



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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SOURCES



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1. A call to action for a sustainable future

Source: IE, Page 6

Prelims: World Environment Day (WED)

Mains: Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation

The article emphasizes the urgency and importance of taking proactive measures to restore the earth's environment. It highlights the theme for World Environment Day 5 June 2024, "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration," led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

World Environment Day (WED) 2024

- **Theme and Slogan:** "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration."
- **Objective:** To raise awareness and inspire action towards addressing environmental challenges such as land degradation, desertification, and drought resilience.
- **Host:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Importance and Goals

- **Global Platform:** WED, led by UNEP since 1973, is the biggest global platform to spotlight environmental challenges and inspire positive change.
- **Key Statistics:**
 - Annually, 12 million hectares of land are lost to drought, capable of producing 20 million tonnes of grain, leading to food insecurity.
 - Land degradation can disrupt natural processes, causing the extinction of up to 1 million species.
- **Actions and Commitments:**
 - Focus on restoring ecosystems by replanting forests, rewetting marshes, and reviving soils.
 - UNEP calls for urgent action to prevent, halt, and reverse ecosystem degradation.

Collective Responsibility and Future Vision

- **Interconnected Actions:** The need for global collective and unrelenting response to environmental challenges.
- **Role of Stakeholders:** Governments, individuals, and communities must scale up successful initiatives and invest in innovative solutions.
- **Long-Term Goals:** Achieving a sustainable future and better quality of life for future generations through concerted efforts in land restoration and environmental protection.



InBrief

2. Netherlands turns third largest export destination

Source: The Hindu, Page 22

Context: The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the U.S. and UAE during 2023-24.

More in News

- Significant exports to the Netherlands included petroleum products valued at USD 14.29 billion, along with electrical goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has also increased from USD 8 billion in 2021-22 to USD 13 billion in 2022-23.
- The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany.
- In 2021-22, the Netherlands was the fifth largest destination for Indian exports as against ninth in 2020-21.

3. Sukhoi fighter jet crashes in Nashik

Source: The Hindu, Page 21

Context: An SU-30MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Nashik.

Sukhoi 30MKI

- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a two-seater, twinjet multirole air superiority fighter.
- It is developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi and built under license by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- A variant of the Sukhoi Su-30, it is a heavy, all-weather, long-range fighter.
- The Su-30MKI is a highly integrated twin-finned aircraft.
- The Su-30MKI has a range of 3,000 km with internal fuel which ensures a 3.75 hour combat mission.



4. Hundreds in emergency shelters after Philippine volcano erupts

Source: The Hindu, Page 24

Context: At least 2,800 people have moved into emergency centres after a volcano Mount Kanlaon erupted in the central Philippines

Mount Kanlaon

- Mount Kanlaon is the highest point in Negros Island in Philippines, as well as the whole Visayas region, with an elevation of 2,465 metres above sea level.
- Mount Kanlaon ranks as the 42nd-highest peak of an island in the world.
- It is an active andesitic stratovolcano. Andesite is a volcanic rock of intermediate composition. In a general sense, it is the intermediate type between silica-poor basalt and silica-rich rhyolite.



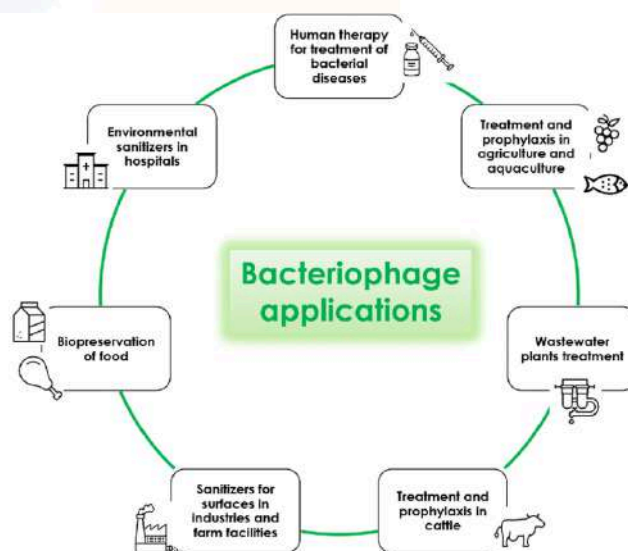
5. The bacteria that write new genes to cope with infections

Source: The Hindu, 25

Context: Columbia University researchers suggest that when Klebsiella pneumoniae bacteria are infected by bacteriophages, they take the help of reverse transcriptase to create a specific protein called Neo.

Bacteriophages

- Bacteriophages, or phages, are viruses that infect only bacterial cells. They are abundant and diverse in size and structure.
- They consist of genetic material encased in a protein shell. Phages use Brownian motion to reach their targets since they are not motile.
- Bacteriophages play a significant role in the human microbiome, serving as essential facilitators of genetic exchange between pathogenic and non-pathogenic bacteria.
- Phages can be engineered to introduce genes into specific bacteria for clinical purposes



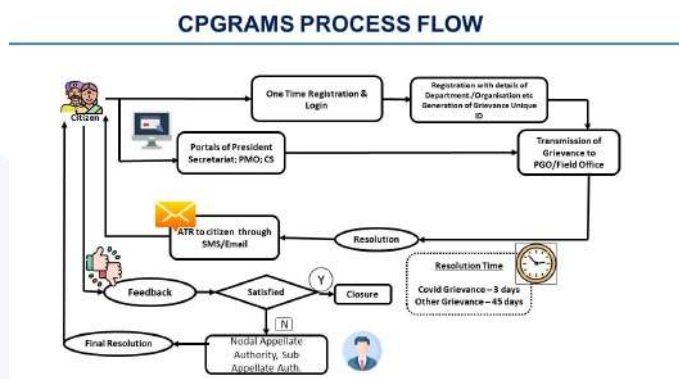
6. DARPG Secretary presents CPGRAMS to the representatives of US Government

Source: PIB

Context: Department of Administrative reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) Secretary presents “CPGRAMS: A Foundation for SMART Government” to the representatives of US Government, and key stakeholders at a meeting convened by IBM Centre for The Business of Government.

CPGRAMS

- Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
- It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States. Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system.
- CPGRAMS also provides an appeal facility to the citizens if they are not satisfied with the resolution by the Grievance Officer.



7. Second Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of Horticultural Crops

Source: PIB

Context: The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Second Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of various Horticultural Crops compiled on the basis of information received from States/ UTs and other Governmental source agencies.

In Detail

- The horticulture production in the country in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) is estimated to be about 352.23 Million Tonnes, a decrease of about 32.51 Lakh Tonnes (0.91%) over 2022-23 (Final Estimates).
- Increase in production of Fruits, Honey, Flowers, Plantation Crops, Spices and Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is seen over 2023-24 (Final Estimates) whereas decrease in Vegetables.
- The production of Fruits is expected to reach 112.63 Million Tonnes, mainly due to increases in production of Banana, Lime/Lemon, Mango, Guava and Grapes. On the other hand, production of Apple and Pomegranate are expected to decrease as compared to 2022-23
- Production of Onion is expected to be at 242.12 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) compared to 302.08 Lakh Tonne last year, a decrease by about 60 Lakh Tonne.



- Potato production in the country is expected to around 567.62 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) that is, a decrease by about 34 Lakh Tonne, mainly due to decrease in production reported in Bihar and West Bengal.
- Production of Tomato is expected to be around 212.38 Lakh Tonne in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) compared to around 204.25 Lakh Tonne last year, an increase by 3.98% Lakh Tonne.

Total Horticulture	2022-23	2023-24 (1st Adv. Est.)	2023-24 (2nd Adv. Est.)
Area (in Million Ha)	28.44	28.77	28.63
Production (in Million Tonne)	355.48	355.25	352.23

8. Zambia's debt restructuring limps over line as a painful test case

Source: The Hindu, Page 23

Context: The extraordinary length of time Zambia's restructuring under G20-led 'Common Framework' architecture has taken has led to criticism of delays and complexity.

G20 Common Framework (CF)

- The G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), known as the Common Framework (CF), was launched in November 2020.
- Its main aim is to strengthen the international debt architecture for the world's poorest countries. The framework provides a support structure for official creditor coordination to facilitate timely, orderly, and durable debt treatment and to forge the principles of fair burden-sharing across official and private sector creditors.
- Only three debtor countries have so far requested treatment under the Common Framework (Chad, Zambia, and Ethiopia).



Daily Quiz

1. Consider the following statements regarding World Environment Day (WED) 2024:

1. The theme for World Environment Day 2024 is "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration."
2. The primary objective of WED 2024 is to raise awareness about marine pollution and plastic waste.
3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the host country for World Environment Day 2024.
4. World Environment Day has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1973.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

2. Which of the following countries became the third largest India's export destination?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. United Kingdom
- C. Netherlands
- D. Russia

3. Which of the following statements about the Sukhoi 30MKI is correct?

- A. The Sukhoi 30MKI is a single-engine multirole fighter developed by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in collaboration with the United States.
- B. The Sukhoi 30MKI is equipped with thrust-vectoring control and canards, which significantly enhance its maneuverability.
- C. The Sukhoi 30MKI is primarily designed for ground attack missions and lacks air-to-air combat capabilities.
- D. The Sukhoi 30MKI does not have in-flight refueling capabilities, limiting its operational range.

4. Recently seen in the news, Mount Kanlaon is located in which of the following countries?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Philippines
- C. Japan
- D. India

5. Which of the following statements about bacteriophages is correct?

- A. Bacteriophages are a type of bacteria that infect other bacteria.
- B. Bacteriophages are viruses that can infect and replicate within bacterial cells.
- C. Bacteriophages are primarily used in the production of antibiotics.
- D. Bacteriophages are a form of plasmid DNA used in genetic engineering.



6. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)?

- A. CPGRAMS is an initiative by the Ministry of Finance to address financial grievances of citizens.
- B. CPGRAMS allows citizens to lodge grievances only related to central government ministries and departments.
- C. CPGRAMS provides an online platform for citizens to lodge grievances and track their status, but it does not facilitate the appeal process.
- D. CPGRAMS is integrated with the performance management system of government officials to ensure accountability and efficient grievance redressal.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Second Advance Estimates of 2023-24 of Area and Production of various Horticultural Crops:

- 1. The area under Horticulture crops have increased in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.
- 2. The production of Horticulture crops have increased in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

8. Sometimes mentioned in the news, 'Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)' is associated with which of the following institutions?

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. World Bank
- C. G20
- D. World Economic Forum



Solutions

Answer 1: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The theme for World Environment Day 2024 is "Our land. Our future. We are #GenerationRestoration."
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The primary objective of WED 2024 is to raise awareness and inspire action towards addressing environmental challenges such as land degradation, desertification, and drought resilience, not specifically marine pollution and plastic waste.
- Statement 3 is correct: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the host country for World Environment Day 2024.
- Statement 4 is correct: World Environment Day has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1973.

Hence, Option A is correct.

Answer 2: C

Explanation:

- The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the U.S. and UAE during 2023-24.

Hence, Option C is correct.

Answer 3: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Sukhoi 30MKI is a twin-engine aircraft, not single-engine, and it was developed in collaboration with Russia, not the United States.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Sukhoi 30MKI is indeed equipped with thrust-vectoring control and canards, which significantly enhance its maneuverability, making it

one of the most agile fighters in the IAF's fleet.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Sukhoi 30MKI is a multirole fighter, meaning it is capable of performing both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. It is not limited to ground attack roles.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: The Sukhoi 30MKI is equipped with in-flight refueling capabilities, which extend its operational range significantly, allowing it to perform long-duration missions.

Option B is correct.

Answer 4: B

Explanation:

- Mount Kanlaon is the highest point in Negros Island in Philippines, as well as the whole Visayas region, with an elevation of 2,465 metres above sea level.
- Mount Kanlaon ranks as the 42nd-highest peak of an island in the world.

Hence, option B is correct.

Answer 5: B

Explanation:

- Bacteriophages are indeed viruses that infect and replicate within bacterial cells. They attach to the bacterial cell, inject their genetic material, and use the bacterial machinery to produce new phage particles.

Hence, Option B is correct.

Answer 6: D

Explanation:

- Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online platform available to the citizens



24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.

- It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States. Every Ministry and States have role-based access to this system.

Hence, Option D is correct.

Answer 7: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The area under Horticulture crops have increased in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The horticulture production in the country in 2023-24 (Second Advance Estimates) is estimated to be about 352.23 Million Tonnes, a decrease of about 32.51 Lakh Tonnes (0.91%) over 2022-23 (Final Estimates).

Hence, option A is correct.

Answer 8: C

Explanation:

- The G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), known as the Common Framework (CF), was launched in November 2020.
- Its main aim is to strengthen the international debt architecture for the world's poorest countries. The framework provides a support structure for official creditor coordination to facilitate timely, orderly, and durable debt treatment and to forge the principles of fair burden-sharing across official and private sector creditors.

Hence, Option C is correct.





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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

GET IN TOUCH

+919999057869

www.upsmentorship.com

@mentorship.india

C - 103, Second Floor, Sector-2
Noida - 201301

contact@mentorshipindia.com