

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 19 Apr. 2024

Important News Articles

1. Impossible to tamper with EVMs at 'any stage', EC says in SC
2. Nestlé's baby food sold in Asian, African countries had added sugars: Why is sugar harmful?- Indian express
3. India must invest more in education, health to tap demographic dividend: IMF- The Hindu
4. Indigenously built cruise missile successfully tested -The Hindu
5. Over 21,000 birds to be culled in Alappuzha today- The Hindu
6. NGT shows concern over chemicals in Chennai waterbodies -The Hindu
7. India's FY24 pulse imports hit 6-year high on red lentils- The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. India's nuanced approach in the South China Sea
9. Why have private investments dropped? The Hindu
10. Randomized control trials: the technique that transformed TB care- The Hindu

Quick Look

1. Leaf Litter Frog
2. Heat wave
3. Sonar
4. Meningitis
5. B Virus

Important News Articles

GS II

1. Impossible to tamper with EVMs at 'any stage', EC says in SC

Relevance: Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

News:

- **The Election Commission (EC)** said it is impossible to tamper with electronic voting machines (EVMs) "at any stage" in the Supreme Court
- The EC said there have been **41,629** instances of random verification till date.
- **Over four crore VVPAT paper slips** were matched till date. And not a single instance of mismatch.

VVPAT:

- VVPAT is an independent verification printer machine attached to electronic voting machines (EVMs) that allows voters to verify their votes.
- As soon as the voter presses the button on the EVM, the VVPAT machine prints the slip that contains the name and symbol of the party they have voted for, for around 7 seconds.
- It was introduced in the bye-election of the **Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland in 2013**.
- VVPAT Machines were then **introduced in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections** and were introduced to increase transparency and eliminate doubts about the accuracy of the EVMs.
- According to ECI, EVMs and VVPATs are **separate entities** and are **not connected to any network**.

Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India Case, 2023

- A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC) unanimously ruled that the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made by the President on the advice of a **Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha and Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
- In case no leader of the Opposition is available, the leader of the **largest opposition Party** in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength will be a part of such a committee.
- The Parliament passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023,

Key Features of EVM:

- 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.

Prelims Takeaway

- VVPAT
- EVM

2. Nestlé's baby food sold in Asian, African countries had added sugars: Why is sugar harmful?- Indian express

Relevance: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News:

- Nestlé's products for babies in **Asia, Africa and Latin America were found to contain added sugars**
- the same products sold in Europe did not have it, according to a recent report.

Key highlights

- A report criticizes Nestlé for using more sugar in baby food sold in developing countries than in richer nations.
- The sugar content isn't always clear on labels.

Prelims Takeaway

- Added sugar
- WHO

- This includes Cerelac, a popular baby cereal with no added sugar in Europe but up to 6 grams per serving in some places.
- While some countries allow this, it goes against World Health Organization recommendations to limit sugar intake.
- The report highlights how more sugar is being added to food in developing countries, potentially harming children's health.

Is added sugar harmful?

- Excessive consumption leads to increased overall energy intake in a person's overall diet.
- It leads to **unhealthy diet**
- The risks of contracting non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, obesity and heart-related ailments, are then increased.
- It may increase the **risk of nutrient based disorder** in childrens and adult
- Tooth decay is also associated with early exposure to sugar.

3. India must invest more in education, health to tap demographic dividend: IMF- The Hindu

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and for-
their structure, mandate.

News:

- **India should focus on investing heavily in education and health** to ensure that its growing young population is adequately employed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has suggested.

Key highlights

- The World Bank, the IMF's 'twin' multilateral institution, had said that India and other South Asian countries were squandering their demographic dividend.
- The labour force needs to have the right skills, competing with AI and other such challenges
- The IMF has projected a growth rate of 6.8% for India's economy in FY2024/25 notwithstanding the high rate of unemployment among youth
 - Which according to some estimates was just above 40% in 2022-23.
- Growth in India was led by public investment and private consumption
- While public capex spending (for example infrastructure) had had a "very beneficial" impact on growth
- The issue was whether it had crowded in private investment, observed the IMF official.

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.

Prelims Takeaway

- IMF
- Reports by IMF and World Bank

- 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.

GS III**4. Indigenously built cruise missile successfully tested -The Hindu**

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

News:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) **conducted a successful flight test of a “long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile”** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha
- The missile followed the desired path using waypoint navigation and demonstrated very low altitude sea-skimming flight.

Key highlights

- During the test, all subsystems performed as per expectation
- The performance of the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (**ITCM**) **was monitored by several range sensors like radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS)** and telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path
- The flight of the missile was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.”
- The missile is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)** along with contribution from other laboratories and domestic industries.
- This successful flight test has also established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by **Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)**, Bengaluru
- The cruise missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance

Prelims Takeaway

- DRDO
- Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile

5. Over 21,000 birds to be culled in Alappuzha today- The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

News:

- The Animal Husbandry Department will carry out bird culling operations in the avian **flu-hit regions of Kuttanad in Kerala**.
- “The Centre has notified the **outbreak of disease**.”

Avian Influenza:

- Avian influenza, often referred to as bird flu, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects birds, particularly wild birds and domestic poultry.
- Human transmission of avian influenza **occurs occasionally**, but it is difficult to transmit the infection from person to person.
- As per World Health Organisation(WHO), when people do become infected, the mortality rate is about 60%.
- It can range from mild **flu-like symptoms**, including fever, cough, and muscle aches, to severe respiratory issues like pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and even cognitive problems such as altered mental status and seizures.

Avian Influenza and India:**Prelims Takeaway**

- Influenza
- Avian flu

- The initial outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in India occurred in 2006 in Navapur, Maharashtra, and was followed by annual outbreaks.
- **H5N8** was first observed in India in November 2016, mainly affecting wild birds across five states, with **Kerala** reporting the most cases.
- India's approach to controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) follows a "detect and cull" policy as outlined in the **National Action Plan for Prevention, Control, and Containment of Avian Influenza (2021)**

Influenza:

- HPAI stands for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and LPAI stands for Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Types	A Subtypes	HPAI vs LPAI
Influenza A (Infects a wide range of animals including birds)	Avian (Can infect humans) H5N1 H7N3 H7N7 H7N9 H9N2 H10N8 Swine (Can infect humans) H1N1 H1N2 H3N2	HPAI vs LPAI HPAI H5N1 LPAI H5N1 HPAI H5N8 LPAI H5N8 Subtypes can be classified as high path or low path based on the ability of the specific virus strain to kill chickens in the lab setting.
Influenza B (Mainly infects humans)		
Influenza C (Infects humans and pigs but more rare than types A and B)		
Influenza D (Infects cattle)		
	Most common human H1N1 H3N2	

6. NGT shows concern over chemicals in Chennai waterbodies -The Hindu

Relevance: Environmental Pollution and Degradation.

News:

- Recently, National Green Tribunal (NGT) took Suo Motu cognisance and has expressed concerns about the **presence of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water bodies of Chennai** based on a study conducted by IIT Madras.

Prelims Takeaway

- Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Stockholm Convention

Key Highlights of report

- The report noted a presence of **Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in water bodies**
- The study found out the groundwater near the Perungudi dumpyard contained 2.72 nanogram per litre (ng/L) of perfluoro octane sulfonic acid (PFOS) which significantly exceeded the EPA's safe level of 0.02ng/L.
- It was also observed, when compared to raw water the concentration of all eight target PFAS increased in the treated water.
- As the conventional water treatment only makes PFAS more prevalent the study called for an advanced polishing treatment system.

Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):

- PFAS are also known as **Forever chemicals due to their ability to stick around in the environment** for a long period of time.

- They are synthetic chemicals which degrade the environment and are used to make non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, cosmetics and other products that repel water or oil
- PFAS are known to **cause adverse health effects such as liver damage**, hormonal imbalance, immune system issues, and cancer.

Stockholm Convention:

- The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- The Stockholm Convention focuses on eliminating or reducing releases of POPs.
- Over 152 countries ratified the Convention and it entered into force, on 17 May 2004. India ratified the Convention in 2006

7. India's FY24 pulse imports hit 6-year high on red lentils- The Hindu

Relevance: Major Crops - Cropping Patterns in various parts of the country,

News:

- India's pulses imports in fiscal 2024 surged 84% year-on-year to the highest level in six years.

Key highlights

- Lower production prompted India to allow **duty-free imports** of red lentils and yellow peas.
- Higher imports by India, the world's biggest importer, producer and consumer of protein-rich pulses, from exporting countries such as **Canada and Myanmar**.
- India imported **4.65 million metric tonnes** of pulses in the year ended March 31, 2024.

Pulses:

- Pulses are **leguminous crops** used for both food and feed.
- Besides serving as an important source of protein for a large portion of the global population, pulses contribute to **healthy soils** and climate change mitigation through their **nitrogen-fixing properties**.

India's Pulses Production:

- India is the largest **producer (25% of global production)**, **consumer (27% of global consumption)** and importer (14%) of pulses in the world.
- Though pulses are grown in both Kharif and Rabi seasons, **Rabi pulses** contribute more than **60% of the total production**.
- Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are the top five pulses-producing states.

Importance of Pulses:

- **Nutritional Powerhouses:** Pulses are rich in protein, fiber, vitamins, and minerals, providing essential nutrients for human diets.
- **Soil Enrichment:** They fix nitrogen in the soil, improving fertility and reducing the need for fertilizer.
- **Climate Smart Crop:** Pulses are water-efficient crops and have a lower carbon footprint compared to many other crops, contributing to sustainability.
- **Crop Health and Rotation:** Including pulses in crop rotations enhances soil structure, reduces disease cycles, and suppresses weeds, promoting healthier agricultural systems.

Prelims Takeaway

- Pulses
- NFSM-Pulses

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

8. India's nuanced approach in the South China Sea

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

News:

- Recently, India's External Affairs Minister, articulated, in a joint statement during his visit to Manila, India's full support for the Philippines in upholding its national sovereignty.

Key highlights

- A joint statement in 2023 between New Delhi and Manila had also called for China to adhere to the rules-based maritime order and acknowledge the International Court of Justice ruling of 2016 in favour of Manila.
- New Delhi's position on the South China Sea has changed significantly in recent years,

A policy evolution

- New Delhi's engagement with the region was initially primarily economic, driven by its Look East Policy
 - which aimed to enhance economic integration with Southeast Asia and the imperative to secure energy resources to fuel its growing economy.
- The transformation of India's policy orientation from Look East to Act East under Prime Minister administration has marked a shift towards a more strategic and active engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.
- This policy evolution reflects India's acknowledgment of the changing geopolitical landscape
- India has also simultaneously strengthened its own capacities through forward positioning, mission-based deployments, reinforced maritime domain awareness, and deep-water maritime facilities.

India's complex ties with China

- The two countries have a long history of border disputes which have intensified since the Galwan Valley incident of 2020
 - With Beijing's periodic incursions into India's territory and, most recently, even renaming Indian villages in Arunachal Pradesh.
- India sending a frontline warship to the South China Sea in a demonstration of India's capability for asymmetric deterrence.
- India's strategic engagements, including regular naval exercises and the strengthening of military cooperation with Southeast Asian nations, serve dual purposes:
 - they underscore India's commitment to regional security
 - act as a counter to China's unlawful assertions.

The ASEAN factor

- The disputes in the South China Sea, primarily involving China and several Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries
- As a responsible stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific, India can no longer shy away from taking unambiguous positions on matters of such critical importance.
- The ASEAN centrality in India's Indo-Pacific strategy also makes it imperative for India to buttress the ASEAN position

Conclusion

- India's nuanced approach in the South China Sea, therefore, is emblematic of its broader strategy aiming to safeguard its interests while contributing to a collective effort to maintain peace, stability, and respect for international law in the Indo-Pacific region.

9. Why have private investments dropped? The Hindu

Relevance: Indian economy and issues relating to development.

News:

- Private investments as measured by Gross Fixed Capital Formation are unable to pick up pace and have been on a steady decline since 2011-12.
- The Indian economy is plagued with this issue and the government hopes for large Indian corporations to step in and ramp up investment.

Highlights:

- The economic reforms of late 1980s and early 1990s led to a significant rise in private investment which in turn improved confidence of the private sector.
- Meanwhile, private investment has largely remained either slightly below or above 10% of GDP.
- Public investment as a percentage of GDP, on the other hand, steadily rose from less than 3% of GDP in 1950-51 to overtake private investment as a percentage of GDP in the early 1980s.
- It, however, began to drop post-liberalisation with private investment taking on the leading role in fixed capital formation.
- The growth in private investment lasted until the global financial crisis of 2007-08.
- It rose from around 10% of GDP in the 1980s to around 27% in 2007-08.
- From 2011-12 onwards, however, private investment began to drop and hit a low of 19.6% of the GDP in 2020-21.

Reasons of steady decline in Private Investment:

- Several economists blame low private consumption expenditure for the failure of private investments to pick up especially after the pandemic.
 - They state that strong consumption spending is required to give businesses confidence.
 - Sufficient demand for the output can be garnered once they decide to invest in building fixed capital.
- However, historically, there has been evidence of an inverse relationship between private consumption and private investment in India.
- The inverse relationship between consumption and investment is likely because the money that is allocated either by government or by private businesses towards savings and investment, comes at the cost of lower consumption expenditure.
- Other economists also believe, over the last decade, structural problems like unfavorable government policy and policy uncertainty may have caused the fall in private investment as a percentage of GDP.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):

- GFCF refers to the growth in the size of fixed capital in an economy.
- Fixed capital includes things such as buildings and machinery, which require investment to be created
- Private GFCF can serve to denote rough value of how much the private sector in an economy is willing to invest.
- GFCF also includes capital formation as a result of investment by the government.
- GFCF is important because fixed capital can help to boost economic growth and improve living standards.

10. Randomized control trials: the technique that transformed TB care- The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life.

Context:

- Tuberculosis is caused by **Mycobacterium tuberculosis (bacterial infection)**.
- Before antibiotics, TB treatments were largely care intensive, **surgical procedures** like lobectomy and pneumonectomy were performed by expert cardiothoracic surgeons. .
- **The discovery of antibiotics by Sir Alexander Fleming** marked the beginning of a new chapter in the fight against this persistent foe.
- However, the real revolution in TB treatment was brought on by the ground-breaking work of **Sir Austin Bradford Hill**.

Tuberculosis in India:

- With 25,37,235 TB cases notified in 2023, India has bettered the TB notification number achieved in 2022.
- the TB notification by the public sector reached 93% of the target, it was 89% in the case of the private sector.

Challenges

- Poor primary health-care and infrastructure in rural areas;
- Unregulated private health care;
- HIV induced TB cases
- Lack of hygiene facilities and widespread malnourishment and poverty.

TB CASES IN INDIA OVER THE YEARS

	India TB Report 2020	2023	2024
Estimated TB cases	26.9 lakh	27.4 lakh	27.8 lakh
Number of cases reported	24.04 lakh	24.2 lakh	25.5 lakh
Reporting from private sector	6.8 lakh	7.3 lakh	8.4 lakh
% cases from private sector	28.20%	30%	32.90%
Estimated mortality	4.36 lakh	3.2 lakh	3.2 lakh

India's Efforts:

- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan**
- National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025)
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojna**
- RePORT India: RePORT India (Regional Prospective Observational Research for Tuberculosis (TB)) is a bilateral, multi-organizational, collaborative effort established in 2013 under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Program (VAP).
- It aims to address the threat of TB to the people of India and across the globe.
- **Bharat Biotech**, based in Hyderabad, has started **clinical trials of MTBVAC**, the world's first Mycobacterium tuberculosis vaccine derived from a human source, in India

Drugs for TB:

- **Isoniazid (INH)**: It works by inhibiting the synthesis of mycolic acids in the bacterial cell wall.
- **Rifampicin (RIF)**: Rifampicin works by inhibiting the synthesis of RNA in the bacteria.
- **Delamanid**: Delamanid is a newer drug that is used in the treatment of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) used in combination with other drugs.



Mentorship

India

Quick Look

1. Leaf Litter Frog

- It is the most abundant species of frog in the forest community.
- It utilizes its high-frequency screams as a survival strategy.
- It inhabits primary and secondary forests and forest edges.
- It is usually found in the leaf-litter on the forest floor, or on leaves in low vegetation inside the forest.
- They are tiny and the largest of the species are females. In size, they are barely up to 64 millimeters (2.5 inches) in length.
- It is a species of frog endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic rainforest.
- The species is categorized as least concern under IUCN Conservation status

2. Heat wave

- The definition of a heatwave depends on the physiography of regions.
- heat wave is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to human body when exposed.
- The IMD will declare a heatwave:
 - If the maximum temperature recorded at a station is 40 degrees Celsius or more in the plains
 - 37 degrees Celsius or more in the coast, and 30 degrees Celsius or more in the hills.
- A heatwave's severity is determined by its departure from normal temperature.

3. Sonar

- Sound Navigation and Ranging (SONAR) is a tool that uses sound waves to explore the ocean.
- Scientists primarily use sonar to develop nautical charts, locate underwater hazards to navigation
 - search for and identify objects in the water column and on the seafloor such as shipwrecks, and map the seafloor itself.
- Sonar is used for oceanography because sound waves travel farther in the water than radar and light waves can.

4. Meningitis

- It is a serious infection that leads to the inflammation of the membranes (meninges) that surround and protect the brain and spinal cord.
- There are multiple causes of meningitis, including viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic pathogens.
- Bacterial meningitis, specifically caused by the meningococcus bacteria, is a particular concern in Africa and can also result in septicaemia (blood poisoning)
 - can seriously disable or kill within 24 hours those that contract it.
- It often includes headache, fever and stiff neck.
- A region of 26 countries known as the "African meningitis belt" stretches across the continent, including Nigeria

5. B Virus

- It is an alphaherpesvirus enzootic in macaques of the genus *Macaca*. B virus is the only identified old-world-monkey herpesvirus.
- It is also known as herpes B virus or Macacine herpesvirus 1 (McHV-1).
- It is a type of herpesvirus found in macaque monkeys, particularly rhesus macaques.
- It is asymptomatic in these animals; it can cause severe neurological complications, including encephalitis.
- In humans, it is transmitted through bites, scratches, or contact with infected bodily fluids.
- The transmission of this virus among humans is rare. So far, only one case of human to human transmission has been recorded

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about VVPAT:

1. The concept of the VVPAT machine was initially proposed in 2010 during a meeting between the (ECI) and political parties.
2. In 2011, the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 were amended to allow for a printer with a drop box to be attached to the EVM.
3. The VVPAT was first used in all 21 polling stations of the Noksen Assembly constituency of Manipur

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Codex Alimentarius recently seen in news, is related to :

- A. protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.
- B. Increasing public capex spending
- C. protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants
- D. None of the above

Q3. Consider the following statements

STATEMENT I: When fixed exchange rates ended in 1973, the IMF redefined the SDR as equivalent to the value of a basket of world currencies

STATEMENT II : it is considered as currency and its value is based on a basket of five currencies of the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.

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

Q4. Consider the following statements

STATEMENT I : long range subsonic cruise missile is indigenously developed by DRDO with help of Russia

STATEMENT II : The cruise missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance

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

Q5. Consider the following Statements:

1. Human influenza viruses are single-stranded DNA viruses.
2. H7N9 is a Avian Influenza Virus
3. Influenza D viruses primarily affect swine(pigs)

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. India has not ratified the Stockholm Convention.
2. Polyfluoroalkyl substances(PFAs) are used widely in non-stick cookwares
3. Persistent Organic Pollutants can degrade after some time in the environment.

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

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

Q7. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements:

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crops.
2. Gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q8. Which of the following country is bordered by south china sea:

1. Brunei
2. Indonesia
3. Malaysia

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following statements:

1. In the last decade, Private investment has been steadily increasing.
2. Since independence private investment has always been higher than public investment.

3. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) refers to net increase in fixed capital in the economy.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis:

1. WHO releases the Global Tuberculosis Report.
2. Nikshay Poshan Yojna provides a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 1000 per month for nutritional needs of TB patients.
3. Under The Saksham Project the Ministry of Health, provides psycho-social counseling to DR-TB patients.

Which 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-

- The concept of the VVPAT machine was initially proposed in 2010 during a meeting between the (ECI) and political parties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **In 2013**, the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 were amended to allow for a printer with a drop box to be attached to the EVM. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- The VVPAT was first used in all 21 polling stations of the Noksen Assembly constituency of Nagaland. **Hence Statement 3 is INcorrect.**

Answer 2 Option A is correct

Explanation:

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- CAC is an international food standards body established jointly by the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 1963 with the objective of protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in food trade.
- Recognition:
- The Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) recognizes Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as reference standards for international trade and trade dispute settlement. **Hence,option A is correct**

Answer 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- 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. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect**
- When fixed exchange rates ended in 1973, the IMF redefined the SDR as equivalent to the value of a basket of world currencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

Answer 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- This successful flight test has also established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru

- The cruise missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of a “long range subsonic indigenously developed cruise missile” from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect**

Answer 5 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- Influenza D viruses primarily affect cattle and are not known to infect or cause illness in people. **Hence Statement 3 is INcorrect**
- H7N9 is a sub-type of Avian Influenza Virus. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Human influenza viruses are single-stranded RNA viruses. **Hence Statement 1 is INcorrect.**

Answer 6 Option A is correct.

Explanation:

- India has ratified the Stockholm convention in 2006. **Statement is incorrect.**
- Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) are used widely in non-stick cookwares, cosmetics, water repellent clothing etc. **Statement 2 is correct.**
- POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for a long period of time. **Statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 7 Option B is Correct

Explanation:

- Black gram is a warm weather crop and comes up in areas receiving an annual rainfall ranging from 600 to 1000 mm. Hence, although it can be grown in all the seasons, the majority of black gram cultivation falls in either rabi or late rabi seasons. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), the share of pulse production in 2018- 19 was comprised of Tur (15.34%), **Gram (43.29%)**, Moong (green gram, 10.04%), Urad (black gram, 13.93%), Lentil (6.67%), and Other Pulses (10%). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- According to a NITI Aayog report, thus, in the last three decades, both the production of kharif pulses and the production of rabi pulses **have increased. Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect.**

Answer 8 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The South China Sea is situated just south of the Chinese mainland and is bordered by the countries of Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. The countries have bickered over territorial control in the sea for centuries, but in recent years tensions have soared to new heights. **Hence all options are correct**

Answer 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Private investment has witnessed a steady decline since 2011-12. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- From less than 3% of GDP in 1950-51 Public investment steadily rose over the decades to overtake private investment as a percentage of GDP in the early 1980s. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**

- GFCF refers to the growth in the size of fixed capital in an economy. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Answer 10 Option A is Correct

Explanation:

- WHO releases the Global Tuberculosis Report. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nikshay Poshan Yojna provides a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 500 per month for nutritional needs. **Hence, statement 2 is INcorrect.**
- The Saksham Project: It is a project of the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)** that has been providing psycho-social counseling to DR-TB patients. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect.**



Mentorship
India

Mentorship India

Our mission is crystal clear – to provide the finest UPSC mentorship and guidance available in India. We recognize that the path to success in the UPSC examination is both demanding and multifaceted. This is precisely why we have developed a comprehensive approach that goes beyond conventional coaching. Our commitment lies in fostering excellence by equipping aspirants with the necessary tools, knowledge, and unwavering support to not only excel in the examination but also in life itself.

Mentorship India represents more than just an organization; it is a community of ambitious individuals bound together by the shared objective of conquering the UPSC examination. We warmly invite you to embark on this transformative journey alongside us. Whether you are a novice taking your initial steps or a seasoned aspirant aiming for the pinnacle, Mentorship India is your dependable companion in the relentless pursuit of excellence.

+91 9999 057869
www.mentorshipindia.com

A-92, Third Floor, Hari Nagar
Delhi - 110064

 @mentorship.india