



**UPSC  
Mentorship**  
A Unit of Mentorship India

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## SOURCES



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## GS I

# 1. High amount of microplastics in Indian personal care products

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Personal care products (PCP) like face wash and shower gels in India contain a significant amount of harmful microplastics, new research has revealed.

**Microplastics:**

- **Definition:**
  - Microplastics are plastics less than 5 mm in diameter.
  - Nanoplastics are even smaller, less than 100 nm.
- **Types:**
  - **Primary Microplastics:**
    - Designed for commercial use, e.g., microbeads in personal care products, plastic pellets, and fibres from textiles.
  - **Secondary Microplastics:**
    - Formed from the breakdown of larger plastics, e.g., water bottles, due to environmental factors.

**Applications:**

- **Medical/Pharmaceutical:** Targeted drug delivery.
- **Industrial:** Air-blasting technology, synthetic textiles.
- **Cosmetics:** Exfoliating agents in scrubs, toothpaste.

**Recent Developments:**

- **Microplastics in Testicular Tissues:** Concerns about human reproductive health, with high levels found in dogs and humans.
- **Global Plastic Overshoot Day (POD):** Expected on September 5, 2024; indicates plastic waste exceeds management capacity.
- **Microplastics in Drinking Water:** Need for standardised sampling methods; critical review of 50 studies.
- **Ashtamudi Lake:** Significant microplastic pollution detected, including hazardous heavy metals.

**Challenges:**

- **Environmental:** Persistent and widespread, harming wildlife and leading to toxic bioaccumulation.
- **Health:** Exposure through consumption, inhalation, and skin contact; potential health issues include oxidative stress and organ dysfunction.
- **Regulatory:** Lack of global regulation and inconsistent monitoring.
- **Detection:** Difficulty in detecting and quantifying due to diverse properties.

**Regulations:**

- **Global:**
  - **UNEA:** Developing a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
  - **UNEP Plastics Treaty:** Focuses on addressing plastic pollution.
  - **New Zealand:** Banned microbeads in wash-off products since 2017.
- **India:**
  - Ban on Single-Use Plastics





- Plastic Waste Management Rules: 2016, 2018, 2024.

**Way Forward:**

- **Scientific Research:** Promote biodegradable plastics and advanced detection methods (FTIR, Raman spectroscopy).
- **Regulatory Measures:** Implement bans on microbeads, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes.
- **Innovative Solutions:**
  - **Biodegradable Silk:** Replaces microplastics in various applications.
  - **Plant-Based Filters:** Trap up to 99.9% of microplastics in water.
  - **Natural Fibre Textiles:** Biodegradable and do not release microplastics.
- **Public Awareness:** Educate through school curricula about plastic pollution and sustainable practices.

## 2. Prime Minister pays tribute to Major Dhyhan Chand on National Sports Day

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Greeting the citizens on the occasion of National Sports Day, the Prime Minister expressed his heartfelt tribute to the legendary hockey player Major Dhyhan Chand.

**Major Dhyhan Chand (29 August 1905 – 3 December 1979):**

- **Field Hockey Legend:**
  - Widely regarded as the greatest field hockey player in history.
  - Known for his extraordinary ball control and goal-scoring ability.
- **Olympic Achievements:**
  - Won three Olympic gold medals: .
  - Contributed to India's dominance in field hockey, with India winning seven out of eight Olympic golds from 1928 to 1964.
- **International Career:**
  - Played for India from 1926 to 1949.
  - Scored 570 goals in 185 international matches according to his autobiography, Goal.
  - Accumulated over 1,000 goals in domestic and international career.
- **Recognition:**
  - Nicknamed "The Wizard" or "The Magician" for his superb ball control.
  - The BBC referred to him as "hockey's equivalent of Muhammad Ali."
  - Awarded Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour, in 1956.
- **Legacy:**
  - His birthday, August 29, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India.
  - India's highest sporting honour, the Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award, is named in his honour.



## 3. Centre approves expansion of Agricultural Infrastructure Fund scheme

**Source:** Business Standard

**Context:** The government recently expanded the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme to enhance farm infrastructure facilities.

### Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme:

- **Launch and Duration:**
  - Central Sector Scheme launched in 2020.
  - Valid from FY2020 to FY2032 (10 years).
- **Objective:**
  - Provide medium- to long-term debt financing for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
  - Offers interest subvention and financial support.
- **Eligibility:**
  - **Eligible Entities:**
    - Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)
    - Marketing Cooperative Societies
    - Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
    - Farmers
    - Self Help Groups (SHGs)
    - Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)
    - Multipurpose Cooperative Societies
    - Agri-entrepreneurs and Startups
    - Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects sponsored by Central/State agencies or Local Bodies
  - **Exclusions:**
    - Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are not directly eligible, but projects under PPP are.
- **Participating Financial Institutions:**
  - Scheduled commercial banks
  - Scheduled cooperative banks
  - Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
  - Small Finance Banks
  - Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
  - National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- **Refinance Support:**
  - Need-based refinance support by NABARD for eligible lending entities, including cooperative banks and RRBs.

### Scheme Features:

- **Loan Limits:**
  - Up to ₹2 crore per project.
  - Interest subvention of 3% per annum for loans up to ₹2 crore, available for up to 7 years.
- **Project Limits:**



- Private sector entities (farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups) can have up to 25 projects.
- No cap on the number of projects for state agencies, cooperatives, FPOs, and similar organisations.
- **Project Location:**
  - Multiple projects can be set up in one location with a total cap of ₹2 crore.
- **Borrower Contribution:**
  - Mandatory 10% contribution of the total project cost.
- **Repayment Moratorium:**
  - Minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.
- **Special Allocations:**
  - 24% of total grants must benefit SC/ST entrepreneurs (16% for SC and 8% for ST).
  - Priority loans for women and other weaker sections.
- **Credit Guarantee:**
  - Coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for loans up to ₹2 crore, with the government covering the fee.
  - FPOs can access credit guarantees under the FPO promotion scheme of DACFW.

## GS II

### 4. Governor sends back 11 Bills, seeks clarification from Karnataka govt.

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** Karnataka Governor has returned 11 Bills passed by the State legislature seeking clarifications from the Karnataka government on various counts.

**Office of the Governor:**

- **Historical Background:**
  - Governors under the 1935 Act were seen as colonial agents.
  - Post-Independence, debates on elected vs. appointed Governors.
  - Ambivalence in the 1948 draft Constitution.
- **Constitutional Basis:**
  - Articles 153-162 of the Indian Constitution.
  - The Governor acts as the executive head of a State, similar to the President of India.
  - Dual role: Constitutional head and link between Union and State Governments.
- **Appointment & Eligibility:**
  - **Article 153:** One Governor per State; can be appointed for multiple States.
  - **Articles 157-158:** Must be an Indian citizen, at least 35 years old, not a parliament member or hold an office of profit.
- **Term & Removal:**
  - **Standard term:** 5 years.
  - Can be removed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister, or by resignation.
  - Dismissal without valid reason or before term end is not permitted.
- **Issues:**
  - Abuse of office by ruling parties at the Centre.
  - Bias due to politically aligned appointments.



- Misuse of discretionary powers and arbitrary removals.
- Negative terms like "agent of the Centre" and "puppet" were used.

#### Judicial Recommendations:

- **S.R. Bommai Case (1994):** Breakdown of constitutional machinery must be a virtual impossibility; material basis for President's satisfaction can be reviewed.
- **Nabam Rebia Case (2016):** Governor's discretion must be reasonable and good faith-based.
- **Sarkaria Commission (1988):** Use Article 356 rarely; issue a warning before imposing President's Rule.
- **Rajamannar Committee (1971):** Suggested removal of Articles 356 and 357; emphasize Governor's impartiality.
- **Punchhi Commission:** Recommended amending Articles 355 and 356 to protect state interests.

#### Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 163:** Discretionary powers of the Governor.
- **Article 256:** Union's directions to States.
- **Article 257:** Directions for communication infrastructure.
- **Article 355:** Protect States against external aggression and internal disturbances.
- **Article 356:** Central government can take control if a State government fails to function.
- **Article 357:** Exercise of legislative powers under Article 356.

#### Way Forward:

- Establish a 'Code of Conduct' for Governors to ensure impartiality and adherence to democratic conventions.
- Ensure clear appointment procedures and fixed tenure.
- Enhance independence and reduce central government influence.
- Utilise judicial review to prevent misuse of powers and ensure impartiality.

## 5. With the latest elections, NDA crosses the majority mark in the Rajya Sabha

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** The BJP-led NDA has secured a majority in the Rajya Sabha following the latest elections, adding 12 more members to their ranks.

#### Historical Background of the Rajya Sabha:

- **Origins:**
  - Created as the "Council of States" based on the Montague-Chelmsford Report (1918).
  - Established under the Government of India Act, 1919, and began functioning in 1921.
  - Officially established on April 3, 1952, with its first session on May 13, 1952.
- **Purpose:**
  - Designed as the Upper House to represent States and Union Territories.
  - Aims to balance the power of the Lok Sabha (Lower House).

#### Composition:

- **Maximum Members: 250**
  - 238 elected representatives from states and Union Territories.
  - 12 nominated by the President for contributions to arts, sciences, literature, and social services.





- **Current Members: 245**
  - 233 elected representatives.
  - 12 nominated members.
- **Leadership:**
  - **Chairman:** Vice-President of India (ex-officio).
  - **Deputy Chairman:** Elected from among Rajya Sabha members.

#### **Powers:**

- **Legislative:** Can introduce and pass bills; requires joint sessions to resolve deadlocks with Lok Sabha.
- **Executive:** Can question ministers and criticise policies; ministers can be from Rajya Sabha.
- **Amendment:** Can propose constitutional amendments with Lok Sabha.
- **Electoral:** Participates in electing the President, Vice-President, and selects its Deputy Chairman.
- **Judicial:** Can suspend the President for constitutional violations and initiate the dismissal of judges.

#### **Membership Qualifications:**

- **Eligibility:**
  - Indian citizen, at least 30 years old.
  - Must affirm loyalty to the Constitution and India's integrity.
  - Listed as an elector in a parliamentary constituency.
  - Additional qualifications specified by law.
- **Term:**
  - Members serve for 6 years.
  - One-third retire every two years, ensuring continuity.

#### **Election and Vacancies:**

- **Election Process:**
  - Indirect elections by State Legislative Assemblies and Union Territory Electoral Colleges.
  - Uses proportional representation with a single transferable vote.
- **Vacancies:** Filled through bye-elections or when a member's seat becomes vacant due to resignation or other reasons.

#### **Special Features**

- **Permanent Body:** Not dissolved; one-third of members retire every two years.
- **Review Role:** Acts as a revisionary house to prevent hasty legislation and check majority rule in Lok Sabha.
- **Federal Representation:** Represents states and ensures a voice for federal units in Parliament.
- **Deliberative Function:** Provides a platform for detailed discussion and debate on national issues.
- **Representation of Minorities:** Offers a voice to marginalised groups and regions.

#### **Leadership:**

- **Chairman:** Vice-President of India.
- **Deputy Chairman:** Elected from Rajya Sabha members.

#### **Differences with Lok Sabha:**

- **Role:** Rajya Sabha (Upper House) provides checks and balances to the Lok Sabha (Lower House).
- **Election:** Rajya Sabha members are indirectly elected; Lok Sabha members are directly elected.
- **Term:** Rajya Sabha is a continuing body; Lok Sabha is dissolved every five years.





## GS III

### 6. Further transmission of Chandipura virus possible in coming weeks, warns WHO

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** The current outbreak of the Chandipura virus (CHPV) infection in India is considered the largest in the past 20 years, says the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Chandipura Virus:**

- **Virus Family:** Chandipura Virus (CHPV) belongs to the Rhabdoviridae family, which also includes lyssavirus (causing rabies).
- **Vectors:**
  - Transmitted by sandflies (e.g., Phlebotomine sandflies, *Phlebotomus papatasi*) and some mosquitoes (e.g., *Aedes aegypti*, also a dengue vector).
  - The virus resides in the salivary glands of these insects and is transmitted through bites.
- **Disease Mechanism:**
  - Can lead to encephalitis (inflammation of brain tissues) by infecting the central nervous system.
  - Rapid progression may result in severe symptoms within a day, including liver or kidney involvement.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Initial flu-like symptoms: fever, body aches, headache.
  - Progresses to altered sensorium, seizures, and encephalitis.
  - Potential respiratory distress, bleeding tendencies, or anaemia.
  - Rapid progression may result in mortality within 24-48 hours of hospitalisation.
- **Population Affected:** Primarily affects children under 15 years.
- **Treatment:** Currently, no specific antiviral therapy or vaccine; treatment is symptomatic.
- **Historical Outbreaks:**
  - First isolated in 1965 during investigations of dengue/chikungunya in Maharashtra.
  - Significant outbreaks occurred in 2003-04 in Maharashtra, northern Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.
  - Endemic primarily in central India where the vector population is higher.

### 7. India is getting complacent in its fight against polio: data

Source: The Hindu

**Context:** National Family Health Surveys indicate a slowdown in polio vaccine administration in India.

**Polio Vaccine Coverage in India:**

- **Slowdown in Vaccination:** National Family Health Surveys indicate a slowdown in polio vaccine administration.
- **Coverage Issues:**



- Last dose coverage is low, particularly in the northeast and among poorer households with less-educated female heads.
- Latest polio case in Meghalaya was vaccine-derived; unclear if it's iVDPV or cVDPV.
- **Historical Context:**
  - India was declared polio-free in 2014; however, coverage for the final dose of the polio vaccine is now lower than that of DPT and Hepatitis B vaccines.
- **Coverage Data:**
  - Coverage for the final dose of polio vaccine is poorest in the northeast and Uttar Pradesh.
  - Higher coverage in states like Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Himachal Pradesh.
  - Coverage among the poorest households and Muslim households is notably lower.
- **Factors Influencing Coverage:**
  - Increased maternal education and household wealth are associated with higher vaccination coverage.

#### Polio (Poliomyelitis):

- **Description:** Highly infectious viral disease entering through the mouth, affecting the nervous system.
- **Target Age:** Primarily affects children under 5 years.
- **Incubation Period:** Typically 7–10 days, but can range from 4–35 days.
- **Initial Symptoms:** Fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, neck stiffness, and limb pain.
- **Asymptomatic Cases:** Up to 90% have no or mild symptoms.
- **Paralysis:** 1 in 200 infections can cause permanent leg paralysis; can occur within hours.
- **Mortality Rate:** 5–10% of those paralyzed may die due to respiratory muscle paralysis.
- **Transmission:** Spread via faeces in areas with poor hygiene and sanitation.
- **Global Decline:** Over 99% decrease in wild poliovirus cases since 1988; endemic in only Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **India's Status:** Declared polio-free by WHO in 2014 after three years with no cases.

#### Measures to Eradicate Polio:

- **Global Efforts:**
  - **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI):** Launched in 1988 by WHO, Rotary International, CDC, and UNICEF.
  - **World Polio Day:** Observed on October 24 to encourage continued vigilance.
- **India's Efforts:**
  - **Pulse Polio Programme:** Nationwide immunisation campaign.
  - **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0:** Focuses on accelerating vaccination coverage.
  - **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):** Launched in 1985, aims to:
    - Increase immunisation coverage.
    - Improve service quality.
    - Establish a reliable cold chain.
    - Monitor district-wise performance.
    - Achieve vaccine production self-sufficiency.



## Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

### 8. A silent democratic backlash in South Asia

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** Recent events in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and recent Indian elections suggest a silent democratic backlash in South Asia.

#### Background on Democratic Backlash in South Asia:

- **Historical Context:**
  - The Indian middle class historically leaned towards dictatorship during times of crisis (e.g., Emergency).
  - The Pakistani middle class has also shown support for military rule at times, though the younger generation is becoming more critical.
- **Key Comparisons:**
  - **India:**
    - Known for its long-standing democracy and separation of powers.
    - Historically, Indian democracy avoided military dictatorship, except for the Emergency in 1975.
    - The PM's rise in 2014 has shifted India towards an authoritarian model, with executive overreach and attempts to marginalise opposition.
    - There is increased politicisation of security issues and educational institutions.
  - **Pakistan:**
    - Initially faced challenges with bureaucracy and military undermining democracy.
    - Military dictatorships have faced significant public opposition, leading to transitions back to civilian rule.
    - Recent elections (2018, 2024) show a strong pushback against military influence and a growing advocacy for democracy.
    - The political elite's alliances with the military have led to increased public criticism and a more aware citizenry challenging political engineering.

#### Recent Developments:

- **India:**
  - Rising authoritarian tendencies under the BJP administration.
  - Democratic pushback seen in recent elections against the BJP's policies.
- **Pakistan:**
  - Increasing public protests and criticism of the military's role in politics.
  - Continued democratic advocacy despite military interference.

#### Conclusion:

- Both countries are witnessing democratic backsliding.
- Citizenry in India and Pakistan are using new methods, including digital platforms, to advocate for democracy.
- The trajectory of democracy in Pakistan remains to be fully observed.



## 9. Sharpening India's anti-tuberculosis fight

Source: The Hindu

Context: India bears over a quarter of the global TB burden. Political will in India has helped drive a great deal of progress in the fight against the disease.

### Tuberculosis (TB) Management and Innovations in India:

- **Goal:**
  - Achieve TB elimination by focusing on innovative treatments and improved diagnostic technologies for a healthier future.
- **Current Situation:**
  - India carries over a quarter of the global TB burden.
  - In 2023, 25.1 lakh TB cases were diagnosed in India, indicating improved case finding.
- **Challenges with Current Regimens:**
  - Traditional drug-resistant TB regimens are lengthy (9-24 months) and require multiple daily tablets.
  - Long treatments are physically demanding, have severe side effects (e.g., hearing loss, psychosis), and often lead to loss of employment and financial strain.

### New Developments:

- **Shorter Regimen (BPaL/M):**
  - WHO recommended BPaL/M regimen for drug-resistant TB in 2022.
  - Shorter treatment duration (6 months) with only 3-4 tablets daily.
  - Higher efficacy with an 89% success rate versus the 68% success rate of traditional treatments.
  - Potential global savings of approximately \$740 million annually.
- **Improving Diagnostics:**
  - **Screening and Testing:**
    - Utilise health datasets and GIS mapping to target high-risk groups (e.g., those with comorbidities, former COVID-19 patients, at-risk communities).
    - Implement multi-disease focused screening drives to identify TB cases early.
  - **Advanced Diagnostic Tools:**
    - Use chest X-rays to detect TB cases not showing typical symptoms.
    - Deploy AI-driven portable X-ray machines to reduce diagnostic delays in remote areas.
    - Expand use of rapid molecular tests for quicker and more accurate detection and drug resistance profiling.
- **Strategic Actions:**
  - Prioritise the transition to the BPaL/M regimen for better treatment outcomes and cost savings.
  - Enhance diagnostic capabilities to improve TB detection rates and reduce delays.





## In Brief

### 10. Strengthen Mullaperiyar dam instead of building a new one, says Metroman

Source: The Hindu

Context: The British-era Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala can be strengthened by building a new tunnel to drain excess water, along with supporting pillars and walls.

**Mullaperiyar Dam:**

- **Location:** Mullaperiyar Dam is situated on the Periyar River in Thekkady, Idukki district, Kerala.
- **Elevation:** Located 881 metres above sea level on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats.
- **Confluence:** Built at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
- **Construction:** Began in 1887 and completed in 1895 by the British Corps of Royal Engineers under Pennycuik.
- **Materials:** Constructed using limestone and “Surkhi” (a mixture of burnt brick powder, sugar, and calcium oxide).
- **Purpose:** Diverts water from the west-flowing Periyar River eastward to the arid rain shadow regions of Tamil Nadu (Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga, and Ramanathapuram districts).
- **Adjacent Area:** Periyar National Park is located around the dam’s reservoir.
- **Operational Control:** Although located in Kerala, the dam is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu due to a 999-year lease agreement made during British rule.



### 11. Centre offers discussions with unions on Labour Codes

Source: The Hindu

Context: Union Labour Minister has agreed to hold further discussions on the implementation of the four Labour Codes with the Central trade unions, union leaders.

**Labour Reforms Background:**

- **Labour as a Subject:** Labour is listed in the **Concurrent List** of the Indian Constitution, allowing both Parliament and state legislatures to enact laws on this matter.
- **Pre-Reform Scenario:** Before the new labour codes, there were over 40 central laws and more than 100 state laws related to labour and employment.
- **Second National Commission on Labour (2002):**



- Recommended integration of central labour laws into five groups:
  - Industrial Relations
  - Wages
  - Social Security
  - Safety
  - Welfare and Working Conditions
- Suggested simplification due to the archaic and complex nature of existing laws.

#### **Labour Codes Introduction (2019):**

- Central Government introduced four bills to consolidate 29 central laws:
  - Code on Wages
  - Industrial Relations Code
  - Social Security Code
  - Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code
    - The Wages Code was passed in 2019.
- **Bills Review and Replacement:**
  - Other three bills were initially referred to a Standing Committee on Labour.
  - The bills were replaced with new versions in September 2020, which were passed in the same month.
- **Implementation of Rules:**
  - Final rules for all four labour codes are to be notified together.
  - Although draft rules for the Wages Code were circulated in 2019, finalisation and implementation were delayed.



## Daily Quiz

**Q1. Consider the following statements about the Rajya Sabha:**

1. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and cannot be dissolved.
2. The Rajya Sabha's maximum strength is 275 members.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q2. Which of the following dams is correctly matched with its river?**

DAM	RIVER
A. Mullaperiyar Dam	Periyar River
B. Bhakra Dam	Yamuna River
C. Narmada Dam	Narmada River
D. Hoover Dam	Colorado River

**Q3. Recently in the news, the BCG vaccine is related to which disease?**

- A. Tuberculosis (TB)
- B. Measles
- C. Polio
- D. Influenza

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical context of India:**

1. The Thar Desert is located in the northwestern part of India, primarily in the state of Rajasthan.
2. The Western Ghats are a continuous mountain range running along the eastern coast of India.

3. The Ganges River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding Chandipura virus:**

1. Chandipura virus is primarily transmitted through mosquito bites and is known to cause encephalitis.
2. The virus was first identified in the Chandipura region of Madhya Pradesh, India, in the early 2000s.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q6. Which of the following statements regarding microplastics is/are correct?**

1. Microplastics are plastic particles less than 5 millimetres in size.
2. Microplastics are exclusively found in marine environments and do not affect freshwater ecosystems.
3. Microplastics can originate from the breakdown of larger plastic items as well as from products like facial scrubs and cleaning agents.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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



**Q7. Which of the following statements regarding the privileges of the President of India and the Governor of a State are correct?**

1. The President of India can dissolve the Lok Sabha and summon or prorogue both Houses of Parliament.
2. The Governor of a State has the power to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly.
3. Both the President and the Governor can exercise their discretion in appointing the Prime Minister and Chief Minister, respectively.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q8. Which of the following statements about National Sports Day in India is/are correct?**

1. National Sports Day is celebrated annually on August 29.
2. The day is observed in honour of Major Dhyan Chand, an iconic Indian field hockey player.
3. The National Sports Day was first observed in 1950.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Q9. Which of the following subjects is exclusively listed in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution?**

1. Education
2. Foreign Affairs
3. Defense
4. Atomic Energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Q10. Which of the following statements about the Rajya Sabha is incorrect?**

- A. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution.
- B. The maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha is 275.
- C. The Vice-President of India serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- D. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a term of 6 years.





## Solutions

### 1. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and cannot be dissolved.  
This statement is correct. Unlike the Lok Sabha, which is subject to dissolution, the Rajya Sabha is a continuing chamber. It is not dissolved and operates continuously. Members retire in rotation, with one-third of the members retiring every two years, but the House itself remains intact.
- The Rajya Sabha's maximum strength is 275 members.  
This statement is incorrect. The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is 250 members. Of these, 238 are elected by the state legislatures and union territories, and 12 are appointed by the President for their expertise in fields like arts, sciences, literature, and social services. The figure of 275 is not applicable to the Rajya Sabha.

### 2. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Mullaperiyar Dam:** Correctly matched with the Periyar River.
- **Bhakra Dam:** Incorrectly matched with the Yamuna River; it is on the Sutlej River.
- **Narmada Dam:** Incorrectly matched with the Narmada River; the dam on the Narmada River is known as the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- **Hoover Dam:** Correctly matched with the Colorado River.

### 3. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** The BCG (Bacillus Calmette–Guérin) vaccine is primarily used for the prevention of tuberculosis.
- **Measles:** Incorrect. Measles is prevented by the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine.

- **Polio:** Incorrect. Polio is prevented by the Polio vaccine.
- **Influenza:** Incorrect. Influenza is prevented by the Influenza (flu) vaccine.

### 4. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Thar Desert is indeed located in the northwestern part of India, primarily in Rajasthan.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Western Ghats run along the western coast of India, not the eastern coast.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Ganges River originates from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand.

### 5. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Chandipura virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and is known to cause encephalitis.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Chandipura virus was first isolated in 1965 from a patient in the Chandipura area of Maharashtra, not Madhya Pradesh, and it gained attention due to outbreaks in the 2000s.

### 6. Correct Answer is C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Microplastics are defined as plastic particles that are less than 5 millimetres in size.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Microplastics are found in both marine and freshwater environments and have been detected in rivers, lakes, and even drinking water sources.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Microplastics can come from the degradation of larger plastic items and from products like facial scrubs, toothpaste, and cleaning agents that contain microbeads.



### 7. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The President of India has the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the Lok Sabha. Additionally, the President can summon and prorogue the Rajya Sabha but cannot dissolve it.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Governor of a State has the power to dissolve the State Legislative Assembly.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While the President appoints the Prime Minister, this appointment is usually based on the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha. Similarly, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister based on the majority in the State Legislative Assembly, and not purely on discretion.

### 8. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** National Sports Day is celebrated annually on August 29.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The day is observed in honour of Major Dhyan Chand, who is regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players in history.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** National Sports Day was first observed on August 29, 2012, not in 1950.

### 9. Correct Answer is A

#### Explanation:

- **Subject 1 (Education): Correct.** Education is a subject that falls exclusively under the State List.
- **Subject 2 (Foreign Affairs): Incorrect.** Foreign Affairs is a subject under the Union List.
- **Subject 3 (Defence): Incorrect.** Defence is a subject under the Union List.
- **Subject 4 (Atomic Energy): Incorrect.** Atomic Energy is a subject under the Union List.

In the Indian Constitution, the subjects are divided into three lists: Union List, State List, and Concurrent List. Education is exclusively

mentioned in the State List, whereas Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Atomic Energy fall under the Union List.

### 10. Correct Answer is B

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and is not subject to dissolution.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha is 250, not 275.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Vice-President of India serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a term of 6 years.

Therefore, the incorrect statement is that the maximum number of members in the Rajya Sabha is 275.





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