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Finding the data on missing girls

The figure quoted by the government failed to completely take into consideration deliveries in private hospitals.

\[ P_g: 8 \rightarrow C, T, B \]
\[ P_g: 10 \rightarrow D \]

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Paper II

- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Paper III

- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes, mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Definitions:

- As per the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994, (PCPNDT Act, 1994)
- Foetus - Human Organism which is developing from 57th day of fertilization or creation till its birth.
- Female foeticide - Selective killing of female foetus before being given birth.
- Sex Selection - Any procedure/technique for the purpose of ensuring or increasing the probability than an embryo will be of particular sex.
- Embryo - Developing human organism after fertilisation till the end of 56 days.

Sex ratio at birth = \[ \frac{\text{No. of females born per Thousand males born}}{1000} \]

Sample Registration System (SRS)

- System of recording of both births and deaths based on the sample units spread across India.

- Sex Ratio at Birth - Statistics → SRS vs HMIS Data

SRS Data:

- 2013-14: Female/1000 male
- 2017-18: Female/1000 male

HMIS Data:

- 2015-16: 923 female/1000 male
- 2018-19: 931 female/1000 male

- Birth at Private Institutions left out

- In female foeticide

02-08-2019
Govt 52%
Home 21%
Private 27%

Sex ratios (Delivery wise)
Home - 969
Govt - 930
Private - 851

- Proof:
  NHFS-4: (2010-14)

- Reasons for female foeticide:
  ➤ Special neo-natal case units
  ➤ Protection of ‘missing girls’
  ➤ Author: Birth statistics should be properly recorded to help the people, governments, and health professionals to focus on bringing down the gender gaps at birth

- Gender Bias - 1st born child:
  ➤ Presence of ultra sound clinics in the remote areas (U.P, Bihar) → Reason for female foeticide
  ➤ Lack of stricter implementation of PCPNDT Act, 1994
  ➤ Non-functional Central Supervisory Board
  ➤ Section 9 of PCPNDT Act
  - shall meet once in 6 months
  ➤ Medical Associations not following PCPNDT Act
  ➤ Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India vs Union of India

Is banning cryptocurrencies the solution?

Part A—Preliminary Examination
Paper I—(200 marks)
- Current events of national and international importance
- Indian Polity and Governance—Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.
- Economic and Social Development
  Part B—Main Examination
  PAPER-III
  - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
  PAPER-IV
  - Indian Economy and issues related to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.
  - Science and Technology— developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
  - Challenges to national security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security, money-laundering and its prevention.
Ban of Cryptocurrency

- In 2017, govt. set up a Committee to study issues related to virtual currencies.
  - Submitted report in 2019 along with draft bill.

- **Report**
  - Banning of private cryptocurrencies in India.
  - Imposing of fines and penalties - activities connected with cryptocurrencies.

- Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of official digital currency Bill, 2019
  - Fine → Upto 25 Crores
  - Imprisonment → Upto 10 years
    - Mines,
    - Generates,
    - Holds,
    - Sells,
    - Issues
    - Deals,
    - Transfers,

- Introduction of single cryptocurrency for the whole country - backed by RBI.

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Virtual currency

- Digital representation of value
- Functions - medium of exchange
  - Unit of account
  - Store of value
- No legal tender status
- Different from fiat currency of a country

Cryptocurrency:

- Subset of virtual currency
- Decentralised network → no central authority
- Protected by Cryptography
  - Ex: Bitcoin - First of its kind

Draft bill → "any information/code/no/token, not being a part of Official Digital Currency, generated through cryptographic means... providing digital representation..."

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Reasons for banning of Cryptocurrency:

1. Volatility
   - Value directly tied to demand
   - Due to absence of central bank intervention to control supply
   - Large fluctuations → not suitable for store of value

Author's view:

- Other asset classes are not banned
- Whether to invest or not → decision of investor
- Will continue to exist in underground or black market
Q. Which among the following best describes Cryptocurrency?

a) It is subset of virtual currencies that is centralised, protected by cryptography and not a part of any Official Digital Currency.

b) It is subset of virtual currencies that is centralised, protected by cryptography and is a part of any Official Digital Currency.

c) It is subset of virtual currencies that is decentralized, protected by cryptography and not a part of any Official Digital Currency.

d) It is subset of virtual currencies that is decentralized, protected by cryptography and is a part of any Official Digital Currency.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to ‘Cryptocurrencies’.

1. It is a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded.

2. It has the same functions like ‘Money’.

3. It has a legal tender status.

4. It is same as a fiat currency of a country.

Which among above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 2, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2 and 4
Bandipur's contributions on the global front

Each rupee spent on reserve generates benefits of 1776.3

Bandipur reserve worth 36,405 crore

If monetary values could be assigned to tiger reserves, then the Bandipur Tiger Reserve would receive a high standing. The annual revenue generated through tourism in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve is Rs. 36,405 crore. The revenue includes entry fees, taxes, and other charges.

Benefits include:
- **Economic benefits:**
  - **Tangible:** have physical form (e.g., firewood, fodder from forest)
  - **Intangible:** non-physical assets (e.g., fresh air)

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I—(200 marks)

- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity, and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV


- Conservation, environmental pollution, and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
What are the benefits?

At local level,
- Firewood and grazing land
- Fuel and fodder needs
- Non-timber products
- Honey, medicinal plants, wild fruits
- Employment generation

At national level,
- Releases 11.21 billion litres of water/year to Caunvery → invaluable
- Prevents soil loss and nutrient loss
- So ↓ cost of recultivation

At global level,
- Storage and sequestration of Carbon
- Stores 1.2 Gt (Gigatonnes) of Carbon and sequesters 3.45 lakhs of Carbon

Carbon sequestration by forests:
- Atmospheric CO₂ is taken by trees, plants, through photosynthesis → stored as carbon in trunk, branches, foliage and roots

Bandipur Tiger Reserve:
- Located in South Karnataka
- Part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve
- A National Park

Global gold demand touches 3-year high

Continued central bank buying, sustained growth in gold-backed ETFs were the key drivers WGC

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

General Studies-III: Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment
- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth
- Investment models
| Report of World Gold Council -
- Gold demand in the first half of 2019
  - 3 year high; pegged at 1131.7 tonnes
  - 8% rise compared with 2018 (1st half)
| Important reasons:
1. Robust and continued central bank buying
2. Sustainable growth in gold backed exchange traded funds (ETFs)

| Volatility of dollar - reasons can be
  - US Federal Reserve Policies
    - Eg: US Fed Reserve - ↑ interest rate for dollar deposits → flow of dollars to US
  - De-dollarization of forex reserve
  - To reduce dependency on dollar
  - Geopolitical instability
    - Countries - 'not so good' with US - China, Russia, Iran and Turkey - buys gold
    - Replaces dollar in their reserve

| Growth of gold backed ETFs
- ETF - Exchange Traded Funds
  - Tracks value of a commodity
  - Can be bought and sold like stocks
- Gold ETFs - tracks price of gold
  - Gold trade in security exchanges
- Advantages:
  - Trade in electronic account
  - No fear of theft
  - Pure quality

| 3. ↑ demand for gold in India:
  - Jewellery demand - busy wedding season, and healthy festival sales.
  - World Gold Council:
    - Market development organisation for gold industry
    - Works from mining to market
    - Obi: stipulate gold demand
    - HQ: London, UK. |
Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Central banks of the countries buy gold to diversify their foreign exchange reserve.
2. Gold can hedge against volatility of currencies.

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Which among the following best describes Cryptocurrency?

a) It is subset of virtual currencies that is centralised, protected by cryptography and not a part of any Official Digital Currency.

b) It is subset of virtual currencies that is centralised, protected by cryptography and is a part of any Official Digital Currency.

c) It is subset of virtual currencies that is decentralized, protected by cryptography and not a part of any Official Digital Currency.

d) It is subset of virtual currencies that is decentralized, protected by cryptography and is a part of any Official Digital Currency.
### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q2.** Consider the following statements with reference to ‘Cryptocurrencies’.

1. It is a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded.
2. It has the same functions like ‘Money’.
3. It has a legal tender status.
4. It is same as a fiat currency of a country.

Which among above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4

### Practice Question – Prelims

**Q3.** Consider the following statements.

1. Central banks of the countries buy gold to diversify their foreign exchange reserve.
2. Gold can hedge against volatility of currencies.

Select the correct answers using the codes given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2
Answer for Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Option (c) – It is subset of virtual currencies that is decentralized, protected by cryptography and not a part of any Official Digital Currency.

Q2. Option (b) – 1 and 2 only

Q3. Option (c) – Both 1 and 2