90 per cent in 2000.
 - **Suggestive Measures:**
 - Need **robust wage growth**, particularly of casual and lower strata of regular workers
 - **Strengthening of social protection**
 - Need active **policies** for formalisation and **boosting labour productivity**
- **Share of Non-farm employment:** Shows **increase** in the share of non-farm employment (and **decline in agriculture employment**) between 2000 and 2019, resulting in **increasing prosperity** of a country, and implies a **movement towards the structural transformation** of the economy.
- **Organised vs. Unorganised Employment:** Shows a **steady increase in regular employment** and a decline in unorganised sector employment.
- **Female Workforce Participation:** Shows **increase** in the female workforce participation (FWFP) rate from **24.5 per cent in 2019 to 37.0 in 2023** overwhelmingly **in the agricultural sector**, and of the own-account and unpaid family work kind.
 - **Women's participation is still low** and they remain **largely engaged in less remunerative jobs** in agriculture, unpaid family work and as own-account workers.
 - **Requires the creation of other non-farm employment opportunities** with further **investments in rural areas**, including **transport and connectivity and access to childcare**.
- **Wages:** In comparison to the wages of regular workers, the **wages of casual workers increased** during 2019-22.
 - The **increase was more in** the case of the **bottom groups**.
- **Farm vs. Non-farm jobs:** There was a massive **increase in farm jobs** during the **pandemic** (almost **9 per cent per year**), overall **non-farm jobs also went up** by more than **2.6 per cent**, a rate higher than that achieved from 2012 to 2019.
 - **Employment pattern:** remains **skewed towards agriculture** (employs around **46.6 percent workers**).
 - Highlights the need to **accelerate the creation of non-farm employment**.
- **Unemployment and underemployment rates:** These rates have **increased till 2018 but declined thereafter**.
 - **Unemployment rate:** declined from **6 per cent 2018 to 3.2 per cent** in 2023.
 - **Youth unemployment rate:** decreased from **17.8 per cent to 10 per cent** over this period.
 - **Issue:** Despite **massive increase in educational attainment**, the unemployment problem in India is becoming **centred around educated youth**.
 - **Reason: qualifications and skills mismatches**, particularly at higher levels of education.
 - **Suggestive Measures:**
 - Improving the quality of education and **imparting appropriate skills** in active partnership with the private sector
 - **Policy focus** should be on the proportion of **youth not in employment, education and training (NEET)**, which is quite high at around 28 per cent in 2022, with the share of females being around five times more than males.
- **Production process:** increasingly becoming **capital and skill-intensive**, leading to **distortions in the labour market**.
 - This calls for a **greater focus on labour-intensive manufacturing**.

Conclusion:

- India is likely to have a **demographic advantage** for at least another decade. With **robust economic growth** likely to be witnessed in the coming years, the country can reap this advantage.
- **Suggested Policy Measures:**
 - Making production and **growth more employment-intensive** with emphasis on **labour-based manufacturing** and appropriate focus on employment-generating services and agriculture;
 - **Improving the quality of jobs;**
 - **Overcoming labour market inequalities**, particularly by boosting women's employment and effective policies to tackle NEET;
 - **Making** systems for skills training and active **labour market policies more effective**, particularly by bridging the supply-demand gap in jobs and active involvement of the private sector;
 - **Generating reliable statistics** so as to better capture the complexities of the changing pattern of the labour market due to rapid technological change.



Quick Look

1. Starliner- Boeing

- Starliner is a spacecraft that transports astronauts in space, after being launched there by a rocket.
- It consists of a crew capsule and a service module.
- The crew capsule houses the astronauts, it will be able to survive reentry and return to the ground.
- Starliner's first crew flight test will be piloted by two veteran astronauts, Mr. Wilmore and Ms. Williams.
- After being launched by an Atlas V rocket, Starliner will carry them to the ISS, where the duo will stay for eight days

2. Goldene

- A free-standing sheet of gold that is only one atom thick.
- This makes gold the first metal to be formulated into 2D sheets, opening up a host of exciting possibilities for the future.
- These sheets of Goldene are roughly 100 nanometres thick, approximately 400 times thinner than the thinnest commercially available gold leaf.
- Since the 2004 development of graphene, the atom-thin material made of carbon, scientists have identified hundreds of 2D materials.
- Scientists believe that the super thin, super light material can potentially revolutionise the electronics industry.

3. Mullaperiyar dam-

- The dam is 155 ft high and 1200 ft long. Its construction began in 1887 and was completed in 1895.
- The first dam, which was built by the British Corps of Royal Engineers, was washed away by floods. Thereafter, a second stonework dam was built in 1895.
- The dam's purpose was to divert the waters of River Periyar to the arid regions of the Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu.
- The construction of the dam paved the way for the creation of the artificial lake at the centre of the Reserve.

4. Leprosy

- Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae.
- The disease affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosal surfaces of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes.
- Leprosy is known to occur at all ages ranging from early childhood to old age.
- Leprosy is curable and treatment during early stages can prevent disability.
- Leprosy is transmitted via droplets, from the nose and mouth, during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.

5. Stem cells

- Stem cells are cells with the potential to develop into many different types of cells in the body.
- They serve as a repair system for the body.
- There are two main types of stem cells:
 - embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells.
- They are unspecialised cells and have the potential to become specialised cells

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following Statements regarding Anglo- Nepal Wars

1. At the Battle of Makwanpur, in 1814 EIC suffered huge losses against Gurkhas
2. At the Battle of Jitgurrh of 1816, EIC orchestrated most decisive victory in Nepal
3. The Gurkhas had revolted against the British in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

Which of the above Statements is/are Correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following rivers of Western Ghats:

Rivers	Origin
1. Sharavati	Maharashtra
2. Kabini	Kerala
3. Netravati	Karnataka

How many of the above Pair is/are Correct

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

Q3 Consider the following Statements regarding IBC,2016

Statement 1: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is the bankruptcy law of India that consolidates and amends the existing laws

Statement 2: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial body constituted under the IBC, 2016.

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

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

Q4. Consider the Following Statements regarding Duties

1. Anti-dumping duty is a tariff imposed on imports that are priced below the fair market value
2. CounterVailing Duty will apply to foreign products that have enjoyed government subsidies in their countries.
3. The use of anti-dumping is not permitted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Which of the above Statements is/are Correct?

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

Q 5 Consider the following Pairs:

Tiger Reserves	State
1. Mukundra Hills	Madhya Pradesh
2. Pakke	Arunachal Pradesh
3. Kali	Goa

How many of the above Pairs are Correct?

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

Q6 Consider the following Statements:

Statement 1: India's Nuclear Triad has been achieved, the capability of a nuclear strike via Land, Air, and Naval (Sea).

Statement 2: Nuclear Triad's Naval capability was achieved by INS Kalvari.

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

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

**Q7. Consider the following statement
Maximum residue limits**

1. They refer to the lowest acceptable concentration of pesticide or a contaminant, in a food product.
2. These are the same for different food products based on risk assessment.
3. Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee regulate the manufacturing, import, transport, storage of pesticides.

How many of the above statements is/are correct

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

Q8. Consider the following statement regarding Bengaluru water crisis:

1. It is solely result of mismanagement and lack of awareness among public
2. Krishna river plays an important role in fulfilling water needs of bengaluru people
3. Indra Water is an innovative wastewater treatment solution to conserve water

How many of the above statements is/are correct

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

Q9. Consider the following

1. Building up strategic oil reserves
2. Investing in smart infrastructure
3. Intensifying R&D on clean energy
4. Importing more and more oil

How many of the above can help India in hedging petroleum volatility?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding India Employment Report 2024

1. The report is primarily based on analysis of data from the National Sample Surveys and the Periodic Labour Force Surveys
2. It is released by National Sample Survey Organisation
3. India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce

How many of the above statements is/are correct

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

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option D is Correct

Explanation:

- 1814: One notable **EIC loss** was at the **Battle of Jitgurh** (aka Jit Gadhi).
- The terrain made it difficult for EIC armies to transport their artillery and give the general logistical support armies in the field needed. **Hence Statement 1 is Incorrect**
- 1816: At the Battle of Makwanpur, Ochterlony orchestrated the most decisive EIC victory in Nepal. More battles and sieges followed with Ochterlony taking the time to build roads to get his heavy cannons into better positions to blast the Gurkha forts. **Hence, Statement 2 is Incorrect**
- The Gurkhas became valuable allies to the East India Company, for example, Gurkha battalions participated in the Sikh Wars and played an important part in the Company quashing the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857-8. **Hence Statement 3 is Incorrect**

Answer 2 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- **Netravathi** :It rises in the Dakshina Kannada district of **Karnataka** at an elevation of about 1000 m. **Pair 3 is correct**
- **Kabani**, also called Kabini or Kapila, is a river in southern India. It originates in the Wayanad District of **Kerala** state **Pair 2 is correct**
- **Sharavati** is a river which originates and flows entirely within the state of **Karnataka** in India. **Pair 1 is Incorrect**

Answer 3 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- The IBC, 2016 is the bankruptcy law of India that consolidates and amends the existing laws relating to insolvency and bankruptcy of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals. **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates matters related to corporate law. It was constituted by the Central Government under Section 408 of the **Companies Act, 2013** with effect from 1st June 2016 **Hence Statement 2 is Incorrect**

Answer 4 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- Anti-dumping duty is a tariff imposed on imports manufactured in foreign countries that are priced below the fair market value

of similar goods in the domestic market. **Hence Statement 1 is correct**

- Foreign governments sometimes provide subsidies to their producers to make their products cheaper and boost their demand in other countries. To avoid flooding the market in the importing country with these goods, the government of the importing country imposes CVD, charging a specific amount on the import of such goods. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
- The use of anti-dumping measure as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) **Hence Statement 3 is Incorrect**

Answer 5 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- **Mukundra hills**, is located just 50 kilometres from Kota, and is the 3rd tiger reserve in **Rajasthan**, **Pair 1 is Incorrect**
- **Pakke Tiger Reserve** is located in the East Kameng district of **Arunachal Pradesh**. **Pair 2 is correct**
- **Kali Tiger Reserve**, earlier known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve, is located in the central portion of Uttara Kannada district of **Karnataka** state. **Pair 3 is Incorrect**

Answer 6 Option C is Correct

Explanation:

- The Nuclear Triad of India is a three-sided military-force structure consisting of ICBMs (land-based nuclear missiles), SSBNs (nuclear-missile-armed submarines), and Strategic Bombers (strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs and missiles).
- The theory underlying the triad is that spreading the country's extensive nuclear arsenals across various weapons platforms and dimensions would provide a Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD). **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- In 2018, with the deployment of **INS Arihant** (an SSBN), a Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine, India got its fully operational Nuclear Triad. **Hence Statement 2 is Incorrect**

Answer 7 Option A is correct.

Explanation:

- The maximum residual limit typically refers to the highest acceptable concentration of a residue, such as a pesticide or a

contaminant, in a food product. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

- Maximum residue limits are different for various food products based on risk assessment. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB & RC) constituted under the Insecticide Act, 1968, regulate the manufacturing, import, transport, storage of pesticides and accordingly the pesticides are registered/banned/restricted by CIB & RC. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 8 Option A is correct

Explanation:

- The Bengaluru water crisis is solely not a consequence of mismanagement but rather a complex interplay of geographical challenges and unplanned urbanisation. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Cauvery river** plays an important role in fulfilling 50% needs of bengaluru people. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Indra water is an innovative wastewater treatment solution that solves the toughest water management, treatment and process challenges globally. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 9 Option B is correct

Explanation:

- India being oil import dependent economy need to hedge against volatility by-
- Building up strategic oil reserves

- Increasing the share of natural gas in the energy basket
- Investing in smart infrastructure
- Intensifying R&D on clean energy
- Encouraging public-private partnerships and scale up renewables. **Option 1,2,3 are correct.**
- Importing more oil will involve price fluctuations. **Option 4 is incorrect.**

Answer 10 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- Recently, the Institute for Human Development (IHD) and **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** have released a report titled- 'India Employment Report 2024', which highlights that India's youth continue to grapple with soaring Unemployment rates. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- The report is primarily based on analysis of data from the National Sample Surveys and the Periodic Labour Force Surveys between 2000 and 2022. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the report, India's **youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed** workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022. **Statement 3 is correct.**



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