

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 17 Apr. 2024**

### **Important News Articles**

1. Three new fish species spotted using tools in the Laccadive Sea, The Hindu
2. Eclipses: from fleeting to frequent, The Hindu
3. Right to sleep can't be violated: Bombay High Court to Enforcement Directorate- India Today
4. Sri Lanka govt. to resume talks with bond holders soon, The Hindu
5. Centre reveals forest records after 28 years; seven states miss deadline- Down to earth
6. Imported inflation: how import costs can increase the prices of goods and services- The Hindu
7. Meta 'court' to analyse cases of deepfake, The Hindu
8. IMF forecasts India's economy to grow 6.8% this fiscal year, The Hindu

### **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

9. Explained: Tamil Nadu's decentralised industrialisation model- Indian Express
10. Reforms needed in the voting process- The Hindu

### **Quick Look**

1. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:
2. Kerogen
3. Lake Kariba:
4. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII):
5. Bumblebees

## Important News Articles

### GSI

#### 1. Three new fish species spotted using tools in the Laccadive Sea, The Hindu

**Relevance:** Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the world including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent

**News:**

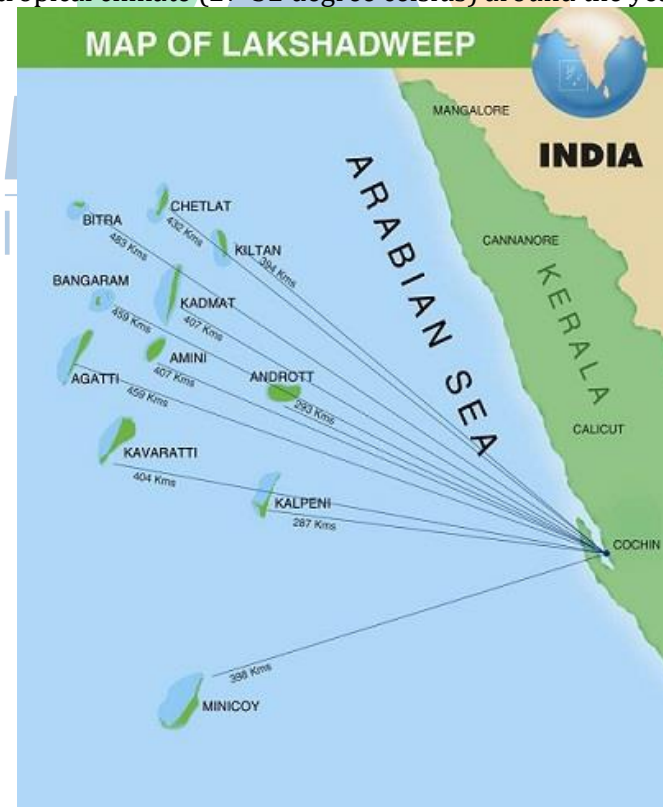
- Three fish species in the **Laccadive Sea** have been found to be capable of using tools.
- They used live or dead coral structures as anvils to break the hard shells of sea urchins so they could get to the edible bits inside
- Unlike primates, birds, otters, octopuses, and many other animals that scientists know are capable of wielding tools

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Lakshadweep Islands
- Coral

**Lakshadweep Islands:**

- India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km.
- It comprises **12 atolls, three reefs**, five submerged banks, and ten inhabited islands.
- All Islands are 220 to 440 km away from the coast of Kochi in Kerala, in the emerald Arabian Sea.
- It is directly under the control of the Centre through an Administrator.
- There are three main group of islands:
  - **Amindivi Islands**
  - **Laccadive Islands**
  - **Minicoy Island.**
- Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost.
- All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll) and are surrounded by fringing reefs.
- **Malayalam** is spoken in all the islands except Minicoy where people speak **Mahl** which is written in **Divehi script**.
- Lakshadweep has a tropical climate (27-32 degree celsius) around the year.



## 2. Eclipses: from fleeting to frequent, The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone. etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Eclipses
- Penumbral eclipse

### news:

- Recently, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.
- This type of solar eclipse is a rare event for any particular spot.
- According to Royal Museums Greenwich, once a place on Earth witnesses a total solar eclipse, it will be about 400 years before that part sees the next one.

### Rare solar eclipse

- In most calendar years there are two lunar eclipses; in some years one or three or none at all occur.
- Solar eclipses occur **two to five times a year**.
- There were five solar eclipses in 1935 and will be again in 2206.
- The average number of **total solar eclipses is 66 in a century**.
- Any point on the earth may, on the average, experience no more than one total solar eclipse in three to four centuries.

### Lunar Eclipse:

- Lunar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves into the Earth's shadow.
- The Earth has to be directly between the Sun and the Moon, and a lunar eclipse can only take place during a full Moon
- Types of Lunar Eclipse:
  - **Total Lunar Eclipse:** A Total Lunar Eclipse happens when the earth is positioned between the sun and the moon and casts a shadow on the latter.
  - **Partial lunar eclipse:** An **imperfect** alignment between Sun, Earth and Moon results in the Moon passing through only part of Earth's umbra.
  - **Penumbral eclipse:** The Moon travels through Earth's penumbra, or the faint outer part of its shadow.
  - The Moon **dims** so slightly that it can be difficult to notice.

### Solar Eclipse:

- A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, casting a shadow on Earth that either fully or partially blocks the Sun's light in some areas.
- Types of Solar Eclipse
  - **Total Solar Eclipse :** Total solar eclipses occur when the New Moon comes between the Sun and Earth and casts the darkest part of its shadow, the umbra, on Earth.
  - **Annular Solar Eclipse:** Moon appears as a **dark disk** on top of a larger, bright disk, creating what looks like a ring around the Moon.
  - **Partial Solar Eclipse:** Only a part of the Sun will appear to be covered, giving it a crescent shape
  - **Hybrid Solar Eclipse:** Earth's surface is **curved**, sometimes an eclipse can shift between annular and total as the Moon's shadow moves across the globe.



## GS II

### 3. Right to sleep can't be violated: Bombay High Court to Enforcement Directorate- India Today

**Relevance:** Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- ED
- Article 21

#### News:

- The Bombay High Court said that the right to sleep is a "basic human requirement" and not providing it violates a person's human rights.

#### Key highlights

- The court directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to issue directions for maintaining "earthly timings" for recording statements
  - When summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) are issued by the agency.
- A court threw out a businessman's complaint about an arrest, but faulted authorities for questioning him all night.
- This violated his right to sleep, which is considered part of the right to live with dignity under the Indian constitution.
- While there are limits to where, when, and how you can sleep (like not sleeping naked in public!), no one can unreasonably prevent you from getting a good night's rest.

#### Landmark judgement of supreme court

- **Sayed Maqsood Ali vs. State of Madhya Pradesh (2001):** The Madhya Pradesh HC ruled that every citizen is entitled under Article 21 of the Constitution to live in a decent environment and has the right to sleep peacefully at night.
- **Re-Ramlila Maidan Incident vs. Home Secretary (2012):** The SC ruled that sound sleep is associated with sound health, which is an inseparable facet of Article 21. It is an unavoidable right of the Indian Constitution.

### 4. Sri Lanka govt. to resume talks with bond holders soon, The Hindu

**Relevance:** India and its Neighborhood- Relations.

#### News:

- Sri Lanka has already reached an agreement with its bilateral creditors, including **India and Paris Club members**.
- The Sri Lankan government, which is trying to finalise a **debt treatment plan** with its private creditors, will resume talks with them in London after the World Bank's Spring Meetings.
- In its latest development update on Sri Lanka, the World Bank has noted that Sri Lanka's economy has shown "early signs of stabilisation" with improved fiscal and external balances.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Paris Club
- India- Sri Lanka ties

#### Paris Club Members:

- The Paris Club is an **informal group** of creditor countries that work together to support nations facing financial difficulties, chiefly those struggling to pay off debts.
- Established in **1956**, headquartered in **Paris**
- The group aims to help stabilise the macroeconomic and financial situation of countries and promote sustainable economic growth.
- India is among the observers in the Paris Club

#### India's Bilateral Negotiation with Sri Lanka

- In Sri Lanka's case, India, China, and Japan are the largest bilateral creditors.
- Sri Lanka's debt to India is **12%** of its total Debt.
- India launched its own bilateral negotiations with Sri Lanka in January 2023.
- India plans to allow Sri Lanka up to **12 years** to repay its debt to help ease the financial burden on the island-nation, which is **\$1.6 billion**.

## GS III

### 5. Centre reveals forest records after 28 years; seven states miss deadline- Down to earth

**Relevance:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Forest report
- DPSP

**News:**

- As many as 27 states and Union Territories (UT) have furnished details about their records concerning forests, according to the interim judgement passed by the Supreme Court recently,
- However, the information submitted is not uniform and helps little in understanding the status of Indian forests.

**Legal Framework:**

- **Court Order:** A Supreme Court ruling requires a broader definition of "forest," prompting an amendment to the Forest Act.
- **Clear Definition:** The amended Act (Van Sanrakshan Evam Adhiniyam, 2023) clarifies the definition of "forest" as per the court's interpretation.
- **Enforcement:** Stronger enforcement mechanisms are crucial to ensure adherence to the amended regulations and prevent forest degradation.

**Data Transparency:**

- **Standardized Reporting:** Uniform guidelines are needed for consistent and transparent reporting of forest data across all states.
- **Public Access:** Easy public access to forest records promotes accountability and encourages public participation in conservation efforts.
- **Accurate Data:** Geo-referencing and clear demarcation of forest areas are essential for accurate monitoring and management of forest resources.

**Environmental Impact:**

- **Ecological Damage:** Poor forest identification and protection can lead to irreversible ecological damage and biodiversity loss.
- **Community Well-being:** Effective forest conservation is crucial for the well-being of local communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods.
- **Global Importance:** India's forest conservation efforts significantly impact global climate change mitigation and sustainable development goals.

**Required Measures:**

- **Standardise Data:** Centralised guidelines and training for state agencies ensure consistent and reliable forest data collection and reporting.
- **Technology Integration:** Utilizing GIS mapping improves the accuracy and efficiency of forest monitoring and management.
- **Enhanced Enforcement:** Robust surveillance systems, collaboration between authorities and communities, and swift action against violators are all crucial for effective enforcement.
- **Public Awareness:** Engaging stakeholders, promoting environmental education, and empowering local communities fosters a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for forest conservation.
- By addressing these dimensions, India can significantly improve its forest conservation efforts, ensuring environmental health, community well-being, and progress towards global sustainability goals.

## 6. Imported inflation: how import costs can increase the prices of goods and services- the Hindu

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment

**News:**

- **Imported inflation** refers to **the rise in the prices of goods and services** in a country that is caused by an **increase in the price or the cost of imports into the country**.
- It is believed that a rise in input costs pushes producers to raise the price they charge from their local customers, thus boosting inflation.

**A fall in the rupee**

- A **depreciation** in the value of a country's currency is generally seen as the most **important reason** behind imported inflation in an economy.
- This is because when a country's currency depreciates, people in the country
  - Will have to shell out more of their local currency to purchase the necessary foreign currency required to buy any foreign goods or services
  - Which in turn means that they will effectively be paying more for anything that they import.
- **The Asian Development Bank** recently **warned that India could face imported inflation** as the rupee could depreciate amid the rise in interest rates in the West.
- A rise in interest rates in the West tends to cause the currencies of developing countries to depreciate against western currencies
  - Which in turns can lead to higher import costs for these countries.
- It can be further argued that even when import costs rise due to a depreciating currency, the rise in costs is still ultimately driven by the demand for the final output among consumers.
- In other words, the exchange rate of a currency depreciates to reflect the greater demand for the foreign currency in terms of the local currency.
- So, the resulting rise in import costs due to depreciation itself can be seen simply as a reflection of a change in the nominal demand for inputs.
- Stated simply, it is not currency depreciation that is causing input costs and the prices of final goods to rise
  - Rather, the currency depreciation is simply a reflection of higher nominal demand for imported goods from final consumers.

### Prelims Takeaway

- Inflation
- Deflation

## 7. Meta 'court' to analyse cases of deepfake, The Hindu

**Relevance:** Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-technology, Bio-technology and issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights.

**News:**

- **Meta's** oversight board said that **it was scrutinising the social media titan's** Deep Fake policies, through the lens of two cases.
- The move by what is referred to as a Meta "supreme court" for content moderation disputes comes just months after the widespread sharing of explicit **AI-generated** images.

**DeepFake:**

- Deep Fakes are a compilation of artificial images and audio put together with machine-learning algorithms to spread misinformation and could replace a real person's appearance, voice, or both.
- **Origin:** The term deep fake originated in 2017 when an anonymous Reddit user called himself "Deepfakes."

### Prelims Takeaway

- Deepfake
- Digital Personal Data Act 2023

- Deep Fakes are a part of **Deep Synthesis**, which uses technologies, including deep learning and augmented reality, to generate text, images, audio and video to create virtual scenes.

#### India Stand:

- India does not have specific laws or regulations that ban or regulate the use of deepfake technology.
- India has however called for a global framework on the expansion of “ethical” AI tools.
- Existing laws such as Sections 67 and 67A of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** have provisions
  - That may be applied to certain aspects of deep fakes, such as defamation and publishing explicit material.
- Section 500 of the **Indian Penal Code (1860)** provides punishment for defamation.
- **The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** provides some protection against the misuse of personal data.

## 8. IMF forecasts India's economy to grow 6.8% this fiscal year, The Hindu

**Relevance:** Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate

#### Prelims Takeaway

- IMF
- Reports by IMF and World Bank

#### News:

- World economy is ‘remarkably resilient’ but challenges remain, the IMF says in its ‘World Economic Outlook April 2024’
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its **growth projection for India's GDP** in the current fiscal year 2024-25 to **6.8%**, and forecast a 6.5% expansion next year.
- An upside comes from the potential for reforms that would liberalise foreign investment and really boost exports and boost jobs and labour force participation.

#### IMF:

- IMF is an international financial organisation established to
  - Foster global monetary cooperation
  - Secure financial stability
  - Facilitate international trade
  - Promote high employment
  - Sustainable economic growth,
  - Reduce poverty around the world.
- In 1944 the IMF was planned as a part of the Bretton Woods exchange system along with the World Bank.
- **India joined the IMF on 27th December 1945.**
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has the primary purpose of ensuring the stability of the international monetary system, the system of exchange rates, and international payments that enables countries to transact with each other

#### What is the SDR?

- The SDR is an **international reserve asset**. The SDR is not a currency, but its value is based on a basket of five currencies—the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.
- When **fixed exchange rates ended in 1973**, the IMF redefined the SDR as equivalent to the value of a basket of world currencies. The SDR itself is not a currency but an asset that holders can exchange for currency when needed. The SDR serves as the unit of account of the IMF and other international organisations

#### Reports published by IMF:

- Global Financial Stability Report & World Economic Outlook.



## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 9. Explained: Tamil Nadu's decentralised industrialisation model- Indian Express

**Relevance:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**Context :**

- Tamil Nadu, which votes on April 19, is India's No.1 state in terms of economic complexity, measured by the diversity of its gross domestic product (GDP) and employment profile.

Key highlights	Tamil Nadu's economic boom has two key ingredients:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TNs lower dependence on agriculture is matched by the higher shares of industry, services and construction in its economy relative to all-India.</li> <li>About 45.3% of TN's farm GVA comes from livestock subsector (the highest) which surpasses all-India average of 30.2%.</li> <li>It is home to India's largest private dairy company (Hatsun Agro Product), broiler enterprise (Suguna Foods), egg processor (SKM Group) and "egg capital" (Namakkal).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cluster Power:</b> Instead of giant factories, the state has focused on building clusters of smaller businesses specializing in specific industries.</li> <li><b>a team effort</b> - companies in a cluster like Tirupur (famous for knitwear) support each other's growth.</li> <li>This approach has created jobs in smaller towns and villages, giving people options beyond farming.</li> <li>For instance, Tirupur's thriving knitwear industry employs millions, attracting workers from other states too.</li> <li><b>Homegrown Hustle:</b> The driving force behind this isn't big corporations, but local entrepreneurs.</li> <li>Many come from farming or small business backgrounds, creating successful brands like Hatsun (known for Arun ice-cream and Arokya milk).</li> <li>This "grassroots entrepreneurship," combined with the state's investments in education and healthcare, has likely fueled Tamil Nadu's success in diversifying its economy beyond agriculture.</li> </ul>

### INDIA

## SECTOR-WISE SHARES OF GVA & WORKFORCE: 2022-23 (%)

	Gross Value Added*		Workforce	
	All-India	Tamil Nadu	All-India	Tamil Nadu
Agriculture	18.19	12.55	45.76	28.87
Industry**	18.80	22.69	12.27	17.88
Construction	8.84	11.70	13.03	18.04
Services	54.18	53.05	28.94	35.21

\*At Basic Prices; \*\* Includes manufacturing, mining, electricity and utilities. GVA is GDP net of product taxes and subsidies. Source: National Accounts Statistics and Periodic Labour Force Survey.

## 10. Reforms needed in the voting process- The Hindu

**Relevance:** Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

**Context :**

- The Supreme Court has decided to hear petitions seeking 100% cross-verification of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips with the vote count as per Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

<p><b>What is the history of voting process?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the first two general elections of 1952 and 1957, a separate box was placed for each candidate with their election symbol.</li> <li>Thereafter from the third election, the ballot paper with names of candidates and their symbols was introduced with voters putting a stamp on the candidate of their choice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Introduction of EVM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EVM was introduced on a trial basis in 1982 in the Assembly constituency of Paravur in Kerala.</li> <li>In Subramanian Swamy versus Election Commission of India (2013), the Supreme Court ruled that a paper trail is an indispensable requirement for free and fair elections.</li> <li>The 2019 elections had EVMs backed with 100% VVPAT in all constituencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are international practices?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many western democracies continue to have paper ballots for their elections. Countries like England, France, The Netherlands and the U.S. have discontinued the use of EVMs for national or federal elections, after trials in the last two decades.</li> <li>In Germany, the Supreme Court of the country declared the use of EVMs in elections as unconstitutional in 2009.</li> <li>Some countries like Brazil, however, use EVMs for their elections.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Benefit of EVM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EVM has virtually eradicated booth capturing by limiting the rate of vote casting to four votes a minute and thus significantly increasing the time required for stuffing false votes.</li> <li>invalid votes that were a bane of paper ballots and also a bone of contention during the counting process have been eliminated through EVMs.</li> <li>considering the size of our electorate which is close to one billion, the use of EVMs is eco-friendly as it reduces the consumption of paper.</li> <li>Finally, it provides administrative convenience for the polling officers on the day of the poll and has made the counting process faster and error-free.</li> </ul> <p><b>How to uphold the integrity of EVM?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These include random allocation of EVMs to booths before polls</li> <li>conduct of a mock poll to display the correctness of EVMs and VVPAT before commencement of the actual poll</li> <li>the serial number of EVMs along with total votes polled was shared with agents of candidates to verify the same at the time of counting of votes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Allegations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most repeated allegation is that EVMs are susceptible to hacking as it is an electronic device.</li> <li>The sample size for matching of the EVM count with VVPAT slips at present is five per assembly constituency/segment.</li> <li>This is not based on any scientific criteria and may fail to detect defective EVMs during counting.</li> </ul>
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**The way forward**

- The sample for matching of EVM count and VVPAT slips should be decided in a scientific manner by dividing each State into large regions as suggested by experts.
- In case of even a single error, the VVPAT slips should be counted fully for the concerned region and form the basis for results.
- This would instil a statistically significant confidence in the counting process.
- Further, in order to provide a degree of cover for voters at the booth level, 'totaliser' machines can be introduced that would aggregate votes in 15-20 EVMs before revealing the candidate-wise count.

## Quick Look

### 1. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu, at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- It lies on the Northeastern and Northwestern slopes of the Nilgiri hills, which is a part of the Western Ghats.
- It is part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, the first biosphere reserve in India.
- It has a common boundary with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary(Kerala) on the west, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the north, the Nilgiris North Division on the south and east, and Gudalur Forest Division on the south-west.

### 2. Kerogen

- It is the portion of naturally occurring organic matter that is non-extractable using organic solvents i.e. it is insoluble in solvents.
- It represents about 90% of the organic carbon in sediments.
- It occurs in source rock and may expel hydrocarbons upon thermal cracking.
- Typical organic constituents of kerogen are algae and woody plant material.
- It consists of lighter as well as heavier hydrocarbons and acts like a precursor of oil and natural gas.
- They have a high molecular weight relative to bitumen, or soluble organic matter.
- Bitumen forms from kerogen during petroleum generation.
- Kerogens are described as Type I, consisting of mainly algal and amorphous (but presumably algal) kerogen and highly likely to generate oil; Type II,

### 3. Lake Kariba

- It is the world's largest man-made lake and reservoir by volume.
- It lies along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- It is 200 kilometers downstream of Victoria Falls.
- The lake was filled following the completion of the Kariba Dam wall at its northeastern end, flooding the Kariba Gorge on the Zambezi River.
- The Kariba Dam consists of a double-arch wall.
- The wall extends across the Kariba gorge, creating a border crossing between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- It provides considerable electric power to both Zambia and Zimbabwe and supports a thriving commercial fishing industry.

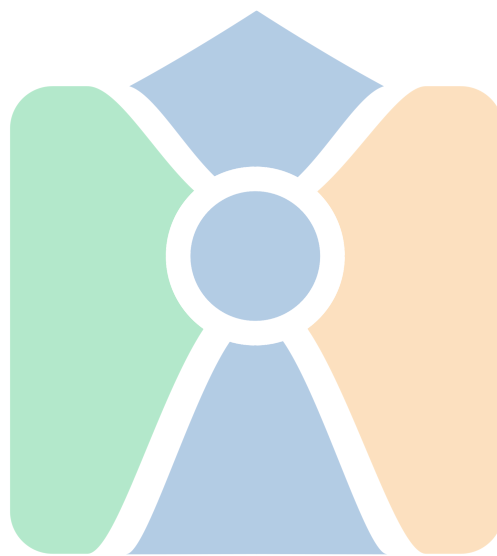
### 4. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

- It was created in 2000 as an advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.
- According to its mandate, the Permanent Forum will:
- Provide expert advice and recommendations to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council.

- Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system.
- Prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

## 5. Bumblebees

- They are large, hairy, social bees belonging to the family Apidae (subfamily Bombinae).
- The family Apidae includes the well-known honey bees and bumble bees, as well as carpenter bees, cuckoo bees, digger bees, stingless bees, and orchid bees.
- Distribution:
- They occur throughout much of the world but are most common in temperate climates. There are over 250 known species, existing primarily in the Northern Hemisphere.
- They are known for their ability to collect nectar from flowers and pollinate plants.



**Mentorship**  
India



## Prelims Track Question

**Q1. Consider the Following Statements regarding Lakshadweep Islands:**

1. Majority Population of the Islands follow Buddhism.
2. Aminidiv is the Southernmost group of Islands
3. These islands are a part of Reunion Hotspot volcanism.

**Which of the following Statements is/are Correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q2. Consider the Following Statements regarding Eclipses-**

1. Only a part of the Sun will appear, giving it a crescent shape it is known as Annular Solar Eclipse
2. An imperfect alignment between Sun, Earth and Moon results in the Moon passing through only part of Earth's umbra, it is Called Penumbral Lunar Eclipse.
3. Solar Eclipses can happen 2-5 times in a Calendar year

**Which of the following Statements is/are Correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q3. Which of the following is not fundamental right?**

- A. 'right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change
- B. Right to sleep
- C. Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.
- D. to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, wildlife

**Q4. Consider the following Statements about Paris Club-**

1. Paris Club is a group of developed Western countries.
2. They offer credit to developing countries in Economic Stress.

3. "Rapid Financing Instrument" and "Rapid Credit Facility" are their provisions of lending

**How many statements is/are Correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q5. Consider the following statements about The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023**

1. The FC Amendment Act, 2023 allows for diversion of forest land for strategic projects related to national security.
2. it strengthens other rights, such as access to forest resources and the right to dwell in forest land.
3. The FC Amendment Act, 2023 fails to address environmental concerns.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Q6. Consider the following statements**

**Statement I:** Imported inflation refers to the rise in the prices of goods and services in a country that is caused by an increase in the price or the cost of export outside the country.

**Statement II:** It is believed that a rise in input costs pushes producers to raise the price they charge from their local customers, thus boosting inflation.

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q7. Consider the following statements about Deepfake:**

**Statement I:** The bipartisan Deepfake Task Force Act has been passed by United Kingdom (UK) to tackle Deepfake technology

**Statement II:** The established Act could have legal sanction to deepfake technology, develop annual studies and adequate countermeasures.

**Choose the Correct Option:**

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q8. Consider the following Statements about IMF-**

1. On joining the IMF, each member country contributes a certain sum of money, called a quota subscription.
2. India had taken last financial assistance from the IMF in 1995
3. It is also one of the specialised agencies of United Nations

**Which of the following Statements is/are Correct?**

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

**Q9. Consider the following statements**

**Statement I:** GDP is equal to GVA plus taxes earned by the government subtracted by Subsidies provided by the government

**Statement II:** if the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GVA will be higher than GDP.

**Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- A. Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct
- C. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I
- D. Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

**Q10. Consider the following statements about EVM-**

1. The EVM was introduced on a trial basis in 1982 in the Assembly constituency of Paravur in Kerala.
2. They do not require electricity. They run on an ordinary battery assembled by Bharat Electronics Limited/ Electronics Corporation of India Limited.
3. The microchip used in EVMs is a one-time programmable/masked chip, which can neither be read nor overwritten.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

## Prelims Track Answer

### Answer 1 Option A is Correct

#### Explanation:

- More than 93% of the population who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi School of the Sunni Sect. **Hence Statement 1 INcorrect**
- Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost. **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- The islands consist of unconsolidated pebbles, shingles, cobbles, and boulders. All are atolls surrounded by Fringing Reefs.
- These islands are a part of Reunion Hotspot volcanism. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

### Answer 2 Option A is Correct

#### Explanation-

- Solar eclipses occur two to five times a year. Five is exceptional. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**
- Partial lunar eclipse: An imperfect alignment between Sun, Earth and Moon results in the Moon passing through only part of Earth's umbra. **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- Partial Solar Eclipse: Only a part of the Sun will appear to be covered, giving it a crescent shape. **Hence Statement 1 is INcorrect.**

### Answer 3 Option D is correct

#### Explanation

- The Supreme Court has ruled that people have a "right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change", which should be recognised by Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.
- The apex court ruled sleep is a fundamental right in February 2012. It extended the scope of the right to life under Article 21
- Article 22 of the Indian Constitution protects individuals from arbitrary arrest and detention. It ensures that the principles of due process, fair treatment, and personal liberty are upheld

- Article 51A imposes certain fundamental duties for the people of India. One of them is to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. **Hence, OPTION D is correct**

### Answer 4 Option B is Correct

#### Explanation:

- Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) provides quick financial assistance, which is available to all member countries facing urgent balance of payments requirements. The RFI was created as part of a broader reform to make IMF financial support more flexible to meet the diverse needs of member states. **Hence Statement 3 is Incorrect.**
- The Paris Club is a group of mostly western creditor countries that grew from a 1956 meeting in which Argentina agreed to meet its public creditors in Paris. **Hence Statement 1 correct**
- It describes itself as a forum where official creditors meet to solve payment difficulties faced by debtor countries. **Hence Statement 2 is Correct.**

### Answer 5 Option B is correct

#### Explanation

- The Act exempts projects of "national importance and related to national security" such as roads, railways, power lines, and border security infrastructure. Forest land can be diverted for these projects, subject to prior approval from the central government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Act does affect forest rights in some cases, such as the right to compensation and participation in Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). However, it strengthens other rights, such as access to forest resources and the right to dwell in forest land. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The Act has several provisions that address environmental concerns, such as:

- Compensatory Afforestation: When forest land is diverted for projects, an equivalent area of new forests must be planted. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**

**Answer 6 Option B is correct**

**Explanation**

- Imported inflation refers to the rise in the prices of goods and services in a country that is caused by an increase in the price or the cost of imported into the country. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- It is believed that a rise in input costs pushes producers to raise the price they charge from their local customers, thus boosting inflation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

**Answer 7 Option B is Correct**

**Explanation:**

- United States: The U.S. introduced the bipartisan Deepfake Task Force Act to assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to counter deepfake technology. **Hence Statement 1 is INcorrect.**
- The U.S. established a Deepfake Task Force Act to counter deepfake technology, requiring annual studies and countermeasure development. **Hence Statement 2 is Correct.**

**Answer 8 Option B is Correct**

**Explanation:**

- India has not taken any financial assistance from the IMF since 1993. **Hence Statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- On joining the IMF, each member country contributes a certain sum of money, called a quota subscription. **Hence Statement 1 is correct**
- It is part of United Nations specialised Agencies, **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

**Answer 9 Option A is correct**

**Explanation**

- The GDP and GVA are related by the following equation:  $GDP = (GVA) + (\text{Taxes earned by the government}) - (\text{Subsidies provided by the government})$  **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As such, if the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GDP will be higher than GVA. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Answer 10 Option C is correct**

**Explanation**

- They were first used in the Paravur Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982.
- Since 1998, the Election Commission has increasingly used EMVs instead of ballot boxes.
- An EVM being used by ECI can record a maximum of 2,000 votes.
- They do not require electricity. They run on an ordinary battery assembled by Bharat Electronics Limited/Electronics Corporation of India Limited.
- The microchip used in EVMs is a one-time programmable/masked chip, which can neither be read nor overwritten.
- Furthermore, the EVMs are stand-alone machines and there is no operating system used in these machines. **Hence all statements are correct**



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