



CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Argentina, plagued by severe inflation and widespread poverty, faces a pivotal moment. Dollarisation is seen as a potential remedy for the country's economic challenges -

- The recently elected President of Argentina promises to replace the Argentine Peso with the dollar. However, the immediate implementation of dollarisation seems unlikely due to the scarcity of dollar reserves in Argentina.**



- Dollarization is the use or adoption of the United States Dollar as the primary currency in a country, replacing or supplementing the local currency.**
- Dollarisation can potentially curb hyperinflation by introducing a stable currency, breaking the cycle of rising prices fueled by uncontrolled money supply. This stabilization fosters confidence in the economy, encouraging investment and consumer spending.**
- A dollarized economy incentivizes a focus on export-oriented strategies.**
- With a stable currency, foreign investors are more inclined to engage, fostering foreign trade. This orientation towards exports can bolster economic growth and stability.**

2. Recently, the ILO (International Labour Organization) has released a report titled 'A Call for Safer and Healthier Working Environments' -

- Recently, the ILO (International Labour Organization) has released a report titled 'A Call for Safer and Healthier Working Environments', which will be discussed at the 23rd World Congress on Safety and Health at Work (WCSHW) in Sydney, Australia.**



- **The WCSHW, first held in 1955, is one of the largest international conferences for work health and safety. It aims to connect global leaders in safety and harm prevention from over 120 countries.**
- **Approximately 30 lakh (3 million) workers globally die each year due to work-related accidents and diseases.**
- **More than 63% of these deaths occur in the Asia-Pacific region.**

Major Causes of Deaths-

- **Long working hours (55 hours or more per week) led to the most fatalities in 2016, accounting for nearly 7.45 lakh deaths.**
- **Exposure to occupational particulate matter, gases, and fumes resulted in around 4.5 lakh deaths.**



- **Occupational injuries caused approximately 3.63 lakh deaths.**

Fatal Occupational Injury Rate (FOIR)-

- **Sectors such as mining and quarrying, construction, and utilities were identified as the most hazardous globally based on fatal occupational injury rates.**

ILO Conventions-

- **So far 79 out of the 187 member countries have ratified the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, while 62 countries have ratified the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006.**
- **India has not ratified both the conventions. Recently, in the wake of Uttarkashi tunnel incident, the Central Trade Unions had urged the Union government to ratify the conventions.**

3. Rat-Hole Mining -

- **Recently, Rat Hole Mining method has been used to evacuate 41 workers who were trapped inside Uttarakhand's Silkyari tunnel.**



- **Rat hole mining is a method of extracting coal from narrow, horizontal seams, prevalent in Meghalaya. The term “rat hole” refers to the narrow pits dug into the ground, typically just large enough for one person to descend and extract coal.**



- **Once the pits are dug, miners descend using ropes or bamboo ladders to reach the coal seams. The coal is then manually extracted using primitive tools such as pickaxes, shovels, and baskets.**

Types-

- A. **Side-Cutting Procedure:** In the side-cutting procedure, narrow tunnels are dug on the hill slopes and workers go inside until they find the coal seam.
- B. **Box-Cutting:** In Box-cutting, a rectangular opening is made, varying from 10 to 100 sqm, and through that a vertical pit is dug, 100 to 400 feet deep.
- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 for being unscientific, but the practice continues to be rampant.**
- **Several accidents have resulted in deaths of rat-hole miners in the Northeastern state. In 2018, 15 men involved in illegal mining were trapped inside a flooded mine. Only two bodies could be recovered in the course of the rescue operation that lasted for more than two months.**
- **Another such accident took place in 2021 when five miners were trapped in a flooded mine. Three bodies were found before rescue teams called off the operation after a month. Add to this the environmental pollution caused by this method.**



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- Mining, however, is a key source of revenue for the state government. The Manipur government has challenged the NGT ban, arguing that there is no other feasible mining option for the region.
- A panel appointed by Meghalaya High Court in 2022 found rat-hole mining continues unabated in Meghalaya.



Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements, with reference to Rat-Hole Mining:

1. Rat-hole mining is a method of extracting coal from narrow, horizontal coal beds.

2. This practice of mining is prevalent in Meghalaya.

3. The practice of rat-hole mining is banned in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

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

Q2. In the context of defence and security, General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper, MQ-9B Predator, IAI Heron, Boeing Phantom Ray are all examples of—

- a) Unmanned aerial vehicles
- b) Air to surface missiles
- c) Fighter jets
- d) Anti-tank guided missiles

Q3. A fiber-optic cable/ optical-fiber, transmits data based on which principle ?

- a) Photoelectric effect
- b) Transfer resistance
- c) Refraction of light
- d) Total internal reflection

Q4. The Union Government has exempted which institution from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005 ?

- a) RBI
- b) SEBI
- c) CERT-In
- d) Election Commission of India

Q5. In which district is India's largest tiger reserve set to be established, marking a significant stride in wildlife conservation efforts ?

- a) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- c) Damoh, Madhya Pradesh
- d) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Q6. When is Constitution Day celebrated every year in India?

- a) 26 November
- b) 27 November
- c) 28 November
- d) 29 November

Answer Key

1	2	3	4	5	6
c	a	d	c	c	a