

Reading Comprehension

Tips And Tricks

💵 10:00 AM 👀

Mahendra's



Thought for the Day





Success is Neither Magical nor Mysterious Success is the natural consequence of Constantly applying basic fundamentals.

GOOD MORNING



Meaning : a situation full of strong emotions that is confusing and difficult to understand or deal with and scares you. Europtous state of affairs Synonyms: Swirl, Eddy, Vortexi ling stream **Antonyms : Order , method Sentence :** It's just a maelstrom of shrieking children, crass (Serui tive ty commercialism, and ratcheting credit card debt.

VOCABULARY





READING

3

COMPREHENSION







Latest data, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for September and S&P Global's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector for October, point to a palpable softening in economic momentum. The government's provisional figures for output across the key infrastructure industries, from cement and coal to steel and electricity, show the average yearon-year growth in production eased appreciably to a four-month low of 8.1% in September, from the 12.5% pace posted in August. The pace of expansion flagged across all but one of the eight sectors, with only fertilizers registering a quickening in growth from the preceding month as farmers stocked up on the key agricultural input ahead of the rabi season. Heavy rains in the final month of the southwest monsoon season, which resulted in 13% surplus precipitation for September,







with even international sales losing vigour. More worrying is the fact that less than 4% of the about 400 companies surveyed said they were adding staff, thus depressing job creation in manufacturing to the slowest level since April. Input cost inflation also accelerated. But factory gate inflation was considerably slower indicating that with demand uncertain, producers were forced to temper the pass-through of higher costs. With business confidence ebbing to a five-month low, the panellists cited rising inflation expectations as the key factor expected to dent demand and production growth over the next 12 months. And the advance estimates for lower kharif output, disconcertingly flag the fact that the farm sector may be able to offer little succour as rural incomes get hit. Policymakers have their task cut out to surmount the twin challenges of slowing growth and persistent inflation.











What did the advance estimates for lower kharif output suggest?

- 1. Improvement in rural economy
- 2. Chances of surplus agricultural output
- 3. The farm sector will struggle to support rural

incomes

- 4. Improved business confidence
- 5. Increase in job creation in the manufacturing sector



According to the passage, how did the year-on-year growth in output for coal change from August to September?

- It dropped significantly
- It remained the same
- 3. It increased slightly
- It decreased slightly

5. It doubled.

MISSION BANK-2024



In a thriving democracy, the Opposition and the press are vital components of a structure controlled by a ruling establishment that requires accountability for it to be effective. That over a dozen Opposition leaders and journalists received email alerts from Apple that their devices were targeted by "state-sponsored attackers" suggests that this could be a repeat of what these members of the first and fourth estate went through in the Pegasus episode recently. In early 2022, an article in The New York Times detailed how Pegasus, a spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO Group, was used as a tool to advance Israeli interests, as Tel Aviv offered it to other countries which used it against Opposition leaders, journalists and dissidents. In July 2021, a reporters' consortium, the Pegasus Project, found that at least 40 journalists, cabinet Ministers and other officials in India were possibly subject to surveillance using Pegasus software.

A Supreme Court of India panel, however, found no conclusive evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones that it had examined; but the apex court also noted, tellingly, that the Union government was not cooperating with the panel. Unlike the Indian government's lackadaisical and dismissive approach towards the NSO group and its products — which The NYT reported as allegedly bought by the Indian government from Israel as part of a \$2 billion package including sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear in 2017 — other governments in the West implemented stringent steps following the disclosures on spyware use. Apple's iPhones are used by nearly 20% of smartphone users worldwide, and by nearly 7% of such users in India, largely for their diverse facilities and robust security provisions. Researchers had found that spyware software such as Pegasus had targeted iPhones and the operating system iOS as early as 2016,





and Apple had come up with updates to fix Pegasus exploits, besides going on to sue NSO. The company clarified that the alerts sent now did not accuse a "specific state actor"; it also said that it would not be able to disclose how the targets were discovered, but reiterated that the alerts had to be taken seriously. Yet, with the specific targets being Opposition leaders and journalists, the question whether it is the ruling establishment that is subjecting them to surveillance is important. This can only be verified by an independent and empowered investigation, involving the apex court again, which should, this time around, compel the Union government to cooperate. More immediately, the government must come clean on its dealings with NSO and its use of software provided by such agencies and also emulate steps taken by other governments in proscribing such entities.





Which of the following is a synonym for the term 'empowered', as used in the passage?

- 1. Enfeebled
- 2. Endowed
- 3. Extinguished
- 4. Enervated
- 5. Exiled





Which of the following is a synonym for the term 'lackadaisical', as used in the passage?

- 1. Diligent
- 2. Lively
- 3. Apathetic
- 4. Vigorous
- 5. Persuasive







According to the passage, which organization found that at least 40 journalists, cabinet ministers and other officials in India were possibly under surveillance using Pegasus software?

- 1. The Supreme Court of India
- 2. NSO Group
- 3. The Pegasus Project
- 4. The Indian Government
- 5. The New York Times









According to the passage, what action did the Indian government take following the Pegasus revelations?

- They cooperated with the Supreme Court-panel investigation fully
- 2. They initially dismissed their dealings with the NSO Group
- 3. They proscribed use of the NSO group's product
- 4. They bought more products from the NSO group
- The author doesn't provide any specific action taken by the Indian government







Which one of the following was NOT a step taken by Apple in response to the Pegasus spyware attacks, as stated in the passage?

- 1. Sending email alerts to potential victims
- 2. Suing NSO Group
- 3. Fixing Pegasus exploits via updates
- 4. Revealing how the targets were discovered
- Clarifying the meaning of email alerts to recipients