

Global Food Crisis

Recently, the **2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC)** has been launched by the **Global Network Against Food Crises**.

Recently, the World Bank said that it was providing \$57.6 million in “quick release” grant financing to Malawi to help the country respond to a food crisis.

Food Security Information Network:

- A global initiative co-sponsored by **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**.
- **Aim:** To **strengthen food and nutrition security** information systems for producing reliable and accurate data to guide analysis and decision-making.

About Global Report on Food Crises:

- **A Reference Document:** The GRFC is the reference document for a **comprehensive analysis** of global, regional and country-level acute food insecurity.
- **Aim:** To **inform humanitarian and development action** by providing independent and consensus-based evidence and analysis.
- **Measurement:** When it comes to **estimating hunger**, there are **different measures** for different purposes. The GRFC focuses on acute food insecurity in countries experiencing food crises. It is part of an annual suite of products including regional reports.
 - The report **analysed a population of 1.3 billion in 2023 across 59 countries**.
- **Food Crisis:** The GRFC defines a food crisis as a situation where **acute food insecurity requires urgent action to protect and save lives and livelihoods** at local or national levels and **exceeds the local resources and capacities to respond**.
- **Acute Food Insecurity:** It refers to a situation in which **populations face food deprivation that threatens their lives or livelihoods, regardless of the causes, context or duration**.
 - A food crisis is defined as **‘major’ if more than 1 million people or more than 20% of its total county population** is estimated to be facing **Phase 3 Crisis or above**, or if at least one area is classified in Phase 4 Emergency or above.
 - Action becomes a **matter of life or death** when the situation is particularly severe, such as in **IPC/CH Phases 3, 4 or 5**.
- **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC):** IPC is a standardized scale **developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization** for improving food security analysis and decision making.
 - The IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System indicates **five phases** of Acute Food Insecurity: **Minimal, Stressed, Crisis, Emergency and Catastrophe when Famine may be declared**.

Crucial Insights of the 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis (GRFC):

- **Rise in Acute Food Insecurity:** Overall, **1 in 5 people** assessed were in need of **critical urgent action**.
 - The overall share of the analysed population facing high levels of acute food insecurity was **marginally lower than in 2022**, but **still higher than pre-COVID-19**.
 - Since the first report by the Global Food Crisis Network covering 2016, the number of food-insecure people has **risen from 108 million to 282 million**.
 - Meanwhile, the share of the population affected within the areas concerned has **doubled 11 percent to 22%**.
 - **36 countries** have been consistently featured in the GRFC analyses since 2016, reflecting continuing years of acute hunger, and currently representing 80% of the world’s most hungry.
 - There has also been an **increase of 1 million people facing Emergency (IPC/CH Phase 4)** levels of acute food insecurity across 39 countries and territories, with the biggest increase in Sudan.
- **Year-on-year Increase:** It was mainly explained by **increased analysis coverage**, as well as **deterioration** in some countries / territories outweighing improvements in others.
- More geographical areas experienced **“new or intensified shocks”** while there was a “marked deterioration in key food crisis contexts such as Sudan and the Gaza Strip.
- Acute food insecurity **deteriorated in 12 countries** with comparable data **between 2022 and 2023**, where **13.5 million** more people needed urgent assistance, **mostly in Sudan**.
- **Regional Impacts:** Food insecurity **worsened** around the world in **2023**, with some 282 million people suffering from acute hunger due to **conflicts**, particularly in **Gaza and Sudan**.
 - **The Gaza Strip became the area with the most severe food crisis in the last eight years**.
 - **Sudan** is facing one of the worst food crises in the world, with almost a third of the population in need of emergency food aid.

- Prolonged major food crises are ongoing in **Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen.**
- Worsening conditions in **Haiti** were due to **political instability and reduced agricultural production.**
- **Interconnection between Displacement & Acute Food Insecurity:** In both **Sudan and Gaza**, the number of forcibly displaced people reached **90 million in the 59 countries**, the highest in eight years of GRFC reporting, highlighting the high **correlation between displacement and acute food insecurity.**
- **Sudan** became the **world's biggest internal displacement crisis.**
- By the end of 2023, almost **80% of the population** of the Gaza Strip was **internally displaced.**
- **Starvation:** In 2023, **more than 705,000 people** were at the **Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5)** level of food insecurity and at risk of starvation, the **highest number in the GRFC's reporting history.**
- **Famine:** The current situation in the **Gaza Strip** accounts for **80%** of those facing imminent famine, along with **South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Mali.**
- **Funding:** It is not keeping pace with need.
- Also, the **costs of distributing aid have risen.**
- **Observed Improvement:** The situation improved in **17 countries in 2023**, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine, resulting in **7.2 million fewer people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.**

Food Security:

- **World Food Summit of 1996:** It defined food security as **“when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food** that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active, and healthy life”.
- **Dimensions:**
 - **Availability:** This refers to the presence of food within a country, including food produced domestically, imports, and stock stored in government granaries.
 - **Accessibility:** It ensures that food is within reach of every individual without discrimination and everyone has the opportunity to obtain the food they need.
 - **Affordability:** It means having **enough financial resources to purchase sufficient, safe, and nutritious food** to meet one's dietary requirements.
- **Need & Significance:**
 - **To achieve Sustainable Development Goal:** Food security advances sustainable development by achieving one of its main goals (**Goal 2- Zero Hunger**) and supporting other related goals, such as poverty reduction, good health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.
 - **Others:** Food Security is required for a good **Health and Nutrition, Economic & Social Stability, Environmental Sustainability, National Security, Human Dignity and Equity and other factors.**
- **India's Taken Initiatives:**
 - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
 - Eat Right India Movement
 - POSHAN Abhiyan
 - Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
 - Food Fortification
 - National Food Security Act, 2013
 - One Nation One Ration Card
 - Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana
 - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
 - Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 Scheme

Key Drivers of Food Crises:

- Intensifying **conflict and insecurity**, the impacts of **economic shocks**, and the effects of **extreme weather events** are accelerating the acute food insecurity.
- **Concerning Impacts:** These interlinked drivers are exacerbating **food systems fragility, rural marginalization, poor governance, and inequality**, and lead to **massive displacement** of populations globally.
- The protection situation of the displaced population is **additionally impacted by food insecurity.**

Key Drivers of Food Crises	Impact Observed
Conflict/Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It remained the primary driver affecting 20 countries with nearly 135 million people in acute food insecurity, almost half of the global number. ○ Sudan faced the largest deterioration due to conflict, with 8.6 million

	more people facing high levels of acute food insecurity as compared with 2022.
Extreme Weather Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These were the primary drivers (second most significant factor) in 18 countries where over 77 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity, up from 12 countries with 57 million people in 2022. ○ In 2023, the world experienced its hottest year on record and climate related shocks impacted populations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The El Nino event and climate change-related weather phenomena made 2023 the hottest year on record. ▪ El Nino conditions, currently prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region, are generally responsible for warmer temperatures in many places around the world, including in India.
Economic Shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These primarily affected 21 countries where around 75 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity. ○ It is due to their high dependency on imported food and agricultural inputs, persisting macroeconomic challenges, including currency depreciation, high prices and high debt levels.

India's Response to Global Food Crisis:

- **India's Traditional Belief:** India sees the world as one family and that is linked to its Vedic tradition of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** — underlining its relevance not just for global peace, cooperation, environment protection but also for **humanitarian response including rising global hunger** and leaving no one behind.
- **India's humanitarian food assistance to the people of Afghanistan**, through the United Nations Food Programme (where half of the population needs urgent food assistance to avert a famine) is an example of its commitment and commendable steps towards humanitarian crises.
- **India's Mainstreaming of Millets:** India launched the '**Millets and Other Ancient Grain International Research Initiative**' (MAHARISHI).
- It facilitated **synergies and collaborations between nations, research institutes and civil society organizations to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG2)**.
- India's role in declaring **2023 as the International Year of Millets** by the United Nations General Assembly is expected to create international recognition for these nutrient-rich crops.
- **Public Stockholdings of Food Grains in the WTO:** During the **WTO 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13)**, India has been vocal about the **need for a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes**, allowing developing countries to subsidise agricultural production without facing trade sanctions.
- India is deeply concerned about the impact of agricultural subsidies and domestic support measures adopted by developed countries on its farmers' livelihoods and food security.

Way Forward:

- **Urgent Response:** This food crisis demands an **urgent response**. Using the data in this report to **transform food systems and address the underlying causes** of food insecurity and malnutrition will be vital.
- **An Integrative Approach:** The Global Network Against Food Crises urgently calls for a **transformative approach** that integrates **peace, prevention and development action** alongside at-scale emergency efforts to **break the cycle of acute hunger**.
- Without peace and protection, people will continue to face a lifetime of hunger and the most vulnerable will starve.
- **For 2024, progress will depend on the end of hostilities.**
- **Long-term Investment:** Tackling persistent food crises requires urgent long-term **national and international investment to transform food systems and boost agricultural and rural development** alongside greater **crisis preparedness and critical life saving assistance**.
- **Humanitarian Approach:** More **equitable and effective global economic governance** is imperative and must be matched with government led plans that seek to reduce and end hunger.
- The aid could **rapidly alleviate** the crisis in Gaza or Sudan, once humanitarian access to the areas is possible.
- **A Global Commitment & Action:** The Global Network Against Food Crises offers to leverage its unparalleled knowledge of hunger in the most fragile countries to **strengthen the linkages and build coherence** where possible between these various global initiatives to ensure innovative and concrete impact for those affected by food crises.

- The international community has made a range of bold commitments including through the recent **G7 and G20 initiatives** to tackle rising acute food insecurity.
- **Examples:** The **G20 Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition 2023**.
- In 2022, the **G7 leaders** announced an additional **US\$ 4.5 billion to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** to protect the world’s most vulnerable people from hunger and malnutrition.
- The **United Nations World Food Programme** is the world’s largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, DEGRADATION [GS-III]

Green credits-Significance & Challenges

The article presents a critical analysis of Green Credit Programme. This is a market-based initiative started by Environment Ministry, where individuals and companies can earn incentives, termed as ‘green credits,’ for their contributions to environmental and ecological restoration efforts.

significance of the Green Credit Programme

1. Environmental Conservation– Green Credit Programme aims to incentivize sustainable actions and engage various stakeholders, including individuals and corporations, in environmental conservation efforts.
2. Incentivizes various sectors– This program offers incentives through markets and covers six or seven sectors, like forests and waste management. In policymaking, incentives play a crucial role. Green credits serve as incentives to encourage individuals and companies to participate in these activities.

Concerns regarding the Green Credit Programme

1. 1) Bypassing laws– It may be utilized to bypass existing environmental laws, particularly those related to forest conservation.
2. 2) Ground level challenges-There is a lack of proper understanding of ground level challenges and expertise to address those challenges.
3. 3) Threat to biodiversity– It may promote monocultures and planting vegetation unsuitable for certain ecosystems. This could adversely impact biodiversity and soil health.
4. 4) Measurement Problems-There are challenges of measuring biodiversity impact accurately. For ex- How does one measure the impact on biodiversity when they are 200 meters apart?
5. 5) Lack of Fungibility– Fungibility is the ability to exchange one unit of a commodity for another. However, this is lacking in green credits due to the diverse nature of environmental credits like biodiversity and water conservation. This poses a challenge in equating different types of credits on the same platform. For ex- How does one equate a credit of one unit of water conservation with one unit of ecosystem restoration on the same platform?
6. 6) Clashes with Forest Conservation Act -The program’s rules imply that earning green credits can negatively influence mandatory compliances, such as forest clearances. For ex-it may bypass the whole forest clearance process just to help the industries get green credits.

PRELIM FACT

1. Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

The Supreme Court stayed the construction of four proposed dams inside Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana.

Aspect	Details
Location	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is situated within the Yamunanagar District of Haryana, nestled in the foothills of the Shivalik ranges of the Himalayas. 2. Rajaji National Park, situated in Uttarakhand, is located to the northeast of this park. 3. Simbalbara National Park located in the Shivalik Hills, lies to the north, sharing a border with Himachal Pradesh. Morni Hills can be found to the west.
Unique features	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The terrain ranges from plains to hills, reaching elevations of up to 700 meters, with narrow valleys known as “khols” scattered between the hills. 2. These valleys contain seasonal rivulets, referred to as “soats,” which typically remain dry for the majority of the year. 3. Within the sanctuary stands the Kalesar Fort, believed to have been constructed during the reign of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. 4. The park is renowned for its Dak bungalows, colonial-era administrative architectural structures.
Status	It was declared as a national Park in 2003.

River flowing through	River Yamuna lies to its east.
Flora	1. The majority of the forest is densely populated with tall sal trees. 2. Other trees that are found in the forest are Semul, Bahera, Amaltas, Shisham, Khair, Sain, Chhal and Jhingan.
Fauna	It is home to many threatened animals like leopards, Ghoral, Barking deer, Sambar, Chital, Python, King Cobra, Monitor lizard etc.

2.RBI draft rules for payment aggregators

The Reserve Bank of India is proposing new regulations for offline payment aggregators (PAs) to enhance safety.

1. About Payment Aggregators (PAs): PAs are entities responsible for enlisting merchants and streamlining the process of collecting payments from customers for the purchase of goods and services. These aggregators unburden the merchants from creating a payment integration system of their own.
2. Methods employed by PAs to collect payments- PAs utilize various payment channels like online QR codes or physical point-of-sale (POS) machines to collect payments on behalf of the merchants. Subsequently, PAs settle the accumulated funds with the respective merchants.
3. Types of PAs: Two major types of PAs are a part of the payments ecosystem in the country: This includes PA-Online Point of Sale (PA-O) and PA – Physical Point of Sale (PA-P).
4. Inclusion of PA – Physical Point of Sale (PA-P) in the revised definition of payment aggregators- The revised definition of payment aggregators has been modified to include physical point-of-sale payment providers such as Innoviti Payments, Pine Labs, and MSwipe. Thus they have been subjected to regulatory oversight.

New RBI Guidelines For Payment Aggregators

1. Non-bank PoS providers must notify RBI within 60 days and submit authorization applications by May 31, 2025.
2. Banks must close accounts for non-bank payment aggregators by October 31, 2025, unless authorized.
3. Net-worth requirements for PAs facilitating face-to-face transactions have been changed. PAs net worth requirements will be increased to Rs 25 crore by March 2028.
4. Medium merchants, defined as physical or online merchants with annual business turnover of less than Rs.40 lakhs who are not registered under the GST, would also have to undergo contact point verification.
5. PAs have to bolster risk management with KYC norms, tailored for small and medium-sized merchants.
6. PAs can now use escrow accounts for both PA-O and PA-P activities, including goods delivery. All PAs must join the FIU to report suspicious transactions.
7. Starting August 1, 2025, only card issuers and networks can store card data for face-to-face transactions.

3.Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), effective from April 24, 2024.

- These have been issued in the exercise of the powers conferred by the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.
- The guidelines stipulate that ARCs must maintain a minimum capital requirement of Rs 300 crore, with existing ARCs given until March 31, 2026, to meet this threshold.
- Non-compliant ARCs will face supervisory action, including the prohibition on incremental business until compliance is achieved.
- ARCs with a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 1000 crore can act as resolution applicants and are permitted to invest in specified instruments, subject to certain conditions and caps on investment.

An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a financial institution that buys Non-Performing Assets (NPA) or bad assets from banks and financial institutions so that the latter can clean up their balance sheets.

4.Permissible level of pesticides

- The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has faced criticism for increasing the maximum residue limit (MRL) of pesticides in Indian herbs and spices by tenfold.
- The FSSAI's decision lacks transparency regarding the data used to make the change, raising concerns about the safety of consuming these products.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

- It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to ensure food safety and hygiene in India.
- FSSAI is responsible for laying down science-based standards for food products, and regulating their manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- It also promotes public awareness and provides guidance on food safety and nutrition.

5. Paro Statement

The Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, held in Paro, Bhutan, concluded with the Paro Statement, committing to mobilize an additional \$1 billion over the next decade to conserve tigers and their landscapes.

- Tiger Range Countries present included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam.

About the Tiger Conservation Coalition

- The Tiger Conservation Coalition brings together leading biologists and experts in wildlife crime, human-wildlife coexistence, policy, finance, development and communications, with unprecedented alignment on achieving tiger conservation at scale.
- Its member organisations include the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Environmental Investigation Agency; Fauna & Flora; Natural State; Panthera; TRAFFIC; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the Wildlife Conservation Society; Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

6. ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2

The Indian Air Force (IAF) achieved a milestone with the successful test firing of an air-launched ballistic missile, known as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometres away.

About Crystal Maze 2 (also known as ROCKS)

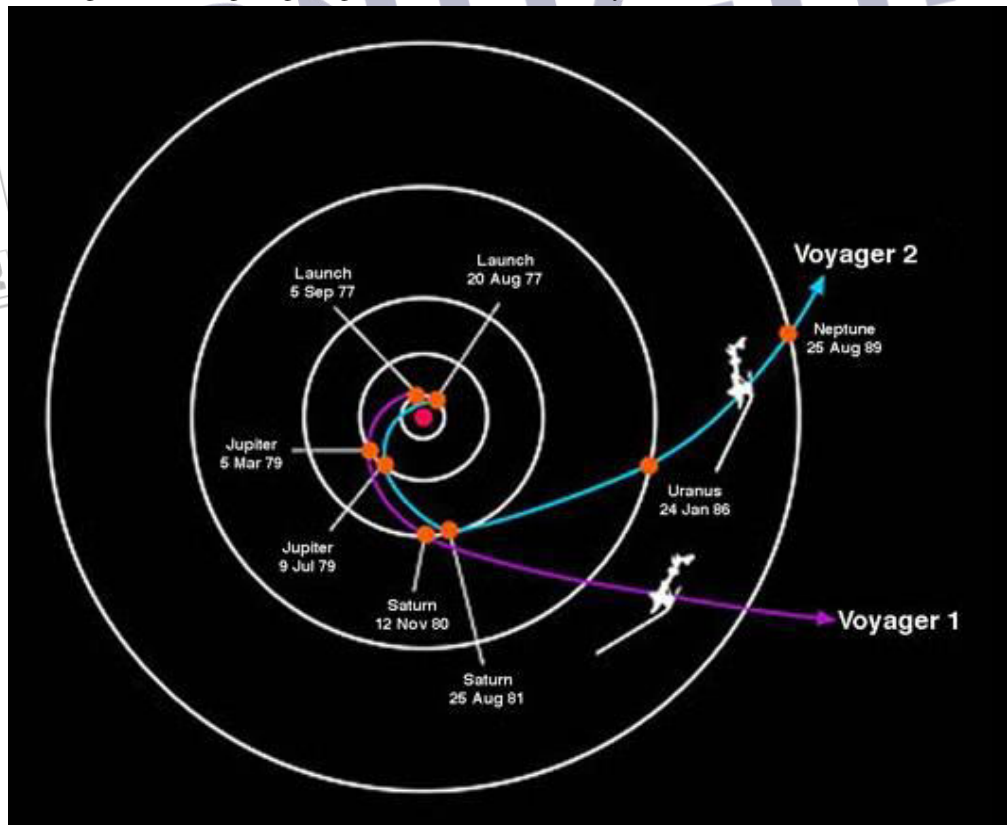
It is a medium-range ballistic missile developed by Israel. It has a strike range of over 250 km and is classified as an air-to-surface missile. Designed to operate in GPS-denied environments, it aims to strike high-value stationary and relocatable targets, including long-range radar and air defence systems.

7. Voyager 1

Voyager 1, Earth's farthest spacecraft, is back online after engineers remotely fixed its 46-year-old systems.

The Voyager mission, conducted by NASA,

launched Voyager 1 on September 5, 1977, followed by Voyager 2 on August 20, 1977. Its objective was to explore the outer planets of the solar system: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Key features include flybys of Jupiter and Saturn, with



Voyager 2 continuing to Uranus and Neptune, becoming the only craft to visit these planets. Both Voyagers entered interstellar space after their primary missions. Their discoveries include detailed images of planets, moons, and atmospheric data. Voyager 1 made groundbreaking discoveries such as active volcanoes on Io and Saturn's ring structure.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Discuss the main features of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. How can NEP potentially alleviate the challenges faced by Higher Education Institutions in India?

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a landmark policy aimed at revamping the Indian educational system to make it more contemporary, inclusive, and skill-oriented. Introduced after a gap of 34 years, it brings a plethora of changes, especially to higher education, aiming to make India a global knowledge superpower.

Main Features of NEP 2020:

- **Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education:**
 - Breaking away from rigid streams, NEP emphasizes broad-based, multidisciplinary curricula.
 - For instance, science students can study arts and vice versa.
- **Flexible Academic Structures:**
 - The introduction of a 4-year undergraduate program with multiple exit options is a key feature.
 - For instance, if a student exits after two years, they earn a diploma. Exiting after three years gives a bachelor's degree, and after four years provides a bachelor's with research.
- **Research Emphasis:**
 - Establishing a National Research Foundation to fund and foster a strong research culture in colleges and universities.
- **Increase GER:**
 - NEP aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.
- **Digital Learning:**
 - Emphasis on leveraging technology to provide equitable access to education, leading to the creation of a Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA).
- **Multiple Entry and Exit Points:**
 - The policy introduces flexibility for students to choose and change their course of study.
- **Global Interface:**
 - NEP provides a framework for universities to be able to offer courses from top global institutes and also seeks to attract foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
- **Revamped Regulatory System:**
 - A single, overarching higher education regulator, named the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), will be established, replacing multiple regulatory bodies.

How NEP can Alleviate Challenges Faced by HEIs:

- **Curbing Dropouts:** The flexible academic structures can potentially reduce the number of dropouts as students can exit with a diploma or degree depending on their circumstances and return to continue at a later stage.
- **Promoting Research:** By focusing on research through the National Research Foundation, HEIs can move towards becoming knowledge creation hubs, rather than just knowledge dissemination points.
- **Enhancing Global Relevance:** By allowing global universities to set up in India and fostering collaborations, Indian HEIs can imbibe best practices, enhancing their global rankings and relevance.
- **Addressing Skill Gap:** A holistic, multidisciplinary approach can help students acquire diverse skills, making them more industry-ready and reducing the skill gap prevalent in Indian graduates.
- **Promoting Inclusivity:** By leveraging technology, NEP ensures that higher education reaches the most underserved and remote parts of the country, making education more inclusive.
- **Streamlined Regulations:** With a single regulatory body (HECI), there can be uniformity in standards and reduced bureaucracy, which has been a major impediment for many HEIs.

NEP 2020, with its forward-looking and student-centric approach, promises to bring about a paradigm shift in India's higher education landscape. By addressing the chronic challenges faced by HEIs, like rigid curricula, skill gap, and bureaucracy, it offers a roadmap for India's transformation into a global education powerhouse. However, the success of the policy lies in its effective implementation and periodic evaluation.

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. Crystal Maze 2 is an air-launched long - range hypersonic missile.
 2. Crystal Maze 2 cannot operate effectively in GPS denied areas.
 3. Crystal Maze 2 missile is an indigenously developed missile by Defence Research Development organisation of India.
- How many of the above statements regarding the Crystal maze 2 missiles are correct?
- a) Only one b) Only two
 c) All three d) None
2. Which of the following statements are correct with reference to the Dongria Kondh tribe?
 1. Dongria Kondh people are members of the Kondhs, of the Munda ethnic group.

2. Dongria Kondhs are situated in the Malkangiri hills of Andhra Pradesh.

3. They speak Kui language which later has been included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) **Only one** b) Only two
c) Only three d) All four

3. Consider the following statements regarding Universal Basic Income:

1. It is an unconditional monthly transfer of money from the government to the poorest of a country's population.

2. Universality, unconditionality and agency are the three basic components of Universal Basic Income.

3. Universal Basic Income has never been tried anywhere in India before.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) **Only one** b) Only two
c) All three d) None

4. The primary function of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) is to:

a) Promote creativity and innovation in advertising.

b) Ensure fair competition among businesses through advertising.

c) **Protect consumer interests by regulating advertising content.**

d) Generate revenue for the Indian government through advertising taxes.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Green Credit Programme aims to incentivize environmental restoration through a market-based mechanism, where individuals and companies earn credits for contributing to environmental and ecological restoration.

2. Unlike green credits, various projects in a carbon market cannot be measured by their carbon savings.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) **1 only** b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Payment Aggregators (PAs) are entities that settle payments from customers to merchants, allowing merchants to avoid creating their own payment systems.

2. PAs are used for in-person point-of-sale (PoS) transactions.

3. As per the new RBI's proposed guidelines, the minimum net worth required for non-banking entities providing offline payment aggregator services must be Rs.10 crore when applying for authorisation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one b) **Only two**
c) All three d) None

7. With reference to the Group of Seven (G-7), consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to coordinate economic policies of member states.

2. Countries must have advanced economies and high net national wealth in order to become the members of G-7.

3. The G-7 has addressed the issue of climate change by banning the use of fossil fuels in member countries.

4. The G-7 influences the global economy through collective decision-making that can influence global economic policies and financial markets.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one b) Only two
c) **Only three** d) All four

8. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Horticultural crops provide valuable for small and marginal farmers because they are less labor-intensive than field crops.

2. Gujarat is the predominant producer and exporter of white onions in the country.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only b) **2 only**
c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Consider the following statements about Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is situated within the Yamunanagar District of Haryana.

2. It was declared as a national Park in 2007.

3. It is home to many threatened animals like leopards, Ghoral, Barking deer, Sambar, Chital, Python, King Cobra, Monitor lizard etc.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only b) **1 and 3 only**
c) 1, 2 and 3 d) None of these

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, provides for reservation both in government and in higher education institutions.

2. Currently, India lacks a test for diagnosing specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in adults.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only b) 2 only
c) **Both 1 and 2** d) Neither 1 nor 2