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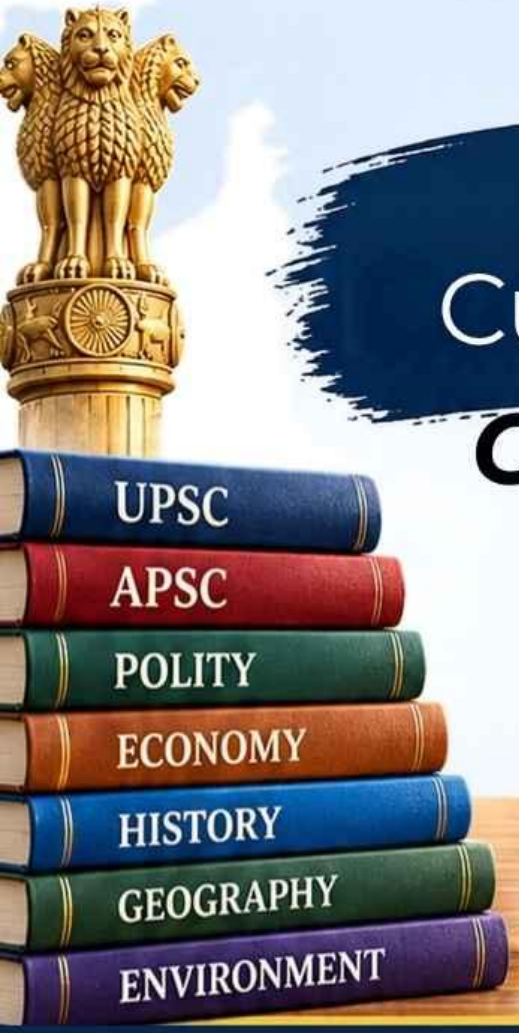
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For UPSC APSC & Govt Exams

Weekly Current Affairs **Compilation**

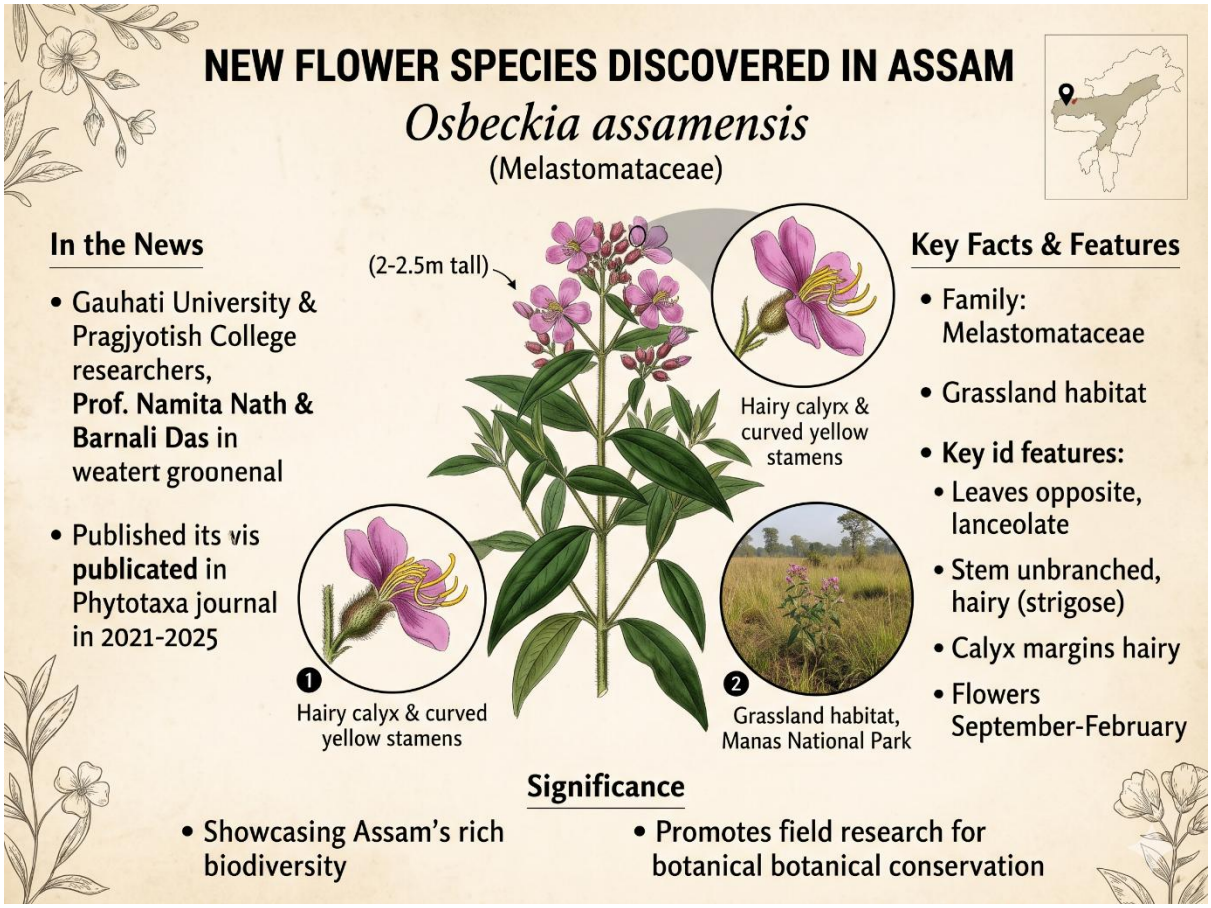




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Environment and Ecology (GS Paper 3)

New Flower Species Discovered in Assam



- A new flowering plant species, Osbeckia assamensis, has been discovered in Manas National Park, Assam.
- **Researchers**: **Prof. Namita Nath (Gauhati University) and Barnali Das (Pragjyotish College).**
- **Published in the international, peer-reviewed journal Phytotaxa**.

Key Facts

- **Family**: Melastomataceae.
- **Genus: Osbeckia.**
- **Habitat: Grasslands of Manas National Park, Assam**.
- **Distribution: Found in large, scattered populations in the park**.
- **Identification: Distinguished from related species by its stem, leaf features, hairy calyx margins and flower-bearing structures.**
- **Related species: Osbeckia nayarii.**

- **Research period: 2021–2025.**

Significance

- **Highlights Assam's rich floral biodiversity.**
- **Emphasises the importance of botanical research and field surveys.**
- **Supports the conservation of lesser-known plant species and their habitats.**

Prelims Questions

Q1. Osbeckia assamensis, recently reported in the news, belongs to which plant family?

A. Orchidaceae

B. Melastomataceae

C. Fabaceae

D. Poaceae

Answer: B. Melastomataceae

Agriculture (GS Paper 3)

Ladakh Declared India's First 100% Organic Union Territory

In News

- Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena declared Ladakh India's first 100% organic Union Territory.
- The administration prohibited the use, sale and distribution of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agricultural purposes.

Key Facts

- Location: Ladakh, a Union Territory of India.
- **Major crops and produce: Apricots, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley and vegetables**.
- Policy measure: **Ban on chemical and synthetic fertilisers across Ladakh**.
- **Organic farming: Agriculture that avoids synthetic fertilisers and follows approved organic farming practices**.

Significance

- **Environmental protection: Conserves the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.**
- **Sustainable agriculture: Promotes environmentally friendly farming.**
- **Farmers' income: Can improve market access and prices for organic produce.**
- **Traditional knowledge: Encourages traditional farming practices supported by scientific methods.**
- **Biodiversity: Helps protect soil health and the natural environment**.

Challenges

- Maintaining organic certification and quality standards.
- Ensuring access to organic markets.
- Managing pests and maintaining soil fertility.
- Providing training and scientific support to farmers.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Ladakh was recently declared India's first 100% organic Union Territory. Who made the declaration, according to the news report?

A. The President of India

B. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

C. The Union Agriculture Minister

D. The Prime Minister of India

Answer: B. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

Mains Question:

Discuss the role of organic farming in promoting sustainable agriculture, improving farmers' income and conserving fragile Himalayan ecosystems.

Internal Security (GS Paper 3)

Cybersecurity: A Critical Concern for India

In News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**
- He highlighted the growing threat of cybercrime and cyberterrorism to India's financial system.
- Cost mentioned in the report: ₹169 crore.

Why Is Cybersecurity Important?

- **Financial security**: Protects banks and financial institutions from cyberattacks.
- **Economic stability**: Cyberattacks can disrupt banking services and damage public confidence.
- **Digital India**: Protects digital payments and online banking.
- **National security**: Cyberattacks can be used as tools of economic warfare.
- **Data protection**: Helps safeguard customers' personal and financial information.

Major Cybersecurity Threats

- **Phishing and online financial fraud.**
- **Ransomware and malware attacks.**
- **Identity theft and data breaches.**
- **Attacks on banking systems and digital payment platforms.**
- **Cyberterrorism and attacks on critical infrastructure**.

Measures to Strengthen Cybersecurity

- **Develop modern cybersecurity infrastructure.**
- **Train skilled cybersecurity professionals.**
- **Improve cybercrime detection and response.**
- **Promote public awareness of online fraud.**
- **Strengthen coordination between banks, regulators and law enforcement agencies.**

Prelims Questions

Q1. The RBI's new Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute, mentioned in the news, was inaugurated in:

A. Guwahati

B. Bhubaneswar

C. Hyderabad

D. Mumbai

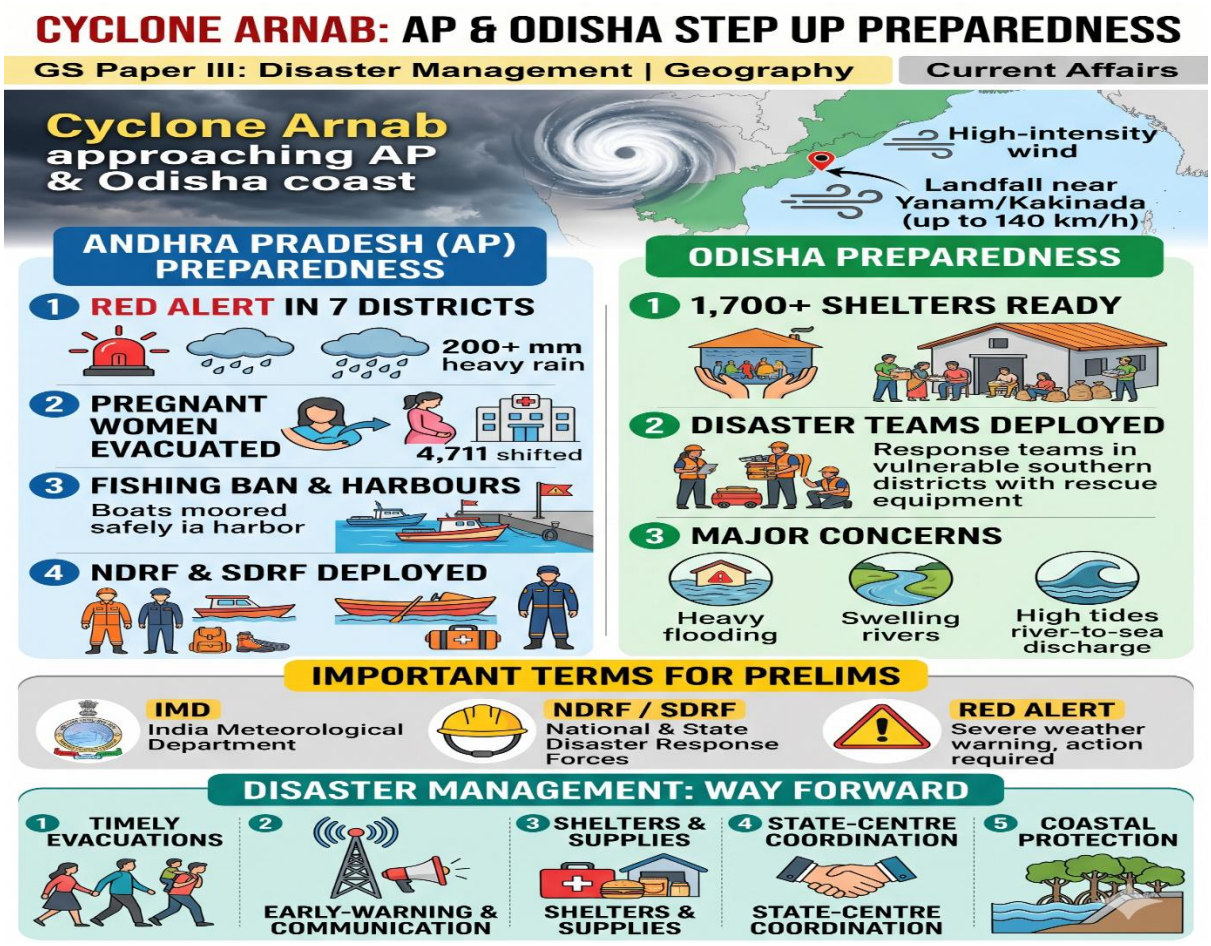
Answer: B. Bhubaneswar

Mains Practice Question

"Cybersecurity is essential for India's financial stability in the era of digital banking." Discuss the major challenges and suggest suitable measures. (150 words)

GS Paper III (Disaster Management)

Cyclone Arnab



- **Event: Andhra Pradesh and Odisha intensified evacuation and disaster-preparedness measures as Cyclone Arnab approached the coast, according to the provided report.**
- Andhra Pradesh: **The IMD issued red alerts for seven districts, forecasting isolated extremely heavy rainfall of 200 mm or more.**
- **Expected impact: The storm was forecast to make landfall near Yanam or Kakinada, with wind gusts reaching 140 km/h.**
- **Evacuation: Andhra Pradesh planned to shift 4,711 pregnant women to safer healthcare facilities. Fishing boats returned to harbours.**
- **Disaster response: NDRF and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams were deployed in vulnerable areas.**
- **Odisha: More than 1,700 shelters were prepared, with disaster-response teams deployed in vulnerable southern districts.**

- **Major concern: Heavy rainfall, flooding, river swelling, storm-related damage and difficulties in discharging river water into the sea during high tides.**

Important Terms for Prelims

- **IMD: India Meteorological Department.**
- **NDRF: National Disaster Response Force.**
- **SDRF: State Disaster Response Force.**
- **Red Alert: Indicates the need for authorities to take action and prepare for potentially severe weather impacts.**

Disaster Management:

Way Forward

1. Ensure timely evacuation of vulnerable populations.

2. Strengthen early-warning systems and last-mile communication.

3. Prepare cyclone shelters, hospitals and emergency supplies.

4. Coordinate disaster response between States and the Centre.

5. Improve coastal protection and flood-resilient infrastructure.

Prelims Question

Q. Consider the following statements about tropical cyclones:

1. They generally develop over warm tropical ocean waters.

2. The India Meteorological Department issues cyclone warnings in India.

3. Storm surges can cause coastal flooding during cyclones.

4. Tropical cyclones form only during the summer monsoon.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

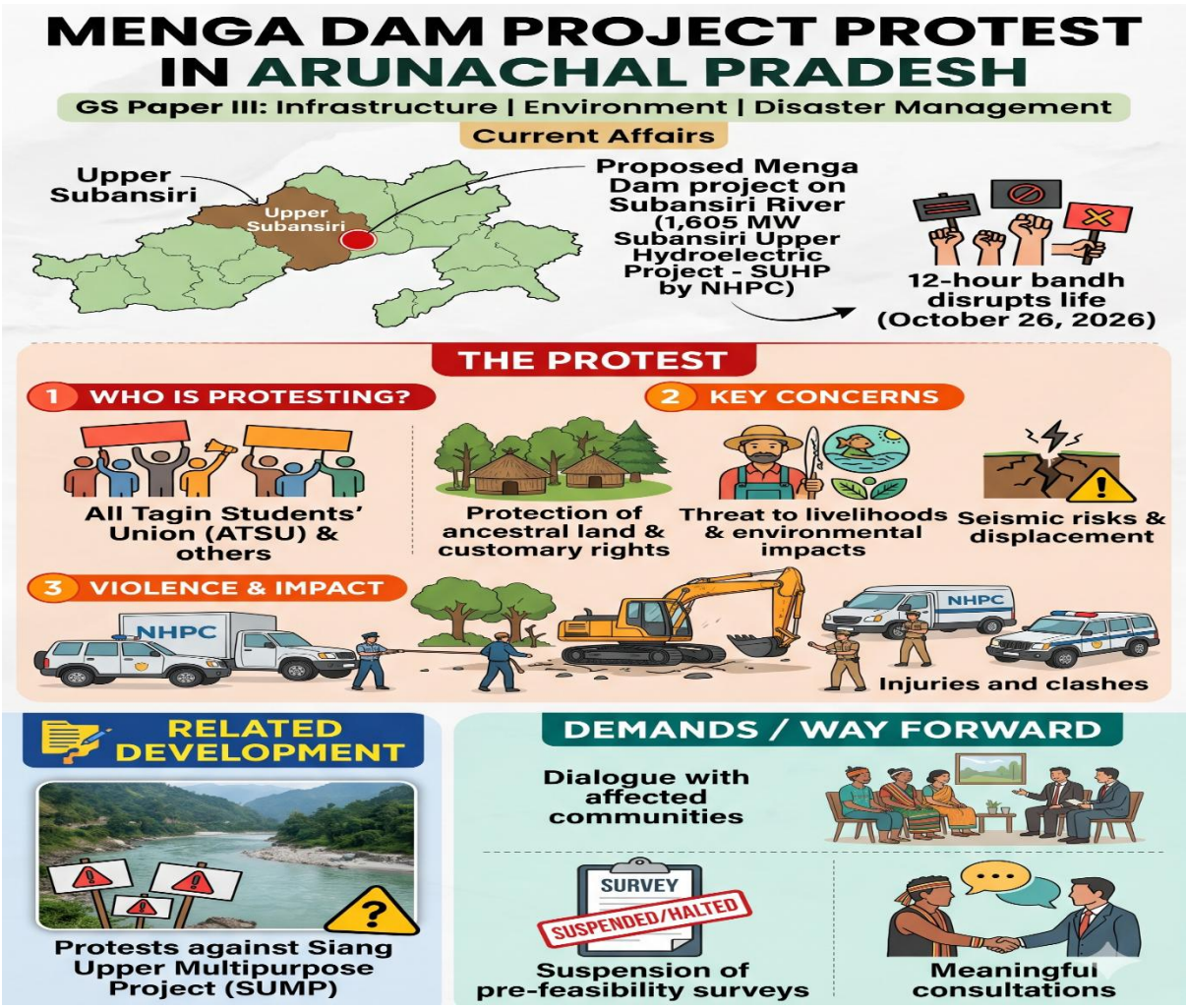
C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only.

GS Paper III (Environment)

Menga Dam Project Protest in Arunachal Pradesh



- All Tagin Students' Union (ATSU) and other organisations protested against the proposed Menga Dam project.
- Project: The Menga Dam is part of the 1,605 MW Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project (SUHP) being developed by NHPC Ltd on the Subansiri River.
- Key concerns: Protection of ancestral land, customary rights, livelihoods, environmental impacts, seismic risks and displacement of affected communities.
- Violence: Protesters damaged NHPC equipment and vehicles, while two police vehicles were also damaged. Personnel were injured.
- Related development: Protests have also taken place against the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP).

Way Forward

1. Conduct comprehensive environmental and seismic impact assessments.

2. Ensure free, prior and informed consultation with affected communities.

3. Protect customary land rights and provide fair rehabilitation and compensation.

4. Maintain law and order while respecting democratic protest.

5. Adopt transparent and participatory decision-making.

Prelims Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Menga Dam project:

1. It is part of the Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project.

2. The project is being developed by NHPC Ltd.

3. The project is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation: All three statements are correct according to the provided news report.

GS Paper I (Indian Culture)

Mera Hou Chongba Festival, Manipur



- **Occasion**: Mera Hou Chongba is a traditional festival celebrated in Manipur to promote unity and brotherhood between hill and valley communities.
- **Venue**: Historic Kangla Fort, Imphal, Manipur.
- **Historical significance:** The tradition dates back to the reign of Ebudhou Nongda Lairen Pakhangba.
- **Key activities**: **Exchange of gifts between hill and valley representatives and the release of a festival souvenir.**

- **Significance: The festival symbolises communal harmony, cultural unity, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among Manipur's diverse ethnic communities**.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Mera Hou Chongba, recently seen in the news, is associated with which of the following?

A. A harvest festival of Assam

B. Promoting unity between hill and valley communities in Manipur

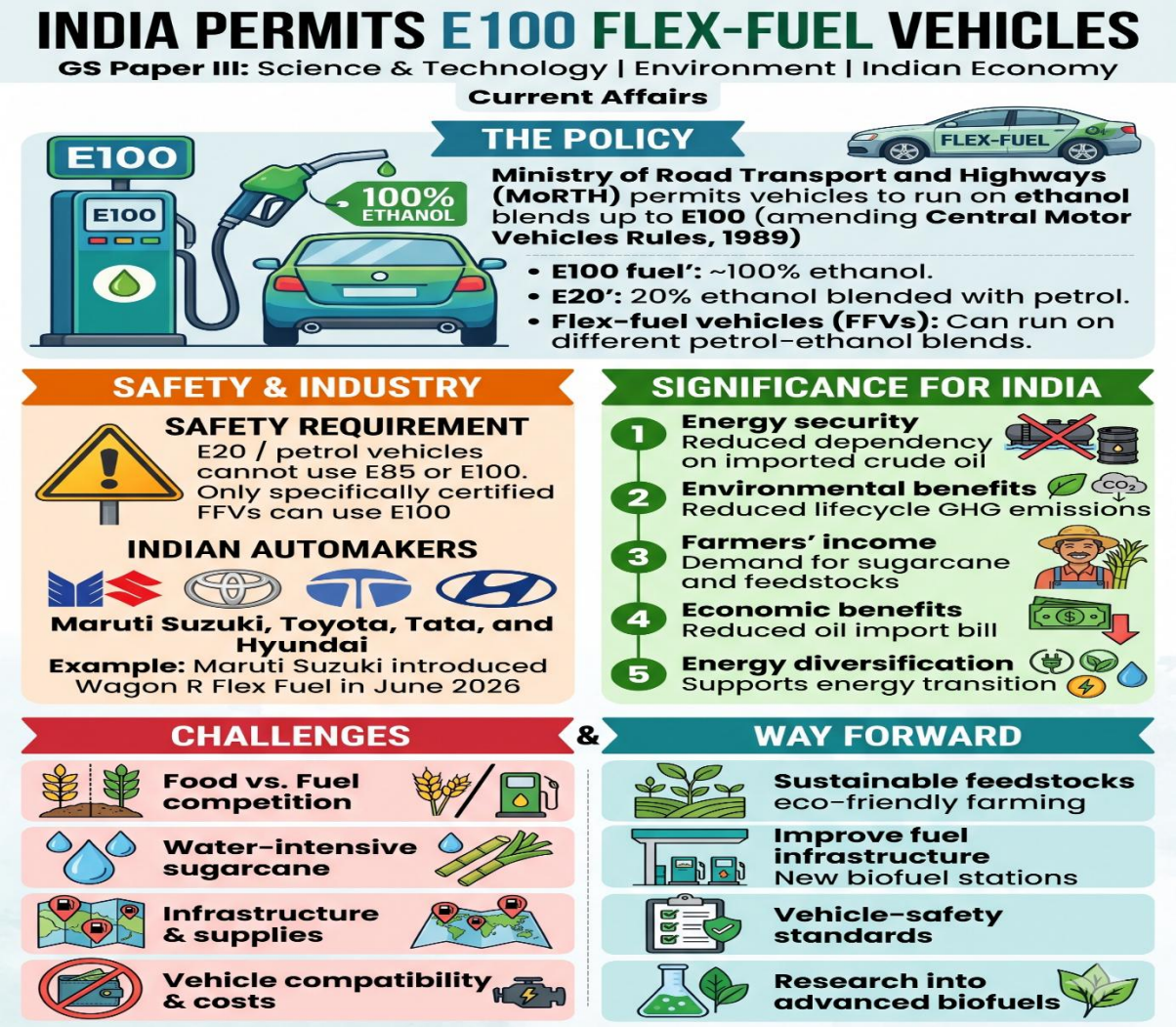
C. A Buddhist festival celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh

D. A traditional boat festival of Tripura

Answer: B. Promoting unity between hill and valley communities in Manipur.

GS Paper III (Science & Technology)

India Permits E100 Flex-Fuel Vehicles



- Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Recent development: The government amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, permitting vehicles certified to run on ethanol blends up to E100.
- E100 fuel: Fuel consisting predominantly of ethanol, with nearly 100% ethanol.
- E20: Petrol blended with 20% ethanol.
- Flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs): Vehicles designed to operate on different petrol–ethanol blends, depending on their certification.

- **Safety requirement: Vehicles designed for E20 or normal petrol cannot automatically use E85 or E100. Only vehicles specifically designed and certified for these fuels can use them.**
- **Indian automakers: Companies such as Maruti Suzuki, Toyota, Tata and Hyundai are exploring flex-fuel technology.**
- **Example: Maruti Suzuki introduced the Wagon R Flex Fuel vehicle in June 2026, according to the provided report.**

Significance for India

1. Energy security: Reduces dependence on imported crude oil.

2. Environmental benefits: Can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, depending on ethanol production methods and fuel efficiency.

3. Farmers' income: Creates additional demand for sugarcane and other suitable ethanol feedstocks.

4. Economic benefits: May help reduce the crude oil import bill and pressure on the current account.

5. Energy diversification: Promotes alternative fuels and supports India's energy-transition goals.

Challenges

- **Competition between food crops and fuel production.**
- **Water-intensive sugarcane cultivation in some regions.**
- **Availability of adequate ethanol supplies and refuelling infrastructure.**
- **Vehicle compatibility, fuel efficiency and consumer costs.**
- **Need to assess lifecycle emissions and sustainability.**

Way Forward

Promote sustainable ethanol feedstocks, improve fuel infrastructure, enforce vehicle-safety standards and encourage research into advanced biofuels.

Prelims Practice Question

Q. Consider the following statements about flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs):

1. They can operate on different petrol–ethanol blends within their certified fuel range.

2. Every petrol vehicle can use E100 fuel without modification.

3. Ethanol blending can help reduce dependence on imported crude oil.

4. E100 fuel consists predominantly of ethanol.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 3 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

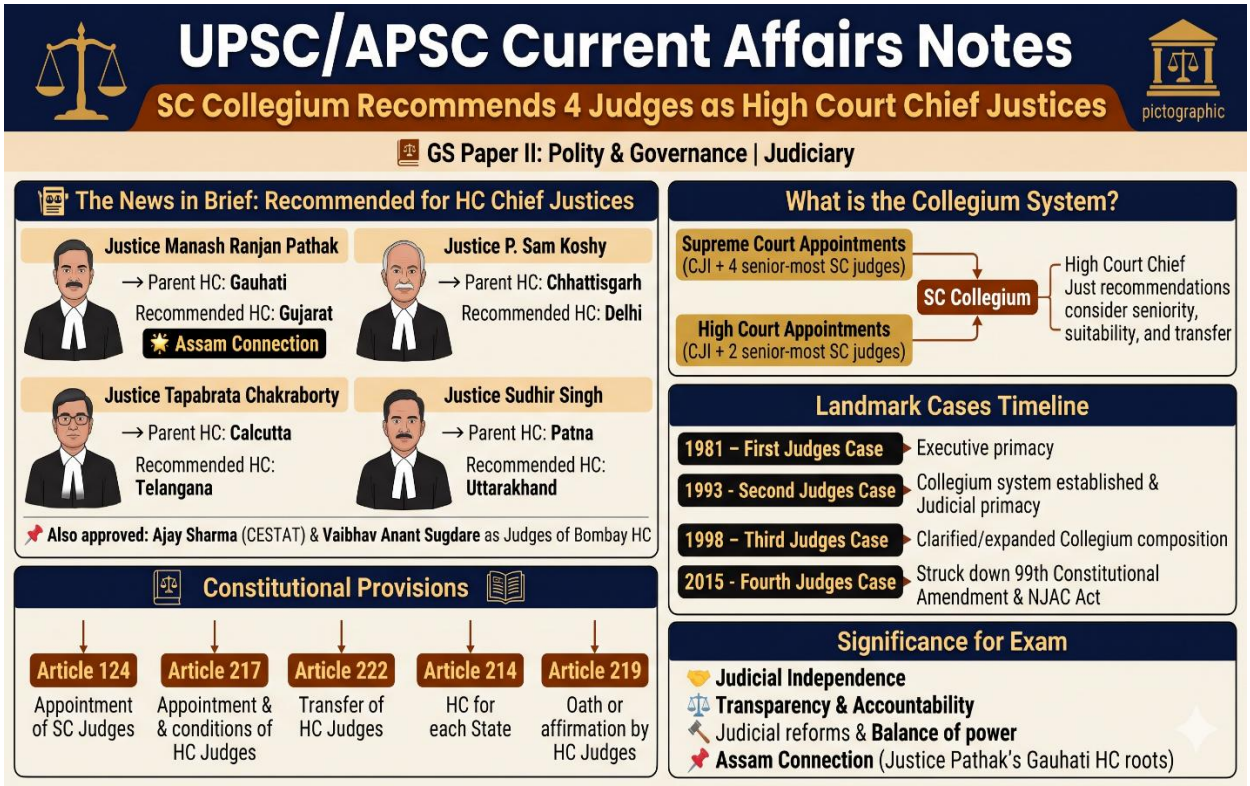
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B. 1, 3 and 4 only

E**xplanation: Flex-fuel vehicles must be specifically designed and certified for the fuel blends they use. Ordinary petrol vehicles cannot automatically use E100.**

GS Paper II: Polity & Governance

SC Collegium Recommends Four Judges as High Court Chief Justices



The Supreme Court Collegium, in its resolution dated October 26, recommended four judges for appointment as Chief Justices of the High Courts of Gujarat, Delhi, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

Judge	Recommended High Court	Parent High Court
Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak	**Gujarat**	**Gauhati**
Justice P. Sam Koshy	**Delhi**	**Chhattisgarh**
Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty	**Telangana**	**Calcutta**
Justice Sudhir Singh	**Uttarakhand**	**Patna**

Other development: The Collegium also approved the proposal to appoint Ajay Sharma, Judicial Member of CESTAT, Mumbai, and advocate Vaibhav Anant Sugdare as judges of the Bombay High Court.

What Is the Collegium System?

The Collegium System is the mechanism through which judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are recommended for appointment and elevation.

- **Supreme Court appointments: Chief Justice of India (CJI) and four senior-most Supreme Court judges.**
- **High Court appointments: CJI and two senior-most Supreme Court judges, in consultation with relevant constitutional authorities and judges.**
- **High Court Chief Justice appointments: Recommendations are made by the Supreme Court Collegium, considering factors such as seniority, suitability and inter-High Court transfers.**

Constitutional Provisions

Article	Provision
Article 124	**Appointment of Supreme Court judges**
Article 217	**Appointment and conditions of office of High Court judges**
Article 222	**Transfer of High Court judges**
Article 214	**High Court for each State**
Article 219	**Oath or affirmation by High Court judges**

Important Supreme Court Judgments

- First Judges Case (1981): Established executive primacy in judicial appointments.
- Second Judges Case (1993): Established the Collegium System and gave primacy to the judiciary.
- Third Judges Case (1998): Clarified and expanded the Collegium's composition.
- Fourth Judges Case (2015): The Supreme Court struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act.

Significance

- **Strengthens judicial administration through the appointment of High Court Chief Justices.**
- **Highlights the importance of judicial independence.**

- **Raises questions about transparency and accountability in judicial appointments.**
- **Relevant to the debate on judicial reforms and the balance of power between the executive and judiciary.**
- **Assam connection: Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak's parent High Court is the Gauhati High Court.**

Prelims Question

Q1. The appointment of High Court judges is governed by which Article of the Indian Constitution?

A. Article 124

B. Article 217

C. Article 222

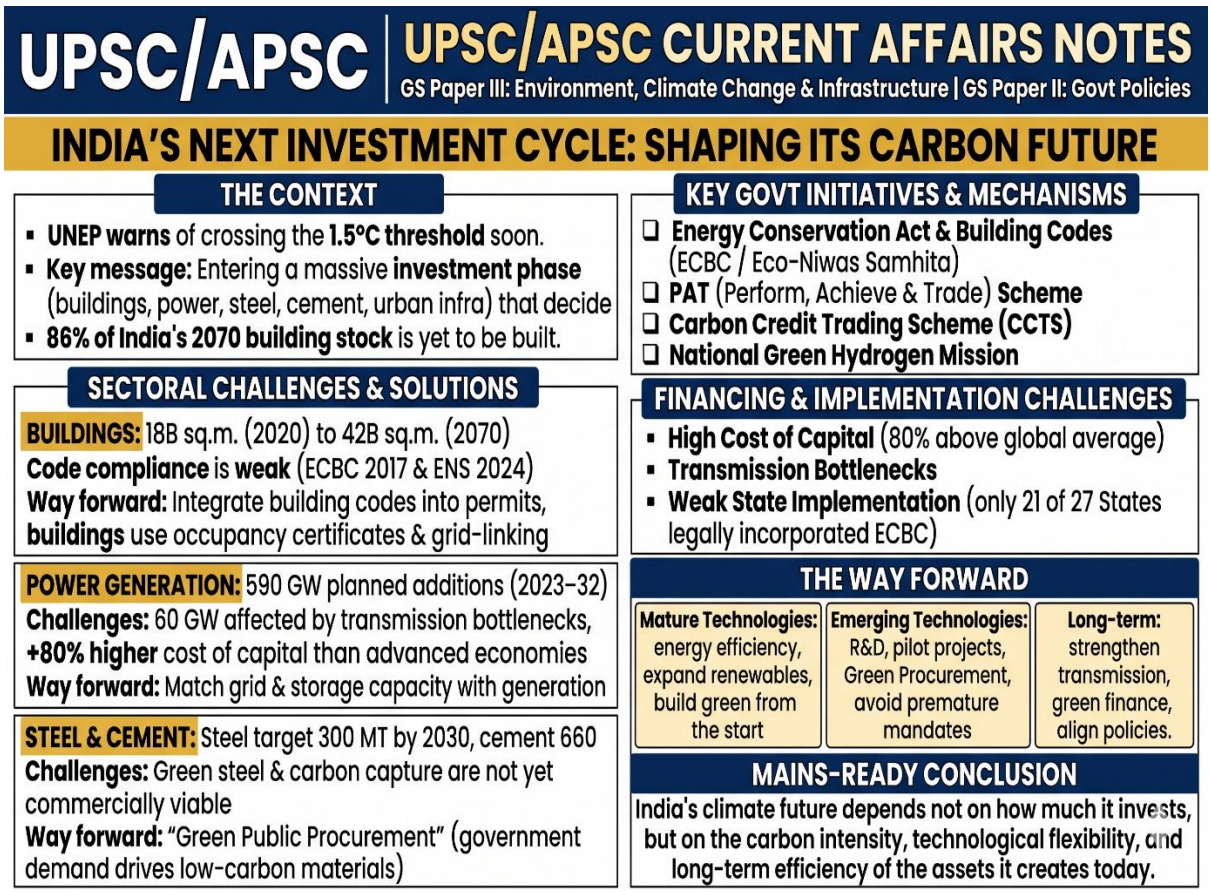
D. Article 226

Answer: B. Article 217

Explanation: Article 217 deals with the appointment and conditions of office of High Court judges.

GS Paper III: Environment, Climate Change

India’s Next Investment Cycle Will Shape Its Carbon Future



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has warned that the world could cross the 1.5°C global warming threshold within the next few years.

India is entering a major investment phase in buildings, electricity, steel, cement and urban infrastructure. The **technologies and standards adopted during this phase will significantly influence the country’s future carbon emissions.**

- India should pursue economic growth while investing in low-carbon infrastructure, energy efficiency and sustainable industrial development.

Important Facts and Figures

Indicator	Data
India's building stock yet to be built by 2070	86%
Projected building floor space	18 billion sq. m. (2020) to 42 billion sq. m. (2070)
India's crude steel capacity	Approximately 200 million tonnes in 2024–25
Targeted steel capacity	300 million tonnes by 2030–31
India's cement production	Approximately 427 million tonnes in 2024
Projected cement production	660 million tonnes by 2030
Renewable capacity affected by transmission bottlenecks	Approximately 60 GW
Planned power generation additions	Approximately 590 GW during 2023–2032

Major Issues Discussed

A. The Advantage of India's Development Stage

India's infrastructure deficit is often viewed as a barrier to decarbonisation. However, it also offers an opportunity to build infrastructure with cleaner technologies from the start.

Advantages:

- **Avoids locking in high-emission technologies.**
- **Reduces future retrofitting and renovation costs.**
- **Improves energy efficiency.**
- **Minimises the risk of stranded assets.**
- **Supports sustainable economic growth**.

Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Buildings consume significant energy for lighting, cooling, and other activities.

India has introduced several regulatory frameworks to improve building efficiency.

Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), 2017 = promotes energy efficiency in commercial buildings

Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC), 2024= Establishes sustainability and energy-efficiency standards for commercial and office buildings

Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS), 2024= Promotes energy efficiency in residential buildings

Way forward:

- Integrate building-efficiency standards into building permits.
- Link compliance to occupancy certificates and grid connections.
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement.
- Promote energy-efficient cooling and sustainable construction materials.

Challenges in the Power Sector

India has rapidly expanded renewable energy generation, but transmission infrastructure has not kept pace.

Major challenges:

1. Transmission bottlenecks delay renewable energy integration.

2. Renewable electricity may not reach areas with high demand.

3. Electrification of transport, cooling and industry will increase electricity demand.

4. Insufficient storage can make it difficult to balance variable renewable generation.

Way forward:

- **Develop transmission infrastructure alongside renewable energy projects.**
- **Expand battery and other energy-storage systems.**
- **Strengthen interstate electricity transmission.**
- **Improve grid planning and management.**
- **Coordinate generation, transmission and demand forecasting.**

Prelims Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding India's future building stock:

1. A significant proportion of India's building stock projected for 2070 is yet to be constructed.

2. Energy-efficient building standards can help reduce long-term electricity consumption.

3. Retrofitting existing buildings is always cheaper than incorporating energy efficiency during construction.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Incorporating energy efficiency during construction can avoid expensive retrofits. Therefore, statement 3 is incorrect.

Mains Question

Q. India's next phase of infrastructure development presents an opportunity to align economic growth with decarbonisation. Discuss the major challenges and suggest measures to promote low-carbon infrastructure in India. (15 marks, 250 words)

GS Paper II: International Relations

India Discusses Maritime Partnerships with South Korea and Cyprus

Key Highlights

- Union Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- South Korea: Cooperation in shipbuilding, marine equipment, green propulsion and maritime technology.
- Cyprus: Collaboration in shipping, maritime investment, ship recycling and seafarer welfare.
- Target: Make India a globally competitive shipbuilding and maritime services hub by 2047.
- KOMERI: Korea Marine Equipment Research Institute; potential cooperation in research, testing and certification.
- HMM: Discussions covered Indian seafarer recruitment, vessel registration and expansion of shipping services.
- Ship recycling: India seeks EU recognition for eligible Indian ship-recycling facilities.

Significance for India

- **Attracts foreign investment and technology.**
- **Generates employment in shipbuilding and shipping.**
- **Strengthens port infrastructure and maritime supply chains.**
- **Promotes green shipping and sustainable ship recycling.**
- **Supports India's maritime ambitions under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

Prelims Questions

Q. KOMERI, mentioned in the context of India's maritime cooperation, is associated with which country?

A. Cyprus

B. South Korea

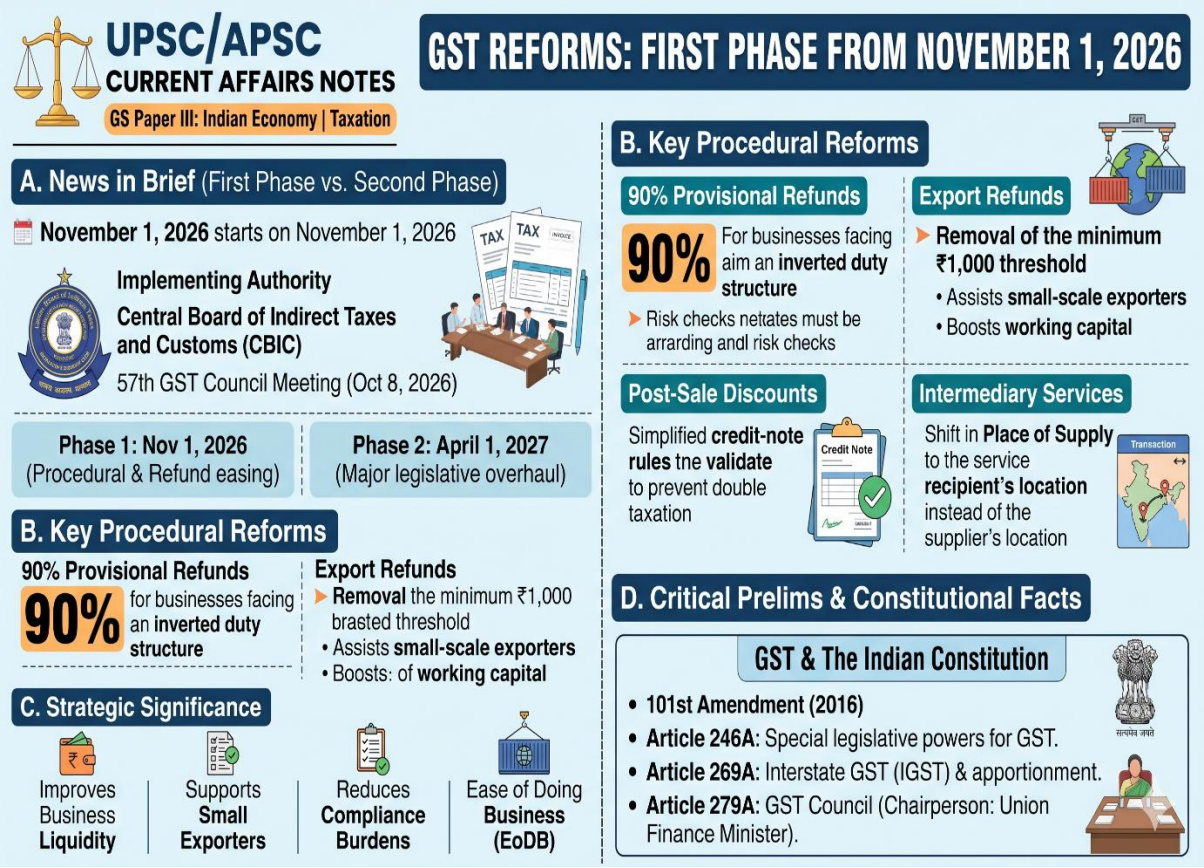
C. Japan

D. Singapore

Answer: B. South Korea

GS Paper III: Indian Economy

GST Reforms: First Phase from November 1, 2026



- Implementing authority: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- **GST Council meeting**: **57th meeting, October 8, 2026**.
- **90% provisional refunds: For eligible businesses facing an inverted duty structure, subject to risk checks.**
- **Export refunds: Removal of the minimum ₹1,000 threshold.**
- **Post-sale discounts: Simplified credit-note provisions.**
- Intermediary services: Place of supply shifts to the service recipient's location.
- Second phase: Major legislative changes targeted for April 1, 2027.

Significance

- **Improves business liquidity.**

- **Supports small exporters.**
- **Reduces compliance burdens.**
- **Promotes ease of doing business.**

Important Prelims Facts

- **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016: Introduced GST.**
- **Article 246A: Legislative powers regarding GST.**
- **Article 269A: GST on inter-State supplies.**
- **Article 279A: GST Council.**
- **GST Council Chairperson: Union Finance Minister.**

Practice Questions

Q. The GST Council is constituted under which Article?

A. Article 246A

B. Article 269A

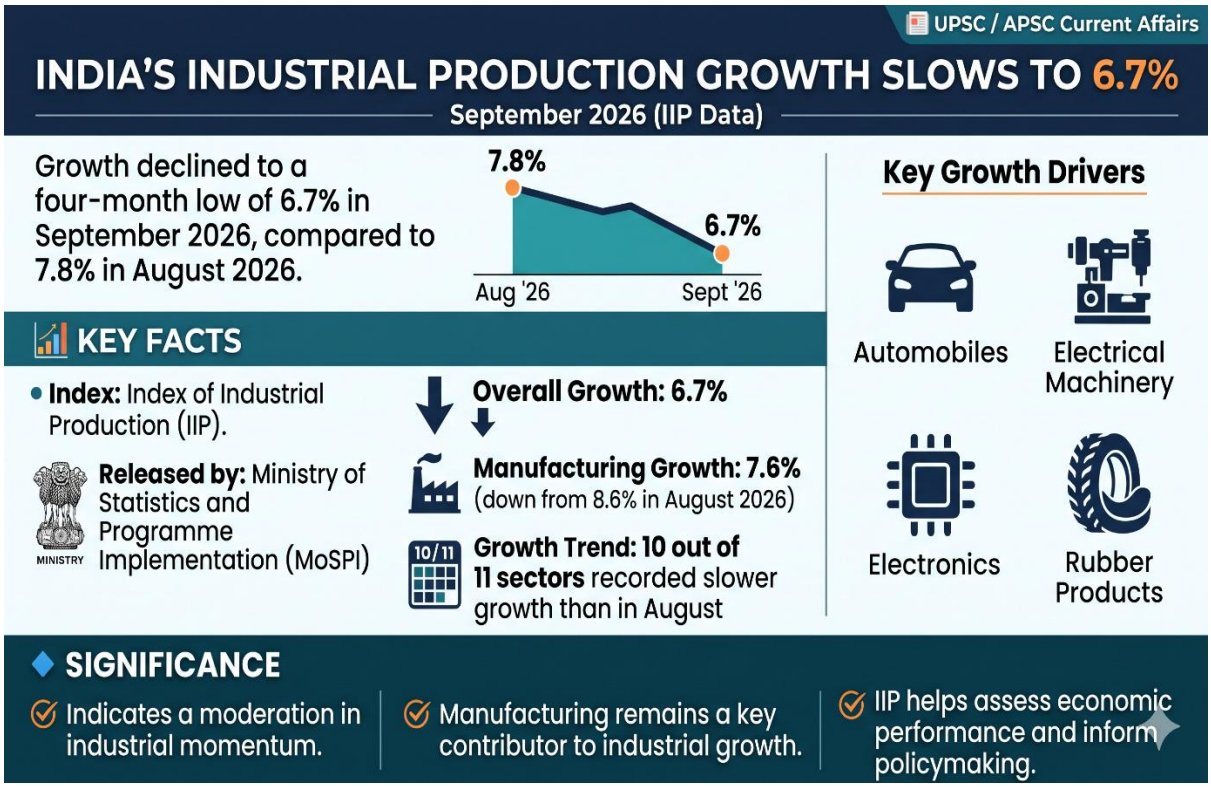
C. Article 279A

D. Article 280

Answer: C. Article 279A

ECONOMY (GS Paper 3)

Industrial Production Growth Slows to 6.7%



India's industrial production growth declined to a four-month low of 6.7% in September 2026, compared with 7.8% in August 2026.

Key Facts

- Index: **Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**
- **Released by: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**
- **Overall growth: 6.7% in September 2026.**
- **Manufacturing growth: 7.6%, down from 8.6% in August 2026.**
- **Growth trend: 10 out of 11 sectors recorded slower growth than in August.**
- **Key growth drivers: Automobiles, electrical machinery, electronics and rubber products**.

Significance

- Indicates a moderation in industrial momentum.
- Manufacturing remains a key contributor to industrial growth.
- IIP helps assess economic performance and inform policymaking.

Prelims Questions

Q1. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is released by which organisation?

A. RBI

B. NITI Aayog

C. MoSPI

D. Ministry of Commerce and Industry

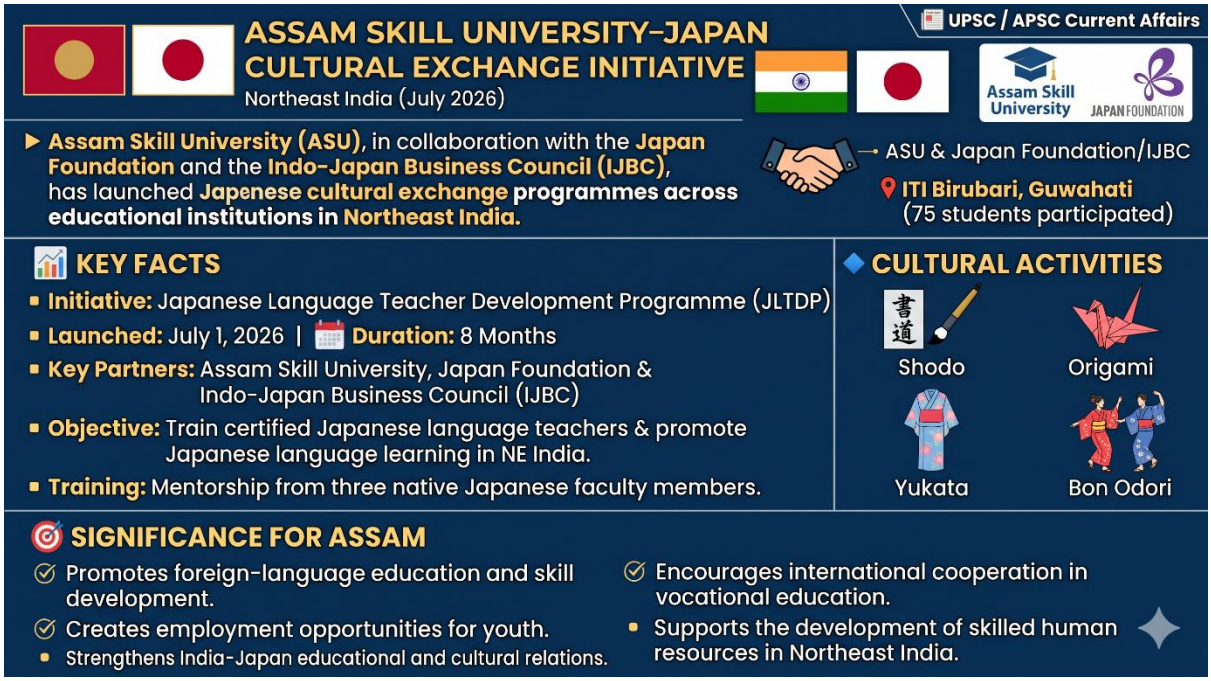
Answer: C. MoSPI

Mains Question

Q. Discuss the significance of the Index of Industrial Production in assessing India's economic growth. (150 words)

International Relations (GS Paper 2)

Assam Skill University–Japan Cultural Exchange Initiative



Assam Skill University (ASU), in collaboration with the Japan Foundation and the Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC), has launched Japanese cultural exchange programmes across educational institutions in Northeast India.

Key Facts

- **Initiative: Japanese Language Teacher Development Programme (JLTDP).**
- Launched: July 1, 2026.
- Duration: Eight months.
- **Key partners: Assam Skill University, Japan Foundation and Indo-Japan Business Council.**
- **Objective: Train certified Japanese language teachers and promote Japanese language learning in Northeast India.**
- **Training: Mentorship from three native Japanese faculty members.**
- **Recent event: 75 students participated in a cultural exchange programme at ITI Birubari, Guwahati.**

Cultural Activities

- **Shodo: Japanese calligraphy.**
- **Origami: Traditional paper folding.**
- **Yukata: Traditional Japanese summer garment.**
- **Bon Odori: Traditional Japanese folk dance.**

Significance for Assam

1. Promotes foreign-language education and skill development.

2. Creates employment opportunities for youth.

3. Strengthens India–Japan educational and cultural relations.

4. Encourages international cooperation in vocational education.

5. Supports the development of skilled human resources in Northeast India.

Prelims Questions

Q1. The Japanese Language Teacher Development Programme (JLTDP) is associated with which state?

A. Meghalaya

B. Assam

C. Manipur

D. Nagaland

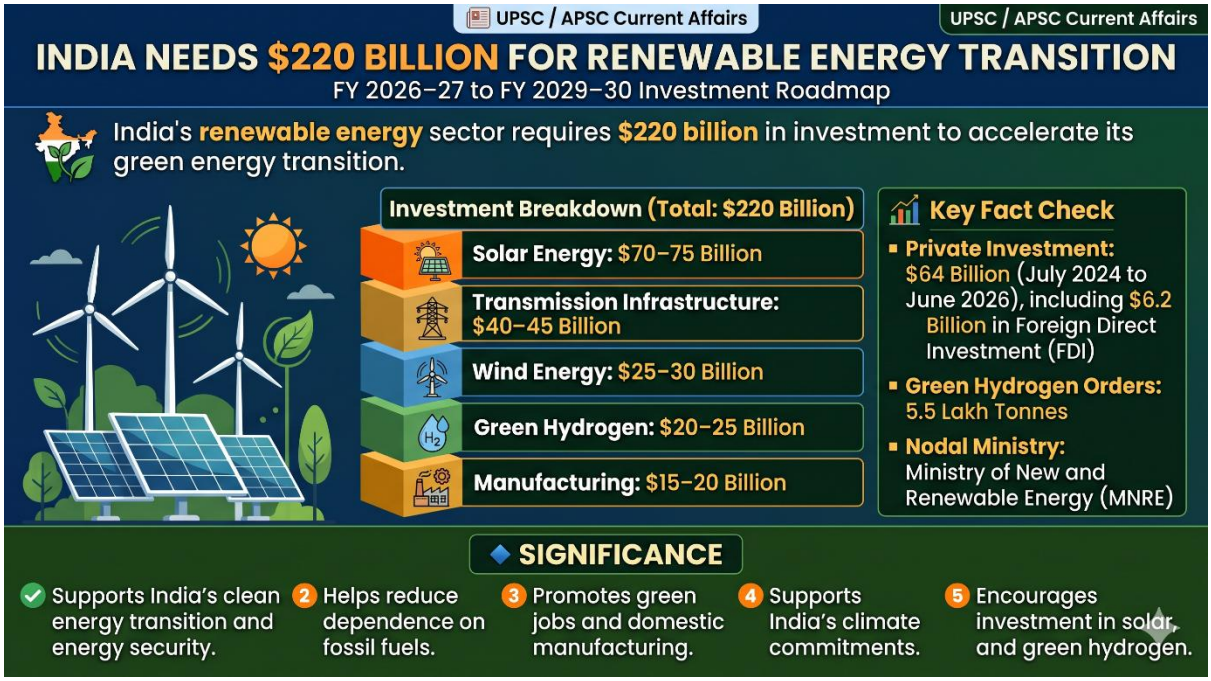
Answer: B. Assam

Mains Practice Question

Q. Discuss the role of international educational and cultural collaborations in promoting skill development and employment opportunities for youth in Northeast India. (150 words)

Environment (GS Paper 3)

India Needs 220 Billion for Renewable Energy Transition



India's renewable energy sector requires 220 billion in investment during FY 2026–27 to FY 2029–30 to accelerate its green energy transition.

Key Facts

- Total investment required: 220 billion.
- Solar energy: 70–75 billion.
- Transmission infrastructure: 40–45 billion.
- Wind energy: 25–30 billion.
- Green hydrogen: 20–25 billion.
- Manufacturing: 15–20 billion.
- Private investment: 64 billion between July 2024 and June 2026, including 6.2 billion in FDI.
- Green hydrogen orders: 5.5 lakh tonnes.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Significance

1. Supports India's clean energy transition and energy security.

2. Helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

3. Promotes green jobs and domestic manufacturing.

4. Supports India's climate commitments.

5. Encourages investment in solar, wind and green hydrogen.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Which ministry is responsible for renewable energy development in India?

A. Ministry of Power

B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

D. Ministry of Heavy Industries

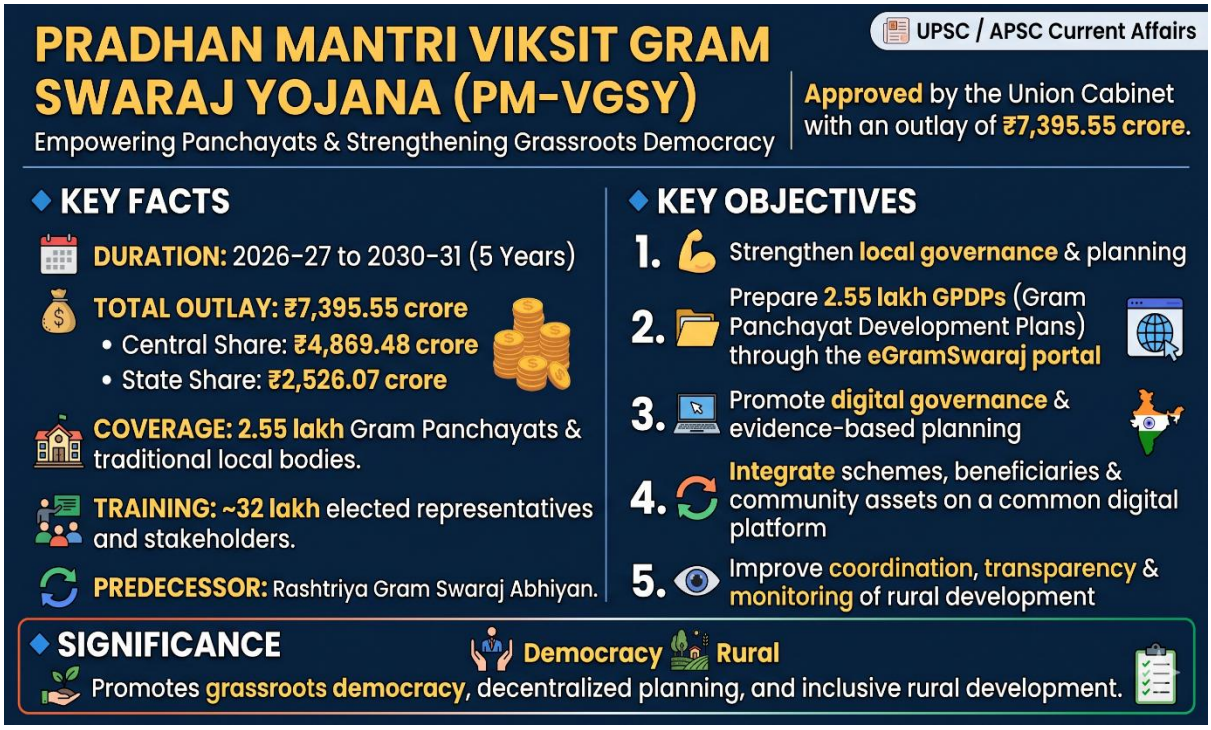
Answer: B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Mains Question

Q. Discuss the major challenges and opportunities in India's transition towards renewable energy. (150 words)

Governance (GS Paper 2)

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM-VGSY)



The Union Cabinet approved PM-VGSY with an outlay of 7,395.55 crore to strengthen Gram Panchayats.

Key Facts

- **Duration: 2026–27 to 2030–31 (5 years).**
- **Total outlay: 7,395.55 crore.**
- **Central share: 4,869.48 crore.**
- **State share: 2,526.07 crore.**
- **Coverage: 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats and traditional local bodies.**
- **Training: Approximately 32 lakh elected representatives and stakeholders.**
- **Predecessor: Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**.

Key Objectives

1. Strengthen local governance and planning.

2. Prepare 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) through the eGramSwaraj portal.

3. Promote digital governance and evidence-based planning.

4. Integrate government schemes, beneficiaries and community assets on a common digital platform.

5. Improve coordination, transparency and monitoring of rural development.

Significance:

Promotes grassroots democracy, decentralised planning and inclusive rural development.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements about PM-VGSY:

1. The scheme aims to strengthen Gram Panchayats.

2. It will be implemented from 2026–27 to 2030–31.

3. It focuses on providing individual stipends to elected representatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

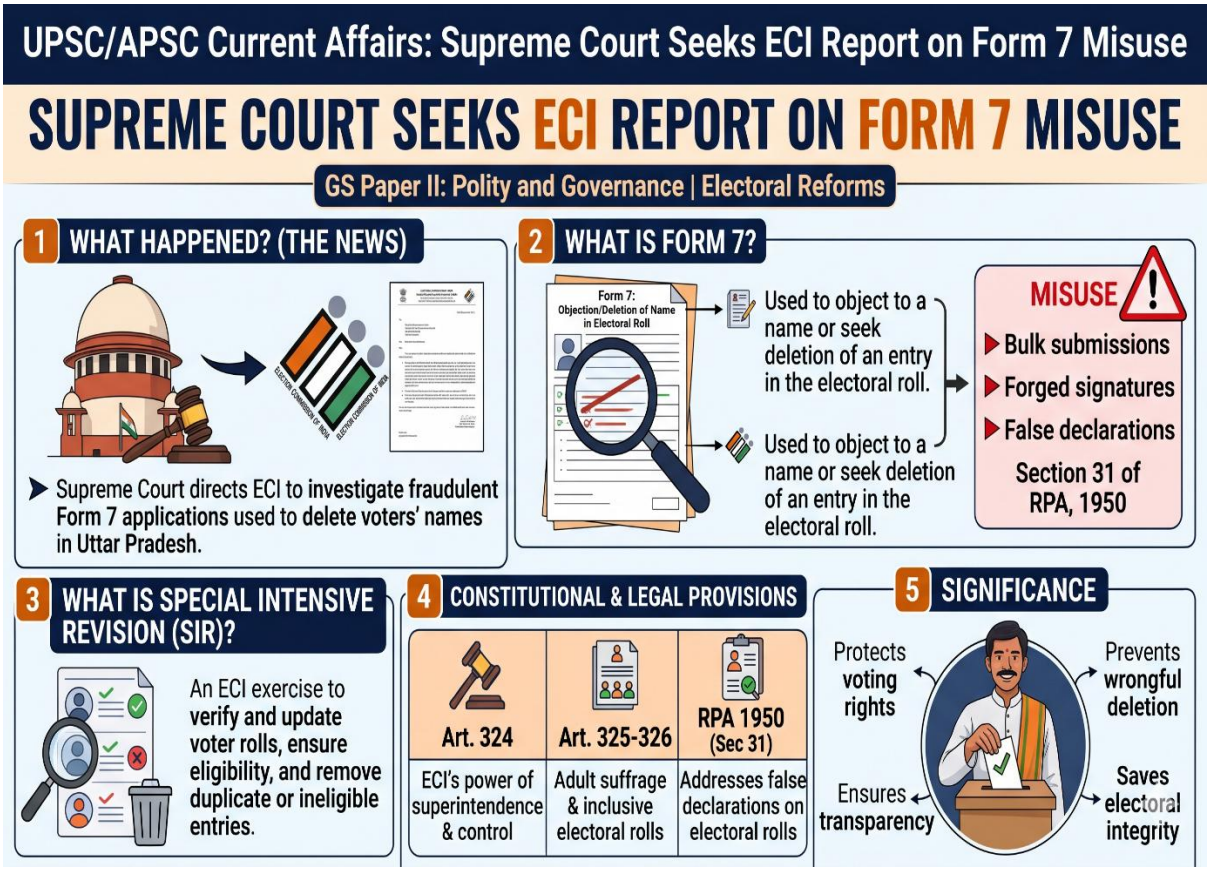
Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

Mains Question

Q. How can strengthening Gram Panchayats contribute to grassroots democracy and rural development in India? (150 words)

Supreme Court Seeks ECI Report on Form 7 Misuse

GS Paper II: Polity and Governance



The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to investigate allegations of **fraudulent use of Form 7 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** in Uttar Pradesh and submit a compliance report.

The ECI stated that although false Form 7 applications were detected, none of the identified fraudulent applications was accepted.

Key Facts

- **Institution: Election Commission of India (ECI).**
- Court: Supreme Court of India.
- Issue: Alleged fraudulent applications for deleting voters' names.
- State: Uttar Pradesh.
- **Form 7: Used to object to the inclusion of a name or seek deletion of an entry in the electoral roll, subject to applicable rules.**
- **Legal provision: Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, concerning false declarations.**

- Concern: Electoral integrity and the risk of wrongful voter deletion.

What is Form 7?

Form 7 is an electoral form used for:

- **Objecting to the inclusion of a person's name in the electoral roll.**
- **Requesting deletion of an entry on permissible grounds under election rules.**

Alleged misuse included:

- **Forged signatures and false declarations.**
- **Incomplete or invalid details of applicants.**
- **Bulk submission of pre-filled forms.**
- **Filing objections in the names of people who denied submitting them.**

What is Special Intensive Revision (SIR)?

SIR is a detailed exercise conducted by the ECI to verify and update electoral rolls.

Objectives:

- Ensure eligible citizens are included.
- Identify duplicate or ineligible entries.
- Correct errors in electoral rolls.
- Improve the accuracy of voter lists.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

Provision	**Significance**
Article 324	Vests the ECI with powers of superintendence, direction and control over elections.
Article 325	Provides for one general electoral roll and prohibits exclusion on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
Article 326	Provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of adult suffrage, subject to constitutional provisions.
Representation of the People Act, 1950	**Deals with electoral rolls and related matters.**
Section 31, RPA 1950	Addresses false declarations in connection with electoral rolls.

Significance

- Protects citizens' voting rights.
- Prevents wrongful deletion of eligible voters.
- Strengthens transparency and accountability in electoral-roll revision.
- Reinforces public confidence in the electoral process.
- Highlights the need for verification of objections and safeguards against impersonation.

Prelims MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about Form 7:

1. It can be used to object to the inclusion of a name in the electoral roll.

2. It can be used to seek deletion of an entry in the electoral roll.

3. Every Form 7 application automatically results in deletion of a voter.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

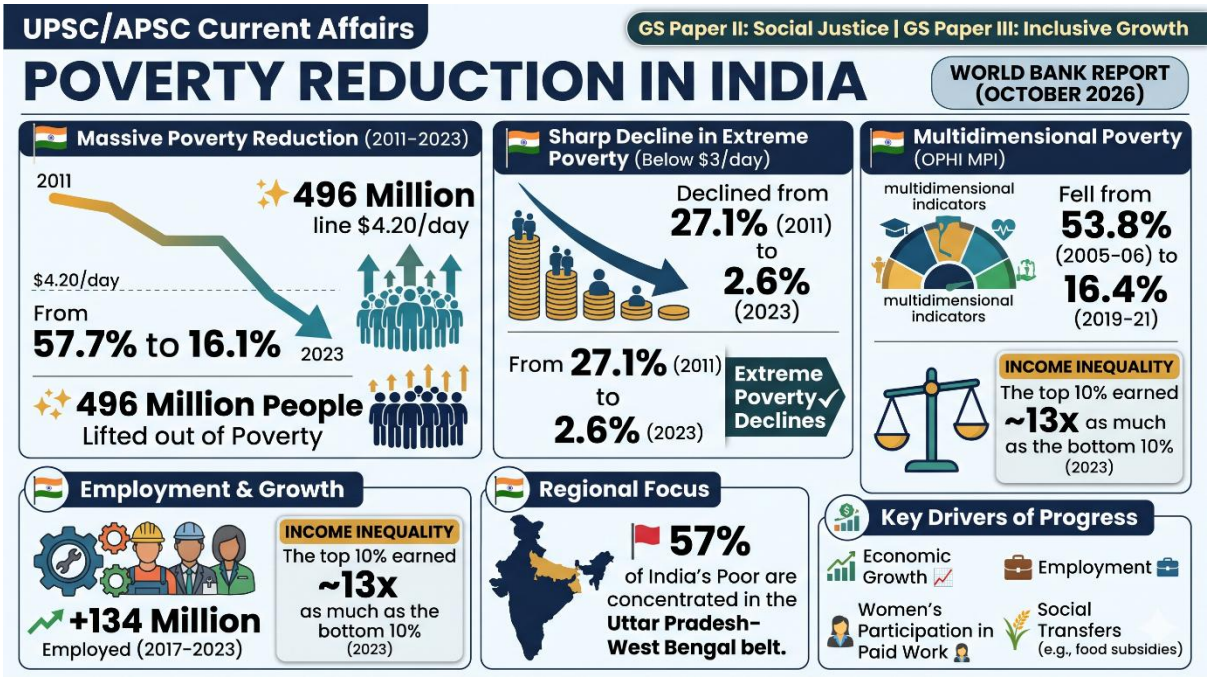
Explanation: A Form 7 application is subject to verification and the prescribed legal procedure; deletion is not automatic.

Mains Question

Q. Examine the significance of electoral-roll revision in strengthening Indian democracy. What safeguards are necessary to prevent the wrongful deletion of eligible voters? (150 words)

Poverty Reduction in India

GS Paper II: Social Justice



Key Facts (World Bank Report, October 2026)

- **Poverty reduction (2011–2023):** Poverty below the 4.20/day line fell from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting an estimated 496 million people out of poverty.
- **Extreme poverty**: Declined from 27.1% to 2.6% (below 3/day).
- **Multidimensional poverty**: OPHI MPI poverty fell from 53.8% (2005–06) to 16.4% (2019–21).
- **Employment**: Increased by approximately 134 million people (2017–2023).
- **Income inequality**: The top 10% of workers earned about 13 times as much as the bottom 10% in 2023.
- **Regional concentration**: Uttar Pradesh–West Bengal belt accounted for 57% of India's poor.
- **Key drivers**: Economic growth, employment, women's participation in paid work and social transfers, including food subsidies.

Prelims Questions

1. The World Bank's lower-middle-income poverty line mentioned in the report is:

A. 2.15/day

B. 3.00/day

C. 4.20/day

D. 5.50/day

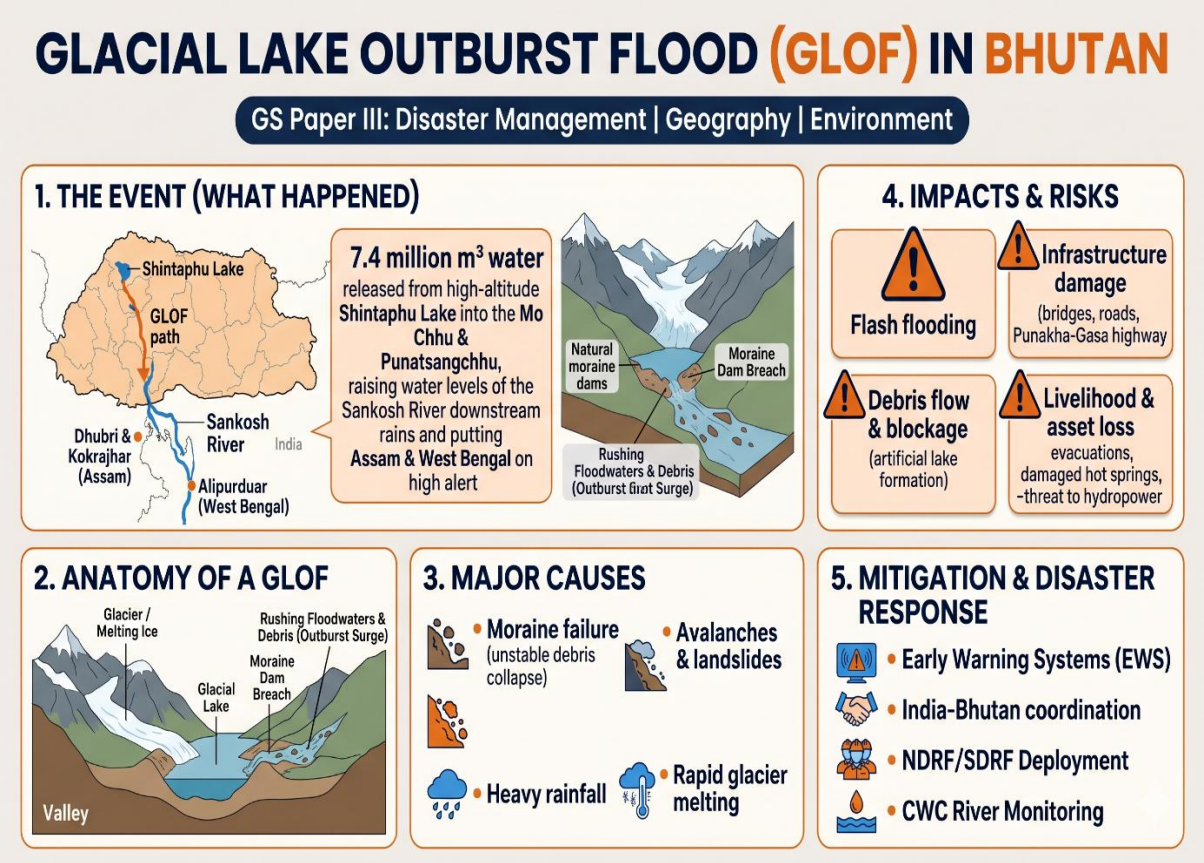
Answer: C. 4.20/day

Mains Question

Q. Despite India's progress in poverty reduction, what challenges remain in achieving inclusive growth?

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Bhutan

GS Paper III: Disaster Management



A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurred at Shintaphu Lake in Bhutan, triggering **flood alerts in Dhubri and Kokrajhar districts of Assam and parts of West Bengal** due to the possible sudden **rise in the Sankosh River**.

Key Facts

- Location: Shintaphu Lake, Gasa district, northwestern Bhutan.
- River system: Punatsangchhu–Sankosh River system.
- Water released: Approximately 7.4 million cubic metres.
- Affected areas in Assam: Dhubri and Kokrajhar.
- Response: Authorities alerted residents; SDRF and NDRF teams were kept on standby.
- Major concerns: Flash floods, erosion, damage to infrastructure and loss of life.

What is GLOF?

A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is the **sudden release of water stored in a glacial lake when its natural barrier fails or is overtopped.**

Causes:

- Landslides and rockfalls.
- Ice avalanches and earthquakes.
- Failure of moraine dams.
- Heavy rainfall and excessive meltwater inflow.
- Rising temperatures and glacier melting.

Impacts of GLOF

- Sudden flooding of downstream areas.
- Loss of human and animal lives.
- Destruction of bridges, roads and settlements.
- Soil erosion and deposition of rocks and debris.
- Damage to agriculture and livelihoods.
- Disruption of communication and transport networks.

Disaster Management Measures

- Early-warning systems and river-level monitoring.
- Hazard mapping and regular risk assessment.
- Evacuation of vulnerable communities.
- Coordination among India, Bhutan, CWC, ASDMA, SDRF and NDRF.
- Community awareness and disaster-preparedness drills.
- Long-term monitoring of high-risk glacial lakes.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements about GLOFs:

1. GLOFs involve the sudden release of water from glacial lakes.

2. Landslides and ice avalanches can trigger GLOFs.

3. GLOFs affect only areas located near glaciers.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 1 and 2 only

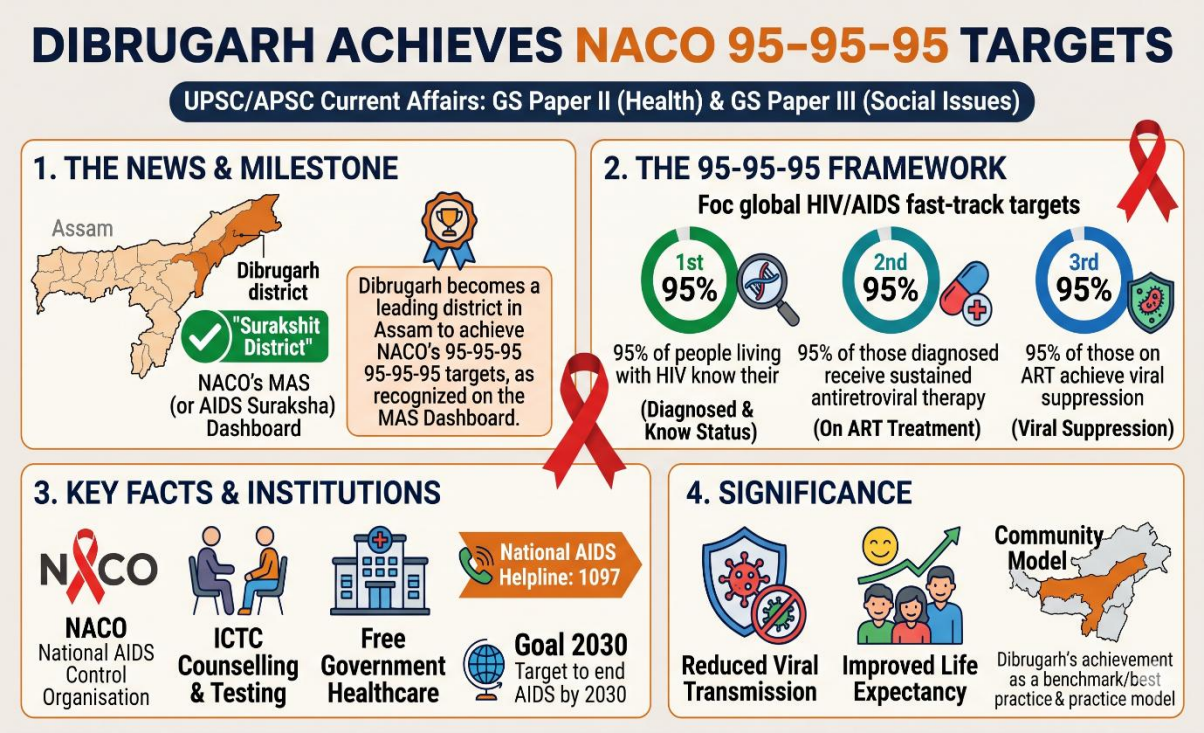
Explanation: GLOFs can cause destructive floods far downstream, affecting areas distant from glaciers.

Mains Question

Q. What are Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)? Discuss their causes, impacts and mitigation measures, with special reference to Northeast India. (150 words)

Dibrugarh Achieves NACO's 95-95-95 Targets

GS Paper II: Health



Dibrugarh has become the first among Assam's six identified high-priority districts to achieve all three targets under the 95-95-95 framework, earning 'Surakshit District' status on the NACO's Mobilization for AIDS Suraksha (MAS) Dashboard.

Key Facts

- **NACO**: National AIDS Control Organisation.
- **Programme**: National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).
- **MAS**: Mobilization for AIDS Suraksha.
- **Goal**: End AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- **Key achievement**: Meeting all three 95-95-95 targets.
- **Free services**: HIV testing and treatment at government health facilities.
- **National AIDS Helpline**: 1097.

What is the 95-95-95 Framework?

Target	Objective
First 95%	People living with HIV know their HIV status.
Second 95%	People diagnosed with HIV receive antiretroviral therapy (ART).
Third 95%	People receiving ART achieve viral suppression.

Important Terms

- **HIV**: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which attacks the immune system.
- **AIDS**: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the advanced stage of HIV infection.
- **ART**: Antiretroviral Therapy, which suppresses HIV and helps people live longer, healthier lives.
- **ICTC**: Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre.
- **DAPCU**: District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit.

Significance

- Strengthens HIV prevention, testing and treatment.
- Improves access to healthcare services.
- Encourages community participation.
- Supports India's commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- Provides a model for other high-priority districts in Assam.

Prelims Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements about the 95-95-95 framework:

1. It aims to increase awareness of HIV status.

2. It promotes access to antiretroviral therapy.

3. It aims to achieve viral suppression among people receiving treatment.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Mains Question

Q. Explain the significance of the 95-95-95 framework in controlling HIV/AIDS in India. (150 words)