

P2. NATIONAL



Are children with special needs enrolled in schools in India?

- Examines the challenges of ensuring access, retention and equal opportunities for children with disabilities within India's education system.

P3. NATIONAL



Are pellet guns legal for crowd control in India?

- Examines the legal framework, constitutional principles and accountability issues surrounding the use of less-lethal weapons during public protests.

P7. ECONOMICS



Trump's tariff threat on generic drugs

- Examines how protectionist trade measures in major markets can influence India's pharmaceutical exports, investments and manufacturing strategies.

Editor's Note

When it comes to comprehensive UPSC preparation, current affairs are best understood not as isolated events but as windows into larger themes shaping governance, society and the economy. In this edition of Pala Civil Times, we examine a diverse set of topics ranging from the educational challenges faced by Children with Special Needs and the legal framework governing the use of pellet guns for crowd control, to emerging security concerns in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the implications of proposed U.S. tariffs on generic pharmaceutical imports for India's export economy. Together, these developments illustrate how domestic policies and global geopolitical shifts increasingly influence India's developmental priorities and strategic interests.

The Decoded Editorials extend this perspective by exploring the recurring risks associated with infrastructure development in the fragile Himalayan region, including landslides, methane-related tunnel accidents and the broader challenges of balancing development with environmental and geological realities. They also examine the deeper structural issues within India's education system that have come into focus amid recent public protests, highlighting the need for stronger educational reforms, improved institutional coordination and greater investment in human capital.

We hope this edition serves not merely as a record of recent events, but as a dependable reference that strengthens your understanding, enriches your perspective and supports your long-term preparation. Happy Reading!

Editorials Decoded

P4. WORLD



India must lead in securing the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb

- Examines the strategic importance of maritime chokepoints and their impact on India's trade, energy security and foreign policy interests.

The Indian EXPRESS

It's not just about a retest, it's about the India story



An examination of the growing risks faced by Indian seafarers in global conflict zones and the legal, diplomatic and institutional measures needed to safeguard them

THE HINDU

Buried questions



A case study of Himalayan infrastructure challenges, highlighting geological risks, methane hazards, tunnel safety and the need for sustainable development in fragile mountain ecosystems.

Are children with special needs enrolled in schools in India?

An effective education system must ensure that every child has access to quality education, including **Children with Special Needs (CWSN)**. The **Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2025-26** report highlights concerns regarding the enrolment and retention of CWSN in schools. Despite continuous efforts to promote inclusive education, the number of CWSN enrolled in schools has remained almost unchanged over the past eight years. This raises important questions about whether all eligible children with disabilities are entering the education system and whether they are able to continue their education through higher levels of schooling.

Enrolment Levels Indicate a Significant Gap

The **UDISE 2025-26 report records 21.66 lakh CWSN** enrolled in schools, a figure that has remained largely stable over recent years. However, this number appears significantly lower when compared with estimates of the total population of children with disabilities in India. The **2011 Census recorded 32.5 lakh disabled children below the age of nine**, while adding the 10-19 age group brought the **total to 78.7 lakh**. Using **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** disability data and government population projections indicate that the number of CWSN may have increased from 92.3 lakh in 2018-19 to 98.8 lakh in 2025-26. When compared with school enrolment, these estimates suggest that **only about 22% of CWSN are enrolled in schools**, indicating a substantial gap in access to education.



Gender Trends and Data-Related Challenges

The gender distribution of CWSN enrolled in schools has shown little change over the years. **Girls account for only about 43 out of every 100 CWSN enrolled, indicating continued gender disparities in access to education.** At the same time, girls who are enrolled appear to have relatively better retention rates than boys, with nearly 80% of girls enrolled at the primary stage continuing to upper primary education. Another important concern relates to the quality of data itself. There is a possibility of underreporting, as some schools may still classify children according to the **eight disability categories used in the 2011 Census, instead of the 21 categories of disabilities recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**. Such inconsistencies may prevent the education system from accurately identifying and supporting all eligible children.

Strengthening Inclusive Education

The UDISE 2025-26 findings underline that achieving universal education requires greater attention to children with disabilities. While efforts have been made to promote inclusive education, the relatively low enrolment levels, sharp decline in retention at higher stages, persistent gender imbalance and possible underreporting indicate that significant challenges remain. Strengthening data collection, ensuring accurate identification of all recognised disabilities and improving access as well as continuity in education are essential for making the school system truly inclusive.

Retention Declines Sharply Across Higher Levels of Schooling

The available data also reveal that the **number of CWSN decreases significantly as students progress through successive stages of education**. Around 75% of CWSN enrolled at the primary level continue to the upper primary stage. However, this proportion falls to 48% between upper primary and secondary education and further declines to 46% between secondary and higher secondary levels. This reduction is considerably steeper than that observed among the overall student population, indicating that children with disabilities face greater barriers in continuing their education.

RELEVANCE

GS-I: Population and Associated Issues

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. (GS II – 2019)

Are pellet guns legal for crowd control in India?

The alleged use of pellet guns during a protest in Delhi has once again brought attention to the legal and constitutional framework governing crowd control in India. Although pellet guns are often described as "**non-lethal**" or "**less-lethal**" weapons, their use has remained controversial because they can cause serious injuries, including permanent disability. The debate extends beyond the legality of the weapon itself and focuses on the circumstances under which force may be used, the extent of force that is permissible, and the accountability of authorities responsible for maintaining public order.

Pellet Guns and the Legal Framework for Crowd Control

Pellet guns are used by police for dispersal of unlawful assemblies. They fire cartridges containing multiple metal pellets. Under the **Arms Act, 1959, pellet guns with muzzle energy below 20 joules** are not treated as firearms (do not require an arms licence), whereas those exceeding 20 joules are classified as firearms. Provisions for dispersing unlawful assemblies is provided under **Sections 148 to 151 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, corresponding to **Sections 129 to 131 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**. These provisions empower designated authorities to order the dispersal of unlawful assemblies, use force when necessary and even permit the deployment of the armed forces in exceptional situations while requiring that only the **minimum force necessary be used** and providing legal protection for actions taken in good faith under these provisions.

Principles Governing the Use of Force

Indian law follows a graded use of force approach while dealing with unlawful assemblies. The standard practice begins with warnings and negotiation, followed by measures such as tear gas and lathi charge, with greater force being used only when earlier measures prove ineffective. The use of force is governed by the constitutional principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. Since the right to peaceful protest forms part of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, force should be used only as a last resort and restricted to the minimum extent necessary. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) also emphasises that a crowd is composed of fellow citizens and should be managed in a manner that causes the least possible harm.

Judicial Position, Accountability and Legal Remedies

The Jammu & Kashmir High Court, while declining to prohibit the use of pellet guns for crowd control, observed that the use of force may become unavoidable when security personnel face violent mobs. At the same time, the legality of any particular use of pellet guns depends upon whether it was authorised, necessary and proportionate to the situation. Questions regarding who authorised the use of force, whether less intrusive measures had been exhausted, and whether the response matched the threat remain central to determining accountability.

Way Forward

The 2020 UN Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons states that force should be used only as a last resort, with priority given to de-escalation and the minimum force necessary. It also considers metal pellet weapons generally incompatible with the principles of necessity and proportionality. Similarly, the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms (1990) require strict regulation of less-lethal weapons, discourage unnecessary injury and prohibit excessive force. Together, these standards emphasise that crowd control must be lawful, proportionate and accountable.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. With reference to India, consider the following pairs: (2023)

Action: The Act under which it is covered

1. Unauthorized wearing of police or military uniforms : The Official Secrets Act, 1923
2. Knowingly misleading or otherwise interfering with a police officer or military officer when engaged in their duties : The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
3. Celebratory gunfire which can endanger the personal safety of others : The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

RELEVANCE

GS-II: Social Justice (Education & Human Resource Development);

India must lead in securing the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb

Following concerns over the Strait of Hormuz, attention has now shifted to the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb, another critical global maritime chokepoint. Reports that Iran instructed the Houthis (Ansarallah group) to close the Strait in the event of attacks on Iran have raised fresh concerns about the security of international shipping. Any such development is significant because nearly one-third of India's total trade passes through this route. Consequently, any disruption in the Babel-Mandeb Strait would have major economic and strategic implications for India.

Lessons from the Red Sea Crisis (2023–25)

The present concerns are rooted in the Red Sea crisis that followed the Israel–Hamas conflict in October 2023. Expressing solidarity with the Palestinians, the Houthis launched attacks on ships they claimed were linked to or bound for Israel, targeting at least 40 vessels between November 2023 and March 2024. In response, the United States and several partners launched **Operation Prosperity Guardian** in December 2023 to protect freedom of navigation, followed by the adoption of **UN Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024)**. During this period, commercial shipping suffered severe disruption. Between November 2023 and March 2024, *more than 2,000 ships avoided the Suez Canal and instead travelled around the Cape of Good Hope*, increasing travel time and delaying imports. The crisis also reduced Egypt's Suez Canal revenue and severely affected **Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat**, demonstrating how instability in one maritime chokepoint can disrupt global trade.

Why a Renewed Crisis Matters for India

A renewed disruption in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait would pose serious challenges for India. Unlike in 2024, the regional situation is now more uncertain, with the United States focusing greater military attention on Iran and the UN Security Council remaining deeply divided. During the previous crisis, India relied on diplomatic engagement with Iran to help reduce attacks on India-bound ships, but such circumstances may not be easily replicated. At the same time, extending restrictions on Indian seafarers, similar to those imposed for the Strait of Hormuz, would be difficult because the Bab el-Mandeb remains one of the world's busiest shipping routes. Such restrictions could also adversely affect the livelihood, safety and welfare of thousands of Indian mariners.

RELEVANCE

GS-II: International Relations (Bilateral Relations)

GS-III: Indian Economy (Trade Agreements)

India's Proposed Maritime Response

India should adopt a proactive maritime strategy instead of reacting after disruptions occur. India should work with strong allies such as France and Japan, both of which maintain military bases in Djibouti and have previously conducted naval exercises with the Indian Navy, to establish a Trade Protection Task Force for the Babel-Mandeb region. This arrangement would focus specifically on protecting commercial shipping rather than creating a broader military alliance. India should also engage Egypt and Saudi Arabia, whose economic interests are closely linked to secure Red Sea shipping, particularly as the Houthis have recently threatened Saudi maritime traffic. The proposed task force could utilise the **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** hosted by India for maritime domain awareness, while France and Japan could provide logistical support. Participating navies could jointly protect commercial vessels through coordinated patrols, escort missions and agreed rules of engagement.

Way Forward

The experience of the 2023–25 Red Sea crisis demonstrated that disruptions at major chokepoints can quickly affect global shipping, supply chains and national economies. In this context, India should combine diplomacy with proactive naval cooperation to prevent another prolonged maritime crisis. By working with like-minded partners, strengthening maritime domain awareness and supporting a rules-based approach to freedom of navigation, India can advance its broader vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. The question of India's Energy Security Constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyse India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries. (GS II – 2017)

Buried questions (The Hindu : 23-07-2026)

The **Teesta Stage-VI tunnel disaster** in **Sikkim** has once again highlighted the risks associated with infrastructure development in the fragile Himalayan region. On 20 July 2026, a suspected release of trapped methane gas inside the Head Race Tunnel (HRT) of the 500 MW Teesta Stage-VI Hydropower Project caused an explosion that killed at least 15 workers, while several others remained trapped during rescue operations. The incident has prompted investigations by both NHPC Limited and the Government of Sikkim, raising important questions about geological risks, worker safety, and the implementation of environmental safeguards in major infrastructure projects.

How the Disaster Occurred and Why Methane Posed a Serious Risk

Preliminary reports indicate that workers encountered a pocket of suspected methane trapped within underground rocks while excavating the Head Race Tunnel, which carries water from the reservoir to the turbines of a hydropower plant. **Methane is a colourless, odourless, and highly flammable gas** that can explode when it mixes with air and comes into contact with an ignition source, such as sparks generated during drilling. Although tunnel projects in the Himalayan region undergo extensive topographical, geotechnical, geophysical, hydrological, resistivity, and utility surveys, NHPC officials have noted that no available survey method can reliably detect such hidden methane pockets before excavation, making underground tunnelling particularly hazardous.

Geological Factors that Make the Himalayas Vulnerable

The disaster reflects the unique geological characteristics of the Himalayan region. The Himalayas are young mountains that continue to rise because of the **collision between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates**, making the region highly unstable and prone to earthquakes, landslides, and rock fractures. Such conditions allow localised methane pockets to remain trapped within rocks or migrate through natural faults and fissures. In Sikkim, the affected area lies within the **Rangit Tectonic Window**, and geological studies have identified coal reserves in the Namchi region where the tunnel is located. In addition to natural geological conditions, heavy blasting, tunnelling, unregulated development, deforestation, and climate-related events such as glacial lake outburst floods have further increased the vulnerability of infrastructure projects in the State.

RELEVANCE

GS II : Indian Polity

A Pattern of Tunnel and Hydropower Disasters in the Himalayas

Sikkim itself witnessed the devastating **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** of October 2023, which destroyed the **Teesta-III Dam**, damaged the Teesta-V Hydropower Project, and caused significant loss of life downstream. Similar tunnel collapses have occurred in **Parbati-II, Subansiri Lower, Dhauliganga, Khooni Nallah, Silkyara, Srisailem Left Bank Canal, and the Jiribam-Imphal railway projects**. These incidents demonstrate that underground construction in India's mountainous regions remains an inherently risky activity, even as tunnels continue to play an important role in improving hydropower generation and connectivity in remote border areas.

Way Forward

While rescue operations remain the immediate priority, the Teesta Stage-VI disaster also highlights the importance of carefully managing geological risks in the Himalayan region. The investigations announced by NHPC and the Government of Sikkim will need to determine how the methane pocket was breached, whether the associated risks had been adequately assessed, and whether appropriate gas-detection, ventilation, and environmental clearance conditions were effectively implemented. Rather than treating the incident as an isolated accident, it should serve as an opportunity to strengthen safety practices and improve risk assessment.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements: (2017) 1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim. 2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta. 3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

It's not just about a retest, it's about the India story (Indian Express : 23-07-2026)

The controversy surrounding the NEET examination has brought national attention to the integrity of competitive examinations. However, the larger challenge facing India extends far beyond conducting fair entrance tests. While lakhs of students compete for a limited number of seats every year, only a small proportion ultimately secure admission. ***The greater concern is whether India's education system is adequately preparing the vast majority of young people with the knowledge, skills and adaptability required to participate in a rapidly changing economy.*** Therefore, improving the ***quality of education should not be viewed merely as an examination reform but as a long-term investment in India's economic growth, social development and human capital.***

Education as the Foundation of Economic Growth and Human Development

A country's education system plays a decisive role in determining the quality of its workforce and its ability to sustain economic growth. An effective education system equips students not only with academic knowledge but also with the skills needed to remain employable in an economy increasingly shaped by technological change and shifting global economic conditions. Consequently, investments in education are investments in human resources, which form the foundation of long-term national prosperity. While adequate financial allocation remains important, higher expenditure alone cannot guarantee better educational outcomes. ***The effectiveness of educational policies ultimately depends upon improving learning quality, reducing disparities, strengthening institutions and ensuring that education remains relevant to the evolving needs of society and the economy.***



Why Centre-State Cooperation is Essential

One of the defining features of India's education system is that ***education has been placed in the Concurrent List since 1976, making both the Union and State governments jointly responsible for policy formulation and implementation.*** As a result, meaningful educational reform cannot be achieved through the efforts of either level of government alone. While the Union Government provides national policies, financial support and broad institutional direction, the States remain responsible for the day-to-day delivery of school education, including teachers, infrastructure and implementation. The wide differences in enrolment, Gross Enrolment Ratios and educational outcomes across States demonstrate that improvements require close coordination, policy consistency and effective implementation at every level. Strengthening cooperative federalism in education is therefore essential to reduce regional disparities and ensure that every child has access to quality learning opportunities.

Way Forward

The available evidence points towards several important realities that deserve greater policy attention. First, conducting transparent examinations alone cannot address the broader weaknesses of the education system if large sections of students fail to receive quality schooling. Second, ***India's aspiration to become a fast-growing economy ultimately depends upon developing a skilled, educated and productive population rather than only expanding physical infrastructure.*** For this reason, educational reform must move beyond debates on examinations and become a central pillar of governance through sustained investment, stronger Centre-State cooperation, improved learning outcomes and policies that place human capital at the heart of national development.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyse the linkages between education, skill and employment. (GS II – 2023)

Trump's tariff threat on generic drugs

The United States has proposed imposing tariffs of 100% on imported generic medicines after two years, increasing to 200% thereafter, with the objective of encouraging pharmaceutical companies to establish manufacturing facilities within the United States. The proposal is significant because the **United States is India's largest pharmaceutical export market**, accounting for nearly **40% of its pharmaceutical exports**, making developments in U.S. trade policy particularly important for India's pharmaceutical industry and export economy.

Background and Importance for India

The **proposed tariffs** form part of a broader effort to **encourage domestic manufacturing in the United States** rather than relying on imported medicines. Earlier, pharmaceutical products generally remained exempt from major tariff measures. However, the latest announcements are especially relevant for India, as **nearly 40% of India's pharmaceutical exports** are destined for the United States, and **around 90% of these exports consist of generic medicines**. In 2025, India exported US\$9.7 billion worth of pharmaceutical products to the United States, making continued access to the American market critical for the Indian pharmaceutical industry.



Impact on Investment and Business Strategy

The uncertainty surrounding future has encouraged Indian pharmaceutical companies to strengthen their presence within the United States through increased overseas investment. Official data indicate a **sharp increase in outbound investment from India to the United States**, with pharmaceutical sector investments reaching US\$4.08 billion in FY26, compared with US\$3.44 billion in FY25 and US\$2.44 billion in FY24. Similar investment trends have also been observed in steel, indicating that policy uncertainty is influencing long-term business decisions and encouraging Indian companies to expand their manufacturing footprint in the United States.

Existing Manufacturing Presence and Practical Challenges

Many leading Indian pharmaceutical companies already operate U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved manufacturing plants. Despite these developments, relocating large-scale generic medicine manufacturing entirely to the United States presents significant challenges. Generic medicines operate on very low profit margins and depend upon highly integrated global supply chains, particularly for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) sourced from countries such as India and China. Establishing a completely domestic U.S. supply chain would require substantial investment and is likely to increase the cost of medicines.

Balancing Trade Policy & Global Supply Chains

The proposed tariff measures highlight the growing interaction between trade policy, industrial strategy and global pharmaceutical supply chains. While the objective is to encourage greater domestic manufacturing within the United States, the existing structure of the generic pharmaceutical industry makes large-scale relocation both costly and complex. For India, the developments underline the importance of the U.S. market, the need for continued competitiveness in pharmaceutical exports and the increasing tendency of Indian companies to diversify production through overseas investments. The future impact of these tariff proposals will depend on how global pharmaceutical companies adapt their manufacturing and investment strategies in response.

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India? (GS III – 2018)

(Hint : The proposed U.S. tariffs on imported generic medicines represent a protectionist trade measure, where tariffs are used to encourage domestic production ("reshoring") and reduce dependence on imports)

PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. With reference to India, consider the following pairs: (2023)

Action: The Act under which it is covered

1. **Unauthorized wearing of police or military uniforms** : The Official Secrets Act, 1923
2. **Knowingly misleading or otherwise interfering with a police officer or military officer when engaged in their duties** : The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
3. **Celebratory gunfire which can endanger the personal safety of others** : The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Ans : b

Pair 1 is correctly matched: The Official Secrets Act, 1923 prohibits person from using or wearing, without lawful authority, any naval, military, air force, police or other official uniform, or any uniform so nearly resembling the same as to be calculated to deceive, or falsely represents himself to be a person who is or has been entitled to use or wear any such uniform.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: It is under The Official Secrets Act, 1923, that no person in the vicinity of any prohibited place shall obstruct, knowingly mislead or otherwise interfere with or impede, any police officer, or any member of 21 [the Armed Forces of the Union] engaged on guard, sentry, patrol or other similar duty in relation to the prohibited place.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The Arms Act Amendment of 2019 adds new offences such as forcefully taking a firearm from police or armed forces and using firearms in a celebratory gunfire which endangers human life or personal safety of others.

Q. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans : b

Statement 1 and 3: Teesta River originates from the Pahunri glacier. Brahmaputra originates in Angsi glacier. Teesta is a tributary of Brahmaputra. So, 1 is wrong. But, Teesta flows through West Bengal and Sikkim, before going to the Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh. Statement 3 is incorrect. Statement 2: Rangeet is a tributary of the Teesta river, which is the largest river in Sikkim. It also originates in Sikkim.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the recurring occurrence of landslides and geological instability in the Himalayan region, consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayan mountain system is geologically young and continues to experience tectonic activity due to the ongoing collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates.
2. Natural faults, fractures and tectonic windows in the Himalayan region can facilitate the migration and trapping of underground gases such as methane.
3. Infrastructure activities such as tunnelling and blasting, along with deforestation and climate-induced events, can further increase the vulnerability of Himalayan slopes.

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: D

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Himalayas are young fold mountains that continue to rise due to the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, making the region highly prone to earthquakes, landslides and rock instability.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Geological structures such as faults, fractures and tectonic windows may allow methane to migrate or remain trapped within rocks, creating hazards during tunnelling and excavation.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Human interventions such as blasting, tunnelling and deforestation, together with climate-related events like Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), further increase the instability of the Himalayan terrain.

Q. With reference to India's pharmaceutical exports, consider the following statements:

1. The United States is the largest destination for India's pharmaceutical exports.
2. Generic medicines constitute the overwhelming majority of India's pharmaceutical exports to the United States.
3. Continued access to the U.S. market is important for India's pharmaceutical industry due to its significant share in India's pharmaceutical exports.

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: D

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The United States is India's largest pharmaceutical export market, accounting for nearly 40% of India's pharmaceutical exports.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Around 90% of India's pharmaceutical exports to the United States consist of generic medicines.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Given the large share of exports destined for the U.S., continued access to the American market remains critical for the growth and competitiveness of India's pharmaceutical industry.