

THE PALA

CIVIL TIMES

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P2. NATIONAL



Siang Upper
Multipurpose Project:
National Security,
Federalism and
Water Security

: allowing competent adults to nominate partners, irrespective of sexual orientation, for medical decision-making.

P3 NATIONAL



Navodaya
Vidyalayas in Tamil
Nadu:

Language policy debate over Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas has raised questions about the three-language formula

P4. WORLD



Why was ex-Kosovo President convicted by The Hague?:

How the trial of former Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi has brought renewed attention to KLA war crimes

Editor's Note

What connects a multipurpose river project in Arunachal Pradesh with a land acquisition directive issued by the Supreme Court to the Tamil Nadu Government? On the surface, there appears to be little connecting them. Yet, beneath these seemingly unrelated developments lie larger questions of federalism and national integration. Today's edition of the Pala Civil Times brings together these and several other complex issues, offering clear and organised explanations to help students understand how national, international and economic developments shape questions of security, federalism, accountability and transparency.

Our decoded editorials further examine the continuing community conflicts in Northeast India and their impact on civilian life, particularly in light of the latest RTI findings reporting more than 700 deaths in relief camps in Manipur. We also examine the recurring pattern of interest-rate increases across major central banks and what this tightening cycle means for the global and Indian economy.

Together, these articles seek to simplify complex developments, establish their wider significance and help you connect current affairs with the broader themes of the UPSC syllabus. We hope this edition adds clarity to your preparation and helps you approach current affairs with greater accuracy, context and purpose.

Happy reading!

P7. ECONOMICS



India's Semiconductor Push:
Building a Trusted Global
Supply Chain:

How India is building an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem to strengthen domestic manufacturing, global investment and set resilient supply chains

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU



New fault lines

How prolonged ethnic violence has displaced people into relief camps where inadequate healthcare, nutrition and essential supplies have worsened humanitarian conditions.

The Indian EXPRESS



Rates must reflect
inflation risks

Why the U.S. Federal Reserve raised interest rates despite political pressure for lower rates, as persistent inflation continues to remain above its target.

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project: National Security, Federalism and Water Security

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has said that the government remains open to dialogue with communities opposing the Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), amid protests over displacement, environmental concerns and seismic risks.

Why is this project significant?

Large Hydropower Project: The proposed SUMP on the Siang River is expected to have an installed capacity of around 11,000–12,500 MW and involve an estimated investment of about ₹1.13 lakh crore.

Strategic Storage: The project is conceived primarily as a storage-type dam, with power generation as an important secondary benefit. Its proposed large reservoir would also provide flood-buffering capacity.

Chinese Mega-Dam: India views the project partly as a strategic response to China's proposed 60,000 MW hydropower project in Medog County on the Yarlung Tsangpo.

Water-Flow Security: India's concern is that large-scale upstream infrastructure could affect downstream water flows, creating risks during both dry periods and sudden water releases.

Prior-Use Consideration: The proposed storage capacity is also linked to India's objective of establishing greater physical use of the river and strengthening its position concerning transboundary water management.



Federal and Governance Dimension

Centre–State Coordination: The project involves the Arunachal Pradesh government, central agencies and NHPC, while its consequences are directly experienced by local communities.

Community Participation: Opposition has highlighted the importance of transparent consultation with villagers, indigenous organisations and traditional village institutions before major infrastructure decisions.

Trust Deficit: Concerns over past land-acquisition processes and the possibility of displacement without adequate rehabilitation also raise doubts.

Local Livelihood and Environment concerns

Agricultural Dependence: Indigenous Adi and Galo communities depend on the Siang basin for agriculture, horticulture and agroforestry.

Displacement Concerns: Local opposition centres on possible submergence of villages, loss of agricultural land, environmental impacts and seismic risks.

River System

The Siang is known upstream in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo and eventually joins the Dibang and Lohit to form the Brahmaputra in Assam. For local communities, the Siang is not merely a water resource but is closely connected with their culture, identity and traditional way of life.

Way Forward

The SUMP presents a complex policy challenge: India must balance national security and water security with environmental sustainability, livelihood protection, indigenous rights and participatory governance. Transparent pre-feasibility studies, meaningful consultation, fair compensation, time-bound rehabilitation and adequate social infrastructure can help address the trust deficit while allowing the project's strategic and developmental implications to be properly assessed.

PYQ COMPASS



Q) Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of Brahmaputra? (2016)

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

See page 8 for answer

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Tamil Nadu: Education Policy and Cooperative Federalism

The Supreme Court on 17 September 2026 directed Tamil Nadu to identify land for establishing Navodaya Vidyalayas in every district within three months, while asking the Centre and State to continue discussions on the policy.

The Core Dispute

Two-Language Policy: Tamil Nadu follows a two-language policy centred on Tamil and English under its existing educational framework, the Tamil Nadu Tamil Learning Act, 2006. The State has argued that the three-language framework associated with Navodaya schools is incompatible with its policy.

Policy versus Compulsion: Tamil Nadu has argued that Navodaya is a Central policy and that the State cannot automatically be compelled to implement an optional Central scheme, particularly when it has its own educational policies and laws.

Constitutional and Federal Dimension

Education in Concurrent List: Education falls under the Concurrent List (List III) of the Seventh Schedule, allowing both Parliament and State Legislatures to make laws on the subject. In case of a conflict, Central law generally prevails.

Federal Balance: The case raises the question of how a national education programme should operate when it interacts with an existing State-specific educational and linguistic framework.

Cooperative Federalism: The Supreme Court stressed the importance of Centre-State dialogue, while the State argued that cooperative federalism requires mutual accommodation and cannot operate only in one direction.

Role of Judiciary: The dispute also raises questions about the extent to which judicial directions can require a State to facilitate a Central policy when the State contests the policy itself.

Student-Centred Perspective

Expanding Educational Access: The Navodaya system was designed to make quality residential education accessible to talented rural children, thereby reducing disparities in educational opportunities between rural and urban areas.

Language and Learning: Education policy needs to balance opportunities for learning additional languages with the importance of mother tongue, home language and regional language in the learning process.

Local Adaptation: National education programmes can retain common educational objectives and standards while allowing appropriate flexibility in language, implementation and institutional arrangements to reflect State-specific educational requirements.

Navodaya School System

Envisaged under the National Policy on Education, 1986, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are residential schools aimed at identifying talented children, predominantly from rural areas, and providing them quality modern education irrespective of their socio-economic background or ability to pay, enabling them to compete with their urban counterparts. The system also promotes social values, environmental awareness, physical education and other developmental activities, with instruction through Hindi and English at appropriate levels.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. How far has the Indian federal framework been successful in accommodating regional and cultural diversities? Highlight the role of asymmetric federalism and suggest measures to make dispute resolution mechanisms more effective (GS II - 2026)

Q. Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? (GS II - 2025)

WORLD

Why was ex-Kosovo President convicted by The Hague?

Former Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi has been sentenced to 25 years in prison by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers for war crimes committed during the Kosovo conflict in the late 1990s.

Background: Kosovo and Yugoslavia

Yugoslav Federation: After World War II, Yugoslavia was reorganised as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Josip Broz Tito, comprising several republics and the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina.

Rise of Serbian Nationalism: After Tito's death, political and economic tensions grew within Yugoslavia. Slobodan Milošević promoted Serbian nationalism and introduced measures that reduced the autonomy of Kosovo and discriminated against its ethnic Albanian population.

Kosovo's Albanian Majority: Kosovo was an autonomous province within Serbia, with an overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian population seeking greater autonomy and eventually independence.



Why was Hashim Thaçi Tried?

KLA Command: Thaçi was a senior KLA commander during the Kosovo War and later became a major political figure, eventually serving as President of Kosovo.

Alleged KLA Crimes: The trial examined crimes allegedly committed by KLA members, including murder, illegal arrests and torture.

Marty Report: A 2010 Council of Europe report by Swiss politician Dick Marty alleged that KLA members had operated secret detention centres where prisoners were subjected to inhuman treatment and allegedly disappeared. It also made allegations of organ trafficking.

Special Tribunal

The European Union-backed Kosovo Specialist Chambers was established in The Hague in 2016 to investigate and prosecute crimes allegedly committed by KLA members during the insurgency and war.

Rise of the Kosovo Liberation Army

KLA: The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) emerged in the early 1990s as an ethnic Albanian militant organisation seeking independence for Kosovo.

Insurgency: The KLA carried out attacks against Serbian government buildings and police stations, leading to escalating confrontation with the Yugoslav authorities.

Kosovo War: The conflict developed into an all-out war during 1998–1999, with Serbian-controlled forces launching a severe crackdown against the KLA and the wider population.

NATO Intervention: NATO conducted air strikes against Serbian targets, eventually forcing the Yugoslav forces to end hostilities and withdraw from Kosovo.

Independence: Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008. The United States and several European countries recognised it, while Serbia continues to claim Kosovo as part of its territory.

International Status

Kosovo is not a UN member state. India does not recognise Kosovo as an independent country.

The trial examined the extent of the KLA commanders' control over their forces and whether the crimes constituted a broader pattern of abuse. Thaçi was convicted along with three other former KLA commanders and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He has the right to appeal.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. 'Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security.' Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. (GS II - 2024)

New fault lines : Manipur Conflict

Three years after the 2023 Meitei-Kuki-Zo conflict, Manipur has seen tentative political openings, even as renewed Naga-Kuki-Zo violence creates another ethnic fault line.

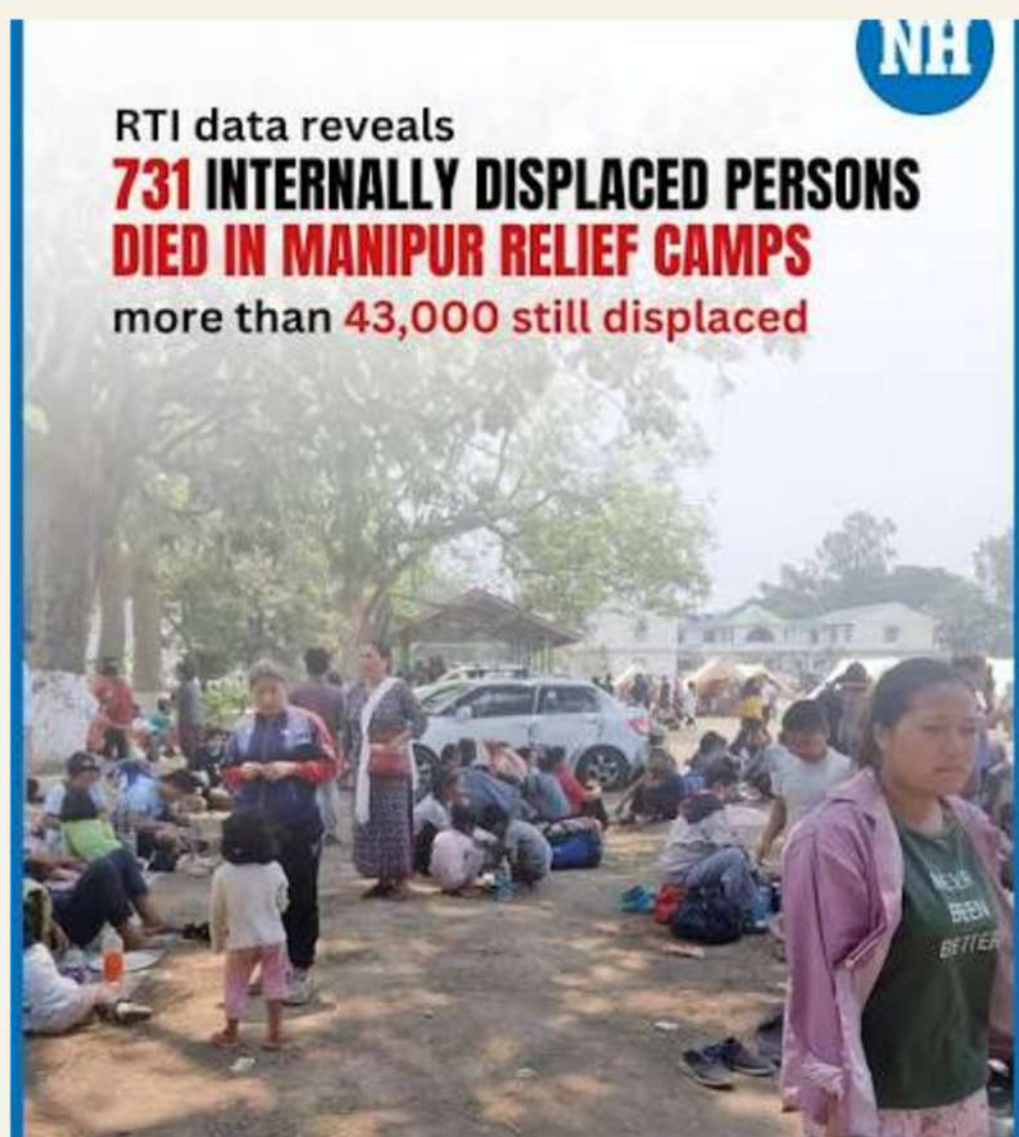
Socio-Political Roots

Three Major Communities: Meiteis form the majority and mainly inhabit the Imphal Valley, while Nagas and Kukis predominantly inhabit the hill regions.

Territorial Contestation: Meitei groups emphasise the territorial integrity of Manipur, while sections of the Naga and Kuki communities have historically demanded separate homelands or greater autonomy.

Militancy and Security: Since the 1960s, militant groups representing different ethnic demands have emerged. Manipur's border with Myanmar and links between armed groups across the border have further complicated the security situation.

2023 Conflict: Existing differences over land, identity and political control became sharply polarised between Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, resulting in widespread violence and displacement.



Humanitarian Consequences

Displacement: Many people displaced by the 2023 violence continue to live in relief camps.

Healthcare and Nutrition: An RTI response cited in the article reported more than 700 deaths in relief camps, with many attributed to inadequate healthcare and nutrition.

Essential Services: Continued violence and blockades have also disrupted access to medicines and other essential supplies.

Emerging Naga-Kuki-Zo Conflict

Renewed Violence: Since February 2026, localised Naga-Kuki-Zo disputes have spread across the hill districts.

Deaths and Displacement: By July, at least 15 Kuki-Zo people, 11 Nagas, three security personnel and one truck driver had been killed, with further deaths reported subsequently. Houses have also been burnt and people newly displaced.

Revival of Old Tensions: The violence echoes the Naga-Kuki conflict of the 1990s, with competing claims over control of the hills and customary laws resurfacing.

Governance Priorities

Violence Prevention: Prevent the Naga-Kuki-Zo conflict from developing into another prolonged ethnic fault line.

Restore Dialogue: Engage communities and civil society to reduce hostile rhetoric and reopen political dialogue.

Ensure Equal Law Enforcement: Apply criminal law equally across communities and act against armed groups and blockades.

Protect Civilians: Ensure displaced people and other civilians have access to safety, healthcare, medicines, essential supplies and basic welfare irrespective of ethnicity.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade. (GS III - 2025)

Q. What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. (GS III - 2023)

Rates must reflect inflation risks

The U.S. Federal Reserve raised its federal funds rate by 25 basis points to 3.75–4%, signalling renewed monetary tightening amid persistent inflation.

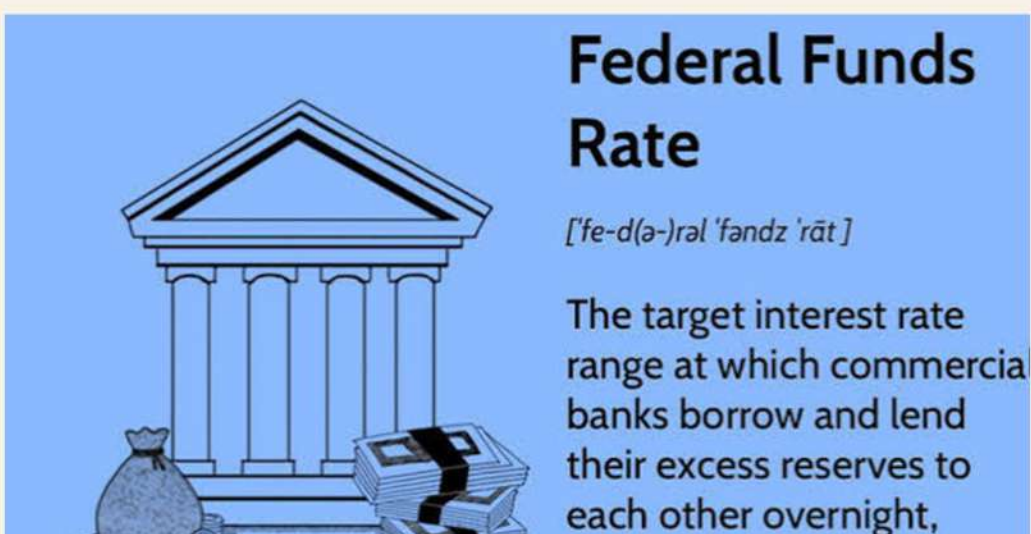
Why Did the Fed Raise Rates?

Persistent Inflation: U.S. consumer prices rose 0.4% in August, keeping the annual inflation rate at 3.4%, with energy prices contributing significantly to price pressures.

Strong Economic Activity: The U.S. economy continues to expand at a solid pace, supported by resilient domestic spending, strong productivity and robust capital investment.

Labour Market: The economy added 1.6 lakh jobs in August, while unemployment remained at 4.1%, giving policymakers greater room to prioritise inflation control.

Inflation Target: The Fed expects inflation based on the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index to remain at 3.7% in 2026, before declining to 2.3% in 2027 and 2.1% in 2028.



Monetary Policy vs Political Pressure

Pressure for Lower Rates: U.S. President Donald Trump has advocated lower interest rates to support the U.S. economy.

Central Bank Autonomy: The unanimous FOMC decision to raise rates illustrates the tension between political demands for easier monetary policy and the central bank's objective of restoring price stability.

Global Rate Tightening

European Central Bank: The ECB also raised rates by 25 basis points, citing expectations that inflation would remain above its target for an extended period.

Other Economies: The UAE and Bahrain raised their main rates by 25 basis points, while Japan was expected to raise rates amid concerns over imported inflation and higher energy prices.

Global Inflation Pressures: The conflict in West Asia, oil prices, weak currencies and higher import costs are contributing to inflationary pressures in several economies.

India's Inflation Challenge

Rising CPI: India's CPI inflation reached 4.82% in August, remaining above the RBI's 4% target for the third consecutive month.

Inflation Targeting: The RBI targets CPI inflation at 4%, with a tolerance band of 2–6%.

Rising Projections: The RBI expects average CPI inflation of 4.7% in July–September, 5.9% in October–December, 5.5% in January–March 2027 and 5.3% in April–June 2027.

Possible Rate Hike: With price pressures increasing, the October 5–7 meeting of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee is expected to consider a 25-basis-point repo-rate hike, which would take the rate to 5.5%.

Bond Yields and Future Rate Hikes

U.S. Bond Yields: The 10-year U.S. government bond yield has crossed 5%, reflecting concerns about inflation, expectations of further rate hikes and the rising U.S. debt burden.

Further Tightening: Fed projections indicate the possibility of another 25-basis-point hike before the end of 2026, followed by a pause in 2027.

PYQ COMPASS



Q.Consider the following statements:
 (2023)

Statement-I: In the post-pandemic recent past, many Central Banks worldwide had carried out interest rate hikes.

Statement-II: Central Banks generally assume that they have the ability to counteract the rising consumer prices via monetary policy means.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement 1
 (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-1
 (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

See page 8 for answer

India's Semiconductor Push: Building a Trusted Global Supply Chain

At Semicon India 2026, the government highlighted India's ambition to become a trusted global hub for semiconductor manufacturing and reduce vulnerabilities in global electronics supply chains.

Building a Complete Semiconductor Ecosystem

Beyond Manufacturing: India is developing capabilities across the semiconductor value chain, including chip design, manufacturing, equipment, materials, testing and related services.

From Consumer to Producer: The objective is to move beyond India's role as a major electronics consumer and chip-design hub towards a broader semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

Supply-Chain Resilience: India seeks to provide a reliable manufacturing location as global supply chains face increasing vulnerabilities and geopolitical disruptions.

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0

Large Investment: The second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission has an outlay of ₹1.27 lakh crore.

Chip-Design Ecosystem: Under Semicon 2.0, the government aims to support at least 200 startups and companies involved in chip design.

Industry Foundation: The government views the first phase of the semiconductor mission as having created the foundation for manufacturing and ecosystem development in India.

Skilled Workforce: The government plans to train one lakh people to create a global pool of semiconductor talent that can directly support upcoming manufacturing facilities.

Design Capability: Indian chip-design companies already have a presence in the global industry, making design an important area for India's semiconductor ambitions.

Growing Industry Participation

Applied Materials: Plans to invest \$5 billion over five years to expand its R&D centre and supply chain in India.

Micron: Has begun commercial production at Sanand, with current capacity exceeding the memory requirement of India's entire laptop market.

Lam Research: Announced an investment of ₹10,000 crore for a silicon component manufacturing facility and expanded partnerships with Indian suppliers.

Infineon and ASML: Both highlighted India's growing importance within the global semiconductor value chain.



Global Semiconductor Opportunity

Rapidly Expanding Industry: SEMI estimated that the global semiconductor industry could cross \$1.3 trillion in 2026 and reach \$2 trillion by 2030.

India's Strategic Position: The growing global industry provides India an opportunity to expand its role across manufacturing, design, equipment, materials and supply-chain services.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct? (2026)

1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.

2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64 bit dual-core microprocessor.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q. Which one of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) CG Power and Industrial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics : Gujarat
- (b) Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd. : Assam
- (c) HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture India Chip Ltd. : Madhya Pradesh
- (d) SicSem Pvt. Ltd. : Odisha

PYQ Compass



Q) Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of Brahmaputra? (2016)

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans : d

Tributaries of Brahmaputra – Dibang River, Lohit River, Dhansiri River, Kolong River, Kameng River, Manas River, Raidak River, Jaldhaka River, Teesta River, Subansiri River.

Q.Consider the following statements: (2023)

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Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Ans : a

After the COVID-19 pandemic, economies faced high inflation due to disruptions in supply chains, increased fiscal spending, and pent-up demand. Central Banks, such as the Federal Reserve (USA), European Central Bank, and the Reserve Bank of India, resorted to interest rate hikes to control inflation by reducing money supply and curbing demand. **So statement 1 is correct.**

Central Banks primarily use monetary policy tools like increasing interest rates, adjusting the cash reserve ratio (CRR), and open market operations to counteract inflation. By raising interest rates, borrowing becomes expensive, which reduces spending and investment, thus curbing demand and stabilizing prices. **So statement II is also correct.**

Both statements are correct, and Statement-II explains why Central Banks undertook interest rate hikes in Statement-I. This is the correct answer.

PYQ Compass



Q. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct? (2026)

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2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64 bit dual-core microprocessor.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Ans : C

DHRUV64 is an indigenous microprocessor designed by the SHAKTI processor team at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. It was developed under the Digital India RISC-V Programme, an initiative designed to achieve self reliance in semiconductor and microprocessor design. The chip has applications in embedded systems, Internet of Things devices, and secure communications, marking a major milestone for the semiconductor mission of India.

It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor: Correct. Designed and fabricated indigenously, it is officially recognized as the first homegrown 64 bit dual-core microprocessor operating at a speed of 1.0 GHz

Q. Which one of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is NOT correctly matched? (2026)

- (a) CG Power and Industrial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics : Gujarat
- (b) Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd. : Assam
- (c) HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture India Chip Ltd. : Madhya Pradesh
- (d) SicSem Pvt. Ltd. : Odisha

Ans : C

Under India's semiconductor mission, multiple semiconductor manufacturing and assembly facilities have been approved across different states.

The semiconductor OSAT plant established by CG Power in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics is located in Sanand, Gujarat.

Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd.'s OSAT facility is situated in Jagiroad, Assam.

The HCL Foxconn joint venture **was proposed in Gujarat rather than Madhya Pradesh.**

SicSem Pvt. Ltd. plans to establish a silicon carbide semiconductor plant in Odisha.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the 'Marty Report', recently associated with the Kosovo conflict, consider the following statements:

1. It was prepared under the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to investigate allegations of inhuman treatment and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo.
2. It examined allegations involving members and affiliates of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), including the existence of secret detention facilities.
3. It was a report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) that directly convicted former KLA commanders of war crimes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) 1 and 2 only

The Marty Report refers to the report prepared by Dick Marty, a Swiss politician and rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). Its formal title was "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo." The report was presented in 2010 and formally published as a Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly document in January 2011. The report investigated allegations of serious crimes committed during and immediately after the Kosovo War, particularly allegations involving the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The report brought renewed international attention to alleged crimes by members and affiliates of the KLA. Subsequent investigations, including those conducted through EULEX mechanisms, contributed to the wider process of investigating alleged KLA crimes.

Q. With reference to the river Siang, consider the following statements:

1. The river is known as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and enters India through Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Siang joins the Dibang and Lohit rivers in Assam to form the Brahmaputra.
3. The river Siang originates in Arunachal Pradesh and flows northwards into Tibet before entering Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) 1 and 2 only

The Siang does not originate in Arunachal Pradesh and flow into Tibet. Its upper course lies in Tibet, where it is called the Yarlung Tsangpo. It then enters Arunachal Pradesh and flows generally southwards before reaching Assam.