

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



Date: 27 Feb. 2024

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2. PM to inaugurate three ISRO facilities today -The Hindu
3. First private ammunition manufacture facility opens-The Hindu
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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Govt. launches project aimed at anemia control in girls-The Hindu

Relevance: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Prelims Takeaway

- Anemia Mukht Bharat initiative
- Anemia

News:

- The Centre launched an **initiative to improve nutrition in adolescent girls using Ayurveda.**

Key Highlights

- The project for anemia control under **Mission Utkarsh** will be a **joint public health initiative by the Ministries of Ayush and Women and Child Development**
- It would be launched in **five aspirational districts first as a pilot project.**
- The two ministries signed an MoU for the scheme.
- Under Mission Utkarsh, 15 central ministries or departments will work to elevate districts at the bottom, to State and national averages.
- This project will cover approximately **10,000 Anganwadi Centres in the five districts.**
- Ayush systems, backed by evidence from institutions like ICMR, will offer cost-effective solution to tackle anemia

Anemia Mukht Bharat initiative

- The initiative aims to create awareness about the causes and consequences of anemia among policymakers, healthcare providers, communities, and individuals.
- Improve the **delivery and quality of anemia-related healthcare services**, particularly at the primary healthcare level.
- Ensure timely diagnosis and **treatment of anemia through regular screening and health check-ups.**
- Promote appropriate and balanced nutrition, including dietary diversification, consumption of iron-rich foods, and nutritional supplementation for vulnerable groups.
- **Emphasize breastfeeding and complementary feeding** practices to address anemia in infants and young children.
- **Encourage the fortification of food staples** such as rice, wheat, and salt with essential micronutrients, including iron and folic acid.

India

GS III

2. PM to inaugurate three ISRO facilities today -The Hindu

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

Prelims Takeaway

- PSLV
- ISRO

News:

- Prime Minister will review the progress of the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and dedicate three facilities** of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Key Highlights

- Gaganyaan, expected to be launched in 2025, envisages a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by sending astronauts to orbit and returning them safely to the Earth.
- **PM will dedicate:**
 - the Trisonic Wind Tunnel established at the VSSC
 - integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) set up at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota,

- the Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The wind tunnel, which is the first of its kind in the country, has a **Mach number range of 0.2 to 4**
 - which means it can generate speeds ranging from subsonic to supersonic up to four times the speed of sound (Mach number 4).
- The tunnel will provide self-reliance in the end-to-end design of upcoming launch vehicle projects.
- The new **PSLV Integration Facilities (PIF) at Sriharikota will give ISRO the capability to increase the number of PSLV missions** in a year to 15.
- At the new facility, the PSLV rocket will be integrated parallelly with the refurbishment of the launch pad.
- SIET will give the ISRO the capability to test the SCE-2000 semi-cryogenic engine which uses refined kerosene (named ISROSENE) and liquid oxygen as propellants and the rocket stage.

3. First private ammunition manufacture facility opens-The Hindu

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- In a first in the private sector, **two facilities for the manufacture of ammunition and missiles were opened by Adani Defence and Aerospace** in Kanpur.

Prelims Takeaway

- MAKE programmes
- Balakot

Key Highlights

- The twin-facility complex, spread over 500 acres, was inaugurated by Army Chief Gen. and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.
- Simultaneously, **MAKE programmes for developing new-generation ammunition**, including electronic fuses currently not held in the inventory, are also being processed.”
- The Kanpur complex is set to **become one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia**
- The facilities will produce high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police.
- The facility has started rolling out small caliber ammunition, starting with 150 million rounds estimated at 25% of India’s annual requirement.”
- The unveiling coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Balakot air strike when the Indian Air Force hit terror camps in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019.

Export potential

- Noting that the ammunition categories proposed for manufacturing by the Army also **have sufficient export potential**
- Considering the limited players in the field worldwide with expertise in ammunition manufacturing, and our competitive manufacturing cost, the Indian industry will have a huge advantage.

4. India-specific AI model to find gestational age developed-The Hindu

Relevance: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

News:

- Researchers have developed an **India-specific artificial intelligence model to precisely determine the gestational age of a fetus** in the second and third trimester of pregnancy.

Prelims Takeaway

- INDIAai.
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence

Key Highlights

- The model has been designed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad.
- It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes — **DBT India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme**.
- **The Garbhini-GA2 is the first late-trimester GA estimation model** to be developed and validated using Indian population data.

- Currently models used for Western population are in use which could prove erroneous when applied in the later part of pregnancy due to variations in the growth of the fetus in the Indian population
- The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates **the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times.**
- The Indian data would help to **provide appropriate care for pregnant women and determine the precise date of birth**, thus reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI is the ability of a computer, or a robot controlled by a computer to do tasks that are usually done by humans because they require human intelligence and judgment.
- Although no AI can perform the wide variety of tasks an ordinary human can do, **some AI can match humans in specific tasks.**
- The ideal characteristic of AI is its ability to rationalize and take actions that have the best chance of achieving a specific goal.
- A subset of AI is **Machine Learning (ML).**
- **Deep Learning (DL):**
 - techniques enable this automatic learning through the absorption of huge amounts of unstructured data such as text, images, or video.

India's Other Initiatives Related to Artificial Intelligence

- INDIAai.
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).
- US India Artificial Intelligence Initiative.
- Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Youth.
- Artificial Intelligence Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform.

5. Govt. concludes G-Sec borrowing for FY24-The Hindu

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

News:

- **The government will not borrow through Treasury Bills** “for the sake of borrowing” during the remaining period of the current fiscal, a senior Finance Ministry official said.

Prelims Takeaway

- Capital expenditure
- Dividend from RBI

Key Highlights

- The government has completed G Sec borrowing for the current fiscal and it expects a dividend from the Reserve Bank of India in FY25, similar to FY24.
- Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry official said 80% of capital expenditure and 79% of Revenue Expenditure has been completed as of early February and the expectation is to achieve RE by end March.
- During the January-March quarter, the Government in consultation with RBI, planned to borrow ₹3.93 lakh crore through 13 weekly auctions of T Bills.
- So far 8 auctions have been completed, while the plan is to raise ₹1.7 lakh crore via the remaining five auctions with the next one scheduled for Wednesday.

No coupon rate

- T Bill is an instrument which is issued at a discount while redeemed at par.
- Since there is no coupon rate payable on such an instrument, **the difference between discount price and face value is earning for the investors.**
- Such an instrument is issued in three maturities – **91 days, 182 days and 364 days.**
- At the same time, the government also goes for long-term borrowing with dated Government Securities (G Sec).
- Maturity period for such a bond could be anywhere between 1 year and/or up to 50 years.
- Such bonds carry interest rate and enjoy sovereign guarantee for principal and interest.
- **Borrowing through dated securities is part of government borrowing** as mentioned in the budget and used to bridge the fiscal deficit.

Dividend from RBI

- Meanwhile, the government expects that its dividend income from the Reserve Bank of India for the current financial year ending March is to stay at levels similar to the last financial year.

Capital expenditure

- The official said capital expenditure as a percentage of Revised Estimates (RE) has exceeded revenue expenditure.
- The official hoped that RE for both expenditures will be met.

6. MoSPI household expenditure survey came amid internal wrangling over future round- Indian express

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

News:

- The release of the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23** last week came after an internal wrangling over whether to continue with the next round of the survey for 2023-24 or simply junk it.

Prelims Takeaway

- Household Consumption Expenditure Survey
- MoSPI

Key Highlights

- It is learnt that there was a move by an influential section within the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) to **shelve the survey's fieldwork for 2023-24**
 - That is currently underway, citing the finalisation of 2022-23 survey results.
- **MoSPI has been working on back-to-back surveys for 2022-23 and 2023-24** to see whether the revised methodology is giving robust and stable results for consumption expenditure.
- The intent behind conducting back-to-back surveys for 2022-23 and 2023-24 was to assess the robustness of the revised methodology, officials said.
- In the revamped HCES for 2022-23, several new features have been introduced including the segregation of the consumption basket into three broad categories
 - Food items, consumables and services, and durable goods — along with inclusion of questions seeking inputs on free items and subsidies under welfare schemes such as foodgrains.

Key Points of survey

- The survey has covered **2.62 lakh households**, out of which 1.55 lakh were in rural areas and 1.07 lakh were in urban areas.
- The HCES 2022-23 results showed that **rural consumption spending rose more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23**
 - With a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households.
- Rural average monthly **consumption spending per person increased to Rs 3,773 per month in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 per person in 2011-12**, a jump of 164 per cent.
- This is higher than the 146 per cent increase in urban average monthly consumption expenditure per person to Rs 6,459 in 2022-23 compared with Rs 2,630 per person in 2011-12.

7. Center amends IT rules to issue orders for destroying interception records- Indian Express

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

News:

- The government has amended the Information Technology (IT) rules
- The rules allow for **the Home Secretary or other bureaucrats in the Centre to issue directions to destroy digital records of interception or decrypt information.**

Key Highlights

- So far, the **power lies with security agencies**, such as law enforcement bodies.
- The change will broaden powers of the Centre to issue directions to destroy digital evidence.

Prelims Takeaway

- IT Rules
- Censorship

- In a gazette notification, the IT Ministry said that it was **amending Section 23 of the Information Technology** (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009
 - By substituting “security agency” with the words “competent authority and the security agency”.
- The Rule 23 of this law states that **every record, including electronic records pertaining to directions for interception or monitoring or decryption of information**
 - And of intercepted or monitored or decrypted information shall be destroyed by the security agency in every six months
 - Except in a case where such information is required, or likely to be required for functional requirements.

Changes in IT Rules

- The 2021 IT Rules replaced the previous guidelines and sought to **regulate intermediaries and digital news media**.
- Social media platforms were required to provide technological solutions to **identify the first originator of any information, risking privacy**.
- The amendments introduced in **April 2023 give the government power to decide for itself what information is bogus and exercise wide-ranging powers of censorship**
 - by compelling intermediaries to take down posts deemed fake or false.
- The new regulations threaten freedom of speech and civil liberties in India by restricting speech through executive order rather than legislation.

8. Trade diplomacy: Govt depts red-flag high duties to curb China imports, seek nuance in strategy- Indian express

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

News:

- MULTIPLE WINGS IN the government have started to red-flag the Centre’s moves to progressively hike customs duties, especially the more recent offensive targeted at imports of Chinese components and inputs.

Prelims Takeaway

- RCEP
- Production-Linked Incentive scheme

Key Highlights

- A section within the government is in favor of a more nuanced approach in using tariffs as a diplomatic tool
- failing which there is a possibility of the **gains of India’s manufacturing-focused thrust that include schemes such as Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** being squandered away.
- **China still accounts for 14 per cent of India’s imports** with not just inputs for the domestic industry in sectors ranging from electronics to pharmaceuticals and textiles to leather,
 - but also capital goods, being sourced from China.
- This, coupled with the fact that average tariffs in **India have jumped to 18.1 per cent in 2022 from 13 per cent eight years ago in 2014**,
 - has made India uncompetitive vis-a-vis countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Mexico.
- The roadblocks to imports in these sectors is leading to either a loss of domestic output or simply a loss of competitive advantage for Indian manufacturing.

TRADE DIPLOMACY WITH CHINA

- Earlier this year, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) relayed concerns about high production cost due to high tariffs to the Finance Ministry.
- MeitY had pushed for a lowering of duties of about 20 per cent on parts including circuit boards, chargers and fully assembled phones, by at least 5 percentage points.
- Moreover, to check cheap quality imports from China, **India imposed Quality Control Orders (QCOs) that restrict MSMEs** from getting necessary input material.

- WHILE India Inc has mostly been at the forefront of pushing for protectionist measures including tariff and non-tariff barriers
 - It is the industry itself which wants the government to reduce duties on imports of capital goods and key inputs across sectors.
- **India accounts for negligible share in China's total trade**, but significantly depends on Chinese imports in key sectors including pharmaceuticals and electronics.
- Official data shows that **India is home to barely 3 percent of Chinese exports**.
- **India has chosen to stay out** of important mega regional trading arrangements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- **Analysts caution that in some cases** where customs duty hikes have been proposed, duties are close to or have effectively **crossed the WTO-mandated "bound rates"**.
 - These are the customs duty rates that a country commits to all other members under the MFN principle
 - and breaching these rates could effectively put a country at risk of being branded as "protectionist"
- The implementation of the duty hike on solar panels from September 2017 was opposed by both the New and Renewable Energy Ministry and solar project developers.

9. PM launches 2,000 railway infra projects worth around ₹41,000 crore- The Hindu

Relevance: Infrastructure – Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates significant **railway projects** to boost infrastructure development.

Key Highlights

- The project is a testament to the **rapid pace of development** in modern India.
- Infrastructure has a **role in positioning India** as an attractive investment destination.

Focus on Station Redevelopment

- Foundation stone has been laid for **554 station redevelopment projects** under the 'Amrit Bharat' station scheme.
- There is the introduction of **upgraded passenger facilities** to selected stations,
 - including improved foot-over bridges, waiting areas, and surveillance systems.

Gomtinagar Station Redevelopment

- There was **inauguration of Gomtinagar station** in Uttar Pradesh, costing approximately ₹385 crore.
- This is one glimpse of Railways Transformation and Growth.

Overcoming Historical Challenges

- Financial losses, in railways have been shifted towards **profitability and expansion**.
- There is notable improvement in Railway Budget allocation and **reduction of losses over the past decade**.

Accelerated Track Expansion

- The Railway Minister **announced plans** to add 5,000 km of new tracks in FY24,
- Railway Line of 31,000 km was added in the **last 10 years**.
- There is **significant increase** in track expansion rate
 - From 4 km per day (2004-14) to 15 km per day currently.

Electrification Milestone

- Over **41,000 km of tracks** was electrified, marking a historic achievement for Indian Railways.
- **Completion timeline** for station redevelopment projects estimated at 3 years.

Prelims Takeaway

- Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
- PM-Gati SHAKTI

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

10. What is the new FPI fraud SEBI has warned investors against- Indian Express

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

Context:

- The markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has warned individuals against fraudulent trading platforms falsely claiming or suggesting affiliation with its registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- These platforms are misleading individuals by claiming to offer them trading opportunities through FPI or Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) sub-accounts or institutional accounts with special privileges.

What is the modus operandi?

- The SEBI said it has received many complaints where fraudsters are enticing victims through online trading courses, seminars, and mentorship programs
 - In the stock market, leveraging social media platforms like WhatsApp or Telegram, as well as live broadcasts.
- These scamsters are posing as employees or affiliates of SEBI-registered FPIs, and coaxing individuals into downloading applications
 - That purportedly allow them to purchase shares, subscribe to IPOs, and enjoy 'institutional account benefits'
 - All without the need for an official trading or Demat account.
- These operations often use mobile numbers registered under false names to orchestrate the fraudulent schemes, SEBI, said.

What has SEBI clarified?

- The market regulator clarified that the FPI investment route is unavailable to resident Indians, with limited exceptions as outlined in the SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2019.
- "There is no provision for an 'Institutional Account' in trading and direct access to the equities market requires investors to have a trading and Demat account
 - With a SEBI-registered broker/trading member and depository participant (DP) respectively," the regulator said.
- SEBI has not granted any relaxations to FPIs regarding securities market investments by Indian investors

Foreign Portfolio Investors

- Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
 - Examples of FPIs include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds, American Depository Receipts (ADRs), and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).
- FPI is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP).
- The BOP measures the amount of money flowing from one country to other countries over one monetary year.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) brought new FPI Regulations, 2019, replacing the erstwhile FPI Regulations of 2014.

What should investors do to stay safe?

- SEBI has urged investors to exercise caution and to steer clear of any social media messages, WhatsApp groups, Telegram channels, or apps
 - Claiming to facilitate stock market access through FPIs or FIIs registered with SEBI.
- Such schemes are fraudulent and do not have SEBI's endorsement, the regulator said.

11. An expansive land management policy is overdue-The Hindu

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

Context:

- Land multi-dimensional character of land is often overlooked in land management practices, resulting in excessive stress, land degradation, and environmental draw down.

<p>Key Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globally, the annual losses of ecosystem services due to land degradation has been estimated at \$6 trillion. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14) in New Delhi in 2019 specifically discussed the problem of land degradation experienced by different countries and the need to find ways of achieving land degradation neutrality. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report on 'Climate Change and Land' (2019) suggested country-level stocktaking of land management practices. It also proposed several near- and long-term actions with the thrust on land management options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that reduce competition for land with co-benefits and minimum negative impacts on key ecosystem services. The Food and Agriculture Organization report, argued that a sense of urgency needs to prevail over a hitherto neglected area of public policy and human welfare <p>The challenges in India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India with only 2.4% of the world's geographical area and more than 17% of the world population experiences several land management challenges. Arable land in India is around 55% of total geographical area and forest cover accounts for another 22%. Around 30% of total geographical area is degraded land. Across the country, natural areas are being squeezed and ecological functions being lost. Not only does this adversely affect the livelihood opportunities of the people who directly depend on environmental resources and agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But also, the buffering effects of natural ecosystems in the face of disasters such as floods and droughts, Climate change has brought with it another set of challenges. 	<p>land management practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In India, current land management practices are sectoral with each department following its own approach. Land management falls under the purview of State governments. Further, cultural land is privately owned and land-use decisions are constitutionally vested with the owner. Apart from this administrative complexity, the challenges to adopt and implement appropriate land management practices in the country include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge gaps a short-term planning bias a fragmented approach lack of action for unforeseen events regulatory barriers. it is imperative to set up a multi-stakeholder platform at the district and sub-district levels to bring together farmers, other land managers, policymakers, civil society organisations, business leaders, and investors under a common platform. Article 243ZD (1) of the Constitution provides for district planning committees to consolidate plans from panchayats and municipalities.
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Conclusion

- Perhaps, India's parliamentarians can initiate deliberations on the emerging challenges of integrated land management practices
 - Help devise appropriate policies for long-term sustainability by involving all actors across the scale, both horizontal and vertical.

Quick Look

1. Flue-Cured Tobacco

- Curing is a process by which the harvested tobacco leaf is made ready for the market.
- It is a well-standardized process especially in FCV tobacco to achieve the desirable qualities in the cured leaf along with the removal of moisture.
- There are three types of tobacco curing methods traditionally used: Air-Cured, Fire-Cured, and Flue-Cured.
- Each of the different curing methods results in a tobacco product that is distinguishable by both its nicotine content and its aroma.
- Why is Tobacco cured?
 - To create smoking tobacco, the tobacco leaves need to be cured, or dried out.
 - The wet, green tobacco leaves of a tobacco plant initially contain too much moisture to catch fire.
 - They also have higher chlorophyll content.
- By releasing a certain amount of chlorophyll from the leaves during the drying-out process, the natural tannins come out giving the smoked tobacco its flavour and scent.

2. Investor Information and Analytics Platform

- It acts as a one-stop shop for startups to seamlessly access Venture Capitalists (VCs) and investor networks, Govt schemes and several other components of the startup landscape for all stakeholders.
- By integrating information at different levels, the platform is also a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs to search for information on government agencies, incubators, investors, VCs and banks that invest in startups.
- This platform has been developed by the Researchers at the Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing (CREST) of IIT Madras.
- It will significantly help startup founders, entrepreneurs and Young Indians who intend to build their own devices, services and platforms for India and for the world.
- An important feature of this unique platform is “StartupGPT” which is an AI-based conversational platform whose function is to help ease information access for those who are navigating exhaustive data.

3. Know Your Customer

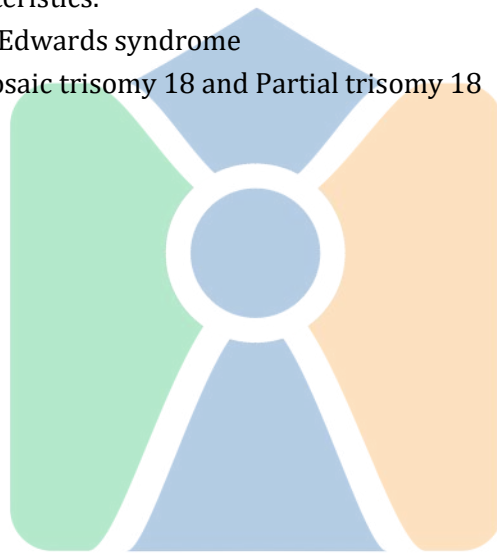
- It is a comprehensive process that financial and non-financial institutions follow to verify the authenticity and identity of their customers.
- The KYC process is mandatory for every customer before investing in any instruments or starting a bank account.
- In India at present, separate KYCs are needed for different financial products such as opening a bank account, investing in mutual funds, buying a life cover or investing in retirement-savings funds.
- Multiple KYCs, regular updates and even the exact specifications often prove to be a deterrent for new investors.
- To eliminate the need to do repeated KYC for investing across financial assets, the central government launched the Central KYC Records Registry.

4. World Trade Organization (WTO)

- WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.
- WTO is a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It is also a place for them to settle trade disputes.
- It was created by Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) and is headquartered in Geneva.

5. Edwards syndrome

- It is also known as trisomy 18.
- It is an autosomal chromosomal disorder due to an extra copy of chromosome 18.
- It is a very severe genetic condition that affects a child's body development and growth.
- Symptoms: Children diagnosed with trisomy 18 have a low birth weight, multiple birth defects and defining physical characteristics.
- There are three types of Edwards syndrome
- Complete trisomy 18, Mosaic trisomy 18 and Partial trisomy 18



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q.1 Consider the following statements with reference to Mission Utkarsh

1. The project for anemia control under Mission Utkarsh will be a joint public health initiative by the Ministries of Ayush and Women and Child Development
2. Under Mission Utkarsh, 15 central ministries or departments will work to elevate districts at the bottom, to State and national averages.
3. This project will cover approximately 10,000 Anganwadi Centres in the five districts.
4. Ayush systems, backed by evidence from institutions like ICMR, will offer cost-effective solution to tackle anemia

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q.2 Consider the following statements regarding the Trisonic Wind Tunnel established at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC):

1. Trisonic Wind Tunnel is a facility primarily designed for studying supersonic and hypersonic aerodynamics.
2. The Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC is named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the visionary scientist and founding father of the Indian space program.
3. VSSC's Trisonic Wind Tunnel is equipped with three different speeds of airflow, allowing researchers to simulate various flight conditions.

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

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

Q.3 Consider the following statements

1. MAKE programmes for developing new-generation ammunition, including electronic fuses

2. The Kanpur complex is set to become one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia
3. The facilities will produce high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police.

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

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

Q.4 Consider the following statements with reference to Garbhini-GA2

1. The Garbhini-GA2 is the first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data.
2. The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the fetus' age, reducing error by almost three times.
3. The Indian data would help to provide appropriate care for pregnant women and determine the precise date of birth, thus reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

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

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

Q.5. Consider the following statements regarding Treasury Bills (T-Bills):

1. Treasury Bills are long-term debt instruments issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. T-Bills are issued with maturities ranging from 1 year to 10 years.
3. The interest earned on Treasury Bills is exempt from income tax in India.
4. T-Bills are considered a monetary policy tool used by the central bank to control money supply.

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q.6 Consider the following statements about Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23

1. Rural consumption spending fallen more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23
2. There is a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households.
3. Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased

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

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

Q.7. Consider the following statements about new IT Rule

1. Social media platforms were required to provide technological solutions to identify the first originator of any information, risking privacy.
2. The amendments introduced in April 2023 give the government power to decide for itself what information is bogus and exercise wide-ranging powers of censorship by compelling intermediaries to take down posts deemed fake or false.
3. The new regulations threaten freedom of speech and civil liberties in India by restricting speech through executive order rather than legislation.

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

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

Q. 8 Consider the following statements

1. To check cheap quality imports from China, India imposed Quality Control Orders (QCOs) that restrict MSMEs from getting necessary input material.
2. India accounts for negligible share in China's total trade, but significantly depends on Chinese imports in key sectors including pharmaceuticals and electronics.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q9. Consider the following statements about Indian Railway

1. Shubhankar named 'Bholu created by the IRCTC is mascot of Indian Railway
2. The Indian Railways ranks as the world's fourth-largest railway network
3. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and Kalka Shimla Railway are UNESCO-recognized world heritage sites,

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

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

Q10. Consider the following statements about FPI

1. Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.
2. It provides the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market.
3. FPI is part of a country's current account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP).

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 D is correct

Explanation

- The project for anemia control under Mission Utkarsh will be a joint public health initiative by the Ministries of Ayush and Women and Child Development **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- It would be launched in five aspirational districts first as a pilot project.
- The two ministries signed an MoU for the scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Under Mission Utkarsh, 15 central ministries or departments will work to elevate districts at the bottom, to State and national averages.
- This project will cover approximately 10,000 Anganwadi Centres in the five districts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
- Ayush systems, backed by evidence from institutions like ICMR, will offer cost-effective solution to tackle anemia **Hence, statement 4 is correct**

Answer 2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Trisonic Wind Tunnel is indeed a facility designed to study aerodynamics in the supersonic and hypersonic regimes. It allows researchers to simulate conditions that are encountered by vehicles traveling at high speeds, such as spacecraft and missiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Trisonic Wind Tunnel at VSSC is not named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. It is actually named after Dr. Satish Dhawan, who succeeded Dr. Vikram Sarabhai as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The term "Trisonic" implies the presence of three different speeds of airflow in the wind tunnel. This feature allows researchers to conduct experiments at subsonic, transonic, and supersonic speeds, providing a comprehensive understanding of aerodynamic behavior. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The twin-facility complex, spread over 500 acres, was inaugurated by Army Chief Gen. and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.
- Simultaneously, MAKE programmes for developing new-generation ammunition, including electronic fuses currently not held in the inventory, are also being processed." **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Kanpur complex is set to become one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The facilities will produce high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police.
- The facility has started rolling out small caliber ammunition, starting with 150 million rounds estimated at 25% of India's annual requirement." **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- It is part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes — DBT India initiative (GARBH-Ini) programme.
- The Garbhini-GA2 is the first late-trimester GA estimation model to be developed and validated using Indian population data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Currently models used for Western population are in use which could prove erroneous when applied in the later part of pregnancy due to variations in the growth of the fetus in the Indian population
- The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The Indian data would help to provide appropriate care for pregnant women and determine the precise date of birth, thus reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 5 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Treasury Bills are short-term debt instruments, not long-term. They are typically issued for maturities ranging from 91 days to 364 days. Long-term debt instruments are usually in the form of government bonds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- T-Bills are issued with short-term maturities, generally ranging from 91 days to 364 days, making them a short-term debt instrument. Longer-term debt instruments may include government bonds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The interest earned on Treasury Bills is not exempt from income tax. The interest income is taxable, and investors need to include it in their income tax returns. **Hence, statement 3 is INcorrect**
- T-Bills are indeed considered a monetary policy tool. By buying or selling T-Bills in the open market, the central bank (Reserve Bank of India) can influence the money supply and implement monetary policy objectives. **Hence, statement 4 is correct**

Answer 6 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The survey has covered 2.62 lakh households, out of which 1.55 lakh were in rural areas and 1.07 lakh were in urban areas.
- The HCES 2022-23 results showed that rural consumption spending rose more sharply than urban spending in 11 years till 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- with a fall in share of expenditure on food for both rural and urban households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Rural average monthly consumption spending per person increased to Rs 3,773 per month in 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 per person in 2011-12, a jump of 164 per cent. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The 2021 IT Rules replaced the previous guidelines and sought to regulate intermediaries and digital news media.
- Social media platforms were required to provide technological solutions to identify the first originator of any information, risking privacy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The amendments introduced in April 2023 give the government power to decide for itself what information is bogus and exercise wide-ranging powers of censorship **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- by compelling intermediaries to take down posts deemed fake or false.
- The new regulations threaten freedom of speech and civil liberties in India by restricting speech through executive order rather than legislation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 8 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- Moreover, to check cheap quality imports from China, India imposed Quality Control Orders (QCOs) that restrict MSMEs from getting necessary input material. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- WHILE India Inc has mostly been at the forefront of pushing for protectionist measures including tariff and non-tariff barriers
- It is the industry itself which wants the government to reduce duties on imports of capital goods and key inputs across sectors.
- India accounts for negligible share in China's total trade, but significantly depends on Chinese imports in key sectors including pharmaceuticals and electronics.
- Official data shows that India is home to barely 3 percent of Chinese exports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- India has chosen to stay out of important mega regional trading arrangements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Answer 9 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- The Indian Railways boasts its own mascot, a 'Shubhankar named 'Bholu,' created by the National Institute of Design in 2002. Bholu is an elephant dressed as a railway guard, introduced on the railways' 150th anniversary. **Hence, statement 1 is INcorrect**
- The Indian Railways ranks as the world's fourth-largest railway network, encompassing a track length of 67,368 km. Only the US, China, and Russia have larger networks. It's also the world's second-largest network managed under a single administration, spanning 115,000 km. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- The Indian Railways takes pride in owning four UNESCO-recognized world heritage sites,
- Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and Kalka Shimla Railway. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Answer 10 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the volatility of the market. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- Examples of FPIs include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds, American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs).
- FPI is part of a country's capital account and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP). **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**

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